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Global Monitor of COVID-19's Impact on Democracy and Human Rights

Methodology and Codebook

What is the Global Monitor?

The COVID-19's impact on Democracy and Human Rights Global Monitor aims to be a “one-stop shop” online global monitoring tool/platform (a “tracker of trackers”) on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on democracy and human rights worldwide. Its objective is to qualitatively monitor the democracy and human rights implications of measures adopted by governments around the world in the context of the COVID-19 crisis, specifically in the 162 countries included in International IDEA's Global State of Democracy (GSoD) Indices.

This online platform aims to be a user-friendly tool for policymakers, civil society organizations, journalists and the public in general to easily access in one place all democracy and human rights-related information on COVID-19 measures, by country, by region and globally. The Global Monitor is expected to help them: 1) easily find democracy and human rights-related data and analysis related to COVID-19 measures; 2) identify countries where there are indications that measures and actions implemented to curb the spread of COVID-19 present concerns from a democracy and human rights perspective.

The online platform will provide access to analysis and data produced both by International IDEA as well as other organizations around the world. The information will be provided by country and updated twice a month, with monthly regional summaries. The information will be organized and presented around the five attributes in International IDEA's Global State of Democracy framework (Representative Government, Fundamental Rights, Checks on Government, Impartial Administration and Participatory Engagement). The platform will be housed on International IDEA's GSoD Indices website, which will provide the added benefit of the contextual analysis provided by the GSoD, to understand in which democratic context different measures are being implemented.

What does the Global Monitor Contain?

The Global Monitor contains:


- A world map that indicates countries where measures and actions implemented to curb the spread of COVID-19 present concerns from a democracy and human rights perspective.
- A country profile for each of the 162 countries covered by the monitor with information on the democracy and human rights implications of COVID19-related measures and actions, according to the 29 aspects of democracy in the GSoD Framework.
- The country profile will also contain contextual data from the Global State of Democracy Indices, which indicate the performance level of democracy in the country before the outbreak of the pandemic in 2019;
- A two-level monitoring tool that will identify measures and actions taken that are *concerning* and *potentially concerning* from a democracy and human rights perspective. Measures and actions for which there is no evidence that the measures and actions taken


are undemocratic, disproportionate, unnecessary, illegal or indefinite, will not be indicated by any sign.

Methodology

“Concerning” and “(potentially concerning) – to watch” labels



- Each attribute in which measures or actions have been taken can be assigned a “concerning” or “(potentially concerning –) to watch” label or no label at all, when there is no evidence of concerning developments from a democracy and human rights perspective.
- These two labels imply that, with the information available, there are measures or developments that give rise to concerns from a democracy and human rights perspective, in the case of the warning sign, a clear concern because they violate human rights or democratic benchmarks, considered either disproportionate, unnecessary, illegal or indefinite or in the case of a loop (“developments to watch”) no violation is observed but may occur if enforced or maintained over time.
- When measures and actions have been taken but these do not restrict democratic rights, and are deemed democratic, proportionate, necessary, legal and temporary, no label is applied.
- A detailed explanation on when these labels should be applied and based on what coding criteria is found in Annex A.
- Such monitoring tool is generic enough to be applicable to all regime types and contexts, including older or newer democracies, weak, fragile or backsliding democracies, as well as hybrid regimes or non-democracies. In other words, the criteria are absolute and not context-specific and will therefore not change depending on the democratic context of a country. However, countries classified by the GSoD Indices as hybrid or authoritarian are likely to have more concerning developments than democracies, since transgression of democratic rights is more often the norm in such contexts.
- An explanation for each of the labels is provided here:

Symbol	Explanation
	<p>Concerning developments from a democracy and human rights perspective. COVID-19 related measures or developments that violate human rights or democratic benchmarks, because considered either disproportionate, unnecessary, illegal or indefinite.</p>

	Potentially concerning – to watch COVID-19 related measures or developments to watch from a democracy and human rights perspective. These may lead to a violation of human rights or democratic benchmarks and be considered disproportionate, unnecessary, illegal or indefinite if enforced or maintained over time.
No symbol	No evidence that measures taken are undemocratic, being disproportionate, unnecessary, illegal or indefinite.

