

Trust and Integrity in Democracy

The Caux Forum 2023

The Caux Forum 2023 was held in The Caux Palace above Montreux from 17 to 26 to July.

The Opening Ceremony “Strengthening Democracy: The Journey from Trauma to Trust” set the stage for: “Healing the Wounds of the Past” (17-22 July) and “Trust and Integrity in Democracy” (23 - 26 July).

Moving into a Forum on “Trust and Integrity in Democracy” (23-26 July) after the Forum on “Healing Wounds of the Past” was like “completing a circle”.



Trust and Integrity in Democracy

Democracy as a form of government is a universal benchmark for human rights protection. Some Governments are deliberately weakening independent checks on their powers, suffocating criticism, dismantling democratic oversight and ensuring their long-term rule, with negative impact on people’s rights.

At the very core of The Trust and Integrity in Democracy Forum, an exploration of how Trust and Integrity plays a fundamental role in democracy.



What happened during the “Trust and Integrity in Democracy” Forum?

The “Trust and Integrity in Democracy” provided a stretching yet compassionate community context in which individual introspection and collective inquiry can support radical dialogue and mutual contextual learning.

The survey results indicate the “Trust and Integrity in Democracy” creates a supportive, compassionate context in which participants engaged in courageous, honest conversation – paving the way for re-establishing trustworthiness, tolerance and transparency.

Building trust across the world’s divides

- 90% of the respondents to the survey agreed or strongly agreed that TID equipped them with tools and enhanced trust and in democracy.
- 96% of the respondents to the survey agreed or strongly agreed that TID connected them with individuals and organizations to support and sustain their journey and initiatives to enhance trust and integrity in Democracy. *See annex 1 – Main survey results*

Figures on “Trust & Integrity in Democracy”

- Three-day Forum (Sunday to Wednesday)
- Over 300 participants from 72 countries (Total Caux Forum 555 participants)
- Five plenaries
- Twelve keynote speakers or panelists
- Height workshops
- Three personal stories, one each morning
- Early morning times for Silence, which is a core practice of IofC
- Evenings : on an Oscar nominated film, an evening with the Mothers of Ukraine and an evening celebration of music and dance
- Each, community time to create a safe space for deeper conversations that matter
- Multiple conversations at other times. Conversations that are often where action is developed for us personally or collectively
- Accommodation of 300 participants, over 1'000 meals served and over 2'000 coffee breaks
- Two thirds of the participants were sponsored for their stay at the Caux Forum
- 3,302 Bednights for the Caux forum with a average length of stay of 6,6 nights

The “Trust and Integrity in Democracy” Forum covered a number of key topics:

- State of Trust & Integrity in Democracy
- Minister for Mines, Government of Niger
- Role of Civil Society in upholding Democracy
- Pervasive effects of Fake News and growing impact of AI
- Making and strengthening Institutions of Integrity
- Re-igniting Faith in Democracy

Speakers included:

- Ms Hadizatou Yacouba Ousseini (Niger) - Minister for Mines, Government of Niger
- M Yukihiisa Fujita (Japan) - Former Vice-Minister of Finance and former Member of Japanese Diet (Parliament)
- M Declan O’Brian (Ireland) - Head of Elections and Democracy Programme, Kofi Annan Foundation
- M Wolfgang Jamann (Germany) - Executive Director of the International Civil Society Centre, Berlin
- Bishop Matthew Hassan Kukah (Nigeria) - Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Sokoto, Nigeria
- Ms Franziska Heine (Germany) - Executive Director, Wikimedia Deutschland e.V.
- M Adam Nosal (UK) - Entrepreneur and Business Development Lead at Know You More Ltd
- M Michael Moller (Denmark) - Former Director-General of the UN in Geneva
- M Sam Rainsy (Cambodia) - Cambodian activist, economist and politician
- DR Nirmala Pillay (UK) - Reader and Postgraduate Course Director Academic
- Ms Helia Ben Youssef (Tunisia) - Vice-President of Socialist International Women, Vice-President FDTL, Tunisia
- M Gali Ngothe Gatta (Chad) - Minister and Secretary General of the Republic of Chad
- Ms Lisa Yasko (Ukraine) - Member of the Ukrainian Parliament

Way forward

There are many conferences on democracy around the world. Here, IofC points us to the values that underpin democracy and values that underpin our own lives at a personal level.

What has come through, time and time again here is this that leadership as we know it now, cannot deliver for the future without integrity. This goes for leadership in every sphere.

While our work is daily to find innovative, creative and sustainable answers together, next July in Caux we will be looking at a Forum on the practice of the Inner Development Goals, followed by a week on Europe’s role in switching from focusing on growth to focusing in humanity. Beyond growth, beyond Europe.

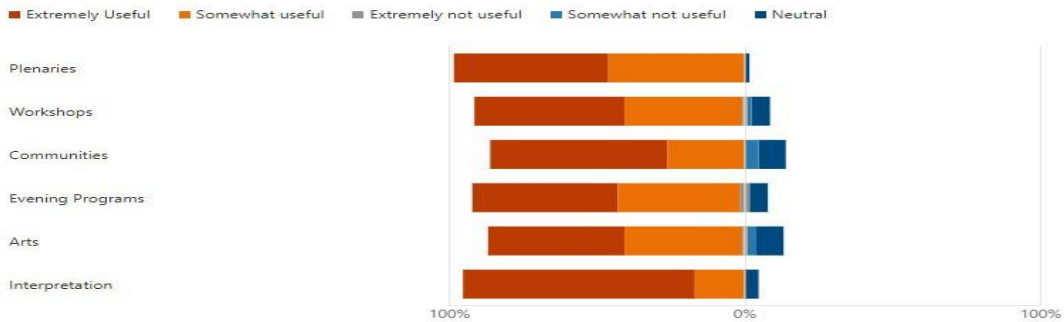
Annex 1

Results and comments from the “Trust and Integrity in Democracy” satisfaction survey

63 participants replied to the TID survey (Approx. 20% of participants). 97% of the participants surveyed found the TID forum useful or very useful. Two participants indicated that they will not recommend the Caux Forum to others.

3. How would you rate the following

[More Details](#)



97% of the respondents to the survey demonstrated willingness to share the Programs/Activities with others in their networks.

90% of the respondents to the survey agreed or strongly agreed that TID equipped them with tools and enhanced trust and in democracy.

97% of the respondents to the survey agreed or strongly agreed that TID connected them with individuals and organizations to support and sustain their journey and initiatives to enhance trust and integrity in Democracy.

86% of the respondents said that listening to the speakers inspired trust and integrity in democracy within them.

Two thirds of the respondents experienced a shift in their trust and integrity for democracy.

Some of the comments from the survey:

"I was able to get the different perspectives of what trust and integrity in democracy mean to different people and how that is being implemented in different parts of the world."

"Ability to discover new dimensions to the topic of democracy. Good speakers. Valuable to meet Ukrainians and have presentation from them."

"I really appreciated the facts that opponents (Cambodian one for instance) were invited."

"It was useful in that it helped me to reflect on democracy and what it represents and how integrity has been lost."

"Many interventions were experiences of significant trustworthiness and integrity. The Minister of Mining in Niger, the authenticity with which Hella spoke. The closing when a Russian woman asked for forgiveness and a Ukrainian woman responded."

"The importance of Caux as a place to enhance our role in today's world and our responsibility as a global team to impact main issues in the world."

"The many different civil initiatives for democratic function, including grassroot and traditional democratic actors (in Africa and Switzerland, for instance). The Swiss experience of democracy should have been formally presented to provoke reflection. The Petition for the Australian Referendum was also worthwhile."