



NINTH GLOBAL ASSEMBLY

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Dakar, Senegal

“Building Strategic Partnerships for Democratic Renewal”



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The Ninth Assembly took place at a critical time for global civil society – a time when the future of democracy is uncertain and democrats find themselves on the defensive against escalating attacks by authoritarian regimes. More than 400 participants gathered in Dakar, Senegal, and brought stories of sophisticated disinformation campaigns, closing internet spaces, and increasingly dangerous working conditions. Ayo Obe, human rights lawyer from Nigeria, rallied the group by acknowledging the obstacles, but challenged the audience that “the time to take a stand was always the day before yesterday – so the time to take a stand is today.”

First and foremost, we must defend access to digital spaces and communication channels and protect them against disinformation and cyber-attacks. Participants cited the use of artificial intelligence by authoritarian governments to weaponize social media and corrupt trust in the news media. How do we break through the disinformation that is flooding our airways and digital spaces? Daniel Milo, senior research fellow at the GLOBSEC Policy Institute, spoke on educating audiences with nontraditional methods saying, “With the level of global distrust towards media and NGOs hitting record numbers, you must look for unorthodox communicators. Youtubers, online celebrities, pop stars, actors. Whatever works for you in your context and target group.”

Beyond individual spokespersons, we must outreach to the business sector and religious leaders. With some major corporations’ profits exceeding many countries’ GDPs, they have tremendous resources to support our efforts and make an economic case for the importance of democratic institutions. Religious leaders are one of the most trusted community leaders and can help us counter the narrative that democratic and traditional values are incompatible. Ketevan Chachava, executive director of the Center for Development and Democracy, shared that the Georgian Orthodox Church enjoys 80% support among society while civil society comes in far behind. “We cannot afford to leave this majority out of [our] discussion . . .or not be sure how this majority understands these values where [the Church’s] word in one day, just like that, can change everything.”

At the Assembly, the World Movement explored ways to deepen working relationships between civil society and political society. Today, the public is increasingly losing its faith in democratic institutions. Many feel that those institutions do not represent their interests. To restore people’s faltering faith in the representative institutions, civil society leaders must engage with political society and sometimes consider becoming part of political society by running for public offices. Anita Vandenbeld argued in the Assembly discussion that “having people in positions of power that truly reflect the population - the diversity and the different life experiences of the populous - is one way to combat” the gap between citizens and the institutions.

Finally, we continue to honor those who have shown extraordinary bravery in their fight for human rights and democratic principles. The Democracy Courage Tributes presentation at the Assembly honored individuals from the Philippines, South Africa, and China, who have faced imprisonment and violence, but persevered in their work. In her acceptance speech, Jin Bianling, the wife of political prisoner Jiang Tianyoung of China, reminded us of the importance of international solidarity in her acceptance speech, saying “The Democracy Courage Tributes tell us we are not alone. The world is paying attention [to us] . . .The government has failed to erase us from history.”

The Ninth Assembly is over, but we will take our connections, ideas, and inspiration with us, and use the Assembly’s discussion as the foundation for future meetings and engagement. We hope this report will serve as a useful resource for everyone who works toward democratic renewal.

OPENING REMARKS

The Ninth Global Assembly convened at a crucial time for many democratic movements that are finding themselves on the defensive against increasingly sophisticated attacks by authoritarian governments. Speakers at the Opening Session of the Ninth Global Assembly took stock of these challenges, but also highlighted the immense advances made by democrats over the last few years and underscored the resilience and innovation displayed by Assembly participants around the world.

In welcoming participants to the Ninth Global Assembly, [Zainab Bangura](#), Chairperson of the Steering Committee of the World Movement for Democracy, highlighted the inspiring history of Senegal in transforming its dark past into a promising future. “While many consider democracy to be in retreat today, Senegal is an emerging democracy that is providing democratic leadership on the African continent. During the Assembly, we hope you will have opportunities to interact with our Senegalese colleagues, and to learn from Senegal’s experience in motivating citizens to become engaged in the political arena, keeping those in power



accountable, maintaining public space for debate, and engaging with religious leaders in fighting extremism,” Bangura stated.

Representing the government of Senegal, [Penda Mbow](#), a special assistant to the President of Senegal, discussed further the role of civil society in engaging in democratic movements and processes within the continent to strengthen democratic institutions. In particular, she noted the inspiring story of keynote speaker [Isatou Touray](#), now the Minister of Trade, Regional Integration, and Employment of The Gambia, who played a pivotal role in fighting for the rights of women in her country. Although Touray was targeted by the Gambia’s former leader Yahya Jammeh, she continued to fight for the rights of women and later became the first female presidential candidate in the country’s history.

Touray emphasized the importance of building cross-sector relationships to resist authoritarianism. She shared the case of her country in liberating themselves from the oppressive regime of the Yahya Jammeh after 22 years. Only by building a coalition between opposition politicians and members of civil society were democrats in The Gambia able to defeat Jammeh in the 2016 elections. She highlighted the impor-

“Experience has taught me that democracy is a journey, not a destination...[and] that you cannot take democratic progress for granted.” - Karen Bass

OPENING REMARKS, CONT.



tance of embracing “crossover”—the idea that members of civil society should pursue roles within political society to encourage a better working relationship between the two sectors and to help strengthen government institutions from within—an action she took by running for president and later by accepting the role of Minister.

Touray also highlighted the universality of democracy and its values, reinforcing the need to engage new voices in democratic dialogues and strengthening democratic unity. “If we look at democracy, every nation can identify elements that cut across boundaries and territories, gender, class, ethnicity or religion--it is a universal standard that involves everyone. Thus it is characterized as being of the people, for the people and by the people. The tenets of democracy call for independence of the judiciary, respect for the rule of law, and freedom of expression, with a common goal of promoting democratic rules and strengthening democratic norms and institutions around the world.”



At a time in which many democrats feel a sense of cynicism towards parliamentarians and governments, [Karen Bass](#), a member of the US House of Representatives, reminded participants that democratic institutions need their presence. Reforming government institutions from within is a necessary step that members of civil society can take to dismantle corruption and bring the voices of the people to the government: “As you heard, I am a US Member of Congress, but like you, I have struggled to make my own country more equal, more democratic, and more representative. I have been an activist. I also started and worked in the NGO world, and now I try to achieve that goal as a Member of Congress.”

To those who may be inclined towards despondence in the face of what seem like impossible circumstances, Bass closed the opening session by reminding participants, “experience has taught me that democracy is a journey, not a destination...[and] that you cannot take democratic progress for granted.”

OPENING CONVERSATION: STATE OF DEMOCRACY

Following the opening remarks, civil society leaders and regional experts unpacked the successes of and challenges facing democracy movements in different regions. “We have a massive task ahead of us. We have to deal with bipolarization, weakened institutions...and not enough transparency and accountability in democratic countries,” said [Larry Diamond](#), senior fellow with the Stanford University Center for Democracy, Development, and Rule of Law. [Tanya Hamada](#), a former government official in the Philippines, echoed a similar sentiment regarding the election of autocratic President Rodrigo Duterte. “The voters didn’t go to the polls to elect a dictator...they expressed their feeling of exclusion in Filipino democracy.”

“The time to take a stand was always the day before yesterday - but the time to take a stand remains today.” - Ayo Obe



Other panelists focused on the lack of opportunity to participate in free elections and create political space for new leadership. [Vladimir Kara-Murza](#), the coordinator of Open Russia, stated “since Putin came to power we have not had democratic elections, just a ritual that resembles an election... the so-called popularity of Putin inside Russia has never been tested.” In a similar vein, [E. Gyimah-Boadi](#), executive director of the Ghana Center for Democratic Development, reinforced this statement noting that while defining and enforcing term limits remains a contentious issue throughout Africa, eight in ten citizens in 28 countries support the enforcement of limits on presidential tenure, although politicians in power refuse to acquiesce to this popular desire.

While each speaker discussed the challenges to democracy today, they also underscored the necessity of remaining positive and continuing to work to change political and civic landscapes to be inclusive of all citizens. In closing, [Ayo Obe](#), a well-known human rights lawyer in Nigeria, remarked that “the time to take a stand was always the day before yesterday - but the time to take a stand remains today.”