Coding criteria for labels on world map

The COVID-19 democracy impact labels will directly link to the [regime world map](#) as well as the attributes and subattributes world map of the GSoD Indices. This will enable the reader to have an overview of the countries that are experiencing concerning developments and developments to be watched from a democracy and human rights perspective. To simplify for the reader, the warning sign will appear for a country if the country has at least one aspect with concerning developments and a loop will appear if a country only has aspects to watch, according to the coding criteria in Annex A.

Explanation	Label on map
At least one warning sign (with or without issues to watch)	
No warning sign, but issues to watch	
No warning sign and no aspects to watch	

Sources

The sources indicated in Annex A are recommended as first-hand sources to be consulted for each aspect. However, if those recommended sources do not provide the information needed to gather the information required for the country profiles, other sources have been consulted.

All sources are hyperlinked in the text, so that the reader when scrolling over the text can see what sources were used for each statement.

All source links are also consolidated in a Reference section at the end of each country profile.

Various sources are triangulated to make the final label assessment, including the triangulation of statements from other authoritative organizations. In addition, International IDEA thematic, regional and country experts and external experts are consulted in the application of labels and criteria to ensure consistency across countries.

Annex A: Codebook for COVID-19's Impact on Democracy and Human Rights Global Monitor

Aspect of democracy	What information is contained here?	Key guiding questions for description of measures and actions	Criteria for qualifying as “(potentially concerning) – to watch”	Criteria for qualifying as “concerning”	Criteria for applying no label (no evidence that measures taken are undemocratic, being disproportionate, unnecessary, illegal or indefinite)	Possible sources
Representative Government						
<i>Clean Elections</i>	<p>Measures and actions related to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elections scheduled that took place • Elections delayed • Elections suspended • Elections scheduled earlier than customary or ahead of initial date. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Were elections scheduled to take place? • Have they been postponed, or will they go ahead during the COVID-19 crisis? • If they have been postponed, has a new date been set? • If elections are postponed: Is this decision supported by a broad consensus among political parties and independent experts and observer organizations? • Has the opposition/civil Society protested the 	<p>No new date set if election postponed or if elections have been postponed several times</p> <p>Revisions to electoral law that may undermine freedom and fairness of national elections if enforced</p> <p><i>Other potentially concerning electoral developments ahead of national elections that deserve to be watched from a</i></p>	<p>National elections proceeding or held with severe restrictions for opposition parties and impartial media before and during national elections and broad accusations of risk or de facto evidence of unfairness or irregularities if national election was held</p> <p>Measures are not</p>	<p>Broad consensus that national elections that will be held are likely to be free, fair and competitive or that national elections held were free and fair</p>	<p>International IDEA election tracker</p> <p>Media reports</p> <p>GSoD analysis</p> <p>International IDEA voter turnout database</p> <p>Electoral commission websites</p> <p>EMB websites https://www.ifes.org/publications/global-impact-COVID-19-elections http://www.aweb.org/eng/main.do</p>

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		<p>delay/suspension/carry out of elections? If elections are (to be) held:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How likely (avoid references to likelihood; how can it be measured?) is it that they will be free, fair and competitive and were they seen as that? • What was the level of voter turnout¹ and did it affect perceptions of legitimacy? • Does (did) the government adjust voter-registration rules to ensure voters can safely participate in elections if they are held during the pandemic? 	<p>democracy perspective (i.e., likely electoral violence, likely low voter turnout due to restrictions, opposition parties warning of likely weakened legitimacy of elections, likely weak independence or impartiality of electoral management body.</p> <p>If national elections were held, and had low voter turnout or there was criticism from political parties on</p>	<p>proportional, necessary, legal or temporary</p>		

