

PRESS RELEASE

Business and political leaders to launch the Corporate Democracy Forum

Krakow, 3 July 2010 – business and political leaders launch the Corporate Democracy Forum at the High Level Democracy Meeting in Krakow 2010. The Forum will form the critical third pillar of the Community of Democracies, joining the private business sector with governments and non-governmental organizations as the key participants in the democratic process.

Solidarity Leader Lech Wałęsa, Polish Telecommunications Company CEO Maciej Witucki, the American Chamber of Commerce President Roman Rewald, the Executive Director of the Center for International Private Enterprise John D. Sullivan and several Italian and American firms have all endorsed the initiative. As the President of the American Chamber of Commerce in Poland has stated, “The American Chamber of Commerce in Poland welcomes the Community’s initiative to provide a channel for the private corporate sector to further democratic development in Poland and other countries.”

Market economies and democracies are mutually reinforcing. The rule of law, strong regulatory institutions, competition, equal access to the market and freedom of association are vital both for the successful development of business and for a sustainable democracy. A successful market economy also demands checks and balances against cronyism and corruption. Only democracies have proven consistently capable of delivering these.

The CDF will advise the Community of Democracies on issues and activities that promote democracy from a business perspective; facilitate partnership between businesses and business associations in new, struggling and established democracies with a particular emphasis on women and young entrepreneurs; provide expertise on rule of law, contracts, corporate governance, accountability, competition policy, and serve as a clearinghouse of projects and ideas to enhance collaboration and promote synergies.

The Permanent Secretariat, together with the International Steering Committee and the Convening Group will convene with corporations and business organizations an organizational meeting of the Forum by end of 2010. Private sector representatives from both established and struggling democracies are strongly encouraged to participate in the forum. Interested parties should contact:

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