

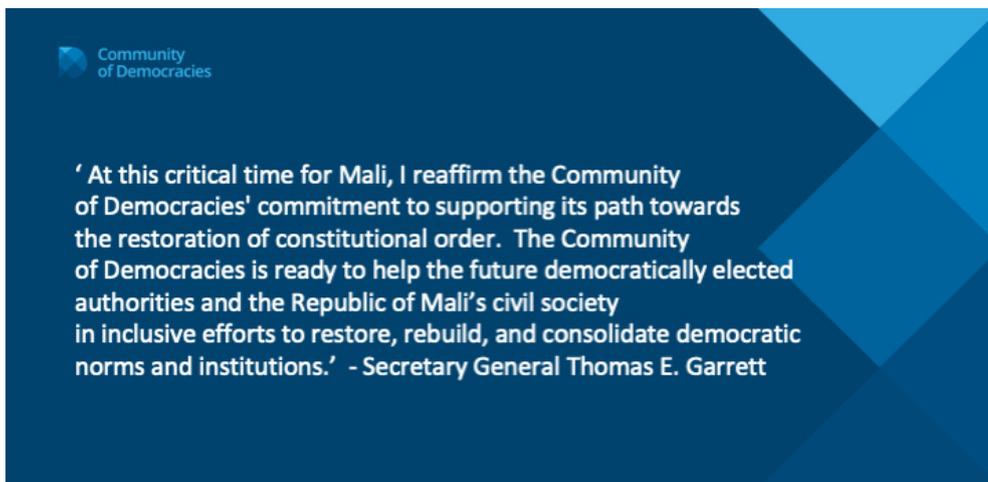
Activity Brief

January to March 2021

Permanent Secretariat of the Community of Democracies (PSCD)

Recent Activities

[Statement by the Secretary General Thomas E. Garrett on the situation in the Republic of Mali](#) | January 18, 2021.

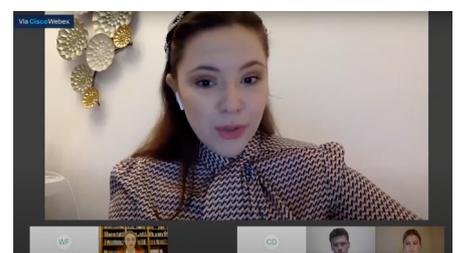
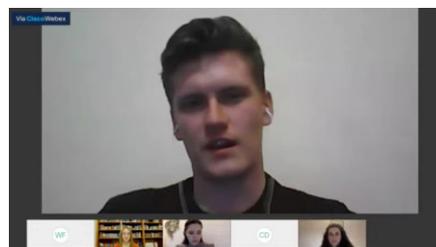
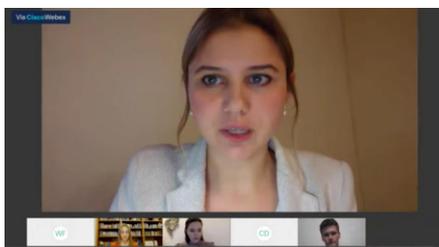


[Statement by the Secretary General Thomas E. Garrett on the events in the USA on January 6, 2021.](#)

[Statement by the SG on the inauguration of U.S. President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris](#) | January 21, 2021.

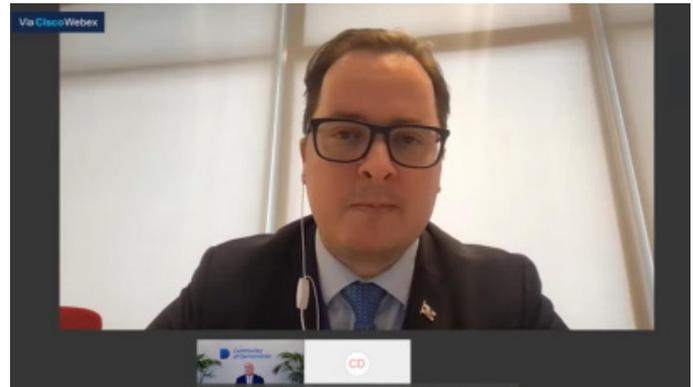
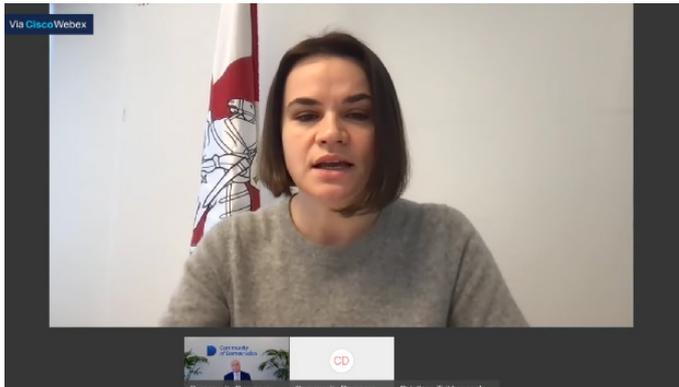
CoD Event "In Solidarity with Belarus: Youth for Democratic Change" | February 4, 2021

