



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
LIMITED

E/CN.4/2004/L.42
13 April 2004

Original: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Sixtieth session
Agenda item 11

CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

Albania*, Argentina, Australia, Bulgaria*, Canada*, Chile, Costa Rica, Cyprus*, El Salvador*, Germany, Iceland*, India, Lithuania*, Mexico, Mongolia*, Nepal, New Zealand*, Norway*, Paraguay, Peru, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova*, Romania*, San Marino*, Serbia and Montenegro*, Slovenia*, Switzerland*, Thailand*, Timor-Leste*, Tunisia*, Turkey*, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America: draft resolution

2004/... Enhancing the role of regional, subregional and other organizations and arrangements in promoting and consolidating democracy

The Commission on Human Rights,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 55/96 of 4 December 2000, entitled “Promoting and consolidating democracy”, as well as all its own relevant resolutions, in particular resolutions 1999/57 of 27 April 1999, entitled “Promotion of the right to democracy”, 2000/47 of 25 April 2000, entitled “Promoting and consolidating democracy”, 2001/41 of 23 April 2001, entitled “Continuing dialogue on measures to promote and consolidate democracy”, 2002/46 of 23 April 2002, entitled “Further measures to promote and consolidate democracy”, and 2003/36 of 23 April 2003, entitled “Interdependence between democracy and human rights”,

* In accordance with rule 69, paragraph 3, of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

1. *Declares* that the essential elements of democracy include respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, inter alia freedom of association and of peaceful assembly, freedom of expression and opinion, and the right to take part in the conduct of public affairs, directly or through freely chosen representatives, and to vote and to be elected at genuine periodic free elections by universal and equal suffrage and by secret ballot guaranteeing the free expression of the will of the people, as well as a pluralistic system of political parties and organizations, respect for the rule of law, the separation of powers, the independence of the judiciary, transparency and accountability in public administration, and free, independent and pluralistic media;

2. *Reaffirms* that the promotion and protection of all human rights is a basic prerequisite for the existence of a democratic society, and recognizes the importance of the continuous development and strengthening of the United Nations human rights system for the consolidation of democracy;

3. *Recognizes* the importance of all actions, at regional and subregional level, that aim at facilitating the establishment, development and consolidation of democratic institutions based on democratic values and principles and capable of responding to the specific needs of the countries in each region;

4. *Acknowledges* the importance of better awareness of the democratic values and principles in all regions and for all people;

5. *Also acknowledges* that democracy contributes to the realization of all human rights and that there is a close link between democracy and good governance, on the one hand, and economic development and poverty alleviation, on the other;

6. *Further acknowledges* that democracy contributes substantially to preventing violent conflicts, to accelerating reconciliation and reconstruction in post-conflict peace-building and, in peacetime, to resolving disputes that may impede economic and social progress;

7. *Recognizes* the need for Member States to pay further special attention and contribute to the democratic institution-building by including relevant objectives to this effect in the mandates of peacemaking, peacekeeping and post-conflict peace-building operations and by providing the adequate resources;

8. *Invites* intergovernmental regional, subregional and other organizations and arrangements, as well as relevant non-governmental organizations, to engage actively in work at the local, national, subregional and regional levels to constantly promote and consolidate democracy and to initiate exchanges with the United Nations system on their experiences, inter alia, through:

(a) Identifying and disseminating best practices and experiences at regional, subregional and cross-regional levels in promoting and protecting democratic processes;

(b) Establishing and supporting regional, subregional and national civic education programmes that provide access to information on democratic governance and stimulate dialogue on the functioning of democracy;

(c) Encouraging the study, in schools and universities, of democracy, human rights, good governance, as well as the functioning of public administration, political institutions and civil society organizations;

(d) Elaborating and widely distributing reports, assessments, training material, handbooks, case studies and documentation on alternative types of democratic constitutions, electoral systems and administration, so as to assist populations in making more informed choices;

(e) Encouraging the use of democratic consultative mechanisms in disputes as an opportunity for parties involved to advance their interests within institutional frameworks;

9. *Invites* States members of intergovernmental regional organizations and arrangements to include or reinforce provisions of the constitutive acts of these organizations and arrangements that aim at promoting democratic values and principles and at protecting and consolidating democracy in their respective societies;

10. *Welcomes* the adoption by various regional, subregional and other organizations and arrangements of institutional rules designed to prevent situations that threaten democratic institutions, or to implement measures for the collective defence of democracy in the event of a serious disturbance or disruption of the democratic system;

11. *Invites* intergovernmental regional organizations and arrangements to institutionalize dialogue among themselves on joint actions to promote and consolidate democracy and democratic practices in all areas;

12. *Encourages* Member States and intergovernmental, regional and cross-regional organizations and arrangements, as well as relevant non-governmental organizations, to initiate networks and partnerships with a view to assisting Governments and civil society in their respective regions in disseminating knowledge and information about the role of democratic institutions and mechanisms in facing the political, economic, social and cultural challenges in their respective societies;

13. *Urges* the continuation and expansion of activities carried out by the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations and Member States to promote and consolidate democracy within the framework of international cooperation;

14. *Invites* the United Nations system to identify, develop and coordinate effective policies of assistance in the field of democracy and, in this context, to support programmes of technical assistance to States, upon their request, aiming at:

(a) Developing a competent, independent and impartial judiciary and accountable government institutions;

(b) Strengthening political party systems, free and independent media, and civil society organizations;

(c) Fostering a democratic culture;

15. *Calls upon* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to stimulate the dialogue and interaction within the United Nations system and between the United Nations system and interested intergovernmental regional, subregional and other organizations and arrangements on the ways and means of promoting democratic values and principles, based on the present resolution and other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and of the Commission on Human Rights, and, to this end, to invite, inter alia, the United Nations Elections Division, the Department of Political Affairs, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations Development Programme, the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and regional organizations to inform the Commission on Human Rights, at its next session, of actions undertaken to promote and consolidate democracy;

16. *Requests* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue to work for the promotion and consolidation of democracy in coordination, inter alia, with the bodies referred to in paragraph 15 above by:

- (a) Strengthening its programmes for assistance to countries seeking technical advice;
- (b) Continuing dialogue and cooperation with Member States with a view to identifying challenges to democratic governance at country level;
- (c) Considering the designation of a focal point in the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to that effect;

17. *Urges* the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to report on its work in pursuance of the present resolution to the Commission at its sixty-first session.
