The Community of Democracies

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.

Building on the Warsaw Declaration, the CoD is committed to taking concerted action to advance and protect democratic freedoms, strengthen democratic institutions, and expand political participation.

Commitment to shared democratic values

The Warsaw Declaration is the founding document of the CoD, adopted on June 27th, 2000 by representatives of 106 states. The Warsaw Declaration defines the essential norms and practices for the effective establishment and consolidation of democracy and emphasizes the interdependence between peace, development, human rights and democracy.

Strategic Objectives

The Community’s Strategic Plan 2018-2023 reflects the commitment of the Member States of the Community’s Governing Council (GC) to strengthen their cooperation to more effectively respond to complex challenges to democracy and embrace new opportunities to support democratic consolidation around the world.

In addition to the three strategic objectives, the cross-cutting themes of youth empowerment, gender equality, and democracy and development are mainstreamed into all activities undertaken by the CoD.

The CoD and the UN Sustainable Development Agenda

The UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes that human rights, the rule of law, good governance, and peace and security are crucial for sustainable development, all of which are at the core of the Community’s work. While Goal 16 creates a visible frame to contribute to strengthening of democracy worldwide, and its elements of peace, just and inclusive societies are central to the mandate of the Community, other SDGs of particular importance to the work of the CoD also include SDG5 (gender equality and empowerment of women and girls) and SDG17 (global partnership for sustainable development).
The Permanent Secretariat of the Community of Democracies (PSCD), seated in Warsaw, provides administrative, operational and technical support to the CoD’s structures and activities under the direction and guidance of the Secretary General Thomas E. Garrett, appointed in September 2017.

Secretary General acts as a spokesperson for the CoD, representing it at international fora and meetings of regional and multilateral international organizations. The SG serves as a liaison to the Governing Council Members and is responsible for the day-to-day management of the Permanent Secretariat.

Civil Society Pillar

The CoD recognizes the crucial role that civil society plays in the advancement of democracy worldwide. Civil society is represented at the Governing Council by the International Steering Committee (ISC) - an independent, representative body that provides advice to the CoD and expresses the view of the civil society during the Governing Council deliberations. The ISC is composed of global, regional and national level civil society organizations.