

Summit for Democracy Parliamentary Achievements

“Year of Action” Report
2022-2023

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Executive Summary

More than 100 governments around the world committed to building more resilient democracies, to combating corruption and to defending human rights during the first Summit for Democracy held in December 2021. This report documents how certain parliaments have contributed to these goals during the subsequent “Year of Action” and during the second Summit held in early 2022.

The report first looks at the type of commitments that were made following the first Summit and reflects on the role parliaments were assigned in this global initiative, drawing on pertinent examples from non-HDP partner countries across the globe. It then sets out the achievements of select countries, including those supported by HDP, during the “Year of Action,” whose legislatures were key to fulfilling national democracy commitments made following the first Summit. This includes the parliaments of **Georgia, Kosovo, Liberia, Moldova and Ukraine as HDP partner parliaments, in addition to Nepal, Paraguay and Taiwan.**

The final section of the report highlights key themes from the second Summit and sets out several recommendations regarding a strengthened role for parliaments in the third Summit - slated for 2024 in the Republic of Korea - and in global democracy initiatives more broadly. As the world continues to grapple with defending against complex threats to democracy, parliaments must play an ever-increasing prominent role in ensuring commitments from this initiative are not simply delivered but *experienced* by citizens.

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Introduction

Global threats to democracy have recently been compounded by multiple complex and overlapping crises, including the COVID-19 pandemic, climate impact, violent conflicts, rising inflation, inequality and more.

Democratic institutions are increasingly under pressure to respond to these challenges, while ensuring the needs and priorities of their citizens are represented through concrete and accountable leadership and action. As the representative institution of government, legislatures are central to ensuring the needs and priorities of a nation's citizens are addressed. With the core mandates of lawmaking, representation and oversight, legislatures can ensure sustainable, effective and accountable service delivery.

In December 2021, the U.S. government convened the Summit for Democracy³ to galvanize commitments and initiatives to strengthen and defend democracy⁴. Over 100 governments, in addition to representatives from multilateral institutions, civil society, media, legislatures, local governments, academia and the private sector, came together to reflect, listen and learn from one another's experiences. From this effort, governments announced nearly 750 commitments in line with three core themes:

1. Defending against authoritarianism
2. Fighting corruption
3. Promoting respect for human rights

The December 2021 Summit kicked off a "Year of Action" focused on fostering global democratic renewal and leading up to a second Summit that took place from March 28–30, 2023, co-hosted with the governments of Costa Rica, Republic of Korea, the Netherlands and the Republic of Zambia. The second Summit showcased efforts taken by governments during the "Year of Action" to fulfill their commitments. The second Summit was structured around five core themes:

1. Supporting Free and Independent Media
2. Fighting Corruption
3. Bolstering Democratic Reformers
4. Advancing Technology for Democracy
5. Defending Free and Fair Elections and Inclusive Political Processes

To ensure legislatures were included in these important conversations, **the House Democracy Partnership (HDP)**, a bipartisan commission of the U.S. House of Representatives, and implemented by the **International Republican Institute (IRI)** and **the National Democratic Institute (NDI)**, jointly designed, organized and hosted a Legislative Track of events at each Summit. In 2021, the HDP Summit Legislative Track convened 22 countries and more than 700 spectators for virtual conversations on the role of legislatures in addressing corruption, countering authoritarianism, and advancing human rights. During the subsequent "Year of

³ "Summit for Democracy 2021," U.S. Department of State, n.d., <https://www.state.gov/summit-for-democracy-2021/>.

⁴ "The Summit for Democracy," U.S. Department of State, n.d., <https://www.state.gov/Summit-for-democracy/>.

Action,” HDP worked with its partner parliaments to support legislative action in line with Summit commitments. In March 2023, HDP convened 48 legislators from 26 countries in Washington, D.C. to build on conversations during the first Summit and subsequent “Year of Action,” and garner further solutions to counter threats to democracy, specifically along the five core themes set out by the second Summit.

This report **spotlights specific commitments made following the first Summit that focused on legislatures, highlighting the critical role that the representative branch plays in securing and strengthening sustainable democracy.** The report also discusses the ways in which nations, and specifically their legislatures, fulfilled commitments made following the first Summit and subsequent “Year of Action.” Finally, it offers considerations for enhanced legislative engagement in the lead-up to the next Summit of Democracy, slated to take place in Seoul, Korea in 2024.

About the House Democracy Partnership

HDP is a bipartisan commission of the U.S. House of Representatives that is co-implemented by IRI and NDI with funding from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). The program works to connect U.S. members and staff with their international parliamentary peers in more than two dozen countries to enhance the effectiveness, independence and responsiveness of legislatures.

Recognition of Parliaments in National Commitments

Following the 2021 Summit for Democracy, 750 commitments were made by over 100 governments to strengthen democracy. The commitments included a broad range of country actions. Countries took a variety of approaches to their commitments, including measures involving different branches of government and international conventions. The full list of written commitments made following the first Summit can be found [here](#).

Of the 100 governments that made pledges, 37 included actions related to legislatures. These actions are largely related to legislative reform, introducing/passing new legislation, ensuring legislative implementation, enabling representation and ratifying international conventions/ supporting international initiatives. The table below outlines countries that mentioned legislatures in their national democracy commitments in line with the first Summit’s three core themes of **(1) defending against authoritarianism; (2) fighting corruption; and (3) promoting respect for human rights**.

	Defending Against Authoritarianism	Fighting Corruption	Promoting Respect for Human Rights
Legislative Reform	Georgia, Greece, Ireland, Kosovo, Malawi, Mauritius	Australia, Canada, Liberia, Malawi, Mauritius, Portugal, Taiwan, Ukraine	Croatia, Ireland, Malta, Nepal, Taiwan
New Legislation	Belgium, Kosovo, Mauritius, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, U.K., U.S.	Australia, Croatia, Czech Republic, Kosovo, Liberia, Paraguay, Peru, Slovakia, Taiwan	Canada, Chile, Croatia, Cyprus, Iceland, Ireland, Kosovo, Liberia, Malta, Nepal, Romania, Serbia, Taiwan, U.K.
Legislative Implementation	Brazil, Italy, Malta, Romania, Ukraine, U.K.	Brazil, Italy, Japan, Kosovo, Malawi, Moldova, Sweden	Belgium, Norway, Slovakia, Taiwan, U.S.
Enabling Representation	Costa Rica, Liberia, Malawi, Mauritius, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine		
International Conventions or Projects	Croatia		Cyprus, Nepal

Defending Against Authoritarianism: Broadly speaking, commitments related to legislatures in the fight against authoritarianism ranged from efforts, to tightening election laws,

extending democratic voting rights, enabling equality of opportunity for democratic participation and regulating political party financing. For example, Malawi committed to reforming its Electoral Law to strengthen the work of its Electoral Commission, while Romania committed to a parliamentary review of all legislation to integrate information integrity measures.³ An additional example of this type of commitment includes the extension of voting rights to the age of 16 years old in Belgium.⁴

16-Year-Olds Get the Vote	
Country	Belgium
Aim	Increase youth participation in the future of Belgium and European democracy
Action	Legislative amendment
Actors	Government and parliament
Commitment Description	At the Summit for Democracy, the Belgium government committed to lowering the voting age to 16 for the European Parliament elections. This commitment has been implemented to enable an estimated 13,000 Belgians to vote in these elections set to take place in 2024.

Fighting corruption: Under this theme, commitments involving legislatures centered on tightening bribery laws, improving the protection of whistleblowers, strengthening public procurement processes, improving processes for the disclosure of assets and bolstering sanctions for cross-border financial crime. For example, Slovakia pledged to pass a Lobbying Act.⁵

Two further examples of this type of commitment include the establishment of an Anti-Corruption Secretariat in Paraguay and the introduction of new legislation to protect whistleblowers in Taiwan.⁶

New Integrity and Transparency Secretariat	
Country	Paraguay
Aim	To replace the National Anti-Corruption Secretariat with a National Secretariat for Integrity and Transparency
Action	New Legislation
Actors	Government, Parliament, OGP
Commitment Description	At the Summit for Democracy, the Paraguayan government committed to establishing a new anti-corruption body that is responsible for developing, promoting and implementing public policies enabling transparency, integrity and the fight against corruption in the Executive and civil service. As stated in the commitment, the National Secretariat for Integrity and Transparency will “institutionalize and codify the existence, functions, and competences of the current National Anti-Corruption Secretariat, giving it more legitimacy, strength and latitude to analyze, design, promote, coordinate, supervise and evaluate public transparency policies.” This commitment was delivered, and the secretariat launched, in May 2022.

³ For Malawi, see: <https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Malawi-Commitments-4.12.2022-Accessible-1.pdf>. For Romania, see: https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Romania-pledges-for-democracy-Final_Accessible.pdf.

⁴ For Belgium, see: <https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/BELGIUM-Summit-for-Democracy-Written-Statement-Accessible-03112022.pdf>.

⁵ See: https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/SLOVAKIA---Summit-for-Democracy---Written-Statement.doc_KB_Accessible-Final.pdf.

⁶ For Paraguay, see: https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/PARAGUAY-S4D-Commitments-ENG-translation_REV1_AH_01102022.pdf. For Taiwan, see: <https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/TAIWAN-Summit-for-Democracy-Written-Statement-Accessible-Final.pdf>.

Whistleblower Protection Law

Country	Taiwan
Aim	To protect whistleblowers in the public and private sectors
Action	New Legislation
Actors	The Control Yuan and the Legislative Yuan
Commitment Description	At the Summit for Democracy, the Taiwan government committed to “actively supporting the passage of the Whistleblower Protection Act by the Legislative Yuan.” The proposed law aims to promote clean governance and fight corruption by protecting whistleblowers providing information related to public and private sector irregularities. It sets out the procedures and protections for whistleblowers to minimize the impact on their lives for helping the state to combat illegal activities. Various versions of this law have been introduced and re-introduced several times since 2019. The draft law in its current form is still before parliament under discussion.

