



# Summit for democracy and Paraguay commitments



Paraguay in S4D process



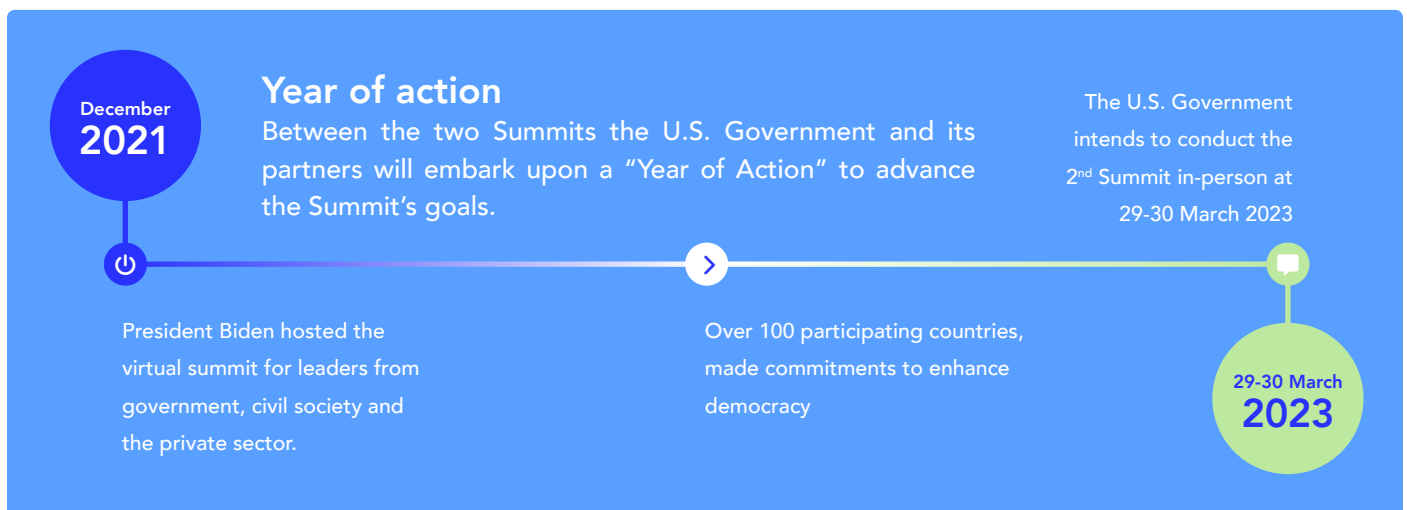
Funded by  
the European Union





The information provided in this factsheet was compiled by Liliana Rocío Duarte Recalde, Consultant with support from International IDEA. The methodology included a desk study, interviews and a survey completed by civil society organisations on the Summit for Democracy, challenges and opportunities. The information and recommendations provided in this factsheet were drafted by the consultant and discussed during a workshop with civil society organisations and government representatives on 18th October 2022. Views expressed in this factsheet do not necessarily represent the views of International IDEA, or those of its Board or Council members.

The Summit for Democracy is an initiative headed by the United States Government to discuss how to advance the Summit’s three broad themes: strengthening democracy and defending against authoritarianism; addressing and fighting corruption; and advancing respect for human rights. The initiative brings together leaders from governments, civil society and the private sector to set forth an affirmative agenda for democratic renewal and to tackle the greatest threats faced by democracies through collective action.



The Summit for Democracy is organized around two summits. The first summit took place in December 2021. Governments in attendance made a series of commitments around these topics, with progress against these promises to be supported and monitored through the Year of Action (YoA), leading to a 2nd Summit for Democracy (S4D2) scheduled for the 29th and 30th of March 2023. The YoA presents an opportunity for the commitments made in the first summit to be implemented and for civil society to monitor their progress. The Summit for Democracy as a process is an extraordinary opportunity to galvanize attention and mobilize international action; and the process associated with it is a critical platform for engagement around the world.

## Commitments

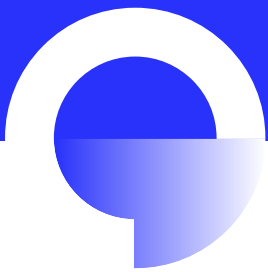
*Paraguay participated in the S4D process under the leadership of President Mario Abdo Benítez. Its resulting commitments include:*

- **Fighting against corruption:** strengthen its operational capacity to combat corruption and set up a task force against money laundering and terrorist financing and promote increased coordination to effectively carry out financial investigations.
- **Defending against authoritarianism:** strengthen democratic institutions, to reinforce civil society's oversight capacities by fostering active transparency through the creation and improvement of open data portals, and to create an inter-institutional committee on foreign investments, which will examine and evaluate national security implications.
- **Furthering human rights:** strengthen its ability to protect the rights of Indigenous communities by fully committing to the fulfillment of the National Plan for Indigenous Peoples, and combat child labor and forced labor by enforcing laws that sanction child labour exploitation and funding the Ministry of Childhood and Adolescence programmes.



## Recommendations

- Raise awareness on the S4D commitments with civil society and citizens, including by organizing information campaigns and translating all S4D commitments in the country's official languages.
- The government could unify the information regarding the S4D commitments on a website containing all the relevant information. This site would offer the possibility to clearly track how each commitment is being implemented, including statistics in open format and documents that can be reproduced for the purpose of analysis, with links to the institutions involved. It is also necessary for the government to ensure sufficient disclosure of the commitments taken on as the proposed way to monitor fulfillment.
- Additional commitments could have been taken related to issues of electoral integrity, especially control of political financing, effective mechanisms to sanction electoral crimes, the simplification of formal procedures that foster Indigenous participation, as well as the development of laws and regulations to prevent and sanction gender-based political violence. Other additional commitments could have included commitments related to youth participation, strengthening regulations that support student centers in basic and higher education, develop training spaces for young candidates for their electoral participation, strengthen transparency in state management of public policies and establish mechanisms to guarantee the inclusion of young people in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of public policies.



