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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS  
Sixty-first session  
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**CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS**

**Interdependence between democracy and human rights**

**Compilation of documents or texts adopted and used by various  
intergovernmental, international, regional and subregional  
organizations aimed at promoting and consolidating democracy**

**Report of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights\***

**Summary**

The Commission on Human Rights in its resolution 2003/36 requested the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to prepare a compilation of documents and texts used by various intergovernmental, international, regional and subregional organizations aimed at promoting and consolidating democracy, and to report to the Commission at its sixty-first session.

A compilation of 73 documents and texts has been prepared and is being posted on the web site of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights ([www.ohchr.org](http://www.ohchr.org)). As the compilation greatly exceeds the authorized page limit for a report to the Commission, the present report gives an overview of the contents of the compilation, indicating which organizations have adopted such documents and texts, the nature and legal character of documents and texts and the specific subject matter addressed in these documents and texts. A list of the documents and texts contained in the compilation is annexed to the report.

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\* The annex is being circulated in the languages of submission only.

1. The Commission on Human Rights in its resolution 2003/36 requested the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to prepare a compilation of documents and texts used by various intergovernmental, international, regional and subregional organizations aimed at promoting and consolidating democracy, and to report to the Commission at its sixty-first session. The compilation has been prepared and is being posted on the web site of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights ([www.ohchr.org](http://www.ohchr.org)). A list of the documents and texts contained in the compilation is annexed to the present report.\*
2. The texts and documents in this compilation have been adopted by various organizations from different regions of the world, notably the African Union (AU), the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the Organization of American States (OAS), the Andean Community, the Organization of Iberoamerican States for Education, Science and Culture (OEI), the Sistema de la Integración Centroamericana (SICA), the Common Market of the South (MERCOSUR), Permanent Mechanism of Political Consultation and Coordination - the Rio Group (GRIO), the European Union (EU), the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the League of Arab States.
3. Other relevant texts were adopted by intergovernmental organizations such as the International Organization of la Francophonie (OIF) and the Commonwealth, or by other entities such as the International Conference of New or Restored Democracies (ICNRD) and the Community of Democracies (CD). The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) has also adopted relevant texts.
4. Several texts and documents adopted by the United Nations and specialized agencies such as the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) have also been used for the purpose of this compilation.
5. The documents and texts used in the compilation vary in their nature and legal status. The types of documents and texts include the following: constitutive acts, treaties, charters, declarations of principles, protocols, guidelines, plans of action, strategies, codes of conduct and codes of good practices, recommendations and regulations.
6. Regardless of their legally binding status, the value of these documents and texts rests on their acceptance and recognition by a large number of actors. They provide guidance and are an important source of information to those involved in the promotion and consolidation of democracy.

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\* The compilation is considered an ongoing process. Accordingly, intergovernmental, international, regional and subregional organizations are invited to submit additional texts and documents aimed at promoting and consolidating. It is foreseen that the documents and texts will initially be posted in the three working languages of the United Nations (English, French and Spanish).

7. With regard to the content of documents and texts used in the compilation, international, regional and subregional organizations have generally expressed their adherence to principles and objectives such as equality before the law, freedom of expression and association and participation in the political decision-making process. Documents and texts used in the compilation contain strong commitments to the strengthening and implementation of the essential elements of democracy such as separation of powers, empowerment and strengthening of parliaments, independence of the judiciary, fair and transparent elections, opposition to unconstitutional changes of Government, popular participation, decentralization of power, freedom of the press, freedom of the members of the Bar, and the subsidiary role of the armed forces, the police or the security forces in a democracy.
8. Documents and texts used by these organizations also underline the close link and the interdependence between democracy and other concepts such as stability, peace and sustainable development, as well as efforts to fight corruption.
9. Several organizations have adopted documents and texts on principles or guidelines for democratic elections, guidelines for elections observation and monitoring, codes of conduct and codes of good practice in electoral matters, guidelines for constitutional referendums, guidelines for the financing of political parties or prohibition and dissolution of political parties.
10. Education for democracy and promotion of a culture of democracy are also topics highlighted in several texts presented in the compilation.
11. Several organizations have adopted texts in which they reject and condemn unconstitutional changes of Government, define what should be considered as unconstitutional changes and propose measures to be taken against such disruptions of constitutional order.
12. Some organizations have established democratic clauses in their agreements with third-party States linking their assistance to the respect of democratic principles, and have elaborated mechanisms to supervise commitments undertaken by States in the field of democracy.
13. The compilation of documents and texts is a useful resource for States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, United Nations bodies and specialized agencies and academics and other specialists who would like to do comparative research in this area. The compilation is also a helpful resource for those interested in international, regional and subregional approaches to issues relating to promoting and consolidating democracy.

