



INTERNATIONAL IDEA
Supporting democracy worldwide

Global State of Democracy Report

Building Resilience in a Pandemic Era

Stockholm Launch Event

Stockholm, 25 November 2021

www.idea.int

 @int_IDEA

 InternationalIDEA

Index

Agenda.....	3
Speakers.....	4
About International IDEA.....	6
About the Global State of Democracy Reports.....	6
Contact details.....	7

AGENDA

25 NOVEMBER 2021

15:00-15:15	Welcome and opening remarks Dr Kevin Casas-Zamora , Secretary-General of International IDEA
15:15-15:25	Keynote Address Her Excellency Ann Linde , Minister for Foreign Affairs, Sweden
15:25-15:30	Democracy Testimonial Videos
15:30-15:45	Presentation of the Global State of Democracy Report Dr Seema Shah , Head of Democracy Assessment, International IDEA
15:45-15:50	Democracy Testimonial Videos
15:50-16:40	Panel Discussion on the Global State of Democracy Moderator: Dr Miguel Ángel Lara Otaola , Senior Democracy Assessment Specialist, International IDEA Ms Benedicte Berner , Chairperson of the Board, Civil Rights Defenders Mr Erik Halkjaer , President, Reporters Without Borders, Sweden Ms Birgitta Ohlsson , Director of Political Parties, National Democratic Institute
16:40-17:00	Discussion and questions from the audience

Dr Kevin Casas-Zamora, Secretary-General, International IDEA



Dr Kevin Casas-Zamora is the Secretary-General of the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA) and a Senior Fellow at the Inter-American Dialogue. Previously, he was Costa Rica's Second Vice President and Minister of National Planning; Secretary for Political Affairs at the Organization of American States; Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution; and National Coordinator of the United Nations Development Program's Human Development Report. He holds a Law degree from the University of Costa Rica, a Masters in Government from the University of Essex, and a PhD in Political Science from the University of Oxford.

H.E. Ms Ann Linde, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden



Her Excellency Ms Ann Linde has been the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden since September 2019. Previously, Ms Linde served as Minister for European Union Affairs and Trade, and from 2014 to 2016 she was State Secretary at the Ministry for Home Affairs. From 2013 to 2014, she served as Head of the International Unit for the Party of European Socialists (PES), based in Brussels. She was the International Secretary of the Swedish Social Democratic Party from 2000 to 2013.

Among Ms Linde's numerous assignments she has served as a board member of the Olof Palme International Centre and the Anna Lindh Memorial Fund.

Ms Benedicte Berner, Chair of Civil Rights Defenders, Sweden



Ms Benedicte Berner is a political scientist. She has lectured at Harvard University and at l'Institut d'Etudes Politiques of Paris (Sciences Po) on Media and Democracy from 2007 to 2020. Ms Berner previously worked with the European Institute for the Media in Dusseldorf on issues related to freedom of expression, leading media monitoring missions for the European Commission during the post-war elections in the Balkans and in transitional countries of the former Soviet Union. In 1997, she helped the 'Die Zeit' foundation and the Norwegian foundation 'Fritt Ord' (Free Word) to establish the Gerd Bucerius Award for Professional Journalism in Eastern and Central Europe, and was member of the jury until 2002.

Ms Berner is currently Chair of Civil Rights Defenders (CRD), the major Swedish NGO for Human Rights. She is also Associate to the Davis Centre for Russian and Eurasian Studies at Harvard University.



Mr Erik Halkjaer, President of Reporters Without Borders Sweden

Mr Erik Halkjaer is the president of Reporters Without Borders (RSF) Sweden, editor-in-chief of the magazine *Sveriges Natur*, and until recently the editor-in-chief of the independent magazine of the Swedish Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), *OmVärlden*. Mr Halkjaer has extensive experience working as a journalist covering foreign policy, development aid, human rights, and sustainable development.

Over the years, Mr Halkjaer has worked for various written Swedish media, such as the newspapers *Dagens Nyheter*, *Göteborgs-Posten*, *Svenska Dagbladet* and *Sydsvenskan*; the weekly papers *Fokus* and *Arbetaren*; and the magazines *Amnesty Press*, *OmVärlden*, *Pax* and *Världshorisont*.



