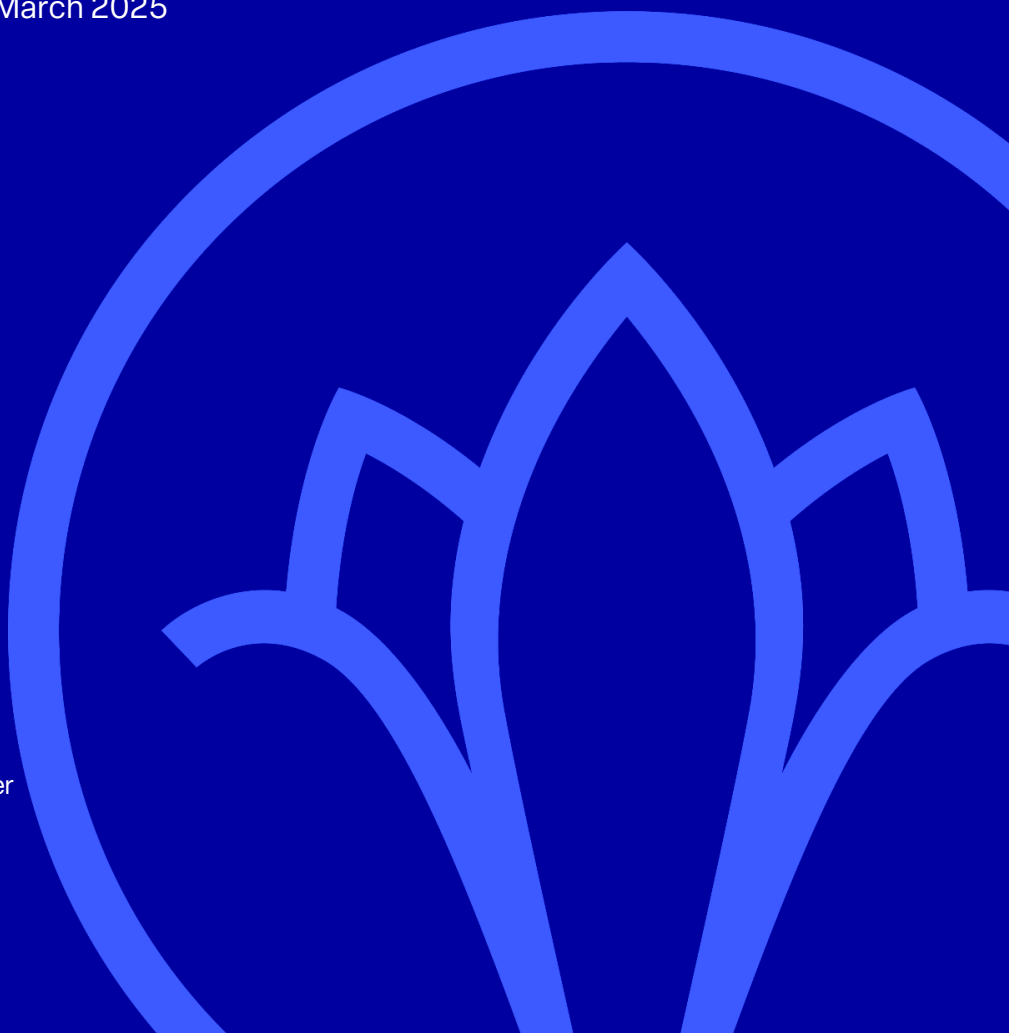
Wilton Park

Report:
Democratic Governance: shaping future international cooperation and partnerships

Wednesday 19 – Friday 21 March 2025



In association with
The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office: Westminster Foundation for Democracy

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& Development Office

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Following a February 2024 Wilton Park convening on international cooperation to support democracy, this dialogue again brought together a globally diverse mix of governments, civil society members and academics to review this subject in light of political developments over the past 12 months.

The participants recognised that, although democracy has survived significant challenges in the past 60 years, the current context feels like a potential turning point. Following 18 years of global decline, collective and urgent action is required to maintain shared democratic values.

