

# 16th German-Japanese Young Leaders Forum 2024/25

## Resolution

At the 16th German-Japanese Young Leaders Forum 2025, which took place in Tokyo from February 28th until March 9th, 2025, we identified key challenges to democracy and came up with considerations on how to contribute towards the resilience of our democracies in Germany and Japan. Our discussions focused on political socialization, representation and civic engagement, safeguarding democratic institutions, the role of artificial intelligence and climate change, and media literacy to democratic systems.

### 1. Political Socialization

Political education as a critical element of political socialization is a fundamental pillar of a resilient democracy.

People should be empowered from a young age to understand both the rights and duties that come with democracy. Education should encourage constructive criticism of political systems and outcomes while promoting active participation. Non-partisan digital tools should be available that provide reliable and fact-based information to citizens about candidates, parties and programs.

### 2. Representation & Civic Engagement

Representation and civic engagement are fundamental for inclusive and participatory democracies. They should reflect their population and ensure that its various voices are heard and considered in political decision-making.

Young individuals with diverse biographies and experiences should be supported to run for public office to diversify political representation.

Structures and institutions enabling civic engagement should be supported to encourage participatory decision-making and strengthen individual self-efficacy.

### 3. Safeguarding Democratic Institutions

Democracies require strong and independent institutions to function effectively.

Democratic institutions, especially independent courts, should be protected against extremist and anti-democratic interventions.

Strong institutional frameworks, which are essential for upholding the rule of law and public trust in democracy, are needed.

#### **4. Artificial Intelligence**

AI presents both opportunities and challenges to democracy. While it can foster innovation, its role in accelerating disinformation and undermining democratic integrity poses significant risks.

Early education on AI literacy in order to promote a responsible and transparent approach to AI technologies.

Overcoming fear-driven narratives by fostering informed discussions on the ethical use of AI.

#### **5. Climate Change**

Climate change is not only an environmental crisis but also a threat to peace, security, and democracy.

Climate education should be connected with political education, emphasizing the links between economic growth, environmental protection, and social stability.

The impact of individual actions should be emphasized in order to strengthen the belief that collective efforts can make a difference.

#### **6. Media Literacy**

Media literacy is crucial for a democracy because it empowers citizens to critically engage with information, make informed decisions, and resist manipulation.

Early education on media literacy is essential to enable individuals to identify trustworthy information sources and strengthen resilience against disinformation, which undermines the basis for constructive public debate.

There should be politically reliable and fact-based information available in society to advance political education and democratic literacy.

#### **Conclusion**

Democracy is a continuous process that requires constant reflection, adaptation, and participation. By strengthening political education, media literacy, and civic engagement, while addressing the challenges posed by AI and climate change, more resilient and inclusive societies could be achieved in both Germany and Japan.

As participants of the German-Japanese Young Leaders Forum, we understand our responsibility to strengthen our liberal democracies.