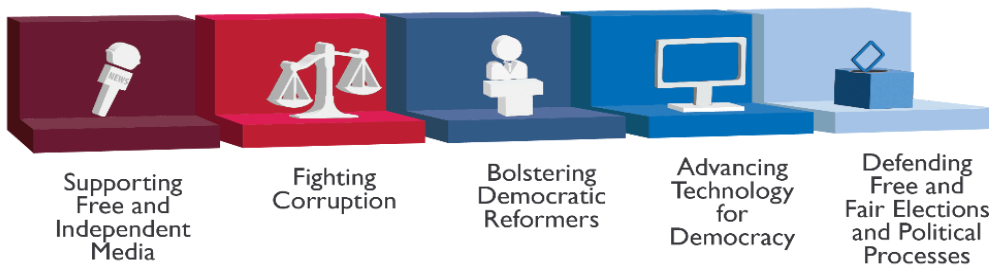Photo Credit: Andrés Felipe Castilla

# THE PRESIDENTIAL INITIATIVE FOR DEMOCRATIC RENEWAL

In December 2021, the United States hosted the first ever Summit for Democracy (S4D), bringing together leaders from governments, civil society, and the private sector to set a bold agenda for strengthening democratic governance, protecting human rights, and countering corruption and authoritarianism around the world. During the first Summit, President Biden officially launched the Presidential Initiative for Democratic Renewal (PIDR), a landmark set of policy and foreign assistance programs to expand and modernize U.S. efforts to bolster democracy and defend human rights abroad. These efforts center on five areas of work crucial to countering authoritarianism, democratic backsliding, and other threats to democracy by targeting areas where efforts can have a significant impact in addressing today's challenges.

## PIDR HAS FIVE PILLARS TO ADDRESS GLOBAL CHALLENGES IN THE 21ST CENTURY



Supporting Free and Independent Media

Fighting Corruption

Bolstering Democratic Reformers

Advancing Technology for Democracy

Defending Free and Fair Elections and Political Processes

The White House's [PIDR fact sheet](#) for the first Summit for Democracy describes USAID, Department of State, and other agencies' contributions to the PIDR. The second Summit for Democracy in 2023 was an opportunity for leaders to showcase progress made on commitments announced at the first Summit, announce [new commitments or initiatives](#), and speak to their countries' experiences with and challenges to strengthening democracy. USAID's PIDR programs or "deliverables" fall under five thematic areas:

### Supporting Democratic Reformers:

- **Partnerships for Democracy Development (PDD)** is surging support to countries experiencing democratic openings to consolidate reform momentum and demonstrate that democracy delivers.
- **Powered by the People** is using new methods to empower and improve the efficacy of citizen movements around the world.
- **Advancing Women's and Girls' Civic and Political Leadership** is adopting an ecosystem approach to increase and promote a safe environment for women's civic and political engagement.
- **The Multilateral Partnership for Organizing, Worker Empowerment, and Rights** is helping governments, labor organizations, and civil society improve worker rights.
- USAID will advance **People-Centered Justice**, an evidence-based, innovative approach designed to help justice institutions, first and foremost, meet the day-to-day justice needs of the people they serve, as the cornerstone of its soon to be released first-ever Rule of Law Policy.
- USAID is working with bilateral and multilateral partners, philanthropic foundations, and civil society actors to develop **International Principles for Supporting Peaceful Collective Action**, as part of the agency's commitment to support activism and social movements.
- USAID will expand **protections for defenders of democracy and human rights through improved duty of care and strengthen social safeguards**, including by establishing a new accountability mechanism, a Beneficiaries' Bill of Rights, and additional social safeguard capabilities to effectively conduct social impact analysis and guide social risk management and mitigation.

### Strengthening Free and Independent Media:

- The **Media Viability Accelerator** is increasing the business viability of independent media outlets by deploying market-based solutions and facilitating connections among media stakeholders.
- The **International Fund for Public Interest Media** is boosting global support for media sustainability — especially in resource-poor and fragile settings.

*Transforming the Fight Against Corruption:*

- The **Countering Transnational Corruption Grand Challenge** is leveraging innovation and collaboration to prevent corrupt actors from siphoning off critical resources that should be used for the public good.
- The **Empowering Anti-Corruption Change Agents Program** is helping civil society and media build the capacity and coalitions to demand change, engage in collective action and protect those at risk for exposing corruption.
- **Reporters Shield** is a global insurance vehicle that provides liability coverage to shield investigative journalists against vexatious lawsuits.
- The **Global Accountability Program** is helping high-vulnerability countries to prevent, detect, and mitigate corruption and build regional networks to fight transnational corruption.
- The **Anti-Corruption Response Fund** is allowing USAID to identify and innovate anti-corruption approaches, support locally-led change, and respond to corruption opportunities and threats.
- Through the **Integrity for Development Campaign**, USAID will seek to increase donor resources for anti-corruption, especially in environments where the international community is making major development investments, such as in climate finance.
- The **Financial Transparency and Integrity (FTI) Accelerator** will serve as the strategic umbrella for USAID to surge support for and ensure sustained progress on priorities identified by the Summit's U.S. government-co-led FTI Democracy Cohort.

*Defending Free and Fair Elections and Political Processes:*

- The **Global Network for Securing Electoral Integrity** is rallying the international electoral integrity community to create a platform for advancing electoral integrity norms and guidelines.
- The **Defending Democratic Elections Fund** is helping countries proactively address threats to elections and political processes and help them operationalize GNSEI's norms and guidelines.
- USAID will enhance its support for democratic elections globally by developing guidelines for USAID **Electoral Assistance for the 21st Century**, which adheres to U.S. government values and draws from global electoral assistance principles and best practices.

*Advancing Technology for Democracy*

- **Advancing Digital Democracy** is working with governments, technologists, and civil society to foster digital ecosystems in which technology is developed, used, and governed in ways that advance democracy and respect for human rights.

- USAID will work with international partners to develop a set of **Donor Principles for the Digital Age** as adopted safeguards to help ensure that donor-supported programs do not inadvertently facilitate the weaponization of or harm caused by data driven technologies and information.
- The **Promoting Information Integrity and Resilience (Pro-Info) Initiative** will build on the work of the Summit's Information Integrity Cohort and USAID and U.S. Department of State's new and existing efforts to strengthen information integrity and resilience globally in the countries we operate in overseas.

## Amplifying PIDR Impact Through Partnerships

The impact, reach, and longevity of the PIDR will depend on robust and sustained engagement and support from a multitude of actors, including from government, non-governmental, and private-sector partners working at the vanguard of democratic innovation globally. USAID welcomes the expertise, networks, co-creation, and resources our partners can bring to bear to bolster democracy, fight corruption, and defend human rights globally.

Contact democraticrenewal@usaid.gov for further information.



*Photo Credit: Khalid Kyule Ngamau*