

## The Community of Democracies

**The Community of Democracies (CoD) is a global intergovernmental coalition established 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.**

### Commitment to shared democratic values



The Warsaw Declaration is the founding document of the CoD, adopted on June 27th, 2000 by representatives of 106 states. The Warsaw Declaration defines the essential norms and practices for the effective establishment and consolidation of democracy.

### Strategic Objectives

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

1. Strengthen adherence to the principles of the Warsaw Declaration in countries within and outside the Community.
2. Increase dialogue among diverse stakeholders within and outside the Community on challenges and opportunities to promote and strengthen democratic processes and institutions.

### Thematic Focus Areas

1. Fostering Democratic Resilience
2. Enabling and Protecting Civil Society
3. Empowering Youth
4. Advancing Women's Political Participation

## 16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



### The United Nations Sustainable Development Agenda

In implementing the Strategic 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).

## The CoD Governing Council – a platform for dialogue and discussion

The Governing Council 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 Community of Democracies. The Governing Council cooperates with civil society and other affiliated bodies of the CoD.

The diversity of the Governing Council, which includes countries from different world regions and at different stages of their democratic journey, provides the potential to draw on a wide pool of experiences and information to respond to democratic backsliding and proactively promote democratic values.

## Secretary General and the Permanent Secretariat of the Community of Democracies

The Permanent Secretariat of the Community of Democracies (PSCD), seated in Warsaw, provides administrative, operational and technical support to the CoD structures and activities under the direction and guidance of the Secretary General.

## Working Groups

Composed of states, civil society representatives, and other democracy stakeholders, CoD Working Groups are action-oriented structures that drive the implementation of the strategic objectives of the Community of Democracies. Working Groups include: Working Group on Democracy and Technology, Working Group on Enabling and Protecting Civil Society, Working Group on Women and Democracy.

## Civil Society Pillar

The participation of civil society is a unique asset to the Community of Democracies and one of its key strengths. Civil society is represented in the Community of Democracies by the International Steering Committee (ISC) of the Civil Society Pillar- an independent, representative body that provides advice to the CoD and expresses the view of the civil society during the Governing Council deliberations. The ISC is composed of global, regional and national level civil society organizations.

## #CoDYouthLeads

The CoD YouthLeads is a sounding board comprised of pro-democracy advocates advising the CoD on effective practices, strategies, and actions to enhance youth engagement in democracies worldwide. YouthLeads engage in CoD activities such as thematic discussions and major CoD gatherings.

## Contact Us

The Permanent Secretariat of the Community of Democracies  
Al. Ujazdowskie 41, 00-540 Warsaw, Poland

E-mail: [info@community-democracies.org](mailto:info@community-democracies.org)  
Website: [community-democracies.org](http://community-democracies.org)

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