¹ For ease of reading, the GSoD subattribute of Electoral Participation will be covered here and not under Participatory Engagement.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does (did) the government adjust polling station procedures to ensure voters can safely participate in elections during the pandemics? Did government introduce special voting arrangements, such as postal or e-voting, to facilitate voting. 	weakened legitimacy of elections or some problems with voter registry for elections			
<i>Inclusive Suffrage</i>	Measures and actions affecting inclusive suffrage in the country	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have measures been taken that will limit suffrage in the future? In those countries that went ahead with elections during the pandemic, has suffrage for certain population 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Measures that if enforced may limit suffrage for certain population groups Suffrage was partially restricted 	Measures implemented or laws passed without due democratic process and that will severely or has severely limited suffrage for certain population groups or	No indications that suffrage has been affected by the measures	Media Reports Human Rights Watch

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		groups been restricted?	for some groups of the population	evidence of irregularities in voter registry		
<i>Free Political Parties</i>	Measures and/or actions that affect political parties and their freedom and space to operate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How free are both ruling and opposition political parties to voice (critical) opinions related to the decisions and implementation of national responses on COVID-19 and the management of the crisis? Are there restrictions on political parties to campaign, in particular the opposition parties 	Only partially free, somewhat restricted	<p>Not free, severely restricted, i.e., opposition politicians have been detained or arrested for comments related to COVID-19 response</p> <p>Measures against political parties are not proportional, necessary, legal or taken through due</p>	No indications that freedom of political parties is restricted	Media reports Political parties’ websites Human Rights Watch

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		<p>vis-à-vis the ruling party?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do the authorities use lockdown prescriptions to constrain the activities of opposition politicians? • Are restrictions to the right of association used selectively to impede the activities of opposition parties? • Has public funding for political parties being reduced or affected? 		democratic process		
		Fundamental Rights				
<i>Civil Liberties</i>						

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Civil Liberties – Freedom of Expression	Measures and actions that affect Freedom of Expression	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are people free to voice their opinion related to COVID-19 and the handling of the crisis? • Have there been laws passed (or have existing laws been used) to restrict freedom of expression in the name of combating disinformation on the virus? • Did the law impose fines or imprisonment for violation? • Have the government or any institution taken the opportunity to 	De jure, passing of laws with measures that if enforced may limit Freedom of Expression	Measures implemented are de facto affecting freedom of expression and are not proportional, necessary or legal (i.e., journalists, news outlets or citizens have been detained and/or investigated through criminal cases for spreading information or reporting on the virus)	No evidence of measures that limit freedom of expression	ICLN Reporters Without Borders, Amnesty International, Article 19, Freedom House

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		restrict online communications? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have free media suffered restrictions in their capacity to inform the public? 				
Civil Liberties – Freedom of Association and Assembly	Measures and actions that affect Freedom of Association and Assembly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are people restricted from gathering in groups? What type of restrictions are in place for gatherings? If so, groups of what size Are people restricted from protesting or are demonstrations allowed? Are there particular restrictions on 	There are restrictions that temporarily affect this freedom, although they are still within the law, temporary and determined by the SoE and proportionate to the health threat. However, if they are maintained they can pose risks to democratic rights	Measures taken to restrict freedom of movement are not proportional, necessary, legal or temporary and are not taken through due democratic process	No de jure or de facto measures that affect Freedom of Association and Assembly	CCPR tracker Government websites & official Twitter accounts

