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CONTRIBUTION TO THE WORLD FORUM FOR DEMOCRACY

Secretariat Memorandum
prepared by the
Directorate General of Democracy
Democratic Governance Division

1. Introduction: 12 Months, One Question

The [9th Edition of the World Forum for Democracy](#) (WFD) will bring together leading voices from politics, business, NGOs, academia, journalism and citizen-led initiatives from around the world to address the question “Can Democracy Save the Environment?”. The WFD is organised in three parts:

- The formal [launch](#), which took place on 18 November 2020;
- A series of online events – the so-called “[12 months, 1 question](#)” Campaign; and
- A 3-day in-person event to be held in Strasbourg in November 2021, if the conditions allow it.

In the “[12 months, 1 question](#)” Campaign each month is devoted to a specific theme. The campaign includes online events and activities organised by the Council of Europe and its partners, such as interviews, satellite events, “initiatives of the week” highlights, online webinars and Forum Talks with a range of experts, including youth leaders and civil society.

The themes of the campaign are the following:

December 2020:	Human rights for the environment
January 2021:	Deliberative democracy for climate
February 2021:	Disasters, displacement and climate change
March 2021:	Inequality, democracy and climate change
April 2021:	Environmental action at local level
May 2021:	Defending the defenders
June 2021:	Children and youth leading the fight against climate change
July 2021:	The environment and the economy
August 2021:	Technology, the environment and democracy
September 2021:	Greening democratic institutions
October 2021:	The future of energy
8-10 November 2021:	Can democracy save the environment?

2. Proposals for webinars supported by the CDDG

In the light of previous/ongoing work of the CDLR/CDDG and the Centre of Expertise for Good Governance, the Secretariat has identified some possible topics for webinars, which would take place with the participation of CDDG members and experts of the Centre of Expertise. At its meeting of 29-30 March 2021, the Bureau of the CDDG supported these proposals.

- **April 2021: The 15-Minute City, Lockdown Daydreaming or a Model for Urban Sustainable Living?**

While many countries are experiencing lockdowns, the idea of being in close proximity of all life and work necessities has never been more popular. Is it possible to have work, home, shops, entertainment, education, and healthcare – all within a 15-minute radius? A webinar would discuss benefits and challenges of the 15-Minute City concept, which according to its supporters could be 'next normal' for urban sustainable living.

- **July 2021: Public Private Partnerships for Green City Solutions**

Given the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on government resources, it may be more important than ever to attract private capital to build green infrastructure and make cities more sustainable. Are public-private partnerships (PPPs) the solution?

At every level of governance, public-private partnerships could empower public authorities to meet sustainability objectives while also supporting business. The webinar will analyse the benefits, limitations and risks of PPPs and address key issues such as governance, finance, innovation, conditions for success, and citizen participation.

- **September 2021: Green Public Administration**

Turning public administration green implies a change of the frame of mind. It means formulating a vision to be shared with and by the population and upholding a commitment sacrificing short-term interests to ensure long-term sustainability. The public administration should lead the way to reduce carbon emissions and better manage energy resources and encourage individuals, organisations and businesses to do the same.

The webinar will focus on how the public administration can embed higher environmental standards in its procedures, working methods and infrastructure. Special attention will be devoted to examples of green practices in public administration, including teleworking, measures to reduce the administration's environmental impact, green public procurement and green budgeting.

3. Action required

The CDDG is invited to discuss these proposals, and actively contribute to the organisation of the webinars or other events in the context of the 12 Months, 1 Question campaign.