



COMMUNITY
OF DEMOCRACIES

The Community of Democracies Parliamentary Forum

High Level Democracy Meeting
“The Road to Democracy:
Role of the Community of Democracies Parliamentary Forum”
Vilnius, 30 June 2011

Parliamentary Forum for Democracy Declaration

We, the participants of the Parliamentary Forum, gathered at a High Level Democracy Meeting “The Road to Democracy: Role of the Community of Democracies Parliamentary Forum” in Vilnius, on June 30, 2011 on the occasion of ending of Lithuania’s Presidency of the Community of Democracies

Recognizing democracy as a broadly acknowledged ideal as well as a goal, which is based on the common values shared or strived for by people around the world;

Expressing our common adherence to the fundamental values and principles set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Agenda for Democratization presented by the UN Secretary-General at the 51st session of the United Nations General Assembly and other relevant instruments of international law;

Expressing our full support for the objectives set forth in the Warsaw Declaration establishing the Community of Democracies and its subsequent declarations and documents;

Sharing the democracy building objectives of the United Nations, the Inter-parliamentary Union, the Council of Europe, the European Union, the Parliamentarian Assembly of the Mediterranean and many other regional, international and non-governmental organizations;

Emphasizing our common belief that parliaments embody democracy as the key institutions which express the will of people, pass laws and to which governments are accountable;

Confirming the fact that the Parliamentary Forum for Democracy is a coalition of like-minded democratically elected parliamentarians and former parliamentarians determined to work together for the cause of advancing and defending democracies;

Recalling the documents adopted by the Community of Democracies – Vilnius Declaration setting up the Community of Democracies Parliamentary Forum (March 12, 2010), Washington Declaration (September 15, 2010) and Tbilisi Declaration (May 20, 2011) as well as the resolutions: Resolution on the nomination of Liu Xiaobo for the 2010 Nobel Peace Prize (March 12, 2010), Resolution on the situation in Georgia (March 12, 2010), Resolution calling for support of Cuba’s pro-democracy movement (March 12, 2010), Final Resolution of Parliamentary Forum Krakow meeting (July 3, 2010), Resolution calling for improvement of the political and civil society situation in Belarus (July 3, 2010), Resolution calling for improvement of the political situation in Ukraine (July 3, 2010), and Resolution calling for support of Cuba’s pro-democracy movement (July 3, 2010),

have adopted the following:

1. We confirm our commitment to strengthening and defending the democratic norms and institutions around the world;
2. We welcome the official registration of the Parliamentary Forum for Democracy and establishment of the permanent secretariat in Vilnius;
3. We seek to establish an international parliamentary platform to call attention to autocratic regimes, abuses of human rights and suppression of political freedom;
4. We underline the importance of creating a relevant international parliamentary institution and precise political mechanisms in order to preserve and protect democracy worldwide;
5. We condemn authoritarian and totalitarian regimes for their constant and systematic suppression of human rights;
6. We express our support for the opposition members in the autocratic and totalitarian states throughout the world;
7. We recognize that all the people of the world have the right to determine their own path to social, cultural, economic development;
8. We recognize that terrorism is bred in part by lack of democracy and pluralism; for a secure and stable world we pledge to eradicate the scourge by addressing the political context that has caused it.
9. We welcome the establishment of the Young Leaders Forum on June 23, 2010 during the Democracy Days in Vilnius for ensuring youth representation at every level of the Community of Democracies, including ministerial and working group meetings;
10. We pledge our full support to the upcoming Mongolia’s presidency of the Community of Democracies.