

The Community of Democracies and Youth Empowerment

The Community of Democracies (CoD) is a global intergovernmental coalition comprised of the Governing Council Member States that support adherence to common democratic values and standards outlined in the Warsaw Declaration.

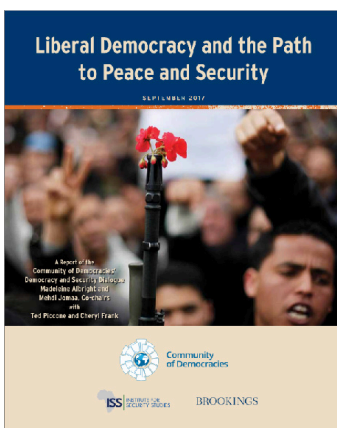
Youth inclusion is key for building strong sustainable democracies and inclusive societies. In the Community's Strategic Plan 2018-2023, **youth empowerment** is one of the three cross-cutting themes that are mainstreamed across all activities undertaken by the Community as part of its mission to promote and strengthen democracy worldwide.



“Youth want to and should be involved, and the role of the government is to provide them with adequate space and opportunities to advance their civic engagement and political participation at both local and national level.”

Secretary General Thomas E. Garrett

Examples of activities



Democracy and Security Dialogue policy briefs and final report

The importance of **youth empowerment as one of the factors of countering violent extremism** was emphasized in the Democracy and Security Dialogue final report and policy briefs, commissioned by the CoD and developed by the researchers of the Brookings Institution and the Institute for Security Studies. The report found that countries with less youth participation in governance and a lack of youth empowerment programs have a high rate of their young population vulnerable with extremist ideologies.

“We must embrace the youth as responsible citizens and prepare them to lead their societies in accordance with universal human rights values.”

Democracy and Security Dialogue final report



Summary Report

The Role of Youth in Democratic Resilience

Side-event held in the margins of the 73rd UNGA
organized by the CoD and hosted by Romania

The Role of Youth in Democratic Resilience

Side event at the 73rd UN General Assembly,
New York, September 2018

The panel discussion focused on the **important role of youth in strengthening democracy**, common challenges to youth's civic engagement and political participation in democracies, and possible concerted action in response to these challenges. The event was hosted by Romania.

The session's Summary Report outlines main discussion points including best practice examples to enhance youth's participation in democratic decision-making process.

"I personally had the chance to work with young people, most of the time I gained energy from them and I have been inspired by them, truly understanding that sometimes impossible can be turned into possible."

Foreign Minister of Romania H. E. Mr. Teodor Meleşcanu

The Role of Youth in Peace and Security Dialogue

Side event at the 37th UN Human Rights Council, Geneva, March 2018

Facilitating a continued discussion on the findings of the Democracy and Security Dialogue, the panel discussion focused on the **challenges to youth engagement in the peace and security dialogue** and showcased good practices for the youth participation, in the context of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The event also included **capacity building workshop** on effective actions for peace and security and development of action plans on non-violent conflict resolution. The workshop was also complemented by a **diplomatic skills training** for young leaders.



Contact Us

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