



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

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MESSAGE TO THE ATHENS DEMOCRACY FORUM

15 September 2017

I send warm wishes to the Athens Democracy Forum. I commend you for gathering
again in the birthplace of democracy to observe this International Day of Democracy in

cooperation with the United Nations Democracy Fund.

Let me also commend the City of Athens for bestowing the Athens Democracy Award this year upon Felipe González, my friend and ally for twenty-five years, and an inspiration to democracy activists around the world.

The International Day of Democracy is an opportunity to recommit to a world defined by the values enshrined in the United Nations Charter: peace, justice, respect, human rights, tolerance and solidarity. Yet, in many societies around the world, there is a crisis of faith. Globalization and technological progress have lifted many out of poverty, but have also contributed to inequality and instability. There is a growing and deepening divide among people