

SUMMARY OF THE SCENARIO

DEMOCRACY IN AGONY

In this scenario, in much of Latin America, democracy is appropriated by the predatory influence of illicit trade that prevails over—or coexists with—government action. In cases where territory is governed de facto by organized crime, which imposes its force and allows for a temporary prosperity, citizens oscillate between cynicism and in some cases despair. In cases where territory is in dispute, they are ruled by terror. The political decision-making system serves a series of hidden interests that disguise their true intentions behind imaginary and legitimate citizen demands. Corruption becomes the way of life for politicians, businesspeople, and criminals alike, who live and thrive in the shadow of the state. Illegal activities reconfigure not only the monopoly of state power but also legitimate business activity and patterns of coexistence in cities and neighborhoods. Fifteen years of violence lead some territories to fall out of the control of nation states and, even worse, some failed states that the regional and international communities simply try to contain. The common destiny of the democracies in the region is on edge. It is the scenario of violence, fear, feelings of defeat, and the hijacking of democracy.

SUMMARY OF THE SCENARIO

DEMOCRACY IN MOBILIZATION

In this scenario, social mobilization raises questions about democracy and gradually begins to promote changes of all kinds and different scopes. A series of factors impose limits on the abuse of public and private power and generate preliminary but concrete impact on public policy to ensure greater social inclusion. These factors include the ongoing advancement of scientific innovation, wider access to new technologies, and democratic continuity in the region. The consequent social mobilization exposes the limitations of democracy, institutions, and the scope of the nation state. The traditional democratic model undergoes a renewal, based on the finding that individual and collective social actions, beyond state action, can generate specific social changes by combining the logic of political representation through institutions with the logic of social legitimacy through participation. The organization of horizontal cooperation schemes and networks that include multiple stakeholders leads to more widespread and transparent citizen empowerment. Over 15 years, concrete benefits are generated through new forms of participation that go beyond the orbit of traditional institutions and events. At the same time, the risks of cooptation by the de facto powers and of the limits of technology become even more clear. It is the scenario of mobilization, popular pressure, and creativity in the face of traditional power.

SUMMARY OF THE SCENARIO

DEMOCRACY IN TENSION

In this scenario, the concentration or reconcentration of political and economic power prevails. The region is still marked by caudillism, patronage, and remnants of an authoritarian political culture. In some countries and subregions, unprecedented advances in economic, social, and cultural rights occur, but without altering at its root the pattern of exclusionary development and corruption and violence, and still under the auspices of power schemes that deliberately seek to subordinate democratic institutions. Some countries go through political crises and in certain cases authoritarian setbacks, with serious consequences for institutional structures and the exercise of citizen rights. In 15 years, the region continues to waste opportunities to forge genuine intercultural democracies. Democracy in the region has endured, but few are satisfied with the ways in which it has done so. This is the scenario of a democracy of “appearances,” of tension and power disputes between diverse political and economic forces, and of frustration on the part of citizens.

SUMMARY OF THE SCENARIO

DEMOCRACY IN TRANSFORMATION

In this scenario, Latin America experiences a widespread demand for a reassessment of its democratic institutions. This process allows the region to make progress on its most pressing structural problems and achieve a greater presence on the global map. Each country in the region must deal with a reality in which adaptation to the opportunities and challenges of the many aspects of globalization creates greater pressure to agree on institutional reforms. The goal of these reforms is to improve the quality of democracy and increase the satisfaction of citizens and the fulfillment of their aspirations. In this way, in a growing number of countries, conditions are created for the institutions themselves to promote wide-ranging transformations in critical areas where special interests previously predominated. The results vary for each country, but the general demand for a new, more pragmatic model of democracy that surpasses the limits of traditional schemes is evident. In this context, some countries show that it is possible to gradually overcome certain structural inertias that until now had prevented the reduction of inequality and violence. They ensure that fundamental state institutions truly represent the interests of a diverse society. This is the scenario of the strengthening of democracy in the region and of institutional innovation.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?



the messages of the scenarios with colleagues, leaders, and citizens, using the materials available on www.alertademocratica.org and [#alertademocratica](https://twitter.com/alertademocratica)



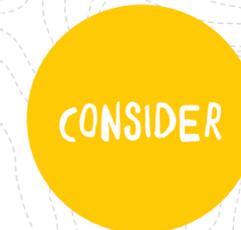
events for reflection and dialogue – briefings, presentations, workshops



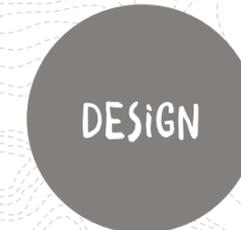
on the implications for your own actions and next steps.



with the media – print, TV, radio, social media



the scenarios in your organization's strategic planning process using the guidelines on www.alertademocratica.org



solutions and act to improve the future.

WHY THIS PROCESS?

