



Community
of Democracies

2024–2028

Community of Democracies Strategic Plan

A world where every nation respects and upholds the core democratic values, principles, and standards of the Warsaw Declaration.



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Table of contents

1. Message from the Secretary General	7
2. Executive Summary	8
3. The Community of Democracies in Context	10
4. Review of the first Strategic Plan and Rationale for a renewed Plan	12
5. Towards the 25 th Anniversary of the Warsaw Declaration	14
6. Vision and mission statements	15
7. Objectives and thematic focus areas	16
8. Risks, challenges and mitigating actions	22
9. Measuring results	23
10. Definitions	24
11. Acknowledgements	26
12. Annexes	27

1. Message from the Secretary General

I am pleased to present the Community of Democracies Strategic Plan 2024 – 2028, which will guide this organization during the next five years in its shared efforts to promote democratic values and institutions.

Building upon the Strategic Plan 2018–2023, this new Strategic Plan reflects the global realities in which the Community of Democracies operates: addressing complex challenges to democracy, human rights, and the rule of law while embracing new opportunities to build the resilience of democratic institutions through the engagement of youth and civil society in public life and strengthening democracy through multilateralism.

In 2025, the Community of Democracies arrives at the 25th Anniversary of the Warsaw Declaration and, in its adoption by 106 nations, the founding of the Community of Democracies. As Secretary Madeleine Albright said in the closing session of “Towards a Community of Democracies” in June 2000:

“We arrived in this city from every conceivable spot on the map. We speak different languages. We have different cultures, histories, faiths, worries and dreams. But we are a Community because we each believe that democracy is a fundamental and universal human right; because we want our own citizens to enjoy this right; and because we are committed to helping others strengthen and sustain it.”

The new Strategic Plan, a roadmap for the Community of Democracies, reflects that founding vision of democratic solidarity while looking with hope toward the future of democracy globally.

The Community of Democracies will encourage greater collaboration and partnerships with stakeholders across international, regional, and national sectors. For the first time, this Strategic Plan takes a focused approach to youth engagement, recognizing their crucial role in safeguarding the democratic principles of the Warsaw Declaration for the next twenty-five years and beyond.

The Permanent Secretariat looks forward to implementing this plan with the Governing Council, youth, and civil society.

Thomas E. Garrett

2. Executive Summary

The Community of Democracies is a global coalition for inclusive dialogue on democracy and the promotion of the Warsaw Declaration principles. It envisions a world where every nation respects and upholds these principles.

Its mission is to take concerted action to advance and protect democratic freedoms, strengthen democratic institutions, and expand political participation. Governing Council Member States do this by promoting and adhering to the principles of the Warsaw Declaration, providing space for inclusive dialogue, and working with diverse stakeholders, including the Civil Society Pillar, and the YouthLeads.

As authoritarian regimes have created division and eroded trust in democratic institutions and processes, and adherence to many of the Warsaw Declaration's principles has varied since the adoption of the Community's first Strategic Plan in 2018, the Community of Democracies' mission is more important today than ever before.

The consultative process to develop this Plan revealed both strengths and weaknesses in the Community's performance and operations. With the adoption of this second Five-Year Strategic Plan for the period 2024–2028, Member States of the Governing Council are determined to work together with the Permanent Secretariat, the Civil Society Pillar and YouthLeads to address the weaknesses and leverage the strengths to ensure that within five years, the Community is better equipped to advance its mission.

This Strategic Plan articulates how the Community of Democracies will achieve its mission, embodied in the following three objectives:

- Strategic Objective 1: Strengthen adherence to the principles of the Warsaw Declaration in countries within and outside the Community.
- Strategic Objective 2: Increase dialogue among diverse stakeholders within and outside the Community on challenges and opportunities to promote and strengthen democratic processes and institutions.
- Operational Objective: Improve the Community of Democracies' operations and internal processes.

The Community of Democracies advances these objectives by using a range of different tools, primarily dialogue, diplomacy, advocacy, convening, capacity-building, collaboration, and peer support.

