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

Amendments to the revised preliminary draft resolution submitted within the statutory deadline by the delegations of Algeria, Canada, China, France, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Philippines, Romania, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom and Venezuela

TITLE

Amend the title to read as follows:

PROMOTING DIVERSITY AND EQUAL RIGHTS FOR ALL THROUGH ~~UNIVERSAL DEMOCRATIC AND ELECTORAL STANDARDS~~ FREE AND DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS

(China)

Amend the title to read as follows:

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

(Spain)

Delete the existing title and replace it by the following:

ELIMINATION OF ALL DISCRIMINATION IN ELECTORAL PROCESSES

(Venezuela)

PREAMBLE

Preambular paragraph 1

Delete the paragraph:

(1) ~~Convinced that diversity and equal rights for all can be protected and promoted through universal democratic and electoral standards,~~

(Venezuela)

Amend to read as follows:

- (1) *Convinced* that diversity and equal rights for all can be protected and promoted through **free and democratic elections** ~~universal democratic and electoral standards,~~
(China)

Amend to read as follows:

- (1) *Convinced* that diversity and equal rights for all can be protected and promoted through universal democratic ~~and electoral standards,~~ **including free and fair elections,**
(Germany)

Preambular paragraph 2

Delete the paragraph:

- ~~(2) *Further convinced* that universal democratic electoral standards are an effective guarantee of diversity and equal rights,~~
(Venezuela)

New preambular paragraph 2bis

Add a new paragraph after paragraph 2 to read as follows:

- (2bis) *Reaffirming* that democracy is a universal value based on the freely expressed will of peoples to decide their own political, economic, social and cultural system and participate thoroughly in all aspects of their lives; and even though democracies share common features, a unique democracy model does not exist, and does not belong to any country or region,**
(Venezuela)

Preambular paragraph 3

Amend to read as follows:

- (3) *Believing* that **protection of diversity by means of scrupulously framed laws that guarantee equality of basic rights is** ~~respect for diversity and equal rights are the *sine qua non*~~ for the democratic and parliamentary polity,
(Italy)

Amend to read as follows:

- (3) *Believing* that respect for **the free will of the people, equal rights and diversity** ~~diversity and equal rights are the *sine qua non*~~ for the democratic and parliamentary polity,
(Venezuela)

New preambular paragraph 3bis

Add a new paragraph after paragraph 3 to read as follows:

(3bis) Convinced of the economic and social benefits of strengthening political and electoral rights,

(Mexico)

Preambular paragraph 4

Move paragraph 4 to paragraph 5, and paragraph 5 to 4:

(4) *Recognizing* that all individuals belonging to different religious, ethnic and cultural segments of society have an equal right to participate in the process of development and to enjoy the fair distribution of benefits resulting from development,

(Germany)

Amend to read as follows:

(4) *Reaffirming* that all individuals are equal in society and have the right to participate *in all aspects of* the electoral process of their country irrespective of their race, colour, language, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, disability, birth ~~or other status~~, creed, religion, gender, ethnic group, ~~and so on~~ **or other status**,

(Indonesia)

Amend to read as follows:

(4) *Reaffirming* that all individuals are equal in society and **must enjoy equal political rights, with special regard to** ~~have the right to participate~~ *in all aspects of* the electoral process of their country irrespective of their race, colour, language, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, disability, birth or other status, creed, religion, gender, ethnic group, and so on,

(Italy)

Amend to read as follows:

(4) *Reaffirming* that all individuals are equal **before the law and have the right not to be discriminated against and** ~~in society and have the right to participate~~ *in all aspects of* the electoral process of their country irrespective of their race, colour, language, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, disability, birth or other status, creed, religion, gender, ethnic group, and so on,

(Spain)

Amend to read as follows:

(4) *Reaffirming* that all individuals are equal in society and have the right to participate *in all aspects of* the electoral process of their country irrespective of their race, colour, language, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, disability, birth or other status, creed, religion, gender, ethnic group, **as described in the UN Convention against racial discrimination and so on,**