Promoting respect for human rights: Under this theme, governments made commitments to review equality legislation, tighten anti-discrimination laws, increase penalties for human rights violations, improve sanctions for human trafficking, support fair working conditions; and enable the extension of various rights to LGBTQI+ persons, women, indigenous groups and persons with disability. For example, Chile committed to installing constitutional guarantees against sex discrimination, Cyprus pledged to pass a Caring Act, Iceland pledged to pass a Children’s Wellbeing Act, Nepal pledged to pass an anti-human trafficking and harmful traditional practices act and Ireland pledged to pass a new Hate Crime Act.⁷

Two further examples of this type of commitment include the U.K. government’s commitment to pass an online safety act, and the Canadian government’s commitment to introduce an indigenous healthcare act.⁸

Online Safety Bill

Country	U.K.
Aim	To “Make the U.K. the safest place in the world to be online.”
Action	New Legislation
Actors	Government, the Media, International Corporations, Civil Society, Experts
Commitment Description	At the Summit for Democracy, the U.K. government committed to passing the Online Safety Bill that introduces new rules for firms that host user-generated content to minimize the presentation of harmful search results to users. Relevant platforms will need to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tackle and remove illegal material online, particularly material relating to terrorism and child sexual exploitation and abuse. • Protect young people using their services from legal but harmful material such as self-harm or eating disorder content. • Prevent children from accessing pornographic content.

⁷ or Chile, see: https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/NOTA-Summit-for-Democracy-Non-official-translation_Remediated-Accessible-Final.pdf. For Cyprus, see: <https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/CYPRUS-Summit-for-Democracy-Written-Statement-Accessible.pdf>. For Iceland, see: <https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/ICELAND-Summit-for-Democracy-Commitments.pdf>. For Nepal, see: <https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/NEPAL-Summit-for-Democracy-Written-Statement-Accessible-Final.pdf>. For Ireland, see: <https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/IRELAND-Summit-for-Democracy-Written-Statement-Accessible-Final.pdf>.

⁸ For the U.K., see: <https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/UNITED-KINGDOM-Summit-for-Democracy-Written-Statement-Accessible-Final.pdf>. For Canada, see: https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/CANADA-Submission-to-the-Summit-for-Democracy-2021-12-08-EN-Final-REV1_AH_01102022.pdf.

Online Safety Bill - Continued

Commitment Description - Continued	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make clear in their terms and conditions what is and is not acceptable on their site and enforce this. • Set out categories of legal but harmful material accessed by adults, such as abuse, harassment, or exposure to content encouraging self-harm or eating disorders. • Offer user empowerment tools, giving adult users more control over whom they interact with and the legal content they see, as well as the option to verify their identity. • Put in place proportionate systems and processes to prevent fraudulent adverts from being published or hosted on their service. <p>The Bill was passed by the House of Commons on January 18, 2023. It is now at committee stage before the House of Lords.</p>
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Indigenous Health Care Act

Country	Canada
Aim	Broad engagement with indigenous populations and subject matter experts to determine the co-development of legislative options for a potential Indigenous Health Care Act
Action	Pre-Legislative Scrutiny
Actors	Government, national and regional Indigenous organizations, First Nations, Inuit and Métis leadership, self-governing Indigenous governments and Treaty nations, Indigenous women's organizations, provinces and territories, subject matter experts, health professionals, other groups
Commitment Description	<p>At the Summit for Democracy, the Canadian government committed to carrying out extensive engagement with indigenous citizens, state actors and subject matter experts to co-develop options for potential federal legislation that ensures that the distinct cultures, needs, and aspirations of First Nations, Inuit and Métis are understood and reflected in any potential legislation. Engagement will be Indigenous-led, inclusive, with multiple opportunities and avenues to engage or re-engage. Engagement will take place multilaterally with federal, provincial, territorial, and Indigenous organizations and governments. Engagement will inform a specific co-development process or structure for this initiative, honored by articles 18 and 19 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The official status of this commitment is “open,” as the public are still being called to provide their submissions to the process and extensive consultations are ongoing.</p>

The Success of Legislatures in Fulfilling Commitments in the “Year of Action”

As participant countries spotlighted legislatures in their national democracy commitments, select global assistance actors, including HDP, worked with legislatures during the “Year of Action” to both recognize the role of legislatures in democratic processes, and to strengthen legislative capacities in target partner countries, in order to support progress toward global democracy commitments. This section of the report will outline the achievements that were made in select countries, including those supported by HDP during the “Year of Action,” whose legislatures were key to fulfilling national democracy commitments made following the first Summit.

To develop this section of the report, interviews were conducted with 16 stakeholders from countries across Central and Western Africa, South Eastern Africa, Asia, Latin America, Central and Eastern Europe and Eurasia. A particular focus was paid to countries that are partners of HDP.

For more than 18 years, HDP has utilized a model of peer-to-peer engagement to connect global parliamentary peers in order to strengthen legislative capacities. As part of its annual work plan for the 2022-2023 cycle, HDP and its co-implementers, NDI and IRI, worked with the Commission’s partner countries to support legislatures in achieving their nation’s democracy commitments in line with the goals of the first Summit for Democracy. The chart outlined under [Annex A](#) showcases efforts made by the Institutes to engage these partners, and the achievements made in line with national commitments in these countries.

As outlined, of HDP’s partners, 12 participated in the 2021 Summit, including Armenia, Colombia, Georgia, Indonesia, Iraq, Nepal, Kenya, Kosovo, Moldova, North Macedonia, Peru and Ukraine. Five of the 12 HDP participating countries, i.e., **Georgia, Kosovo, Liberia, Moldova and Ukraine**, submitted commitments that required specific parliamentary action. These commitments as they relate to each of the first Summit’s thematic focus areas are set out below:

Defending Against Authoritarianism

Georgia: committed to passing new rules on the publication of judicial decisions, and to passing amendments to the Election Code

Kosovo: committed to passing legislation clamping down on foreign governments funding political parties if deemed necessary at the end of an extensive consultation exercise to inform the government’s concept paper aimed at tackling the issue, which includes proposals for implementation mechanisms and legislative changes

Liberia: committed to making all legislative votes public

Ukraine: committed to ensuring effective implementation of Anti-Oligarch Law

Fighting Corruption

Kosovo: committed to passing legislation to seize illicit wealth

Kosovo: committed to implementing regulation on whistleblower rights

Liberia: committed to amend the Anti-Corruption Act

Liberia: committed to passing legislation to establish a court for financial crimes

Moldova: committed to enforcing accountability mechanisms against political party financing and corruption within government

Ukraine: committed to introducing legal protection for whistleblowers

Promoting Respect for Human Rights

Kosovo: committed to passing the Magnitsky Act sanctioning foreign human rights violations and abuses

Kosovo: committed to harmonizing all laws with the Law on Gender Equality

Liberia: committed to passing anti-female genital mutilation legislation

Ukraine: committed to ratifying the Marrakesh Treaty, Council of Europe Convention on Combating Violence against Women and the Istanbul Convention

Following in-depth interviews with HDP partner parliament stakeholders, including members and staff, in addition to NDI and IRI in-country representatives; an overview of HDP’s engagement with partner countries; and desk research conducted, **Georgia, Kosovo, Liberia, Moldova, Ukraine, Nepal, Paraguay and Taiwan** were selected to showcase the success of parliaments in strengthening their nation’s capacities to advance democracy in line with commitments made following the first Summit and throughout the “Year of Action.”

Georgia

Georgia’s commitments established following the first Summit for Democracy can be viewed here. They encompassed measures to strengthen judicial reform processes, election integrity and human rights. To defend against authoritarianism, Georgia committed to enhancing transparency in judicial appointments and judicial decisions. To advance human rights, Georgia committed to delivering its second National Human Rights Strategy that sets out various approaches to strengthening civil, political, economic and social rights in Georgia. In particular, it sets out Georgia’s approach to ensuring the rights and freedoms of refugees, and people who suffer from Russia’s illegal occupation of Georgian territories. Georgia also made a series of commitments to combat violence against women through the implementation of ratified conventions and national strategic plans.

From those commitments, parliament was spotlighted through the following core mechanisms:

Defending Against Authoritarianism	Commitment to passing new rules on the publication of judicial decisions Commitment to passing amendments to the Election Code
Fighting Corruption	No parliamentary actions specified in first Summit for Democracy commitments
Advancing Human Rights	No parliamentary actions specified in first Summit for Democracy commitments

Georgia’s Summit for Democracy commitments reflect efforts related to its candidacy status in the European Union, and in particular how to deliver the EU’s 12 recommendations for strengthening Georgia’s democracy in advance of a second application.⁹ Notable challenges to the relationship between civil society and parliament were identified during this “Year of Action,” and parliament was tasked with considering legislation aimed at restricting freedom of expression resulting in protests and civil unrest.

⁹ For Georgia’s written commitments, see: https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/GEORGIA_Summit-for-Democracy-Written-Statement-Accessible.pdf. For the 12 recommendations areas, see: https://neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu/opinion-georgias-application-membership-european-union_en.

Defense Against Authoritarianism

The Parliament of Georgia established a working group for revising its Election Code during this “Year of Action.” This working group sat under the Legal Affairs Committee, which made revisions that were subsequently adopted with 96% support. This working group successfully proposed additional amendments to the Election Code, including the roll out of an electronic voting system amongst 70% of voters, and an upper limit on party financing to half the current upper limit from 0.1% to 0.05% of GDP. The working group included technical experts and civil society. The parliament also established a working group to prepare a strategy and action plan on judicial reform that would meet the commitment to passing new rules on the publication of judicial decisions, which the parliament adopted on October 1, 2022.

Fighting Corruption

The Parliament of Georgia was not tasked with delivering any specific anti-corruption commitment following the first Summit for Democracy. Nevertheless, during this “Year of Action,” the Parliament of Georgia spent considerable time reviewing a new draft public procurement law to align its framework with the EU public procurement directives.

Advancing Human Rights

While no specific parliamentary commitment was assigned to the parliament under this theme, the Parliament of Georgia sought to align legislation supporting its media regulator, the Georgian National Communication Commission, with European standards. In addition, the Parliament of Georgia approved the State Concept on Gender Equality to enable the enforcement of Georgia’s legal framework on non-discrimination and gender equality to tackle gender-based violence, including domestic violence and femicides. It is important to note that this Concept is still limited to equality between men and women, and does not include a chapter on the rights of LGBTQI members of society.

Kosovo

Kosovo’s commitments established following the first Summit for Democracy can be viewed [here](#). They encompassed broad-based measures to strengthen rule of law and bolster the role of women in society. In the fight against corruption, Kosovo committed to strengthening its judicial and prosecutorial system, including through the adoption of various laws and regulations. To defend against authoritarianism Kosovo committed to fostering greater election integrity and protecting against foreign influence by supporting several platforms for dialogue and analysis between key stakeholders such as the Central Election Commission, political parties, the media, civil society organizations and experts. To advance human rights, Kosovo committed to harmonizing all relevant laws with the provisions of the Law on Gender Equality and to adopting a bold strategy to fight against gender-based violence. Kosovo also established a Presidential Council on Democracy and Human Rights that has since brought together public institutions and civil society to drive and monitor the implementation of commitments.¹⁰

¹⁰ For an overview of the legislative process, see: <https://www.kuvendikosoves.org/eng/projektligjet-dhe-ligjet/draftlawopen/?draftlaw=396#>.