Data shows that the majority of global citizens support democratic principles – they want to live freely[1]. But the picture is more nuanced. Democratic governance is integral to key policy challenges that countries and communities are facing, such as achieving inclusive and accountable economic growth, tackling climate change, and fostering security for citizens. At their best, democracies can deliver on these challenges, but when they do not deliver, an anti-democracy narrative can take hold.

The changing global landscape is creating new challenges for reversing the global decline in democratic governance. Traditional models and channels for supporting

[1] https://res.cloudinary.com/dfyeeawiq/images/v1718978697/1.-Earth-for-All-Survey-2024_1099988e96/1.-Earth-for-All-Survey-2024_1099988e96.pdf?_i=AA; https://www.afrobarometer.org/topics/democracy-freedom-citizen-engagement/

democracy are weakening at the same time as the effectiveness of democracy as a governance model is being questioned.

Broadly two approaches can be taken, or a combination of both – working with and reforming existing institutions and structures to make them fit for purpose, or developing new models tailored to current contextual needs and geopolitical dynamics. Whichever pathway is chosen, bold and creative solutions are needed to face contemporary poly-crisis. There is also some concern that a lot of time is spent talking about the threat to democracy. What is required now is for democracies to put aside their differences and come together, acting quickly.

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Summary

Following the unprecedented number of elections in 2024, the geopolitical context for reversing the downward global trend in democracy looks more difficult than ever. At this pivotal time in March 2025, this Wilton Park event in Nairobi explored opportunities for continuing international cooperation to revitalise democratic governance. This is essential to support global efforts to address policy challenges that matter to people.

Themes discussed were:

- Current context and trends of international cooperation around democracy
- Democracy as a pathway to economic growth, climate action and security
- Participation and power dynamics within international cooperation structures
- Options for international democracy cooperation going forward.

There is scope for relative celebration in that, despite fragmentation in recent decades, democracy has still survived. However, the context for international cooperation on democracy has shifted significantly in the past year, and challenges accelerated in 2025. 72% of people now live in autocracies[2] and the risk that "democracy will die in isolation" is growing. Deepening the commitment to democracy will depend on the ability of democratic governments to deliver tangible benefits for all, communicate this convincingly, and proactively adapt to evolving geopolitical dynamics – working together to address common challenges.

One starting point is the overwhelming evidence that democratic governance contributes to delivery across all current policy priorities including security, growth and the climate crisis. Those contributions range from complementing military deployments with actions to resolve conflicts peacefully, through stronger accountability and transparency in public financial management, to more sustainable societal commitments to climate mitigation and adaptation.

There is also scope for responding to unmet demand for direct public engagement in governance. Young people, particularly in the Global South, are mobilising through

[2] https://v-dem.net/documents/60/V-dem-dr__2025_lowres.pdf

digital platforms, yet they remain largely excluded from formal policy discussions. Significant barriers to women's political representation persist, including financial and structural. Simultaneously, globalisation – and now geopolitics – has limited national decision-making power, necessitating new thinking.

The landscape of international democracy support is rapidly evolving. Different cooperation models – bilateral, multilateral, and plurilateral[3] – offer varied opportunities for coordinating democracy support, with regional partnerships proving particularly effective. However, shifting geopolitical dynamics, including the reduced role of traditional democracy promoters, highlight the need for leadership from the Global South, where many promising democracy innovations are taking place. Combined with longstanding demands for global governance reform, this could play a key role in shaping a new global democracy architecture.

In this time of poly-crisis and an accelerating reversal of democracy, it is crucial that we take urgent action to address the threats from populism, nationalism, authoritarianism, and the spread of disinformation. Addressing these threats requires a more positive narrative on the importance of democracy and creating effective international coordination through new and existing forums. Options exist to take the next steps – those concerned about the future of democracy just need to action them.

Context for international democracy cooperation

The idea that "democracy dies in isolation" underscores the importance of strong international collaboration to address global challenges now. In varying degrees, democracy has been on the agenda of many international forums or processes including the United Nations (UN), the African Union, the European Union (EU), the Council of Europe, and the Organisation of American States. There have also been cornerstone events such as the Biden Administration's Summit for Democracy (S4D), and Indonesia's Bali Democracy Forum (BDF). But there has been a gradual lessening of strategic focus on democracy and a growing space for autocratic voices and action around the world. This Wilton Park dialogue specifically considered how democracies can coordinate better, and what the framework(s) for this could look like.

