



**INTERVENCION DEL REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE ALTERNO  
DE CHILE ANTE NACIONES UNIDAS**

**EMBAJADOR DON CARLOS OLGUÍN C.**

**Con ocasión de la conmemoración del Día Internacional de la  
Democracia**

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*Excellencies, dear colleagues and friends,*

*It is a pleasure for Chile to be associated with this initiative to commemorate at the United Nations the International Day of Democracy.*

*The history of my country reflects a deeply-rooted commitment to living in a democratic system, including our struggle to recover our tradition of democracy and respect for human rights with the goal to attain wellbeing, social justice and inclusiveness for its people as contained in the government program of President Bachelet.*

*I would like to focus on the appropriate theme selected for this commemoration: "Space for Civil Society". The Government of Chile has set itself the goal of building a country in which civic space is protected, the right of community organizations to access resources is strengthened, citizen participation in public sector management is promoted and a better quality of democracy is created.*

*In accordance with international recommendations and citizens' demanding goals, the Government of Chile views citizens participation as "a process of cooperation in which the State and the society jointly identify political problems and discuss how to solve them".*

*In this connection, the Ministry General Secretariat of Government has been working steadily to implement Act 20.500 on associations and citizen participation in public sector management which includes provisions of access to public information, establishment of Civil Society Councils in each public service, citizen consultations and participatory public accounting and reinforcing more effective and empowering participation mechanisms, such as public hearings, participatory budgeting, territorial and sectorial town hall meetings, share dialogues and digital platforms.*

*In addition, Act 20.500 is being reviewed this year involving civil society organizations, community leaders, academics general, and public and municipal officials. Inputs are being sought to improve Act 20.500, by expanding its coverage and incorporating new visions.*

*Progress is also being made in Chile as regards transparency, following the promulgation of Act 20.500 and of Act 20.285 on transparency in 2008. Both laws have improved the availability of information on public administration and made it easier to obtain information from the various government agencies.*

*A Civic Training Plan is being implemented in 2015, which will train and equip over 16,000 community leaders in 120 communes throughout the country.*

*Thus Chile is moving towards a public administration model with effective citizen participation, in which civil society organizations play a vital role in the promotion of rights and structural reforms and in the establishment of partnerships for the development and strengthening of democracy.*

*Just to conclude and in connection with the international arena, allow me to highlight the crucial role that civil society has had in the design of our Sustainable Development Agenda for 2030 and will also have in its follow up and revision, another reason to defend and promote a safe and enabling environment for civil society, in law and practice, including the facilitation of its participation at UN.*

*Thank you.*