

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.



#CoDYouthLeads

CoD YouthLeads is an informal, voluntary group of young pro-democracy advocates advising the CoD on effective practices, strategies, and actions to enhance youth engagement in democracies worldwide. The YouthLeads actively engage in CoD activities from thematic discussions to major CoD gatherings.

#CoDYouth 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.

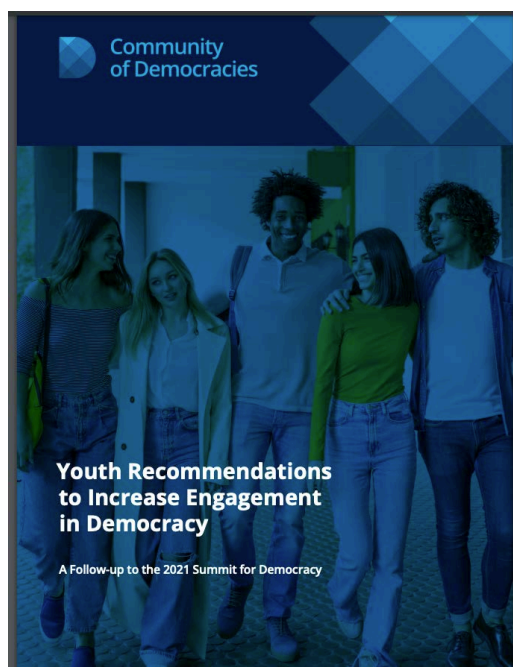
2022 CoD Youth Forum Reversing the Democracy Disconnect

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.



Youth Recommendations to Increase Engagement in Democracy

Developed by CoDYouthLeads as a follow-up to the U.S. Summit for Democracy, the report lists practical steps on how to increase youth inclusion in democracy.