

## **CLUB OF MADRID AND DEMOCRACY COALITION PROJECT JOIN FORCES**

The Club of Madrid has established a strategic partnership with the Democracy Coalition Project, a nongovernmental organization that conducts research and advocacy relating to democracy promotion policies at the national, regional and global levels. Begun in June 2001 as an initiative of the Open Society Institute, the Democracy Coalition Project relies on an international network of civil society organizations, scholars, foreign policy experts and politicians committed to democracy promotion as an essential element of international peace and human development. The Project's policy agenda covers such areas as: improving international responses to democratic crises, encouraging the donor community to support emerging democracies, and promoting reform of the United Nations through greater collaboration among democratic governments. The Democracy Coalition Project also plays a leadership role in encouraging a more transparent and active Community of Democracies, a coalition of democratic states established in 2001 to promote and protect democracy. Its flagship publication, Defending Democracy: A Global Survey of Foreign Policy Trends 1992-2002, which *Foreign Policy* magazine called one of "the most comprehensive research and evaluation tools available" on democracy, examines the democracy promotion records of forty governments.

The Club of Madrid, an association of former heads of state and government mainly from developing democracies, was organized in 2002 to support initiatives whose goal is to strengthen and consolidate democracy around the world. The President of the Club, former Brazilian President Fernando Henrique Cardoso, leads an Executive Committee that includes Kim Campbell (former Prime Minister of Canada), Anibal Cavaco Silva (former Prime Minister of Portugal), José María Figueres, (Former President of Costa Rica), Eduardo Frei Ruiz-Tagle (Former President of Chile), César Gaviria (Former President of Colombia), Lee Hong-Koo (Former Prime Minister of Korea), Valentín Paniagua (Former President of Peru), Julio María Sanguinetti (Former President of Uruguay), Adolfo Suárez (Former President of the Spanish Government), Hanna Suchocka (Former Prime Minister of Poland), Ernesto Zedillo (former President of Mexico), Diego Hidalgo, President of FRIDE, T. Anthony Jones, Executive Vicepresident of GFNA, George Matthews, President of GFNA and José Manuel Romero (Trustee of FRIDE). Former U.S. President, Bill Clinton, serves as Honorary Co-Chairman. The association grew out of the landmark Conference on Democratic Transition and Consolidation held in Madrid in October 2001 at which current and former heads of state and government and academic experts exchanged views on principles and practices of democratic governance.

Cooperation between the Club of Madrid and the Democracy Coalition Project covers such activities as preparation for the annual General Assembly meeting of the Club of Madrid; outreach to key decision-makers; participation in the Community of Democracies preparatory process leading to the next high-level meeting in Chile in 2005; dissemination of research and policy papers on democracy-related topics; and development of joint projects.