

# Global Commission on Democracy and Multilateralism

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**COMMISSIONERS**



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- **George Papandreou**, Prime Minister of Greece (2009–2011), Chair of the GCDM
- **Kevin Casas-Zamora**, Secretary General, International IDEA, Vice Chair of the GCDM
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- **Susana Malcorra**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Argentina (2015–2017), President of GWL Voices
- **Elizabeth Cousens**, President and CEO of the United Nations Foundation (UNF)
- **Aidan Eyakuze**, CEO of the Open Government Partnership (OGP)
- **Stephen Heintz**, President of Rockefeller Brothers Fund (RBF)
- **Věra Jourová**, Vice-President of the EC for Values and Transparency (2019–2024) (*official membership of will come into effect after the approval of the European Commission of post-mandate activities*)
- **Pratap Bhanu Mehta**, University Lecturer at Princeton University

**George Papandreou, Prime Minister of Greece (2009–2011),  
Member of Club de Madrid, Chair of the GCDM**

George Papandreou served as Prime Minister of Greece from 2009 to 2011, during one of the most challenging periods in the country's modern history. His government managed the Greek debt crisis, negotiating financial assistance packages with the European Union and the International Monetary Fund. At the same time, he introduced reforms aimed at improving transparency, accountability and public sector efficiency, while working to restore Greece's credibility within the Eurozone. His tenure was marked by efforts to balance fiscal consolidation with the protection of democratic legitimacy and citizen participation in difficult policy decisions.



Before becoming Prime Minister, Papandreou served as Foreign Minister from 1999 to 2004. In that role, he played a key part in advancing stability and cooperation in the Balkans and in improving relations between Greece and Turkey. He also served as Minister of Education and held several other government positions after first being elected to the Greek Parliament in 1981. As President of the Panhellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK), he pursued internal party reforms to modernise its structure and decision-making processes.

Papandreou is President of the Socialist International and a Member of Club de Madrid, both of which bring together former heads of state and government to strengthen democratic governance worldwide. He also serves as General Rapporteur for Democracy at the Council of Europe, focusing on democratic innovation, citizen engagement and institutional trust.

**Kevin Casas-Zamora, Secretary General of International IDEA,  
Vice Chair of the GCDM**

Dr Kevin Casas-Zamora has been the Secretary-General of the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA), a Stockholm-based intergovernmental organization with a mandate to advance democracy, since August 2019. He is also Senior Fellow at the Inter-American Dialogue, a policy research centre in Washington, D.C. Casas-Zamora has over 30 years of experience working on democratic governance issues as a public official, academic and international consultant.



Previously, he was Costa Rica's Second Vice President and Minister of National Planning; Secretary for Political Affairs at the Organization of American States; Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution; and National Coordinator of the United Nations Development Program's Human Development Report.

He has taught at Georgetown University, George Washington University, and the University of Texas in Dallas, among many higher education institutions. He holds a Law degree from the University of Costa Rica, a Masters in Government from the University of Essex, and a PhD in Political Science from the University of Oxford.

He has authored several studies on political finance, elections, democratization, citizen security and civil-military relations in Latin America. His doctoral thesis, entitled "Paying for Democracy in Latin America: Political Finance and State Subsidies for Parties in Costa Rica and Uruguay", won the 2004 Jean Blondel PhD Prize of the European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) and was published in 2005 by the ECPR. He was selected as Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum in 2007.

**Aminata Touré, Prime Minister of Senegal (2013–2014), Member of Club de Madrid, Vice Chair of the GCDM**

Aminata Touré is a human rights advocate who served as Prime Minister of Senegal from 2013 to 2014, becoming the second woman to hold this position. Prior to her premiership, she was Minister of Justice from 2012 to 2013, focusing on anti-corruption initiatives and judicial reforms. Her tenure as Prime Minister was marked by efforts to investigate and address corruption within government. She later served as President’s Special Envoy for Internal and External Affairs (2015–2019) and as President of the Economic, Social and Environmental Council (2019–2020), overseeing key governance and policy initiatives.



