

## **HIGH-LEVEL EVENT**

### **“IN DEFENCE OF DEMOCRACY. FIGHTING AGAINST EXTREMISM”**

#### **CHAIRS’ SUMMARY**

At the invitation of the Presidents of Chile, Brazil, Colombia and Uruguay, as well as the President of the Government of Spain, the leaders and representatives of Albania, Bolivia, Cape Verde, Guatemala, Honduras, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Senegal, Mexico, Norway as well as the President of the European Council Antonio Costa, the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Alain Berset, and the Undersecretary-General of the United Nations, Guy Ryder, met in New York on September 24, 2025, at the sidelines of the 80<sup>th</sup> UN General Assembly, to discuss the current threats to democracy and freedom posed by extremist movements in different parts of the world.

The present meeting consolidated the High Level Event “In Defence of Democracy” co-organized by Brazil and Spain, on the sidelines of the 79th United Nations General Assembly, in 2024. It was also preceded by a meeting between the presidents of Chile, Brazil, Spain, Colombia, and Uruguay, held on July 21, 2025.

The leaders acknowledged that the world is going through a period of deep uncertainty, marked by growing threats to democracy, state sovereignty, and social cohesion.

During the discussion, participants reiterated their commitment to defending democracy; they expressed deep concern about the deepening of social and economic inequality, and the rise of groups that promote attacks against the rule of law, human rights, and fundamental freedoms. They acknowledged that polarization, extremism, and the spread of disinformation

are transnational phenomena that erode the social fabric and fuel violence and instability.

The leaders received a letter from Joseph Stiglitz and Maria Ressa signed by 44 Nobel laureates in support of the initiative.

The leaders present at the meeting discussed the importance of education in strengthening democracy. They also emphasized the importance of maintaining the integrity of information.

They agreed to come together to confront the global phenomenon of rising extremism in all its forms. They also committed to tackling the proliferation of disinformation and media manipulation and to countering the risks arising from the irresponsible use of digital technologies and artificial intelligence.

Considering the positive role played by the United Nations in promoting stability and democracy at the international level, the leaders reiterated their commitment to building an international order based on mutual respect, peace, respect for sovereignty, solidarity-based cooperation, and multilateralism. In that sense, the leaders reaffirmed their commitment to the defence of democracy

The leaders present at this meeting are committed to strengthening democratic institutions and processes, as well as maintaining ongoing coordination on challenges to democracy in their countries and around the world. They were invited to join the initiatives launched in the High Level Meeting held in July in Santiago de Chile. They look forward to continued dialogue on ways to strengthen democracy, including through engagement with think tanks and civil society.

The leaders thanked the President of Chile, Gabriel Boric, for moderating the discussion. They also welcomed the offer by the President of Government of Spain, Pedro Sánchez, to host another meeting “In Defence of Democracy” in Madrid, Spain, in 2026.