

Democracy Delivers: Autocracies don't empower people

April 1, 2023

March 28-31: The Second Summit for Democracy: At the Plenary session on Wednesday, President Biden made an impassioned speech on the theme of "Democracy Delivers".



President Biden hosts the second Summit for Democracy

Some Extracts from President Biden's speech:

ABOUT first Summit: You know, when we gathered here in December of 2021, the sentiment in too many places around the world was that democracy's best days were behind us. Democracy had declined by some measures for 15 consecutive years.

ABOUT the WORLD of TODAY: We're turning the tide here. This is a turning point for our world toward greater freedom, greater dignity, and greater democracy. Today we can say with pride that the democracies of the world are getting stronger, not weaker. Autocracies of the world are getting weaker, not stronger.

SOME SUCCESSFUL Examples: Angola — Angola has taken steps to build an independent judiciary, creating three new region- — three new regional courts of appeal, which are going to help process cases more quickly.

The Dominican Republic has modernized its anti-corruption law to create more than 100 anti-corruption offices at local levels. Croatia is implementing a multi-year anti-corruption plan to increase government transparency and better oversee public procurement.

ABOUT DEMOCRACY: The great strength of democracy is that it gives us all the tools we need for self-government and self-improvement. And I'm proud to stand with all of you to defend those fundamental values we all share: justice, the rule of law, free speech, assembly, freedom of the press, freedom of religion, and our core belief in the interest of human rights for every single individual in the world.

Democracy is hard work. The work of democracy is never finished. It's never laid down and that's it, all you have to do. It must be protected constantly.

We have to continually renew our commitment, continually strengthen our institutions, root out corruption where we find it, seek to build consensus, and reject political violence, give hate and extremism no safe harbor.

We have to continue our efforts to advance the rights and dignity — and I emphasize the word “dignity” — of all people, including women and girls

Democracy demands full and equal participation of all — all of our citizens. And when democracies stand together, we reinforce and amplify each other's efforts to great effect. And we've seen it over and over again — democracies stepping up to lead and to solve problems together, not just for our own people but for the world. One key focus of USA's democracy work will be on making sure that technologies, that are used to advance democratic governance, can continue to develop.

Thanks to the Republic of Korea for stepping forward to host the next Summit for Democracies. And we'll sustain this forum as a driver of progress — for progress and an anchor for our commitment to one another.

Reference:<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/speeches-remarks/2023/03/29/remarks-by-president-biden-at-the-summit-for-democracy-virtual-plenary-on-democracy-delivering-on-global-challenges/>