(Switzerland)

Amend to read as follows:

(4) *Reaffirming* that all individuals are equal in society and have the right to participate *in all aspects of* the electoral process of their country irrespective of their race, colour, language, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, disability, birth or other status, creed, religion, gender, **sexual orientation,** ethnic group, and so on,

(United Kingdom)

Amend to read as follows:

(4) *Reaffirming* that all individuals, **men and women,** are equal in society and have the right **and duty** to participate *in all aspects of* the electoral process of their country irrespective of **any distinction** ~~their race, colour, language, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, disability, birth or other status, creed, religion, gender, ethnic group, and so on,~~

(Venezuela)

New preambular paragraph 4bis

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

(4bis) Aware of the continuous need to accord women the entitlements to their political rights in parity with men such as the right to vote and to be voted upon in elections and assume strategic roles in their country's decision-making processes,

(Philippines)

Preambular paragraph 5

Move paragraph 5 to paragraph 4, and amend original paragraph 4, new paragraph 5, to read as follows:

(5) *Reaffirming* that all individuals ~~are equal in society and~~ have the right to participate *in all aspects of* the electoral process of their country irrespective of their race, colour, language, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, disability, birth or other status, creed, religion, gender, ethnic group, and so on,

(Germany)

Amend to read as follows:

(5) *Recognizing* that all individuals, **men and women, with different religious, ethnic and cultural backgrounds** ~~belonging to different religious, ethnic and cultural segments of society~~ have **equal rights** ~~an equal right~~ to participate **in public affairs and in the process of public policy and to enhance individual and collective human dignity** ~~development and to enjoy the fair distribution of benefits resulting from development,~~

(Venezuela)

Preambular paragraph 6

Delete the paragraph:

~~(6) *Acknowledging* the role played by the United Nations, the Inter-Parliamentary Union and national parliaments in promoting equality and diversity,~~

(Venezuela)

Amend to read as follows:

(6) *Acknowledging* the **key** role played by the United Nations **in promoting diversity and equal rights through universal democratic standards**, ~~the Inter-Parliamentary Union and national parliaments in promoting equality and diversity,~~

(Germany)

Amend to read as follows:

(6) *Acknowledging* the role played by the United Nations, the Inter-Parliamentary Union and national parliaments in promoting equality and **respect for** diversity,

(Spain)

New preambular paragraph 6bis

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

(6bis) *Recognizing* the role of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and national parliaments in promoting equality and diversity,

(Germany)

Preambular paragraph 7

Amend to read as follows:

(7) *Further recognizing* the concepts and ideals of diversity and equality as enshrined in international instruments such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, **which strive to** ~~and other core international Human Rights Instruments~~ uphold **the ideal of genuine democracy and harmony in international relations by calling for** the right to vote and to be elected at genuine periodic elections **by means of** ~~which shall be by~~ universal and equal suffrage, without discrimination, ~~and that genuine democracy and harmony is an ideal to be achieved in international relations,~~

(Canada)

Amend to read as follows:

(7) *Further recognizing* the concepts and ideals of diversity and equality as enshrined in international instruments such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, ~~and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and other core international Human Rights Instruments~~ uphold the right to vote and to be elected at genuine periodic elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage, ~~without discrimination, and that genuine democracy and harmony is an ideal to be achieved in international relations;~~

(Germany)

Amend to read as follows:

(7) *Further recognizing* the concepts and ideals of diversity and equality as enshrined in international instruments such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, ~~and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights~~ **and its Optional Protocol concerning the rights of indigenous and tribal peoples (1989), the Declaration of the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, religious or Linguistic Minorities, the Declaration on Race and Racial Prejudice** and other core international Human Rights Instruments uphold the right **to take part in public affairs**, to vote and to be elected at genuine periodic elections ~~which shall be by universal and equal suffrage, without discrimination, and that genuine democracy and harmony is an ideal to be achieved in international relations;~~

