



## **Declaration on a Global Coalition to protect Human Rights in the world**

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In recent decades, a widely contested ideological and political discord over the universality of human rights has emerged by the hand of illiberal and authoritarian regimes, which challenge them by wielding a relativist narrative claiming these rights, to be a “weapon of cultural hegemony”. Their actions are not limited to their territory as they are far-reaching, providing aid to others with the same agendas in trying to redefine globally shared international norms, even in countries with long-established democracies. We have to engage in an alliance as the very universality of human rights has been put at stake by these regimes.

Every person has inherent, inalienable, and indivisible rights. This premise is the fundamental achievement of humankind. Yet, over the past years, we have witnessed an increase in violations of human rights and democratic values across the world. Executions, tortures, arbitrary arrests and detentions, clampdown on civil society and political opponents, excessive violence by public authorities, censorship and threats to independent media, and disinformation - to name some of the most obvious examples.

Our long-shared achievement, built over more than two centuries ago, has been put in check, and our democracies must go out and engage in that ideological field, in which those regimes’ models arrogantly claim to be backed up by a global majority.

This noticeable crescendo for going to the ideological front lines to defend the universality of human rights can go onstage by the hand of a coalition. Mature democracies and international organizations will need a strategic articulation, embodied in an international League that creates actual synergies and combines both capacity and willingness, for the defence of human rights worldwide.

We cannot rest on our laurels. We need a certain defiant, public attitude, reaffirming our commitment to the universality of human rights and the Rule of Law as a model of society not only for each country and nation, but also as a model for international relations. A world of democracies is a safer world.

Human rights need a League that can go out and act as their champion worldwide, articulating a global network of international and regional organizations, State’s representatives on human rights, human rights organizations and human rights defenders, Academia, civil society and the private sector.

Through this Declaration, our objective is to kick-off a Human Rights League aimed at setting forth an effective agenda and tackle the biggest threats through collective action in order to promote and strengthen human rights, their universality and interdependence. A powerhouse that aligns our collective resources, as well as coordinates strategies and actions to address our common challenges, to become united in adversity.