

GDC PLEDGES 2023



**GLOBAL
DEMOCRACY
COALITION**



Introduction

A robust civil society, adept at holding governments accountable, is essential for sustaining democracy. Therefore, organizations within the Global Democracy Coalition, a multi-stakeholder network of democracy organizations, have pledged to advance, strengthen, and safeguard democracy in anticipation of the upcoming third Summit for Democracy. The pledge initiative bolsters GDC's efforts to cultivate responsible, sustainable, and inclusive democracies, and demonstrates our steadfast commitment to fostering peer-to-peer learning, amplifying the voices of human rights defenders and peacebuilders, and empowering entities and frameworks that champion democracy, justice, equity, and peace.

This document presents the pledges made by Coalition partners in 2023 ahead of the second Summit for Democracy, presented according to the name of the organization.



Compilation of Pledges



Accountability Lab commits to:

1) Sustaining a global information coalition and sharing platform for local and international civil society actors around the S4D and allied processes, i.e., www.summit4democracy.org. The portal will drive engagement on emergent issues around democratization. It will act as a resource for working groups and summit events, including in the regionalized formats so that interested CSOs can coordinate and collaborate. It will act as a repository for S4D-related information, house blogs, and other articles related to the S4D and allied processes.

2) Increase local civil society development of commitments in Africa that align with the needs of the communities in which they work as an input into the S4D and allied or subsequent processes. Activities will be anchored mainly on coordination and collaboration activities to facilitate cross-organizational engagements at and regional and local levels around the S4D and allied processes. They will include, among other things, the following:

- Fashioning collective action, collaboration, and non-duplication of activities amongst interested actors.
- Facilitating the development of key shared “asks” and desired commitments from governments around the democratization agenda and S4D processes at regional and participating country levels.
- Negotiating space for civil society participation in formal S4D processes and facilitating the staging of precursor events around the S4D and allied processes at global and regional levels.

3) Increase sustainability of emerging S4D and broader learning coalitions beyond the S4D process in selected global regions. Highlighting trends and commitments: understanding trends and commitments in selected S4D countries to highlight and build conversations around governments’ progress. This will occur through:

- Online and offline (such as focus group discussions) engagements with civil society, subject matter experts, and those working on the issues in selected countries.
- Convening or supporting local convenings on S4D and broader democracy-related issues to build and strengthen local coalitions that can be input into regional and global processes based on local consensus. This will also enhance post-S4D engagement processes as part of the learning coalitions mentioned below.



The Alliance for Finance Monitoring will:

1) Produce the first ever Political Finance in Africa Index that will present the varieties and variations of Commercialized and Monetized Elective Politics in Africa, among other topics.

2) Organize an in-person pan-African conference on Money in Politics.



Alliance for Vietnam's Democracy pledges to provide VPN access and training to 1000 independent journalists in Vietnam.



Alliance of Democracies

The **Alliance of Democracies Foundation** commits to galvanizing democracies to unite and stand up against authoritarian economic coercion through our work on an Economic Article 5. Our proposal is inspired by NATO's Article 5, which states that a military attack on one ally is considered an attack on all. The aim is to produce the same deterrence and solidarity in the economic realm among democracies that NATO produces in the security realm.

**AMERICAN RUSSIAN-SPEAKING
ASSOCIATION
FOR CIVIL & HUMAN RIGHTS**



The **American Russian-speaking Association for Civil and Human Rights (ARA)** will:

- 1) Hold several public online roundtables per year with prominent pro-democracy members of the Ukrainian and Russian diasporas to maintain and develop continuous anti-war dialogue, based on our solidarity with the people of Ukraine fighting to defend their democracy and territorial integrity against barbaric aggression by a dictatorship.
- 2) Continue to counter anti-democratic mis- and disinformation in Russian-language social media via our Telegram channel and Facebook pages, with several posts per week, including translations of English-only documents and statements of the UN leadership, US and other democratic governments, and leading democracy and human rights NGOs.
- 3) Maintain and deepen our participation in the dialogue with U.S. Government agencies on democracy and human rights-related issues pertaining to Russia and the Russian-speaking diaspora, whenever such opportunity arises, including and especially to help advance the Administration's commitment to support underserved communities and to expand diversity, equity, and inclusion in the federal workforce.