(Spain)

Amend to read as follows:

(7) *Further recognizing* the concepts and ideals of diversity and equality as enshrined in international instruments such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, ~~and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and other core international Human Rights Instruments~~ uphold the right to vote and to be elected at genuine periodic elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage, without discrimination, ~~and that genuine democracy and harmony is an ideal to be achieved in international relations;~~

(Venezuela)

New preambular paragraphs 7bis, 7ter, 7quater, 7quinquies and 7 sexies

Add 5 new paragraphs after preambular paragraph 7. These paragraphs are proposed to read as follows:

(7bis) *Recalling* the Resolution adopted by the 113th Assembly of the IPU (Geneva, 2005) on the importance of civil society and its interplay with parliaments and other democratically elected assemblies for the maturing and development of democracy,

(7ter) *Recalling* the Resolution adopted by the 110th Assembly of the IPU (Mexico, 2004) on furthering parliamentary democracy in order to protect human rights and encourage reconciliation among people and partnership among nations,

(7quater) **Recalling** the Resolution adopted by the 108th Inter-Parliamentary Conference (Chile, 2003) on the parliament's role in strengthening democratic institutions and human development in a fragmented world,

(7quinquies) **Recalling** the Resolution adopted by the 93rd Inter-Parliamentary Conference (Madrid, 1995) on parliamentary action for women's access to and participation in decision-making structures aimed at achieving true equality for women,

(7sexies) **Recalling** the Resolution adopted by the 87th Inter-Parliamentary Conference (Yaoundé, 1992) on the organization and functioning of democracy and the expression of ethnic diversity as a means of ensuring the stability of all states, economic developments and better use of the peace dividend for the benefit of the third world,

(Philippines)

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)

Amend to read as follows:

(8) **Recalling** the Declaration on Criteria for Free and Fair Elections adopted by the Inter-Parliamentary Council in Paris in March 1994 **and the Universal Declaration on Democracy adopted by the Inter-Parliamentary Council in September 1997,**

(Philippines)

New preambular paragraph 9bis

Add a new paragraph after paragraph 9 to read as follows:

(9bis) **Mindful** of the report of the United Nations Secretary General, "Strengthening the role of the United Nations in enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections and the promotion of democratization" (A/60/431),

(Japan)

Preambular paragraph 10

Amend to read as follows:

(10) **Emphasizing** that, **as long as the principle of democracy is enshrined in laws that assure respect for universal standards of equality in political and electoral rights,** the principle of democracy may be applied differently, according to varied culture, history and constitution of each nation,

(Italy)

New preambular paragraph 10bis

Add a new paragraph after paragraph 10 to read as follows:

(10bis) Aware of the importance of having electoral systems under constant review, in order to bring them, if needed, in line with the political, social and cultural context, and stressing the key role of parliaments in electoral reform processes,

(Romania)

OPERATIVE PART

Operative paragraph 1

Amend to read as follows:

1. Urges governments and parliaments **not having done so yet** to implement in earnest the international treaties they have ratified **with respect to promoting diversity and universal equality;**

(Algeria)

Amend to read as follows:

1. Urges governments and parliaments to implement, **in earnest**, the international treaties they have ratified **with respect to equality, diversity, and universal democratic electoral standards** ~~in earnest;~~

(Canada)

Amend to read as follows:

1. Urges governments and parliaments to implement the international treaties they have ratified in earnest **and to raise their reservations thereto;**

(Spain)

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 organize 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 decentralized government and administration;

(France)

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

1bis. *Invites* parliaments and governments to enact appropriate laws, preferably constitutional, affirming the principle of equal rights for all,, with particular regard to the right to vote and other universal democratic rights;

(Italy)

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

1bis. *Encourages* parliaments to make their national electoral legislation attuned to the provisions of international obligations to which the State is a party with due consideration to the country's unique historical and cultural particularities;

(Philippines)