From those commitments, parliament was spotlighted through the following core mechanisms:

Defending Against Authoritarianism	Commitment to considering whether to introduce and pass legislation clamping down on foreign governments funding political parties
Fighting Corruption	Commitment to implementing regulation on whistleblower rights Commitment to passing legislation on seizing illicit wealth
Advancing Human Rights	Commitment to passing the Magnitsky Act sanctioning human rights violations and abuses Commitment to harmonizing all laws with the Law on Gender Equality

During the “Year of Action,” the Assembly of Kosovo intensified its legislative activities and passed new rules of procedure to improve its procedural legitimacy and status as a democratic institution. In turn, this “Year of Action” was full of parliamentary activism in Kosovo. The Assembly of Kosovo has played a crucial role in fulfilling the Summit for Democracy commitments by the Kosovo institutions, namely by considering and adopting key legislation that Kosovo has pledged to adopt. The Assembly has also played a key role in Kosovo's efforts to conduct the judicial reform, by taking over the vetting process through an ad-hoc committee which has been established for this matter. The Assembly has exercised its oversight function/role in overseeing government, mainly through parliamentary committee hearings, parliamentary questions and interpellations. In 2022, the Assembly, through its Forum for Parliamentary Transparency, developed the second Open Parliament Action Plan (2023-2026), aiming to further enhance the Assembly’s transparency, openness, accountability and citizen inclusion.¹¹

Defense Against Authoritarianism

During the “Year of Action,” the Kosovo Assembly worked to strengthen its electoral integrity processes. In line with the pledge that was made, the Assembly considered and passed the Law on Political Party Financing and Campaign Financing. This legislation seeks to ensure complete reporting, timely disclosure, meaningful oversight, and accountability for irregularities relating to political party financing. The parliament has also started to prepare for ensuring the integrity of the next elections by drafting various pledges. In addition, the Assembly helped to ensure the implementation of reforms by the government of Kosovo aimed at improving the justice system, which the president referred to in her oral address at the Summit. It also established an ad-hoc committee to review the appointment of heads to the justice system that is chaired by the opposition in parliament.

The Assembly faced challenges as a result of polarized political debate, including the use of inflammatory language, which at times hampered parliament’s ability to build consensus around major reforms. Opposition members abstained from voting on key pieces of legislation, and the ruling party was not able to obtain full participation of its members.¹² This delayed key decisions and made it difficult for the Assembly to efficiently invest in the foundations of its democracy. In addition, the electronic voting system of the Assembly was not reinstated for a significant part of this year. The “show-of-hand” voting system led to incorrect results on several occasions and prevented parliament from publishing voting records.

¹¹ For Kosovo’s written commitments, see: <https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/KOSOVO-Summit-for-Democracy-Written-Statement-Accessible-Final-Feb-2022.pdf>.

¹² The government has a majority of 67 seats (out of 120).

Fighting Corruption

In July 2022, the Assembly adopted new anti-corruption legislation in fulfillment of its Summit for Democracy commitments. This legislation consisted of the Law on the New Criminal Procedure Code, the Law on the Agency for Prevention of Corruption, the Law on Asset Declaration and legislation on political party financing. The Assembly of Kosovo also adopted a law to establish the State Bureau on the Confiscation of Unjustified Assets. It has also reviewed the government's new public finance management reform strategy (2022-2026) that includes public procurement and public internal financial control. Combined, these laws reorganize the competences of the Anti-Corruption Agency to strengthen its mandate to include the verification and control of asset declarations and gifts, better protect whistleblowers and prevent conflict of interest. In addition, the Corruption and Financial Crime Department was also established during this "Year of Action." Corruption remains an issue of serious concern to the Assembly, and the Assembly remains committed to enacting and helping to implement relevant legislation.¹³

Advancing Human Rights

The Magnitsky Act has passed its final reading in fulfillment of its Summit for Democracy commitment to expand legal prosecution against human rights offenders. The work of the Assembly in delivering on this obligation was strongly facilitated by the collaboration and activism of the Women's Caucus and Youth Caucus within parliament. The Strategic Network for Gender Policy began to inform the government and the Assembly of what is needed to ensure all laws comply with this law, in fulfillment of an additional commitment under this theme.¹⁴ Additionally, the Office of the President established the Working Group for Gender Equality. With the support of IRI, the Working Group took initial steps to harmonize all relevant laws with the Law on Gender Equality. In addition, the Assembly supported the implementation of the Law on Equality in public administration recruitment, which aims to improve inter-institutional coordination on fighting gender-based violence, and it approved the government's new strategy and action plan against domestic violence and violence against women.

Liberia

Liberia's commitments established following the first Summit for Democracy can be viewed [here](#). They encompassed measures to support the country to defend democracy in all three of the Summit's thematic areas. To fight against corruption, Liberia committed to reviewing the role of its Anti-Corruption Commission and to creating a dedicated system for the prosecution of financial crimes. To defend against authoritarianism, Liberia committed to making parliamentary decisions public and to advancing women's political participation. Liberia also committed to reviewing legislation on anti-female genital mutilation.

¹³ This has been reaffirmed many times by different MPs and institutional structures, and was also confirmed by Kosovo MP, Mimoza Kusari-Lila, at the House Democratic Partnership webinar event on February 23, 2023.

¹⁴ NDI and AID support the work of this group.

From those commitments, parliament was spotlighted through the following core mechanisms:

Defending Against Authoritarianism	Commitment to making all legislative votes public
Fighting Corruption	Commitment to amending the Anti-Corruption Act Commitment to passing legislation to establish a court for financial crimes
Advancing Human Rights	Commitment to passing anti-female genital mutilation legislation

This “Year of Action” precipitated an active session for the Parliament of Liberia in which MPs across all parties debated key issues facing the democratic architecture of the country. This included debating and passing key bills and rules of procedure relating to anti-corruption and democratizing the playing field of democracy. It also included key pillars of Liberia's Human Rights framework to expand citizenship and investment in the country.¹⁵

Defense Against Authoritarianism

The Parliament of Liberia amended its rules of procedure to allow all legislative votes to be made public, although this has not yet been implemented. This means that votes in the plenary are public and most debates are open to the public; however, some decisions are taken in closed meetings referred to as an “Executive Session” if the issue is considered to be too critical. This change has been welcomed by civil society groups and activists who have been calling and supporting figures within parliament to push for these procedural changes.

Fighting Corruption

During this “Year of Action,” the Liberian legislature raised concerns that proposed amendments to the Anti-Corruption Act would weaken the powers of the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC). The Bill went before the Supreme Court for a ruling on the issue. This ruling clarified that the national parliament has the powers to amend the role and functions of the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission and that proposed amendments to sections 16.1 and 16.2 were in line with the Constitution of Liberia. In turn, the Parliament of Liberia amended this Act in line with summit commitments on July 25, 2022. To deliver its commitment on establishing a court for financial crimes, the parliament has been debating whether to give prosecutorial powers to the LACC. The parliament also supported the fight against corruption by making sure politicians are not able to use taxpayer money to fight election campaigns. During this “Year of Action,” parliament passed amendments to the National Code of Conduct. The Act stipulates that any person “who desires to canvass or contest for an elective public office within the Government of Liberia shall resign his or her position one (1) year before the date on which the election for the post for which he/she intends to contest.” The amended Act also enabled a level playing field for all parties, including those that have less financial resources.

Advancing Human Rights

In February 2022, the Traditional Council of Liberia announced a three-year suspension of female genital mutilation (FGM), representing the first step in the government delivering its

¹⁵ For Liberia’s written commitments, see: <https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/LIBERIA-Summit-for-Democracy-Accessible-Final.pdf>.

commitment to pass an Anti-Female Genital Mutilation Law. During the latter part of 2022, significant pressure was placed on both Houses of the legislature to legislate this ban. In turn, the three-year protection for women and girls is an advancement that the next parliament, once elected at the end of 2023, will build upon drawing on the pressure it is under to do so from several groups outside parliament.¹⁶ In addition, female genital mutilation has been banned in few counties and suspended in some other counties. During this “Year of Action,” the Parliament of Liberia passed key amendments to the Dual Citizenship Law. These amendments took out a provision that prevents women from passing their Liberian citizenship onto any children they have outside of the country. The amendment law also repealed a ban on dual citizenship, now enabling Liberians to keep their Liberian status if they become citizens of another country.

Moldova

Moldova’s commitments established following the first Summit for Democracy can be viewed here. They encompassed measures to strengthen the integrity of Moldova’s judicial and electoral processes. In the fight against corruption, Moldova committed to strengthening existing anti-corruption bodies by tightening accountability and enforcement mechanisms. To defend against authoritarianism, Moldova committed to reforming the justice system and to taking stronger action against the illegal financing of political parties.

From those commitments, parliament was spotlighted through the following core mechanisms:

Defending Against Authoritarianism	No parliamentary actions specified in first Summit for Democracy commitments
Fighting Corruption	Commitment to enforcing accountability mechanisms against political party financing and corruption within government
Advancing Human Rights	No parliamentary actions specified in first Summit for Democracy commitments

Moldova underwent a major democratic transition in 2022, spurred by a ‘corruption breaking point’ for the people and further solidified after Putin’s belligerent attack on Ukraine. Moldova opened their doors to Ukrainian refugees, hammered down on corruption, cut their gas and electricity consumption as they explored alternatives, and staffed up a young, determined, and competent parliament with an ambitious reform agenda. The parliament’s work mirrors that of Ukraine as the county and government continues to fight against malign foreign influence, and works to preserve its democratic values.¹⁷

Defense Against Authoritarianism

The parliament passed several constitutional reforms during this “Year of Action” to improve the functioning of the judiciary in its defense against authoritarianism. The parliament was also celebrated when it worked closely with the Ministry of Social Protection to create an online platform to allow citizens to be compensated for extreme increases in gas prices. This type of

¹⁶ Parliamentary elections are to be held in October 2023.
¹⁷ For Moldova’s written commitments, see: <https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Moldova-Summit-for-Democracy-Commitments-Accessible-03112022.pdf>.

parliamentary practice boosted public trust in the legislature. Parliament also passed several pieces of legislation to defend against authoritarianism. In July 2022, the parliament adopted legislation transposing the constitutional amendments regarding the justice system, in line with the Venice Commission recommendations. The changes (i) abolish five-year terms for judges (ii) allow the president to appoint judges rather than parliament (iii) remove ex-officio members from the Superior Council and replace six judges with six members of civil society to sit on this Council. This same month, parliament passed legislation to enable the state to check on the assets and personal interests of candidates for the positions of judges and prosecutors during the process of admission for training at the National Institute for Justice. In October 2022, parliament passed amendments to the Law on Prosecution Service in line with Venice Commission recommendations. Parliament passed an amendment to the Electoral Code in line with the OSCE/ODIHR - CoR/Venice Commission recommendations that entered into force on January 1, 2023. Finally, on February 2, 2023, parliament passed a law on the disciplinary liability of judges, and deliberated evaluation reports of progress made within the Judiciary following inspections relevant to GRECO recommendations. At the end of this first “Year of Action,” parliament adopted a new law on cybersecurity, in March 2023, which transposes the NIS 2 Directive into national legislation.