Asia Centre pledges to strengthen electoral democracy in Asia by countering authoritarian governance and addressing democratic backsliding in the region. The Centre will do so by convening its 8th International Conference, "Democracy and Elections in Asia," from 23-25 August 2023 in Bangkok, Thailand during which time it will gather INGOs, CSOs, parliamentarians and other stakeholders to discuss the key challenges facing the region. The conference will gather between 80-100 people and host 10-12 panels to facilitate multi-stakeholder discussion to build capacity and identify actionable measures to promote electoral participation among minority and oppressed social groups suffering the consequences of authoritarianism in Asia. In the short-term, there will be discussions and identification of challenges and solutions and the implementation of the discussed measures in the long term. This conference is an annual Asia Centre activity aimed at addressing challenges to democracy in the region.



Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) commits to improve governance and strengthen democracy by (1) continuous work in the area of Electoral and Political Reforms; (2) empowerment of the electorate through greater dissemination of information related to the candidates and elected members in the upcoming elections in India; (3) working towards greater accountability of political parties' funding by assessing their declared statements; (4) striving for electoral and political reforms through legal advocacy.



BBE will continue to defend democracy and the rule of law by working on concrete measures to improve the conditions for organized civil society at the national and European level. This involves participation and funding opportunities. As a concrete pledge with an international aspiration, we are currently working on improving German-Polish relations by connecting civil society (i.e., OFOP in Poland and Europa-Union Deutschland in Germany) and think tanks in cross-partisan cooperation with political foundations. We are working on a joint document for the future of German-Polish/Polish-German relations in Europe to be published later this year. We believe that Germany and Poland need a civil society-driven process of developing a shared vision of their common European future. This is very important against the background of the Russian attack against the Ukraine and the European and International order.



Centre for Democracy & Development
Centre pour la démocratie et le développement

The Centre for Democracy and Development commits to promote information integrity in elections.



Club de Madrid is committed to:

- 1) creating a Network of Young Decision-Makers and supporting them in using their political capital to improve youth participation and contribute to developing a stronger and more inclusive youth agenda at the global, regional, and national level, maximizing the value of young political leaders.
- 2) developing two statement papers to advocate for Climate Neutrality in COP 28.
- 3) in partnership with Integrity Initiatives International, carrying out at least 3 advocacy activities to raise awareness and visibility among key actors on the proposal for the creation of the International Court Against Corruption.
- 4) providing spaces of dialogue where at least 5 human rights defenders can raise their voices and express their struggles.



The Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats (CALD) pledges to come up with at least three (3) opinion pieces, published in national and regional publications, that draws attention to key human rights issues in the East and Southeast Asian sub-region.



With 60 years of experience working with civil society, a critical partner for any democracy, **Counterpart** is committed to ensuring citizens have a voice in their communities and the decision-making process. Counterpart will deepen and expand its work with civil society organizations to ensure space for them exists – whether that is expanding space when opportunities arise, or when the operating environment is insecure or closing, support their ability to occupy space as their safety allows.

Counterpart will expand its commitment to integrating transformative inclusion, thinking and working politically, enhanced localization and collaboration, learning, and adaptation (CLA) into its governance programs.

Counterpart will demonstrate its leadership by continuing to serve as co-chair of the GDC and host learning events on deliberative and environmental democracy.

Counterpart will launch an award program that highlights the work of a Counterpart International civil society partner. The award will celebrate partners and leaders who make a difference and will honor their sacrifice and commitment to advance civil society, human rights, and democracy.

Counterpart will deepen its investment to growing the reach and impact of its women’s leadership and empowerment programming, reaching more women through its training, mentoring, networking, and small grants program.



