

Madrid International Forum on Democracy

The Future of Democracy

Madrid (Spain)
8 – 11 November 2018

Hotel Villa Real Madrid
Plaza de las Cortes, 10, 28014 Madrid
Tel: +34 914 20 37 67

THURSDAY, 8 NOVEMBER 2018

Arrival of participants

19.30 h Reception and welcome drinks (Hotel, Salón Príncipe)

20.00 h [Welcome remarks and introduction: The Future of Democracy](#)

Wilhelm Hofmeister

Director, Konrad Adenauer Foundation, Country Office for Spain and Portugal

20.20 h [Opening address: "The role of parliamentarians in challenging times for democracy"](#)

Sim Tze Tzin, *Member of Parliament, Parliament of Malaysia*

21.00 h Welcome dinner (Hotel, Salón Neptuno)

FRIDAY, 9 NOVEMBER 2018

09.00 h Session 1: Perspectives for democratic development

- How does democracy evolve lately in some specific countries?
- Can we observe progress with democracy or "democratic recession"?
- Which alternatives of non-democratic movements and tendencies can be observed?

Chair

Prasert Patanaponpaiboon, Ph.D., Director, Institute of Democratization Studies (IDS), Bangkok, Thailand

Presentation: Findings of the Global State of Democracy Index regarding democratic progress and decline worldwide

Annika Silva-Leander, Head of Democracy Assessment and Political Analysis (DAPA), International IDEA, Stockholm, Sweden

Discussants

María Lourdes Landivar Tufiño, Senator & Vice-chairwoman of the International Young Democrat Union (IYDU), Bolivia

Manuel Ngarinombe, Secretary General, Popular Democratic Movement (PDM), Windhoek, Namibia

Rudina Hajdari, Member of Parliament, Democratic Party, Parliament of Albania

Chean Chung Lee, Member of Parliament, People's Justice Party (PKR), Parliament of Malaysia

Debate

11.00 h Coffee break

11.30 h Session 2: The specter of populism – how to fight it?

- Experiences with populism – why does it appear and what does it mean for traditional political parties?
- Which strategies and measures should be applied to beat the specter of populism?

Chair

Monika Panayotova, Deputy Minister for the Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the EU 2018 and Minister Delegate for the Relations with the European Parliament, Sofia, Bulgaria, former Member of Parliament

Discussants

José Manuel Olivares, Member of Parliament, Democratic Unity Roundtable, Caracas, National Assembly of Venezuela

Astik Sinha, *Head of Policy, Office of the Chairperson of the Parliamentary Information and Technology Committee, New Delhi, India*

Carlos Valenzuela, *Member of Parliament, National Action Party (PAN), Parliament of Mexico*

Muhammad Pradana Indraputra, *Secretary General, Partai Hanura, Jakarta, Indonesia*

Evaristo da Luz, *Secretary General, Broad Convergence for the Salvation of Angola–Electoral Coalition (CASA-CE), Luanda, Angola*

Adriaan Kühn, *Professor for International Relations, Francisco de Vitoria University, Madrid, Spain*

Debate

13.30 h Lunch (Hotel, Salón Asturias)

15.00 h Session 3: Promoting democracy - What means democracy today?

- Is there a universal understanding of basic features of democracy and can democracy be realized everywhere? Are there unique regional features of democracy?
- What should international agents (like the European Union or the Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation) do to improve democracy promotion? Do there exist new approaches you would consider to be most urgent and effective?

Chair

Franziska Fislage, *Desk Officer for International Party Dialogue, Department for European and International Cooperation, Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation, Berlin, Germany*

Key note: Challenges for democracy support today - Perspectives from a European actor

Jerzy Pomianowski, *Executive Director, European Endowment for Democracy (EED), Brussels, Belgium*

Discussants

Sana Salhi Aloui, *Member of Parliament, Tunisia*

Jean Paul Briere Samayoa, *Member of Parliament, member of "Frente Parlamentario por la Transparencia y la Democracia", Parliament of Guatemala*

Myo Zaw Aung, *Member of Parliament, House of Representatives, National League for Democracy (NLD), Myanmar*

Inês Domingos, *Member of Parliament, Social Democratic Party (PSD), Parliament of Portugal*

Debate

17.00 h Coffee break

17.30h Session 4: The digital future of democracy

- What do the new forms of communication and digital politics mean for democracy?
- What long-term consequences are to be expected from the digital change for democratic parties, the legislative bodies and the political culture?
- What actions should be undertaken to guarantee that the digital revolution fosters democratic development?