Fighting Corruption

During this “Year of Action,” the parliament has been reviewing a new public procurement strategy after the previous government’s strategy expired in 2020. In addition, the parliament approved an increase in the annual budget of its anti-corruption institutions including the National Integrity Authority, the Criminal Asset Recovery Agency and the Financial Investigation Unit. With this achieved, specialized anti-corruption institutions have been established and are now operating with greater political will — the National Anticorruption Centre (NAC), with the Criminal Asset Recovery Agency (CARA) as an autonomous subdivision, the Anti-Corruption Prosecutor Office (APO) and the National Integrity Agency (NIA). These institutions have comprehensive mandates in line with international standards and increasingly operate independently, with interagency coordination and required resources partly in place. In December 2022, parliament also adopted a new criminal asset recovery programme for 2023-2027. Finally, parliament passed a law establishing the prosecution, trial and conviction in absentia for persons evading prosecution. This enabled the condemnation of the oligarch Ilan Shor to 15 years of imprisonment. As a result, Moldova has improved its ranking (from 115th place in 2020 to 91st place in 2022) in Transparency International’s Corruption Perception world index. Following this “Year of Action,” the parliament also later approved, in April 2023, legislative amendments that set out the investigative competences of the National Anti-Corruption Center and the Anti-Corruption Prosecutor’s Office. The parliament has also since adopted in its first reading a law to improve the Criminal Procedure Code and Law on Special Investigative Activity to provide clear delimitation of the special investigation activity carried out within and outside of criminal proceedings. A draft law on whistleblowers protection has also been adopted by the government, which aligns the country’s legal framework for anti-corruption with EU standards. Finally, a law on de-oligarchization was drafted and submitted to the Venice Commission for its plenary session in March 2023, which has resulted in the development of a rigorous national action plan that also includes parliament’s considerations of amendments to the Competition Law, and in April 2023 amendments to the Law on Public-Private Partnerships were approved.

Advancing Human Rights

This year, the Parliament of Moldova passed the Istanbul Convention. The parliament has also played a decisive role in enabling public access to information, particularly information of public interest, and in fighting to protect the work of independent journalists. In turn, the parliament has helped Moldova to make important progress in enabling a free media. For example, during this “Year of Action,” long-pending legislation on hate crime was adopted to widen the scope of protections for journalists, and expand the framework for prosecuting and punishing bias-motivated crimes. In late 2022, parliament passed amendments to the Law on the Ombudsperson Office to strengthen its independence, and in February 2023, parliament passed a law that strengthened the capacity of the Council for Preventing and Eliminating Discrimination and Ensuring Equality. Moldova has now improved its place in the World Press Freedom Index moving from 89th to 40th place. A package of legislative amendments that transpose relevant commitments of the Council of Europe’s Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul convention) Convention into national legislation were passed by parliament in November 2022. Parliament has also been actively working on establishing a permanent platform for dialogue with civil society to enable its participation in legislative decision-making processes.

Ukraine

Ukraine’s commitments established following the first Summit for Democracy can be viewed [here](#). They encompassed broad-based measures to counteract Russian influence and threats. To fight against corruption, Ukraine committed to a new anti-corruption strategy, including through strengthened public institutions and procurement software, as well as through various measures aimed at curbing the influence of oligarchs. To defend against authoritarianism, Ukraine committed to strengthening international attention on Russia’s threat to its democratic and territorial integrity, and to taking various measures including through legislation to protect the country from this threat. To advance human rights, Ukraine committed to ratifying relevant international treaties and conventions, and implementing new strategies to enforce fundamental rights in the country.

From those commitments, parliament was spotlighted through the following core mechanisms:

Defending Against Authoritarianism	Commitment to ensuring effective implementation of Anti-Oligarchs Law
Fighting Corruption	Commitment to introducing legal protection for whistleblowers
Advancing Human Rights	Commitment to ratifying the Marrakesh Treaty, Council of Europe Convention on Combating Violence against Women and the Istanbul Convention

Ukraine’s commitments were comprehensive and spanned all three thematic focus areas of the Summit. Less than two months after this submission, Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine, testing the nation’s core of resilience and commitment. Ukraine was quick to defend its territory and its democracy, with parliamentarians showing up for plenary meetings even as the capital appeared to be under threat, risking loss of life and limb to protect their institution. Ukraine has become a democratic shield, with the Verkhovna Rada Ukraine (VRU),

Ukraine's parliament, playing a critical role in protecting the democratic future of the state. The Ukrainian parliament has leveraged its martial law status to operate efficiently and effectively, making significant contributions to several pieces of domestic legislation, international treaties and conventions. This work aligned with the aims of this "Year of Action." Internationally, a new role emerged for the Parliament of Ukraine as an agent of international diplomacy and democracy. The war has impacted gender roles in the country, many men and women have taken up arms or remain in the Ministry, and many female MPs are finding their role in international advocacy, successfully raising international attention to the Ukrainian case for EU membership, sanctions against Russia and arms supply. The rise in female parliamentary leadership has coincided with the considerable rise in the domestic and international stature of the parliament as a beacon of democracy.¹⁸

Defense Against Authoritarianism

The VRU has played a crucial and supportive role in the defense of Ukraine's democracy. Political debate during this "Year of Action" was more consolidated, and members of parliament were more willing to reach consensus. This is seen to have had a significant impact on democratic sentiment. For example, **public trust in parliament** increased by 24% from its rating of 11% before the invasion to 35% in December 2022. This same survey by Kyiv's International Institute of Sociology found that 56% of Ukrainians mostly or completely trust the parliament as an institution. A more recent NDI survey in January 2023 has demonstrated similar findings.¹⁹ In February 2023, as part of an IRI project, Ukraine's Center for Insights in Survey Research found that 9% of individuals surveyed strongly approved of the VRU and 32% somewhat approved.²⁰

While judicial reform in Ukraine was interrupted by the war, a new Strategy for the Development of the Justice System and Constitutional Judiciary was approved by the government and VRU. This included new legislation that parliament passed following a review by the Venice Commission in 2022. This law introduces integrity and professional ethics checks for key judicial governance bodies such as the High Council of Justice and the High Qualification Commission of Judges, which conducts the selection procedures for new judges.

Fighting Corruption

The importance of Ukraine's commitment to curb the excessive influence of oligarchs by implementing the Anti-Oligarch Law was reinforced by Russia's invasion, and has been the subject of several debates within the VRU this year. The parliament actively reviewed the country's new national anti-corruption strategy and provided strong oversight during the budget process, enabled by the roll out of an electronic system for public procurement, Pro-Zorro and Pro-Zorro Sale, that informs its financial oversight processes.

The Cabinet of Ministers appointed a new head for the National Anti-Corruption Bureau who is widely respected and politically neutral. Bold efforts were made this year by these bodies to initiate criminal proceedings in relation to several high-level officials and oligarchs. Acknowledging the challenge of implementing a register of oligarchs, the VRU debated amendments to the law on oligarchs and has sought an opinion from the Venice Commission.

¹⁸ For Ukraine's written commitments, see: <https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/UKRAINE-Summit-for-Democracy-Written-Commitment-eng-2021-12-20-Accessible-Final.pdf>.

¹⁹ National Democratic Institute, Opportunities and Challenges Facing Ukraine's Democratic Transition (NDI Ukraine, January 2023), https://www.ndi.org/sites/default/files/January_2023_Ukraine_wartime_survey_ENG.pdf.

²⁰ Center for Insights in Survey Research, National Survey of Ukraine: February 2023 (International Republican Institute, March 22, 2023), <https://www.iri.org/resources/iri-ukraine-poll-shows-strong-confidence-in-president-zelensky-a-surge-in-support-for-nato-membership-russia-should-pay-for-reconstruction/>.

The parliament fulfilled its country's commitment to formalize greater protection for whistleblowers, the importance of which was evidenced when a journalist was able to uncover significant corruption within Ukraine's public procurement processes.

Advancing Human Rights

Martial law enabled the VRU to readily pass the Istanbul Convention, despite strong opposition prior to the invasion. The parliament also met the commitment to ratify the Marrakesh Treaty. Russia's invasion of Ukraine added new demands onto the VRU to pass additional human rights legislation. For example, the parliament passed new laws to support internally displaced individuals, children who have lost their parents and children who have been illegally deported to Russia. The VRU has also supported measures against pervasive Russian information operations. The VRU has also worked actively to diminish the role of Russian influence over Ukraine's commercial television channel by establishing a state-owned broadcaster in legislation, which is already viewed as helping to dilute Russia's influence.

Non-HDP Partner Legislatures

Three non-HDP partner legislatures, Nepal, Paraguay and Taiwan stood out in the research for the integral role they were asked to play by their governments after the first Summit, the achievements of which are captured below:

Nepal²¹

Defending Against Authoritarianism	No parliamentary actions specified in first Summit for Democracy commitments
Fighting Corruption	Commitment to aligning legislative framework with UNCAC
Advancing Human Rights	Commitment to preparing a bill strengthening the capacity of Nepal's Truth and Reconciliation Commission Commitment to eliminating harmful traditional practices such as child marriages, dowry, witchcraft and chhaupadi Commitment to introducing legislation to punish perpetrators of acid attacks and rape

Defense Against Authoritarianism

While no specific commitment was made under this theme, the Parliament of Nepal is currently reviewing several pieces of legislation to support its defense against authoritarianism. These

²¹ Efforts were made to conduct interviews with individuals working in parliament, but owing to circumstances beyond our control this was not made possible within the appropriate time frame. For Nepal's written commitments, see: <https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/NEPAL-Summit-for-Democracy-Written-Statement-Accessible-Final.pdf>.

include: the Electronic Transactions Act, Media Council Act, Information Technology Act and Endura Mass Communication Act. These have been drafted and submitted for review to the federal parliament.