Democracy Courage Tribute Speeches at the John B. Hurford Memorial Dinner

The Democracy Courage Tributes are a highlight of each Global Assembly and are presented at the John B. Hurford Memorial Dinner. The Tributes give special recognition to movements around the world working on behalf of democracy and human rights under particularly difficult circumstances and often outside the spotlight of global attention. This year, the World Movements honored Night-watchers-Photojournalists in the Philippines, Human Rights Lawyers in China, and Advocates for the Rule of Law in Africa.



Opening Remarks by Foreign Minister Sidiki Kaba

Senegalese Foreign Minister Sidiki Kaba provided opening remarks for the presentation of the [Democracy Courage Tributes](#) by highlighting the importance of civil society in creating democratic societies. “It should be noted that since independence, if democracy succeeded [in Senegal], it is because there has always been a thriving civil society,” he remarked. This is evidenced by the fact that Senegal has never experienced a coup d’état, unlike many other governments in Africa, noted Kaba.

As a lawyer and human rights advocate who frequently represented activists in his work, Kaba emphasized the importance of organizations like the World Movement for Democracy in connecting democrats and providing a support network through which activists can share experiences and lessons learned. In closing, he provided participants with three pieces of advice to take with them after the Assembly: never trivialize the misfortune of others, always be ready to mobilize for a common cause, and always demand accountability and justice for those who are vulnerable.

This inspiring welcome set the tone for an evening to honor democrats working at their own personal risk to ensure societies are more inclusive and representative for all.



Nightwatchers: Photojournalists in the Philippines

Ezra Acayan and Raffy Lerma, two Manila-based photojournalists who have dedicated their careers to documenting extrajudicial killings in President Duterte’s war on drugs, accepted the award on behalf of Nightwatchers. “For us, it’s not about politics. We believe in human rights, in the humanity of every person regardless of class or background. We attempt balance and seek accountability. We are biased for facts, and we hope to honor the tradition of a free and fearless press,” said Lerma.

“We receive death threats daily. However, we are committed to exposing the effect of the war on drugs on the poorest and most vulnerable people of the Philippines.” - Raffy Lerma

In the face of threats from the president, police, and government supporters, the Nightwatchers operate at great risk to themselves and their families. “Some of us quit our full-time jobs to take this on. We receive death threats daily. However, we are committed to exposing the effect of the war on drugs on the poorest and most vulnerable people of the Philippines,” remarked Acayan.



Human Rights Lawyers in China

In memory of Li Baiguang, an inspiring human rights lawyer from China who dedicated his career to defending religious minorities, and many other Chinese human rights lawyers today, the second Courage Tribute was awarded to Human Rights Lawyers in China.

The award was accepted remotely by Jin Bianling, the wife of political prisoner Jiang Tianyong, who defended religious minorities, people with HIV/AIDS, and other vulnerable groups. Bianling was forced to seek political asylum in the United States due to state harassment her family has faced and has not seen her husband in three years. Since the massive crackdown on human rights groups in 2015, human rights lawyers have increasingly faced harassment, imprisonment, and physical harm by the government.

Bianling struck a defiant tone in her acceptance speech, saying: “The government wants us to feel isolated and alone. They want us to step back and give up our pursuit of the rule of law, human rights, and freedom. The Democracy Courage Tribute and others tell us we are not alone. The world is paying attention [to us] and honoring us. The government has failed to erase us from history and we will continue to appeal for our loved ones.”



Advocates for the Rule of Law in Africa

Thulisile “Thuli” Madonsela, the former Public Protector of South Africa (2009-2016), accepted the final Tribute on behalf of democrats committed to holding government leaders accountable in Africa. In her acceptance speech, she highlighted the importance of building strong institutions for defending the tenets of democracy.

“Democracy cannot work for all in the absence of the rule of law. President Mandela...said the following: ‘Even the most benevolent of governments have among them people with propensities for human failings. The rule of law as we understand it consists in the set of conventions and arrangements that ensure it’s not left to the whims of individuals to decide what’s good for the populous.’”

“The government wants us to feel isolated and alone. They want us to step back and give up our pursuit of the rule of law, human rights, and freedom. The Democracy Courage Tribute and others tell us we are not alone.” - Jin Bianling

The John B. Hurford Memorial Dinner was sponsored by the Hurford Foundation whose Trustees, Robert Miller and Jayne Kurtzman, welcomed all the Assembly participants and recognized their extraordinary efforts. The dinner was named for the late John Boyce Hurford (1938-2000), an internationalist and philanthropist who played an important role in helping to conceptualize and bring into being the World Movement for Democracy.



ROLE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS: GUARDIANS OF DEMOCRACY?

In recent years, many civil society activists and other citizens have started to view the relationship between society and its government representatives as an unbridgeable gap. In this session, speakers—many of whom began their careers as activists and became parliamentarians—discussed how parliamentarians should work to combat this sense of cynicism. The distrust stems from the stigma surrounding elected office, as only the elite or the corrupt are able to achieve those positions of power in many countries. Speakers noted in agreement the incredible importance of ensuring that citizens are truly reflected and represented within their institutions.

Promoting institutions that provide opportunities for all would reduce the gap citizens see between themselves and their representatives and remedy the “us versus them” mentality that is prevalent in many countries, they noted. “In Canada,” remarked [Anita Vandenbeld](#), Member of Parliament in Canada, “the Minister of Infrastructure, who’s responsible for deciding on billions of dollars for transportation infrastructure, began his life as a bus driver. Having people in positions of power that truly reflect the population—the diversity and the different life experiences of the populous—is one way to combat this cynicism.”

To renew this relationship between the people and their parliaments, Vandenbeld remarked that, “if more activists begin going back and forth

between activism and politics, they’ll have an understanding that it’s wearing two different hats, but fighting for the same cause.” [Svitlana Zalishchuk](#), Member of Parliament in Ukraine, underscored the importance of entering Parliament to fight for those without a voice. “Parliamentarians have great power. Even one voice in the parliament with courage and stamina can make a difference...for the LGBTQ community’s voice...for women’s voices...it can make a difference.”

To reinforce this point, [Ana Gomes](#), Member of European Parliament representing Portugal, discussed her own drive to serve in parliament after being a lifelong activist: “You can’t have democracy without political parties and you can’t have true democracy without [activists] joining those political parties and fighting for the things we think are right...I’m [in parliament] to talk about things people don’t want to talk about and to uncover things people don’t want uncovered...And I hope, indeed, that when I leave the parliament, I will once again rejoin civil society. I will put all I have known and my network at the service of civil society to continue with this fight.”

Throughout the conversation, speakers reinforced that by encouraging and participating in civil society and government crossover, members of civil society can help to remove the stigma around parliament and work to create real change from within the government for their countries.

STRENGTHENING A COALITION FOR DEMOCRATIC RENEWAL

To counter global decline of democracy, the [Coalition for Democratic Renewal \(CDR\)](#)—launched in Prague in October 2017—seeks to strengthen coordination amongst democrats and incubate new approaches to promoting democratic values. During the workshop, the working groups that make up the CDR reported on their initial efforts and identified key areas in need of innovation including, communications outreach, civic education, and strategic partnerships.

The Youth Working Group stressed the need to integrate and revitalize civic education with "rituals that will celebrate democracy and attract the attention of youth." To the same end, the China Working Group discussed its efforts to create a new educational narrative on China's economic and political models. By uncovering the flaws in China's governing system they can decrease its influence in the world and discredit claims that it's a better alternative to democracy. The Media Working Group highlighted the success of the information campaign that followed the signing of the "Prague Appeal," the core mission statement of the coalition, and posited that using new media and simple audio-visual messaging will be key to expanding their reach to the critical youth audience.

A common thread throughout the discussion was the need to utilize existing outreach platforms by building partnerships with media, youth networks, and religious leaders. As was discussed frequently throughout the Assembly, today's challenges to democracy require innovative responses. Workshop participants agreed that democrats should challenge themselves by reaching out to nontraditional communicators—such as celebrities, religious leaders, and other social influencers—that have a heightened impact on members of society who may be skeptical of democracy and its traditional proponents. Despite the obstacles facing democracy, the workshop ended on a hopeful note with panelists encouraging the participants to use the current challenges as inspiration to find innovative ways to engage other citizens and to build more inclusive democratic movements and institutions. To continue the discussion, members of the CDR will meet again at the [22nd Forum 2000 Conference](#) in Prague on October 7-9, 2018.