Chair

Yee Ling Chua, *Special Function Officer to Minister of Housing & Local Government, Government of Malaysia*

Key note:

Marko Skoric, *Associate Professor at the Department of Media and Communication, City University of Hong Kong*

Discussants

Astik Sinha, *Head of Policy, Office of the Chairperson of the Parliamentary Information and Technology Committee, New Delhi, India*

Mkhuleko Hlengwa, *Member of Parliament, Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP), People's Assembly, South Africa*

Francisco Javier Quintana, *Vice-President, City Government of Buenos Aires, Argentina*

Gilbert Félix Violeta López, *Member of Parliament, Congress of the Republic of Peru & Party Leader of Peruvians for Change Party, Peru*

Jorge Miguel Teixeira, *Vice-President of CDS-PP youth wing, Lisbon, Portugal*

Debate

19.00 h End of session

20.30 h Dinner (walk to the restaurant, meeting point: Hotel lobby)
Restaurante Marina Ventura, Calle Ventura de la Vega 13

SATURDAY, 10 NOVEMBER

10.00 h Session 5: Parliaments and governments – checks or submission?

- Does the system of checks and balances between parliaments and governments still work? Is the division of power still a viable concept?
- Does the role of parliaments need to be improved vis-à-vis the executive branch and if so, what should be done to strengthen their competencies?

Chair

Apasipanga John Anamganya, *TESCON Vice-President (Tertiary Education Students Confederacy of the New Patriotic Party), University of Ghana, Accra*

Key note:

Mario Voigt, *Member of the State Parliament of Thuringia and vice-president of the CDU in the state of Thuringia, Erfurt, Germany*

Discussants

John Mnyika, *Member of Parliament, CHADEMA, National Assembly of Tanzania*

Raúl Soto, *Member of Parliament, Christian Democratic Party, Chamber of Deputies of Chile*

Elvina Sousa Carvalho, *Member of the Parliamentary Standing Committee for Foreign Affairs, Security and Defense, Democratic Party, National Parliament of East Timor*

Oleksandr Novak, *Project Manager, Petro Poroshenko Bloc-Solidarnist Party, Kiev, Ukraine*

Debate

11.30 h Coffee break

12.00 h **Session 6: Learning from failures of the past - Keep on improving democracy's accomplishments**

- How and why do politicians fail and which impact has the failing of the perspectives of democracy? How can failures be avoided?
- Which new attitudes and institutional reforms are necessary in order to preserve and strengthen democratic systems?

Chair

Karen Michel González Márquez, *Member of Parliament, Partido Acción Nacional, Mexico*

Discussants

Nomingerel Khuyag, *Board member of the Democratic Youth Union, Democratic Party, Mongolia*

Stella Maris Huczak, *Member of Parliament, Propuesta Republicana, Parliament of Argentina*

Federico V. Potočnik, *International Secretary & Member of the National Executive Board, NSi-KD, Slovenia*

Nevenka Stamenkovska, *Member of Parliament, VMRO-DPMNE Party, Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia*

Reyes Fernández Hurlé, *Secretary-General of PP youth wing Nuevas Generaciones, Spain*

Debate

13.30 h Lunch (Hotel, Salón Asturias)

15.00 h Summary

18.30 h City Tour, Meeting Point: Hotel lobby

20.30 h Dinner, Taberna Antonio Sánchez, Calle del Mesón de Paredes 13

SUNDAY, 11 NOVEMBER 2018

Departure of participants

They argue that democracy is being replaced by a "post-democracy" of spectacles and that states now respond more to the views of financiers, expressed in periodic auctions of government bonds, than they do to voters in regularly scheduled elections. The main way that the right differ from the left is in their blame of immigrants and minority groups. A gloomy future or a ray of hope? Masses lash out in ways that can potentially harm elites. Thus, the London financiers supported racist Conservative politicians and funded the jingoist and dishonest Murdoch media outlets, and now with Brexit they could find their privileged access to the Continent severed and their ability to act as the financial haven (and money launderer) for the world undermined. For democracy to thrive, citizens must be able to freely express their views and choose political leaders free of malign interference, foreign or... Democracy in the EU faces challenges from rising extremism, election interference, the spread of manipulative information and threats against journalists. Citizens should be able to make electoral choices in a public space where different views can be expressed freely. Free media, academia and civil society should be able to play their role in stimulating open debate, free from malign interference, either foreign or domestic. Page Contents.

What is the European Democracy Action plan? Protecting free and fair elections. Media freedom and pluralism. The Future of Democracy. A special series from The New Yorker. Our democracy is in crisis. Many institutions of our government are dysfunctional and getting worse. Our electoral system has produced, in a single generation, two Presidents who received fewer votes than their opponents. A changed media landscape has "with the shrewd assistance of malicious actors at home and abroad" loosened our collective grasp on reality. The New Yorker, enlisting a wide range of writers, will be exploring the past, present, and future of American democracy: tallying our problems, reckoning with their implications, and inspecting proposed solutions. If the Trump era has proved anything, it is that American democracy, which has never been without profound flaws, cannot be taken for granted.