Ms Birgitta Ohlsson, Director of Political Parties, National Democratic Institute

Ms Birgitta Ohlsson serves as the Director of Political Parties at the National Democratic Institute (NDI). Between 2010 and 2014, she was the Swedish Minister for European Affairs and Democracy, serving as a strong international voice on gender equality, democracy, and LGBTQI-rights. Ms Ohlsson was also President of the women's wing of the Liberal Party (2007-2010) and founded an independent Feminist Network, *Felira*, in 2003.

Ms Ohlsson served as a Member of Swedish Parliament 2002-2018 and on the board of the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) from 2002 to 2010. Between 2001 and 2010, Ms Ohlsson also served on the board of Swedish International Liberal Center (SILC), a foundation that works to build democracy in totalitarian states by strengthening political parties and activists.



Dr Seema Shah, Head of Democracy Assessment Unit, International IDEA

Dr Seema Shah is the Head of International IDEA's Democracy Assessment (DA), which produces a biennial Global State of Democracy report, annually updated Global State of Democracy Indices and an EU co-funded Covid-19 Global Monitor on Democracy and Human Rights. Dr Shah previously served as the research and strategy lead for the International Rescue Committee's humanitarian innovation department in the Middle East region. Prior experience also includes leading electoral integrity-related research and advocacy for a coalition of Kenyan civil society organizations in Nairobi.

Dr Shah has also worked on election violence, media development, campaign finance reform, human rights research and advocacy, and standard setting for electoral integrity with civil society organizations.



Dr Miguel Ángel Lara Otaola, Senior Democracy Assessment Specialist, International IDEA

Dr Miguel Ángel Lara Otaola leads the Global State of Democracy (GSoD) Indices at International IDEA. Previously, he directed International IDEA's office for Mexico, Central America, and the Dominican Republic, focusing on electoral integrity.

Before joining IDEA in 2018, Dr Lara Otaola held several management, research, and field positions in organizations such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) in the United Kingdom, the National Electoral Institute of Mexico (INE), and the Electoral Integrity Project at the Universities of Sydney and Harvard.



The International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA)

The International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA) is an intergovernmental organization that supports sustainable democracy worldwide. It was founded in 1995 and currently has 33 Member States. International IDEA's headquarters are in Stockholm, and the Institute has 17 regional and country offices across the globe.

International IDEA advances democracy worldwide, as a universal human aspiration and an enabler of sustainable development, through support to the building, strengthening, and safeguarding of democratic political institutions and processes at all levels. International IDEA believes that democracy is a universal human aspiration and an experience that is pursued and lived in different ways around the world. To support this mission, International IDEA works in a number of areas, including elections, constitution building, money in politics, parliaments, and democracy assessment.

www.idea.int

About the Global State of Democracy Reports

In 2016, International IDEA launched the Global State of Democracy Initiative, to analyze democratic trends and challenges and opportunities impacting on the global democracy landscape. The initiative aims to contribute to the public debate on democracy and inform policy interventions to strengthen democracy.

The assessment is based on International IDEA's Global State of Democracy (GSoD) Indices, which measure democratic performance for 165 countries from 1975 until 2020 and help to monitor progress on the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. Analysis of the data is published since 2017 bi-annually in the Global State of Democracy Report. The 2017 edition can be accessed [here](#), and the 2019 edition is available [here](#).

The latest edition, *The Global State of Democracy 2021: Building Democratic Resilience in a Pandemic Era*, published in November 2021, covers developments in democracy and human rights around the world. The report aims to influence the global debate and analyses current trends and challenges to democracy, exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic. Specific policy recommendations are offered, which aim to spark new and innovative thinking for policymakers, governments and civil society organizations supporting democracy.

The global report is accompanied by four regional reports on Africa and the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, and the Americas that have been written by International IDEA's experts based in each of these regions. The global and regional analyses are supplemented by thematic reports on Electoral Processes and Constitution Building.

CONTACT DETAILS

Alex Hudson

Democracy Assessment Specialist, International IDEA

Email: A.Hudson@idea.int

Clara Alm

Intern at the Democracy Assessment Unit, International IDEA

Email: C.Alm@idea.int

Miriam Ekvall Halila

Intern at the Democracy Assessment Unit, International IDEA

Email: M.Halila@idea.int



International IDEA

International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance

Strömsborg, SE-103 34 STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN

+46 8 698 37 00

info@idea.int

www.idea.int