



WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON

July 1, 2010

Warm greetings to everyone gathered in Kraków for the High Level Democracy Meeting. I regret that I am unable to join you in person, but I'm with you in spirit as you commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Community of Democracies, and reaffirm the principles set forth a decade ago by the Warsaw Declaration.

When the Declaration was signed in 2000, more than one hundred states joined together in cooperation to realize a shared vision of prosperity and peace. In the ten years since, our world has witnessed dramatic change and progress. Today, in an increasingly interdependent global society, we must continue to find ways to solve problems and move ahead into the future in the interest of our common humanity.

It is our duty to use the positive forces of interdependence -- like the values supported by the Community of Democracies -- to make our world more equal, more stable, and more sustainable. I commend you for your enduring commitment to these goals. This gathering is sure to engage you in a thoughtful and productive dialogue about fundamental issues of leadership and human rights. Now more than ever, we have the power to affect positive change, and it is for everyone's benefit that we do so.

As we work together to expand the marketplace of ideas and discover practical new ways to address our world's most pressing challenges, I am optimistic about the future. I believe we're living in a time of the greatest human potential in history, and we have a responsibility to offer everyone the chance to succeed. When all of the world's citizens have the opportunity and tools to build a brighter future for themselves and each other, our global society will fulfill its promise and grow immeasurably stronger.

Best wishes for a wonderful event.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill Clinton".