[3] Plurilateralism is a form of multilateralism that allows for flexible and voluntary cooperation among subsets of countries.

There was a widely supported view that a 'fourth wave' of democracy was needed, embracing all regions of the world and affecting local, regional and national levels of government. Achieving this requires:

- **Strengthening electoral integrity**: Democracy is dependent on free and fair elections. Measures such as regional coordination on electoral management, policies on electoral technology, and youth inclusion in elections can enhance electoral integrity. International cooperation has played an essential role in strengthening electoral processes, with organisations such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) providing training and monitoring support.

- **Identifying democratic champions**: Historically, figures in various capacities, including heads of state and civil society leaders, have played a vital role in championing democracy. It is therefore imperative to identify effective leaders at various levels – including those from the Global South acting at the global level – who can play key roles in advancing democratic governance. This should include influential local leaders, such as faith/religious leaders, who are often not considered enough as relevant conduits for this work. Leveraging groups such as The Elders[4] for democratic advocacy supports intergenerational dialogue and stability.

- **Engaging the private sector and other actors**: Despite scepticism regarding the democratic commitments of some business actors, the private sector can be involved in democratic processes to ensure economic and political stability. Notably, the private sector now provides a lot of government services. They are a significant grouping when looking at a whole society approach to strengthening democracy.

- **Youth participating in governance**: Young people also have a crucial role to play, although their engagement with traditional democratic structures, such as political parties and electoral processes, remains limited. Addressing their concerns about the impact of their participation is vital to fostering their involvement in democratic governance – they need a seat at the table and to

[4] https://theelders.org/who-we-are

feel that they will see positive change as a result. Strategies must be developed to encourage meaningful participation beyond conventional structures, including harnessing willingness to creatively use technology and grassroots organising to have their voices heard.

- **Tackling anti-democratic forces**: Although anti-democratic forces are not homogenous, they have coordinated their narratives and are learning tactics from each other to undermine democratic principles. Democratic actors should also share best practices and collectively support each other visibly on norms. Democracies have been on the backfoot, batting away criticisms, rather than proactively championing their tenets whilst still being open to criticism.

- **Pooling resources**: With resources increasingly scarce, democratic actors should reduce duplication and increase coordination to maximise the impact on democracy support goals. This includes sharing technical and technological capacity.

Democratic governance vital to policy issues

A range of policy priorities are now dominating the attention of political leaders. These include economic growth, security and the climate crisis, among others. It is therefore harder to secure time for them to focus on the decline in global democracy. This dialogue reviewed the evidence on the relevance of democratic governance to addressing those policy challenges, which all societies face.

Inclusive and sustainable economic growth

There is a clear link between democracy and sustained, long-term economic growth[5]. Overall, the rule of law, accountable regulatory frameworks, and stability are essential in fostering environments conducive to investment and economic expansion. As such, democratic governance can help drive economic growth by ensuring transparency, inclusion, and predictability, all of which contribute to business confidence.

[5] https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/22338659231194945; https://www.researchgate.net/publication/378368969_The_Relationship_between_Democracy_and_Economic_Growth_An_Empirical_Analysis

Although it is true that examples such as China and Singapore exist where non-democratic governments have overseen economic growth, these remain exceptions to the rule. Democracies perform better than autocracies on the longer-term and human development definitions of economic growth and welfare.

Economic evolution presents both opportunities and risks, particularly as growth in many Western economies stagnates and young people face increasing exclusion due to wages not keeping up with inflation, rising energy bills, and high housing costs especially in big cities. Wealth concentration is on the rise and correspondingly inequality is growing – within and between countries and regions. The feeling that 'the system' is not answering to people's concerns and aspirations contributes to the sentiment that democracy is not delivering and causes some to seek alternatives.

The expectation that developing and developed economies would converge has not materialised due to structural challenges, including deindustrialisation and autocratic economic practices. Currently, financial regulations and global financial architecture continue to limit access to capital, particularly in developing economies, creating further barriers to inclusive growth.

