



Declarations of Mexico's Global Forum on Modern Direct Democracy 2023

This is the concluding statement of the 11th Global Forum on Modern Direct Democracy 2023, held this week in Mexico, which was drafted by the event hosts. As in every edition of the Global Forum, a summary of the discussions is presented and our shared intentions as a community part of this great event are declared.

Just last Sunday, many of you witnessed a massive protest in the largest city in the Western Hemisphere, which is part of a fervor about the role and form that electoral institutions should have in Mexico. The former accounts of the importance of citizen involvement in discussions about public space, citizen participation, and democratic institutions.

People from over 60 countries from all continents have gathered this week in Mexico City, Guadalajara, and Merida to share experiences, knowledge, and ideas with people who are very different from us but who share the conviction to strengthen democracy in the world.

We cannot deny the democratic erosion that the world is experiencing at this moment; however, there are also increasingly more processes that seek to bring citizens closer to everyday decision-making.

This forum allows us to see the great differences between the challenges of African, Asian, European, North American and Latin American democracies. How fascinating the difference between the Lucerne forum and this one!

The different forms of democracy in the world can be inspirational and learning references for others; however, each of them must find its own way, achieving common objectives without leaving aside the particularities that enrich us.

The foray into these types of mechanisms and tools brings with it lessons and learnings, sometimes costly, but always of great value to continue building and strengthening the power of citizenship.

We consider it essential that the beginning of these exercises in Mexico and the rest of Latin America, as well as other emerging democracies, be well-directed in the face of the risk of being hijacked to promote partisan agendas and leaders with authoritarian tendencies, thus distorting the spirit of direct democracy and undermining people's participation.

In a region where we find the greatest inequalities in the world, democratic exercises provide a level playing field for the voices of all people to be heard, both at the international and transnational levels as well as the local one.



In particular, direct democracy promotes a scenario in which people's participation is proactive and not just reactive to what the spheres of power decide.

Today more than ever, the discussion of how direct democracy is related to representative democracies in the world is relevant. What should we do when our representative democracies do everything but represent the every-day people who live in our countries?

Liberal democracy is a system that, to a large extent, was built before phenomena such as globalization, misinformation through social networks, among others, existed. In the face of modern phenomena, we need modern institutions that contribute to empowering people and including groups that have historically been vulnerable.

Building civic culture from our different fields, through collective intelligence processes and public pedagogy, is a meeting point from which we all work to ensure democratic resilience.

In this forum, we have differed on various points, giving space for dialogue and listening to build from our differences, but we have also agreed on many others, such as the importance of having strong, independent, and open to citizens institutions. We have recognized the value of each of us and each of the places we come from.

This declaration is our letter of reality and hope, which we hope will continue to be nourished by the voices of the people who attended the Forum, those who have attended previous ones, and those who will continue to attend those to come.

Your suggestions, corrections, and contributions are welcome.