



23rd MEETING OF THE SPEAKERS OF THE LOWER HOUSES OF THE G7

DECLARATION*

1. We, the Speakers and Presidents of the lower houses of the G7 legislatures, along with the President of the European Parliament, met from September 4th to 6th, 2025, in Ottawa, Canada, and the surrounding region, to discuss global challenges confronting our countries. The themes of our meeting – online disinformation and the threat it poses to democratic processes, political polarization and its effects on legislative debates, and violence against legislators – reflect some of these global challenges.
2. Our 23rd Meeting reaffirmed the importance of parliamentary diplomacy as a means of fostering exchange, dialogue, and collaboration. We condemn Russia's continuing aggression against Ukraine and recognize Ukraine's readiness for a just and lasting peace. We endorse the March 14, 2025 Joint Statement of the G7 Foreign Ministers, which reaffirmed unwavering support for Ukraine in defending its territorial integrity and right to exist, and its freedom, sovereignty and independence. We reiterate our commitment to deepening our cooperation on issues of shared importance, and to strengthening the interparliamentary dimension of the G7. This joint declaration summarizes the outcomes of our deliberations.

A. ADDRESSING ONLINE DISINFORMATION AND THE THREAT IT POSES TO DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES

3. We recognize that the rapid advancement of artificial intelligence (AI), when coupled with the amplifying power of social media, has heightened the vulnerability of our voters to information manipulation and interference, including disinformation. Hostile actors and authoritarian regimes exploit these technologies to interfere in our democratic processes. At the same time, we acknowledge that these technologies bring immense benefits across many sectors, driving innovation, productivity, and social progress.
4. Accordingly, we discussed how our respective legislatures have acted – and might act going forward – to strike the right balance: protecting our democracies and citizens from the risks posed by AI-driven information manipulation and interference, including disinformation, while fostering responsible innovation and upholding fundamental rights, including freedom of expression. We reaffirm our shared

* It is recognized that due to their constitutional positions or other factors, certain Speakers cannot directly associate themselves with substantive political statements, and therefore should not be seen as indicating specific support for all sections of this declaration. Nonetheless, on behalf of their Chambers, they recognize the importance of the issues raised and the intentions of their colleagues in proposing particular ways forward.

commitment to open dialogue, mutual learning, and coordinated action, in the interest of safeguarding democratic institutions and public trust in the digital age.

**B. LEGISLATURES IN A POLARIZED WORLD:
FOSTERING RESPECTFUL DEBATE IN THE CHAMBER AND BEYOND**

5. We recognize that more of our citizens, especially young voters, appear to be losing faith in democratic institutions and gravitating towards extreme ideological positions.
6. We are particularly concerned about the link between extreme polarization and support for political violence. Social media and other online platforms, driven by opaque algorithms, are contributing to both by amplifying polarizing content aimed at sowing discord, and by reducing access to a diversity of content, notably by filtering out opposing political viewpoints. We encourage governments, legislators, the private sector and civil society to work together to promote digital, media and information literacy, civil discourse, constructive democratic debate and to counter online foreign influence.

C. PROTECTING LEGISLATORS FROM ALL FORMS OF VIOLENCE

7. We express grave concern over acts of violence against legislators. Legislators are exposed in two ways: as nationally elected officials with significant media visibility, and also because of their local presence, since they often have constituency offices. Internet and social media— tools that should be used for democratic engagement – have increasingly become vehicles for harassment and abuse targeting legislators and their private, family and professional lives.
8. We note that abuse against legislators, including online harassment and threats of violence, have profound consequences. These include deterring individuals from entering politics, driving legislators to leave public life, influencing how democratic work is carried out, and limiting the perspectives that are represented in legislatures. This behaviour is on the rise, and we condemn the troubling trend. We reaffirm our commitment to upholding the right of all individuals to participate fully and equally in public life.
9. Legislators must be able to fulfill their duties in environments free of violence and harassment, both within and beyond their legislatures. Strengthening the legislative framework to better prevent and punish violence against legislators is necessary. We are committed to doing our part to prevent and eliminate such behaviour.