

The GLOBSEC Democracy Declaration

Bratislava, 6 June 2019

Commemorating the 30th anniversary of democracy in Central and Eastern Europe, and declaring our dedication to championing democratic principles now and in the future,

We recognize that:

- the return to democracy in the wake of 1989 was the first step in addressing grievances of the past and forging new future;
- without Central and Eastern Europe, both European and Transatlantic integration would be incomplete;
- this region continues to play an integral role on the European and Transatlantic stage and presents a case for further integration processes;
- the strengthening of European and Transatlantic unity, as a guarantee of peace, stability and prosperity, should remain a constant effort;
- democracy is not a certainty and requires constant maintenance and protection;
- the full respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms as well as the rule of law is the bedrock of democratic societies;
- phenomena such as corruption, unequal distribution of wealth or growing intolerance are challenging the attractiveness of democratic systems;
- the misuse of evolving technologies provides increasing room for attacks on democratic principles;
- the litany of these tensions has enabled multiple forces to contest the validity of democracy, and potentially reverse the regional gains made over the last thirty years.

In the spirit of the events of 1989 and as an investment in a future for all, we therefore:

1. **recommit ourselves** to evermore strongly protect democratic principles;
2. undertake to **avoid complacency in the face of threats and challenges** to democratic systems and to actively **work on the strengthening of our institutions**;
3. remain **vigilant in identifying and addressing non-democratic and extremist behaviour** to ensure that our **shared values and rules continue to be upheld**.

This call remains open to all those who wish to unceasingly and unequivocally pursue and promote democratic values today and tomorrow, by lending their name and signing The GLOBSEC Democracy Declaration at <https://forum.globsec.org/> by finding the document in the “About section”.

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