

TRANSCRIPCIÓN

**INTERVENCIÓN DEL PRESIDENTE DE GOBIERNO, PEDRO
SÁNCHEZ, EN LA III CUMBRE PARA LA DEMOCRACIA,
CELEBRADA EN SEÚL**

Intervención virtual, Palacio de la Moncloa, 20 de marzo de 2024

INTERVENCIÓN DEL PRESIDENTE DEL GOBIERNO, PEDRO SÁNCHEZ

This year more than half of the world's population is called to the polls.

And millions of young people will have their first real contact with an essential act in every democracy: voting in elections.

All my life I have believed in representative democracy. For two reasons:

First, because in the history of the world there is no other political system more respectful of the dignity of the human being.

Second, because the evidence shows that democracy and prosperity go hand in hand.

But the truth is that today many people do not share this vision. And, as a consequence, democracy is under threat in many places.

Reversing this trend requires taking action. And, above all, get young people hooked on democracy.

To make it possible, first of all, we must address their real problems. Without paternalism. Understanding their perspectives and fears. Praising their fight for diversity.

We must encourage well-informed debates, respect for diverse opinions and inclusive decision-making among young people.

Secondly, we must empower new generations. And there is no more powerful tool for that than a good educational system.

A system that goes ahead, and not behind, of a constantly changing labour market. A system that provides them with tools against misinformation and reinforces their rights in the era of digitalization.

This generation will face the challenges that Artificial Intelligence represents. Let's give them the tools to turn it into an opportunity to live better.

Finally, we must tackle inequality and strengthen social cohesion.

The youth of this generation have faced several crises in their lives. We must work for intergenerational justice to break the myth that they will be the first generation to live worse than their parents.



Extremism and authoritarian regimes feed on discontent. We must fight for equal opportunities and make the social elevator work again for young people.

Because, if we fail, the adults of tomorrow will stop believing that democracy is the most effective political system to guarantee peace and progress for all.

Spain is fully committed with this agenda.

We have been working through our "Democracy Program" to promote democracy between Spain, Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean. We continue to develop the "Ellas plus Fund" to promote the full and effective participation of women and equal leadership opportunities in political life.

We joined the Blue Point Network last year to make our infrastructures more sustainable, transparent and inclusive. And we have committed to transparency, with new accountability mechanisms.

Dear friends,

Spain is one of the 24 full democracies in the world. But we are not an old democracy. We have a recent memory of tyranny.

That closeness helps us in what I understand to be a fundamental duty for all democracies: teaching the youngest that freedom and progress cannot be taken for granted. That democracy is a fragile treasure that cannot be taken for granted.

Let's give to the young the tools they need to protect and believe in democracy.

Thank you.

*(Transcripción editada por la Secretaría de Estado de Comunicación)
(Intervención original en inglés)*