Transitioning from a People's Movement to Democratic Consolidation

Peoples' movements have often triggered democratic transitions, shepherding governance reform, and bolstering democratic consolidation. However, the varying degrees of success of different movements illustrates that long-term change is much harder to achieve. Throughout the workshop, participants highlighted examples of protests that failed to keep up the momentum they generated and discussed how civil society can learn from these mistakes.

These examples, from South Korea's 24-week-long "Candlelight Revolution" that ousted a corrupt president, to Senegal's Y'en a Marre movement that encouraged voter registration to unseat the long-sitting president in 2012, show that citizens are often mollified with the replacement of a leader. Unfortunately, actual change does not come without systematic institutional reforms. Participants emphasized that the removal of one authoritarian leader may bring temporary satisfaction, but it does not necessarily produce long-term results if democrats do not initiate attempts at institutional reform.

Workshop participants recognized that these movements serve as critical entry points for CSOs to engage everyday citizens. To take advantage of this opportunity, CSOs must build out a strategy for reforming democratic institutions and maintaining civic engagement. With this in mind, workshop participants also emphasized the necessity for civil society to tackle corruption and reform government institutions from within by running for parliamentary and other political positions. With continued public engagement, and the ascension of civil society members to political roles, these movements could create long-lasting change. In September 2018, the Korea Foundation and the World Movement will convene participants once again to discuss further how movements in Asia can better reform institutions and engage the public.



Integrating Democratic Values with Traditional Culture and National Identity

Authoritarian governments frequently claim that traditional and democratic values are incompatible in order to sow distrust between civil society and citizens. To counteract this fabricated conflict of values, civil society actors must develop counter narratives that demonstrate how democratic norms support, rather than contradict, a community's traditional values and identities. Panelists observed that traditionalists are often left out of discussions among members of civil society—with their beliefs labeled as archaic and incongruent with democratic ideals. Members of civil society must bridge this gap by attempting to initiate this dialogue with, and break the stigma that has been created around, traditionalists.

In the case of Georgia, noted [Ketevan Chachava](#), executive director of the Center for Development and Democracy, “only 4% of people in society said that they fully trust NGOs...but the Orthodox Church approval rating has been 80-85%.” With this clear discrepancy in mind, Chachava emphasized that working with religious leaders to build mutual understandings is instrumental if democrats want to spread their message to all of society. “When it comes to building strategic partnerships for



democratic renewal, we need to become more open ourselves...Now we have seen religious leaders like bishops [and] the Vicar of Patriarch making these statements, promoting tolerance and promoting the freedom of choice, saying that [these values are] given to us by God and no one can take it away from us.”

In Jordan, [Oraib Al-Rantawi](#), the director of Al Quds Center for Political Studies, had a similar experience. “We decided to launch a regional program under the title ‘Coalition for Civic and Democratic Islamic Discourse.’ We reached a conclusion that without the Islamic movement being adept in more democratic and civic values, democracy will not work...And now, in the Islamic movement, we have serious debates about civic and democratic values. We have four Islamist parties...willing to join forces with democrats, and they have more open-minded approaches and discourse. It just so happens that most of their leaders used to be frequent participants in our program.” By taking initiative to create a dialogue between leaders in civil society and religious leaders, panelists agreed, democrats will be able to expand their audience and bring other community stakeholders to the table.

Shadowed by Anti-Money Laundering and Countering Terrorism: How Can Civil Society Push Back Restrictions?



Increasingly, governments are imposing funding restrictions on non-profit organizations under the guise of countering terrorism and money laundering. Although many governments use these laws as excuses to suppress dissenting voices, these provisions stem to some extent from global requirements crafted by the [Financial Action Task Force \(FATF\)](#), an international policy-making body established by the G-7 in 1989 to combat money laundering. The organization issues financial regulations and enforces compliance with public warnings to countries failing to meet these requirements, affecting governments’ financial reputation and access to markets.

In its original guidelines, the FATF indicated that non-profits are susceptible to money laundering and terrorist funding. This language accounted for the increased scrutiny and financial regulation of CSOs, explained workshop panelists. Following coordinated action taken by the Non-Profit Organization Committee of the FATF, the FATF revised this language to recommend a more nuanced approach to assessing non-profit funding. The revised guidelines recommended that countries should undertake a non-profit risk assessment, should review its laws to mitigate these risks, and should consult with non-profit organizations to educate them about potential terrorist financing risks. However, compliance with these recommendations is inconsistent and sometimes results in onerous restrictions on civic space.

In order to improve regulations for non-profit organizations, participants identified opportunities in which non-profits can influence the conversation surrounding international regulations on [Anti-Money Laundering and Combating Terrorism \(AML/CFT\)](#). First, participants agreed it is necessary to make a coordinated effort to educate all non-profits about the regulations and how they can be changed. The more voices that express discontent with funding restrictions stemming from the FATF, the more successful these efforts will be. Under Recommendation #8 of the FATF guidelines, governments are required to reach out to non-profit organizations for risk-based assessments, which is a good opportunity for non-profits to initiate a dialogue. Additionally, when countries are up for evaluation, non-profits have the chance to make their case at the international level. However, noted speakers, these efforts take months of planning, so non-profit leaders must work together to create coordinated and effective messaging.



SHAPING AN AGENDA FOR PROTECTING FREEDOM OF PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

The mandate of the [United Nations Special Rapporteur for freedom of assembly and association \(FOAA\)](#) serves as a critical connection point between civil society and the United Nations (UN). The newly appointed UNSR, Clément Voule of Togo, held a workshop to solicit strategic input from civil society voices on how best to serve the human rights community. The discussion identified three critical areas for improving civil society space—creating additional opportunities for country visits, streamlining the petitions to the UNSR, and strengthening communication channels between civil society and the UN.

One of the most effective tools the UNSR has access to is country visits where he can meet with government and civil society representatives. Participants agreed that lobbying for a UNSR visit was one of the best advocacy strategies for attracting global and national exposure. However, the UNSR's limited time and financial resources are often overwhelmed with hundreds of requests for visits. It would therefore be helpful if civil society could coordinate their requests among themselves to ensure that his visits serve broader regional and strategic goals. Although representatives of civil society have high expectations for the mandate, participants acknowledged that they need to also take initiative and be more proactive to help the UNSR improve the state of FOAA around the world.

Civil society can further help by providing the UNSR with broader updates on the state of civic space in their respective countries and by providing him with contact information for key people and organizations. Additionally, after the country visit, civil society has the ability to monitor reform processes—something that is difficult for the UNSR to do alone. Ultimately, participants agreed that while the mandate's role is to bring the people closer to the UN, it is civil society's advocacy and support for the mandate that will allow the new UNSR to make a difference. To aid in strengthening the mandate, the [Civic Space Initiative](#)—an initiative by Article 19, CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation, the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law, and the World Movement for Democracy—will continue to facilitate consultations between the UNSR and civil society, as it has in the past.

RECLAIMING THE INTERNET FOR DEMOCRACY



A panel of digital media and journalism experts discussed how activists can take back the Internet as a forum for democratic engagement, rather than allowing the space to be overtaken by censorship and disinformation. The speakers emphasized that in the context of online security, things will get worse before they get better. However, they also provided a sense of hope as they discussed global initiatives “to take back the Internet.”

“Human rights are not an afterthought when it comes to cyber security—they should be the foundation.” - Ron Deibert

Throughout the discussion, panelists underscored that access to an open Internet should be taken more seriously by the international community. [Ron Deibert](#), director of CitizenLab, stressed that “human rights are not an afterthought when it comes to cyber security—they should be the foundation of cyber security.” In an age that has been completely transformed by digital communications, the ability to access an uncensored Internet

should be considered a basic human right. The international community must take a more active role in demanding access to the Internet for all, rather than choosing to ignore situations where countries restrict accessibility of online spaces.

The discussion also focused upon the challenge of countering disinformation and the seeming impossibility of halting the spread of fake news—especially for those who aren't tech experts. “If you don't know what to believe, then the person with the loudest megaphone wins,” remarked [Maria Ressa](#), CEO of Rappler, a Filipino news site. Although panelists agreed that engagement of social media platforms by cyber activists and governments is necessary to stop the flow of false information, typical members of civil society still have a role to play. “You can't discount people learning. Once they know that are being manipulated, you can take strides forward.” Providing media literacy trainings and information campaigns are steps that all members of civil society can take to help fight the war against disinformation.