Fighting Corruption

Further information is needed to ascertain the role of the federal parliament in supporting the government’s stated commitment to align Nepal’s legislative framework with the UNCAC. More information is also needed on the work parliament has undertaken in support of the fight against corruption.²² In recent months, the parliament has initiated a process for amending a piece of anti-corruption legislation to extend the jurisdiction of the country’s state anti-corruption body — the CIAA — to include the private sector.²³

Advancing Human Rights

A draft bill on ‘Enforced Disappearances Enquiry, Truth and Reconciliation Commission Act 2014’ has been submitted to the parliament, following consultation with victims across Nepal. The bill is now before the parliament committee of law, justice and human rights. In fulfillment of its commitments, parliament also passed legislative amendments to give medical support to victims of acid attack (mostly women). It also passed a provision to extend the statute of limitations for filing a rape allegation from one year to two years for adults, and three years for under 18-year-olds. In addition, the parliament is considering amendments to several laws to align them to the Palermo Protocol for countering human trafficking.

Paraguay

Democratic Defense	Commitment to promote the use of new technologies to facilitate digital governance to foster transparency, interaction between citizens and accountability
Fighting Corruption	Commitment to implement and strengthen transparency and access to public information on the basis of international best practice Commitment to promote the adoption of measures preventing conflicts of interest, and the disclosure by civil servants of asset and financial declarations dependent on each case
Advancing Human Rights	No parliamentary actions specified in first Summit for Democracy commitments

Defense Against Authoritarianism

During this year of action, the National Congress and international partners working with it held discussions on how Congress could promote transparency at the legislative level. A proposal that was discussed included the creation of an open virtual agenda where each legislator’s office registers meetings and activities held and attended. An Open Parliament Plan to make information related to legislative votes available in a format that can allow for subsequent processing and analysis was also discussed. The National Congress also developed a specific

²² Efforts were made to conduct interviews with individuals working in parliament, but owing to circumstances beyond our control this was not made possible within the appropriate time frame. For Nepal’s written commitments, see: <https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/NEPAL-Summit-for-Democracy-Written-Statement-Accessible-Final.pdf>.

²³ Summit for Democracy and Nepal Commitments (International IDEA, n.d.), <https://www.idea.int/sites/default/files/publications/summit-4-democracy-nepal-commitments.pdf>.

commitment to promote the use of clear language foster greater citizen understanding and interaction with legislative information. Finally, the Congress proposed learning from other countries across the region; for example, Argentina, Chile and the United States, on how to strengthen the legislature’s resilience from cybersecurity threats while increasing public legislative information.

Fighting Corruption

The Senate has begun to review a bill that was introduced by the government in February 2023, aimed at strengthening the functions of the current National Anti-Corruption Secretariat. International agencies have been working with the parliament to ensure there is a broad, inclusive and participatory debate on the bill. A key focus is to ensure that the new agency is autonomous, financially independent and that the legislative branch has oversight over its governance structure and consultative organs. To promote transparency in public administration, there is discussion within the executive and the legislative branch on creating a law (the Latin American Index of Legislative Transparency) to guarantee public access to declarations on property and income — assets and liabilities that public officials and legislators are mandated to disclose (by Law 6446).

Advancing Human Rights

While no parliamentary actions were specified in the Summit for Democracy commitments, significant discussions took place on the introduction of a Child Labor Bill that the Executive committed to ahead of the first Summit. However, the bill has yet to be introduced by the government.

Taiwan²⁴

<p>Defending Against Authoritarianism</p>	<p>Commitment to establishing a platform for electronic joint signatures for referendum petitions to facilitate public participation</p> <p>Commitment to expanding political donation disclosure regulations to include relevant transactions by related parties</p> <p>Commitment to ensuring new financial disclosure requirements for religious groups designed to prevent foreign malign influence from impeding on freedoms of belief</p>
<p>Fighting Corruption</p>	<p>Commitment to actively supporting the passage of the Whistleblower Protection Act</p> <p>Commitment to implementing the first Open Parliament Action Plan</p>
<p>Advancing Human Rights</p>	<p>Commitment to passing legislation granting implementing authorities to the Human Rights Commission</p> <p>Commitment to pursuing legislative or regulatory changes to addressing barriers for LGBTQI+ persons to marriage and health services</p>

Defense Against Authoritarianism

The Legislative Yuan passed new regulations that expand and strengthen laws related to political donation disclosure. The parliament also passed new financial disclosure requirements designed to prevent foreign malign influence from impeding on the freedoms of association or belief.

²⁴ Efforts were made to conduct interviews with individuals working in parliament, but owing to circumstances beyond our control this was not made possible within the appropriate time frame. For Taiwan’s written commitments, see: <https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/TAIWAN-Summit-for-Democracy-Written-Statement-Accessible-Final.pdf>.

The establishment of an electronic platform for petitions was delivered by the Legislative Yuan as part of its fulfillment of its Open Parliaments exercise.

Fighting Corruption

The Legislative Yuan underwent a co-creation exercise with civil society to create its first Open Parliament Action Plan. The Legislative Yuan has delivered on all goals set in relation to specified goals and indicators of openness, transparency and digitalization. Significant progress has been made toward achieving its other goals, including citizen engagement and accountability. However, the Whistleblower Protection Act has not yet been passed.

Advancing Human Rights

The Legislative Yuan fulfilled the commitment to grant implementing authority to the Human Rights Commission and advance the rights of the LGBTQI+ community. A key concern of the Legislative Yuan was to ensure that this community receives equal access and treatment within state medical, marital and adoption services. In addition, the Legislative Yuan also tightened procurement regulations to mandate the government carry out more checks to ensure imported goods and services comply with Taiwan's child labor laws. The Legislative Yuan also passed a resolution to condemn human rights violations against the Uyghurs.

Lessons Learned from Summit for Democracy II

As outlined in these country cases, legislative intervention played a critical role in supporting many nations to achieve progress toward their democracy commitments. In particular, these cases show the importance of legislative engagement — through functions of debate, constitutional review, the application of ethics, human rights, and accountability safeguards, engagement with citizens, and the strengthening of legislative independence and functionality — in the pursuit of democratic resilience.

In the case of **Georgia**, parliament played a central role in bringing together members of government with civil society to enact electoral reforms and strengthen avenues for dialogue on gender equality. The parliament also carried out important oversight of legislative proposals intended to strengthen anti-corruption safeguards in line with EU ascension goals. The **Kosovo** Assembly's focus on strengthening its independence and functionality through the passage of new rules of procedure allowed the institution to exercise core oversight functions that contributed to the country's government openness strategy, party and campaign financing reform; improvements to the justice system; and the passage of laws to protect public assets. The **Liberian** legislature's efforts to amend key anti-corruption laws and expand access to citizen engagement on human rights reforms, complemented by internal reforms to legislative debate, oversight and member accountability, enabled progress toward the nation's

goals in line with all three of the first Summit's themes. In **Moldova**, the parliament worked directly with actors in the executive and judiciary to strengthen avenues for public engagement on state accountability reforms. Parliament also approved increased funding for national anti-corruption programs, and passed laws that expand protections for women and promote media access to information. The **Ukrainian** Verkhovna Rada's continued resilience against the backdrop of the Russian invasion shows the critical role of the parliament in strengthening the country's democratic resolve. From leveraging national security protections, to improving justice reform, formalizing protection for whistleblowers, and ensuring protections for internally placed individuals, the parliament continues to be key in supporting the nation's continued democratic resilience. The Parliament of **Nepal** has been central in hosting national debates on how to strengthen protections against authoritarian influence through access to technology and information laws. Parliament also passed legislation to promote and protect human rights for victims of violence and human trafficking in line with the country's overall commitments. **Taiwan's** Legislative Yuan has been central in strengthening public access to information through the adoption of open parliament mechanisms, and has contributed to its government's goal to strengthen human rights protections by advancing authorities to the Human Rights Commission and tightening procurement laws.

It is clear that legislatures are central to nations being able to fulfill democracy commitments, and ultimately encourage a country's democratic consolidation and resilience. Through legislatures' core responsibilities of engaging citizens and representing their interests on a national stage, in combination with their mandate for oversight of executive actions and national expenditures, they provide foundational checks on government actions that contribute to safeguards against authoritarianism and corruption, and uphold protections for human rights and freedoms.

These lessons were also of key focus leading into the Summit for Democracy II. This second Summit showcased the work of governments to advance democracy in their countries following efforts made during the "Year of Action" by featuring interventions from more than 80 nations on the ways in which those governments worked to progress toward democracy goals. The second Summit centered on five core themes, including: 1) Supporting Free and Independent Media; 2) Fighting Corruption; 3) Bolstering Democratic Reformers; 4) Advancing Technology for Democracy; and 5) Defending Free and Fair Elections and Inclusive Political Processes.

As with the first Summit, HDP sponsored an official Summit event convening more than 50 legislative actors from 25 countries for discussions on their role in strengthening their nation's core democracy tenets, and contributing to written commitments made following the first Summit. The event further highlighted the role of a nation's legislative branch in creating foundational mechanisms to strengthen democratic resilience. For example, Canadian, Liberian and Zambian MPs discussed their parliament's efforts to strengthen electoral integrity measures, such as through the passage of campaign finance legislation and improving transparency of electoral processes and results. In line with North Macedonia's commitment to fighting corruption, MPs discussed parliament's efforts to improve digitalization and openness in parliament in order to create greater access to information that allows citizens to hold their government to account. In line with Korea's goals to strengthen anti-corruption precedents, MPs discussed the legislature's efforts to pass legislation that established the Corruption Investigation Office for High-Ranking Officials, which ensures government actors are held accountable for their actions. Armenia's MPs discussed parliament's establishment of an independent institution to investigate corruption, in addition to laws that require the declaration of assets by MPs. Two independent anti-corruption institutions were established and are now operational:

the Corruption Prevention Commission and the Anti-Corruption Committee. Both actions contribute to the country’s democracy commitment to raise scores through the World Bank’s Worldwide Governance Indicators and Transparency International’s Corruption Perception Index. In line with Colombia’s commitment to address corruption, Colombian legislators discussed the Congress’s draft bill to protect whistleblowers, in addition to the establishment of the first anti-corruption committee in Congress. They also noted the importance of ensuring digital transparency and the creation of two-way feedback mechanisms to engage citizens with government.