Dr. Touré has extensive international experience, including over two decades with the United Nations, where she held technical expert positions in Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire, and at UN headquarters in New York. From 2009 to 2012, she was Director of Gender and Human Rights at the United Nations Population Fund. She has also led and co-led election observation missions across Africa on behalf of the African Union and The Carter Center. Currently, she serves as High Representative of the Senegalese President, a member of the United Nations Advisors Committee, and sits on the Board of Directors of the Club de Madrid. Throughout her career, she has focused on governance, human rights, and multilateral cooperation, authoring more than 30 UN publications and contributing to international legal scholarship.

**Michelle Bachelet, President of Chile (2006–2010, 2014–2018), Vice President of Club de Madrid**

Michelle Bachelet served as President of Chile for two terms (2006–2010; 2014–2018), becoming the first woman to hold the presidency and the first to be re-elected in democracy since 1932.

A trained physician —she graduated in 1982 from the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Chile— she later completed studies in military strategy and political science. During her youth, she was active in the Socialist Party of Chile before the 1973 coup d’état, after which she was forced into temporary exile. Upon her return in 1979, she resumed her studies and engaged in the rebuilding of Chile’s democracy.



With the country’s democratic transition (1990), Bachelet focused her career on public health and social policy. In President Ricardo Lagos’s administration, she served as Minister of Health (2000–2002) and then as Minister of Defense (2002–2004), becoming the first woman in Chile to hold that portfolio. Her first administration prioritized expanding social protection for children, older persons, and people with disabilities; increasing investment in education and health; advancing labour reforms; and embedding gender equality as a state policy.

Between her presidencies, she was appointed the first Executive Director of UN Women. In 2014, she was re-elected President, and during her second term she introduced tuition-free higher education, promoted new environmental policies, advanced marriage equality legislation, and established the Ministry of Women and Gender Equality.

In September 2018 she was appointed United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, serving until August 2022. During her tenure, she promoted international human rights standards and addressed global humanitarian crises. Recently, President Gabriel Boric announced her candidacy for Secretary-General of the United Nations at the UN General Assembly. If elected, Bachelet would bring her broad experience in social policy, human rights, and global governance to the highest office of the institution.



**Laura Chinchilla, President of Costa Rica (2010–2014), Member of Club de Madrid**

Laura Chinchilla served as President of Costa Rica from 2010 to 2014, becoming the country's first woman to hold the office. Her presidency focused on strengthening public security, justice reform, and governance, as well as advancing digital and open government initiatives. She also promoted policies on women's rights, early childhood protection, and environmental sustainability, particularly in marine biodiversity conservation. Prior to her presidency, Chinchilla held several key government positions, including Minister of Public Security (1996–1998), Congresswoman (2002–2006), Minister of Justice (2006–2008), and Vice President (2006–2008).



President Chinchilla has led electoral observation missions across the Americas, chaired the Kofi Annan Commission on Elections and Democracy in the Digital Age, and consulted for international organizations including the UNDP, USAID, and the Inter-American Development Bank. She has taught at Georgetown University, Instituto Tecnológico de Monterrey, and Universidade de São Paulo.

Currently, she is a Member of the Club de Madrid and serves on its Board of Directors, and sits on the boards of the International Olympic Committee, the World Leadership Alliance, the Inter-American Dialogue, the Concordia Summit, and the Euro-America Foundation. Across her career, she has focused on democratic governance, multilateral cooperation, and the promotion of human rights and social inclusion.

**Dalia Grybauskaitė, President of Lithuania (2009–2019), Member of Club de Madrid**

Dalia Grybauskaitė served as President of Lithuania from 2009 to 2019, becoming the country's first female president and the only one in Lithuania's post-Soviet history to serve two consecutive terms. Her presidency focused on economic recovery after the 2008–2009 global financial crisis, strengthening national security, and supporting NATO's enhanced forward presence in Lithuania. Prior to her presidency, she held key governmental and diplomatic roles, including Finance Minister (2001–2004), Minister Plenipotentiary in Lithuania's Missions to the EU and the United States, and Deputy Chief Negotiator for Lithuania's Association Agreement with the EU.



Before assuming the presidency, Grybauskaitė was European Commissioner for Financial Programming and Budgets, where she was recognized as Commissioner of the Year in 2005. Her work focused on budgetary oversight, financial programming, and promoting economic transparency across the EU.

She continues to engage in multilateral and governance initiatives, serving on advisory boards including the Council of Women World Leaders and the Board of Trustees of Friends of Europe. She co-chairs the UN High-Level Panel on International Financial Accountability, Transparency and Integrity (FACTI) and is a member of the Friends of Europe Ukraine Initiative Steering Group and the High-Ranking International Task Force on Security and Euro-Atlantic Integration of Ukraine.

