12ᵗʰ BALI DEMOCRACY FORUM

Nusa Dua, Bali, 5-6 December 2019

KEY ELEMENTS

Panel C
"Youth and Inclusive Digital Democracy"

Info:

Inclusivity lies at the core of democracy and its underpinning principle of equal participation for all. The principle foundation of democracy is that all who are affected by a decision should have the right to participate in making that decision, either directly or through their chosen representatives. This assertion is consistent with the UN's SDGs goal (number 16 targets 16.7):

> *'...ensuring inclusive, participatory and representative decision making at all levels..." and '…ensuring full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making of women in political, economic and public life…". This assertion implies the inclusion of all unique groupings in a particular society.*

.

In order to guarantee inclusive democratic process in any society, that particular country/government must invest a great amount of resources, including financial, human, material or otherwise, in order to establish the right conditions necessary for fostering inclusive democracy which ensures peace, political stability and economic prosperity.

Inequality of opportunity persists worldwide. Not all citizens in society feel represented in decision making nor the same rights to access the benefit of democracy, thus many feel marginalized. Democratic institutions are viewed as failing to be inclusive thus lead to the erosion of public trust in democracy. Has the democracy and its benefit not been inclusive enough?

Current conditions & Challenges:

Having discussed issues and shared our views and experiences on:

- Challenges of making an inclusive democracy such as freedom of expression, digital ecosystems, the demographic bonus, the Industrial Revolution 4.0, the role of social media, digital literacy, the increasing number of hoax and fake news;
- Acknowledging the different spectrum of democratic values and implementation between societies in each country;
- A transparent and accountable government that is inclusive and responsive to the needs and interests of its peoples;

- Aware of the opportunities and the challenges faced by society in terms of the utilization of the advanced technology in digital democracy.

Way Forward:

Democracy is predicated on all peoples having equal access to democratic processes by:

- Realizing the transformation in conducting democracy from the conventional democracy to the digital democracy.
- Adapting with the current situation and encouraging youth to promote the conduct of digital democracy, as youth play important roles in society, especially regarding the use of technology.
- Strengthening digital literacy within the society in order to create a more inclusive digital democracy.
- Recognizing that democracy is not one-sized-fits-all, therefore there is no perfect form of democracy.
- Youth will be the guardians of the inclusive democracy.
- Women in leadership positions play a big role in the effort to establish the inclusive democracy.
- Continue to uphold the right of freedom of speech.

Recommendations:

- We encourage governments to adopt technologies in a way that promotes accountability and prevents corruption
- Youth will play an important role in society, especially as participants in democratic processes through digital and conventional platforms, in order to create a better world that champions inclusivity;
- We are committed to champion inclusive democracy, we should embrace the advancement of technology smartly
- We commit to promote the responsible use of media as a tool and not an end in itself
- We encourage governments and private sector participation in promoting digital literacy
- We strongly believe that citizen participation is the key to democracy