



Demokratinätverk 21



Permanent Representation
of the Federal Republic of Germany
to the European Union

The Global State of Democracy 2021

Building Resilience in a Pandemic Era

Global Launch Event

Brussels, 22 November 2021

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InternationalIDEA

The latest edition, *The Global State of Democracy 2021: Building Democratic Resilience in a Pandemic Era*, being launched on 22 November 2021, covers developments in democracy and human rights around the world, with special attention to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Event date and location

22 November 2021, Brussels and online

Organizing partners

- International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA)
- German Permanent Representation to the European Union
- Demokratinätverk 21

Description

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. It 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 today and help monitor progress on the Sustainable Development Goals. Analysis of these data are published bi-annually in the Global State of Democracy Report. The first and second reports were published in 2017 ([available here](#)) and 2019 ([available here](#)).

The latest edition, *The Global State of Democracy 2021: Building Democratic Resilience in a Pandemic Era*, being launched on 22 November 2021, covers developments in democracy and human rights around the world, with special attention to the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. This latest publication includes a report on [global](#) trends and developments, and is accompanied by reports on [Africa and the Middle East](#), the [Americas](#), [Asia and the Pacific](#), and [Europe](#) that have been written by International IDEA's experts based in each of these regions. The global and regional analyses are supplemented by thematic papers on [electoral processes](#), [emergency law responses](#) and [how democracies and non-democracies fared](#) based on lessons learned from the pandemic.

The Global State of Democracy: Building Resilience in a Pandemic Era report aims to influence the global debate and analyses current trends and challenges to democracy, exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic. It offers specific policy recommendations to spark new and innovative thinking for policymakers, governments and civil society organizations supporting democracy.

AGENDA

22 NOVEMBER 2021

15:00–15:10 (CET)	Welcoming Addresses H.E. Michael Clauss , Permanent Representative of Germany to the European Union Dr Kevin Casas-Zamora , Secretary-General, International IDEA
15:10–15:40	Keynote Addresses Ms Jutta Urpilainen , European Commissioner for International Partnerships Dr Jürgen Zattler , Director-General for International Development Policy, 2030 Agenda, Climate, German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
15:40–16:00	Presentation of the Global State of Democracy Report Dr Seema Shah , Head of Democracy Assessment Unit, International IDEA
16:00–16:50	High-level panel discussion on the Global State of Democracy Moderator: Dr Massimo Tommasoli , Director of Global Programmes, International IDEA Mr Christophe Deloire , Secretary General, Reporters Without Borders Mr Samson Itodo , Executive Director, Yiaga Africa Ms Mu Sochua , Democracy activist and former Vice-President of the Cambodia National Rescue Party Discussion and questions from the audience
16:50	Closing of the event Dr Kevin Casas-Zamora , Secretary-General, International IDEA



Kevin Casas-Zamora, Secretary-General, International IDEA

Dr Kevin Casas-Zamora is the Secretary-General of International IDEA and a Senior Fellow at the Inter-American Dialogue, 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. Michael Clauss, Permanent Representative of Germany to the European Union

Ambassador Clauss has been the Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Germany to the European Union, in Brussels, since August 2018. A career diplomat, his professional trajectory spans over 30 years of postings at the Federal Foreign Office in Berlin and in missions abroad, with a particular thematic focus on European Union affairs. Prior to assuming his current position, Ambassador Clauss was the Ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Federal Republic of Germany in China.



Christophe Deloire, Secretary-General, Reporters Without Borders (RSF)

In 2018, Christophe launched the Information and Democracy Initiative, which led to the signing of an International Partnership by 43 countries and the creation of the Information and Democracy Forum, which he chairs. Between 2008 and 2012, he was the director of one of France's leading journalism schools, the CFJ. Before that, he was an investigative journalist at Le Point magazine from 1998 to 2007. He has also worked for the television channels ARTE and TF1. Christophe Deloire is the author of 10 books and he is also a documentary film director.



Samson Itodo, Executive Director, Yiaga Africa

Samson, Member of the Board of Advisors of International IDEA, previously served as lead consultant for International IDEA on the development of a strategy for mitigating electoral and political violence in Africa. He also served as Research Facilitator for United States Institute for Peace (USIP) and the National Assembly's institutional reforms committee. He is currently engaged in the preparation of Nigeria's Medium-Term Development plan (2021 - 2025) and Nigeria's Agenda 2050.



Seema Shah, Head of Democracy Assessment Unit, International IDEA

Seema heads Democracy Assessment Unit that produces the Global State of Democracy report, an annually updated Global State of Democracy Indices and an EU-co-funded Covid-19 Global Monitor on Democracy and Human Rights. She 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.



Mu Sochua, Democracy activist and former Vice-President of the Cambodia National Rescue Party

Mu was a Member of Parliament (MP) for Battambang from 2013 to 2017, a seat which she previously held from 1998 to 2003. She was a member and Vice President of the Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP) until its dissolution, and previously a member of the Sam Rainsy Party (SRP) prior to its merger with the Human Rights Party. She served as Minister of Women and Veterans' Affairs and is currently one of 118 senior opposition figures serving a five-year ban from politics following a court ruling on 16 November 2017. Mu has won numerous awards for her work on human rights.



Massimo Tommasoli, Director of Global Programmes and Permanent Observer for International IDEA to the United Nations

Massimo previously worked as Head of the Good Governance and Conflict Prevention Unit in the Development Cooperation Directorate at the OECD in Paris. He held positions at the Directorate General for Development Cooperation of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Rome, and at UNESCO in Addis Ababa. Visiting scholar at the LUISS University in Rome, he lectured at the Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership at the City College of New York, the UN System Staff College in Turin, and various Italian Universities (Bergamo, Chieti, Milan, Pisa).



Jutta Urpilainen, European Commissioner for International Partnerships

Jutta is Finland's first female European Commissioner. From 2011 to 2014, she was serving as Finland's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance. Jutta has been a Member of Parliament since 2003, with a professional career in education before moving into politics. She was the first female chairperson of the Social Democratic Party of Finland, which she led from 2008 to 2014.



Jürgen Karl Zattler, Director-General for International development policy; 2030 Agenda; climate, German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

Jürgen is a development and macroeconomist with more than 30 years of experience in international cooperation. Until the end of 2020 he served as World Bank Group Executive Director representing Germany. Prior he had various positions in the BMZ, the European Commission and a private bank. Jürgen studied economics and political science. He holds a PhD in economics from the University of Giessen (trade theory and policy).



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