

Asia Democracy Network

2014-2015
Annual
Report

Produced By

The ADN annual report is a collaborative effort of the ADN Secretariat Staff.

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ADN in 2014 - 2015

Asia Democracy Network

Bridging multi-stakeholders in defending and promoting democracy in Asia

Who We Reach

As an international network composed of civil society organizations, we reach out to stakeholders engaged in democracy and human rights at the global, regional, national, and local level.

What We Accomplished

- Advancing regional dialogue and collaboration among multi-stakeholders.
- Strengthening, networking, building platforms and capacity.
- Capacity building for democracy activists and human rights defenders in Asia.



South Asia
(People's SAARC)

2014 February	2014 April	2014 July	2014 August	2014 September
<p><i>1st Steering Committee Meeting (Singapore, Singapore)</i></p> <p><i>Regional consultation on FoAA with UN Special Rapporteur Maina Kiai (Singapore, Singapore)</i></p>	<p><i>Regional Strategic Planning (RSP) Meeting (Bangkok, Thailand)</i></p>	<p><i>International Solidarity Conference, 'Thailand: Human Rights and Democracy in Crisis' (Quezon City, Philippines)</i></p>	<p><i>Glocal Advocacy Leadership in Asia Academy (GALAA) II (Bangkok, Thailand)</i></p>	<p><i>UN General Assembly Side Event Open Forum on Justice and Governance, 'Ensuring Justice and Governance in the Post-2015 Development Goals' (New York, USA)</i></p>

Who We Are

- The Asia Democracy Network (ADN) is a civil society led international network of regional and sub-regional civil society organizations, networks, and democracy advocates in Asia to address common challenges in Asia through more effective cooperation and advocacy.
- ADN serves as a multi-stakeholders' space which is an open and inclusive process led by independent CSO's and democracy advocates in Asia.

Our Aims

- **Vision:** ADN is committed to building a **just, equitable and sustainable** community of democratic societies in Asia, where all **human rights** of all individuals, groups and peoples are fully **respected and realized**.
- **Mission:** ADN works to promote and advance democratization and democratic governance at all levels of society through **effective solidarity and cooperation** among civil society organizations and democracy advocates in Asia.
- **Goal:** ADN aims to build a **stronger regional democracy network and movement** engaged effectively in international advocacy and engagement with governments, inter-governmental organizations and other stakeholders in Asia and beyond.



Northeast Asia
(NEADF)



Southeast Asia
(SEACA)

2014 October	2014 November	2015 January	2015 February	2015 March
<p>Transparent Ulaanbaatar 2014 Anti-Corruption Forum (Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia)</p> <p>International Solidarity Mission to Cambodia (Phnom Penh, Cambodia)</p>	<p>Regional Human Rights Mechanisms, Inter-regional Dialogue on ASEAN and SAARC (Kathmandu, Nepal)</p> <p>International Forum, 'Empowering the Community of Democracies' (Seoul, Korea)</p> <p>Ulaanbaatar Civic Forum 'Promoting Civic Participation in Accountable Governance and Sustainable Development in Northeast Asia' (Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia)</p>	<p>Strategy Development of Mongolian Civil Society Organizations (Seoul, Korea)</p> <p>Promoting Accountability and Democratic Governance in Asia Workshop (Bangkok, Thailand)</p>	<p>Solidarity Conference on Justice and Accountability in Sri Lanka (Bangkok, Thailand)</p>	<p>Strengthening Democracy in Asia: Inclusion, Participation, and Rights (New Delhi, India)</p>

History

October 14-17, 2012

7th World Movement for Democracy Assembly, Lima Peru

The need for a network to promote democracy in Asia was first vocalized.

April 27-29, 2013

7th Ministerial Conference of the Community of Democracies, Ulaanbaatar Mongolia

The rise of democracy in Asia was highlighted. Many of the representatives from international organizations agree with the establishment of a network promoting democracy in Asia. The network was then decided to be called the Asia Democracy Network (ADN).

April-October 2013

Over the course of time, the task force was formed among democracy-related organizations in Korea to push forward the idea and discuss the agenda of the Founding Assembly of the ADN.