Governing Council Member States commit to strongly increase their engagement to advance these three objectives by 2028. As part of this engagement, they will seek to support a 25th anniversary event or Ministerial Conference, recommit to the Warsaw Declaration, and agree to consider a funding mechanism, to allow the Community to be strategic, increase its impact, and achieve meaningful and sustainable results for democracy.

3. The Community of Democracies in Context

The Community of Democracies was initiated by U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright with Polish Foreign Minister Bronisław Geremek in the wake of a period of political transitions around the world, to strengthen democracy through cooperation and mutual support. Its creation in 2000 through the adoption of the Warsaw Declaration was marked by optimism and a focus on democratic gains, transition, and consolidation.

The Warsaw Declaration outlines 19 core democratic principles that define the parameters essential for the establishment and consolidation of democracy. It also recognizes the universality of democratic values and emphasizes the interdependence between peace, development, human rights, and democracy. The 106 nations that adopted the Declaration committed to uphold these principles and values, and to work together to strengthen institutions and processes of democracy, exchange experiences and identify best practices, and promote dialogue on democratic governance and democratization. The Warsaw Declaration is the founding document and a unique feature of the Community of Democracies that guides these efforts.

From its creation as a forum for biannual ministerial meetings, the Community grew into its current structure through the creation of the Permanent Secretariat in 2008, the Governing Council in 2011, and the position of Secretary General in 2012.

Since 2000, the global political context has shifted and new threats to democracy have emerged. The political polarization that used to be defined largely in economic terms is now often described as autocracy vs. democracy, where authoritarian powers challenge the liberal-democratic model from the outside, and populist and nationalist regimes attack it from within. Supported by new technologies, these and other undemocratic actors spread dis- and misinformation, exploit identity politics, and manipulate voters to create division and erode trust in democratic institutions.

When the first Strategic Plan of the Community of Democracies was adopted in 2018, the trend from democratic transition to backsliding had already commenced. Data from the 2023 Global State of Democracy report by International IDEA show that since then, countries that have declined in democratic performance outnumber those that have improved. While

there are regional differences, the report shows decline in several areas corresponding to Warsaw Declaration principles, including, for example: the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association; the right to freedom of opinion and of expression; the right of the press to collect, report and disseminate information; the right to equal protection of the law; and the obligation of governments to refrain from extra-constitutional actions and respect election results.

The data present a more nuanced picture at the regional and subregional level with some signs of resilience in citizens' political participation and civil society engagement, decreased corruption levels and contributions by so-called countervailing institutions such as courts, ombuds offices, electoral management offices, human rights commissions, investigative journalists, and non-governmental organizations that have stepped in where executive powers and legislatures have weakened. The 2023 Freedom in the World report by Freedom House is also somewhat encouraging. While it demonstrates that political rights and civil liberties declined globally for the 17th consecutive year in 2022, the gap between the number of countries with overall improvements and those with overall declines decreased and was the smallest since the negative trend began.

The Community of Democracies' mission is firmly anchored in the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which recognizes that human rights, the rule of law, good governance, and peace and security are crucial for sustainable development, all of which are at the core of the Community's work. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) most relevant to the work of the Community are: SDG 16 (promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable institutions at all levels); SDG 5 (achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls); and SDG 17 (strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development). The UN's 2023 Sustainable Development Goals Progress Report shows weak progress on more than 50 percent of targets across all Goals and calls for increased efforts to meet the SDGs by 2030.

At the same time, the consultations and analysis conducted for the development of this Strategic Plan indicate that the Community of Democracies is facing some challenges of its own. The underlying goal of this second five-year Strategic Plan is therefore to support the revitalization and strengthening of the Community so it can achieve its full potential and play the important role envisaged by its mission. The world needs an efficient Community of Democracies, and Governing Council Member States must ensure it is equipped to seize every opportunity to fight authoritarian tendencies, build democratic resilience, protect and promote human rights, and increase adherence to the Warsaw Declaration principles.

