

GDC FORUM & P4D

HIGHLIGHTS



GLOBAL DEMOCRACY COALITION FORUM

GLOBAL DEMOCRACY COALITION

REIMAGINING REGIONAL DEMOCRACY ASPIRATIONAL NARRATIVES FOR

MEMBERSHIP

- Thai Jungpanich**
Strategic Partnerships Director, Political Watch
- Professor Joohyung Kim**
Associate Professor of Political Science, Seoul National University
- Kate LaRoque**
Director for South & Central Asia, South & Central Asia Program, Freedom House

15.40-16.50 (KST) / 01.40 -02.50

IN PERSON LOCATION: THE WE

SEoul NATIONAL UNIVERSITY | Freedom House | WORLD LIBERTY CONGRESS

@GloDemCoalition
Global Democracy Coalition
www.globaldemocracycoalition.org

GDC Forum 2024

In the evolving landscape of global democracy advocacy, the Global Democracy Coalition (GDC) continues to be a space of collaboration and collective action. Convened by International IDEA and other democracy assistance organizations from around the world, the GDC has evolved since its inception in the fall of 2021. Initially formed to engage constructively with the Summit for Democracy, the Coalition quickly expanded to become a strategic multi-stakeholder alliance comprising over 120 democracy organizations committed to advancing and protecting democracy worldwide. This report provides highlights from the 2024 GDC Forum and Partners for Democracy Day, organized by the GDC. The Forum preceded the third Summit for Democracy, hosted by South Korea (18-20 March). Held as a week-long celebration of democracy from 11-15 March, the Global Democracy Coalition Forum 2024 facilitated a global dialogue on democracy by bringing together a diverse array of stakeholders not only from the GDC, but also policymakers, academics, activists and democracy advocates worldwide. Through explorations of diverse perspectives on democracy in regional dialogues, culminating in a global gathering, the Forum fostered meaningful exchanges, insights, and actionable strategies to advance democracy in all its forms. With three primary objectives, the Forum provided a fertile ground for dialogue. It assessed the current state of democracy, discussed different regional perspectives on the interlinkage between youth, tech and democracy, and finally delved into discussions on regional versus global democracy narratives. By addressing these, the GDC endeavored to fortify its advocacy efforts and bring democracy to the forefront of the global agenda. As the GDC continues to evolve and expand its influence, this year's Forum will stand as a testament to the power of regional and global collaboration and collective action in shaping the future of democracy worldwide.

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AMERICAS

The Americas GDC Forum, organized by GDC partner REDLAD, was held in Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic. It emphasized the importance of defending and affirming young people's democratic rights and the importance of involving youth in decision-making. Persisting challenges include shrinking civic space, youth disengagement due to social inequality, corruption, and the spread of disinformation. Recommendations included countering misinformation with fact-checking, using positive messaging while promoting syncretism in narratives, securing democratic spaces for addressing complex issues like migration and organized crime, further action to address gender based violence and to enhance women's political participation.

AFRICA

The Africa GDC Forum, held in Accra, Ghana, organized by YIAGA Africa and partners, discussed the relevance of current democratic systems and their resonance with today's youth, the impacts of technology including AI on democracy and other innovations. The Forum discussed how youth leverage social media for activism, despite challenged internet access in rural areas. Difficulties include low voter turnout and entrenched power dynamics, where power remains within certain families for generations, while opportunities lie in reshaping the democratic narrative and promoting public education. Panelists emphasized assessing democratic progress in the context of Africa's younger history and advocating for a more positive narrative.

GLOBAL

The Global GDC Forum discussed the various efforts to empower youth through technology and how it can be leveraged for increased political engagement. Strategies explored adapting successful approaches from one country to another, with emphasis on co-creation with youth as this fosters their involvement and enthusiasm. There was a call to shift from focusing solely on scenarios of societal collapse to providing positive alternatives for future democratic societies through societal consensus, to be achieved through dialogue among diverse actors from different ideological backgrounds and generations. The importance of fostering critical thinking to promote accountability in public administration, while also cultivating trust among citizens was thoroughly discussed.

