

FORUM: Special Conference on Securing and Advancing Democracy

QUESTION OF: Combatting Clientelism in Political Leadership

SUBMITTED BY: Nation of Brunei, the Abode of Peace

CO-SUBMITTERS: Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Seychelles, Sao Tome, Belgium, USA, Paraguay, Tonga, Jordan, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Poland, Ecuador, Germany, Portugal, Mongolia, Israel, Guatemala, Tajikistan, Suriname

SPECIAL CONFERENCE ON SECURING AND ADVANCING,

Defining clientelism in political leadership as the proffering of material goods in return for electoral support, where the criterion of distribution that the patron employs is simply based on past or future support of the voter,

Acknowledging that clientelism has corrosive effects to the credibility of the associated democratic institution and as such, efforts must be partaken to diminish its presence,

Noting with concern that the practices of some transnational corporations where financial incentives were offered to local government officials for their support of the regional objectives of the corporation,

Reaffirming the objectives set out in article one of the UN convention against corruption,

Underscoring the significance of resolution 51/59 of 12 December 1996, which adopted an International Code of Conduct for Public officials and requested a plan for its implementation,

Noting resolution 55/188 of 20 December 2000, which called for increased international cooperation in preventing and addressing illegal transfers of funds and repatriation of such funds to the countries of origin,

1. Calls for the creation of the United Nations Commission on Clientelism (UNCC) to:
 - a) Supersede clientelism in all member states by appointing a special council to:
 - i. record information that reflect clientelism in each member state
 - ii. generate an annual report on the clientelism status quo of the globe
 - iii. offer specific political guidance to each and every member state on methods to improve the integrity of their political establishments;
 - b) Working in conjunction with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to establish a universal legal framework that:
 - i. outlines and distinguishes legal and illicit forms of clientelism
 - ii. delineates specific unlawful clientelism practices and the potential legal actions to be taken;
2. Strongly urges a worldwide consensus on clientelism regulations that is in accordance with the recommendations of the UNCC which:
 - a) outlines specific policies to combat illicit clientelism and corruption in emerging economies
 - b) forms a detailed protocol that regulates, in particular, the practices of illegal clientelism of the transnational corporations (TNCs)
 - c) forms a legal difference between clientelism and corruption with respective punishments
 - d) criminalises practices of bribery, embezzlement of public funds and 'laundering' of the proceeds of corruption;
3. Urges member states to work collaboratively with the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to prosecute transnational obstruction of justice and repatriate relevant assets;

4. Further calls for nations to take necessary actions to protect the integrity of the voting process by methods such as but not limited to:
 - a) technology or manual devices such as a secured ballot box, to ensure the anonymity of the voter
 - b) Taking measures to protect the integrity of the voting venue such as but not limited to:
 - i. banning indiscriminately the display of political symbols
 - ii. limiting the number of people who can enter the voting venue at any given time to prevent cross-voting and vote-buying
 - iii. banning the broadcast of political messages through displays or broadcasts;
5. Asks for greater transparency to political party financing, government spending and individual and cooperative political contribution;
6. Calls for worldwide public awareness on the issue of clientelism and mobilization of public opinion in support of anti-clientelism measures by but not limited to:
 - a) raising awareness of clientelism and infeasible political promises through a media campaign
 - b) increasing researches and reports on clientelism through media and education curriculums such as, but not limited to:
 - i. consequences of clientelism
 - ii. evolution of clientelism
 - iii. cases of clientelism;
7. Suggests voting to be made mandatory in all democratic UN member states where:
 - a) sufficient actions are taken to ensure the ease of voting
 - b) citizens who do not participate in the election will receive a fine
 - c) the option of abstaining is provided to citizens in the process of voting;
8. Recommends special exemption from the elections to be given for citizens who:
 - a) suffers from extreme sickness during the electoral period
 - b) are unconscious or endure mental illness which makes an informed, conscious decision impossible.