

Declaration of Panama

11th Community of Democracies Ministerial Conference

Democracy, Development and Collective Action for a Resilient Future

WE, the Member States of the Governing Council of the Community of Democracies, participants in the Eleventh Ministerial Conference of the Community of Democracies convened in Panama City, Republic of Panama, on June 25, 2026:

Recalling the founding principles of the Community of Democracies, as established in the Warsaw Declaration of 2000, which affirm the universality of democratic values, human rights, human dignity, equality, and the rule of law as the foundations of just and peaceful societies; reaffirming our common adherence to the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as pillars of the international rules-based order;

Inspired by the historical legacy of the Congress of Panama of 1826, convened by Simón Bolívar, whose bicentennial is being commemorated this year, and which serves as a reminder of the shared commitment of all members to multilateralism, democracy, and cooperation among States;

Affirming shared commitments to strengthen democratic governance globally, by proactively safeguarding democratic institutions and human rights, expanding civic space, countering information manipulation and disinformation, eliminating corruption, and advancing equality, including gender equality, while protecting the separation of powers and preventing actions that weaken democratic governance, effectiveness, and public trust in institutions, and reaffirming that democracy, the rule of law, sustainable development, and respect for human rights are mutually reinforcing, and that lasting peace and prosperity cannot be achieved without strong and accountable democratic institutions;

We, the Member States of the Governing Council of the Community of Democracies, declare the following:

I. RULE OF LAW AND INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

REAFFIRM our unwavering commitment to the rule of law and full respect for human rights as the cornerstone of democratic governance, and our determination to address all efforts aimed at undermining constitutional order, weakening checks and balances, or concentrating power in ways incompatible with democratic principles, the Warsaw Declaration, and international human rights law;

CALL FOR the strengthening of independent judiciaries, electoral management bodies, and oversight institutions as essential guarantors of constitutional democracy and the separation of powers; and commit to strengthening electoral integrity through transparent processes, independent oversight, and the inclusive participation of all persons without any discrimination;

URGE Member States and democratic actors, including international organizations to intensify efforts against corruption in all its forms, recognizing that corruption constitutes a fundamental threat to democratic institutions, public trust, and sustainable development; and resolve to address information manipulation, and the misuse of rapidly evolving digital technologies that undermine democratic processes, while safeguarding freedom of expression, information integrity, and access to information in line with international law;

II. DEMOCRACY, DEVELOPMENT, AND INCLUSION

RECOGNIZE that democratic governance and development are inseparable; that the democratic legitimacy of governments depends on their capacity to deliver tangible improvements in the lives of their citizens, particularly the most vulnerable and marginalized, and that the commitment to promoting public policies to strengthen democratic governance and foster development actions is urgent and cannot be deferred; and encourage the exchange of best practices in public policies aimed at reducing inequalities, expanding access to quality public services, protecting human rights, and ensuring that no one is left behind;

PROMOTE the full, equal and meaningful participation of all women and girls, youth, persons with disabilities, Indigenous Peoples, and other groups in vulnerable situations in democratic processes and institutions, recognizing that inclusive democracy is a more resilient democracy; and reaffirm the importance of transparency and accountability in public administration, including access to public information and civic oversight mechanisms that strengthen the social contract between governments and citizens;

ACKNOWLEDGE the fundamental role of free, impartial, and independent media and freedom of the press in ensuring democratic governance; and advocate for the protection of journalists, the fight against impunity for attacks on press freedom, and a safe and enabling environment for civil society organizations;

III. MULTILATERAL COOPERATION AND COLLECTIVE ACTION

REAFFIRM our commitment to strengthening the Community of Democracies as a leading and unique coalition for democratic solidarity, collective advocacy, and peer support; and call for the Community to play a more active and vocal role in multilateral forums;

COMMIT to deepening coordination among democracies to address shared challenges to democratic governance, including democratic backsliding, such as restrictions on freedoms of expression, media and peaceful assembly, Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference (FIMI), transnational repression, and the manipulation of international norms and institutions to legitimize undemocratic practices or undermine democratic principles, eroding public trust in democratic processes and institutions; and reaffirm the importance of strengthening partnerships with regional and global organizations to promote democratic principles in international governance and conflict prevention;

WELCOME the participation of civil society, human rights defenders, youth, women, academia, Indigenous Peoples, and the private sector as vital partners in advancing the democratic agenda at all levels; and reaffirm the commitment to strengthening meaningful, and sustained channels for diverse multi-stakeholder participation in the work of the Community of Democracies;

IV. DEMOCRACY AND SECURITY

RECOGNIZE that security and democracy are mutually reinforcing, and that democratic institutions grounded in transparency, accountability, adherence to human rights, and the rule of law provide the most effective foundation for stability, human security, and sustainable development;

RECOGNIZE that artificial intelligence and emerging digital technologies are transforming our societies and hold significant potential to advance development, increase the efficiency of public services, and strengthen democratic participation; while noting with concern that they should contain appropriate safeguards to ensure that their development, deployment and use is in accordance with the rule of law, human rights law, and that it remains consistent with democratic values, and individual freedoms; and affirming that the same rights people enjoy offline must also be protected online.

CALL FOR the strengthening of international and regional cooperation to address transnational organized crime and corruption; recognizing that strong, accountable democratic institutions capable of guaranteeing security and upholding human rights and the rule of law strengthen the conditions for individuals and communities to live in safety, dignity, and opportunity;

FINALLY,

We the Member States of the Governing Council of the Community of Democracies

EXPRESS our deep gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Panama for their generous hospitality and leadership in hosting the Eleventh Governing Council Ministerial Conference, and for their steadfast commitment to democracy and multilateral cooperation.

ADOPTED in Panama City, Republic of Panama, on June 25, 2026, by the Member States of the Governing Council of the Community of Democracies.