

FORUM: Special Conference on Securing and Advancing Democracy Sub-Commission 1

QUESTION OF: Promoting trust in democratic institutions to prevent democratic erosion

SUBMITTED BY: Philippines

CO-SUBMITTERS: Russian Federation, Algeria, League of Arab States, Iraq, United Arab Emirates, China, Bangladesh, Philippines, Mexico, Palestine, Congo, Venezuela, Japan, Lebanon, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Human Rights Watch,

SECURING AND ADVANCING DEMOCRACY,

SPECIAL CONFERENCE,

Reaffirming the Charter of the United Nations, including the principles and purposes contained therein, and recognizing that human rights, the rule of law and democracy are interlinked and mutually reinforcing and that they belong to the universal and indivisible core values and principles of the United Nations

Recognizing the benefits of democratic systems in the promotion of human rights and general wellbeing,

Aware of the differences in how the various countries within the UN organize their governmental systems,

Reiterating the belief of the United Nations that Individual freedom is of incredible value,

Considering the strong support for the performance of governmental institutions by the citizens, who are largely content with the way political decisions are made and implemented,

Keeping in mind the benefits of democratic institutions,

Fully aware of the effects of democratization, globalization and communication technologies on the responsibilities of the state as well as the expectations of the public,

Pointing out that freedom of speech and fair courts are core tenets of democracy and allow governments to understand people's dissatisfaction,

Desiring for all member states to recognize, by the adoption of this resolution that westernized liberal democracies, are not the only political system respecting human rights and the will of the people, thus suggesting the recognition of the diversity of civilizations and cultures throughout the world, leading to different political systems,

1. Calls for the creation of a UN specialized agency under the name, “The United Nations Department for Strengthening Democracy” or UNDSO which would work under the following but not limited to rules:
 - a) the basis of national representatives which will be appointed by their respective national governments,
 - b) the objectives of the department are to:
 - i. with governmental consent, conduct investigations, concerning the state of democracy within their countries
 - ii. craft alongside national authority a course of action to solve issues concerning the state of democracy in their respective countries, which have been found by the UNDSO
 - iii. defer to local governments, organizations, or local councils problems outlined through investigations
 - iv. cease or limit its activities, if asked by a country

- c) the department's independence is ensured by the following but not limited to means:
 - i. all research if agreed upon is independent of government and private sector influence
 - ii. if asked to focus its efforts and human resources on specific matters or if asked to change the results of an investigation, the agency will reserve the right to withdraw its resources
 - iii. if crimes against operatives of the UNDSO are committed, they are to be prosecuted under international law
 - d) the department is due to national control by the following but not limited to means:
 - i. a punishment in front of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal (UNAT), if agency officials engage in activities that threaten national sovereignty or security
 - ii. the National governments' rights to withdraw themselves from negotiations with the agency at any time and need not offer a justification, any decision made by department officials or subsequent negotiations with national governments will not be binding and will be subject to amendments by the national governments
 - e) the department will have the ability to cooperate with NGOs and make use of UN human resources such as the UN blue helmets peacekeepers only if the national governments involved in its operations agree and under their direct oversight
 - f) the UNDSO will not be bound to the authority of the General Assembly or the Security Council and will be directly accountable to the states it engages in negotiations with;
2. Recommends all Member States to implement courses of civic and moral education within schools' curricula taught for a minimum of half an hour a week :
- a) each country should create its own educational programs based on the principles of this resolution in order to encourage national participation and educate in aspects including but not limited to, the theoretical, practical, and political aspects of citizenship, civil law and civil code, the role, rights, and duties of citizens, the political landscape of the country, the way the country's government operates and what this government's values are
 - b) countries facing financial struggles in this regard are encouraged to apply for financial help by The World Bank "TWB" and the International Monetary Fund "IMF"
 - i. such help should be both financial - to pay teachers, books and infrastructures -and technical- to elaborate correlated school programs
 - ii. the IMF and the World Bank already have established mechanisms of approval concerning financial aid and support that will be in place in this context;
3. Proposes the creation of an international organization, a UN organism, to serve as a forum for all NGOs involved with the matter of preventing democratic erosion by the name "NGOs for Democracy Advancement", or NDW:
- a) the purpose of this organization would be to improve communication and cooperation between NGOs globally,
 - b) the organization should have access to the resources of the UN upon request and concurrence from the parties involved in the impacts of its decisions and proposals (NGOs, National Governments),
 - c) the NGOs will have to contribute a pre-decided percentage of their annual earnings to the joint budget of the NDW in order for said proceeds to be diverted to the NDW's global efforts,
 - d) the NDW will be encouraged to act in correspondence with already existing groups of NGO's within a nation, in the interest of efficiently improving the lives of the nation's citizens;
4. Strongly suggests for all Member States to implement measures and reforms increasing the transparency of their administrative and governing processes under the objective of increasing the trust in democratic institutions with actions such as, but not limited to:
- a) the liberalization of the press as the fourth estate in democracies so long as the country

- considers one such liberalization as in the best interest of the people,
- b) enforcing that government as well as private sector media institutions contribute to an objective and unbiased news coverage within the legislature of each respective country,
- c) invest in possible ways of allowing the electorate to get a deeper insight into the administrative and governing processes apart from the election of representatives such as but not limited to:
 - i. multi-media campaigns on where to find information outlets, especially in rural areas
 - ii. the organization of political party discussion rounds with local representatives;

5. Affirms the need for national security and individual security in order to establish a basis of democratic legitimation, through measures such as but not limited to :
- a) the use of a governmentally controlled police to maintain law and order so that communities can thrive fearlessly,
 - b) the firm condemnation of international interferences in internal affairs which strongly destabilizes political processes including democratic ones,
 - c) the right of a country to restrain a constitutionally or otherwise legitimately agreed upon amount of personal liberties in times of crisis for the common good and national peace.