October 21-22, 2013

Asia Democracy Network Founding Assembly, Seoul Korea

Over 75 participants from 30 countries and over 50 civil society organizations and democracy-related institutions across Asia participated in the official launching of the ADN in Seoul, Korea on October 21-22, 2013. At the launching, the Seoul Democracy Declaration and the ADN Charter of Principles was adopted. Also, 11 members of the steering committee were elected to spearhead the network. It was decided to establish the ADN secretariat in Seoul, Korea.

Principles and Values

Principles such as *international solidarity and partnerships, plurality, and diversity*, shared responsibilities and leadership, human rights based approach are the core foundation of ADN.

Principles

values

ADN values *democracy* as a universally recognized ideal based on common values shared by peoples throughout the global community; participatory and inclusive democracy playing a role in *promoting social justice, reducing inequality*, and preventing armed conflict; women's active participation and empowerment; protection of religious, ethnic and other minorities; free, fair and democratic elections as essential to good and democratic governance; and education for democracy as ensuring citizens' awareness of civic rights and duties.

Seoul Democracy Declaration

22 Oct. 2013

We participants, democracy advocates and human rights defenders from various Asian countries, in the Founding Assembly of the Asia Democracy Network on the occasion of the 3rd Seoul Democracy Forum held in Seoul, Korea on 21 and 22 October 2013,

1. Paying tribute to those who preceded us in the fight for democracy and human rights and consolidating their legacy,
2. Recalling the sacrifices of democracy advocates who shed their blood for defending and promoting democratic values and principles in different countries in Asia,
3. Reaffirming our commitment to build a just, equitable and peaceful community of democratic societies in Asia,
4. Recognizing the urgent need to create a network of democracy advocates and human rights defenders in Asia,
5. Expressing our deep solidarity with all democracy advocates who struggle for the realization of democracy and human rights in Asia and beyond,
6. Emphasizing the essential role and contribution of citizens and civil society organizations to advance democracy in Asia,
7. Appreciating the efforts and work of all organizers including members of the Korea Democracy Network to host the Founding Assembly of the Asia Democracy Network,
8. Welcoming the launching of the Asia Democracy Network as a common platform for action and reflection among democracy advocates and human rights defenders in Asia,

Hereby adopt the Charter of Principles as guiding principles for the Asia Democracy Network.

Charter of Principles

Vision, Mission and Goal

1. ADN is committed to building a just, equitable and sustainable community of democratic societies in Asia, where all human rights of all individuals, groups and peoples are fully respected and realized. (Vision)
2. ADN works to promote and advance democratization and democratic governance at all levels of society through effective solidarity and cooperation among civil society organizations and democracy advocates in Asia. (Mission)
3. ADN aims to build a stronger regional democracy network and movement engaged effectively in international advocacy and engagement with governments, inter-governmental organizations and other stakeholders in Asia and beyond. (Goal)

Values and Principles

1. ADN embraces principles such as international solidarity and partnerships, plurality and diversity, shared responsibilities and leadership, human rights based approach.
2. ADN believes :
 - that democracy is a universally recognized ideal as well as a goal, which is based on common values shared by peoples throughout the world community.
 - that participatory and inclusive democracy plays a role in promoting social justice, reducing inequality, and preventing armed conflict.
 - that women's active participation and empowerment is crucial in advancing inclusive democracy.
 - that democracy should contribute to the protection of religious, ethnic and other minorities.
 - that free, fair and democratic elections are essential to good governance.
 - that education for democracy at all levels ensures that citizens are aware of their rights and civic duties.

3. ADN recognizes :

- the role of the private sector in democracy building by promoting good and sustainable business practice according to international norms and standards.
- the importance of international development cooperation as an effective tool for democracy promotion.
- the importance of constructive engagement with governments and international organizations while maintaining independence and autonomy.

4. ADN upholds and reaffirms universal values such as human rights and democracy as stated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), Universal Declaration on Democracy (1997), UN Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms [Human Rights Defenders] (1998).

