Note to the Deputy Secretary-General

<u>Communication of Policy Committee Decisions to the Members of the
Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs</u>

Thank you for your note dated 11 February regarding the communication of Policy Committee decisions to members of the ECESA (copy attached). First of all, let me reiterate my continuing commitment to ensure that ECESA members are well represented in the work of the Policy Committee and to maintain a good flow of communication within ECESA on relevant Policy Committee matters.
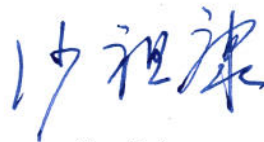
Cooperation with the Regional Commissions in particular on Policy Committee matters has been very good. During most of my time here, the Regional Coordinator has been Mr. Janneh, with whom I have had excellent cooperation. This has worked particularly well given the number of Policy Committee items related to Africa.

Regarding the circulation of the Secretary-General's Policy Committee decisions, this is done in the first instance by the Policy Committee Secretariat. Beyond this, my Office also specifically requests permission of the EOSG for DESA to circulate the decisions on economic and social issues in as widely and timely a manner as possible, within the confidentiality guidelines set by the Policy Committee Secretariat. In the case of the democracy paper, DPA was the lead Policy Committee member and would therefore also serve as the focal point for follow-up and implementation.

In a meeting with me on 3 February, ECLAC suggested that the Regional Commissions had only just learned of the democracy paper and its provision regarding regional consultations. As you will see from the attached email exchange, I immediately looked into this matter. The recommendation that regional consultations should be convened by DPA, UNDP and the Regional Commissions was in the draft paper circulated by me to ECESA members and discussed in our 25 October 2007 Principals Meeting. So the Regional Commissions were aware of this from that time.

In line with my style and personal policy of transparency, I will share a copy of this note to you with all ECESA Members.

With warm regards,

Sha Zukang
12 February 2008

cc: Mr. Robert Orr

DESA-09/0274

Note to Mr. Sha Zukang

Communication of Policy Committee Decisions to the Members of the
Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs

1.   I would like to seek your kind assistance and cooperation in ensuring the
timely communication of the decisions taken by the Policy Committee.

2.   ECLAC has brought to my attention an instance where a Policy
Committee decision taken in November 2007 was only brought to the attention of
Regional Commissions this January 2009. As the decision specifically asked the
Regional Commissions and UNDP to convene regional consultations on a
particular issue, it was felt that the lack of information created problems for
implementation.

3.   As the Chair of the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs
(EC-ESA), your assistance would be essential in ensuring that decisions of the
Policy Committee are communicated in a timely manner to all relevant parties. It
is also important that the views of the EC-ESA members are duly represented at
the Policy Committee through your participation as the chair. I trust that I can
count on your cooperation.

Asha-Rose Migiro
11 February 2009

cc: Mr. Robert Orr

29-01699

Alicia
BARCENA/SGO/ECLAC/UN
O@ECLAC
06/02/2009 09:16 PM

To   Zukang Sha/NY/UNO@UNHQ@UN-MAILHUB

cc   Noeleen Heyzer/BKK/UNO, Bader AlDafa/ESCWA/UNO,
      Abdoulie Janneh/ECA, Jan
      Kubis/UNECE/GVA/UNO@UNGVA@UNHQ@UN-MAILHUB,

bcc

Subject   Re: Policy paper on democracy

Dear Sha
First of all my very sepcial thanks for the wonderful and constructive meeting we had
Second. For your very prompt response on the policy committee resolution of 2007
I will meet next week with DPA and will raise the issue with Lynn
Basically, we need to make sure we follow up on decisions that are of great importance for our constituencies and the SG.
I look forward to seeing you next week and send you my best regards
Alicia
    Kay Govia

        From: Kay Govia
        Sent: 02/06/2009 07:21 PM
        To: Alicia BARCENA
        Cc: Noeleen Heyzer/BKK/UNO@ESCAP
        Subject: Policy paper on democracy

Dear Alicia,

I have asked my staff to look into the various issues you raised during our meeting on Tuesday, one of which was a concern that the Regional Commissions were only now being informed by DPA about an SG Policy Committee decision in November 2007 on democracy, including a decision to convene regional consultations, with follow-up action delegated to DPA, UNDP and the Regional Commissions.

It seems that the documentation on this item goes back to at least mid-2007. I am attaching for your reference the minutes of the 25 October 2007 ECESA Principals meeting where the matter was discussed, on the basis of DPA's 19 October draft of the paper (copy attached). Following the meeting, I had also sent the relevant excerpt of the minutes to the Secretary-General in a note dated 30 October 2007, to ensure that the views of ECESA members were known in advance of the Policy Committee discussion. Once the decision was taken, it was up to DPA, as lead on the item, to be in touch with various actors on the follow-up.

I hope you find this information useful and look forward to seeing you at our next Principals meeting on 13 February. You can rest assured that I continue to be personally committed to being open and transparent with my ECESA partners.

Regards,
Sha

Minutes.ECESA.Principals.25.Oct.FINAL_w highlights.doc

PC paper on democracy draft of 19 Oct 07.doc

Sha Zukang
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Executive Committee of Economic and Social Affairs

Meeting of Principals
25 October 2007, 8:30-9:30 a.m.

