

Democracy and Human Rights in **Decline**

A CALL TO ACTION

Co-organized by:



Hosted by:



Florence, Italy • 24-25 November 2014

A Policy Dialogue organized by
Club de Madrid & Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights

‘Democracy and Human Rights in Decline?’, a Policy Dialogue to set transformative ideas for the Next Generation Democracy

- **150 high level experts, including 40 Club de Madrid Members, all of them former democratically elected former Prime Ministers and Presidents, will analyze current democratic trends and signals of decline in democracy and, above all, create democratic agendas with transformative ideas and political guidelines for each region of the world**
- **This policy dialogue will mark the launch of the two year, multi-stakeholder Club de Madrid-led Next Generation Democracy (NGD) Project, a response to the signals of democratic erosion worldwide**
- **The Club de Madrid Member and former Prime Minister of Canada, Kim Campbell, will be participating in the gathering. Click [here](#) to check the program and the full list of participants**

Madrid/Florence 28th of October The **Club de Madrid** and the **Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights (RFK Center)** have partnered to facilitate a discussion on the quality and the future of democracy. With political disaffection and social unrest increasing around the world, the Policy Dialogue **‘Democracy and Human Rights in Decline? A Call to Action’** will identify innovative tools and transformative ideas to foster democracy in this challenging time.

The meeting, to be hosted by the **European University Institute** in Florence on the 24th-25th of November, represents a crucial political, academic, and social gathering aimed at producing an analysis of the trends that have impacted democracy in the last 15 years; of the signals of decline apparent across the world; and of how to reverse them. The Policy Dialogue will mark the beginning of a process to produce new “democratic action agendas” for each of them and thus improve the quality of the Next Generation’s Democracy around the globe.

Forty Club de Madrid Members (all of them democratically elected former Presidents and Prime Ministers) will provide the political view and orientation. With kick-off contributions from the Club’s President, **Vaira Vike-Freiberga**, (Latvia) and the RKF Center’s President, **Kerry Kennedy**, the confirmed lineup will include, among many others, leaders from Europe such as **Romano Prodi** (Italy); **Kjell Magne Bondevik** (Norway); **Tarja Halonen** (Finland); **Felipe González** (Spain); **Ruud Lubbers** (Netherlands); and **Boris Tadic** (Serbia).

African representatives include **Abdul-Kareem Al Eryani** (Yemen); **Sadiq Al Mahdi** (Sudan) **Olusegun Obasanjo** (Nigeria); and **Cassam Uteem** (Mauritius). From the Americas: **Kim Campbell** (Canada); **Felipe Calderón** (Mexico); **Ricardo Lagos** (Chile) and **Andrés Pastrana** (Colombia); and from Asia, **Chandrika Kumaratunga** (Sri Lanka) and **Roza Otunbayeva** (Kyrgyzstan).

International experts and practitioners, such as **Larry Diamond** from Stanford University; **Roelf Meyer** (former South African Minister under De Klerk and Mandela's governments and key facilitator of South-African transition to democracy); **Beatriz Merino** (former Prime Minister of Peru); entrepreneurs and philanthropists like **Mo Ibrahim** and **Steve Killelea** or the **Slifka Foundation**; multi-government and multilateral institutions, (UN, OECD, SEGIB, Community of Democracies); human rights organizations (Human Rights Watch); civil society (OXFAM, Partnership for Change); academia (Berstelman Stiftung, IDEA, FLACSO, Carnegie Endowment); and the private sector (Microsoft) are all confirmed participants in the conference.

Structure

The Policy Dialogue will be organized in plenary and break-out sessions. During the first day, working groups will review regional dynamics and main threats to democracy in different regions and propose possible responses. On the second day, participants will share the results of initial analyses, identify commonalities and differences among regions, and define the initial elements of NGD global and regional agenda.

Interactive coverage

The plenary sessions will be webcasted through the [Club de Madrid](http://www.clubmadrid.org) web page.

All sessions will be live tweeted by @CLUBdeMADRID, @RFKCenter, @RFKEurope and @EuropeanUni
Policy Dialogue Hashtag: #NGD

If you are interested in covering the 2014 Policy Dialogue or wish to request **one to one interviews** please visit http://www.clubmadrid.org/en/programa/policy_dialogue_2014 and fill in the accreditation form in the Press Room Section.

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The **Club de Madrid** is an independent non-profit organization composed of more than 90 former presidents and prime ministers from 60 democratic countries. The Club de Madrid responds to a growing demand for support to address a number of challenges in democratic governance by providing the experience and valuable leadership of its members.

"The Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights was founded by Robert Kennedy's family and friends in 1968 to continue his work for a more just and peaceful world. The RFK Center joins front line defenders in advocacy and litigation; partners with teachers to educate students about human rights; and engages the financial community about sustainable investing."