In accordance to the above principles, ADN shall identify and address key challenges and threats to inclusive and participatory democracy in Asia such as:

- Corruption and failure of accountability mechanisms.
- Culture of impunity.
- Poverty and social inequality.
- Negative impacts of globalization.
- Bad governance including fraudulent elections.
- Authoritarianism, militarization, and armed conflicts.
- Control and manipulation of media and information.
- Religious fundamentalism in all its forms.
- Gender Inequality.
- Exclusion of marginalized groups.

Steering Committee 2013-2015

The Steering Committee, is the coordinating and leadership body of the ADN, it is composed of thematic and sector specific organizations and networks operating at the regional or sub-regional level. The Steering Committee meeting is held at least once a year.

- Elections: Asian Network for Free Elections (ANFREL)
- Human Rights: Asia Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM- ASIA)
- Transparency: Transparency International (TI) - Asia
- Press Freedom: Southeast Asia Press Alliance (SEAPA)
- Development: Asia Development Alliance (ADA)
- Peace: Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC) – SEA/NEA
- Research: Asia Democracy Research Network (ADRN)
- South Asia: People's South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (People's SAARC)
- South-east Asia: Southeast Asian Committee for Advocacy (SEACA)
- North-east Asia: Northeast Asia Democracy Forum (NEADF)
- Secretariat: Korea Democracy Foundation (KDN)



Our Work
in
2014 - 2015



Highlights

Steering Committee (SC) Meetings

At the ADN Steering Committee Meeting, members discuss governance issues, key activities, and challenges as well as develop action plans on the regional and international level.

5 February - *1st Steering Committee Meeting (Singapore, Singapore)*



11 Sep - 2nd Steering Committee Meeting (Taipei, Taiwan)



Regional Strategic Planning (RSP) Meeting

ADN RSP meeting is a meeting where SC members meet to develop strategic action planning for both thematic and international advocacy.

20-21 April (Bangkok, Thailand)



11 September (Taipei, Taiwan)



Advocacy/International Solidarity

3-4 February

***WMD – ADN Regional Workshop on Freedom of Assembly and Association
(Singapore, Singapore)***

ADN and the World Movement for Democracy (WMD) co-hosted the Asia regional consultation on the rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and Association with UN Special Rapporteur Maina Kiai to inform his thematic report to the UN Human Rights Council (A/HRC/26/29, 2014). The Consultation focused on groups most at risk highlighting the realities and challenges the civil society in countries like Sri Lanka and Cambodia encounter.



17-18 July

***International Solidarity Conference,
'Thailand: Human Rights and Democracy in Crisis' (Diliman, Quezon City)***

In response to the military coup in May 2014 in Thailand, democracy and human rights advocacy groups, academics, and key figures from Malaysia, Indonesia, Nepal, South Korea, Thailand gathered to have an open discussion on the situation and assess an action plan for an improvement of the situation.



2-9 August

Glocal Advocacy Leadership in Asia Academy (GALAA) II (Bangkok, Thailand)

As a joint initiative among Forum-Asia, Asia Development Alliance, and Asia Democracy Network, GALAA aims to offer the participants a chance for the capacity building and advocacy strategy. The weeklong program of 2nd GALAA had 30 participants from over 13 different Asian countries in 2014.



22 September

ADN-INFID-Beyond 2015 UN General Assembly Side Event Open Forum on Justice and Governance, 'Ensuring Justice and Governance in the Post-2015 Development Goals' (New York, USA)

Co-hosted with International NGO Forum on Indonesian Development (INFID), Asia Development Alliance (ADA), and Beyond 2015, the open forum is to highlight the importance of a just and accountable governance in the post 2015 development goals such as the proposed goal 16, and to build the strategic partnerships among participants to promote justice and governance.



6-7 October

UB-ADN-IRI Transparent Ulaanbaatar 2014 Anti-Corruption Forum (Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia)

Along with National Endowment for Democracy (NED), Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE), Taiwan Foundation for Democracy (TFD), ADN was one of the supporters for the forum.

The forum was initiated to combat corruption in Mongolia, and was sought to learn lessons, share experiences, and outline the progress of anti-corruption initiatives in Mongolia and in the region among governments, CSOs, academia, and business sector.