The event discussed the central role of youth in the democracy movement with presentations by young Belarusian democracy activists, Vika Andrukovič and Daniła Łaūreŭski. The discussion also featured interventions from CoD YouthLeads from Haiti, Portugal, Romania, and South Africa who addressed the presentations and shared experiences from their countries on youth activism and political participation. [Watch the event](#) and [read the summary](#).



CoD Event “Six Months of Protest: An Update from Belarus” | February 9, 2021

In the discussion, the Secretary General of the Community of Democracies, Thomas E. Garrett, spoke to the leader of democratic Belarus, Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, and her Senior Advisor, Franak Viacorka, on the current situation in Belarus and the way forward. [Watch the event](#) and [read the summary](#).



CoD activities following the military coup in Myanmar:

- In his [statement](#) on February 2, 2021, CoD Secretary General Thomas E. Garrett called for the immediate release of unjustly detained Myanmar political leaders and for the November 2020 vote of the people to be honored.
- On February 12, 2021, CoD Governing Council Members Canada, Estonia, Finland, Lithuania, Mexico, Norway, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania (CoD Presidency 2019-2021), Sweden, the United Kingdom, the United States of America [released a statement](#) in which they expressed grave concern for the Myanmar military's removal of the democratically elected civilian government; for the arbitrary detention of civilian government leaders, civil society members, human rights activists, and journalists; and for restrictions on telecommunications services since February 1, 2021.
- The Permanent Secretariat of the Community of Democracies also shared a [statement by the Australia-Myanmar Constitutional Democracy Project \(AMCDP\)](#), in which the academics from UNSW Sydney condemned the unconstitutional attack on democracy in Myanmar. The Secretary General signed the statement which also outlined the Community of Democracies-supported AMCDP work supporting the building of constitutional democracy in Myanmar.
- On March 2, 2021 the [Secretary General Thomas E. Garrett released his second Statement](#) on the Situation in Myanmar.

[Statement on International Women's Day by the Secretary General Thomas E. Garrett](#) | March 8, 2021

CoD #YouthLeads joined social media campaign [#ThisIsDemocracy](#) led by Member State United Kingdom with messages on International Women's Day | March 8, 2021. Please click on YouthLeads pictures below to watch their messages.



Training sessions for the CoD YouthLeads on public speaking (online) | February 24 and March 2, 2021

The #CoDYouthLeads continued a series of capacity building trainings organized by the PSCD. In February and March young leaders had the opportunity to prepare for their numerous speaking engagements at youth conferences, UN, World Bank, CoE events and other international gatherings by exploring “15 Rules for the Road” by distinguished trainers Deb Sofield and Nancy Bocskor.



CoD project “Strengthening Civic and Political Participation in The Gambia”

Twenty current and emerging women political leaders completed the capacity building project implemented by the PSCD and Westminster Foundation for Democracy in Banjul. The training was aimed at improving leadership, advocacy and communication as well as self-esteem building skills. Women leaders participated in two workshops and follow-up coaching sessions in which they developed individual projects. [Read about the certificate ceremony and project in Gambia's media outlet.](#)