DanChurchAid (DCA) commits to forming the Action Coalition on Content Moderation for Women Human Rights Defenders, composed of at least 6 tech platforms, 6 civil society organizations and 6 state actors committing to collaborate to improve the protection of women human rights defenders online.



Demo Finland commits to produce a policy brief on the political participation of persons with disabilities to support political parties in enhancing disability inclusion and to ensure the accessibility of its own activities and practices during 2023.



DT Institute commits to launching a Strategic Foresight Center before the end of 2023 to work with democratic actors (civil society and individual activists) to help them focus their agenda to one that proactively pushes for systemic reforms and creates demand for democracy.



European Network of Political Foundations (ENoP) commits to providing tailored capacity-building to political parties in at least three partner countries by 2026 with the objective of strengthening their democratic resilience, accountability and inclusivity.



Forum 2000 commits to:
1) prepare a democracy roadmap for the Western Balkans and discuss threats and opportunities to democracy in the Western Balkans during the 27th Forum 2000 Conference.
2) keep contributing to the fight against kleptocracy by analyzing its main trends and gathering experts from different countries and regions.
3) continue convening democracy activists, political leaders, artists, and academics with strong democratic values from all around the world to connect and find ways to face authoritarianism and strengthen democracy.



Freedom House commits to:
1) publishing a global assessment of over 210 countries and territories and the state of freedom in the world, including trends, key drivers and gains and losses in 2023.
2) providing ongoing emergency support to human rights defenders under threat and persecution for their efforts to advance democracy in their country and/or worldwide.
3) working with policymakers to move forward efforts to strengthen support for human rights defenders and hold authoritarians accountable for abuses.



Georgetown University's Democracy and Governance Program aims to educate future leaders in the field of democracy, human rights, and governance. We educate students and engage in programming about elections, governance, and human rights.

The Stories of Democracy project is an oral history collection of individuals' experiences in administering, assisting, or observing elections conducted in the late 1980's, 1990's, and early 2000's. It is being implemented in partnership with International IDEA.



The Global Forum for Media Development (GFMD) commits to:
Renewing Principles on Effective Support to Journalism and Media: The Global Forum for Media Development and the Center for International Media Assistance, will advance our engagement with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's Development Assistance Committee (OECD DAC) to strengthen and reinforce effective international support to the media sector through a process that updates and codifies guiding principles. GFMD and CIMA will work with representatives from bilateral donor agencies, implementing organizations, civil society representatives, policymakers, and media development experts to use such principles to inform a roadmap for collective action to benefit the media sector.



GFMD's International Media Policy and Advisory Centre (GFMD IMPACT) will scale up its learning and knowledge-sharing efforts serving the international journalism support and media development community. We will do this by; 1) Facilitating meetings of policy-makers, donors, practitioners and academia to enable knowledge sharing, experience exchange, learning and collaboration; 2) Commissioning research, publishing findings and curating the most relevant resources for the sector 3) Managing a "Help Desk" function, which uses GFMD's network of experts and curated resources to serve as a flexible, rapid response mechanism capable of responding to requests from donors and policymakers in a timely manner.



1) In 2023, **Global Integrity** will support at least 5 organizations in Central Africa to generate stories that translate the impact to citizens at the country-level of kleptocracy.
2) Global Integrity will support at least 6 research projects in 2023 to generate evidence that is actionable and problem-driven to help inform practitioner's anti-corruption efforts.



The Global Project Against Hate and Extremism commits to research and publish the effects of far-right extremism on democracy in four countries.



Humanity United will work in 2023 with USAID's Center for Conflict and Violence Prevention to support efforts to elevate perspectives and priorities of local peacebuilders. HU will design, organize, and execute consultations with local and USAID-supported peacebuilders to shape USAID and other donor programming approaches to localization and inclusive peacebuilding.

