

Read Out of the Community of Democracies' YouthLeads Meeting September 23-24, 2022

The CoD YouthLeads convened on September 23-24, 2023, in a spirit of collaboration and mutual commitment to bolstering democratic values globally. An assembly of ten young pro-democracy advocates from Africa, the Americas, Asia and Europe, the YouthLeads' collective mission is to provide actionable insights to the Member States of the Community of Democracies to enhance youth participation in democracies worldwide.

The gathering commenced alongside CoD Governing Council representatives at a welcome reception for the YouthLeads, imbuing a sense of unity and shared purpose. The Foreign Minister of Romania, H.E. Ms. Luminita Odobescu, opened the meeting with a message of continued support of youth participation.

Additionally, the YouthLeads' dialogue was enriched by H.E. Ms. Aylin Estrella Joo Liem, Ambassador of Chile to Poland, Ukraine, Lithuania, and Georgia, who shared crucial insights on the art of diplomatic communication. This session was complemented by a discussion with Ms. Victoria Nibarger, representing the U.S. Department of State, on the global Youth Democracy Network.



The conversation with the Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Ms. Oleksandra Matviichuk was a significant highlight. She discussed with YouthLeads challenges of modern human rights system and potential reforms of international legal order.

Throughout the weekend, YouthLeads dived into discussions on democracy topics, such as youth mobilizations in elections, the divide between autocracies and democracies, and the role of youth during wars noting regional examples.

As meeting outcomes, YouthLeads issued a statement that is attached to this read out and developed a framework for activities focusing on promoting youth engagement in elections to realize during their term. Within the next month, with the support of the Permanent Secretariat they will be sharing activity proposals for the remaining year of 2023 as well as 2024.