EUROPE

The Europe GDC Forum, held in Barcelona, Spain, organized by GDC partner Political Watch, underscored youth's desire for greater political engagement and representation, and advocated for tailored approaches to address their concerns. While the Forum emphasized the benefits of technology for democracy, it argued that regulation is essential to mitigate potential threats. It recommended fostering democratic innovation

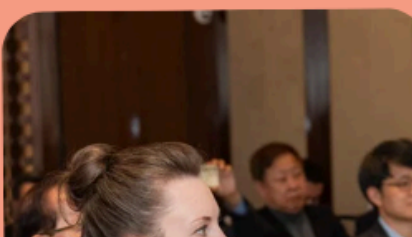
and multi-stakeholder collaboration and stressed the importance of turning mistrust into constructive political engagement, and fostering positive future scenarios through dialogue and coalition-building. The Forum underscored the need of cross-generational dialogue, as well as diverse coalitions to successfully defend democratic values.

ASIA

The Asia GDC Forum, convened by Alliance for Vietnam's Democracy in Seoul, South Korea, discussed the challenges and opportunities for democracy in Asia, the military's role in politics, limitations for opposition, and the influence of money. Despite this, participants emphasized the active political participation and support for democracy. They stressed the importance of adapting campaigns to local contexts and promoting civic engagement. Highlighting success stories, such as South Korea's simultaneous economic and democratic development, can inspire confidence in democratic ideals and drive progress. The Forum underscored the need to alter the democracy narrative in Asia by promoting civil society partnerships and emphasizing the benefits of citizen engagement.