DEFENDING THE INTEGRITY OF THE INFORMATION SPACE

Healthy democracies require an informed citizenry. In recent years, however, targeted disinformation campaigns directed by hostile domestic and foreign actors have increased sharply and are damaging even the most established democracies. The Beacon Project, carried out by the International Republican Institute (IRI), counters these campaigns by identifying and exposing false narratives; pinpointing gaps in democratic governance that are exploited through disinformation; and helping spur a coordinated response. In this workshop, speakers outlined how lessons from the Beacon Project can help political actors in democracies respond to disinformation campaigns and how those actors can best collaborate with civil society in doing so.

“Democracy creates great expectations and must deliver great results.”

One workshop participant explained that, although disinformation campaigns are becoming increasingly complex, it is still possible to expose false narratives by using traditional legal methods. The participant detailed how they used legal pathways to access emails between the government of South Africa and a public relations company in order to expose a government-funded disinformation campaign. Those emails revealed that the public relations firm had created 13 fake non-governmental organizations and over 80,000 fake Facebook and Twitter profiles to spread government propaganda.

Other speakers emphasized that democrats, especially democrats in the “West,” must set an example so that the ideals of democracy cannot be as easily exploited in disinformation campaigns. “Democracy creates great expectations and must deliver results,” noted one participant. To help democracy deliver, civil society organizations must take the lead in informing the public through civic education and outreach programs. To this effect, participants agreed that coordinated international efforts to enact Right to Information and Freedom of Information laws are crucial for transparency and holding governments accountable.



NEW VOICES AND NEW ENERGY FOR DEMOCRATIC RENEWAL

With the rise of authoritarianism around the world, many democrats have expressed fear that youth are not committed to fighting for the principles of democracy. This panel of young leaders attempted to answer one question: are youth truly apathetic, and if so, what can be done to change these attitudes? Of course, began panelists, the circumstances of youth participation will differ greatly by region, and even by country. However, “youth—and I think this is something that goes beyond borders—feel that politics, democracy, and decision making is completely alien to them, and that it is something reserved for older, more powerful, and more wealthy people,” remarked [Jatzel Roman](#), general coordinator for the Latin American Youth Network for Democracy.

In Latin America, youth have displayed not just a lack of interest in democracy, but almost a sense of contempt for it in polls taken over the last few years, he noted. Given the failure of many ‘democratic’ governments—in truth, governments run by authoritarian leaders who control both elections and parliaments—it is understandable why people have

begun to lose faith in democracy. Combatting this sense of apathy, he stated, is of the utmost importance: “As Ronald Reagan once said, ‘freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction.’” If democrats want to create sustainable democratic change within their countries, there must be a greater focus on bolstering youth engagement in civic and political spaces.

To combat youth apathy towards democracy, electoral and campaign reforms would help to make an important difference, panelists agreed. Parliaments and government institutions play a significant role in functioning democracies—however, substantial barriers to participation for youth discourage them from engaging with political bodies. In both Iraq and Nigeria, noted [Kadhim Mohsin](#) of the Nissan Center for Democratic Awareness and [Rinsola Abiola](#) of the Nigerian All Progressive Congress, even if youth have an interest in politics, the financial costs of running for office make political engagement difficult for all but the wealthiest. Additionally, age limits in parliamentary institutions ensure that youth are excluded from the decision-making process.

In Nigeria, emphasized Abiola, she has seen the incredible power youth hold if given the chance to engage meaningfully with their representative institutions. In 2015, a youth-led campaign helped to defeat an incumbent in presidential elections for the first time in Nigeria’s history. Showing youth that they can have an impact within political institutions reinvigorated their interest in democratic processes. Since that election, youth have become far more active in political society, evidenced in the popularity of the #NotTooYoungToRun campaign—a successful initiative to reduce the age limit for running for elected office in Nigeria. If there are equal opportunities for youth to run for office, it will help to renew their interest in democratic processes, panelists agreed.



Expanding Space for the Next Generation: Strengthening Political Participation Mechanisms



In a rapidly-evolving world, young people have developed and adopted mechanisms for engaging in political processes that challenge the frequent recourse to old-fashioned, top-down frameworks, which benefit only a few. It's perceived that youth are not fully committed to fighting for democracy and its ideals. Workshop participants discussed the ways young people are engaging in politics and reinforced the need for youth-based initiatives and movements.

One participant noted that in Sri Lanka, a country plagued by conflict for over 30 years, youth struggled to identify their role in a society fractured by ethnic and political division. In order to combat this polarization, members of civil society created “friendship clubs” where young people had the opportunity to discuss social and political issues in a constructive environment. To engage youth further in democratic processes it



is instrumental to encourage the growth of youth networks and provide civic education, participants agreed. However, these programs require funding, and members of civil society should begin presenting the issue of youth engagement as a long-term investment in encouraging stable societies to donors, others noted.

Throughout the conversation, participants also argued that perhaps youth are not “doing democracy wrong,” and that they are just doing democracy differently. In an age where globalization and new technologies have revolutionized how people interact with each other and with democratic institutions, youth are finding new avenues to engage. “Democracy is a set of values and principles. The structures may change, but the principles are the same. There are different ways of influencing the spaces, and it's okay for youth to try and fail with alternatives,” noted one participant.

Exploring the Voice of Business in Strengthening Democratic Governance



The growing threat to democracy around the world requires a concerted response from different sectors of society to identify areas of collaboration and address issues surrounding governance and security. Although often unacknowledged in democratic discussions, the private sector plays an important role in shaping sustainable economic and democratic development. The workshop discussion focused on one central question: how can collaboration between the private sector and civil society be encouraged to address cross-cutting challenges facing countries?

By far, the largest barrier to cooperation between business and civil society has been mistrust between the two sectors, speakers began. However, several recent civil society initiatives and the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights have made significant steps towards helping these sectors understand the value in one another. In Africa, remarked one participant, rapidly-changing mindsets have evidenced themselves in agreements like the [Ouagadougou Declaration](#), the outcome of an event organized by the World Movement for Democracy, Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE), and US Chamber of Commerce where 400 members representing 10 different countries came together to identify areas of collaboration between sectors for strengthening democratic governance.

Another participant highlighted the importance of enforcing international and regional norms, noting: “Communities are more empowered because they know their rights; the business sector is more aware of the international framework related to rights that govern their actions; and the public sector knows more about these issues and is deciding in favor of protecting rights.” Now that businesses are aware of legal limitations, they are less likely to be at odds with the work of civil society. In fact, civil society can play an important role in encouraging discussions between vulnerable communities and businesses. With heightened mutual understanding, business, civil society, and government will have the opportunity to work together to build a stable environment for steady and long-term business growth, as well as a prosperous and free society. To strengthen these cross-sector partnerships, the World Movement's [Promoting Inclusive Governance](#) program will continue to engage the three sectors by convening national dialogues in Kenya and Nigeria in late 2018.

Breaking Barriers: Empowering Young Women's Political Leadership



From Ghana, to Pakistan, to Argentina, social media movements in the last year have mobilized women to combat sexual harassment, speak out about violence against women, and run for political office in historic numbers. Despite the incredible momentum, systematic barriers, often reinforced by religious, educational, and cultural institutions, still limit the participation and potential of many young women in political processes. In this workshop, participants leveraged intergenerational experiences to help frame a global response to boost participation of women in political and civic spaces.

In order to change regressive stereotypes about women in many societies, one speaker suggested engaging media to increase the representation of academic women on TV and in the news. Unlike the inner-workings of the government, TV reaches almost every household in Haiti, she remarked. However, women represented on TV are not consulted on serious matters or considered to be experts. Proponents of gender equality need to work with media outlets to convey the reality that women are equals and to set an example for the rest of the populous, participants agreed.