Her career combines national leadership, EU governance experience, and active engagement in international financial and security frameworks.



**Stefan Löfven, Prime Minister of Sweden (2014–2021), Member of Club de Madrid**

Stefan Löfven served as Prime Minister of Sweden from 2014 to 2021 and led the Swedish Social Democratic Party between 2012 and 2021. His premiership focused on social inclusion, economic stability, and strengthening Sweden’s international engagement. Drawing on his background in trade unions and labour rights, Löfven worked to promote social dialogue and fair working conditions, both nationally and globally. Earlier in his career, he served as President of the Swedish Industrial and Metal Workers Union and as a board member of the Swedish Trade Union Confederation, the Royal Institute of Technology, and the Olof Palme International Centre.



He launched the Global Deal, a partnership initiative supported by the ILO and the OECD to enhance social dialogue and decent work worldwide. He also co-chaired the ILO’s Global Commission on the Future of Work alongside South African President Cyril Ramaphosa and, together with Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez, initiated the Leaders’ Network for Reinforcing Multilateralism.

Since 2022, Löfven has chaired the SIPRI Governing Board, focusing on peace, security, and sustainable development. That same year, he was appointed by the UN Secretary-General as co-lead of the High-Level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism, tasked with developing proposals to strengthen global cooperation ahead of the UN Summit of the Future. His career reflects a consistent commitment to democratic governance, social partnership, and rules-based multilateralism.

**Danilo Türk, President of Slovenia (2007–2012), President of Club de Madrid**

Danilo Türk currently serves as President of Club de Madrid and is a member of its Board of Directors. Early in his career, he was Director of the Institute of International Law at the University of Ljubljana. His academic and professional work has focused on international law, human rights, and global governance. Before entering politics, Türk served as a member of the UN Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and as UN Special Rapporteur on the Realization of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1986–1992).



He also contributed to drafting Slovenia’s 1991 Constitution, preparing the chapter on human rights and fundamental freedoms. Between 1992 and 2000, he was Slovenia’s first Permanent Representative to the United Nations, representing the country on the UN Security Council in 1998 and 1999. In 2000, then-UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan appointed him Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, a post he held until 2005.

As President of Slovenia, he focused on social inclusion, regional cooperation, and Slovenia’s engagement in international institutions. He later chaired the Global High-Level Panel on Water and Peace (2015–2016) and was a candidate for UN Secretary-General in 2016. In 2022, Türk was named one of the 12 Eminent individuals invited to be part of the UN Secretary-General’s High-Level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism. The Board Comprises, which was asked to build on the ideas in Our Common Agenda to make concrete suggestions for more effective multilateral arrangements across a range of key global issues.



### Francisco Sagasti, President of Peru (2020–2021), Member of Club de Madrid

Francisco Sagasti is an affiliated researcher at the Institute of Peruvian Studies and professor at the Universidad del Pacífico. He has been President of the Republic, Congressman, Head of Strategic Planning at the World Bank, President of the UN Council on Science and Technology, and professor at the Wharton School of Business in Philadelphia, the Instituto de Empresa in Madrid, the Universidad para la Paz in Costa Rica, and the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú. He has been an advisor and board member of numerous international organisations, public institutions, private companies and civil society organisations in Peru and abroad.



He holds a degree in industrial engineering from the National University of Engineering, a master's degree in industrial engineering from Penn State University, and a PhD in operations research and social systems science from the University of Pennsylvania.

He is the author of over thirty books and more than 200 academic articles. He has been a member of the editorial board of the journals *Foresight*, *El Trimestre Económico*, *World Development* and *Technological Forecasting and Social Change*, and a contributor to *CARETAS* magazine in Peru.

In 2017 he received the Robert K. Merton Award from the International Sociological Association for his academic and professional career, and previously received the Paul Hoffman Award, created in memory of the administrator of the Marshall Plan, and first director of the United Nations Development Programme.

### Mokgweetsi Masisi, President of Botswana (2018–2024)

Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi is a Botswanan politician and former educator who served as President of Botswana. Before entering politics, he worked as a teacher and later as a development specialist, collaborating with international organisations such as UNICEF. His early professional focus on education and community development laid the groundwork for his later policy priorities in government.



