



**Joint Statement  
on the Current State and Future of Democracy in Asia**

We, the Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats (CALD) and its partners, on the occasion of CALD 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Events in Taipei, Taiwan on 6-11 September 2023;

Acknowledging that CALD has evolved from its humble beginnings in the 1990s to becoming the region's foremost political party network today;

Emphasizing that for the past thirty years, CALD has been committed to advancing democracy, human rights, and the rule of law for all people of Asia, with the understanding that these are universal values that transcend borders and cultures;

Aware that democratic norms face growing challenges from authoritarianism, illiberalism, and populism, with this being the root cause behind increased instability and geopolitical tension in Asia;

Underscoring that Taiwan's resilience in upholding democratic principles, even in the face of external challenges, serves as an inspiration to countries around the world and is crucial to maintaining peace and stability in the region; and

Recognizing that as a community of like-minded parties, CALD will continue to support the people of Taiwan in their ongoing efforts to preserve regional peace and stability, while upholding their democracy, freedom, and way of life.

Do hereby:

1. Reiterate our unwavering commitment to democratic principles, human rights, and the rule of law as fundamental to achieving peace and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region;
2. Pledge to stand with the people of Taiwan against all challenges and threats on their freedom, democratic way of life and human rights;
3. Highlight peace as being in the common interest and objective of all people across Asia, and support the people of Taiwan in their ongoing efforts to preserve the cross-strait status quo;
4. Affirm the importance of economic security in the light of heightened global uncertainties and commit to fostering closer trade linkages amidst like-minded partners;
5. Declare our dedication to advancing democracy, human rights, and the rule of law through collaborative efforts among like-minded parties, and recommit to strengthening CALD as a champion of these values in the region.

Adopted in Taipei, Taiwan on 09 September 2023.

Signed:

**LAI CHING-TE**

Chairperson

Democratic Progressive Party of Taiwan

**FRANCIS PANGILINAN**

Chairperson

Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats

**CALD Official & Partners**

**MARDI SENG**

Incoming Chairperson

Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats

**MORITZ KLEINE-BROCKHOFF**

Friedrich Naumann Foundation

Southeast and East Asia Office

**JAYANTHI DEVI BALAGURU**

International Network of Liberal Women

**WILLIAM TOWNSEND**

Liberal International

**PEDRO URRUCHURTU**

Red Liberal de America Latina

**YEVHENIIA FEDOTOVA**

International Federation of the Liberal Youth