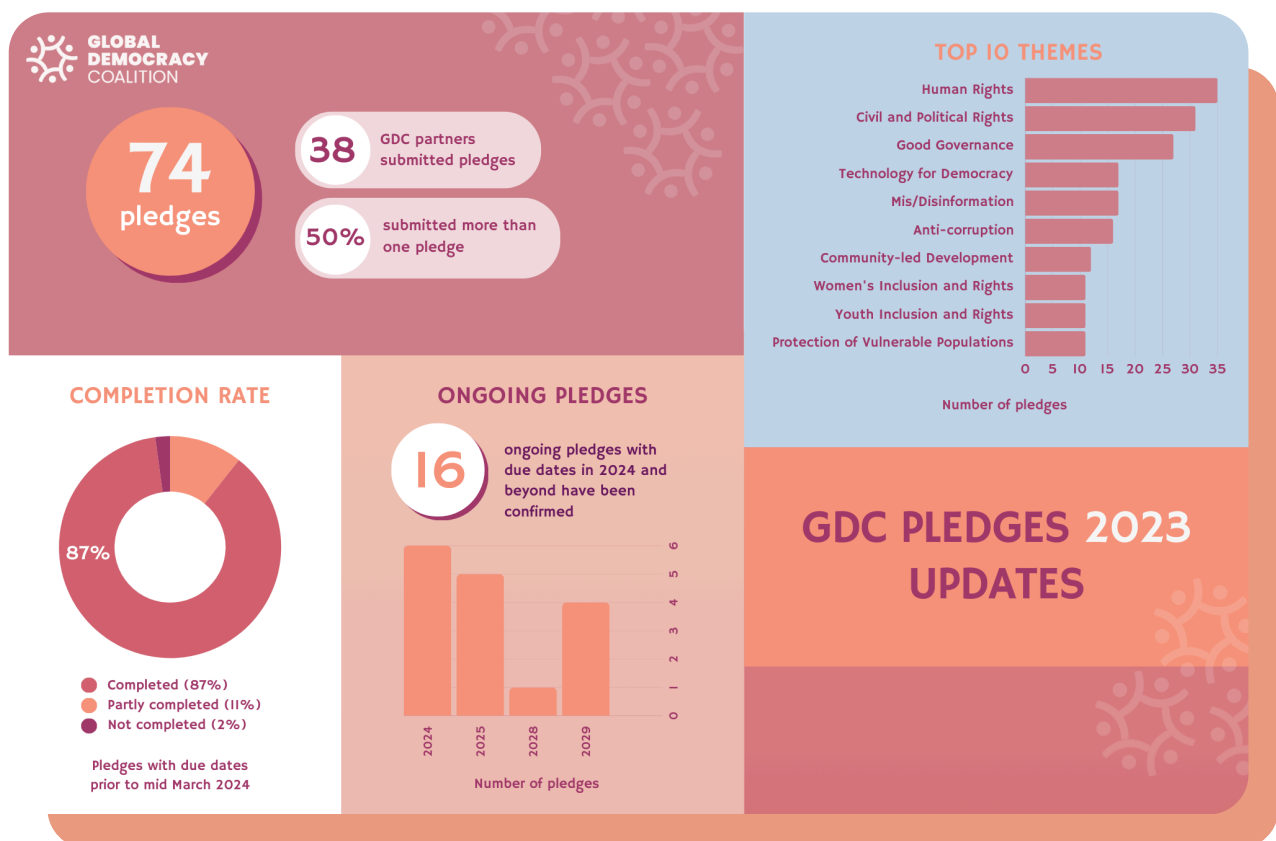


GDC Regional & Global Fora



GDC Pledges 2023 - Update

Democracy requires governments committed to making democracy work for their people and a vibrant civil society that can hold their governments to account. Therefore, partner organizations in the Global Democracy Coalition made their own pledges to advance, strengthen and protect democracy in 2023, ahead of the second Summit for Democracy, held on 29 and 30 March 2023. Ahead of the third Summit for Democracy in 2024, the GDC reported back on their pledges and made new commitments to advance democracy worldwide.



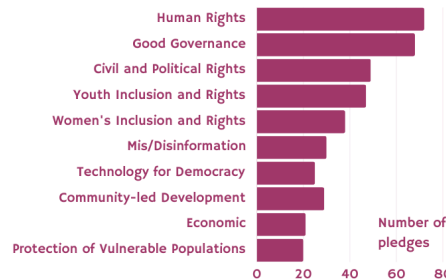
GDC Pledges - 2024

GDC PLEDGES 2024

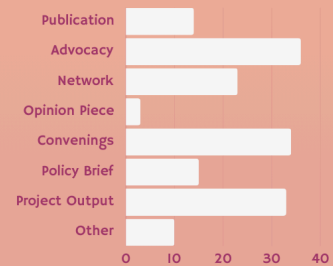
A robust civil society, adept at holding governments accountable, is essential for sustaining democracy. Therefore, organizations within the Global Democracy Coalition, a multi-stakeholder network of democracy organizations, have pledged to advance, strengthen, and safeguard democracy in anticipation of the upcoming third Summit for Democracy. The number of participating partners to the pledge initiative collectively bolster efforts to cultivate responsible, sustainable, and inclusive democracies. We remain dedicated 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.



TOP 10 THEMES



OUTPUTS



Thank you for your dedication!



Afrobarometer
Alliance for Finance Monitoring
Alliance for Vietnam's Democracy
Alliance of Democracies Foundation
Alma Cívica
American Russian-speaking Association for Civil & Human Rights
Asia Centre
Asia Civil Society Partnership for Sustainable Development
Association for Democratic Reforms
BBE
Budgt
Carnegie Europe
Citizen Voice and Actions
Citizens Convention on UK Democracy
Club de Madrid
Coalition for a World Security Community
Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats
Counterpart International
DanChurchAid
Demo Finland

Democracia Digital
Democracy International
DT institute
East Asia Institute
European Endowment for Democracy
Forum 2000
Freedom House
FUSADES
Global Forum for Media Development
Global Project Against Hate and Extremism
Grace Initiative Global
Humanity United
Integrity Initiatives International
International Foundation for Electoral Systems
International IDEA
International Youth Think Tank
IRI
IREX
KESEB
Kofi Annan Foundation
Kosovar Institute for Policy Research and Development

