



INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION
116th Assembly and related meetings
Nusa Dua, Bali (Indonesia), 29 April to 4 May 2007



Third Standing Committee
Democracy and Human Rights

C-III/116/DR-am.1
10 April 2007

**PROMOTING DIVERSITY AND EQUAL RIGHTS FOR ALL THROUGH
UNIVERSAL DEMOCRATIC AND ELECTORAL STANDARDS**

**First batch of amendments to the revised preliminary draft resolution submitted
by the delegation of France**

PREAMBLE

Preambular paragraph 8

Amend to read as follows:

(8) *Recalling* the Resolution adopted by the 98th Inter-Parliamentary Conference (Cairo, 1997) on ensuring lasting democracy by forging close links between Parliament and the Peoples, **and the Universal Declaration on Democracy,**

(France)

OPERATIVE PART

New operative paragraph 1bis

Add a new paragraph after operative paragraph 1 to read as follows:

1bis. Invites parliaments and governments to continue their efforts to fully reach the objectives defined in the "Universal Declaration on Democracy" adopted by the Inter-Parliamentary Council of the IPU, and in particular the following objectives:

- Ensure that there is a genuine partnership between men and women in the conduct of public affairs;
- Fully respect human rights, as defined in the relevant international conventions;
- Allow the Parliament to represent all of society's components;
- Provide the Parliament with the requisite means to express the will of the people by legislating and overseeing government action;
- Hold fair elections at regular intervals enabling the people's will to be expressed, on the basis of universal, equal and secret suffrage;

- Ensure compliance with civil and political rights, such as the rights to vote and to be elected, the rights to freedom of expression and assembly, access to information and the right to organise political parties and carry out political activities;
- Regulate in an impartial manner party activities, funding and ethics;
- Regulate individual participation in democratic processes and public life impartially in order to avoid any discrimination, or the risk of intimidation by State and non-State actors;
- Ensure access by all to administrative and judicial remedies as well as respect for administrative and judicial decisions;
- Commit to satisfying the economic and social needs of society's most disadvantaged, thus ensuring their full integration in the democratic process;
- Accommodate the participation of all people in order to safeguard diversity, pluralism and the right to be different in a climate of tolerance;
- Foster decentralised government and administration;

(France)

New operative paragraph 4bis

Add a new paragraph after operative paragraph 4 to read as follows:

4bis. *Calls upon* governments and parliaments to ensure strict compliance with the "Criteria for Free and Fair Elections" set forth in the Declaration adopted by the Inter-Parliamentary Council in Paris in March 1994, and in particular, the following criteria:

- The choice of government must derive from the will of the people as expressed in genuine, free and fair elections held at regular intervals on the basis of universal, equal and secret suffrage;
- Every adult citizen has the right to vote and the right to be registered as a voter; every individual who is denied the right to vote or to be registered as a voter shall be entitled to appeal in accordance with objectively verifiable criteria prescribed by law and consistent with the State's obligations under international law; as well as the right to access a polling station and the right to vote in secret;
- Everyone has the right to become a candidate for election, to join or establish a political party for the purpose of competing in an election; everyone has the right to express political opinions, campaign and have access to the media on an equal basis with other political parties, the right to security and the right to a remedy for violation of political and electoral rights; the above rights may only be subject to such restrictions of an exceptional nature which are in accordance with law and provided they are consistent with States' obligations under international law; permissible restrictions shall not be applied so as to violate the principle of non-discrimination and shall be entitled to appeal;

- States should take the necessary legislative steps and other measures for periodic and genuine, free and fair elections and ensure the progressive achievement and consolidation of democratic goals, including through the establishment of a neutral, impartial or balanced mechanism for the management of elections, States shall respect and ensure the civil and political rights of candidates and establish the conditions for an informed campaign on an equitable basis and ensure that voters are able to cast their ballots freely so as to avoid any pressure on voters, ensure the transparency of the entire electoral process and ensure that the ballot is conducted so as to avoid fraud, that candidates enjoy equal security and that complaints relating to the electoral process are determined promptly by an independent and impartial authority;

(France)

New operative paragraph 6bis

Add a new paragraph after operative paragraph 6 to read as follows:

- 6bis. Urges parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union, upon request by a government or national parliament, to be available to carry out election observer missions in a spirit of transparency and solidarity, with a view to the proper conduct of elections.**

(France)