## **Annex**

### **LIST OF THE DOCUMENTS AND TEXTS ON PROMOTING AND CONSOLIDATING DEMOCRACY CONTAINED IN THE COMPILATION TO BE POSTED ON THE WEB SITE OF THE OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS**

#### **I. REGIONAL AND SUBREGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

##### **A. Africa**

###### **African Union (AU)**

- African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (excerpts)
- Constitutive Act of the African Union (excerpts)
- Lomé Declaration of July 2000 on the framework for a response by the Organization of African Unity to unconstitutional changes of government
- Conference on Security, Stability, Development and Cooperation in Africa (CSSDCA) Solemn Declaration (AHG/Decl.4 (XXXVI), 2000 (excerpts)
- New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) (excerpts)
- OAU/AU Declaration on the Principles Governing Democratic Elections in Africa
- Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (excerpts)

###### **Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)**

- Bata Declaration for the Promotion of Lasting Democracy, Peace and Development in Central Africa

###### **Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)**

- ECOWAS Treaty (excerpts)
- Declaration of Political Principles of the Economic Community of West African States (excerpts)
- Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance

###### **Southern African Development Community (SADC)**

- SADC Treaty (excerpts)
- SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) (excerpts)

- Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections

### **B. Arab region**

- Sana'a Declaration on Democracy, Human Rights and the Role of the International Criminal Court adopted by the Inter-Governmental Regional Conference on Democracy, Human Rights and the Role of the International Criminal Court, Sana'a, 10-12 January 2004

### **League of Arab States**

- Tunis Declaration of the 16th Arab Summit (Tunis, 22-23 May 2004) (excerpts)
- Arab Charter on Human Rights (excerpts)

### **C. Europe**

#### **European Union**

- Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union (excerpts)
- Resolution of the council and of the member states meeting in the council on human rights, democracy and development
- Council Regulation (EC) No. 976/1999 of 29 April 1999 (on developing and consolidating democracy and the rule of law)
- The Cotonou Agreement (excerpts)

#### **Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)**

- Conference on the Human Dimension of the Conference for Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE):
  - Concluding Document of the Vienna Meeting of Representatives of the Participating States of the CSCE
  - Document of the Moscow Meeting of the Conference on the Human Dimension of the CSCE
  - Document of the Copenhagen Meeting of the Conference on the Human Dimension of the CSCE (excerpt)
- Charter of Paris for a New Europe

#### **Council of Europe - Venice Commission**

- Code of Good Practice in Electoral Matters (adopted guidelines and draft explanatory report)

- Guidelines for Constitutional Referendums at National Level
- Guidelines on Prohibition and Dissolution of Political Parties and Analogous Measures
- Guidelines for Financing of Political Parties

#### **D. The Americas**

##### **Organization of American States (OAS)**

- Inter-American Democratic Charter
- Promotion and Strengthening of Democracy: follow-up to the Inter-American Democratic Charter
- Declaration of Santiago on Democracy and Public Trust: A New Commitment to Good Governance for the Americas
- Declaration of Nuevo León (excerpts)
- Declaration of Quito on Social Development and Democracy, and the Impact of Corruption

##### **Andean Community**

- Declaration about Democracy and Integration (excerpts)
- Additional Protocol to the Cartagena Agreement, “Andean Community Commitment to Democracy”
- Machu Picchu Declaration on Democracy, the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the War against Poverty
- Andean Charter for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (excerpts)

##### **Organization of Iberoamerican States (OEI)**

- Declaración de Concepción (excerpts)

##### **Sistema de la Integración Centroamericana (SICA)**

- Tegucigalpa Protocol to the Charter of the OAS (excerpts)
- Central American Alliance for Sustainable Development (excerpts)
- Framework Treaty on Democratic Security in Central America (excerpts)

## **MERCOSUR**

- Declaración Presidencial sobre Compromiso Democrático en el MERCOSUR
- Protocolo de Ushuaia sobre Compromiso Democrático en el MERCOSUR, la República de Bolivia y la República de Chile

## **Permanent Mechanism of Political Consultation and Coordination - the Rio Group (GRIO)**

- Compromiso de Acapulco para la Paz, el Desarrollo y la Democracia (excerpts)
- Declaración de Asunción
- Declaración sobre Defensa de la Democracia
- Declaración de Cartagena de Indias: Compromiso de Cartagena con la Democracia
- Declaración sobre Democracia
- The Cusco Consensus

## **II. OTHER INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS**

### **International Organization of la Francophonie (OIF)**

- Bamako Declaration: “Bilan des pratiques de la démocratie, des droits et des libertés dans l’espace francophone”
- Déclaration de Beyrouth

### **The Commonwealth**

- The Harare Commonwealth Declaration
- The Millbrook Commonwealth Action Programme on the Harare Declaration
- Aso Rock Commonwealth Declaration on Development and Democracy: Partnership for Peace and Prosperity

## **III. OTHER ENTITIES**

### **International Conference of New or Restored Democracies**

- Fifth International Conference of New or Restored Democracies:
  - Ulaanbaatar Plan of Action: Democracy, Good Governance and Civil Society

### **Community of Democracies**

- Final Warsaw Declaration: Toward a Community of Democracies
- Seoul Plan of Action - Democracy: Investing for Peace and Prosperity

### **IV. INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION (IPU)**

- Universal Declaration on Democracy
- Ensuring Lasting Democracy by Forging Close Links Between Parliament and the People
- Parliaments' Role in Strengthening Democratic Institutions and Human Development in a Fragmented World
- Declaration of the Parliamentarians' Forum on the occasion of the Fifth Conference of New or Restored Democracies

### **V. UNITED NATIONS AND SPECIALIZED AGENCIES**

#### **United Nations**

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (excerpts)
- The Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action (excerpts)
- United Nations Millennium Declaration (excerpts)

#### **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)**

- Declaration of Montevideo: Democratic Culture and Governance
- World Plan of Action on Education for Human Rights and Democracy
- Seoul Recommendations on Democracy and Tolerance
- Declaration and Integrated Framework of Action on Education for Peace, Human Rights and Democracy
- UNESCO Integrated Strategy on Democracy within the Framework of the International Centre for Human Sciences

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