Humanity United, in partnership with members of the Funders Organized for Rights in the Global Economy (FORGE), will continue its work supporting the implementation of the U.S. Government's Multilateral Partnership for Organizing, Worker Empowerment, and Rights (M-POWER) initiative. Through various working groups, we will be providing issue expertise, network connections, and financial and non-financial resources.

Humanity United, in partnership with USAID's DRG Center, will co-create a braintrust in 2023 that will allow philanthropic and bilateral donors, INGOs, NGOs, movements and their allies to share, learn, and disseminate lessons that will strengthen ecosystems that support peaceful collective action globally.



International IDEA commits to continue to assess the state of democracy in 173 countries across the world through an updated version of its Global State of Democracy Indices (a quantitative democracy index that covers five core attributes of democracy and 28 indicators of democracy), its Global State of Democracy report, and its Global Democracy Tracker (a qualitative tool that tracks in-country democratic developments on a monthly basis), which in 2023 will be expanded to cover all 173 countries. These tools are aimed to contribute to a better understanding of key opportunities, challenges, advances, regressions, and risks to democracy worldwide, as evidence-based inputs for policymakers, donors, advocates, civil society organizations, multilateral and bilateral agencies, and academic institutions funding, advocating for or supporting democracy.



The International Youth Think Tank (IYTT) is a think tank in which youth take the lead for empowerment and democracy innovation. We energize democracy by talking to strangers in the streets through Open Chair Democracy Talks (OCDTs). It's a simple yet revolutionary tool for civic engagement. We choose a buzzy public place and offer passers-by free conversations about democracy. People share fascinating views and stories about their day-to-day struggles. OCDTs help us understand what people think about political engagement and the issues they face, and thousands of people get more empowered and conscious



of their rights and possibilities. We have conducted OCDTs in more than 25 cities worldwide and published all the views on our website www.iythinktank.com. The IYTT commits to give voice to multitudes of people in the world through OCDTs. We will run the biggest-ever OCDT campaign on April 28-May 1. Sign up here to run OCDTs you too! <https://forms.gle/kk1WvFP3uevHthb>

1) Cross cutting: IREX is committed to empowering youth in at least 20 countries to become more resilient to disinformation, through integrating information and media literacy into school and university instruction, enriching existing and creating new courses; by adding high quality extracurricular options; and through a combination of online and blended learning courses. We also commit to reaching over 15,000,000 individuals with digital content designed to improve critical information engagement behaviors by 2028.

2) Cross cutting: IREX is committed to enhancing local actors' capacity to better understand and measure how information is produced, spread, consumed through leveraging and localizing IREX's Vibrant Information Barometer (VIBE), an annual study currently conducted in 25 countries. VIBE measures the capacity of information systems to support individuals, civil societies, governments, and democratic norms. By better understanding the challenges and opportunities around information flow in each country, donors, policymakers, implementers, and partner countries can help contribute to resilient and sustainable information systems, as well as ensure that people have the skills and tools, they need to keep up with these rapidly changing information systems.

3) WG1: IREX is committed to supporting independent journalists in environments where they experience censure and oppression by increasing their physical safety, digital security, and psychosocial well-being. This will enable them to work resiliently and continue producing quality information.

4) WG2: IREX is committed to expanding its Vibrant Information Approach (VIA) to a further 30 countries by 2028, a systems approach that builds a vibrant, resilient information and media system that can weather political, regulatory, and social threats, and that empowers people to seek out and use high-quality information to take positive transformative action. IREX will continue to employ VIA to improve human capability to advance freedom of expression by increasing opportunities and improving the abilities of all forms of media, as well as non-media institutions and individuals to create, protect, or maintain vibrant information.

5) WG3: IREX is committed to advancing media sustainability through advanced analytics, equipping 50% of new media partners with the tools to facilitate data-driven decision-making in at least 25 countries by 2028.



1) The **International Republican Institute (IRI)** will promote open, secure and inclusive digital democracies by supporting three in-person convenings to foster regional discussions on advancing technology for democracy.