6-10 October

International Solidarity Mission to Cambodia (Phnom Penh, Cambodia)

In response to the Royal Government of Cambodia’s new law threatening the civil society space in the country, ADN released a joint statement at the press conference on “Cambodia at a Crossroad New Laws Would Limit Freedoms” with a number of international and regional CSOs.



8-9 October

Bali Civil Society Forum and Bali Democracy Forum (Bali, Indonesia)

ADN in solidarity with Indonesian CSOs released a statement to express deep concern over scrapping of Indonesia's direct local elections and suppression of freedom of assembly during Bali Democracy Forum.



23 November***ADN-FORUM-ASIA-INSEC Regional Human Rights Mechanisms,
Inter Regional Dialogue on ASEAN and SAARC (Kathmandu, Nepal)***

As a side event to the People's SAARC Meeting, ADN, FORUM-ASIA, and Regional Initiative for a South Asia Human Rights Mechanism in cooperation with the Informal Sector Service Centre (INSEC), Nepal are organizing an inter-regional dialogue on regional human rights mechanisms with a focus on the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).



24-25 November *EAI-ADN International Forum, 'Empowering the Community of Democracies' (Seoul, Korea)*

ADN in cooperation with East Asia Institute (EAI) held the international forum to increase the cooperation between Community of Democracies (CoD) and Asian Civil Society, and to prepare an Asian agenda for the upcoming 8th CoD Ministerial Meeting which will be held on July 2015. The forum concluded with the Seoul Proposal Action Plan being devised to empower international organizations like the CoD to further representation of multi-stakeholders in Asia.



29-30 November

Ulaanbaatar Civic Forum(UBCF),

'Promoting Civic Participation in Accountable Governance and Sustainable Development in Northeast Asia' (Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia)

- UBCF is a joint initiative of civil society organizations in Mongolia with the support of the Mongolia Government and Community of Democracies (CoD) Secretariat.
- ADN cooperated the forum to promote effective citizens' participation in good and accountable governance and sustainable development in the context of Post-2015 sustainable development goals with a focus on the Northeast Asian region, namely China, Hong Kong, Korea, Japan, Taiwan as well as Mongolia. The participants from the forum issued Ulaanbaatar Civic Declaration 2014.



19-23 January, 2015

Strategy Development of Mongolian Civil Society Organizations (Seoul, Korea)

- Sponsored by the Open Society Foundation – Mongolia and organized by the Asia Democracy Network Secretariat, a five day civil society capacity building program was implemented. Fifteen Mongolian mid-level civil society activists working in diverse areas such as human rights, women’s rights, democracy, environment, and persons with disability rights came to Seoul, Korea to participate in the program. The aim of the program was to develop the capacity of the Mongolian CSO activists in their strategy development in maintaining a sustainable civil society organization.
- Through the visitation of Seoul based South Korean civil society organizations, such as the Korea Democracy Network, People’s Solidarity for Participatory Democracy, Human Rights Law Foundation, City of Seoul NPO Center, Angel’s Haven (Disability Center), United Way, Help and Give Foundation, and the Korean Federation for Environment Movement, the participants were able to obtain information on the operations, advocacy, and fundraising strategies of these respective organizations. ADN Co-convenor, Mr. Anselmo Lee, also provided a lecture on the background and current state of civil society in Korea.



31-1 January/February 2015

Solidarity Conference on Justice and Accountability in Sri Lanka (Bangkok, Thailand)

- The last phase of the civil war in Sri Lanka between the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and the State forces in the North and Eastern parts left several thousands dead and injured. Deplorable and grave human rights violations and crimes against humanity were committed by both warring factions, causing civilians innumerable suffering. With what many experts have branded as the gravest human rights violation in recent times, evidence of enforced disappearances, extra judicial killings, violence against children and women were rampant, with substantial evidence still emerging. These violations have not been contained to the warring period, and are in fact still continuing. Human rights defenders, journalist and lawyers are under particular attack with State institutions becoming highly polarized there remains little avenue for redress. The United Nations and the rest of the international community has been speaking in union in the demand for accountability and justice however many Asian states have fallen behind.
- The second country specific solidarity campaign initiative with FORUM-Asia after a conference on Thailand, this conference was organized to generate solidarity among civil society in Asia to support the democracy and human rights movement in Sri Lanka.



