

Annika Savill
Executive Head, UN Democracy Fund

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*The Global State of Democracy:
Exploring Democracy's Resilience*
United Nations, New York, 29 November 2017

Thank you distinguished speakers and colleagues for being here. A special pleasure to be here with my friend of 25 years, Jan Eliasson. Above all, thank you, International IDEA, for this impressive report. I am encouraged to read in it that current views of the global state of democracy are overly pessimistic. But neither is the report wildly optimistic. The non-binary tone of your report is especially welcome because here at the UN, working for democracy support is not always straightforward. You all know that democracy appears nowhere in the UN Charter, and that it far

www.un.org/press/docs/2017/17-1129.un.dem.fund.annika.savill.en.doc.htm#docID=45111

organizers, labour mobilizers, youth and women leaders, come together at their own initiative, all with a stake in the outcome, they will persevere until all sides are represented. This inclusive discourse must never end.

As important, there must be someone in the capital listening. A confident nation gives citizens a say in the development of their country; the most effective, stable and successful democracies are in fact those where a strong civil society works in partnership with the state, while also holding it accountable.

One of the most heartening findings from this IDEA report is that civil society participation has increased significantly in several African and Asian states. But it also finds that other countries are going in the opposite direction.

UNDEF, which I head, is the only UN entity that exists to fund democracy through civil society. Since 2012, we have witnessed how more than 70 countries have introduced over 120 laws and