

## 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.

**1** GC Members encourage adherence to the Warsaw Declaration principles in countries within and outside the Community

**2** GC Members provide sustained support for key democratic consolidation in transitioning countries outside the Community

**3** GC Members increase and deepen their dialogue on the challenges they face as democracies

### The CoD and the UN Sustainable Development Agenda

**16** PEACE, JUSTICE  
AND STRONG  
INSTITUTIONS



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).

## Governing Council – a platform for dialogue and discussion



The Governing Council (GC) of the Community of Democracies comprises Member States that commit to abide by the common democratic values and standards outlined in the Warsaw Declaration and make tangible contributions to strengthening the Community of Democracies. The Governing Council provides a **unique venue for countries that share democratic values** to help each other and advocate globally on issues of mutual concern.

The diversity of the GC, which includes countries from most world regions and at different states of their democratic journey, provides the potential to draw on a wide pool of experiences and information to respond to democratic backsliding and proactively promote democratic values.

## Presidency of the Community of Democracies

The role of Presidency is fulfilled by one of the Governing Council Member States elected for the period of two years. The Presidency oversees, coordinates and facilitates the activities of the CoD and provides leadership to meet the CoD Strategic Objectives. The Presidency works with the Governing Council, the Executive Committee, and the Secretary General. As of September 2019, the Presidency of the Community of Democracies is held by **Romania**.

## Executive Committee (EC)

The Executive Committee is composed of selected Governing Council Members and provides strategic recommendations to the Governing Council to inform decisions of the CoD Activities. As of September 2019, the EC is composed of Norway, Poland, Republic of Korea, Romania, United Kingdom and United States.

## Secretary General and Permanent Secretariat of the Community of Democracies

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**.

The participation of civil society is a unique asset to the Community and one of its key strengths.

## Contact Us

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