Another participant stated that one way to ensure women have a seat at the table is to promote quota requirements in legislative bodies. While many agreed that quota systems are generally beneficial, they also emphasized that quotas do not have a direct impact on the cultural practices that inhibit women's participation in the first place. On one matter, almost all participants agreed: the most important way of providing young women access to political spaces is by fostering intergenerational mentorship. Women who have achieved success or positions of authority should initiate mentorship with aspiring young leaders to prepare them for the challenges that lie ahead. To encourage the involvement of young women in mentorship and community engagement in Africa, the Youngstars Foundation of Nigeria hosted a [“Female and More”](#) symposium on August 31-September 1, 2018 in Lagos, Nigeria.



Innovative Partnerships

In an era where the public is increasingly losing trust in democracy, artistic expression and innovative communication are important tools for reaching audiences with little interest in democratic processes. Throughout the Assembly, participants highlighted strategies to engage new actors in understanding the values of democracy.





Activism + Art = Artivism for Deepening Democratic Culture

Artistic expression is an important tool for reaching audiences with little interest in democratic processes. Through “artivism,” artists can highlight sentiments of democracy and address the repression of individuality and free-thinking that authoritarians impose. Through art, activists are better able to convey sentiments and emotions that words often cannot. Recognizing the transformative potential of art as a form of protest, speakers showcased the importance of civil society providing these opportunities for local communities.

During the second half of the workshop, participants collaborated on a piece of art that represented global solidarity for democracy. The artwork comprising of three panels, which reads from left to right, begins with images of cocoons and individual hands raised in resistance. As the painting continues, the hands join together, representing global solidarity. As this happens, the cocoons bloom into butterflies. The painting, a fitting product of a gathering such as the Ninth Global Assembly where participants are able to build solidarity and enact change together, are now displayed at Dakar City’s Communal Building allowing participants to have left a positive mark on the city for years to come.

Lightning Talk: Defending Digital Information Space



“With the level of global distrust towards media and NGOs hitting record numbers, you must look for unorthodox communicators—Youtubers, online celebrities, pop stars, actors—whatever works for you in your context, and target group.”
- Daniel Milo

In a lightning talk on “Defending Digital Information Space,” [Daniel Milo](#), Senior Research Fellow at the GLOBSEC Policy Institute, discussed how GLOBSEC managed to reach youth in Slovakia with messages about disinformation by utilizing the capabilities of two popular [YouTube stars](#), rather than traditional methods.

The two young Internet celebrities were asked to begin spreading false information about each other in an on-line “war.” Their respective supporters quickly joined in without thinking to fact-check any of the information or consider alternative narratives. In the end, the two YouTubers released a video together announcing that their feud was fake and urging their viewers to always fact-check their information and be wary of disinformation on social media.

“With the level of global distrust towards media and NGOs hitting record numbers, you must look for unorthodox communicators—Youtubers, online celebrities, pop stars, actors—whatever works for you in your context, and target group,” noted Milo.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS: RACHID GHANNOUCHI



Rachid Ghannouchi is cofounder and president of the Ennahdha party in Tunisia. A leading political theorist on Islam, pluralism, and democracy, he spent twenty-two years in exile before returning to Tunisia in 2011 to take part in the country's historic democratic elections. His speech was published by the Journal of Democracy, which may be found [here](#).

Dear Participants in the World Movement for Democracy Ninth Global Assembly, and Members of the Steering Committee of the Movement . . . I send you all my best greetings and salutations. I have the utmost love, respect, and admiration for all the work you do for the promotion, defense, and strengthening of democratic culture and institutions around the globe.

I really wanted to be with you today, but our recent municipal elections and our still fragile democratic transition in Tunisia have unfortunately forced me to cancel my plans and to stay here in Tunisia. As you all know, we had our first democratic local and municipal elections on Sunday, and the official preliminary results will be an-

nounced tomorrow. It is predicted that our party, Ennahdha, will come in first and that our ally Nidaa Tounes will come in second.

We can claim victory, however, only for the Tunisian people and our nascent Tunisian democracy. The task of building coalitions at the local level begins now in earnest, and this is vital for the success of democracy. Ennahdha cannot govern alone, and neither can Nidaa or anyone else. We must all work together and govern together.

Our main lesson from seven years of transitioning from dictatorship to democracy is that elections are not enough to sustain democracy. Especially in a country that is still a nascent democracy, where the culture of democracy and the institutions of democracy are still weak, we must all learn the art of governing by compromise, negotiation, and consensus. In a real democracy, there are no winners and losers. There are only winners.

These elections are another milestone in the democratic transition in Tunisia, and it is the first time in the Arab world that citizens will experience decentralization. Even though the turnout of 33.4 percent was lower than what we hoped for, especially among young people, I believe that decentralization will pave the way for deepening the roots of democracy in Tunisia and for much greater involvement of citizens in decision making at the local and regional levels. We are, after all, in the process of electing 7,200 new local-council members from among more than 50,000 candidates. Of these, more than half are women, and more than half are under the age of 35.

This turnout can even be considered impressive when viewed in the context of the ongoing economic and political crisis that has shaken Tunisia's political life since 2014.

Our economy is not worse than before, but it is not faring any better either; unemployment remains high at about 15 or 16 percent overall, and more than 35 percent among young people, most of whom are university graduates.

For us, these municipal elections are a landmark moment in Tunisia's history and the realization of the promise of the Arab Spring. The creation and strengthening of local authorities will allow the local and central government to respond to the vital needs and huge differences that exist across the country, from the coast to the interior.

Our experience has also taught us that there is full compatibility between Islam and democracy. In Islam, there is no organized religious hierarchy and no official spokesman for the religion. There is therefore no theocracy in Islam. The state is civil and the people are free to choose their own government and rulers and to hold them accountable. The government is and must be of the people, by the people, and for the people—not in the name of God, who is sovereign and watching over all of us.

The freedom of citizens to think, speak, and organize freely is also vital in Islam, which teaches that there is and there should be no compulsion in religion. Human beings must be free to believe what they want and to practice what they want, as long as they also respect the rights of others in the public sphere. There is no real democracy without freedom and human rights, including and especially women's rights and minority rights.

That is why in Tunisia we are very proud of our new constitution, which mandates equal rights for women, including parity between men and women on all electoral lists; this will get us very close to having nearly 50 percent women on all elected bodies. Our goal is not to follow but to surpass all other democratic countries in the area of women's participation. Also, our new constitution was the first in the Arab and

Islamic world to mandate freedom of religion and freedom of conscience, thereby requiring the state to respect every citizen's right to believe what he or she wants and to practice the religion of his or her choice—or not to practice a religion at all.

Similarly, we are very happy with our progress in the fight against violence and extremism in Tunisia, where we have had more than three years of peace and tranquility, with no terrorist act of any kind. Training and involving religious leaders, actors, and organizations that believe in democracy and human rights is also vital to convincing our young people that violence is not the answer and is against the values of Islam.

Those who think that we can achieve stability and security without democracy are wrong. In order for state institutions to be strong, they must enjoy legitimacy, which means they must reflect the society they serve. Tunisians have managed to preserve their democratic transition, despite all the challenges and threats, by insisting on constant dialogue between all parties, NGOs, and religious leaders and institutions.

The threat of terrorism, which has touched Tunisia, its citizens, its armed forces, and also its visitors and guests, is a threat we are united in confronting, hand-in-hand, as a global phenomenon. To succeed in facing this problem, we need to address all its aspects. Groups such as ISIS and al-Qaeda have exploited the Arab world's economic and social problems to present themselves as an alternative.

They exploit grievances to attract young people: In Iraq, they exploit Sunni resentment against political exclusion. In Tunisia, they exploit resentment by young people at economic exclusion and poverty. We must understand that the sources of terrorism are dictatorship and bad governance. These criminals were brought up under dictatorships; they are not the product of Tunisia's revolution but of decades of repression.

The solution to extremism is more freedom (not less), more democracy (not less), more debate and dialogue, and more moderate religious teachings that confront this extremist ideology.

While the world's leaders focus on combatting the tide of violent extremism through heightened security and military acts, little more than lip service has been paid to the deradicalization or reintegration of the young people who comprise the greatest pool for terrorist recruitment.

If we look at all the verses of the Koran holistically to underline key themes, it becomes clear that the holy text emphasizes the idea that God created humankind with at least one distinguishing feature—the freedom of choice. The Koran makes clear that, if God so wished, He could have created all of humankind in the same mold, with similar likenesses and speaking a common language.

