

**Outcome Statement of the Extraordinary Governing Council  
Meeting of the Community of Democracies  
New York City, September 26, 2019**

Across the world, nations rightly and effectively come together to address common challenges and create new opportunities. Peaceful coexistence and cooperation of societies has to be preserved and enhanced to support strong democratic principles. The very purpose of international cooperation is to assist those societies to equally access their civil rights and ensure the rule of law and democracy.

Among the Member States of the United Nations are 29 countries, the Governing Council of the Community of Democracies, which are acting collectively towards one specific purpose: to promote adherence to the Warsaw Declaration, adopted in 2000 by 106 States, the founding document of the Community of Democracies that identifies 19 core principles of democracy, human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Within and outside the Community of Democracies, the Governing Council Member States promote adherence to the Warsaw Declaration, by examining issues around democratic governance; exchanging experiences and identifying best practices to deepen democracy; encouraging relevant international and regional organizations to be supportive of efforts to strengthen democracy; and cooperating with countries undergoing democratic transition and consolidation.

We, the Member States of the Community of Democracies Governing Council, affirm that the strength and vibrancy of democratic nations depend on a robust civic space, active civil society, and meaningful consultation between governments and civil society to promote democracy, protect and promote human rights and civic space and defend rule of law.

We, the Member States of the Community of Democracies Governing Council, underscore the importance of engaging with civil society, including the Community of Democracies' Civil Society Pillar, to understand and respond to challenges faced by democratic governments, including those being part of the Governing Council.

The Governing Council of the Community of Democracies draws upon and acknowledges the contributions and significant role of Civil Society in shaping resilient and vital democracies. Accordingly, the Governing Council works within and outside its membership to advance, secure and protect an enabling environment for civil society to fulfil its critical role. Freedom of expression and an independent media are essential for Civil Society to flourish. With these in place, people are able to discuss and debate issues freely, to challenge, and to make informed decisions about the way they are governed.

In collaboration with civil society, the Community of Democracies maintains a central focus on the 2030 UN Agenda for Sustainable Development, primarily Goals 5, 16 and 17, under a cross-cutting theme of Democracy and Development, as outlined in its 2018-2023 Strategic Plan.

We, the Member States of the Community of Democracies Governing Council, in the spirit of openness and inclusiveness, encourage countries, within and outside the Community of Democracies, to uphold the principles of the Warsaw Declaration, promote democracy in all regions of the world; support inclusive democratic processes in societies on the democratic path and collaborate on democracy-related issues in existing international and regional institutions, aimed at promotion of democratic governance.

We, the Member States of the Community of Democracies Governing Council, call on governments to partner with the private sector, civil society, and human rights defenders, including women human rights defenders, all of which play a crucial role in democracy. We encourage states to meet their international human rights obligations and commitments when pursuing development policies, to promote gender equality and the participation of youth in their pursuit of “peaceful, just and inclusive societies” and to renew focus on the achievement of equal opportunity of men and women in the political and economic spheres, to invest in improved participation of women and youth in development and to ensure the inclusion of all persons regardless of race, color, gender, language, religion or belief, national or ethnic origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, political or other opinion, social and property status or disability.

Democratic solidarity is a powerful force for bringing about peace, security, and prosperity around the world. Democracy is the one road all people can walk together to realize our shared aspiration for human rights and dignity.

Member States of the Governing Council welcomed Romania as it assumes the Presidency of the Community of Democracies for the next two-year term, and thanked Poland for its leadership of the Community as outgoing Executive Committee Chair.