



COMMUNITY
OF DEMOCRACIES

GLOBAL DEMOCRACY WORK PLAN

18 Recommendations

by the Working Groups of the Community of Democracies

Community of Democracies under the Lithuanian Presidency
High Level Democracy Meeting, Kraków 2010

**The Global Democracy Work Plan is a compilation of recommendations
of the Working Groups of the Community of Democracies.**

In accordance with their continued and strengthened commitment to democracy, and in an effort to assume more responsibility and undertake more valuable actions, the Community of Democracies countries plan to undertake these 18 actions aimed at furthering and strengthening democracy worldwide.

3 recommendations of concrete actions to be undertaken by CoD governments in the field of **enabling and protecting civil society** :

1. Develop a statement endorsing (existing) principles/guidelines on enabling and protecting civil society to be adopted by CoD governments at the 2011 Ministerial in Vilnius. Such a statement would send a strong message of support to civil society and strengthen states' normative commitment to building environments that allow civil society to flourish.
2. Encourage CoD governments to respond more effectively to regulatory threats against civil society by, for example: a) creating an international multi-stakeholder contact group of CoD member state representatives and civil society organizations focused on the issue; b) strengthening an alert system to inform and activate the contact group to restrictive legal frameworks; c) producing and disseminating tools for the diplomatic and development community to identify and respond to regulatory threats; and d) establishing a joint-action protocol to encourage more effective collaboration between states on specific cases.
3. In collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme, civil society actors and relevant multilateral bodies, develop a CoD mechanism that would coordinate the provision of technical assistance to member states in the process of drafting legislation that affects the space in which civil society operates.

3 recommendations of concrete actions to be undertaken by CoD governments in the field of **gender equality and women's rights**:

1. Set up a password-protected website that will facilitate additional communication and idea exchanges between CD Working Group conference and program participants around women's political and economic empowerment.
2. Engage in a mapping exercise to identify websites that already catalogue national best practices and enabling laws, and post these findings to the CD Working Group website.
3. Support additional training opportunities for female political and economic leaders via exchange programs and on-the-ground training, in conjunction with civil society and private sector partners.

3 recommendations of concrete actions to be undertaken by CoD governments in the field of **poverty, development and democracy**:

1. CoD Governments are invited to identify a range of policy options and actions tailored to different realities in order to counter the effects of world economic crisis on the most vulnerable democracies.
2. CoD Governments are invited to create partnerships with local social groups, the private sector and civil society, on the base of a strong commitment to rooting out corruption.

3. CoD Governments are invited to take concrete actions in order to contribute to empowerment of women in democracies in transition as a precondition of development and democracy.

3 recommendations of concrete actions to be undertaken by CoD governments in the field of **promoting democracy and responding to national and transnational threats to democracy:**

1. Launch a pilot project of connecting democracy activists from all over the world with each other and some relevant national (US) and international institutions (US) in order to create a clearing house for (and later, hopefully, organize) exchange programs of countries aimed at supporting and training democracy activists.
2. Set up a mechanism (initially of NGOs) to monitor the emergence (even over the horizon) of national and transnational threats to democracy and make the Community of Democracies aware of such threats, including recommending action, like sending CoD missions to the country/ies concerned, reporting to the Convening Group, etc.
3. Set up a group of experts to monitor restrictions and even threats to internet security by governments, private companies, etc., including even self-imposed ones and make recommendations how to avoid and eventually combat them.

3 recommendations of concrete actions to be undertaken by CoD governments in the field of **regional cooperation:**

1. Examining the possibilities for setting up interregional platforms for exchange of good practices and experience in the area of democracy support;
2. Encourage and facilitate the setting up of regional registers of expertise on electoral reform, constitutional law, democratic governance, human rights law;
3. Encourage regional organizations to consider establishing training and awareness raising programmes on the essential mechanisms of democracy building and their potential, that facilitate access and understanding for the population and the voters, including at local community level .

3 recommendations of concrete actions to be undertaken by CoD governments in the field of **working methods of Community of Democracies and its Convening Group:**

1. Analyze the possibility to develop shared approaches to issues of common concern for democratic states in their foreign policy such as:
 - Repressive states: engagement or sanctions?
 - Democratic elections that risk leading to undemocratic outcomes or endanger human rights
 - Non-democratic representative systems
 - Failed democratic processes
2. Analyze the possibility of developing dialogue fora within the CoD to discuss long term democratic development and to discuss acute events and recent global developments concerning democracy.
3. Analyze the possibilities to make procedures in the Community of Democracies including the Convening Group more transparent, inclusive and representative.