The oncoming wave of COVID-19 has put a spotlight on the interaction between health crises and democratic freedoms. Governments have taken unprecedented steps to control the spread of the virus, sometimes at the expense of citizens' liberties. This has raised concerns about the balance between health protection and democratic rights.

The right to assemble is a cornerstone of democratic societies. However, during the pandemic, restrictions on public gatherings have been implemented in various countries. These measures are designed to limit the spread of the virus, but they raise questions about the preservation of democratic freedoms.

In Brazil, for instance, the Supreme Federal Court has set a judicial precedent. In a case involving a measure introduced by President Jair Bolsonaro, it was argued that, save for exceptional situations, the government has a duty to ensure absolute freedom of assembly. The court's ruling reflects a broader discussion about the relationship between health measures and democratic rights.

Across the region, different levels of restriction have been established on the freedom of movement and assembly. Governments have issued norms to restrict or suspend the right to assembly, while taking restrictive steps to contain the virus, which would have been unthinkable without the pandemic.

In Colombia, levels of restriction have varied, with the role of the State in general. Civil liberties are regulated, not negotiated. This is why an active and indispensable condition must be met for healthy democracy to happen.

In summary, the right to assemble, the right to association, and the right to expression have been suspended in various countries. In Brazil, for instance, the Supreme Federal Court overturned a measure introduced by President Jair Bolsonaro, arguing that, save for exceptional situations, the government has a duty to ensure absolute freedom of assembly. The court's ruling reflects a broader discussion about the relationship between health measures and democratic rights.