

## The Community of Democracies and Youth Empowerment

The Community of Democracies (CoD) is a global intergovernmental coalition comprised of Member States that support adherence to the shared values of democracy and human rights outlined in the Warsaw Declaration.

Youth engagement in public life is an important element of sustainable democracies and inclusive societies. Youth empowerment is one of the cross-cutting themes mainstreamed into all activities undertaken by the Community of Democracies.



## CoD YOUTHLEADS

— LEAD ENGAGE INSPIRE —

### CoD Youth Leads

Established in 2020, CoD Youth Leads is a group of democracy advocates and leaders across the globe from countries within and outside the CoD Governing Council. The Youth Leads actively engage in CoD activities.

### CoD Youth Forum

Organized annually since 2020, the CoD Youth Forum brings together representatives of youth-led organizations and networks to share ideas, best practices, and experiences on different aspects of youth participation in public life across the world.

### Global Events

The CoD works with youth from across the world to discuss country-specific as well as global democracy and human-rights related issues. Young people participate and contribute in a number of CoD activities, from thematic discussions and development of youth statements to major gatherings including the CoD Ministerial Conference and the Youth Assembly for the Summit for Democracies.

## **2022 CoD Youth Forum Reversing the Democracy Disconnect**

In 2022, the CoD Youth Forum was held in a virtual format as a side event in the margins of the 77th session of the UNGA. The event featured leaders from each region of the world speaking about youth inclusion, under the theme of Reversing the Democracy Disconnect. An inspiring keynote presentation by Congressman John Wright of El Salvador and a report by a representative of Civicus, an NGO Member of the Civil Society Pillar, were prominently featured. It was the third edition of the Forum organized under the Romanian Presidency of the Community of Democracies (2019- 2022).



## **CoD engagement in the Summit for Democracy Youth Assembly on the margins of the Summit for Democracy**

Championed by the CoD YouthLeads, the virtual Youth Assembly for the Summit for Democracy, held in December 2021, brought together 18- to 35- year olds from across the world. The Assembly kicked off with a conversation with USAID Administrator Samantha Power. During the event, youth participants focused on the three main areas of the Summit as well as voiced their democracy priorities.