Masisi began his political career with the Botswana Democratic Party (BDP), representing the Moshupa–Manyana constituency in the National Assembly.

He went on to hold several ministerial positions, including Minister of Presidential Affairs and Public Administration, and Minister of Education and Skills Development. In these roles, he championed curriculum reform, governance improvements, and investment in human capital development. His appointment as Vice President marked his rise to national prominence, and he subsequently assumed the presidency.

As President, Masisi promoted economic diversification and sought to strengthen Botswana's democratic institutions and public sector accountability. His administration focused on reducing dependence on diamond exports by fostering growth in technology, agriculture, and manufacturing. Beyond domestic policy, he worked to enhance Botswana's voice in regional and continental affairs, maintaining the country's reputation for stability and rule of law. After completing his term in office, Masisi continued to engage in public discourse and policy work, particularly in areas related to education, governance, and sustainable development.

### **Martín Abregú, Vice President for International Programs at the Ford Foundation**

Since 2019, Martín Abregú has served as the Vice President for International Programs at the Ford Foundation. Previously, from 2013–2019, he also served as the Vice President for its Democracy, Rights and Justice program. Abregú was also Ford’s Director of Human Rights and Governance for three years, working with program officers in New York and in nine regional offices around the world, his team has focused on advancing economic and social rights, promoting transparent, effective and accountable government, reforming global financial governance and strengthening human rights worldwide.



Abregú joined the Ford Foundation in 2000, serving as Program Officer for Human Rights in the foundation’s Santiago office. In 2007, he was appointed Ford Foundation representative for the Andean Region and Southern Cone, guiding grant strategy and programs across the region.

Prior to joining Ford, Abregú served for six years as Executive Director of the Center for Legal and Social Studies (CELS), a leading human rights organization based in Argentina, where he led an organizational renewal and guided the institution to address new kinds of human rights challenges. Simultaneously, he served as the Argentina representative for the Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL), an inter-American human rights body that works across the hemisphere.

Abregú also served as an associate professor of human rights at the University of Buenos Aires School of Law, where he earlier earned his law degree in International Public Law. He also holds a Master of Law degree in International Legal Studies from American University, in Washington, D.C. He is a founding member of the Association of Civil Rights in Argentina, and has been an Ashoka Fellow since 1995.

### **Dino Patti Djalal, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia (2014), Advisor of Club de Madrid**

Dino Patti Djalal joined Indonesia’s Department of Foreign Affairs in 1987. He was posted in London, Dili, and Washington DC. He gained national spotlight when he became the Indonesian Government spokesperson in the UN referendum in East Timor in 1999. In 2002, he was appointed Director of North American Affairs. In 2004, when President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono began his term, Djalal was appointed Special Staff of the President for International Affairs. From 2010 to 2013, Djalal served as Indonesia’s Ambassador to the United States, where he succeeded in elevating bilateral relations to a Comprehensive Partnership.



In 2014, Djalal was appointed Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs, until October that year. He retired from the Indonesian Government in 2015. Dr. Dino has authored 11 books. Most well-known is “Harus Bisa”, a book about leadership, which became a national best seller in Indonesia with some 2 million copies sold and translated into English, Mandarin, Korean, Russian, French, Arabic, Japanese.

Dr. Djalal is also Chairman of the Board of Directors, World Resources Institute (WRI) Indonesia, which is part of the World Resources Institute (WRI) based in Washington DC. In 2015, Dr. Djalal founded Foreign Policy Community of Indonesia (FPCI), which has become the largest foreign policy in Indonesia, with over 100,00 people in its network. FPCI is also the convenor of what is said to be the world’s largest foreign policy conference, the Conference on Indonesian Foreign Policy, with over 11,000 registered for the event in 2019. In the same year, Djalal also launched the Supermentor program, a public program featuring iconic figures and high-achievers to inspire the youth about life skills and tips for success. Dino is also a member of the Executive Committee of the Paris Peace Forum, while FPCI has become a founding member of the Paris Peace Forum.