New operative paragraphs 1bis and 1ter

Add two new paragraphs after operative paragraph 1 to read as follows:

1bis. Calls on parliaments to ensure that electoral legal frameworks meet the universal democratic and electoral standards and are revised whenever necessary, to respond to the political, social and cultural realities within their respective countries;

1ter. Invites parliaments to see to it that there is coherence and consistency between electoral legislation and all other national legislation related to or having impact on the election process;

(Romania)

Operative paragraph 2

Amend to read as follows:

1. *Calls upon* governments and parliaments to ensure that countries give all **segments** ~~sections~~ of society equal opportunities to participate in the electoral process and to encourage and cooperate with the civil society and **promote its active involvement** in the electoral process;

(Algeria)

Amend to read as follows:

2. *Calls upon* governments and parliaments to ensure that countries give all **members** ~~sections~~ of society equal opportunities to participate in the electoral process and to encourage and cooperate with the civil society in the electoral process;

(Canada)

Amend to read as follows:

2. *Calls upon* governments and parliaments **to ensure strive to achieve and preserve the representative quality of electoral systems by ensuring** that countries give all sections of society equal opportunities to participate in the electoral process and to encourage and cooperate with the civil society in the electoral process;

(Philippines)

Amend to read as follows:

2. *Calls upon* governments and parliaments to ensure that countries give all sections of society equal opportunities to participate in the electoral process, **to ensure the absence of discrimination and the democratic working of political parties** and to encourage and cooperate with the civil society in the electoral process;

(Spain)

Amend to read as follows:

2. *Calls upon* governments and parliaments to ensure that countries give **all individuals, according to international obligations as mentioned in preambular paragraph 7** ~~and sections of society~~ equal opportunities to participate in the electoral process and to encourage and cooperate with the civil society in the electoral process;

(Switzerland)

New operative paragraphs 2bis

Add a new paragraph after operative paragraph 2 to read as follows:

- 2bis. *Calls upon* governments to include parliamentarians in election observer missions and encourages parliaments to send independent election observer missions to countries within its region;**

(South Africa)

Operative paragraph 3

Amend to read as follows:

2. *Urges* national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union to heighten people's awareness of **about exercising** their rights and duties in a democracy;

(Algeria)

Amend to read as follows:

3. *Urges* national parliaments, **parliamentarians** and the Inter-Parliamentary Union to heighten people's awareness of their rights and duties in a democracy ;

(Canada)

New operative paragraphs 3bis

Add a new paragraph after operative paragraph 3 to read as follows:

- 3bis. *Calls upon* governments and parliaments to carefully consider the proper and optimal utilization of the fruits of globalization and recent technological advancements to ensure the widest turn-out of voters during elections, promote accountability and transparency of electoral procedures and achieve greater accuracy of results, thereby encouraging people's participation under democracy;**

(Philippines)

New operative paragraphs 3bis and 3ter

Add two new paragraphs after operative paragraph 3 to read as follows:

3bis. Urges governments to strengthen their electoral institutions, which serve as guarantors of accurate and reliable results;

3ter. Invites the world's parliamentarians to establish an international observatory on electoral processes, said observatory to legitimize or reject the processes and their results, including plebiscites and referendums;

(Mexico)

Operative paragraph 4

Amend to read as follows:

4. *Encourages* parliaments and parliamentary bodies such as **standing committees and established political groups** to monitor and evaluate the participation of minority groups and vulnerable sections of society in the electoral process;

(Algeria)

Amend to read as follows:

4. *Encourages* parliaments and parliamentary bodies such as committees to monitor and evaluate the participation of minority groups and vulnerable **members** ~~sections~~ of society in the electoral process;

(Canada)

Amend to read as follows:

4. *Encourages* parliaments and parliamentary bodies such as committees to **promote**, monitor and evaluate the participation of minority groups and vulnerable sections of society in the electoral process;

(Romania)

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)

Operative paragraph 5

Amend to read as follows:

