

**Connecting Youth Democracy Leaders
Community of Democracies' Youth Forum
July 23 and 24, 2020**

Representatives of global and regional youth networks to discuss youth political and civic engagement at the Community of Democracies digital Youth Forum, to be held on July 23 and 24, 2020, from locations in Bucharest, Warsaw and around the world.

The event is organized as part of celebrations of the 20th Anniversary of the Community of Democracies (CoD) to highlight the importance of youth inclusion as a key element of strong sustainable democracies. Youth empowerment is a priority of the Presidency of the Community of Democracies, Romania, who holds the mandate for 2019-2021, and a cross-cutting theme mainstreamed into all CoD activities.

The CoD Youth Forum will provide a global platform for representatives of youth-led organizations and networks to discuss young people's political and civic participation, share good practices from their countries and regions, and present innovative ways of advancing youth engagement in public life and in democratic processes.

Participants will also present the **Community of Democracies' Youth Forum Statement**, a call for youth empowerment and improved participation in democratic processes.

The event will be held in two sessions, both of which will be *live-streamed*:

Youth Forum Session I - Thursday, July 23, 2020, at 15:00 CEST

The session will include **keynote remarks by Foreign Minister of Romania H.E. Mr. Bogdan Aurescu**, the presentation of the Youth Forum Statement, a panel discussion: "*From Activism to Democratic Governance*", and youth speakers' interventions.

Youth Forum Session II - Friday, July 24, 2020 at 08:00 CEST

The session will include **keynote remarks by Ambassador Simona Mirela Miculescu, Representative of the UN Secretary General, Head of UN Office in Belgrade**; opening remarks by *Jayathma Wickramanayake, UN Youth Envoy, Sri Lanka*; a panel discussion: "*Youth for Sustainable Development Goals*", youth speakers' interventions, and **closing remarks by the CoD Secretary General Thomas E. Garrett**.

The links to the livestream broadcast to be provided on the CoD website and social media prior the event.