Aspect of democracy	What information is contained here?	Key guiding questions for description of measures and actions	Criteria for qualifying as “(potentially concerning) – to watch”	Criteria for qualifying as “concerning”	Criteria for applying no label (no evidence that measures taken are undemocratic, being disproportionate, unnecessary, illegal or indefinite)	Possible sources
		political gatherings?				
Civil Liberties – Freedom of Movement	Measures and actions that affect Freedom of Movement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there freedom of movement restrictions and emergency restrictions of internal movement? Are they limited in duration? • Are there freedom of movement restrictions and emergency restrictions of external movement? Are they limited in duration? • Are surveillance mechanisms or 	Penalization of breach through for example enforcement of fines but temporary and in line with legal framework and SoE. Concerns if restrictions were to be maintained. Enforcement of curfews by non-state actors such as drug gangs.	Not limited in duration and/or criminalization of breach, such as detention or imprisonment	No de jure or de facto measures that affect Freedom of Movement	CCPR tracker Corona Net Standards: ICCPR, Article 21

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		<p>apps used to track people’s movement? Are these compulsory or voluntary?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do they store the data? 				
Civil Liberties – Freedom of Religion	Measures and actions that affect Freedom of Religion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are people allowed to exercise their freedom of religion during the crisis? • What restrictions are imposed and on whom? i.e., are religious allowed to congregate, to attend their places of worship? • Are certain groups singled out and barred from 	There are restrictions that temporarily affect this freedom although they are still within the law and determined by the SoE and proportionate to the health threat. If maintained they can pose risks to democratic rights	Measures have not been agreed through due democratic process, are not proportional, necessary, legal or temporary, or applied equally to all citizens, i.e., certain groups are discriminated and barred from religious exercise while others are not	No evidence of measures that affect Freedom of Religion	CCPR tracker

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		exercising their religion while others are not				
Civil Liberties – Personal Integrity and Security	Measures and actions that affect Personal Integrity and Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there surveillance mechanisms or apps in place to monitor the virus? • Are these compulsory or voluntary? • How do they store the data? has the right to privacy been respected? • Are contact-tracing surveillance programs adopted on the basis of a broad consensus among major political actors and 	For example, surveillance apps are used for contact tracing but they are voluntary and do not store personal data.	Measures are not proportional, necessary, legal or temporary, ie monitoring apps are compulsory and store personal data and will likely be used for purposes other than curbing the pandemic, given the democratic context or large-scale excessive use of force to individuals or their homes to enforce measures	No use of surveillance and contact tracing apps and no evidence of excessive use of force to enforce measures	ICNL Human Rights Watch articles Freedom House Article 19 https://acleddata.com/data-export-tool/

Aspect of democracy	What information is contained here?	Key guiding questions for description of measures and actions	Criteria for qualifying as “(potentially concerning) – to watch”	Criteria for qualifying as “concerning”	Criteria for applying no label (no evidence that measures taken are undemocratic, being disproportionate, unnecessary, illegal or indefinite)	Possible sources
		<p>independent experts?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are contact-tracing surveillance programmes administered in a transparent manner? • Are contact-tracing surveillance programmes subject to independent oversight? • Has there been an excessive use of force – against individuals or people’s homes - used to enforce pandemic containment measures? 				

Aspect of democracy	What information is contained here?	Key guiding questions for description of measures and actions	Criteria for qualifying as “(potentially concerning) – to watch”	Criteria for qualifying as “concerning”	Criteria for applying no label (no evidence that measures taken are undemocratic, being disproportionate, unnecessary, illegal or indefinite)	Possible sources
<i>Access to Justice</i>	Measures and actions that affect Access to justice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have people affected by measures taken to curb the spread of the virus had proper access to justice? • Is the right to a fair trial preserved? • Have courts been closed? • Are services related to securing effective and equal treatment before the law reduced? 	Measures implemented may limit or have somewhat limited access to justice, i.e., courts temporarily closed or working hours	Measures are not proportional, necessary, legal or temporary and are severely affecting access to justice, such as for example closure of courts	No evidence that access to justice has been affected	
<i>Social Rights and Equality</i>						
Social Rights and Equality – Basic Welfare	Include the following information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Income level of the country (low/lower- 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has the government taken measures to improve Basic Welfare, i.e., education, (and 	Indications that basic welfare conditions, particularly with regards to access to education have	Given the various dimensions covered under basic welfare and the	No evidence that access to education has been affected	World Bank Data, Human Development Index