4. Review of the first Strategic Plan and Rationale for a renewed Plan

As the Community of Democracies' first Strategic Plan (2018–2023) was approaching the end of its term, the Permanent Secretariat contracted an independent consultancy firm to draft a new Plan for the period 2024–2028. During October–December 2023, the consultants sought stakeholder feedback on the implementation of the first Strategic Plan and on priorities for the new Plan.

These consultations confirmed a continued need for a renewed Strategic Plan to continue initiatives launched under the 2018–2023 Strategic Plan, address some operational shortcomings, and better equip the Community of Democracies to advance its mission.

There was broad agreement that to increase its impact, the Community of Democracies needs to focus on its comparative advantages and strengths. These were most often identified as the Community being a cross-regional convenor that provides space for dialogue among a broad range of actors, including its diverse country membership, Civil Society Pillar, and increasingly impactful YouthLeads. Stakeholders also saw great value in the Community's collaboration with other democracy organizations and processes, and its unique relationship to the Warsaw Declaration. In fact, stakeholders believed that the Warsaw Declaration could play a more prominent role in grounding and guiding the Community's efforts.

The Community of Democracies initiated a review process in 2016 whereby Governing Council Member States must renew their commitment to the Warsaw Declaration principles and to membership in the Governing Council on a regular basis. With the adoption of this Strategic Plan, Governing Council members commit to review this process to ensure it is efficient, objective, and transparent, and strengthens adherence to the Warsaw Declaration principles.

Weaknesses and challenges that were most often highlighted were disengagement by Governing Council Member States and financial insecurity, resulting in a lack of long-term strategic focus. There was a sense that the Community of Democracies could play a bigger role both in setting the global agenda and in rallying democracies against democratic backsliding. Operational improvements could be made in communications, Working Groups, and the process for renewing membership in the Governing Council.

Among stakeholders who contributed to the development of this strategic plan, there was support for introducing a framework for measuring the Community's results, updating the Warsaw Declaration principles, diversifying and enriching dialogue by bringing in an even broader set of stakeholders, and organizing a Ministerial Conference or other event in 2025 that would highlight the 25th anniversary of the Warsaw Declaration and the Community of Democracies.

5. Towards the 25th Anniversary of the Warsaw Declaration

As a global actor with a regionally diverse membership, broad democracy mandate and small but efficient secretariat, the Community is in a unique position to rally democracies and other actors in the defense and promotion of democracy.

The 25th anniversary of the Warsaw Declaration in 2025 presents a unique opportunity to revitalize the Community so that it can play the important role envisaged by its mission. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and other factors, the Community of Democracies has not organized an in-person ministerial conference since 2017. While the rationale, frequency, and objectives of ministerial conferences in the long term must be considered, an exceptional anniversary ministerial conference in 2025 would help place the Community back at the center of dialogue on the future of democracy globally, and provide the political impetus needed for the Community to achieve its mission. An anniversary event is also a strategic opportunity for Member States to agree on an updated Warsaw Declaration.

A 25th Anniversary Planning Committee (APC) will be established to support and provide guidance to the Permanent Secretariat in the organization of the anniversary event. GC Member States and the Civil Society Pillar members will be invited to join the APC with no financial obligation.

The anniversary year coincides with the 10th anniversary of the Sustainable Development Goals, with only five years remaining to their realization target date. A ministerial conference or other anniversary event could therefore also provide momentum to accelerate progress towards reaching the Goals by 2030, in particular SDG 16 on Just, Peaceful and Inclusive Societies.

Finally, a ministerial conference or other anniversary event in 2025 would offer an opportunity to continue the momentum from other high-level democracy gatherings such as the Summits for Democracy, and bring the Community's thematic focus areas, including youth participation, to a wider audience.

6. Vision and mission statements

Vision statement

A world where every nation respects and upholds the core democratic values, principles, and standards of the Warsaw Declaration.