To catalyze open and reflective **strategic thinking and conversation** among Latin Americans about the possible futures of democracy, and the opportunities, risks and choices these futures present.

To stimulate individual and collective **strategic action** to influence these futures.

WHAT ARE SCENARIOS?

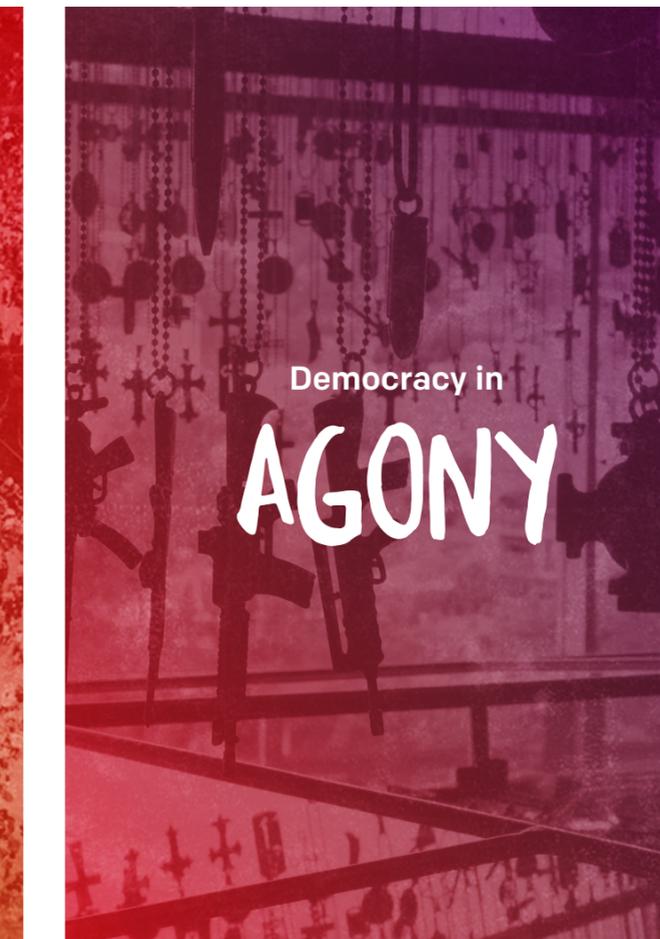
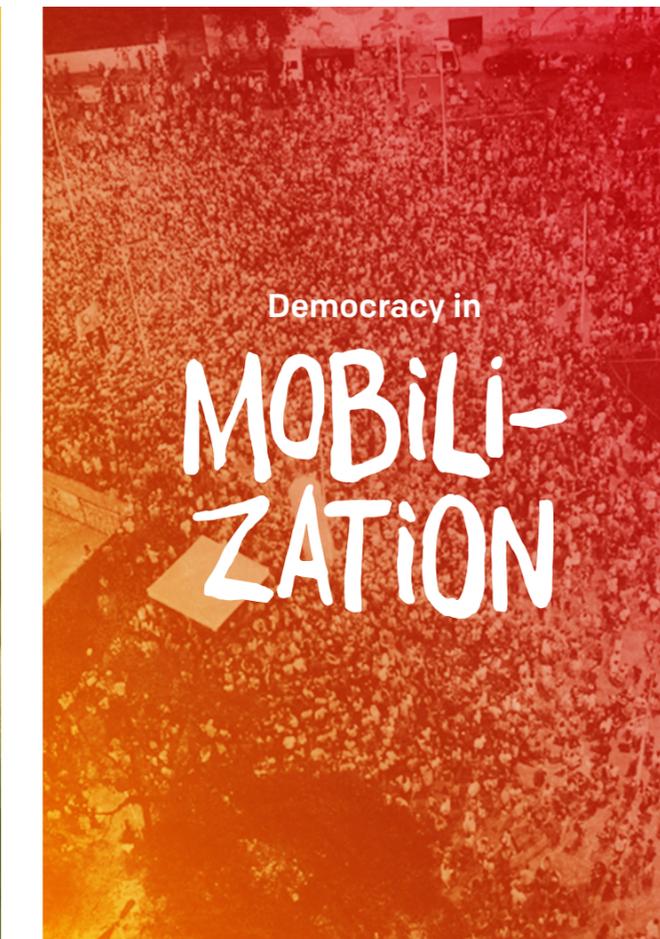
- Scenarios are **not predictions**.
- Scenarios are **not proposals**.
- They are **stories** that describe possible pathways into a future, and which help us talk and think about our lived reality.
- The seeds of the future exist in the present.

WHO CREATED THE SCENARIOS?

What they have in common:

A wide range of knowledge, experience and perspectives

Shared commitment to building a positive democratic future for Latin America



JOIN US!

WWW.ALERTADEMOCRATICA.ORG

[+](#)

[f](#)

ALERTADEMOCRATICA

[@ALDEMOCRATICA](#)

[#ALERTADEMOCRATICA](#)