

GLOBAL DEMOCRACY WORK PLAN

9 POINTS OF RECOMMENDATION BY THE PARLIAMENTARIANS ON THE GLOBAL DEMOCRACY WORK PLAN

3 recommendations on how to strengthen the role of the parliament in ensuring the democratic governance worldwide:

1. Parliaments and parliamentarians should mobilize the political will and to encourage the governments to abide by and to promote the main democratic principals, values and norms as well as to strengthen gender equality and equal opportunities policy in practice;
2. Parliamentarians of the CoD countries should foster the renewal of the worldwide commitment to the values of democracy and freedom thus altering the *Realpolitik* approach that is gaining momentum in the international arena;
3. The wide participation of parliamentarians of the CoD countries in the activities of the CoD Parliamentary Forum (PF) will strengthen a political dimension within the CoD complementing the current cooperation between the CoD' governments and non-governmental organizations. In this regard, the Parliamentary Forum of the CoD assumes to develop a link with other parliamentary networks (World Movement for Democracy's network, Inter-Parliamentary Union, Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly and the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association) as well as the European Parliament and the Congress of the US, in order to form a single global network of like-minded parliamentarians committed to advancing democracy and defending human rights activists.

3 recommendations on concrete actions to be undertaken by CoD Parliaments in helping the new and transition democracies:

1. To ensure regular inter-parliamentary meetings, consultations and good practice seminars among parliamentarians of new or restored democracies with the representatives of longer established ones, with the agendas to include discussion on such issues as parliament consolidation;
2. Exchanges of parliamentary officials, such as procedural clerks, on a regular basis as well as internet exchanges of materials and articles by parliamentarians and MP academicians should be developed and encouraged;
3. Development of the tools to contribute to the strengthening of political parties (in majority as well as opposition) in the new and transition democracies.

3 recommendations on concrete actions to be undertaken by CoD governments and the parliaments in the field of strengthening parliamentary institutions:

1. The role of parliaments should be specified on the constitutional basis and protected from both executive dominance as well as from being weakened over time by the executive power or the legislators themselves, including the adoption of such measures as:
 - explicitly stating the rights of parliaments to approve and alter government budgets;
 - envisaging the campaign spending limits for both executive and parliamentary candidates;
 - promoting political discussions between majority and oppositional parties, etc.
2. A broader cooperation among parliamentarians, NGO's and academic society should be encouraged in order to create mechanisms for better reception and consideration of the public opinion on proposed legislation. In this regard the development of the Young Leaders Forum of the Community of Democracies should be supported with a view to *providing* channels for the exchange of ideas, reform initiatives and participation of young activists in political and civil society activities including those organized by the Parliamentary Forum of the CoD.
3. In order to foster moral politics, transparency, respect for human rights and freedoms as the basis for the well functioning and representative parliamentary institutions, its is recommended to:
 - encourage parliaments to adopt corresponding laws;
 - Encourage parliamentarians to uphold the principles and goals that are stated in the guide to good practice "Parliaments and Democracy in the Twenty-First Century" published by the IPU in 2006;
 - ensure appropriate training for both parliamentarians and their staff, which would enable them to reach the standards set by these benchmarks and to fulfill their roles with confidence.