**Obiageli "Oby" Ezekwesili, Vice President of the World Bank for Africa Region (2007–2012), Advisor of Club de Madrid**

Obiageli "Oby" Ezekwesili is a Nigerian economic policy expert with extensive experience in governance, international development, and anti-corruption reform. She served as Nigeria's Minister of Solid Minerals (2005–2006) and Minister of Education (2006–2007), where she advanced transparency and accountability initiatives. Earlier, she established and led the Budget Monitoring and Price Intelligence Unit—known as the "Due Process Office"—which strengthened public procurement oversight in Nigeria. From 2007 to 2012, Ezekwesili was Vice President of the World Bank for the Africa Region, managing a portfolio exceeding \$40 billion across 48 countries.



In this capacity, she led policy engagement with African governments, promoted regional integration, and supported structural reforms for sustainable growth. She also co-founded and served as pioneer director of Transparency International, where she contributed to shaping global anti-corruption standards.

Ezekwesili has been a fellow at Yale University and the Robert Bosch Academy and sits on the boards of several international institutions and universities. She has received multiple awards, including the Nigerian national honour of Commander of the Federal Republic, and was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2018 for her work on transparency and accountability in the extractive industries. Ezekwesili continues to influence policy and governance reform across Africa. She is the founder of the #FixPolitics Initiative and the School of Politics, Policy, and Governance, as well as Human Capital Africa, which addresses foundational learning challenges in African education. She serves as a senior economic advisor at the Africa Economic Development Policy Initiative and chairs the board of Women Political Leaders.

**Susana Malcorra, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Argentina (2015–2017), President of GWL Voices, Advisor of Club de Madrid**

Ms. Susana Malcorra is the President and one of the cofounders of GWL Voices. She was Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship of the Argentine Republic from 2015 to 2017. After her resignation, she was appointed Minister Advisor by President Mauricio Macri and, in that capacity, she was the Chairperson of the WTO Ministerial Conference (MC11) hosted by Argentina in 2017.



After various positions in the private sector, she joined the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) in 2004.

She served as Chief Operating Officer. In 2008, United Nations Secretary-General appointed Ms. Malcorra Under Secretary-General for the recently created Department of Field Support, where she was charged with providing logistical, communications, personnel, and financial support services to Peacekeeping Operations overseeing a budget of eight billion dollars.

In 2012, Ms. Malcorra was appointed Chief of Staff to the Secretary-General, broadening her experience in the diplomatic field including a range of activities from handling negotiations with various countries (Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sudan, Chad, Somalia or Afghanistan, among others) to the approval by the General Assembly of strategic, financial and budgetary matters involving over \$9 billion. Among other specific tasks, Ms. Malcorra coordinated the Mission on the Elimination of Syrian Chemical Weapons and the first Health Mission for Ebola Emergency Response in West Africa. She became Dean of the IE School of Public and Global Affairs in 2020. Ms. Malcorra has been affiliated with multiple think-tanks, foundations and NGOs related to matters of democracy, global governance, leadership and gender.



**Elizabeth Cousens, President and CEO of the United Nations Foundation (UNF)**

Elizabeth Cousens became the United Nations Foundation's third President and Chief Executive Officer in 2020, leading the Foundation's next generation of work to support the United Nations.

Elizabeth has been at the forefront of global policymaking and innovation for over 20 years. She is a diplomat and thought leader who has worked on the frontlines of peace processes, played an influential role in UN policy innovations from peacebuilding to the Sustainable Development Goals, and helped build public-private partnerships to solve global challenges at scale.



Before joining the Foundation, Elizabeth served for several years at the U.S. Mission to the UN in New York. She was Principal Policy Advisor and Counselor to the Permanent Representative of the United States to the United Nations and later served as the U.S. Ambassador to the UN Economic and Social Council and Alternate Representative to the UN General Assembly where she led U.S. negotiations on the SDGs; served on the boards of UN agencies, funds, and programmes; and was U.S. representative to the UN Peacebuilding Commission.

Elizabeth served with UN missions in Nepal and the Middle East, and worked as an analyst in conflict zones, including Bosnia and Haiti. She was previously Director of Strategy for the HD Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue which promotes and conducts mediation of armed conflict; Vice President of the International Peace Institute, where she led initiatives on global crisis management and UN reform; and Director of the Conflict Prevention and Peace Forum, a research group that provides country and regional expertise to the UN on conflict and crisis situations.

