

## **Community of Democracies' YouthLeads Meeting Outcome Statement Warsaw, Poland, September 24, 2023**

As the Community of Democracies' YouthLeads begin the mandate, they look forward to collaborating with its Governing Council (G.C.) Member States and other democratic states by providing youth perspectives, exchanging ideas and practices regarding youth inclusion, and, when possible, participating in the G.C. meetings.

They applaud the efforts of the first YouthLeads cohort, established under the "youth empowerment" priority during the Presidency of Romania, and thank the Foreign Minister of Romania for her message of continued support of youth participation. Even amidst the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, they executed numerous initiatives and events to highlight democracy, fundamental freedoms, and the U.N. Sustainable Development Agenda. Building on their legacy, the YouthLeads are committed to furthering these initiatives during the Presidency of Canada.

As the Community of Democracies undertakes the vital process of revising its strategic plan and setting objectives for the forthcoming years, YouthLeads advocates for a heightened focus on youth participation. Given the CoD's extensive engagement on youth topics, it's crucial that youth involvement is not just a peripheral theme but is central to its strategy and actions.

The YouthLeads eagerly anticipate the launch of the global Youth Democracy Network initiated by the United States. This initiative is crucial for cultivating intergenerational collaborative spaces where emerging leaders can champion robust democracies and human rights values. The YouthLeads commit to advising the network, ensuring its content and undertakings are genuinely youth-centric.

Looking toward the III Summit for Democracy in March 2024, YouthLeads commend the leadership of CoD Member State, the Republic of Korea. By hosting the Summit, the Republic of Korea not only reaffirms a commitment to democratic values but also carves a space for young voices to be heard and amplified. With the chosen theme, "Democracy for Future Generations," the Republic of Korea accentuates the necessity of reshaping our democratic structures to be more inclusive, accessible, and relevant to young people.

The YouthLeads' aspiration is that that the Summit will serve as a fertile ground for creating fresh ideas, offering a platform for young advocates, activists, and leaders to collaborate and drive forward the agenda of a resilient, democratic future.

The two-day meeting concluded with the YouthLeads developing a framework for activities. Bearing in mind threats to democracy worldwide, the main goal is to promote youth engagement in elections during their term.

As the CoD YouthLeads, step forward, they do so with newfound insights, strategic direction, and an unyielding spirit, all of which were ignited and nurtured in Warsaw. They sincerely thank the Secretary General and the Permanent Secretariat for facilitating this valuable meeting opportunity.