Aside from discussing parliaments’ engagement in supporting national democracy commitments during the “Year of Action,” MPs also raised core methods that legislative bodies globally can utilize to strengthen democratic resilience, including: *digital transformation and openness; addressing polarization among political parties; encouraging gender parity at all levels of government; addressing violence against women and other marginalized communities; engaging constituents through two-way communication; ensuring freedom of information and press, and citizen access to legislative affairs; and engaging constituents frequently to ensure legislative decision-making is informed and balanced.* At the conclusion of the Legislative Track, women MPs from across the countries represented joined together to pledge to develop a global women MPs’ network that would support one another’s initiatives, and work toward common pathways for gender parity in parliaments. Additionally, parliaments from across the world pledged solidarity for supporting fellow colleagues under duress and in countries experiencing conflict.



Parliamentary Recommendations



**Expand Role
in Global
Initiative**

01



**Author Own
Commitments**

02



**Expand
Outreach and
Engagement**

03



**Take Action
Against
Polarization**

04



**Create
Anti-corruption
Measures**

05



**Share Lessons
Against Abuse**

06



**Support
Inclusion**

07



**Stand in
Solidarity**

08

Based on the information outlined in this report, it is clear that parliaments have a crucial role to play in strengthening pathways for sustainable democratic reform. Recommendations to expand their role in future global conversations on democracy, include:

- **Parliaments should have an expanded role in this global initiative:** Many countries that made commitments following the first Summit for Democracy included references to parliament in their lawmaking role solely. Though passing legislation is a critical responsibility of any legislature, their equal mandates of oversight and representation offer important avenues to strengthen democratic resilience in all areas. Should subsequent Summits for Democracy include the provision of commitments, governments should expand the role of their parliaments within these commitments to showcase their role beyond passing laws.
- **Parliaments should author their own commitments:** In subsequent Summits, parliaments could consider creating their own commitments to activate their more expansive capacity to support global democratic progress. For example, by establishing a body within parliament such as “Parliamentary Council for the Defense of Democracy” to create and track parliamentary commitments. There is a role for international actors like HDP to support the creation and administration of transnational parliamentary “democracy hubs” for parliamentarians to share experiences in defending against authoritarianism, fighting corruption and advancing human rights.
- **Parliamentary outreach and engagement on issues of democracy should be expanded:** Democracy is fundamentally about ensuring citizens and governments have access to one another through effective, two-way communication. Parliaments can and must do more to ensure their processes reflect and uphold tenets of transparency, accountability and engagement with the citizenry. Doing so will also enable citizens to better understand the work of parliament which often goes unseen.
- **Parliaments should take bold action against polarized parliamentary debate:** Parliament is an icon of democracy and as such plays a powerful role in shaping public sentiment toward the status of democracy in a country. As such, parliaments must look inward to evaluate methods utilized to build citizen trust. Parliaments must also uphold commitments to working together — even when parties disagree fundamentally — to ensure legislative decision-making is balanced and citizen-informed. Parliaments can also create or further enhance standards of accountability to hold members to account for their performance in parliament, create new rules of debate and invest in training to ensure cross-party dialogue.
- **New parliamentary oversight anti-corruption measures should be created:** As demonstrated throughout this report, many parliaments took up initiatives to strengthen anti-corruption safeguards. Still, there is more to be done globally to strengthen anti-corruption principles everywhere. Parliaments have a unique role in supporting the creation of procedures for overseeing government activities and establishing anti-corruption initiatives. For example, parliaments can establish standing select committees on corruption, monitor the effectiveness of a country’s anti-corruption measures, support the work of independent anti-corruption bodies, review the effectiveness of state prosecutions and anti-corruption budgets, and enable whistleblower protections. Parliaments can also take a leading role in advocating for tighter and more transparent party financing, campaign and electoral integrity laws.

- **Sharing lessons on strengthening information integrity:** Parliaments can share the lessons of these debates to support stronger, cross-country comparative legislation in this area.
- **Parliamentary commitments should support inclusion:** As the representative body of government, parliaments have the unique responsibility of representing all citizens on a national stage. As such, parliaments must be at the center of efforts to ensure democracies deliver inclusive outcomes for citizens and enable equality. For example, parliaments can debate and decide on new initiatives to increase gender parity, improve accessibility for individuals with disabilities and raise the support that can be provided to individuals from marginalized communities. Parliament's administration can also be called to demonstrate continued strategic investment in building inclusive democratic cultures.
- **Parliaments should stand in solidarity:** As learned from the Legislative Track convenings held at both Summits, parliaments share a unique responsibility and experience in working to uphold the priorities of their nations' citizens through informed legislative decision-making, while also holding their governments to account. By enabling the sharing of peer experiences, and the exchange of solutions to shared challenges and goals, democratic resilience is strengthened globally. Parliaments can engage one another in solidarity to promote and protect their unique standing as representative institutions that are strengthening avenues for the promotion of citizen-centered policies and sustainable democratic outcomes.

Annex A - HDP Engagements on S4D Commitments

HDP Partner Country	S4D Commitments	HDP Engagement	Date	Progress Towards S4D Commitments
Armenia	<p>1. Planning governance reforms and the implementation of policies that will build faith both in Armenia and among our partners abroad -- by 2026, we aim to achieve continuous improvements in comparative indicators, specifically rising from a score of 50 to 60 in the World Bank's Worldwide Governance Indicator, and 49 to 60 in Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index.</p> <p>2. Committed to building a low-emission energy sector and a vibrant green economy</p>	GCMC Regional Exchange on the Changed Security Environment in Europe and the Role of Parliaments on Security Oversight and Crisis Communications	February 2023	The exchange held meaningful discussions on anti-corruption, disinformation, countering foreign malign influence and crisis communication. These efforts helped to advance Armenia's commitment of governance reforms and improvement in transparency.
		Summit for Democracy II- Legislative Track	February 2023	The second Summit for Democracy built on the commitments provided by the countries. The interaction fostered understanding of legislatures role in combatting corruption, preserving democratic norms, promoting inclusivity and engaging citizenry for democratic advancement.
		TAC on Constituent engagement practices of the National Assembly of Armenia	June 2023	Constituent engagement is a key component of effective governance. The discussion highlighted the importance and various ways of engaging public in governance.
Colombia	No written commitment provided	TAC on digital innovation	June 2022	Through supporting Colombia on digital innovation, they will be better positioned to achieve their broad and far-reaching set of S4D goals, as well as share their progress more transparently. This work supports their goals of the implementation of an international data base that would include the natural and legal names of those who commit corruption crime.
		Summit of the Americas pre-event	June 2022	The Summit of the Americas assisted Colombia in building relationships to achieve their S4D goal of full support to the Organization of American States's Inter-American Democratic Charter.
		Countering Corruption Through Legislative Oversight (LAC Regional - Peru, Colombia (host), Guatemala, Ecuador, Argentina, Haiti, Paraguay, Chile)	November 2022	Several of Colombia's S4D commitments are related to counter-corruption, this workshop assists Colombia in making progress toward their various objectives to reduce corruption.
		Summit for Democracy II- Legislative Track	March 2023	The second Summit for Democracy built on the commitments provided by the countries. The interaction fostered understanding of legislatures role in combatting corruption, preserving democratic norms, promoting inclusivity and engaging citizenry for democratic advancement.

HDP Partner Country	S4D Commitments	HDP Engagement	Date	Progress Towards S4D Commitments
Georgia	<p>Reforms (These reforms shall be carried out no later than during the Spring 2022 Parliamentary Session.)</p> <p>Judicial Reform -Aims to further enhance transparency and merit-based selections in the appointment of judges to the First Instance and Appeal Courts; -Aims to adopt the legislation implementing the ruling of the Constitutional Court of Georgia from June 2019 by setting rules for publication of judicial decisions.</p> <p>Electoral Reform -Undertake further Election Code reform effort through an inclusive process with participation of the parliamentary political parties and civil society organizations.</p> <p>Human Rights -Commit to adopt the National Action Plan on Combating violence against Women and Domestic Violence in the first half of 2022; -Commit to adopt the National Action Plan for the implementation of the UNSC Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security in the first half of 2022; -Commit to finalize and adopt the National Concept Document on Women's Economic Empowerment by the first quarter of 2022; -Commit to increase the access to state support services and decrease the existing barriers by abolishing the "victim status" by the third quarter of 2022 -Commit to adopt the second National Human Rights Strategy in the first half of 2022 -Will strengthen civil, political, economic, and social rights in Georgia.</p> <p>Will reflect the constitutional guarantees on equality and ensure the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms without discrimination.</p>	<p>GCMC Regional Exchange on the Changed Security Environment in Europe and the Role of Parliaments on Security Oversight and Crisis Communications</p>	<p>February 2023</p>	<p>The exchange held meaningful discussions on anti- corruption, disinformation, countering foreign malign influence and crisis communication. These efforts help advance Georgia's commitments towards governance reforms.</p>
	<p>Will reflect the constitutional guarantees on equality and ensure the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms without discrimination.</p>	<p>Summit for Democracy II- Legislative Track</p>	<p>March 2023</p>	<p>The second Summit for Democracy built on the commitments provided by the countries. The interaction fostered understanding of legislatures role in combatting corruption, preserving democratic norms, promoting inclusivity and engaging citizenry for democratic advancement.</p>

HDP Partner Country	S4D Commitments	HDP Engagement	Date	Progress Towards S4D Commitments
Georgia - Continued	Human Rights - Continued- -Puts special focus on the rights and freedoms of IDPs and refugees as well as people living near and beyond the Administrative Boundary Line, who consistently suffer from Russia's illegal occupation of Georgian territories			
Indonesia	No written commitment provided	Virtual exchange on the importance of legislative information-sharing; welcomed U.S. House Clerk's office to present to Indonesian legislators on transcribing, recordkeeping and public information-sharing	June 2022	Provided insight on tools and innovations in the production, management, and distribution of plenary and hearing minutes, as well as discuss the importance of transparency in the disclosure of these transcriptions to the public.
Iraq	No written commitments provided	NDI convened a discussion between two representatives of the Congressional Research Service and the General Director and Head of Research Services of the Iraqi Parliamentary Research Directorate	January 2022	This conversation allowed representatives from both organizations to compare experiences, identify goals for forthcoming in-person exchanges, and provide guidance on both the content and structure of the Iraqi Parliament research services.
		New Member Orientation support	February 2022	Waiting for translation of President's speech.
		TAC series on strengthening parliamentary institutional capacity through expert legislative staffing, research, and library services	March 2022	The exchange consisted of practical exercises as well as peer-to-peer conversations about internal review structures, collaborating with other entities within parliament, and measuring impact of reports.
		TAC on improving budget analysis services in Iraq	August 2022	The exchange had a discussion on macroeconomic projections and models, and ways to utilize government data for economic forecast. These tools helped to provide a better understanding of the nation's general budget process.
		TAC on improving parliamentary oversight reports	October 2022	The TAC built on previous TACs to assist the legislators on effective report writing, oversight and research.
		Summit for Democracy II- Legislative Track	March 2023	The second Summit for Democracy built on the commitments provided by the countries. The interaction fostered understanding of legislatures role in combatting corruption, preserving democratic norms, promoting inclusivity and engaging citizenry for democratic advancement.

