

WORKING GROUP ON POVERTY, DEVELOPMENT AND DEMOCRACY
STATEMENT TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE CONVENING GROUP
FOR THE PRESENTATION AT THE PLENARY SESSION

Krakow, July 2nd 2010

- In the framework of the activities carried out by the Community of Democracies. Italy and Chile have decided to co-chair a Working Group (WG) on Poverty, Development and Democracy (PDD).
Three meetings of the Working Group took place so far: in Washington, D.C. on May 20 and June 16, 2010 and in Krakow on July 2.
The Group welcomes and encourages the participation of all countries, which are members of the Community of Democracies, as well as representatives of non governmental organizations, academic communities, and the private sector who are willing to contribute to its activities.
At this stage, membership is as follows: Cape Verde, Chile (co-chair), El Salvador, India (observer), the International Steering Committee, Japan, Italy (co-chair), Mongolia, Morocco.

- The Working Group members agreed upon the following methodology and spirit:

The WG approaches the issues related to Democracy and Development in a pragmatic way.

It examines how to improve sustainable human development by encouraging local solutions, which will also improve democracy.

It is relevant to highlight that local solutions involved the active participation of citizens jointly with governments to create the best alternatives to reduce poverty. A key aspect for citizens to be able to participate is the possibility to have access to information that will allow an informed and substantive participation.

To this purpose, the WG has a particular focus on:

PDD and the private sector: how businesses can contribute, in times of crises, to the reduction of poverty and to promoting development. The group will thus focus on the role of the private sector in promoting a sound business environment and open societies in fragile democracies.

PDD and international aid: new trends, focuses and players. There is no standard strategy for poverty reduction or standard model for development. There are autonomous processes rooted in specific realities that must be encouraged and on which the group should focus. As well, development cannot be a formula adapted to

all circumstances. The approach should be to proceed on a case by case and region by region basis.

PDD as a virtuous circle: how we can help new democratic regimes to deliver in terms of development, poverty reduction and the rule of law. The Working Group (WG) will approach the issues related to Democracy and Development in a pragmatic way. Also, it will examine how to improve sustainable human development by encouraging local solutions, which will also improve democracy.

One way to help new democratic regimes is share with them local experiences from other democracies, where sustainable solutions have been taken to reduce poverty and at the same time these solutions have strengthened democracy through a transparent and participatory process.

The WG already begun to share and examine current projects of cooperation that have proven to be successful and compare different policies and instruments.

The main objective is to help identify a range of policy options and actions to promote development in countries with vulnerable democracies.

The sharing of information and best practices will allow the Group to highlight, under the form of guidelines, the different approaches and tailor them to different realities.

- Future activities may include the involvement of the WG in the Summit on the Millennium Development Goals, at the United Nations in New York, where an informal Ministerial Meeting of the Community of Democracies may be held and a possible contribution of the WG may be foreseen.
In addition, the co-chair, in cooperation with the International Steering Committee, will verify the opportunity to held seminars in 2011, preliminary to the Ministerial Meeting of the Community of Democracies in Lithuania, to address the topics of the Working Group.