Instead, the Koran stresses that God chose to introduce diversity to the human race, undercutting racial, ethnic, and religious groups, and to endow all of us with choice in crafting our lives and the value and belief systems on which to base them. Thus, pluralism and differences within Islam and between religions were intended to be universal and natural laws of the human species that cannot be subverted or obliterated by any individual or group; any attempt to do so goes against the very nature of creation.

Why did the Prophet Muhammed include Jews, Christians, and other non-Muslims as members of the first Muslim society of Medina and guarantee their protection, if pluralism is not accepted in Islam? Why is it that the oldest churches and synagogues in the world are found, to this day, in Muslim countries? If Islam did not protect pluralism and ensure the continued survival of these minorities and their places of worship, groups such as ISIS would not have found minorities to persecute nor churches and temples to destroy in the first place.

Imams, through their weekly sermons at Friday prayer services and other religious services throughout the week, are the first

and most prominent spokesmen for religious thought and understanding in local communities. In Tunisia, for example, each of the 5,300 mosques in the country receives on average 1,500 persons for Friday prayer services (the largest weekly congregation), making this an optimal platform for promoting to a broad and religiously observant audience a compelling and tolerant religious vision, and for combatting extremist ideologies, as well as strengthening democratic values and respect for human rights.

Therefore, religion and democracy must work together to solve the problems of the world and of our society. I appeal to you, as leaders of democracy, to include religion and religious actors and institutions in all your efforts and programs.

Finally, we cannot forget the importance of economic development and growth—these are key to having a stable, and strong democratic state. Guaranteeing free elections and freedom is not sufficient.

A strong state must ensure economic and social inclusion, enabling people to enjoy opportunities, prosperity, and security. People must feel that the state protects their rights, serves their interests, protects their resources, and works for them.

The key and main challenge now, after we have built a system based on political inclusion, is solving our economic and social problems and achieving inclusive economic growth. This is critical for stability. No society can be stable and secure if entire regions are marginalized, or if 35 percent of young people cannot find a job.

Our second goal and priority is strengthening democratic culture and institutions; we are working on civic-education, voter-registration, and citizenship initiatives across the country. I hope we can work with you and count on your support in this critical area.

I sincerely apologize for not being with you, but I am sure you will understand when I tell you that the work of democracy requires me to be here in Tunis, rather than with you in Dakar.



Democracy Lounge— Networking Space

The Democracy Lounge was an informal space for participants to connect and form strategic partnerships at the Assembly. In addition to facilitating informal networking, the Democracy Lounge featured four “democracy clinics” to help activists and civil society members troubleshoot potential problems in their line of work and learn more about innovative strategies being employed around the world.

Enhancing Digital Security for Online Activists

The digital revolution has transformed the world’s ability to interact with others and access information. Today, democracy activists conduct large parts of their work online, using digital media and other outlets that enable new forms of mass advocacy, but also render activists vulnerable to digital surveillance and attacks. The Digital Security Clinic, hosted by DefendDefenders, offered participants the chance to identify their digital security vulnerabilities and provided guidance on how to proactively protect themselves and their devices.

Discovering the State of Civil Society Through “Democracy Dialogues”

The CIVICUS 2018 State of Civil Society Report discusses 10 key trends affecting civil society, including political polarization and divided societies. During the CIVICUS Democracy Dialogues, participants had the opportunity to discuss the current challenges facing democracy and civic space in different regions and to collaborate with other activists to identify solutions. CIVICUS is a global alliance of civil society organizations and activists dedicated to strengthening citizen action and civil society throughout the world.



Developing Deeper Understandings of Democracy with Democracy Cake

What are “ingredients” that are essential to building and sustaining a democracy? With the Rafto Foundation for Human Rights’ “Democracy Cake” board game, participants had the opportunity to learn hands-on what ingredients are necessary for building and nourishing a democracy. The Rafto Foundation for Human Rights is an organization dedicated to the global promotion of human rights. It funds and facilitates projects, and offers human rights education to local and international audiences.

Sustaining Resources for NGOs

In today’s challenging economic and political environments, the Center for Private and International Enterprise (CIPE) posits that nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) may become ineffective if they are forced to tailor initiatives around donor priorities. In CIPE’s Building Sustainable NGOs Clinic, participants had the opportunity to build a “portfolio” to identify different funding sources that would ease donor-dependence and encourage local stakeholder engagement.



SOIRÉE À DAKAR

The Soirée à Dakar was hosted by the City of Dakar, and it featured a concert of West African rappers who use music as a medium to inspire their audiences to get involved in political processes and civil society.

PERFORMERS

KEUR GUI CREW (SENEGAL)

Keur Gui Crew is a widely popular, socially-conscious rap group that helped found the Y'en a Marre movement in 2011, a grassroots campaign against injustice and inequality. Originally a response to local power outages, the nascent protest movement went on to mobilize against the controversial bid by Senegalese president Abdoulaye Wade to remain in office for a third term. The Y'en a Marre movement continues to help mobilize Senegalese citizens, civil society organizations, and youth to engage in political processes and dialogues.

ELOM 20CE (TOGO)

Elom 20ce is an activist and Pan African rapper from Togo. He created the practice of 'Arctivism,' an activity that promotes political participation through artistic mediums. Through his Arctivism, Elom 20ce facilitates debates and dialogue among citizens to challenge restrictions on freedom of expression and promotes youth development.

KILLA ACE (THE GAMBIA)

Ali Cham, also known as Killa Ace, is a rapper from The Gambia and founder of the movement, Team Gom sa bopa (Believe in Yourself). It is a social-media driven movement dedicated to raising social and political awareness among young people. Killa Ace was also the host of 'The Cypher,' a weekly broadcast that encouraged youth to express their socio-cultural and political views through rap and showcased their talent on air.





Join the Movement

Through the World Movement for Democracy, our participants have the ability to engage with others facing similar challenges, build solidarity within regional and global networks, and collaborate on innovative approaches. We welcome any organization or individual who can contribute to and benefit from this network. Make sure to keep up with our network's activities by following us on Twitter and Facebook.

Connect with other participants by checking out our interactive participant directory, which includes profiles of individuals, networks, and organizations associated with the World Movement for Democracy. Users can identify and connect with fellow activists through the directory when searching by topics, countries, and regions.

To stay up to date with the latest democracy developments, sign up for our bi-monthly newsletter, DemocracyNews. We also welcome newsletter contribution submissions—[submit](#) statements, research, reports, information on your projects, and advocacy efforts.

Express solidarity with political prisoners through the [Set Them Free Campaign](#) and commit to sharing DemocracyAlerts, which spotlight at-risk activists in our network who face violence and arrests as they advocate for democracy in their countries. [Sign up here!](#)

Participants

Democracy activists, practitioners, and scholars from every region of the world gathered in Dakar, Senegal to discuss practical solutions to a wide range of challenges to democracy. In the following pages, participants are listed according to region, country, and then alphabetically by last name. Those who attended are but a small fraction of the thousands of activists around the world, so many of whom could not be included in this Assembly. However, they are as much participants in the World Movement as those who attended. Many of the participants took great personal risks to attend the Assembly and some cannot be listed here for that reason. We wish to thank both those who attended and those who were not able to attend for their support, dedication, and commitment.



Africa

Angola
Maria Da Silveira
Association for Justice,
Peace and Democracy

Rafael Morais
Maka Angola

Burkina Faso
Eric Ilboudo
BEOG-NEERE

Kounkine Some
Centre de Capacitation
Citoyenne

Burundi
Gertrude Kazoviyo
Ligue des Droits de la Per-
sonne dans la Région des
Grands Lacs

Vital Nshimirimana
Forum for Strengthening
Civil Society

Cameroon
Ateki Caxton
Network for Solidarity,
Empowerment, and Trans-
formation for All

**Central African Re-
public**
Pingama Modo Socrates
Innocent
NGO URU

Maximilienne Chantal
Ngo Mbe
Réseau des Défenseurs
des Droits Humains en
Afrique Centrale

Zanre Ngombala Samba
Initiative pour la Démocra-
tie et le Développement
Durable

Chad
Delphine Djiraibe
Public Interest Law Cent-
er

Cote D’Ivoire
Marie- Paule Capri Kodjo
PLAYDOO- CI

Drissa Soulama
Forum de la Societé Civile
de l’Afrique de l’Ouest

Wodjo Fini Traore
Commission Nationale
des Droits de l’Homme de
Côte d’Ivoire

**Democratic Republic
of the Congo**
Floribert Anzuluni
FILIMBI

Aunel Arneth Kimbembe
Makaya
Cinema for Peace and
Democracy

Christian Mounzeo
Rencontre Pour La Paix et
Les Droits de L’Homme

Gerard Mpang’de
Agir pour les Elections
transparentes et apaisees

Nsapu Mukulu
International Federation
for Human Rights

Robert Ilunga Numbi
Les Amis de Nelson Man-
dela

Patrick Pindu Di Lusanga
South Africa Organisations
and Federations for Peo-
ple with Disabilities

Samuel Yagase
Groupement des Or-
ganisations Villageoises
d’Auto-développement

Equatorial Guinea
Tutu Alicante
Equatorial Guinea Justice

Ghana
**Emmanuel Gyimah-
Boadi**
Ghana Center for Demo-
cratic Development /
Afrobarometer

Jean Mensa
Insitute of Economic Af-
fairs.