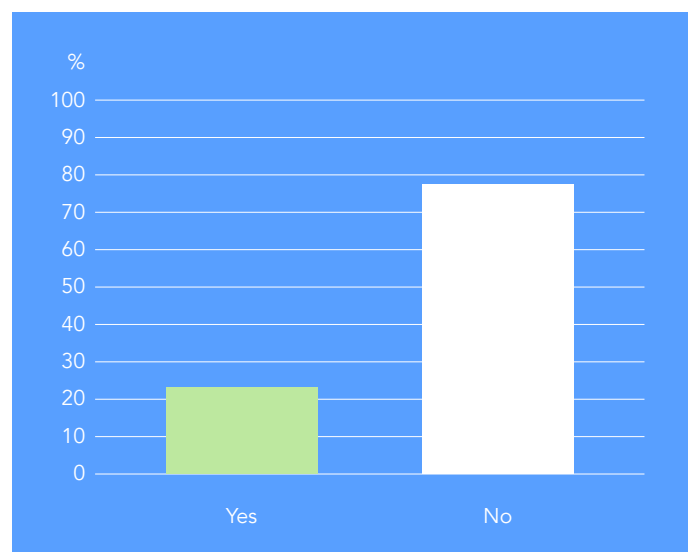
## Summit for Democracy survey

*In August 2022, International IDEA, conducted a survey with over 100 civil society organizations with a focus on young people in particular—to further understand public perceptions of the Summit for Democracy.*

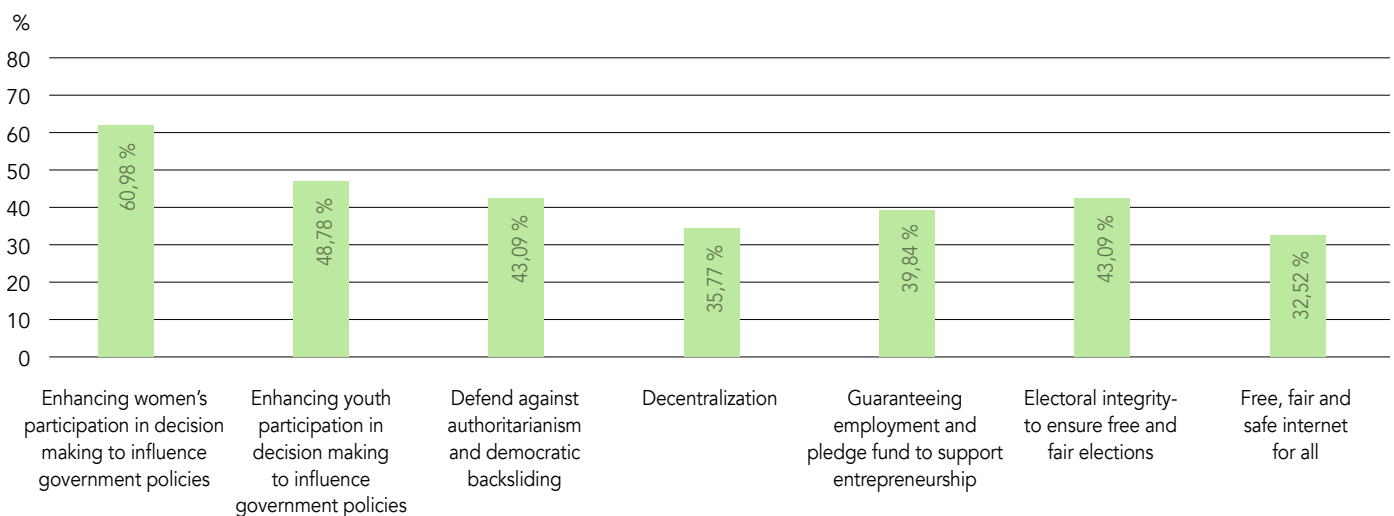
The knowledge of the existence of the Summit is limited among the general public, as reflected in the fact that 77.2 per cent of those surveyed responded that they were not aware of the Summit for Democracy.

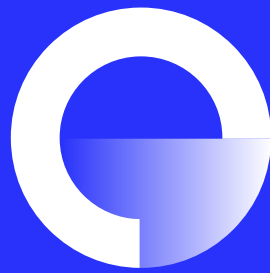
Finally, with a view to the next Summit for Democracy, respondents believe that the government should also take on commitments linked to enhancing women’s participation in decision making to influence government policies and to enhance the participation of young people in decision making to influence government policies. Similarly, respondents stated that the government should assume additional commitments related to the defence against authoritarianism and democratic backsliding, as well as commitments related to the promotion of electoral integrity to guarantee free and fair elections in the country.

Do you know about the Summit for Democracy convened by the US administration in December 2021?



Please rank the areas below what you consider should be priorities for the Paraguayan government in terms of strengthening democracy in Paraguay?





## Summit for democracy and Paraguay commitments



Paraguay in S4D process



Funded by  
the European Union



International IDEA – Regional Europe Office

Avenue des Arts 41, 7th, 1040 Brussels, Belgium • Tel: +32 (0) 2511 0894

[idea.euo@idea.int](mailto:idea.euo@idea.int) • [www.idea.int](http://www.idea.int)