2) IRI will promote open, secure and inclusive digital democracies by funding at least three innovators to scale or sustain their digital democracy innovations.



Law and Public Policy Center commits to:

- 1) carry out awareness-raising activities to contribute to bringing the justice system closer to the public in Georgia.
- 2) assess the use of technologies and innovation in the Georgian judiciary to promote open and people-centered justice.
- 3) assess the impact of digital technologies on the rule of law and democracy to contribute to a better understanding of existing challenges and opportunities in Georgia.



1) **National Democratic Institute (NDI)** will develop effective communications narratives, publishing at least two stories per week that showcase the efforts of democracy reformists and defenders.

2) NDI will collect data for and publish a Women's Political Participation Risk Index covering more than 165 countries.



1) During 2023, **PartnersGlobal** pledges to convene 50 artists, organize 10 Arts4Resilience exhibits and 6 art activism webinars representing 20 countries to elevate the role and influence of the arts and creative expression in protecting human rights and advancing democratic values.

2) By the end of 2023, PartnersGlobal pledges to deploy its 30 expert international and local Resiliency Coaches to provide training and accompaniment to 70 local CSOs on building organizational resiliency and strengthening civic space in 14 countries across Africa, Asia, CEE and MENA.



Redlad will strengthen more 250 civil society organizations and will mobilize a network of more than 700 CSOs through dialogue, training, and exchange processes to facilitate their advocacy in scenarios of the civic space and fight against corruption. Redlad will lead these processes from an intersectional, interdialogical approach and joint work with population groups of special protection.

As Citizen Forum of Americas, we are committed to linking and maintaining our dialogue and exchange platform of more than 250 organizations from Latin American and the Caribbean. Interested in following up on the agreements signed by governments on issues of interest to us and of vital importance for society, we also commit ourselves to generate agendas and reports with concrete proposals for the improvement of these issues and the promotion of "Buen Vivir" in our territories.

The Population Groups of the Citizen Forum of Americas are committed to articulate more than 100 CSOs through dialogue and the consolidation of joint agendas to facilitate advocacy in core issues for indigenous groups, the LGBTQ+ population, afro - descendant population, and faith-based groups, among other historically excluded groups, regarding the defense of the democracy, the respect for human rights and the guarantee of human dignity. The population groups are committed to an intersectional approach in the outreach and articulation with other actors in civil society, the private sector, and the public sector.



Robert Bosch Stiftung commits to support the teaching of competencies for a democratic culture for employees of more than 90 companies and 20 vocational schools in Germany and Europe.



Students for Global Democracy
Uganda

Students for Global Democracy Uganda commits to raise a new generation of over 4,000 young leaders by the end of 2025, principally among the student community who will respect the values and principles of democracy and be at the forefront of its promotion and protection.



The International Foundation for Electoral Systems commits to:

- 1) enhance knowledge of electoral stakeholders on technology and accessibility by producing and socializing a series of guidance documents on disability-inclusive technology for political participation.
- 2) collect and provide timely, verified information on national elections to the public via the global ElectionGuide.org website.



The **UNCAC Coalition** commits to continue to engage with the Summit of Democracy, particularly focusing on promoting follow-up to Summit of Democracy anti-corruption commitments made by participating governments and making linkages to other fora, particularly the UN Convention against Corruption.



United Cities and Local Government (UCLG) is committed to foster democracy and citizen participation at the local level and promote action from local and regional governments, organizing and awarding them a prize for good practices in democratic innovations to encourage the identification of good practices and disseminate examples.



Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) commits to working to strengthen democracy through implementing impactful programmes and policy support; investing in policy-relevant research; and strengthening public commitment to, as well as mobilizing resources for, supporting democracy around the world.



Yiaga Africa commits to civically educate and mobilize 40 young Africans to promote participatory democracy and defend civic space in 2023.



**We thank the GDC partners
for their continued support
in our endeavors to
advance democracy.**

www.globaldemocracycoalition.org
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