Franklin Oduro
Ghana Center for Demo-
cratic Development

Kwasi Prempeh
Ghana Center for Demo-
cratic Development

Esther Tawiah
Gender Centre for Em-
powering Development

Guinea
Ruben Johnson
United States Agency for
International Develop-
ment

Kenya
Maina Kiai
InformAction Kenya

Lynnette Micheni
PAWA Initiative

Charity Michigani
Central Organization of
Trade Unions - Kenya

Immaculate Nabwire
Defend Defenders

Regina Opondo
Constitution and Reform
Education Consortium

Liberia
Eddie Jarwolo
Naymote Partners for
Democratic Development

Samuel Woods
Liberia Law Society

Mali
Wassa Kamissoko
Collectif des Femmes du
Mali

Tidiani Togola
Democracy Tech Squad /
Tuwindi

Mauritania
Bechir El Hassen
Le Pacte Republicain

Mauritania
Sidatt Haroune
Center for International
Private Enterprise

Mauritius
Roukaya Kasenally
African Media Initiative

Nigeria
Kareemat Rinsola Abiola
All Progressives Congress

Yetunde Bakare
Youth Initiative for Advo-
cacy Growth and Advance-
ment

Samson Itodo
Youth Initiative for Advo-
cacy, Growth and Ad-
vancement/African Move-
ment For Democracy

Ayodele Mabogunje
Lagos Chamber of Com-
merce and Industry

**Dabesaki Mac-Ikemen-
jima**
Ford Foundation

Paul Nwulu
Ford Foundation

Ayo Obe
International Crisis Group

Fatu Ogwuche
The Election Network

Edetaen Ojo
Media Rights Agenda

Akeem Omotayo Sule
HiKey

Rwanda
Alphonse Bizimana
Syndicat des Travailleurs
aux Services des Droits
Humains

**Jean Claude Ngendan-
dumwe**
Conseil de Concertation
des Organisations d’Appui
aux Initiatives de Base

**Amandine Rushenguzi-
minega**
TrustAfrica

Senegal
Adjaratou Aïdara
Partners West Africa Sé-
négal

Eugénie Aw
Université Cheikh Anta
Diop

Jean Bassene
YMCA Senegal

Mamadou Boiro
Forum pour un Développe-
ment Durable Endogène

Aboubakry Deh
Fodde Fouta

Mor Diakhate
Alphabétiser pour un
Développement Durable

Khady Diamé
Réseau des Femmes de
Fatick

Bassa Diawara
Comité d’Appui et de Sout-
ien au Développement
Economique et Sociale

Mamadu Diop
Mairie de L’île de Gorée

Moustapha Diop
Partners West Africa

Amacodou Diouf
Economist

Mame Fall
Publiez Ce Que Vous
Payez

Khady Fall Tall
Afaowawa

Adja Fatou Faye
Mouvement Citoyen

Ibrahima Lissa Faye
PressAfrik

Ndeye Gnilane Faye

Balla Gaye
Association des Agricul-
teurs de la Région de
Kaolack

Oumou Gaye
Union des Jeunes Actif

Alfred Gomis
WANEP Senegal

Babacar Gueye
Plateforme des Acteurs
non Étatiques

Fatoumata Gueye
Ndiaye Crédit du Sénégal

Fatou Jagne Senghor
Article 19

Abdoulaye Kane
Reseau Sénégalais des
Éducateurs en Droits
Humains

Abdou Mbacke
ONG ARCH

Penda Mbow
Government of Senegal

Momar Ndao
Association des Consom-
mateurs du Sénégal

Babacar Ndiaye
WATHI

Moussa Ndiaye
Fédération des Asso-
ciations Paysanne de la
Région de Louga

Modou Sall
Mouvement des Etudi-
ant et Jeunes Leaders du
Sénégal

Bakary Sambe
Timbuktu Institute - Af-
rican Center for Peace
Studies

Moussa Sane
Association pour le Dével-
oppement de la Zone
Intermédiaire de Sédhiou
et Bambaly

Ousmane Sene
West African Research
Center

Oumar Sy
Ndeyi Jirim

Sophie Ndiaye Sy
Conseil National de la
Jeunesse du Sénégal

Dialiba Tandian
Kédougou Encadrement et
Orientation pour le Dével-
oppement Humain

Alioune Tine
Amnesty International

Sierra Leone
Zainab Bangura
World Movement for De-
mocracy

Somalia

Abdurashid Ali
Somali Family Services

Sharmarke Farah

Hayaan Institute

South Africa

Bonginkosi Dhlamini
Thulisile Madonsela Foundation

Geordin Hill-Lewis

Democratic Alliance, South Africa

Corlett Letlojane

Human Rights Institute of South Africa

Thulisile Madonsela

Thulisile Madonsela Foundation

Stevens Mokgalapa

Africa Liberal Network

Abner Mosaase

Africa Unmasked

Rhulani Siweya

Africa Unmasked

South Sudan

Brian Adeba
Enough Project

Emmanuel Anur

Plan International South Sudan

Jame Kolok

Foundation for Democracy and Accountable Governance

Mawa Lazarous

Community Empowerment for Rehabilitation and Development

Mawa Nemaya Joseph

Maya Cultural Foundation

Angelina Very

End Impunity Organization

Sudan

Safia Mohamed
UNDP

Abdel-Rahman El Mahdi

Sudanese Development Initiative

Swaziland

Colani Hlatajawako
Women and Law in Southern Africa

Fundizwi Sikhondze

National Workers Union for Swaziland Higher Institutions

Tanzania

Abella Bateyunga
Tanzania Bora Initiative

The Gambia

Naffie Barry
The Government of The Gambia

Ali Cham

Team Gom Sa Bopa

Marie Antoinette Corr

Gambia Teachers Union

Momodou Darboe

Shepherd University

Ya Kumba Jaiteh

The Gambia National Assembly

Gaye Sowe

Institute for Human Rights and Development in Africa

Isatou Touray

The Government of The Gambia

The Republic of Congo

Trésor Chardon Nzila Kendet

Observatoire Congolais des Droits de l'Homme

Togo

Elom Khaunbiow
Elom 20ce

Clement Nyaletsossi

Voule

UN Special Rapporteur on Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association