Prior to becoming President and CEO, Elizabeth served as Deputy CEO where she oversaw the Foundation's policy, advocacy, and communications work. Elizabeth has a D.Phil. in International Relations from the University of Oxford, where she was a Rhodes Scholar, as well as a B.A. in history and an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Puget Sound. She has written widely on conflict management, peace processes, state-building, and the United Nations.

**Aidan Eyakuze, CEO of the Open Government Partnership (OGP)**

Aidan Eyakuze is the Chief Executive Officer of the Open Government Partnership. He is the former Executive Director of Twaweza East Africa, working to enable children to learn, citizens to exercise agency, and governments to be more open and responsive in Tanzania, Kenya, and Uganda.

In May 2016, Aidan joined the OGP Steering Committee as a civil society member. Aidan served as the civil society co-chair for 2021-2022. In June 2017, he was appointed to the Board of the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (GPSDD).



Before joining OGP, Aidan was Associate Regional Director of the Society for International Development (SID) and Head of the SID Tanzania office. He has 15 years of experience as a scenario practitioner, through participation in national scenario-building projects in Kenya (2000 & 2010), Tanzania (2003), South Africa (2004), Nigeria (2007) and East Africa (2005-2008). He co-led the publication of the State of East Africa Reports and facilitated future thinking for the private sector, civil society and public organisations.

Aidan is an Archbishop Desmond Tutu Leadership Fellow. He is also a member of the Aspen Global Leadership Network (AGLN) and served on the Governing Board of the Millennium Challenge Account (Tanzania) 2014. He maintains a keen intellectual and professional interest in economic policy, financial markets, and the impact of trends in information and communications technologies on society.



### Stephen Heintz, President of Rockefeller Brothers Fund (RBF)

Stephen B. Heintz is President and CEO of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, a private family foundation with an endowment of approximately \$1.2 billion that advances social change for a more just, sustainable, and peaceful world. In 2010, he set an ambitious path to align investment of the Fund's financial assets with its mission, resulting in its 2014 decision to divest from fossil fuels and establishing the RBF as a leader in the Divest-Invest movement.



Heintz, who began his professional life in public service for the state of Connecticut, has devoted his career to strengthening democratic culture and institutions to better serve citizens.

Before joining the RBF in 2001, Heintz co-founded and served as President of Dēmos, a public policy organization that works to reduce political and economic inequality and to broaden citizen engagement in American democracy. As Co-chair of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences national Commission on the Practice of Democratic Citizenship in the 21st Century, he co-authored the report *Our Common Purpose: Reinventing American Democracy for the 21st Century*.

Heintz served as Executive Vice President and COO for the EastWest Institute during the 1990s. In 2002, he led the RBF's joint initiative with the UN Association of the USA to open a Track II dialogue that helped lay the groundwork for the Iran nuclear deal. In 2007, Heintz convened a meeting of the Kosovo Unity Team and prominent global diplomatic figures at the Fund's Pocantico Center, resulting in the Pocantico Declaration that set a path for the Kosovo independence process.

Heintz is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development. He chairs the board of the Quincy Institute and serves on the boards of the International Crisis Group and the Rockefeller Archive Center. He is the recipient of the Council on Foundations 2018 Distinguished Service Award.

### **Věra Jourová, Vice-President of the European Commission for Values and Transparency (2019–2024) (official membership of will come into effect after the approval of the European Commission of post-mandate activities)**

Věra Jourová currently serves as Vice-Rector for the Development of Human Resources and New Technologies at Charles University.



From 2019 to 2024, she was Vice President of the European Commission for Values and Transparency, where she was responsible for upholding democracy, the rule of law, and fundamental rights across the European Union. In this role, she oversaw initiatives to protect electoral integrity, counter disinformation and foreign interference, and promote media pluralism and freedom.

She was instrumental in advancing the European Democracy Action Plan and the Media Freedom Act, key legislative efforts to strengthen democratic resilience in the EU. She also worked to reinforce transparency in political advertising and deepen cooperation with civil society on safeguarding democratic participation and human rights. Between 2014 and 2019, Ms Jourová served as European Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality. Her work focused on strengthening citizens' rights, ensuring the effective application of EU law, and promoting gender equality across Member States. During her mandate, she contributed to the implementation and enforcement of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), which became a global benchmark for privacy protection.