Future economic reforms must consider the evolving nature of energy demand. The rise of artificial intelligence and cryptocurrency technologies has markedly increased the need for energy, for example to power data centres. This increased demand necessitates policies to accelerate energy supply and reduce costs. This could in turn neutralise geopolitical tensions by reducing reliance on autocratic countries to provide energy to democratic countries.

Additionally, a broader understanding of economic growth is required, beyond gross domestic product (GDP) measures. Some noted the importance of not just focusing on growth, as inequality can be high within this, but also looking at indicators such as the Gini Coefficient[6], as well as qualitative data. Democracies should focus on the inclusive and sustainable elements of growth which they can deliver better than autocracies.

Some aspects of international financial regulation have limited access to financing in the developing world. It is more expensive to do business with countries deemed high

[6] https://ourworldindata.org/what-is-the-gini-coefficient

risk for financial crime. These structures contribute to economic growth not being experienced equally across the globe. Multilateral institutions like the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) continue to have a role in supporting democracy through economic policies and investment strategies that prioritise governance and accountability, although some note their need for internal reform.

Climate change and the environment

The global climate crisis is already here – often most urgently felt by Global South countries. Responses today will determine future outcomes. However, political prioritisation at national level and international cooperation on the issues has been inconsistent, with many commitments under the Paris Agreement yet to be fulfilled[7].

There are various ways in which efforts to tackle climate change are aligned with democratic governance principles. Democracy provides a framework for access to information, inclusive decision-making and legal justice. Autocracies may ostensibly perform better on climate action in some instances, as they can take executive decisions without consultation or opposition. However, crucially, if these decisions transpire to have negative implications, there is no method for redress as citizens cannot remove the autocratic regime from power.

The rule of law within democracies provides a better environment for climate action to take place. Democratic governance allows for fairer resource distribution within society, which is crucial for managing climate change. It is also necessary to have a long-term approach to climate action, which lends itself well to democracy.

Simultaneously, climate change disrupts democratic processes. In 2024 alone, 15 countries' elections were negatively impacted by extreme weather[8]. As such, climate action and democratic principles must go hand in hand – woven together rather than pitched against each other where political bandwidth is limited. Civil society organisations (CSOs), as well as community-led citizen assemblies, have played a significant role in advancing climate action, though their capacity is often constrained by funding limitations and political restrictions in various countries.

[7] https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement
[8] https://www.idea.int/news-media/multimedia-reports/impact-natural-hazards-elections

There also remain gaps in international cooperation on climate governance. Climate discussions often occur in silos, and events such as the Conference of Parties (COP) have been criticised for limited effectiveness. Only 13 countries submitted 2035 climate commitments under the Paris Agreement by the deadline this year[9]. As COP has non-democratic countries participating, this means it is not an effective space for democracy and climate action discussions.

Environmental democracy offers a way to integrate climate action with governance structures. The principles of transparency, participation, and accountability ensure that policies reflect the needs of communities while holding the public and private sector to account for their environmental harm.

Furthermore, strengthening democratic institutions can enhance climate adaptation and mitigation efforts, while investments in climate initiatives can, in turn, reinforce democratic governance. Greater engagement from parliaments and regional governance structures is also necessary to enhance democratic accountability in climate policymaking.

Regionally, Africa is taking bold steps to address climate challenges, with initiatives such as the AU Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy and Action Plan (2022-2032)[10]. Globally, the International Climate and Democracy Coalition (IDCD) is demonstrating how policy solutions for democracy and environmental concerns can be developed holistically. There is also hope in leadership from Global South countries on these interwoven issues, for example through South Africa currently holding the G20 presidency.

National and human-centred security

The rapid securitisation of society coupled with unprecedented technological change risked long-term autocratic trends without the commensurate increase in democratic governance and oversight. Calls for reform of global security frameworks, including access to capital and accountability mechanisms, highlight the evolving nature of security threats. In Africa, authoritarianism is resurging, with militarism increasingly celebrated – a concerning trend for democratic governance. The UN Security Council

[9] https://www.iied.org/only-13-countries-submitted-2035-climate-targets-time
[10] https://au.int/en/documents/20220628/african-union-climate-change-and-resilient-development-strategy-and-action-plan

is no longer fit for purpose due to the breakdown of the international rules-based order. Simultaneously, the underpinnings of democratic peace theory are being challenged, with some countries moving towards transactionalism on security and away from norms.