Mission statement

The Community of Democracies is a global intergovernmental coalition of States committed to taking concerted action to advance and protect democratic freedoms, strengthen democratic institutions, and expand political participation. Governing Council Member States do this by promoting and adhering to the principles of the Warsaw Declaration, providing space for inclusive dialogue, and working with diverse stakeholders, including the Civil Society Pillar and the YouthLeads.

7. Objectives and thematic focus areas

Objectives

The Community of Democracies advances its mission through three main objectives using a range of different tools, primarily dialogue, diplomacy, advocacy, convening, capacity-building, collaboration, and peer support.

The listed sub-objectives will enable the Community of Democracies to better achieve the main objectives and advance its mission.

In implementing the objectives, Governing Council Member States are mindful of the urgency in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, including SDG 16 (Promote just, peaceful, and inclusive societies); SDG 5 (achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls); and SDG 17 (strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development).

Governing Council Member States commit to the following:

Strategic Objective 1

Strengthen adherence to the principles of the Warsaw Declaration in countries within and outside the Community.

Sub-objectives:

- By using the different tools at its disposal, support democratic processes, institutions and freedoms in countries within and outside the Community, bearing in mind the principles of international law, such as non-intervention, sovereign equality and cooperation.

- Ensure Governing Council meetings and other Community gatherings dedicate sufficient time for discussing challenges facing Member States and the sharing of best practices.
- Continue strengthening collaboration with other global and regional actors to leverage and ensure complementarity in efforts to advance democracy and seek opportunities for new partnerships.
- Review the Warsaw Declaration to ensure its principles respond to today's threats to democracy.
- Renew political commitment to the Warsaw Declaration, which could take place at a Ministerial Conference or other event organized in 2025 to highlight the 25th anniversary of the Community of Democracies.

Strategic Objective 2

Increase dialogue among diverse stakeholders within and outside the Community on challenges and opportunities to promote and strengthen democratic processes and institutions.

Sub-objectives:

- Invite diverse members of the Civil Society Pillar to regularly brief the Governing Council on specific democracy topics of interest, providing cross-sectoral dialogue opportunities and exchange.
- Identify and invite key external democracy stakeholders including parliamentarians, experts from other government institutions in Governing Council Member States, democracy changemakers, and other relevant actors to partake in Governing Council discussions, Working Groups, and other Community activities.
- Continue integrating the YouthLeads and their perspectives into the Community and support wider youth engagement and learning on democracy-related issues and processes, including through interaction with decision-makers.
- Consolidate the Democracy Platform on the margins of the UN Human Rights Council, providing a strong forum for democratic collaboration, and seize opportunities to strengthen and replicate it in other fora.
- Give priority to under-represented regions when identifying and inviting new Member States to the Governing Council.

Operational Objective

Improve the Community of Democracies operations and internal processes.

Sub-objectives:

- Develop and approve a sustainable funding mechanism for the Community.
- Ensure Working Groups include key actors, are action-oriented, and better connected to the strategic objectives, thematic focus areas and initiatives by the Community of Democracies.
- Make better use of social media as an advocacy and capacity-building tool to increase the Community's reach.
- Mainstream gender equality and seek opportunities to include youth and youth perspectives in all new Community of Democracies initiatives and activities.

Mainstreaming Gender Equality means that Governing Council Member States and the Permanent Secretariat will analyze and articulate the gender perspectives and implications of all new initiatives and activities that they initiate with the aim of advancing gender equality.

- Establish a Planning Committee composed of Governing Council Member States and Civil Society Pillar representatives to prepare for the Community's 25th anniversary.
- Review and agree on an updated Governing Council Renewal Process that is efficient, transparent, and objective, and does not duplicate efforts by the United Nations Universal Periodic Review Mechanism.

- Develop performance indicators for the Warsaw Declaration principles for Governing Council Member States' approval, both to help the Community measure progress and to ensure the processes for renewing and admitting Governing Council Member States and inviting countries to ministerial conferences are objective and transparent.
- Work to secure advanced Presidency commitments, requesting that Governing Council Member States commit to the leadership role further in advance.
- In the first year of this Strategic Plan, establish baselines for performance indicators, start measuring results in 2025, and produce a first progress report in 2026, followed by an update of the Strategic Plan as needed.
- Produce a second and final progress report in late 2028 so that lessons learned can inform the development of the next Strategic Plan, which should be launched early 2029.