HDP Partner Country	S4D Commitments	HDP Engagement	Date	Progress Towards S4D Commitments
Kenya	<p>1. Seeking to deliver UN Security Council mandate in context of four broad policy pillars:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional peace and security Counterterrorism Peace support operations and Climate-related security <p>2. Democracy: Restoring and entrenching democracy in the region by supporting reconciliation between parties in conflict in Ethiopia, peace and stability in Sudan and South Sudan, and stabilization of Somalia</p> <p>3. Corruption: Strengthening the ongoing fight against corruption by continuing to develop accountable institutions and grow local, organic solutions</p>	TAC series on Conducting Unbiased, Evidenced based research	March 2022	The TAC series helped towards Kenya's commitment to fight corruption and to promote democratic institutions.
		TAC series on Legislation to Protect Human Rights and Marginalized Communities	April 2022	The exchange contributed to advance peace and security commitment by helping legislators empower marginalized communities and promote basic human rights of the country.
		TAC series on Preparing for a New Member Orientation	July 2022	This session was organized to provide guidance and best practices to Kenya's Parliamentary Research Service in order to organize the new member orientation. This TAC contributed towards Kenya's corruption management commitment since the orientation dealt with ethical practices.
		TAC series on Utilizing Parliamentary Research to Address Legislative Challenges	July 2022	Since the program included good practices for reporting, writing and reviewing research reports, the event helped progress the commitment of advancing democratic institutions.
		TAC series on strengthening parliamentary institutional capacity through expert library and research services, expert debt forecasting and budget analysis	October 2022 - July 2022	NDI-HDP has contributed consistent support to Kenya's parliament to strengthen defenses against corruption. Specifically, NDI-HDP has supported the institutional capacity of expert staff, and strengthened parliamentary research services, data collection/publication, public debt management, and legislative budget process oversight. These factors are pivotal in safeguarding against corruption.
		Summit for Democracy II- Legislative Track	March 2023	The second Summit for Democracy built on the commitments provided by the countries. The interaction fostered understanding of legislatures role in combatting corruption, preserving democratic norms, promoting inclusivity and engaging citizenry for democratic advancement.
		Africa Regional Exchange on Strengthening Processes for Legislative Budgeting and Public Debt Management	April 2023	The regional exchange supported participating legislators in understanding the role of legislative on the public debt management. This exchange contributed towards Kenya's commitment to fight corruption and strengthen democratic institutions.

HDP Partner Country	S4D Commitments	HDP Engagement	Date	Progress Towards S4D Commitments
Kosovo	<p>General Commitments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Strengthen the rule of law through the full implementation of the Strategy on Rule of Law, and a vetting process that will instill integrity, impartiality and professionalism at the heart of our justice system. +Commit to enacting and implementing advanced legislation to seize illicit wealth +Impose a travel ban on foreign individuals involved in serious human rights abuses +Clamp down on foreign governments' funding for political parties +Ban public institutions from using untrusted surveillance vendors +Establish a Presidential Council on Democracy and Human Rights <p>Corruption</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Implementation of the National Strategy on Rule of Law: Main Objectives (will be undertaken within the first half of 2022) +Strengthening the judicial and prosecutorial system of the Republic of Kosovo; Bolster the role of women in our society by initiating proceedings to harmonize all relevant laws with the provisions of the law on gender equality, to guarantee women's rightful place in public institutions and decision-making roles. +Adopt a bold national strategy against gender-based violence to implement the Istanbul Convention, +Increase minimum sentences to reflect the severity of gender-based crimes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> +Bolstering criminal justice; +Increasing access to justice; and, +Reinforcing the fight against corruption. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Vetting Process +The objective of this process is to instill integrity and professionalism at the heart of Kosovo's justice institutions and thereby increase civic trust in justice. +Will verify the integrity, professionalism and wealth of key officials including the judges and prosecutors in Kosovo, as well as civil servants in senior positions, in the justice system. 	Identifying the Roles and Impact of Parliamentary Research Services	May 2022	Kosovo's ambitious and well-rounded commitments are supported through these TACs as foundational pillars to achieving their overarching S4D goals.
		TAC series on strengthening legislative institutional capacity through the establishment of a parliamentary staff institute that trains and equips staff, institutional archival and information-sharing capacity, and engages the public through civic education and public access to parliament. Programs also include support for amendments to parliamentary rules of procedure that strengthen code of conduct and ethics provisions, and codify parliamentary independence.	May 2022 - July 2022 - September 2022	The TAC series enabled the participants to understand about a robust professional recordkeeping which helps legislators undertake their duties effectively. This contributes towards the commitment of strengthening rule of law in Kosovo. It also supported Kosovo's commitment to advance informational integrity.
		TAC series on Supporting Effective Library and Archival Processes in the Kosovo National Assembly	November 2022 - February 2023	The second Summit for Democracy built on the commitments provided by the countries. The interaction fostered understanding of legislatures role in combatting corruption, preserving democratic norms, promoting inclusivity and engaging citizenry for democratic advancement.
		Summit for Democracy II- Legislative Track	March 2023	The second Summit for Democracy built on the commitments provided by the countries. The interaction fostered understanding of legislatures role in combatting corruption, preserving democratic norms, promoting inclusivity and engaging citizenry for democratic advancement.

HDP Partner Country	S4D Commitments	HDP Engagement	Date	Progress Towards S4D Commitments
<p>Kosovo - Continued</p>	<p>-Actions to be taken: +Establishing the working group and drafting of the constitutional and legislative amendments for the vetting process +Finalize vetting amendments and launch consultations with relevant stakeholders on the vetting process +Adopt legislative changes on the vetting process +Initiate functionalization of vetting intuitions</p> <p>-Adoption of the Magnitsky Act +This law will authorize the Kosovo institutions to sanction those it sees as human rights offenders, freeze their assets, and ban entry into the country.</p> <p>-Seizing illicit wealth +Adoption of the Law on the Establishment of the Bureau for Review of Unjustifiable Assets +Adoption and implementation of the Law on Declaration of Assets of Public Officials +Implementation of the Regulation on Whistleblowers</p> <p>Defending Against Authoritarianism</p> <p>-Committed to continuing and even strengthening our partnership with key allies, such as the United States, to ensure we combat this threat together.</p> <p>-Political Parties Sign Pledge on Election Integrity +Political parties in the Republic of Kosovo will commit to not fabricate, use or spread falsified, fabricated, doxed, or stolen data or materials for obstructing information integrity or propaganda purposes +Political parties that sign this pledge will commit to avoiding the dissemination of doctored media that impersonate other candidates, including deep-fake videos, as well as ensure that candidates, campaigns, and data about supporters are all safe from hacking operations.</p>			

HDP Partner Country	S4D Commitments	HDP Engagement	Date	Progress Towards S4D Commitments
Kosovo - Continued	<p>-Combat foreign governments interference in elections -- Actions: +Draft a concept paper on combating foreign interference in elections with input from CEC, public institutions and civil legislation (Q2) +Prepare proposals for implementation mechanisms and legislative changes, if required +CEC adopts implementation mechanisms, if required -Create a Platform on Information Integrity</p> <p>-Improve the operating environment for civil society organizations and civic initiatives -Prohibiting public institutions and telecommunications companies from using untrusted vendors</p> <p>Advancing Human Rights – Diversity & Inclusivity -Establish a Presidential Council for Democracy and Human Rights +will bring together public institutions and civil society organizations to drive and monitor the implementation of our commitments.</p> <p>-Bolster the role of women in our society +Initiate proceedings to harmonize all relevant laws with the provisions of the law on gender equality, to guarantee women’s rightful place in public institutions and decision-making roles. +Adopt a bold national strategy against gender-based violence to implement the Istanbul Convention, to halt this epidemic through prevention and protection, and increase minimum sentences to reflect the severity of gender-based crimes.</p> <p>-Summit for Women in Peace and Security +committed to ensuring an increased number of girls and women participate in key peace and security roles +will work with our international partners to host a global Summit to encourage more diversity in these key sectors that enable us increase equality</p>			

HDP Partner Country	S4D Commitments	HDP Engagement	Date	Progress Towards S4D Commitments
Liberia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Amend the Anti-corruption Act to grant direct prosecutorial powers; - Propose legislation for the establishment of a dedicated criminal court for the prosecution and convictions of public officials, individuals, or institutions engaged in corrupt practices and financial offenses; - Continue efforts to end gender-based violence; - Engage with traditional leaders to end all forms of harmful traditional practices; - Propose an anti-female genital mutilation bill; 	TAC on legislative budget process, specifically how to organize hearings and conduct thorough, participatory budget process including members, executive oversight, and public engagement	August 2021	The TAC helped Liberia advance their commitment to fight corruption by making legislators understand their role in budget oversight and effective budget management.
		Virtual Staff Exchange: Supporting Enhanced Research and Budget Analysis Techniques for PBO and PI Analysts	October 2021	Liberia's commitment towards transparency and corruption control was promoted in this event. The exchange took place between Parliamentary Budget Office of participating nations and the CBO, where there were discussions of the best practices for public debt management.
		Summit for Democracy II- Legislative Track	March 2023	The second Summit for Democracy built on the commitments provided by the countries. The interaction fostered understanding of legislatures role in combatting corruption, preserving democratic norms, promoting inclusivity and engaging citizenry for democratic advancement.
		Africa Regional Exchange on Strengthening Processes for Legislative Budgeting and Public Debt Management	April 2023	The regional exchange supported participating legislators in understanding the role of legislative on the public debt management. This exchange contributed towards Liberia's commitment to fight corruption and strengthen democratic institutions.
Moldova	<p>1. Justice Sector Reform</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure that its judicial system and its judges are competent, independent, impartial, and abide by the law <p>2. Strengthening anti-corruption bodies and cleaning up institutions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Appointing transparent and honest public figures in leadership positions and by discouraging corruption practices - Strengthening of accountability and enforcement mechanisms <p>3. Strengthening democratic processes by fighting illegal financing of political parties</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue to make efforts this year to strengthen its democratic processes by enforcing strong mechanisms of oversight and sanctions for infringements that might be identified and for the illegal financing of political parties 	GCMC Regional Exchange on the Changed Security Environment in Europe and the Role of Parliaments on Security Oversight and Crisis Communications	February 2023	The exchange held meaningful discussions on anti-corruption, disinformation, countering foreign malign influence and crisis communication. These efforts help advance governance reforms and advancing rule of law in participating countries.
		TAC on on strengthening parliamentary initiative and legislative oversight of the energy and defense sector.	February 2023	This TAC helped in strengthening democratic process by enabling legislators in conducting oversight on defense budget and executive control on security and energy sectors.

