



KEY TAKEAWAYS ON

COPENHAGEN DEMOCRACY SUMMIT 2026

12 May 2026 - Royal Danish Playhouse, Copenhagen

- 1. UKRAINE WILL DOMINATE THE AGENDA** →
- 2. FRONTLINE ACTIVISTS VS. AUTHORITARIAN REGIMES** →
- 3. A NEW GEOGRAPHY OF DEMOCRATIC RISK** →



SET UP

FONDEMOS IS ATTENDING THE COPENHAGEN DEMOCRACY SUMMIT 2026

Fondemos is attending the Copenhagen Democracy Summit 2026, on 12 May at the Royal Danish Playhouse. Founded by Anders Fogh Rasmussen, this annual forum brings together political leaders, activists, tech leaders and philanthropists around one shared agenda: strengthening the alliance of democracies against authoritarian advance.



THE CONTEXT

72% of the world's population now lives under authoritarian rule, the highest proportion since 1978. The 2026 Summit takes place amid war in Ukraine, European rearmament, and rising tensions in the Arctic and Indo-Pacific.



3 THINGS TO KNOW

01

UKRAINE WILL DOMINATE THE AGENDA

Four years after Russia's invasion, Ukraine remains central to the democratic agenda. Chrystia Freeland joined Zelensky's team in January 2026. Mariana Shafro and Julia Tymoshenko speak on the theme "Ukraine's Path to an Equitable Peace".

02

FRONTLINE ACTIVISTS VS. AUTHORITARIAN REGIMES

Bobi Wine came second in Uganda's January 2026 presidential election, went into hiding after a military raid on his home, and resurfaced in the United States. Carolina Barrero leads Ciudadania y Libertad from exile in Spain after surviving house arrest in Cuba. Both will speak to what overthrowing a dictatorship actually requires.

03

A NEW GEOGRAPHY OF DEMOCRATIC RISK

Jens-Frederik Nielsen arrives in Copenhagen after Trump refused to rule out military force to annex Greenland, prompting seven European leaders to issue a joint statement in January 2026. His presence illustrates a new reality: coercion can now come from inside the democratic alliance itself.