National sovereignty is also challenging the international system. At the regional level, three countries pulled out of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) as the organisation turns 50 years old[11]. In East Africa, Somalia and the Democratic Republic of Congo were keen to join the East African Community (EAC) not due to democratic governance principles, but largely for security reasons[12].

Despite this, democracies are inherently better equipped to manage security challenges due to institutional and legal frameworks that promote accountability and conflict resolution, including participatory governance structures and dialogue mechanisms. In contrast, autocratic regimes concentrate power and limit recourse, increasing the risk of instability. Autocracies may be able to suppress conflict internally, but they do not resolve it. Anti-democratic forces are well organised around making people believe they are insecure, yet it is within democracies that people have greater physical security, being able to move and speak freely. Democracy proponents need to reclaim and redefine the security term, highlighting the personal security it provides, for example, in healthcare, as well as how international order protects from external threats.

To address security threats, greater international cooperation is needed, particularly in countering malign actors and disinformation campaigns. Existing security infrastructures, such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), play a role in regional security coordination. Financial institutions like the Financial Action Task Force contribute to global efforts against money laundering and terrorist financing, while regional initiatives like the AU Convention on Cyber Security and Personal Data Protection address cyber threats.

People-centred approaches to security strengthen resilience by fostering trust between governments and communities. Inclusive security strategies, such as

[11] https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-68122947
[12] https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-67522844

community policing and engagement with religious leaders, have demonstrated effectiveness in countering radicalisation and strengthening social cohesion. In the long term, democracies must ensure that security policies uphold rights and freedoms while maintaining state stability.

The rule of law, inclusivity, and participatory governance are essential in fostering long-term security and resilience. Moving forward, it is imperative to ensure that the rule of law prevails over rule by law, and strengthen multilateral cooperation through knowledge exchange and joint initiatives.

Participation and power dynamics

Who participates in the design and functioning of international cooperation mechanisms is fundamental to gaining trust of global citizens and therefore to their success. As the expression goes, if you're not at the table then you're on the menu. Key trends in this area include:

- The demand for **direct public voice in governance** is increasing. Historically diplomacy has happened behind closed doors with little accountability. Now, there is pressing need for inclusive participation in international democracy discussions for legitimacy of policy decisions.

- Globalisation has **diminished power of individual governments** over decisions that shape their residents' futures, due to the interconnected nature of critical decisions at international level. As such, the current model of international cooperation is outdated and must be democratised, including being more transparent on its goals. This would in turn help to build trust in national institutions.

- A **'big tent' approach** to cooperation on democracy could enable long-term engagement, without preventing a **'coalition of the willing'** from leading international cooperation efforts. There is a lack of clarity within the current international system on what is meant by supporting democratic principles – the UN espouses this[13], however, many of its member countries are not democracies. The democratic spectrum is broad; the diversity within it can be

[13] https://www.un.org/en/global-issues/democracy

recognised, whilst focusing on embracing the commonalities of shared democratic governance values. An alliance of democracies would need to be transparent about its goals and who it would support on the scale of democracy, for example whether those that require convincing of democracy's benefits should be supported within this model.

Multistakeholder approach and direct voice

Identifying champions beyond government (especially as they can lose office), for example within civil society and the private sector, is important for advocating democratic principles. Executive branches need to become comfortable with the messy tension of having citizens engaged in the work of governance. Notably, civil society is not the same as citizens – it does not represent everyone in a society, therefore additional methods should be sought, such as citizen assemblies, which engage broader groups and individuals from communities. While universal inclusion on international cooperation is impractical, structured follow-ups and engagement mechanisms, including strengthening existing convenings, can ensure broad representation.

Youth inclusion

Youth are either not interested in or actively excluded from formal political discussions and decision making, yet they want to engage. Young people are increasingly mobilising for change, as seen in Kenya's 2024 protests against tax policies[14]. Digital platforms such as X and TikTok have proven to be powerful tools for mobilisation. Political party affiliation among young people is declining, signalling a shift in how political engagement takes place. Channels must be created which motivate young people to actively participate in politics. Suggestions for addressing youth exclusion include increasing funding for youth organisations and leveraging digital campaigns and other relevant mechanisms to drive youth engagement in governance.