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	<p>middle/upper middle/high, World Bank Data)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Human Development Index score the number of physicians per population (as an indicator of health system capacity) (World Bank indicator) and the policies related to school closures 	<p>access to health and mental health)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How has access to education being affected? Has the government taken steps to reduce the social/economic impact of the pandemic? 	<p>been affected during the pandemic with schools closing at some point since the start of the outbreak</p>	<p>difficulty in establishing adequate thresholds to measure the level of concern of this aspect, this dimension does not differentiate between developments to watch and of concern</p>		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Measures and actions that affect Basic Welfare, particularly in relation to education 					
Social Rights and Equality – Social Group Equality	Measures and actions that affect Social Group Equality, i.e., minorities and marginalized groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How have minorities and marginalized groups fared during the crisis? Have minorities and marginalized groups being accused of spreading COVID-19? Have minorities and marginalized groups being target attacks related with COVID-19? 	Minorities and marginalized groups have been affected by measures, although this may not be the result of intended policies	Proactive steps have been taken to further marginalize minorities or indications of severe repression or discrimination of minorities in the name of fighting the pandemic	No evidence that ethnic, religious or sexual minorities have been negatively affected by measures	Article19, Human Rights Watch, Media Reports

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have minorities and marginalized groups being disproportionately affected by COVID-19? • Is government action ignoring minorities? 				
Social Rights and Equality – Gender Equality	Measures and actions that affect Gender Equality Indicate if there is available data on increases in Gender Based Violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How has gender equality or gender rights been affected by the pandemic? • Has domestic violence increased? • Is the government putting measures in place to support victims? • Have LGTB+ groups suffer disproportionately 	Indications that gender rights and equality have somewhat been affected by the measures, for example increase in domestic violence or increased work burden for women or low participation of women in COVID-19 decision or advisory bodies	Gender rights severely affected by the measures, i.e., women absent from COVID-19 decision or advisory bodies	No evidence that gender equality has been affected by the measures	ILGA, UN Women Guidance & standards: OHCHR

Aspect of democracy	What information is contained here?	Key guiding questions for description of measures and actions	Criteria for qualifying as “(potentially concerning) – to watch”	Criteria for qualifying as “concerning”	Criteria for applying no label (no evidence that measures taken are undemocratic, being disproportionate, unnecessary, illegal or indefinite)	Possible sources
		the effects of COVID-19?				
Checks on Government						
<i>Media Integrity</i>	<p>Measures and actions that affect Media Integrity</p> <p>Place special attention to attempts to curtail media’s capacity to hold government and authorities to account.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How free are journalists to voice their opinion and report on the pandemic? • Is media coverage on COVID-19 crowding out other important scrutinizing news? • Is social media debate being curtailed? • Is the government or authorities ignoring media requests? • Have measured against fake news on the virus been 	Media freedom and integrity is somewhat restricted, for example media coverage on COVID-19 crowding out other important scrutinizing news, or media asked to remove information or critical media scrutiny of government response to pandemic is weak or authorities not responsive to media requests or reluctance of	Media freedom is severely restricted, journalists are not free to report on the pandemic and face severe restrictions, i.e., fines, imprisonment or killing or expulsion from country	No evidence of restrictions on media freedom and integrity	<p>Press freedom index 2020 https://ipi.media/covid19-media-freedom-monitoring/ Media reports</p>

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		implemented and could/have they been exploited for undemocratic means?	authorities to share data with journalists or government authorities publicly shaming journalists or limited and rare press briefings on the COVID-19 situation or or media outlets closing due to loss in revenues			
<i>Judicial Independence</i>	Measures and actions that affect Judicial Independence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How have courts functioned during the pandemic? Has their independence been affected? Are there arrangements enabling the High Court / Constitutional 	De jure measures that if implemented may affect judicial independence	Measures in relation to judicial system and courts are not proportional, necessary, legal or temporary Independence of court severely	No evidence that judicial independence has been affected by measures	Media reports, Parliament websites, National Gazette