Thematic Focus Areas

To make strategic use of its resources, the Community will focus its efforts in four thematic focus areas. These reflect the areas where the Community has identified important gaps in realizing the Warsaw Declaration principles, and where – considering its comparative advantages – it has an opportunity to achieve positive change:

1. Fostering democratic resilience, which is an umbrella term for several sub-themes, including but not limited to:

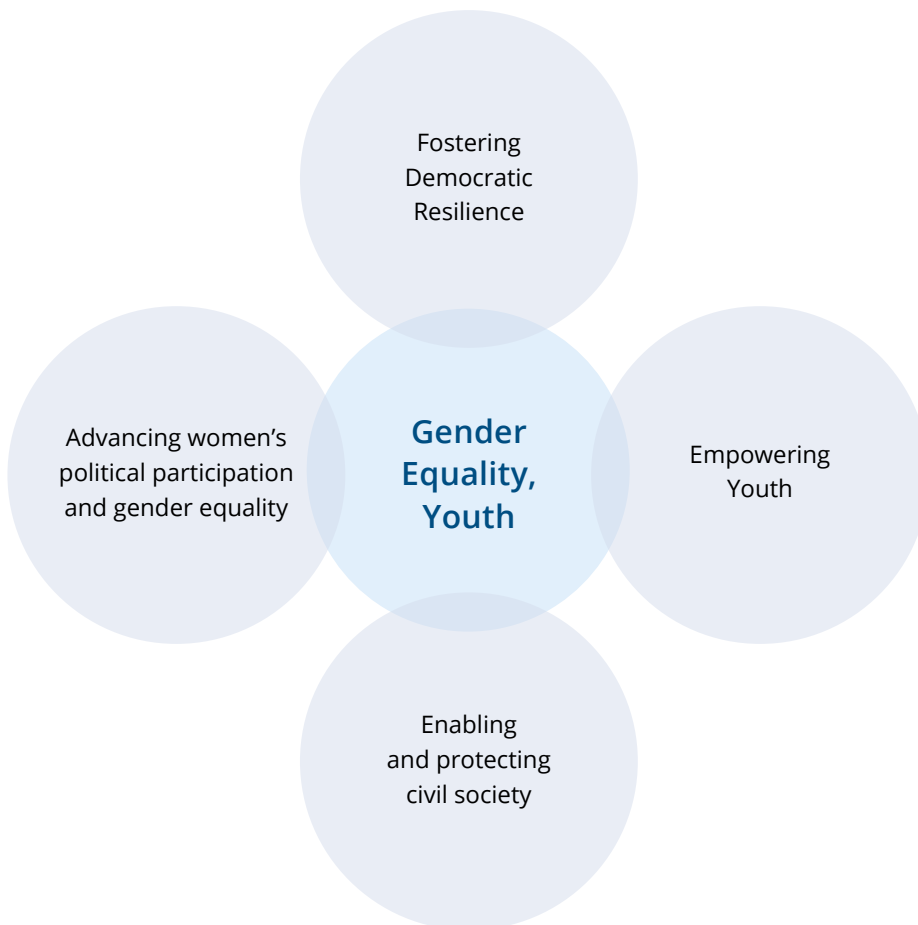
- a. Countering democratic decline with a particular view to election interference and disinformation and threats concerning rule of law, accountability, parliamentary oversight, civic space, and media freedom;
- b. Understanding the relationship between democracy and artificial intelligence;
- c. Enhancing education for democracy; and
- d. Advancing democracy and development, including in line with the Sustainable Development Goals.

2. Empowering youth by amplifying their voices and increasing their participation in democratic processes.

3. Enabling and protecting civil society, including human rights defenders, peacebuilders, and journalists.

4. Advancing women's political participation and gender equality.

Gender equality and youth empowerment are also cross-cutting themes. This means that the Community of Democracies commits to mainstreaming gender equality and to seeking opportunities to include youth and youth perspectives in all new Community of Democracies initiatives and activities.