Before joining the European Commission, Ms Jourová served as Minister for Regional Development of the Czech Republic in 2014, where she managed EU funds and regional policy. From 2006 to 2013, she worked as an international consultant on European Union funding, including in the Western Balkans, supporting countries in their EU accession processes.



### Pratap Bhanu Mehta, University Lecturer at Princeton University

Pratap Bhanu Mehta is an Indian academic and political theorist, currently serving as the Laurence S. Rockefeller Visiting Professor for Distinguished Teaching at Princeton University. He has held prominent positions, including Vice-Chancellor of Ashoka University and President of the Centre for Policy Research (CPR) in New Delhi. His academic journey includes faculty roles at Harvard University, Jawaharlal Nehru University, and NYU School of Law.



Mehta's scholarly work encompasses political theory, Indian constitutional law, and international relations. He is the author of *The Burden of Democracy* and co-editor of *The Oxford Handbook of the Indian Constitution*.

His research delves into the complexities of democracy, governance, and institutional design, with a focus on India's political landscape. Mehta has served on the editorial boards of the *American Political Science Review* and the *Journal of Democracy*. His policy experience includes being a member of the Supreme Court-appointed Lyngdoh Committee on university elections and contributing to various reports for the Government of India and international agencies. Additionally, he has been involved with the World Economic Forum's Council on Global Governance and the Board of Governors of the International Development Research Centre.

Mehta's insights into India's approach to multilateralism are reflected in his co-edited volume *Shaping the Emerging World: India and the Multilateral Order*, which examines India's role in global governance and its evolving foreign policy strategies. His work continues to influence discussions on democratic practices and India's position in the international order.

## SUPPORTING EXPERTS

The Commission counts on the support of Club de Madrid Advisor **Ted Piccone** as the **Content Director**, responsible for ensuring thematic coherence, intellectual consistency, and political alignment across all Working Groups. In close coordination with the Club de Madrid Secretariat, the Content Director will lead the drafting of the Commission's final report, translating expert analysis and political guidance into a concise and actionable set of recommendations.

The Commission is also supported by a **Steering Committee**, composed of the **Club de Madrid Secretariat**, the **Content Director**, and the **Working Group Leads**. This body facilitates joint decision-making, ensure strategic alignment across the initiative, and foster effective coordination among the various stakeholders involved in the process.

**Ted Piccone, Nonresident Senior Fellow at The Brookings Institution, Club de Madrid Advisor & Content Director of the GCDM**

Ted Piccone is a nonresident senior fellow in the Strobe Talbott Center for Security, Strategy, and Technology in the Foreign Policy program at Brookings. During his 11 years in residence at Brookings, he was a senior fellow and the Charles W. Robinson Chair, appointed the inaugural fellow of the Brookings–Robert Bosch Foundation Transatlantic Initiative in Berlin, and served as the acting vice president and director and deputy director of the Foreign Policy program. His research has covered global democracy, rule of law and human rights policies; U.S.–Latin American relations, including China’s rising profile; emerging powers; and multilateral affairs.



Piccone is the author of “Five Rising Democracies and the Fate of the International Liberal Order” (Brookings Institution Press, 2016), which examined the trajectories of India, Brazil, South Africa, Indonesia and Turkey.

Piccone served eight years as a senior foreign policy advisor in the Clinton administration, including on the National Security Council staff, at the State Department’s Office of Policy Planning and the Office of the Secretary of Defense at the Pentagon. From 2001 to 2008, Piccone was the executive director and co-founder of the Democracy Coalition Project, a research and advocacy organization working to promote international cooperation for democracy and human rights globally. He was also the Washington office director for the Club of Madrid, an association of over 100 former heads of state and government engaged in efforts to strengthen democracy around the world, and continues as an advisor. Piccone’s other positions have included chief engagement officer at the World Justice Project, counsel for the United Nations Truth Commission in El Salvador, and press secretary to U.S. Representative Bob Edgar.

**Annika Silva-Leander, Head of North America and Permanent Observer of International IDEA to the United Nations & Working Group 1 Lead**

Dr Annika Silva-Leander is Head of North America at International IDEA where she oversees International IDEA’s outreach and partnerships in the region, including relations with US and Canadian stakeholders, including civil society organizations, think tanks and academic institutions, as well as Global Affairs Canada, its engagement with the United Nations, and coordination of the Global Democracy Coalition. She is also International IDEA’s Permanent Observer to the United Nations, representing International IDEA at the UN General Assembly as a leading voice and advocate on democracy.