Women in politics

Although women's political participation has increased globally, women are still grossly underrepresented. Men continue to outnumber women in executive and legislative

[14] https://www.theyouthcafe.com/tools-and-publications/kenya-youth-quake-an-examination-of-thenbspgeneration-z-led-protests-in-kenya

positions by a ratio of three to one[15]. Women's representation in parliaments has risen to 27%, but the number of women leading ministries has decreased[16]. In addition, violence against women in politics, especially online, is devastatingly high[17]. As a transnational issue, an international cooperation response is required, for example forming a global cyber security alliance to help women feel safer to enter politics.

Political elites continue to protect their positions, making it difficult for young people, women, and other marginalised groups to access political spaces. The financial barriers to election participation remain a significant obstacle. Moreover, it is not enough for women to be at the table, but they must be imbued with appropriate powers, for example overseeing well-regarded political and diplomatic portfolios. Any international democracy cooperation models must be democratic themselves to have legitimacy, meaning youth and women's participation must be baked in.

Global South leadership and ownership

This meeting purposefully convened in Kenya, recognising that the architects of international structures to date have largely been from the West, whilst the Global South must be at the heart of future plans. Notably, these countries have not spearheaded international democracy efforts to date, with the exception of Indonesia's BDF in the Asia-Pacific region. This is a model, but additional platforms are needed.

There is some debate about the extent to which citizens in the Global South view democracy as an inherently Western concept. Some see the West as trying to export a certain form of democratic governance to the Global South. Others feel that there is strong support for democracy principles in the Global South, but governments are not necessarily delivering what communities want. The perceived underperformance of democracy has contributed to scepticism about its viability. Media narratives questioning the applicability of Western democratic models in non-Western contexts have gained traction. This is why it is more important than ever that Global South

[15] https://www.unwomen.org/en/news-stories/press-release/2025/03/political-leadership-roles-in-2025-men-continue-to-dominate
[16] https://www.ipu.org/resources/publications/reports/2025-03/women-in-parliament-1995-2025
[17] https://www.unwomen.org/en/articles/facts-and-figures/facts-and-figures-ending-violence-against-women; https://idrc-crdi.ca/en/what-we-do/projects-we-support/project/supporting-safer-internet-global-survey-gender-based

representatives are at the table to defend and promote definitions of democracy which resonate with their citizens.

The case for the relationship between democracy and development is not being made convincingly enough for many people in Global South countries. Some suggested the need to separate democracy support, development assistance, and peacebuilding efforts, as different countries and actors are required in these different fora. Some also noted the contrast of the "sticks and carrots" approach of some Western donors with China's ostensibly more solidarity-based approach. Improving this requires a new consensus on democracy's meaning and effectiveness in different contexts, including honestly articulating the challenges. The localisation of democratic ideas can ensure its relevance and resonance. Overall, on the international stage, it seems that Global South countries are most interested in being part of a platform(s) where lessons and experiences can be shared between partners on an equal footing.

Towards new forms of international cooperation

At this pivotal moment, current political dynamics present a critical window for strengthening international democracy cooperation. In the face of geopolitical, security and economic challenges, the focus of many traditional donors and democracy supporters in their own national interests has created a leadership vacuum. Recently, the Presidents of Brazil, South Africa and Spain have reaffirmed that multilateralism can and must work[18]. A partnership led by the Global South could offer a new model for international democracy cooperation.

Bilateral, multilateral, plurilateral and local

There are many types of international cooperation. Bilateral efforts excel at targeted collaboration and reciprocal learning partnerships on key themes within democratic governance. Multilateral coordination facilitates collective ambition, such as the UN Convention against Corruption, which the United Kingdom championed with the Open Government Partnership (OGP)[19]. Many OGP countries then signed the statement and committed to it through the OGP mechanism. Plurilateral coordination allows for a subset of countries to work on specific action without need for universal consensus –

[18] https://g20.org/news/multilateralism-can-and-must-deliver/
[19] https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/joint-statement-on-transparency-and-the-inclusion-of-civil-society-in-the-implementation-review-mechanism

using connection to make measurable progress on policy implementation. Domestic cooperation is also key – translating international ideals and commitments into concrete change at national and local levels. Overall, plurilateralism is best deployed strategically alongside domestic reform (as well as targeted bilateral support) for maximum impact, contextualising democratic solutions.