HDP Partner Country	S4D Commitments	HDP Engagement	Date	Progress Towards S4D Commitments
Mongolia	No written commitments	STAFFDEL – Asia (South Korea, Mongolia)	June/July 2022	
		TAC on Accurate Parliamentary Research to Improve Legislation	June/July 2022	
		Congressional/Parliamentary Digital Transformation -	January 2023	
North Macedonia	<p>1. Democracy: Defending together our way of life against authoritarian states</p> <p>2. Corruption: Redoubling our efforts in fighting corruption and organized crime</p> <p>3. Human Rights: Safeguarding human rights and freedoms by building resilience accountable institutions, a strong civil society, and free media</p>	Staff Training: Supporting Enhanced Research and Budget Analysis Techniques for PBO and PI Analysts	October 2021	The discussion on budget management techniques and the resources for budgetary analysis assisted towards North Macedonia's commitment to fight corruption and to promote democratic norms.
		Regional MP Seminars: Engaging with the Media, Citizen Engagement, Promoting information integrity	December 2021	
		TAC on strengthening the capacity of Assembly to conduct oversight hearings; support to supreme audit office on strengthening public audit and procurement procedures	April 2022	Human rights -- accountable institutions. Support for public debt management, budget oversight, support to SAO through connection with GAO.
		Summit for Democracy II- Legislative Track	March 2023	The second Summit for Democracy built on the commitments provided by the countries. The interaction fostered understanding of legislatures role in combatting corruption, preserving democratic norms, promoting inclusivity and engaging citizenry for democratic advancement.
		Improving Fiscal Scrutiny and Budget Oversight in the Republic of North Macedonia	May 2023	The discussion was organized mostly to contribute towards the commitment of combatting corruption. Fiscal transparency and budget oversight guidance enabled members of parliament to ensure that they are prepared to identify and fight systemic corruption.
Peru	<p>Democracy</p> <p>-Combat poverty as the main factor of exclusion of large groups of the population.</p> <p>-Promote political dialogue, cooperation, and consensus-building</p> <p>-Analyze the hemispheric mechanisms -particularly those set out in the Inter-American Democratic Charter- and others collectively agreed upon, to defend and strengthen democratic institutions</p>	Summit of the Americas pre-event	June 2022	<p>Some of the topics that directly contributed towards Peru's S4D commitments of democratic advancement, corruption control and strengthening human rights efforts were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inclusive democratic engagement with civil society, youth and businesses - Tools to prevent widespread corruption, support independent press, solidify whistleblower protections, educate citizens on media literacy and promote information integrity. - Empowering and enhancing women's inclusion in the parliament

HDP Partner Country	S4D Commitments	HDP Engagement	Date	Progress Towards S4D Commitments
Peru - Continued	<p>Democracy - Continued -Promote agreements in international forums that guarantee that all countries have equitable and non-discriminatory access to all diagnoses, therapies, medicines and vaccines, as well as to technologies and health products, including their components and precursors, that are required in the response to Covid-19. Promote the adoption of environmentally and socially sustainable business practices -Encourage, in the corresponding forums, the dissemination of good practices in effective access to public defense services, with a rights-based approach. -Support initiatives for dialogue and cooperation at the multilateral level on migration and international protection and encourage the participation of States in other initiatives</p> <p>Corruption -Put into practice the Political Declaration adopted at UNGASS 2021 -Carry out a comprehensive evaluation of the status of implementation of the UNCAC -Promote a culture of accountability, transparency, legality, integrity, and equity in the public sector -Guarantee transparency in public tenders, as well as in the financing of candidacies for elective public offices, political parties, and electoral campaigns -Adopt a legal framework to hold legal entities accountable for acts of corruption, including national and international bribery -Promote the establishment of strict standards to fight corruption in all companies. -Improve transparency measures on the real estate market and the source of funds -Strengthen asset recovery capabilities, including the simplification of procedures -Protect those who expose, report, investigate and fight against corruption</p>	Countering Corruption Through Legislative Oversight (LAC Regional - Peru, Colombia (host), Guatemala, Ecuador, Argentina, Haiti, Paraguay, Chile)	November 2022	The LAC supported Peru's commitment towards countering corruption since the exchange helped legislator understand their role in countering corruption, and also discussed about ways and resources to fight systemic corruption.

HDP Partner Country	S4D Commitments	HDP Engagement	Date	Progress Towards S4D Commitments
Peru - Continued	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Promote the broadest cooperation between judicial authorities, police, prosecutors, financial intelligence units and administrative authorities -Establish safeguards to prevent criminals from misusing immigration and refugee protection programs -Create synergies between the UNCAC, the Follow-up Mechanism for the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (MESICIC), the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) of the Council of Europe, the Anti-Corruption Working Group of the G20 and the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) -Give continuity to the initiatives arising from the Lima Commitment on "Democratic governance against corruption." 			
Timor-Leste				
Ukraine	<p>Human Rights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Ratify relevant international treaties and conventions such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled -Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention) -Increase the responsibility for violence against any person, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation or political views -Take actions to address the systemic problem of excessive length of criminal and civil proceedings and to introduce effective instruments of legal protection -Continue cooperation with international organizations aimed at achieving gender equality, protection of women and children from violence, -Ensure the rights of internally displaced persons as one of the most vulnerable groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Virtual TAC series on promoting information integrity and strengthening capacities in legislative oversight Regional MP Seminars: Women Legislators Lead, Gender Responsive Policy Making TAC on improving parliamentary ethics in Ukraine GCMC Regional Exchange on the Changed Security Environment in Europe and the Role of Parliaments on Security Oversight and Crisis Communications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> June 2021 - November 2021 October 2022 September 2022 February 2023 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building effective and inclusive democratic institutions This TAC helped the participants understand about the ethics process and in the US congress and learn about best practices for parliamentarians. This TAC contributed in Ukraine's commitment to tackle corruption. The exchange held meaningful discussions on anti- corruption, disinformation, countering foreign malign influence and crisis communication. These efforts help advance governance reforms and advancing rule of law in participating countries. This was specially relevant to help Ukraine achieve its commitment of combatting authoritarianism and dealing with the crisis.

HDP Partner Country	S4D Commitments	HDP Engagement	Date	Progress Towards S4D Commitments
Ukraine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Provide support to the activities of the UN Monitoring Mission for Human Rights in Ukraine-Provide support to the activities of the UN Monitoring Mission for Human Rights in Ukraine -Ensure the implementation of the National Strategy on Creation of Barriers-free Environment in Ukraine according to the Government adopted Action Plan for 2021- 2022 -Ensure preparation for the ratification of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court -Take actions on improving the institutions of direct democracy and ensuring the rights of territorial communities to participate in making decisions on the matters of local importance -Introduce state funding under the existing programs of Jewish studies in Ukraine namely the programs of the Ukrainian Catholic University and the National University "Kyiv-Mohyla Academy" -Develop measures to preserve and protect Jewish traditions in Ukraine through conducting a national information campaign on the historical lessons of the genocides in the XX century -Develop mechanisms to counter the spread of xenophobia, anti-Semitism and Russian chauvinism 			The second Summit for Democracy built on the commitments provided by the countries. The interaction fostered understanding of legislatures role in combatting corruption, preserving democratic norms, promoting inclusivity and engaging citizenry for democratic advancement.
	<p>Corruption</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -adopt a new Anti-Corruption Strategy, -Will coordinate the anti-corruption activities of all public authorities and local governments -Will contribute to progress in combating corruption, building effective and inclusive democratic institutions -Introduce innovative and digital technologies to prevent and detect corruption activities while ensuring adequate protection of personal data and confidential information -Increase transparency and accountability in management of public finances and public procurement 			

HDP Partner Country	S4D Commitments	HDP Engagement	Date	Progress Towards S4D Commitments
Ukraine - Continued	<p>-Create a centralized information resource (portal) on a unified IT platform for accounting of state assets and improving the practice of state property management by digitizing and simplifying the relevant procedures</p> <p>-Ensure adoption and implementation of legally sound legislation in order to prevent threats to national security associated with excessive influence of persons of significant economic and political importance in public life (oligarchs)</p> <p>Combatting Authoritarianism</p> <p>-Take actions to bring the Russian Federation to justice for ongoing systemic violations on the territories of Ukraine which are temporarily occupied by Russia, and to seek the release of political prisoners and hostages held in these territories and in the Russian Federation</p> <p>-Consolidate international political pressure on the Russian Federation in order to compel it to stop searches, arrests, detentions, ill-treatment, abuse of anti- extremism legislation against Ukrainian citizens in the temporarily occupied territories of our state</p> <p>-Continue development of the international initiative Crimea Platform in order to assert and strengthen democratic values, restore the rule of law and adhere to the international order based on universally recognized rules and principles of international law</p> <p>-Work with international partners of Ukraine on the use of the Crimea Platform as a forum for finding ways towards deoccupation of other temporarily occupied territories and resolution of conflicts in the area of the Eastern Partnership</p> <p>-Develop an initiative on creating an international television platform to promote information integrity and the information aggression in the Russian-language media space</p>			

HDP Partner Country	S4D Commitments	HDP Engagement	Date	Progress Towards S4D Commitments
<p>Ukraine - Continued</p>	<p>-Conduct a systematic information campaign to counter manifestations of political authoritarianism in the modern world, focusing on violations of human rights and freedoms by respective political regimes</p> <p>-Engage state and non-state scientific / expert institutions and centers, civil society organizations in research and coverage of authoritarianism as a socio-political phenomenon that is extremely dangerous for democracy, human rights and freedoms</p> <p>-Continue support to the citizens of Belarus who are systematically oppressed by the Lukashenko regime, to promote the activities of Belarusian public organizations on its territory</p>			

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