

# **Community of Democracies: Implementation between Ministerial Conferences**

Approved by the Meeting of Senior Officials  
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## **I. Challenges of the Community of Democracies**

The Community of Democracies (CoD) is a coalition of nations whose objective is to promote democratic principles and consolidate democratic institutions around the world. Its most important event is a Ministerial Conference of the Community of Democracies, a meeting at the level of Foreign Affairs Ministers.

The Ministerial Conferences of the Community of Democracies are held every two years.

Between Ministerial Conferences, the tasks of the Community of Democracies are dedicated to promoting and strengthening democracy and democratic institutions at the national, regional, and global levels.

Likewise, the Community of Democracies, whose primary objective is to defend and promote democratic values, is committed to supporting the processes of democratic transitions, such as through government actions, and in coordination with civil society, in a broad inclusive spirit, and with international cooperation.

## **II. Coordination of the Community of Democracies**

In order to assure that the agreements adopted by the Foreign Affairs Ministers at each Ministerial Conference are implemented, the Community of Democracies is assisted by a Convening Group, composed of democratic nations that represent the different regions of the world, under the chairmanship of the nation hosting the upcoming Ministerial Conference.

## **III. Role of the Convening Group**

The Convening Group assists the Community of Democracies in a transparent way by:

- Organizing the Ministerial Conferences of the Community of Democracies, determining its agenda and the participants, informing all members of the Community;
- Coordinating and developing activities that have been agreed upon at the Ministerial Conferences, implementing Plans of Action or any other similar arrangement;
- Likewise, establishing relationships with Non-Governmental Organizations and civil society to develop common activities related to the promotion of democratic values;
- Adopting and implementing initiatives to promote and strengthen democracy and democratic institutions and, in particular, to support the processes of democratic transitions;
- Encouraging the full participation of countries from of the Community of Democracies in the activities and initiatives that promote democracy around the world;
- Supporting the coalitions and caucuses within the United Nations and other multilateral fora committed to promoting democracy.
- Receiving updates from the CoD working groups and the UN Democracy caucuses and sharing the results with other CoD member countries

## **IV CoD Working Groups**

In order to implement the 2005 Santiago Ministerial Commitment and to widen the support of countries, of international organizations, and civil society for the activities of the Community of Democracies, the following Working Groups will be established.

- Working Group on Democratic Governance and Civil Society;
- Working Group on Poverty, Development, and Democratic Governance;
- Working Group on Regional and Interregional Cooperation for Democratic Governance;
- Working Group on Promoting Democracy and Responding to National and Transnational Threats to Democracy.

Each Chair will report regularly to the Convening Group on the group's progress, as well as share information with the group on the Convening Group's decisions or actions.

All the countries of the Community of Democracies may participate in these working groups.

#### **V. Interministerial Meetings**

Once a year, the Chair of the Convening Group will invite all participating countries of the Community of Democracy to an open Ministerial Meeting at the General Assembly of the United Nations in New York.

At the annual session of the United Nations Commission of Human Rights in Geneva, the Chair of the Convening Group will also hold an open meeting for participating countries of the Community of Democracies.

#### **VI. Composition of the Convening Group**

Currently, the Convening Group is composed of ten countries, according to the following regional criteria:

Africa: Mali and South Africa;  
 The Americas: Chile, Mexico, and the United States;  
 Asia: India and the Republic of Korea; and  
 Europe: the Czech Republic, Poland, and Portugal.

- **Enlargement of the Convening Group**

The Convening Group may be enlarged up to a maximum of 16 nations, with a total of three or four nations for each of the four regions.

The criteria for invitation should include:

- Regional balance;
- Strong national democratic structures;
- Noticeable activity in the defense of democracy;
- Strong commitment to the advancement of Community of Democracies objectives
- Active implementation of the "Warsaw Declaration" and the "Seoul Plan of Action"
- Balance between new/recently restored democracies and old/consolidated democracies

The Chair of the Convening Group will consult the participants of the Third Ministerial Conference in order for the Group to prepare the enlargement proposal to be presented at the Meeting of Foreign Affairs Ministers, which will take place in September of 2005 in New York, upon the occasion of the United Nations General Assembly for approval.

- **Further Enhancing the Effectiveness of the Convening Group**

At the Fourth Ministerial Conference, proposals for improving the effectiveness of the Convening Group, including the rotation of countries, will be considered.

## **VII. Rules of Procedure for the Convening Group**

- All Convening Group decisions should be made by consensus
- The Chair is responsible for establishing the agendas of the senior officials meetings, as well as taking the minutes of each meeting. Any country may request that an item be added to the agenda.
- All declarations or statements should be drafted by the Chair once the members of the Convening Group have reached a consensus regarding any proposal made by one of them.
- The Chair may ask that countries from each regional group complete certain tasks when it is deemed more efficient for the mission of the Community of Democracies.
- Any member of the CoD may request to participate in a meeting of the CG to report about any activity geared to the implementation of the commitment of the CoD or to present proposal for follow up.