



World Forum for Democracy 6-8 November 2023, Strasbourg

# Democracy = Peace?

## Call for initiatives

### WHY IS THE WORLD FORUM FOR DEMOCRACY SPECIAL?

The World Forum for Democracy is a platform for global dialogue and democratic participation which brings new ideas into the work of the Council of Europe and promotes its principles across the world. A unique event of its kind, it deals with challenges facing democracy, taking innovative initiatives and practices as a starting point and fostering constructive debate to find **solutions**. A democratic exercise, the Forum aims at giving the people – *demos* – their rightful place in political decision-making. It thus contributes to the evolution of democracy towards more participatory and inclusive structures and institutions.

### WHAT IS THE 11<sup>th</sup> WORLD FORUM FOR DEMOCRACY ABOUT?

War has once again returned to the European continent. The shock has been such that a renewed appreciation for peace, and worry for the welfare of democracy, has risen within the European and international communities. Armed conflicts, however, had never ceased to be a recurring threat in the world. The post Second World War vision of peace and prosperity, underpinned by democracy, never fully delivered. In the twenty-first century, the question is still open whether this vision can fulfil its promise. At a time when violence rages, inequalities are widening, and politics is polarising - and when governments are struggling to cope with unforeseen events including climate change, pandemics and the rise of new technologies- now is the time to ask: can democracy deliver peace?

### WHAT IS THE FORMAT OF THE 11<sup>th</sup> WFD?

The 11<sup>th</sup> World Forum for Democracy will debate the issues and generate new ideas for tackling the challenges to peace we face today. **Plenary sessions** will be an opportunity to discuss with speakers from all continents, including politicians, public and private officials, international organisations and civil society. **Forum Talks** will bring together relevant experts and academics that will share their experience and discuss how to improve the current situation. **Forum Labs** will allow participants to learn about ground-breaking initiatives that offer responses to the key questions above based on an analysis of their real impact and replicability. The initiatives should help us understand how democracy and democratic institutions and practices can help us wage peace and counter causes of war in our societies.

**THE LABS – WHO CAN  
PRESENT AN INITIATIVE AND  
HOW?**

The labs are the heart of the World Forum for Democracy. Their objective is to address specific issues through the critical analysis of tested initiatives. The selected initiatives, submitted by any public or private organisations, will be presented in short speeches of ten minutes and critically assessed by multidisciplinary panels and participants in the labs. The key conclusions and lessons learnt

from the labs will be discussed in a summing up session to prepare the overall conclusions of the Forum. The Forum participants will vote to choose the winner of the Democracy Innovation Award among the presented initiatives.

**The World Forum for Democracy calls for expressions of interest from innovative initiatives, from all over the world, aiming at enhancing democracy and contributing to sustainable peace.**

**These may be for example, but not limited to:**

- Innovative forms of civic engagement and public-private partnerships
- Cross-border partnerships related to democratic governance and peacebuilding
- Advocacy for underrepresented groups, women, minorities, children, indigenous communities, immigrants, refugees, and non-citizens (stateless and undocumented persons)
- Fostering democracy and peace through education, new platforms for conflict resolution and peace-building
- Learning from the past, fighting historical revisionism, innovative approaches to presenting the past, i.e. museums, media, collaborative events, documentaries, multi-perspectivity
- Public accountability, anti-corruption, transparency of public and private finance
- Addressing the wealth gap, new ways of lifting people out of poverty, crowdfunding activism, social enterprises, rural development
- Reconciliation and trust-building processes, truth-telling, restorative justice
- Protection for activists promoting peace and non-violence as a way of life
- Promoting social, economic and or civic empowerment of women and girls
- Study, data collection or analysis of hate crimes, extremism, inequalities, polarisation, propaganda, cyber warfare etc.
- Alternative economic practices, for example local cooperatives, non-monetary exchange, collective ownership, virtual economies, people-centred businesses, socially responsible financial practices

**HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR  
APPLICATION?**

Submissions from any public or private organisation should be made by answering the questionnaire in the appendix and sending it to **forum\_democracy@coe.int** by **15 June 2023**.

One presenter for the selected initiatives will be invited to Strasbourg to take part in the World Forum. Travel and accommodation expenses may be covered by the Council of Europe if required

For further information about the World Forum for Democracy 2023, please visit our [website](#).



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## QUESTIONNAIRE

### For the submission of an initiative at the World Forum for Democracy

|  |
|--|
| Country:   |
| Organisation/institution:  |
| Title of the initiative:   |
| Contact person   |
| Address:   |
| Telephone:   |
| Mobile phone:  |
| E-mail :   |
| Website:   |
| Brief presentation of the organisation (legal status, number of members/employees, field of operation, goals, other relevant information). |
| (max. 300 words)   |
| Brief description of the initiative: goals, actions, scope, participants, partners.  |
| (max. 200 words)   |
| What is the origin of the initiative (sources of inspiration, relevant academic debate etc.)?  |
| (max. 300 words)   |

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| How does this initiative contribute to building sustainable peace?<br>(max. 400 words)                               |
| How was the initiative implemented?  |
| What have been the results so far?   |
| Which indicators did you use to assess the initiative's results?   |
| What challenges have been encountered in the implementation phase?   |
| How does your initiative differ from other existing initiatives? What makes your initiative a democratic innovation? |
| To what extent is your initiative transferable to other organisations and countries?                                 |
| Any additional relevant information/references.  |

| PRACTICAL INFORMATION  |  |
|--|--|
| (Please note: the following information will not feed into the jury's assessment of your initiative)   |  |
| Please indicate who will present the initiative, as well as a replacement in case of an emergency that prevents the first presenter from participating in the Forum (Mr/Ms, name, position, city, country, e-mail, telephone): |  |
|  |  |
| Language of presentation:  |  |
| <input type="radio"/> English<br><input type="radio"/> French  |  |
| Will you need a Visa for entering France?  |  |
| <input type="radio"/> Yes<br><input type="radio"/> No  |  |
| Are you in position to fund your participation in the World Forum?   |  |
| <input type="radio"/> Yes<br><input type="radio"/> No  |  |
| Will you need assistance during the World Forum because of any kind of disability?   |  |
| <input type="radio"/> Yes<br><input type="radio"/> No<br>(Please note that the Palais building is accessible to people with mobility issues).  |  |
| Could you please list the social media accounts of your initiative?  |  |
| <input type="radio"/> Facebook<br><input type="radio"/> Instagram<br><input type="radio"/> Twitter<br><input type="radio"/> TikTok<br><input type="radio"/> Other (please specify)   |  |