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THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

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MESSAGE TO 10TH WORLD FORUM FOR DEMOCRACY

Strasbourg, 7 November 2022

I am pleased to greet the 10th World Forum for Democracy.

Democracy, development, and human rights are interdependent and mutually reinforcing. They form the foundation for more sustainable, resilient, and inclusive societies. Yet around the world, grave threats to democracy are growing.

Civic space is shrinking. Media and freedom of expression are being eroded. Distrust and disinformation are on the rise — fueling polarization and undermining institutions.

It is time to sound the alarm about the state of democracy and stand up to protect its principles of equality, inclusion, and solidarity for people and planet.

That requires stepped-up efforts to create space for meaningful social dialogue, tackle growing inequalities, combat corruption, ensure the transparency of democratic institutions, and renew the social contract. At the same time, we must invest in quality education and opportunities for all, to enable full participation in decision-making.

Democracy is a powerful mechanism to deliver the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Let's work together to protect it against current and future threats.