In her UN role, she leads International IDEA’s democracy advocacy and research at the UN, focusing on the nexus between democracy and sustainable development.

Between 2018 and 2021, Silva–Leander was the Head of the Democracy Assessment Unit in Stockholm, where she led International IDEA’s Global State of Democracy report, as lead author, editor and Programme head. She also oversaw the production of the annually updated Global State of Democracy Indices and the implementation of the Covid–19 Global Monitor on Democracy and Human Rights. From 2015 to 2018, she worked as the Senior Adviser to the Secretary–General of International IDEA.

Prior to joining International IDEA, Silva–Leander worked for 10 years as a Social Development Specialist at the World Bank, on civic engagement and poverty reduction in Asia, Latin America and Africa. During her nine years in Asia, she worked for the World Bank, UNICEF and UNDP.



**Massimo Tommasoli, Former Director of Global Programmes at International IDEA & Working Group 1 Lead**

Massimo Tommasoli was the Director of Global Programmes. Tommasoli is a policy specialist with extensive experience in democracy building, democratic governance, social analysis and evaluation in aid agencies.

He led and managed a portfolio of programmes that supports democracy world-wide through the development and application of global comparative knowledge resources and tools, enhancing democratic reforms, as well as actively contributing to shaping global and regional policy agendas by bringing the democracy lens and perspective to debates at that level.



This portfolio includes workstreams on Electoral Processes, Constitution-Building Processes, Political Participation and Representation (with focus on parliamentary strengthening and money in politics), Democracy Assessment, Gender and Inclusion, Climate Change, and Digitalization.

As Permanent Observer for International IDEA to the United Nations (2007-2023) he has led policy advocacy initiatives at the UN General Assembly and in other multilateral policy fora. He had previously been International IDEA's Director of Operation in Stockholm (2004-2007); Head of the Good Governance and Conflict Prevention Unit in the Development Cooperation Directorate at the OECD in Paris (1999-2003); Social Development and Evaluation Specialist at the Directorate General for Development Cooperation of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Rome (1989-1999). He held positions at UNESCO in Addis Ababa and the Istituto Italo-Africano in Rome.

He is distinguished scholar at the Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership at the City College of New York. He has been visiting scholar at the LUISS University in Rome, and has lectured at the Universities of Bergamo, Chieti, Milan, and Pisa, and at the UN System Staff College in Turin. He has field experience in sub-Saharan Africa (Ethiopia, Somalia, Tanzania), Latin America (Colombia) and the Russian Federation.

**Richard Youngs, Senior Fellow in the Democracy, Conflict, and Governance Program at Carnegie Europe (on behalf of European Democracy Hub) & Working Group 2 Lead**

Richard Youngs is a senior fellow in the Democracy, Conflict, and Governance Program, based at Carnegie Europe.

He is also a professor of international relations at the University of Warwick and previously held positions in the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office and as director of the FRIDE think-tank in Madrid. He is co-founder and director of the European Democracy Hub.



Youngs has authored seventeen books, the most recent of which are Democratic Crossroads: Transformations in Twenty First-Century Politics (Oxford University Press, 2024), Geoliberal Europe and the Test of War (Agenda Publishing, 2024), Rebuilding European Democracy: Resistance and Renewal in an Illiberal Age (Bloomsbury/Tauris, 2021) and The European Union and Global Politics (Macmillan, 2021).



**Joseph Foti, Principal Advisor for Emerging Issues at the Open Government Partnership & Working Group 3 Lead**

Joseph Foti is the Principal Advisor of Emerging Issues for the Open Government Partnership (OGP). In this role, he leads collaboration and research on new areas of interest to OGP members. Much of his work can be found at OGP Horizons. Topics include anti-corruption, climate change, civil liberties, and new technologies.

He has nearly two decades of experience leading research and accountability efforts across a range of sustainable development issues. Prior to this role, he was OGP's chief research officer and leader of the analytics and insights team and before that, he was the founding director of OGP's Independent Reporting Mechanism.

Prior to his work at OGP, he was a senior associate for the Access Initiative, a network led by the World Resources Institute (WRI), and a public servant. He is also a nonresident fellow in the Governance Studies program at Brookings.

