

**Signing of Memorandum of Understanding between  
the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States and  
the Permanent Secretariat of the Community of Democracies  
May 30 2024, Washington DC**

- I am delighted to be here to sign the Memorandum of Understanding between the Permanent Secretariat of the Community of Democracies (CoD) and the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (OAS). I offer a special welcome to Member States of our Governing Council here today.
- The CoD and the OAS **share 10 Member States**: Canada, United States, Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Panama, Chile, Argentina and Uruguay. But more than that, our two organizations share values of democracy and human rights.
- In this agreement, both the Community of Democracies and the Organization of American States express our intention to renew **our commitment to those shared values of democracy and human rights and work together to strengthen democracy in the Americas.**
- **The Warsaw Declaration**, the CoD's founding document, highlights that democratic development is a process, in which each country is at a different stage. No country has reached perfection in building democracy and there is no single model of democracy that fits all. Therefore, democracies must work together and learn from one another by **promoting dialogue, exchanging experiences and identifying best practices.** This collaboration and shared democratic values are what makes us a **Community of Democracies.**

- Addressing today's complex challenges to democracy requires ongoing dialogue and common action – by governments, international and regional organizations, civil society, and the private sector. Considering these challenges and the diplomatic tools and capabilities of both organizations, this new **Agreement will provide a framework for collaboration to promote and strengthen democratic values and institutions in the Americas.**
  
- The Warsaw Declaration and the Inter-American Democratic Charter of the Organization of American States emphasize the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms as essential elements of democracy.
  
- As the CoD and the OAS share many **areas of mutual interest**, areas of cooperation within this Agreement will include, among others: promoting discussion and dialogue on the InterAmerican Democratic Charter and the Warsaw Declaration, including substantive issues that represent a threat to democratic principles; collaboration on democracy initiatives in Latin America and the Caribbean, especially engaging and strengthening the democratic participation of youth; and supporting activities of the Voluntary Group to follow-up the InterAmerican Democratic Charter.
  
- Thank you for participating in this ceremony. I look forward to continuing our fruitful cooperation with the OAS within **this strategic partnership** to promote and protect our shared democratic principles enshrined in the **Warsaw Declaration and the Inter-American Democratic Charter.**