

12 MONTHS, 1 QUESTION



www.wfdemocracy.org

INTRODUCTION TO THE ELEMENTS OF THE 9TH EDITION OF THE WFD

Due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, it has been decided to adapt the **9th Edition of the World Forum for Democracy “Can Democracy Save the Environment?”** to the current reality and, exceptionally, to organise it in three parts:

1. **formal launching on 18 November 2020;**
2. **12 month-long series of events** to be accessible on the WFD website (November 2020 – November 2021); and
3. **a 3-day live in-person event in November 2021.**

On **18 November 2020** the 9th Edition of the World Forum for Democracy will be **officially launched** on the World Forum’s website. Video messages will convey the expectations of the organising partners: Council of Europe, France, Region Grand Est, Department Bas-Rhin and the City of Strasbourg, as well as other high-level guests, for the upcoming year-long effort to address the important theme of the Forum. A live-streamed expert panel discussion in the afternoon will expand upon elements of the question “Can Democracy Save the Environment”. Thereafter the **12 Months, 1 Question campaign** will endeavor to clarify, deepen and suggest potential answers to those questions which will ultimately be addressed from **8-10 November 2021** at the Forum’s main event in Strasbourg.

Following the launch event, and up until the Forum’s main event in Strasbourg in November 2021, the **Campaign “12 months, 1 question”** will focus on one topic each month, around which the different elements of the campaign will be arrayed and presented, with the objective of keeping the campaign as interactive and inclusive as possible. The campaign will include online events and activities organised by the Council of Europe and partners, including the Schools of Political Studies, for example interviews, satellite events, “initiatives of the week” highlights, online webinars and Forum Talks with a range of experts, including youth leaders and engaged civil society.

The **formal culmination of the 9th WFD will take place over 3 days in Strasbourg (8-10 November 2021)** following the traditional format for the Forum. Participants will be able to participate, and contribute to, a combination of plenary sessions, Labs focussed on grassroots initiatives, expert-led Forum Talks, election of the democracy innovation award, the Strasbourg-based OFF programme as well as a rich artistic, cultural programme.

THE CAMPAIGN “12 MONTHS, 1 QUESTION”

The need for innovation in event hosting ties in well with the topic of the 9th World Forum devoted to the climate crisis and democracy. To organise an event which is as broadly participative and eco-friendly as possible and which allows for geographic reach while minimising negative impacts on the environment, will visibly contribute to the overall aims of the 9th World Forum. The concept of the campaign is to **engage in activities sustaining enthusiasm for the 9th WFD over time** and to provide a methodical organising principle for the intervening work of all the partners which will retain and even enhance the visual identity or brand of the World Forum for Democracy. The campaign will prioritise engagement with children and youth, civil society, activists and academics, while also aiming to highlight relevant information or actions from local, regional or national authorities and International Organisations, in particular the Council of Europe.

The “12 Months, 1 Question” Campaign will be centralised around the website of the World Forum for Democracy (www.wfdemocracy.org). The campaign will be identified by its own homepage on the site which will explain and illustrate the purpose of the campaign and direct the user towards the different components of the campaign organised by monthly themes.

Each **monthly theme** will comprise a title theme banner accompanied by the bespoke illustration by Cartooning for Peace and other elements, for example relevant Council of Europe documents, links to the partners’ information or events, embedded or linked videos introducing highlighted initiatives, interviews with personalities, brief reflections on the theme by young people around the world. A special section of the page will be available for live-streamed events, for example theme-specific Forum Talks organised by the World Forum Secretariat, the organising partners, or the other Council of Europe partners. While the types of content or quantity of elements will be flexible, including future inclusion of new elements, if useful, in light of the different themes; the overall visual impact of the monthly theme pages will be consistent and user-friendly.

MONTHLY THEMES

DECEMBER 2020: HUMAN RIGHTS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

e.g. Protecting the environment using human rights law; legislating and prosecuting environmental crimes; ensuring just recourse or amends for people harmed by environmental abuses, providing legal protection of biodiversity, landscapes and eco-systems

JANUARY 2021: DELIBERATIVE DEMOCRACY FOR CLIMATE

e.g. Articulating public opinion and governments' environmental awareness; representative democracy and citizens' initiatives, petitions, etc.; citizen assemblies, conventions, juries on climate issues; grassroots campaigns and public policy

FEBRUARY 2021: DISASTERS, DISPLACEMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

e.g. Disappearing lands, threatened cities, natural disasters; climate change and migration; towards the status of climate refugees; prevention, preparedness and early warning

MARCH 2021: INEQUALITY, DEMOCRACY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

e.g. Disparate impacts of climate change on different regions, communities, levels of wealth; environmental impacts of poverty, inequality, racism; pollution and climate change in global north and south; representation, power and ethics in decision-making

APRIL 2021: ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION AT LOCAL LEVEL

e.g. Sustainable and inclusive urban planning; green transition of cities and regions; local civic participation mechanisms; environmentally conscious consumption

MAY 2021: DEFENDING THE DEFENDERS

e.g. Protection of environmental activists, journalists, whistleblowers; threatened indigenous communities; youth movements; freedom of expression, assembly and association advancing environmental awareness, protections and activism

JUNE 2021: CHILDREN AND YOUTH LEADING THE FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE

e.g. Youth activism for the environment; children's campaigns; environmental education; youth representation in policy-making; generational debt

JULY 2021: THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE ECONOMY

e.g. Green jobs; sustainable economies; climate crisis and global markets; circular economy, polluting industries, reconciling protection of biodiversity and economic growth; private sector profit and public responsibility

AUGUST 2021: TECHNOLOGY, THE ENVIRONMENT AND DEMOCRACY

e.g. Tech pollution and tech innovation; mapping environmental deterioration; sanctioning environmental malpractice and public oversight of new technologies; support for emerging "green" technology

SEPTEMBER 2021: GREENING DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS

e.g. International treaties and national legislation; climate agendas and climate targets; green budgeting, green lobbying; new democratic practices, mechanisms, structures to tackle climate concerns; balancing public opinion; vested interests; long-term needs and short-term crises

OCTOBER 2021: THE FUTURE OF ENERGY

e.g. Fossil fuels vs renewables; clean or cheap energy; dilemmas of transition; equity of access to energy; natural resources and sustainable energy sources; economic, democratic infrastructure for the future of energy

NOVEMBER 2021: CAN DEMOCRACY SAVE THE ENVIRONMENT?

More than ever we see the interdependence of our physical and our political worlds. On a planet in crisis, does democracy have what it takes to save the environment?