

Do We Dare to Hope?

That is the question that the Athens Democracy Forum will address when it convenes in the Greek capital September 27 to 29. Speakers and panels will explore the great and fateful clash over the future of democratic rule and fundamental freedoms, and the dangerous ideological and political fissures that have opened the world over. Politicians and policymakers, academics and activists, veterans and youth will be challenged to advance concrete solutions and programs.

As last year, the topics will be divided under 3 main pillars: regional case studies, “rethinking” key issues, and practical and innovative new tools.

Draft agenda

Wednesday, September 27

Venue: Hotel Grande Bretagne | Address: 1 Vasileos Georgiou A' Str., Syntagma Square

Democracy & Culture Foundation Pre-Plenary Event: *Think. Talk. Do*

- 8.30 – 10.00 Curated breakfast – Climate Hub
- 10.00 – 12.10 Reimagining the Building Blocks of Democracy
- 12.15 – 12.55 Teens for Democracy
- 13.00 -14.15 Curated Lunch on Building Blocks or Science of Democracy
- 14.15 – 14.55 Transnational Citizens Assembly
- 15.00 – 15.30 Orbis: AI for Deliberative Democracy
- 15.35 – 16.05 Climate for Democracy Initiative
- 16.10 – 16.35 Athens Charter for Business
- 16.35 – 16.40 Closing Remarks

Evening | Venue: Acropolis Museum | Address: Dionysiou Areopagitou 15

18.00 – 19:00 Private Tour of the Acropolis Museum

18:30 – 19:15 Registration and Greeting

19:20 – 19:40 Official Opening of the Athens Democracy Forum

Welcome Remarks

H.E. the President of the Hellenic Republic, Katerina Sakellaropoulou

Introduced by Achilles Tsaltas, Founder and President, Democracy & Culture Foundation

19:45 – 20:25 Opening Panel: The Clash of Civilizational States (in partnership with Noema Magazine)

This session will pick up on the themes of the Noema Magazine series: What defines “civilizational states” – do they reject the supposedly universal values of the West, or do they simply seek an organizing principle for shared cultures? Are identity and civilization distinct or interrelated concepts? What is the ideal concept for a modern state – and does it necessarily include democracy? Most important, is there any hope of finding common ground?

20:30 – 20:50 City of Athens Democracy Award

Bestowed by Mayor Kostas Bakoyannis of Athens

21:00 – 22:30 Dinner

Thursday, September 28

Venue: Hotel Grande Bretagne | Address: 1 Vasileos Georgiou A' Str., Syntagma Square

8:00 - 9:20 Breakfast Briefings

9:30 - 9:40 Opening Remarks

Achilles Tsaltas, Founder and President, Democracy and Culture Foundation

9:40 - 9:55 Opening Provocation

10:00 - 10:40 Case Study: China v. United States – Toward coexistence or war?

Spy balloons, warships and talk of cooperation: the titans maneuver and probe, the world warily watches.

10:45 – 10:55 Tools of Democracy Tutorial

An expert shares the latest examples and knowledge of the ways democracy is practiced, not preached.

10:55 - 11:25 COFFEE BREAK

11:25 - 12:05 Rethinking Security: When Threats are Invisible

The FBI may have scored a major win in “hacking the hackers,” but the harsh reality is that state-sponsored cybercriminal networks still run wide and deep. For many

years, analysts' fears focused on whether cyberattacks could lead to real-world war. But this approach ignored the more insidious aspects of cyber-threats – to economies, infrastructures and the very nature of trust. How scared should we be? And what can policymakers and tech companies do to mitigate the risks?

12:10 – 12:20 Tools of Democracy Tutorial

12:25 - 12:30 Bright Idea

A young advocate shares an example of democracy in action.

12:35 - 14:25 Lunch Symposium: Climate Flight

Supported by the Democracy and Climate Initiative

14:30 - 15:10 Case Study: The Future is African

By 2050, one in four people on Earth will be African; by 2100, 13 of the world's 20 biggest urban areas will be in Africa. Despite both the perception and reality of problems like corruption and poor governance, reports by the Economist's Democracy Index or Freedom House point to some positive signs for democracy. We look on the bright side: like largely peaceful elections in Kenya and Nigeria, expanded media freedoms in Tanzania, women running for office across the continent. What's more, 70% of people polled by Afrobarometer say they prefer democratic governments. Who are the people and initiatives that will determine the future of Africa?

15:15 - 15:25 Tools of Democracy Tutorial

15:30 - 16:10 Keynote Conversation or Panel

16:15 - 16:20 Bright Idea

Young advocates share a project or example of democracy in action.

16:25 - 16:35 Tools of Democracy Tutorial

Evening | Venue: Stoa of Attalos | Address: Adrianou Street - Ancient Agora of Athens

18:00 - 18:30 Guests arrive at Stoa of Attalos

18:30 - 18:45 Welcome Remarks

18:50 - 19:10 Aristotle Address

19:15 - 19:55 Panel: Can't We All Just Get Along?

20:00 - 20:20 The Kofi Annan NextGen Prize

20:30 Free time for dinner in Athens

Friday, September 29

Venue: Hotel Grande Bretagne | Address: 1 Vasileos Georgiou A' Str., Syntagma Square

- 8:00 - 9:20** **Breakfast Briefings**
- 9:30 - 9:40** **Welcome Remarks**
- 9:40 - 10:20** **The Long View on Ukraine**
What are the war's long-term ramifications? Are there ways in which the conflict has actually bolstered democracy?
- 10:25 - 10:35** **Tools of Democracy Tutorial**
- 10:40 - 11:20** **Rethinking Agriculture: Food as a Weapon (or innovation in politics)**
Getting wheat out of war-torn Ukraine demonstrated how easily food can be weaponized, and climate change is making agriculture ever more unstable. Who is most vulnerable, and what can be done?
- 11:25 - 11:30** **Bright Idea**
- 11:35 - 12:15** **The Disunited States of South America**
The 12 countries of South America collectively have the fifth largest economy in the world. But the integration that could give the region a corresponding clout in world affairs has proven elusive. Countries have succeeded in working together to achieve smaller goals, like Venezuela helping to resolve a border crisis at the Chile-Peruvian border. But larger cooperation of the kind touted by Brazil's president, Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, has not taken hold. What are some of the major challenges to this sort of cohesion, and is it even something to strive for?
- 12:20 - 12:35** **Teens ADF Present Results**
- 12:40 - 12:55** **Wrap-Up by Roger Cohen**
- 13:00 - 14:00** **Light lunch**
- 14:30 - 16:00** **Cultural Tour**

13.30 For delegates who have confirmed attendance at the Costa Navarino's weekend, transportation via minivan is provided from Syntagma Square to Costa Navarino | meeting point outside of the Grande Bretagne Hotel

Saturday & Sunday, September 30-October 1

Wellness & Democracy Weekend at Costa Navarino

Sunday October 1: *13.00 For delegates who attended CN weekend, transportation via minivan is provided from Costa Navarino to Athens-Syntagma Square.*