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		<p>Court to continue working?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are the crisis management activities of law enforcement agencies subject to judicial review? • Is the existence and duration of the emergency situation subject to judicial review? 		affected, and/or courts closed		
<i>Effective Parliament</i>	Measures and actions that affect the effectiveness of the parliament to operate and scrutinize the executive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the parliament dissolved? • Are there arrangements enabling the parliament to continue its work? • If the military is used to implement civilian crisis management 	Parliament functions, debate and oversight during or after the pandemic facing some restrictions or parliament was not adequately consulted or there was insufficient debate on SoE or evidence that	Measures in relation to parliament are not proportional, necessary, legal or temporary, i.e., parliament is dissolved or closed without justification or parliament did	No evidence that parliamentary functions and oversight is weakened or restricted	International IDEA INTER PARES, IPU

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		<p>tasks: is the military subject to civilian oversight?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the state of emergency approved by parliament? • Was there parliamentary debate and approval of the state of emergency, if there was one? • Does the government involve other political parties from parliament in decisions about measures and tools to curb COVID-19? • Does the state of emergency allow 	points to risk of constitutional instability.	not approve SoE or no civilian oversight of the military or no oversight of handling of pandemic allowed during or after the pandemic		

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		<p>for parliamentary scrutiny during the pandemic and after?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has this occurred in practice? • Does it allow for effective legislative (emergency) budget scrutiny or budget expenditure oversight • Can parliament control the duration of the emergency situation? 				
Impartial Administration						
<i>Predictable Enforcement</i>	Measures and actions that affect Predictable Enforcement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has the situation been used to try to pass legislation that otherwise 	Some restrictions to predictable enforcement or gaps in public information on	Measures are not proportional, necessary, legal or temporary,	No evidence that predictable enforcement (i.e., clear, coherent and	Media reports

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		<p>would not have passed?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As part of a transparent government communication, has the government informed the population of what the emergency measures are, where they apply and for how long they are intended to remain in effect? Has this information been updated regularly and is widely available? Are decisions made to curb the 	<p>measures or breach of lockdown rules by government officials, which has led to litigation or court cases or military has been deployed to help enforce lockdown measures to support the policy in its duty</p>	<p>i.e., anti-democratic legislation has been passed without democratic due process, or very little if no government information on laws and measures made or available to the public or military has been deployed to enforce lockdown measures without a clear justification or in a way deemed disproportionate</p>	<p>well-publicized) laws) has been affected by the pandemic and information is provided on measures to the public in a timely and adequate way</p>	

Aspect of democracy	What information is contained here?	Key guiding questions for description of measures and actions	Criteria for qualifying as “(potentially concerning) – to watch”	Criteria for qualifying as “concerning”	Criteria for applying no label (no evidence that measures taken are undemocratic, being disproportionate, unnecessary, illegal or indefinite)	Possible sources
		<p>pandemic transparent and well-justified criteria and whether they are effectively implemented?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has the military been deployed to enforce the health measures? 				
<i>Absence of Corruption</i>	Measures and actions that affect Corruption	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has the situation been used to implement corrupt practices or to halt corruption investigations? • Has the government or any governmental institution engaged in corrupt practices through 	Attempts to delay or halt existing corruption investigations during pandemic or potential indications of corruption in procurement of COVID-19-related material	Successful halting of corruption investigations during pandemic or evidence of major corruption in procurement related to pandemic or charges for theft of relief material	No evidence of COVID-19-related corruption or attempts to delay or halt existing corruption investigations	Transparency International Media reports, OECD

