

## **High-Level Meeting "Democracy Forever" - Joint Declaration - Santiago, July 21, 2025**

Following the High-Level Meeting "Democracy Always", held in Santiago, Chile on July 21, 2025, the Heads of State and Government gathered here reaffirmed our commitment to the defense of democracy, multilateralism, and working together to address the root and structural causes that undermine our democratic institutions, their values, and legitimacy.

We are fully aware that the world is going through a period of profound uncertainty, in which democratic values are constantly challenged. In light of this, we believe it is an ethical and political imperative to promote a common strategy to address global phenomena such as growing inequality, disinformation, and the challenges posed by digital technologies and artificial intelligence.

This meeting was a key opportunity to build on the first meeting of the "In Defense of Democracy: Fighting Extremism" initiative, organized within the framework of the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly, consolidating this space for reflection and action in the face of contemporary challenges facing our democracies.

Recognizing that these challenges are multidimensional, interconnected, and complex, the Heads of State and Government present in Santiago reiterate the need to:

- Promote a renewed, more effective, inclusive, and participatory multilateralism that respects the principles of international law and the effective participation of citizens in decision-making.
- Promote a reform of the international governance system, particularly the United Nations, to restore its capacity for action and legitimacy in the face of major global

challenges. This entails moving toward fairer and more effective representation, overcoming blockages stemming from the use of vetoes, and establishing real compliance and accountability mechanisms.

- Strengthen active democratic diplomacy, based on cooperation between states that share the values of democracy, social justice, state sovereignty, and human rights, as a response to institutional deterioration and the advance of authoritarian, regressive, and exclusionary projects.
- Project an alternative narrative to democratic regression, with reforms focused on equity and informational integrity; in favor of unrestricted respect for gender equality, against racism, and for ethnic diversity; with tools to strengthen public and citizen security and confront hate speech, misinformation, and intolerance.
- Make a firm commitment to reason. We may have different worldviews, but the facts cannot be falsified. We believe that good politics requires that it resolve the problems of our people and that we promote dialogue in good faith, always seeking the best version of our interlocutors' arguments.
- Reaffirm our firm commitment to peace, respect for international law, and international humanitarian law. We urgently call for a ceasefire in Gaza and demand full, safe, and unrestricted access for humanitarian aid to the Strip, in accordance with the principles of humanitarian law and under the coordination of the United Nations.

As members of this new initiative, we underscore the urgency of articulating joint, innovative, and concrete responses that strengthen democratic resilience globally. Today's challenges require leadership, boldness, and coordinated action.

During the meeting in Santiago, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Spain, and Uruguay worked on proposals around three core themes: defense of democracy and multilateralism, disinformation and digital technologies, and extremism and inequality, proposing concrete lines of action. This represents substantial progress compared to the process initiated in 2024 and a firm step toward effective cooperation.

Among the agreed initiatives, we highlight:

- The commitment to consolidating a network of countries and civil society to promote participatory mechanisms that foster mutual learning and the collective construction of a more open, inclusive democracy that is connected to the realities of citizens.
- Support the establishment of a global network of think tanks that generate rigorous analysis, foster data-driven debate, and contribute to the search for proposals in defense of democracy.
- International collaboration for algorithmic and data management transparency in the digital environment and technical cooperation for democratic digital governance.
- Strengthening the United Nations and UNESCO Global Initiative for Climate Change Information Integrity.
- Monitoring the Seville Commitment as a constructive step toward strengthening financing for development.
- Support for the initiative to form a coalition to promote and facilitate the establishment of progressive and fair taxation, as well as to strengthen international tax cooperation based on the principles of transparency, equity, and sovereignty.

- The promotion of a Multilateral Youth Observatory against Extremism, led by the Ibero-American Youth Organization (OIJ), to generate data, exchange best practices, and design inclusive policies from an intersectional and participatory perspective.

We have also outlined a roadmap for the next milestone of this initiative: the holding of the second meeting within the framework of the 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly in September. This roadmap represents a concrete step toward building a shared agenda, sustained over time and articulated in defense of democracy and against extremism.

We hope this process will bring together more countries and stakeholders committed to laying the foundations for a permanent space for articulating this global initiative in defense of democracy, human rights, and social justice.

We know that this task does not fall exclusively on the States. The active participation of academia, parliaments, civil society, the media, and the private sector is essential. In this regard, we deeply value the initiatives developed by civil society and think tanks over the past few days in Santiago, which have contributed to reflection and exchange. Only by working together can we revitalize our democracies from a collective perspective.

Finally, we appreciate the enormous effort made by Chile and its government, which hosted this high-level meeting and allowed us to work together on issues so relevant to today's world.