23-24 March

Strengthening Democracy in Asia: Inclusion, Participation, and Rights (India, New Delhi)

- Strengthening democracy in Asia is a continuous plight for the Asia Democracy Network (ADN). In collaboration with the World Movement for Democracy and the Institute of Social Sciences, ADN held a two day conference themed “Strengthening Democracy in Asia: Inclusion, Participation, and Rights” at the India International Centre in New Delhi. Approximately 300 activists, advocates, entrepreneurs, and academics from over 15 countries across the Asian region gathered to discuss the various challenges faced in the plight to further democracy as well as sharing best practices in addressing them. The event also served as a tribute to the historic work of George Fernandes in support of labor rights in India and democracy and human rights in Tibet and Burma.
- His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso, spiritual leader of the Tibetan people, gave a compelling talk about democracy, compassion, and universal responsibility during the opening session. The six panels over the course of two days covered a wide range of aspects in the plight for democracy in Asia, panels on urbanization and the role of local democracy, youth approaches to the democratic process, inclusive economic development and women entrepreneurs.
- ADN successfully organized two panels on “Resource Extraction, Land Disputes, and Marginalized Communities” and “Right to Information and the Freedom of Expression” respectively. The conference provided an opportunity for ADN to expand regional solidarity to South Asia.



ADN Statements

ADN issues a statement to express a grave concern over the situation considered as a threat to the democracy, rule of law, and the protection of human rights. The followings are issued in 2014:

23 May	<i>Condemnation of Coup d'état by Thai Military</i>	
	<i>Condemnation of the Violent Crackdown of Pro-Democracy Protestors in Hong Kong</i>	29 September
9 October	<i>Concern of Indonesia's Scrapping of Direct Local Elections and Freedom of Assembly</i>	
	<i>Cambodia at a Crossroads New Laws Would Limit Freedoms</i>	10 October
24 November	<i>People's SAARC 2014 Declaration</i>	
	<i>ASEAN-Korea's Concern over Thai Military Ruler Participation</i>	11 December

Acronyms

ADA	Asia Development Alliance
ADN	Asia Democracy Network
ADRN	Asia Democracy Research Network
ANFREL	Asian Network for Free Elections
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
BCSF	Bali Civil Society Forum
BDF	Bali Democracy Forum
CIPE	Center for International Private Enterprise
CoD	Community of Democracies
EAI	East Asia Institute
FoAA	Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association
FORUM-ASIA	Asia Forum for Human Rights and Development
GALAA	Glocal Advocacy Leadership in Asia Academy
GPPAC	Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict
INFID	International NGO Forum on Indonesian Development
INSEC	Informal Sector Service Centre
IRI	International Republican Institute
KDF	Korea Democracy Foundation
KDN	Korea Democracy Network
NEA	Northeast Asia
NEADF	Northeast Asia Democracy Forum
NED	National Endowment for Democracy
People's SAARC	People's South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SEA	Southeast Asia
SEACA	Southeast Asian Committee for Advocacy
SEAPA	Southeast Asia Press Alliance
TI	Transparency International
TFD	Taiwan Foundation for Democracy
UBCF	Ulaanbaatar Civil Forum
WMD	World Movement for Democracy

ADN Steering Committee Members (2013-2015)

- **ADN Co-Conveners**

Ms. Nimalka, FERNANDO, Board Member / People's SAARC
 Ms. Consuelo Katrina LOPA, Regional Coordinator / Southeast Asian Committee for Advocacy (SEACA)
 Mr. Anselmo LEE, Member / Korea Democracy Network (KDN)
 Ms. Melinda De JESUS / Southeast Asian Press Alliance (SEAPA) (2013-2014)