CoD event “Feminist Foreign Policy in 2021” | March 9, 2021

The event featured representatives of Governing Council Member States Canada, Lithuania, Mexico, and Sweden who presented the main objectives and priorities of the Feminist Foreign Policy of their countries and emphasized the value of applying a systematic gender equality perspective across the foreign policy agenda. The event was organized in cooperation with the Working Group on Women and Democracy. [Watch the event here.](#)



Community of Democracies

Feminist Foreign Policy in 2021

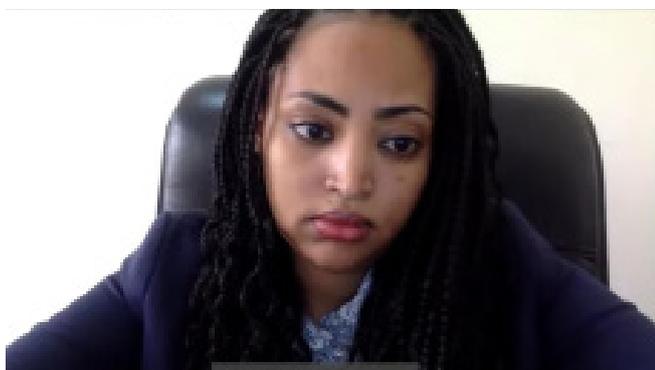
Tuesday, March 9, 2021
4 PM CET | 10 AM EST

 Moderator: Thomas E. Garrett CoD Secretary General	 Laima Jureviciene Working Group on Women and Democracy Chair, MFA of Lithuania	 Patricia Pena Director General Foreign Policy Bureau Global Affairs Canada	 Ann Bernes Ambassador for Gender Equality MFA of Sweden	 Ana Paula Lavalle Director for Human Rights Cases MFA of Mexico
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@CommunityofDem @CoD_Women #FeministForeignPolicy

CoD event “Update on the Transition in the Republic of Mali” | March 10, 2021

At the event Mali civil society representatives Mr. Moussa Kondo and Ms. Fatima al Ansar provided an update on the status of country’s transition and the inclusion of women in the return to democracy. [Watch the event here.](#)



Enabling and Protecting Civil Society in Armenia, March 25, 2021

The event was an opportunity for representatives of Armenian civil society, the Civil Society Pillar of the CoD and the National Endowment for Democracy to discuss the evolving situation in the country with particular focus on challenges to democracy and civic space in the aftermath of the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. [Watch the event here.](#)



Upcoming activities

33rd Meeting of the Community of Democracies' Governing Council (virtual) | April 20 and 21, 2021

CoD event "Towards a Summit for Democracy" | April 23, 2021

The event will feature heads of the Community of Democracies, International IDEA, the Open Government Partnership, and civil society to discuss how to structure a global democracy gathering, promote multilateralism, and ensure participation and inclusion. [Register in advance for this webinar here.](#)

JOIN THE EVENT!

Towards a Summit for Democracy

Friday, 23 April 2021
15:00 CET | 9:00 EST

Zoom & YouTube live

@CommunityofDem @IIDEA_UN @opengovpart

 Thomas E. Garrett Secretary General Community of Democracies	 Maria Sarungi Tsehali Activist Change Tanzania movement	 Suneeta Kaimal CEO, Natural Resource Governance Institute	 Kevin Casas Zamora Secretary General International IDEA
 Ted Piccone Chief Engagement Officer World Justice Project	 Joe Powell Deputy Chief Executive Officer Open Government Partnership	 Maria Baron CEO Directorio Legislativo	 <i>Moderator</i> Patricia Galdamez CoD Senior Advisor

Virtual event on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on youth participation and leadership in public life by CoD #YouthLeads and Generation Democracy network on May 6, 2021.

Two online capacity building training sessions for Moroccan youth and civil society participants will be carried out in May in the framework of the "Inclusive Democratic Participation to Prevent and Counter Violent Extremism" project supported by the Romania's International Development Cooperation Agency and the Foreign Ministry of the Kingdom of Morocco.

Global Conference "Inclusive Democratic Participation to Prevent and Counter Violent Extremism" will be held on May 26/27 (TBC). The conference is organized by the PSCD, the Moroccan Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Rabita Mohammadia of Ulemas, the National Human Rights Council of Morocco and additional civil society bodies. The conference is expected to take place in-person or in hybrid format, pending the Covid-19 pandemic safety and health conditions.