8. Risks, challenges and mitigating actions

The main risks and challenges to implementing this Strategic Plan that are within the Community's control include:

1. Unpredictable and limited financial resources available to support the Governing Council's activities.

To mitigate this risk, the sub-objectives include a commitment to develop and establish a stable funding mechanism. The Permanent Secretariat will seek to better understand Member States' challenges in providing financial contributions to the Community and propose a feasible, stable funding mechanism to the Governing Council for its approval.

2. Lack of engagement by some Governing Council Member States, which affects the Community's ability to advance its mission and have an impact.

To mitigate this risk, Governing Council Member States have agreed on thematic focus areas to better focus their efforts for the next five years, have committed to review the Warsaw Declaration and renew their commitment to its principles, and have decided to organize a 25th anniversary event or Ministerial Conference in 2025 to attract renewed political attention.

3. Significant democratic backsliding in some Governing Council Member States, including in established democracies, which can undermine the legitimacy and credibility of the Community.

To mitigate this risk, the sub-objectives include commitments to discuss challenges facing Governing Council Member States and to review the processes for renewing and suspending Member States.

If these mitigating actions fail or are not implemented, or in case other significant risks and/or challenges emerge, Member States have committed to a review of this Strategic Plan in 2026, following a first progress report. This review will include an assessment of achievements to date, suggest adjustments to the Plan as needed, and provide opportunity to update this section on risks and mitigating actions.

9. Measuring results

As outlined in this Strategic Plan, the Community of Democracies aims to increase inclusive dialogue, encourage action, and support capacity-building activities to advance and protect democratic freedoms, strengthen democratic institutions, and expand political participation, with the objective of improving adherence to the Warsaw Declaration principles.

The Community of Democracies' theory of change illustrates how the Community will achieve this, taking into account the assumptions, risks and contributions by various democracy actors that will impact results. For example, the Community cannot attribute all results to its actions. Other democracy actors, including partner organizations, will contribute to and affect results, particularly at the intermediate and long-term level. The higher up in the logic model, the more difficult to demonstrate a casual link between the Community's efforts and measured results, which must be considered when analyzing and reporting results.

Being a relatively small organization, it is important that the Community of Democracies invests its resources strategically and focus its efforts in certain thematic areas, namely fostering democratic resilience, supporting youth empowerment, enabling and protecting civil society, and advancing women's political participation and gender equality. These focus areas are reflected in the performance measurement framework and theory of change.

To be efficient, it is equally important that the Community of Democracies does not divert resources from achieving results to measuring and reporting them. The Community will therefore produce only two progress reports; one in 2026 accounting for the first two years of the Strategic Plan, and a second, final report produced in late 2028. The first report will be followed by a light review and update of the Strategic Plan as needed, to ensure that the measuring of results contributes to learning and adaptation. For the same reason, it will be important that the final progress report is produced in time to inform the development of a third Strategic Plan, which should be launched early 2029.

The theory of change and performance measurement framework are found in the annex section of this Plan.

10. Definitions

Community of Democracies (CoD)

is a global intergovernmental coalition founded in 2000 through the adoption of the Warsaw Declaration. It is led by the Governing Council that supports adherence to common democratic values and standards outlined in the Warsaw Declaration and is represented in international fora by the elected Secretary General.

Executive Committee (EC)

is composed of elected Governing Council Member States and provides strategic recommendations and opinions to the Governing Council to inform decisions on the activities of the Community of Democracies.

Governing Council (GC)

comprises of Member States that commit to abide by the common democratic values and standards outlined in the Warsaw Declaration and make tangible contributions to strengthening the CoD. The Governing Council cooperates with civil society and other affiliated bodies of the CoD.

International Steering Committee (ISC)

is an independent, representative body elected by the Civil Society Assembly to provide advice to the Community of Democracies. It develops its own strategies and activities to promote civic space, proposes areas for consideration, and expresses the view of civil society during Governing Council deliberations, including those deliberations associated with invitations to join the Governing Council or participate in Ministerial Conferences.

