



**EMBASSY**  
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN

**BOTSCHAFT**  
DES FÜRSTENTUMS LIECHTENSTEIN

**Statement by H.E. Dominique Hasler,  
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Education and Sport  
of the Principality of Liechtenstein**

**Community of Democracies  
10th Ministerial Conference**

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Mr. President,

I thank you for convening this meeting and for spearheading the Community of Democracies. The importance of standing together as democracies grows with the threats our free societies face. They are diverse and sometimes subliminal, tearing at the very fabric of our way of living together. The same forces that aim to erode trust in our institutions, prevent us from making progress on the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular SDG 16. We have to stand up to them as a way to make good on our generational promise. And we need to face them head-on.

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted strengths as much as weaknesses in our democratic societies and our multilateral institutions. We have not yet found the right responses to the infodemic. We must be more effective in countering systematic misinformation while upholding the freedom of expression, which is at the core of our democratic societies. The Community of Democracies can be a platform for that discussion.

We have also seen how important democratic accountability is in emergency situations. It ensures the proportionality and reversibility of the harsh measures many of us had to apply in the domestic contexts. We have all witnessed how easy it is for authoritarian tendencies to grow

in times of crisis, to use the opportunity to stifle dissent and to close civil society spaces. Let me pay tribute here to the brave women of Belarus standing up against overwhelming odds and pervasive human rights violations. We must stand behind them, and the many others fighting for their freedom around the world today, with a clear message of support.

Thank you very much.