



CELAC 2023
Saint Vincent
and the Grenadines

Special Declaration for the Revalorization of Democracy against Hate Speech

The Heads of State and Government of Latin America and the Caribbean, on the occasion of the VIII Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), held on March 1, 2024, in Kingstown, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines;

Welcome the adoption of United Nations General Assembly Resolution 75/309 proclaiming June 18 as the "International Day for Countering Hate Speech," and condemning any advocacy of hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence, whether it involves the use of print, audiovisual or electronic media, social media or any other means;

Reaffirm the Special Declaration on the Defense of Democracy and Constitutional Order in the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), signed in Caracas, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, on December 3, 2011, in the framework of the Founding Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), which expresses the rejection and condemnation of any attempt that seeks to disrupt or subvert the constitutional order and the normal functioning of institutions in any Member State of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States.

Reaffirm the positive role that the exercise of freedom of expression can play in strengthening democracy and further reaffirming that the exercise of freedom of expression carries with it a special duties and responsibilities

Reiterating the Declaration of Buenos Aires of January 24, 2023, which recalls the spirit of the Declaration of the Unity Summit of Latin America and the Caribbean of the Riviera Maya of 2010, stating that democracy is a conquest of the region that does not admit interruptions, in accordance with the legal system of the States, nor setbacks, and reiterate in this sense our



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firm commitment to the preservation of democratic values and the full and unrestricted validity of the institutions and the rule of law in the region

1. We reaffirm our commitment to the defense of democracy in all corners of our region and the constitutional order of the States and emphasize the need to promote the respect for the rule of law and international law the values of tolerance, non-discrimination, inclusiveness, pluralism, freedom of opinion and expression as well as the promotion and protection of all human rights for all including the right to development on equal footing
2. We commit ourselves to actively promote a culture of respect, tolerance and dialogue, encouraging participation of everyone without restrictions and guaranteeing the respect, protection and fulfillment of human rights even in digital environments for all citizens of our vast and diverse Latin American and Caribbean community.
3. We recognize the urgent need to address and counter hate speech prevalent in social networks, respecting freedom of expression and opinion in accordance with applicable International Human Rights Instruments and advocate for an open regional discussion on the obligations and responsibilities of all involved actors in combating the proliferation of intolerance, gender discrimination, violence, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and hate speech.
4. Reaffirm the importance of international cooperation to confront the challenges of disinformation and hate speech, including cooperation between government bodies, parliaments, academic institutions, the private sector and civil society.

Kingstown, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, March 1, 2024