



SUMMIT FOR
ELECTORAL
DEMOCRACY

CONCEPT PAPER

1. Currently, there is wide consensus that democracy around the world is going through very complex times and is facing multiple risks.
2. The international organisations and electoral authorities from different parts of the world, have come together to call for a comprehensive and global reflection process on the cruxes of democracy to generate initiatives and an action plan to tackle them.
3. Unlike the democratisation process that developed through the last third of the previous century — which was encouraged and supported by a wide set of social institutions and forces—, the current issue has not gathered efforts or produced agreements for its defence and preservation.
4. Democracy is questioned in terms of its capability to govern over the contemporary society. The weakness of the Rule of Law entails serious consequences: economic inequality, ill-distribution of wealth, violence, health, weak environment protection, inclusion, justice delivery, among others.
5. Criticisms against democracy are affecting the credibility of electoral processes. Interest is lost in elections because the citizens see that instead of their problems and needs being solved, they grow bigger.
6. Hence, the “Summit for Democracy — The role of electoral management bodies in its strengthening” aims to start a global movement to improve the performance of democracies, particularly in the field of electoral processes. We democrats are looking for solutions while preserving the liberties. It is an intellectual, cultural, and moral challenge.
7. The convening organisations wish to, jointly and in solidarity, work in this drive to strengthen democracy. Nowadays, there are associations of electoral management bodies in all five continents. On these grounds, the proposal is to organise five regional meetings between July and August 2022, in addition to a global summit to be held in September this year.
8. We are experiencing a change of age. The technological modernisation of the last 20 years, the COVID-19 pandemic, the new world geopolitics, among others, are significantly affecting political and social behaviours. Democracy must adapt to the new social, political, and cultural dynamics. The Summit for Democracy movement is a starting point to work on its systematic improvement during, at least, the following 3 years. Only us can do it.
9. There is a pandemic that is worse than the one of COVID-19, and that is indifference. In this regard, the Austrian philosopher Karl Popper noted that “Democracy cannot be better than democrats. It is democrats who must work to improve it. It is absurd to complain about democracy. The answer to those kinds of grievances is asking: what have you done to improve democracy?”.