Ministerial Conferences

are high-level meetings of states, civil society, and other democracy stakeholders, with the aim of exchanging views and best practices on supporting the common democratic values and standards outlined in the Warsaw Declaration. The Governing Council invites states as participants or observers, in accordance with the invitation procedure. Ministerial Conferences conclude with the adoption of the Ministerial Declaration by the participating states.

Permanent Secretariat of the Community of Democracies (PSCD)

undertakes functions of administrative, operational, and technical nature in support of the Community's structures and activities under the direction and guidance of the Secretary General. The PSCD, seated in Poland, has legal personality and capacity to perform its functions within the framework of the laws of Poland, in accordance with the agreement between the Republic of Poland and the Presidency of the Community of Democracies concluded on 09 July 2012.

Secretary General (SG)

acts as a spokesperson for the CoD, representing it at international fora and meetings of regional and multilateral international organizations, whose agendas include democracy issues. The SG serves as a liaison to the GC Member States and receives direction from the GC. The SG is responsible for the day-to-day management of the Community of Democracies' Permanent Secretariat by structuring the Secretariat and properly allocating budget resources in order to successfully deliver on the GC's priorities.

Warsaw Declaration (WD)

is the founding document of the Community of Democracies, adopted by 106 States on June 27, 2000, in Warsaw, Poland. It defines 19 core principles for the effective establishment and consolidation of democracy.

Working Groups (WGs)

are action-oriented structures that drive the implementation of the strategic objectives of the Community of Democracies. Working Groups are composed of states (both from within and outside the Governing Council), civil society representatives, and other democracy stakeholders. Working Group mandates are approved by the Governing Council, and they are supported and coordinated by the Permanent Secretariat of the Community of Democracies. Each Working Group is responsible for the development of work plans, implementation of activities, monitoring, and reporting results back to the Governing Council.

11. Acknowledgements

The Permanent Secretariat expresses its gratitude to the Member States which contributed to the development of the Community of Democracies second strategic plan, which will guide its mission through the years 2024 to 2028. The Secretariat is grateful for the core financial contribution from Canada that made this possible, and for the support of Executive Committee Members throughout this process. The Civil Society Pillar and CoD YouthLeads provided important input and feedback, as did other civil society and democracy stakeholders who took part in virtual consultations and meetings.

Further appreciation goes to Morton Halperin, for his valuable insights on the Community of Democracies and its future. Lastly, thank you to consultants Elin Miller and Julian Murray, and Patricia Galdamez from the Permanent Secretariat for their months-long work to the strategic planning process.

12. Annexes

Annex 1: The Warsaw Declaration

Annex 2: Ministerial Conferences

Annex 3: Community of Democracies Timeline

Annex 1: The Warsaw Declaration

The Warsaw Declaration is the founding document of the Community of Democracies, adopted on June 27, 2000, in Warsaw, Poland. It defines the essential practices and norms for the effective establishment and consolidation of democracy and emphasizes the interdependence between peace, development, human rights, and democracy.

Countries that adopted the Warsaw Declaration recognized the universality of democratic values and committed to respect and uphold the following 19 core democratic principles:

Principle 1 - The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government, as expressed by exercise of the right and civic duties of citizens to choose their representatives through regular, free and fair elections with universal and equal suffrage, open to multiple parties, conducted by secret ballot, monitored by independent electoral authorities, and free of fraud and intimidation.

Principle 2 - The right of every person to equal access to public service and to take part in the conduct of public affairs, directly or through freely chosen representatives.

Principle 3 - The right of every person to equal protection of the law, without any discrimination as to race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

Principle 4 - The right of every person to freedom of opinion and of expression, including to exchange and receive ideas and information through any media, regardless of frontiers.

Principle 5 - The right of every person to freedom of thought, conscience and religion.

Principle 6 - The right of every person to equal access to education.