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		<p>procurement of COVID-19-related material?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has the state taken advantage of the COVID-19 situation to use public funds to support or benefit financially in anyway private or state-owned company, without due process? 				
Participatory Engagement						
<i>Civil Society Participation</i>	Measures and actions that affect Civil Society Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has civil society engagement changed during the pandemic? • Have there been restrictions? If so, 	Civil society participation has been somewhat restricted (i.e., threats, withdrawal or reduction of funding, layoffs)	Civil society participation is severely restricted, i.e., imprisonment or killing of civil	No evidence that civil society has been restricted in its operation, funding or advocacy during the pandemic	Civicus https://acleddata.com/data-export-tool/

Aspect of democracy	What information is contained here?	Key guiding questions for description of measures and actions	Criteria for qualifying as “(potentially concerning) – to watch”	Criteria for qualifying as “concerning”	Criteria for applying no label (no evidence that measures taken are undemocratic, being disproportionate, unnecessary, illegal or indefinite)	Possible sources
		<p>how have they been overcome?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have CSOs been disproportionately restricted? 		<p>society activists, closing of CSOs</p> <p>Measures are not proportional, necessary, legal or temporary</p>		
<i>Local Democracy</i>	Measures and actions that affect Local Democracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has local democracy been affected by the pandemic? Has multi-level governance been affected (for example, state level governors taking decisions against presidential guidelines)? Are central government interventions into 	<p>No new date set if local election postponed</p> <p>Revisions to electoral law that may undermine freedom and fairness of local elections if enforced</p> <p>Other <i>potentially concerning electoral developments</i></p>	Local elections proceeding or held with severe restrictions for opposition parties, impartial media and observers before and during local elections and broad accusations of risk or de facto evidence of unfairness or	Broad consensus that local elections that will be held are likely (avoid likely) to be free, fair and competitive or that local elections held were free and fair	Media reports, Metropolis, UN Habitat

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		<p>local self-government subject to judicial review?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are central government interventions into local self-government approved by parliament? • Has there been centralization and power concentration by the center? 	<p><i>ahead</i> of local elections that deserve to be watched from a democracy perspective (i.e., likely ((again – avoid likelihoods)) electoral violence, likely low voter turnout due to restrictions, opposition parties warning of likely weakened legitimacy of elections, likely weak independence of electoral body)</p> <p>If local elections <i>were</i> held, and had low voter turnout or there was</p>	<p>irregularities if local election was held</p> <p>Measures are not proportional, necessary, legal or temporary</p>		

Aspect of democracy	What information is contained here?	Key guiding questions for description of measures and actions	Criteria for qualifying as “(potentially concerning) – to watch”	Criteria for qualifying as “concerning”	Criteria for applying no label (no evidence that measures taken are undemocratic, being disproportionate, unnecessary, illegal or indefinite)	Possible sources
			<p>criticism from political parties on weakened legitimacy of elections or some problems with voter registry for elections</p> <p>Attempts at central government interference in local government decision-making not permitted by the legal framework or conflicts between central and local level about authority</p>			
<i>Direct Democracy</i>	Measures and actions that affect Direct Democracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have direct democracy mechanisms been 	Measures affecting direct democracy that may have potentially	Measures related to direct democracy are not	No evidence that direct democracy mechanisms	Media reports

Aspect of democracy	What information is contained here?	Key guiding questions for description of measures and actions	Criteria for qualifying as “(potentially concerning) – to watch”	Criteria for qualifying as “concerning”	Criteria for applying no label (no evidence that measures taken are undemocratic, being disproportionate, unnecessary, illegal or indefinite)	Possible sources
		affected by the pandemic?	damaging consequences for direct democracy, for example affecting referenda (i.e., postponement or vote under constrained circumstances)	proportionate, necessary, legal or temporary Referendum or other direct democracy mechanisms have been suspended without democratic procedures.	have been affected	

International Standards and Guidance:

- Global State of Democracy Indices and underlying indicators.
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.
- <https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/03/19/human-rights-dimensions-covid-19-response>.
- <https://www.article19.org/resources/coronavirus-new-article-19-briefing-on-tackling-misinformation/>
- <https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/CivicSpace/CivicSpaceandCovid.pdf>