

**ΣΧΕΔΙΟ ΟΜΙΛΙΑΣ κ. ΑΝΑΠΛΗΡΩΤΗ ΥΠΟΥΡΓΟΥ  
ΣΤΗ ΣΥΝΑΝΤΗΣΗ ΥΨΗΛΟΥ ΕΠΙΠΕΔΟΥ ΤΗΣ  
ΚΟΙΝΟΤΗΤΑΣ ΤΩΝ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΩΝ  
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**“Democracy Losing Ground: What is to be done?”**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is indeed a great pleasure and an honour for me to be here in the historic city of Krakow to commemorate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Community of Democracies and to take its important mission forward. And I would also like to thank Polish Foreign Minister Radosław Sikorski, for hosting this year’s High Level Democracy Meeting.

The premise of today’s discussion is that democracy is losing ground, which, in and of itself, is certainly open to debate.

When the Community of Democracies was founded 10 years ago, it was built on the idea that democracy – encompassing universal principals and values enshrined in the UN Charter – should be strengthened and promoted.

We all recognize, of course, that the spread of globalization, while presenting some new positive opportunities for the promotion of democratic values, concurrently poses serious challenges, not only on a national level, but also on a regional and international level.

The current global economic and financial crisis has brought this matter plainly – and often painfully – very much to the fore, reinforcing what is now commonly referred to as the “democratic deficit of globalization”.

According to Aristotle, “**πολιτική**” – politics – is the active involvement of the citizen in public affairs, while “**οικονομία**” – economy – is the management of the home. Aristotle was also the first to observe that politics and economics have always been interdependent.

And, indeed, economic crises have in the past rocked the very foundations of democracies. By extrapolation, the repercussions of the current crisis on a global level could be devastating.

Which is why the role of the Community of Democracies is now more pertinent than ever.

The economic crisis is impacting our social fabric. A sense of injustice among those less fortunate is calling into question sets of values and systems of governance.

I believe that the time has come to start developing mechanisms that provide for the political and democratic control of markets. Citizens around the world are demanding that such mechanisms be put in place to ensure that the free market works in favour of global development and is not just geared towards the short-term profits of a certain few.

Now is also the time to focus on the need to strengthen and “operationalize” our ties and collaboration with other regional and international organizations. We need to ensure that this is done in the respective fora and organizations in which we participate separately.

The common thread is that the global community is being called upon to reassess the way in which the global economy operates, under the realization that no country, large or small, is immune to the consequences of international economic fluctuations.

This is no easy task, considering that it needs to be carried out while safeguarding the hard-won political freedoms – as well as the free movement of people, goods and capital – that we have consolidated over time.

A new world economic order must come with the means and mechanisms to ensure its own viability. The Community of Democracies should be present and instrumental in the efforts in this direction.

I thank you for your attention.