International work on democracy is fragmented. It is currently not creating outputs greater than the sum of its parts but, with better coordination, it could. The UN was not explicitly created to promote democracy, but rather to prevent wars. However, as its membership is made up of every recognised country, it is an important conduit to preserve elements of democracy. At regional level, coordination across peer organisations on thematic areas, such as between election management bodies or judiciaries, can help bolster democratic governance and insulate from domestic anti-democratic pressures. In this way, democracy could be injected into the work of existing multilateral organisations if they can be encouraged to support this agenda, and/or into new structures, to drive change in their area of expertise.

Financing democracy support

With levels of Official Development Assistance (ODA) falling sharply, many donors are reassessing their priorities for continued foreign assistance. Advocates for democracy support need to hone the case for funding that works, showing how it supports key policy priorities and contributes to ambitions for global governance reform. If they can do that, then there is a strong case for ensuring long-term funding, which could take a number of forms, including developing a Global Democracy Fund or other multilateral instruments.

Recommendations and strategic actions

Action is required immediately, even if the exact form of this does not take shape until the process has begun. As the Persian poet, Rumi, said: As you start to walk the way, the way appears. Recommendations from the meeting include:

1. At such a critical juncture for the future of democracy, **a bold, positive and passionate narrative** for democracy must be constructed and disseminated which unites people and leaders. To be successful, this needs to connect people to democratic principles in a practical and an emotional way – it cannot be dull or procedural, as has been a critique. This innovative vision should

articulate the benefits to be reaped from democracy, not just why authoritarianism is bad.

2. **Combine existing meetings on democracy** – or at least strengthen coordination between them – to improve visibility and impact, and instrumentalise political will whilst overcoming collective bandwidth challenges. The international democracy events calendar is densely packed, however due to funding cuts, it is likely not all will continue beyond the next year.

3. These combined meetings could **facilitate a coalition of willing democracies to collectively counter anti-democratic actors**, both state and non-state. This may require suitable international democracy organisations to approach interested Global South countries to lead the initiative. This group, or perhaps treaty-based organisation, would need political will and leadership from a core group of countries. High-level (Heads of State) meetings at regular intervals – annually or biennially – often in the Global South, would provide a structured, permanent platform for dialogue and decision, to set the tone internationally of commitment to democracy.

4. Develop **one focal event at global level**, a Festival of Democracy, with a celebratory tone as politicians are more likely to engage in positivity.

5. Establish **international and/or regional networks on democratic themes**, where Global North and Global South actors can share their experiences equally, for example a Special Rapporteur for Electoral Integrity[20], Summit for Judicial Independence, Global Cyber Security Alliance. These initiatives would leverage technology and enhance multilateral cooperation on key democratic governance themes, such as climate action, security, economic inclusion, and electoral integrity.

6. **Strengthen existing structures, such as the UN**, and multilateral agencies, to promote democratic principles internationally. This could include pushing existing efforts to reform the UN Security Council.

[20] https://www.idea.int/gsod/2024/chapters/policy-recommendations/

7. Take a **multistakeholder – and where possible direct participation – approach**, including encouraging private sector involvement in supporting democratic values and practices. Ensure a broad range of actors and citizens can participate in addressing democratic governance issues.

8. **Increase participation of underrepresented groups**, including young people (below 30 years old) and women, in international democratic discussions and decision-making. Create mechanisms for inter-generational partnerships.

9. Democratic governments to **pool resources**, including from interested Global South countries and in-kind resources (experience sharing). Investment rounds could be leveraged for Global South countries to contribute to pooled funds on a more equal footing with Global North countries.

10. **Continue this discussion**, for example through the Giessbach Democracy Retreat, hosted by Switzerland's Ambassador for Peace and Human Rights. This small group discusses international democracy support and preventing democratic backsliding[21].

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[21] https://x.com/SwissPeaceHR/status/1790042967090065500

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