- **Steering Committee Members**

Mr. Ichal SUPRIADI, Executive Director / Asian Network for Free Elections (ANFREL)
 Mr. Rohana HETTIARACHCHIE, Executive Director / People's Action for Free and Fair Elections (PAFFREL)
 Ms. Evelyn BALAIS-SERRANO, Executive Director / Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA)
 Mr. John LIU, East Asia Programme Director / FORUM-ASIA
 Mr. Soeung SAROEUN, Board Member / Transparency International (TI)-Asia
 Mr. Tur-Od LKHAGVAJAV, Co-founder-President / Transparency (TI)-Mongolia
 Mr. Eko MARYADI, President / Southeast Asian Press Alliance (SEAPA)
 Ms. Nirmala SHARMA, Vice President / South Asian Free Media Association (SAFMA)
 Mr. Sugeng BAHAGIJO, Director/ International NGO Forum on Indonesian Development (INFID) Member, Asia Development Alliance (ADA)
 Mr. Harsh JAITLEI, Chief Executive Officer / VANI / Member Asia Development Alliance (ADA)
 Mr. Augusto MICLAT, Executive Director / IID / Member / Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC-SEA)
 Mr. Tatsuya YOSHIOKA, Director / Peace Boat / Member of GPPAC-NEA
 Ms. Sook Jong LEE, President / East Asia Institute (EAI) / Member Asia Democracy Research Network (ADRN)
 Mr. Kaustuv BANDYOPADHYAY, Director / Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA)/ Member Asia Democracy Research Network (ADRN)
 Mr. Netra TIMSINA, South Asia Regional Coordinator / People's SAARC
 Mr. William GOIS, Chair / SEACA
 Mr. Cheng-Hao PAO, Member / East Asia Democracy Forum (EADF)
 Ms. Zanaa JURMED, Member / Northeast Asia Democracy Forum (NEADF)

- **Secretariat**

Mr. Hyung-sik SHIN, Secretary-General
 Ms. Soo Yon SUH, Manager
 Ms. Suzin BAHC, Assistant Coordinator

Our Donors

National Endowment for Democracy (NED)

www.ned.org



The National Endowment for Democracy (NED) is a private, nonprofit foundation dedicated to the growth and strengthening of democratic institutions around the world. Each year, NED makes more than 1,000 grants to support the projects of non-governmental groups abroad who are working for democratic goals in more than 90 countries.

Since its founding in 1983, the NED has remained on the leading edge of democratic struggles everywhere, while evolving into a multifaceted institution that is a hub of activity, resources and intellectual exchange for activists,

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Korea

<http://www.mofa.go.kr/ENG>



The MOFA was inaugurated according to the Government Organization Act enacted by the Government of the Republic of Korea on July 17, 1948, to be in charge of diplomacy, external economic policy, overseas Korean nationals, international situation analysis and overseas promotional affairs.

The MOFA establishes and carries out foreign policies, economic diplomacy and economic cooperation, takes part in international economic communities, administers treaties and international agreements, protects and supports overseas Korean nationals, and promotes cultural cooperation.

Taiwan Foundation for Democracy (TFD)

www.tfd.org.tw



The Taiwan Foundation for Democracy (TFD) is a non-profit organization headquartered in Taipei. The Foundation was established in June 2003 as a non-partisan, non-profit organization. The Foundation was established with an inter-related, two-tracked mission in mind.

Domestically, the TFD strives to play a positive role in consolidating Taiwan's democracy and fortifying its commitment to human rights; internationally, the Foundation hopes to become a strong link in the world's democratic network, joining forces with related organizations around the world.

Community of Democracies (CoD)

www.community-democracies.org



The Community of Democracies is a global intergovernmental coalition, founded in the year of 2000 to bring together governments, civil society and the private sector in the pursuit of a common goal: promoting democratic rules and strengthening democratic norms and institutions around the world.

The Mission Statement of the Community of Democracies is built upon the democratic values agreed in the Warsaw Declaration - the Community's founding document signed in 2000. The Community seeks to support democratic transition and consolidation worldwide and help bridge the gap between principles of democracy and universal human rights and their practice by assisting societies in the development and strengthening of democratic institutions and values, identifying, alerting and responding to threats to democracy so as to assist states to remain on the path to democracy, supporting and defending civil society in all countries, advancing broad-based participation in democratic governance, and giving a voice to those working peacefully for democracy in all countries.