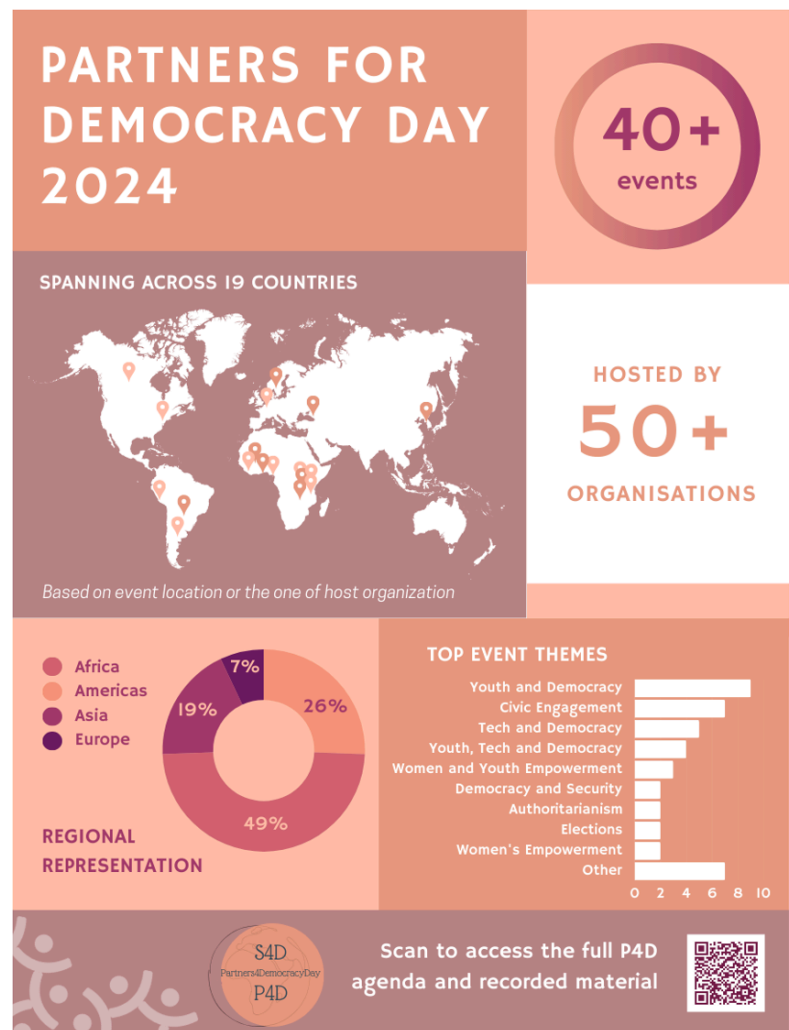
Law and Public Policy Center
LDI
NDI
Open Data Charter
PartnersGlobal
Political Watch
REDLAD
Restless Development
Robert Bosch Stiftung
Sine Qua Non
Students for Global Democracy
Uganda
The Carter Center
The Oslo Center
UNCAC Coalition
United Cities and Local Governments
WACSI
West Africa Network of Election Observers
Westminster Foundation for Democracy
World Learning

P4D 2024

Partners for Democracy Day (P4D), organized by the Global Democracy Coalition, on March 19 on the second day of the Summit for Democracy, provided a platform for civil society, international organizations, academic institutions, think tanks, and philanthropic organizations not present in Seoul to actively participate in Summit-related discussions. It provided a valuable platform to broaden the Summit for Democracy discussions, incorporating a diverse array of voices and themes to enrich the Summit dialogue and making it more inclusive. The GDC's

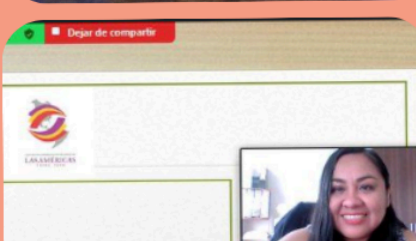
strong commitment to amplifying voices from the global majority world, was evident through the allocation of grant funding to support civil society activists to attend the Summit for Democracy in Seoul and to civil society events which took place in Georgia, Paraguay, Rwanda and South Korea, while fostering inclusivity and global engagement. P4D was strategically held during the second day of the third Summit for Democracy, which was dedicated to civil society and democracy cohorts, with the goal of complementing it. This

year, the focus was to involve youth and catalyzing meaningful action for democracy globally. P4D is an integral component of the GDC's mission to foster dialogue, collaboration, and advocacy on democracy-related issues. Building on its success, the GDC through P4D will continue to influence the Summit for Democracy process, by facilitating a multitude of discussions, workshops, and dialogues across the globe.





Partners for Democracy



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

March 2024



FORD
FOUNDATION



Robert Bosch
Stiftung



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This report was authored by Elisenda Ballesté Buxó, with inputs from Alexander Mayer, Annika Silva - Leander, Elina Ankler, and the organizations that hosted the regional fora. Redlad hosted the event for the Americas, Political Watch for Europe, Yiaga Africa for Africa, and the Alliance for Vietnam's Democracy for Asia.