Principle 7 - The right of the press to collect, report and disseminate information, news and opinions, subject only to restrictions necessary in a democratic society and prescribed by law, while bearing in mind evolving international practices in this field.

Principle 8 - The right of every person to respect for private family life, home, correspondence, including electronic communications, free of arbitrary or unlawful interference.

Principle 9 - The right of every person to freedom of peaceful assembly and association, including to establish or join their own political parties, civic groups, trade unions or other organizations with the necessary legal guarantees to allow them to operate freely on a basis of equal treatment before the law.

Principle 10 - The right of persons belonging to minorities or disadvantaged groups to equal protection of the law, and the freedom to enjoy their own culture, to profess and practice their own religion, and use their own language.

Principle 11 - The right of every person to be free from arbitrary arrest or detention; to be free from torture and other cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment or punishment; and to receive due process of law, including to be presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Principle 12 - That the aforementioned rights, which are essential to full and effective participation in a democratic society, be enforced by a competent, independent and impartial judiciary open to the public, established and protected by law.

Principle 13 - That elected leaders uphold the law and function strictly in accordance with the constitution of the country concerned and procedures established by law.

Principle 14 - The right of those duly elected to form a government, assume office and fulfill the term of office as legally established.

Principle 15 - The obligation of an elected government to refrain from extra-constitutional actions, to allow the holding of periodic elections and to respect their results, and to relinquish power when its legal mandate ends.

Principle 16 - That government institutions be transparent, participatory and fully accountable to the citizenry of the country and take steps to combat corruption, which corrodes democracy.

Principle 17 - That the legislature be duly elected and transparent and accountable to the people.

Principle 18 - That civilian, democratic control over the military be established and preserved.

Principle 19 - That all human rights - civil, cultural, economic, political and social – be promoted and protected as set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other relevant human rights instruments.

Annex 2: Ministerial Conferences

Ministerial Conferences are high-level meetings of states, civil society, and other democracy stakeholders, with the aim of exchanging views and best practices on supporting common democratic values and standards outlined in the Warsaw Declaration. Ministerial Conferences conclude with the adoption of the Ministerial Declaration.

COD MINISTERIAL DECLARATIONS:



Annex 3: CoD Timeline



27 June 2000

Adoption of the **Warsaw Declaration** and founding of the Community of Democracies

2000

Formation of the Convening Group, with **Chile, India, Mali, Mexico, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, South Africa**, and the **United States of America**

2001-2003

Republic of Korea Presidency

2002

Seoul Plan of Action

2003-2005

Chile Presidency

2005

Santiago Commitment

2006

Entry of **Cabo Verde, El Salvador, Italy, Mongolia, Morocco**, and **Philippines** to the Convening Group

2005-2007

Mali Presidency

2007

Bamako Ministerial Consensus

2007

Decision to Establish the Permanent Secretariat (Annex to the Bamako Ministerial Consensus)





2011-2013

Mongolia Presidency

2012

International Agreement between the Presidency of the Community of Democracies and the Republic of Poland concerning the Permanent Secretariat of the Community of Democracies

2012

Appointment of Ambassador Maria Leissner as the first Secretary General of the Community of Democracies

2013

Ulaanbaatar Declaration

2013-2015

El Salvador Presidency

2014

Entry of **Estonia** and **Guatemala** to the Governing Council

2015

San Salvador Declaration

2015-2017

United States of America Presidency

2015

Entry of the **Norway** to the Governing Council

2016

Entry of **Argentina** and the **United Kingdom** to the Governing Council



2017

Washington Declaration

2017

Appointment of Thomas E. Garrett as the second Secretary General of the Community of Democracies

2017

Appointment of the Executive Committee members for 2017-2019 with **Chile, Norway, Romania, Republic of Korea, Sweden, United Kingdom** and **Poland**

2019-2022

Romania Presidency

2019

Entry of **Georgia** and **North Macedonia** to the Governing Council

2021

Bucharest Declaration

2022-2023

Canada Presidency

2023

Entry of **Moldova** and **Panama** to the Governing Council

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