5. Urges governments to provide ~~a level playing field~~ and give equal opportunities to all candidates and political parties to take part in the democratic and electoral process;

(Indonesia)

Amend to read as follows:

5. Urges governments to provide a level playing field and give equal opportunities to all candidates and political parties to take part in the democratic and electoral process **and have access to the media**;

(Spain)

New operative paragraph 5bis

Add a new paragraph after operative paragraph 5 to read as follows:

5bis. Urges parliaments to continuously review the electoral system in order to increase opportunities for voters to take part in the electoral process in a substantial and proactive manner, while ensuring fair elections, and encourages the exchange of information among parliamentarians concerning legal systems and administration related to the electoral system;

(Japan)

Add a new paragraph after operative paragraph 5 to read as follows:

5bis. Calls upon parliaments and governments to ensure transparency in the funding and expenditure of electoral processes;

(Spain)

Operative paragraph 6

Amend to read as follows:

6. *Calls upon* parliaments to enact and enforce legislation to ensure a **multi-party**, fair, transparent and peaceful election process, free of violence, influence and corruption.

(Algeria)

Amend to read as follows:

6. *Calls upon* parliaments to enact and enforce legislation to ensure a **free**, fair, transparent and peaceful election process, free of violence, influence and corruption;

(Germany)

Amend to read as follows:

6. *Calls upon* parliaments to enact and enforce legislation to ensure a **free**, fair, transparent and peaceful election process, ~~free of violence, influence and corruption;~~

(Romania)

Amend to read as follows:

6. *Calls upon* parliaments to enact and enforce legislation to ensure **the necessary conditions of security and freedom conducive to** a fair, transparent and peaceful election process, free of violence, influence and corruption **and to ensure free and secret suffrage;**

(Spain)

New operative paragraph 6bis

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

6bis. *Calls upon governments and parliaments to ensure that elections are administered using the national language as well as other languages specific to national and ethnic minorities within the state.*

(Canada)

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)

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

6bis. *Calls upon governments and parliamentary bodies to encourage and cooperate with the civil society in the electoral process.*

(Indonesia)

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

6bis. *Strongly appeals to media organizations to uphold their commitment to serve the public interest over and above pursuit of financial revenues by covering election-related issues that give greater emphasis on issues and platform rather than on personalities and sensationalism and to help promote diversity through a more equitable provision of media mileage to all candidates irrespective of their background, beliefs and extent of influence.*

(Philippines)

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

6bis. *Encourages parliamentary participation, based on internationally agreed principles and standards, in international election observation at the invitation of sovereign states, as a means to support democratic electoral processes around the world.*

(Romania)

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

6bis. *Urges governments and parliaments to take active measures, namely access to objective information, to enable all individuals to participate in the electoral process without pressure of any kind.*

(Switzerland)

New operative paragraphs 6bis and 6ter

Add two new paragraphs after operative paragraph 6 to read as follows:

6bis. *Calls upon* the United Nations to enhance capacity-building measures, including the development of specialists, in order to meet the increasing demand from nations to support elections, and to implement such support with a view to promoting human rights and empowering women.

6ter. *Calls upon* all nations to cooperate fully in electoral support activities of the United Nations, inter alia those conducted by the Electoral Assistance Division of the Department of Political Affairs, and *requests* developed nations in particular to strengthen support for developing nations in their efforts to learn and share best practices regarding elections.

(Japan)

Add two new paragraphs after operative paragraph 6 to read as follows:

6bis. *Urges* parliaments to eliminate and condemn, inside the frame of their competence, the misuse of international cooperation practices, for politically motivated pressures inducing foreign intervention in countries' internal affairs with the excuse of promoting democracy.

6ter. *Encourages* States and parliaments to promote practices and institutional participation mechanisms, articulation and integration among community organizations, social groups, and people in general, in order to contribute to the forming, implementing, and control of public policy, as a means of attaining integral development objectives, both at individual and collective levels, and participate in the construction and strengthening of a fairer and more equitable society.

(Venezuela)