Uganda

Perry Aritua
Women's Democracy Network-Uganda Chapter

Neil Blazevic

Defend Defenders

Emmanuel Kitamirike

Public Policy Institute

Arthur Larok

ActionAid

Nicholas Opiyo

Chapter Four Uganda

Hassan Shire

DefendDefenders

Yona Wanjala

Defenders Protection Initiative

Zanzibar

Ismail Ladhu
Civic United Front

Zimbabwe

Briggs Bomba
TrustAfrica

Memory Kadau

Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition

Frances Lovemore

Counselling Services Unit

Okay Machisa

ZimRights

Tawanda Majoni

Information for Development Trust

Tongai Makawa

Magamba Network

Zenzele Ndebele

Center for Innovation and Technology

Irene Petras

International Center for Not-for-Profit Law

Asia/Pacific

Australia

Michael Danby
Labor Party

Eric Johnson

Internet Freedom Activist

Roland Rich

Rutgers University

Tonya Stevens

Australian Labor Party and Sozialdemokratische Partei

Bangladesh

Korvi Dhrubo
JAAGO Foundation

Burma

Khin Lay
Triangle Women

Min Zin

Institute for Strategy and Policy - Myanmar

China

Xiao Qiang
China Digital Times

India

Joyeeta Bhattacharjee
Observer Research Foundation

Maja Daruwala

Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative

Indonesia

Bambang Harymurti
Tempo

Migiyanto Mugiyanto

International NGO Forum on Indonesian Development

Alissa Munawaroh

Gusdurian Network Indonesia

Mansyur Pangeran

Ambassade de la République de l'Indonésie au Sénégal

Ichal Supriadi

Asia Democracy Network

Japan

Takako Hikotani
Columbia University

Maiko Ichihara

Hitotsubashi University

Ryota Jonen

National Endowment for Democracy

Malaysia

Wan Saiful Wan Jan
United Indigenous Party

Mongolia

Damba Ganbat
Academy of Political Education

Nepal

Sarita Pariyar
Samata Foundation

Pakistan

Shahzad Ahmad
Bytes For All, Pakistan

Shehryar Aziz

Policy Research Institute of Market Economy

Gulalai Ismail

Aware Girls

Taimur Rahman

Laal

Fauzia Shaheen

Women Media Center

Muhammad Zubair

Potohar Organization for Development Advocacy

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Ezra Acayan

Nightwatchers

Celito Arlegue

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Maxine Tanya Hamada

Institute for Leadership, Empowerment, and Democracy

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Maria Ressa

RAPPLER

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Korea Democracy Foundation

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Central Tibetan Administration

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Kazakhstan International Bureau for Human Rights and the Rule of Law

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Nicolas Panotto

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Cirila Quintero-Ramirez

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Joel Salas

Instituto Nacional de Transparencia, Acceso a la Información y Protección de Datos

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Felix Maradiaga

Instituto de Estudios Estratégicos y Políticas Públicas

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David Riveros Garcia

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Marianela Balbi Ochoa

Instituto Prensa y Sociedad - Venezuela

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Transparencia Venezuela

Feliciano Reyna

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Organization for Policy Research and Development Studies

Yama Salik
Yama Salik

Omaid Sharifi
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Fersaoui

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Gulf Center for Human Rights

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Caroline Ayoub
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Shaima Al-Ahdal
Basement Cultural Foundation

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Samantha Bradshaw
Oxford University

Ronald Deibert
Citizen Lab, Munk School of Global Affairs, University of Toronto

Ami Emmanuel Khamsin
Plan International Canada

Nikahang Kowsar
Abangan

Catherine Nadeau
Embassy of Canada

Irene Poetranto
Citizen Lab, Munk School of Global Affairs, University of Toronto

Brandon Silver
Raoul Wallenberg Centre for Human Rights

Anita Vandenberg
Member of Parliament

Aaryn Zhou
Global Affairs Canada

United States

Adjo Adjaka
National Endowment for Democracy

Danielle Agyemang
National Endowment for Democracy

Rahman Aljebouri
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Megan Anderson
US Department of State Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor

Katarina Antens-Miller
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Frieda Arenos
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Melissa Aten
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Shawna Bader-Blau
Solidarity Center

Angelita Baeyens
Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights

United States

Eric Baker
National Endowment for Democracy

Sarina Beges
Stanford Center on Democracy, Development, and the Rule of Law

Lars Benson
Center for International Private Enterprise

Kim Bettcher
Center for International Private Enterprise

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Solidarity Center

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Imani Countess
Solidarity Center

Ivana Cvetkovic Bajrovi
National Endowment for Democracy

Larry Diamond
Stanford University

Mamby Diouf
National Endowment for Democracy

Eileen Donahoe
Global Digital Policy Incubator, Stanford University

David Donat Cattin
Parliamentarians for Global Action

Javana Dunnom
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Karen Farrell
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Georges Fauriol
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Natalie Kay
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International Republican Institute

Mallory Knodel
Article 19

Miriam Kornblith
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Volodymyr Kozoriz
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Lynn Lee
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Rudy Massamba
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Scott Mastic
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Project on Middle East Democracy

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Matteo Meccaci
International Campaign for Tibet

Sheri Melvin
National Endowment for Democracy

Fiorella Melzi Tauro
Inter-American Commission on Human Rights

Nicholas Miller
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Kelly Russo
National Endowment for Democracy

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United States

Douglas Rutzen

International Center for
Not for Profit Law

Pamela Rykowski

Prep for Prep

John Scott-Railton

Citizen Lab, Munk School
of Global Affairs, Univer-
sity of Toronto

Jan Surotchak

International Republican
Institute

Elsbeth Suthers

National Endowment for
Democracy

Pierre Tantchou

National Endowment for
Democracy

John Tomaszewski

International Republican
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Yelena Viner

National Endowment for
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Kip Wainscott

National Democratic
Institute

Christopher Walker

National Endowment for
Democracy

Kate Watters

Crude Accountability

Toni Weis

Center for International
Private Enterprise

Andrew Wilson

Center for International
Private Enterprise

Sharon Witiw

Former Members of Con-
gress Association

Ken Wollack

National Democratic
Institute

Zerxes Spencer

National Endowment for
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Western Europe

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Assita Kanko

Women Political Leaders

Denmark

Marianne Abrahamsen

University of Southern
Denmark

Peter Bartram

Jyllands-Posten

Jorgen Jensen

JPPolitiken

France

Antoine Bernard

Reporters without Borders

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Juan Cardenal

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el Desarrollo de América
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Development Cooperation
Agency

Robert Hardh

Novamedia Sweden

Switzerland

Florian Irminger

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United Kingdom

Nic Cheeseman

University of Birmingham

Nick Mathiason

Finance Uncovered

Sophie Pollak

Media Legal Defence Ini-
tiative (MLDI)

Karen Widess

Loyola University Chicago
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ARTICLE 19 - Senegal

ARTICLE 19 works regionally and internationally to close the implementation gap between law and practice. They promote media freedom, increase access to information, protect journalists and human rights defenders, fight the shrinking of civic space, and place human rights at the heart of developing digital spaces.

Enda Tiers Monde

Enda Tiers Monde has worked for over thirty years to fight against the socio-economic marginalization of the underprivileged in the Global South and to promote sustainable development. It works at the grassroots level to improve the living conditions of vulnerable populations in rural and urban settings. It also actively engages, lobbies, and advocates for those populations on the international stage.

Forum Civil

Created in 1993, Forum Civil's mission is to promote participatory democracy. Composed of volunteer members without party affiliation, Forum Civil and its partners seek to bring issues of transparency, good governance, and corruption to the forefront of public discussion in Senegal. Since 2000, it has served as Transparency International's Senegalese Chapter.

Gorée Institute

The Goree Institute Center for Democracy, Development, and Culture in Africa was founded in 1992. It is a Pan-African civil society organization, whose mission is to support peacebuilding initiatives, electoral reform, and arts and culture in Africa. The Institute operates in partnership with state and inter-state authorities, as well as with diverse members of civil society.

Mouvement Citoyen

Mouvement Citoyen works to empower women and youth to take civic and political action in Senegal. It aims to build a new citizenship centered on the values of democracy, responsibility, justice, transparency, and solidarity. To stimulate an active dynamic of grassroots citizenship, the Mouvement offers trainings, a multipurpose center, and a research unit.

Partners West Africa

Partners West Africa - Senegal works with a network of global partners and change leaders to strengthen democratic institutions, promote sustainable development, and resolve conflict throughout the region. The team leads several projects that prevent terrorism, support capacity-building, promote access to justice, foster social entrepreneurship, and engage civil society in peace and governance.

La Rencontre Africaine pour la Défense des Droits de l'Homme (RADDHO)

Since 1990, RADDHO has promoted, protected, and defended human rights in Senegal and in Africa. The organization facilitates meetings on human rights issues, conducts field investigations of human rights abuses, and participates in electoral monitoring. RADDHO has operated a counseling and legal services center for refugees and internally displaced persons since 1997.

Union Nationale des Commerçants et Industriels du Sénégal (UNACOIS)

UNACOIS is Senegal's National Union of Merchants. The organization, which serves and represents a diverse membership, seeks to initiate policy dialogue and propose concrete solutions to the problems faced by small and informal businesses.

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