Conclusions and Decisions

- In light of consultations conducted by ECESA Deputies, Principals decided not to create new dedicated mechanisms for coordination of work on South-South cooperation. Principals agreed that the issue should be mainstreamed through ECESA clusters. Cluster Heads will be instructed to mainstream in the context of programme harmonization and coordination exercises under their purview, relevant aspects of the agreed Plan of Action, and to report on results periodically to Principals.

- Based on advice of Deputies, Principals endorsed the Principles Governing International Statistical Activities. These Principles will govern all statistical work undertaken by ECESA entities.

- Principals endorsed the decision of Deputies that ECESA thematic clusters, together with the programme planning focal points, will conduct a joint review of the proposals by ECESA entities for the Strategic Framework of the UN for the period of 2010-2011, with a view to achieving greater programmatic coherence. Principals agreed that Deputies oversee this exercise and requested that they report to Principals on its progress and outcome.

- Principals will provide written comments on the draft submission paper on democracy for the upcoming Policy Committee meeting on democracy. The Chair of ECESA will convey Principals' views to the Secretary-General.

- Principals agreed to postpone the review of Population Cluster to their next meeting.

Summary of Discussion

1. South-South Cooperation

Principals decided not to create new mechanisms to coordinate work on South-South cooperation. It was agreed that the issue be mainstreamed through ECESA clusters, and Cluster Heads are instructed to mainstream relevant aspects of the agreed earlier Plan of Action on South-South cooperation and report periodically on the progress of such mainstreaming to Principals.

2. Review of Population Cluster

The Co-Chair of the Population Cluster, Mr. Dirk Jaspers-Faijer, Director of ECLAC Population Division introduced the report of the Population Cluster. In view of the limited time available for this item, Principals decided to postpone the discussion of the report to their next meeting.

3. Principles for international statistics

Assistant-Secretary-General Jomo, Chair of the meeting of EC-ESA Deputies, reported to Principals that Deputies had recommended endorsing the Principles Governing International Statistical Activities, as adopted by the Statistical Commission. These Principles will govern all statistical work conducted by ECESA entities. Principals endorsed the Principles.

4. Coordination of the preparation of the Strategic Framework for 2010-2011

Principals were informed that Deputies at their last meeting decided to instruct ECESA thematic clusters, together with the programme planning focal points, to conduct a joint review of the proposals by ECESA entities, with a view to achieving greater programmatic coherence. Principals agreed with this approach and requested that Deputies oversee this exercise and report to Principals on its progress and outcome.

5. Other matters

(a) Strengthening the development pillar

A short background note on "Strengthening the development pillar of the UN" was circulated to all Principals prior to the meeting. On the basis of this note, Principals discussed key strategic issues which can contribute directly and effectively to strengthening the development pillar.

Principals of the Regional Commissions expressed the view that the current call for strengthening of the development pillar should be seen as an opportunity to enhance analytical capacities of the Regional Commissions to better respond to new development challenges. They felt that enhanced analytical capacities at the regional level could be particular useful in providing timely and effective policy advice to countries in need.

A discussion also ensued on how increased support to ECOSOC could facilitate the development work of the Organization. A strong view was expressed that the new modalities of ECOSOC such as the AMR and DCF can only succeed if Member States commit and support them as useful and value-adding processes. For example, the DCF should be seen as a forum which is broader and more universal than the OECD/DAC process.

Principals agreed that there was a need to balance the new paradigms and new views on development economics. The growing role of developing countries as dynamic agents in all areas of development represents a second generation of globalization. Trade from developing countries, as well as trade between developing countries, is increasingly important in global trade. Developing countries are emerging as donors and as exporters of capital. There is an urgent need to link the global trends with the regional and country dimension perspectives, including for operationalizing the global analyses.

Since the Asian financial crisis, a focus in the Asia Pacific region has been on regionalization, integration and cooperation through sub-regional blocs. However, this important aspect of the regional change has not yet been fully addressed.

Principals also broadly agreed that UN interventions at the country level must add more value. Not to spread resources too thinly, there should be a better focus on strengthening the normative and analytical work of the Secretariat so that it can better support implementation at the country level by linking it closer to the norms set by Members States. An example in this regard is national statistical capacity building.

It was stressed that countries with special needs, and those most vulnerable, should be the particular targets of development cooperation. Therefore, the different structures dealing with these countries would need to be adequate to effectively monitor the implementation of IADG, including the MDGs. In this context, the Head of OHRLLS called for further strengthening in this area.

. Principals also agreed that work on African development is extremely important. In this regard, it was suggested that discussions should be held between UNCTAD and ECA to ensure a more coordinated approach. DESA may share its experiences of work on Africa from the time when it had a dedicated Division in this area.

The Chair thanked Principals for their views and advice. He said that he had been asked by the Secretary-General to prepare a note, on behalf of ECESA, on strengthening of the development pillar of the UN. He indicated that he would do it and share it with Principals.

(b)   Upcoming work of the Policy committee

The Chair pointed out that the next thematic item on the Policy Committee's agenda which would be of concern to ECESA is the one on democracy, due to be considered on 2 November. **The draft paper prepared by DPA and EOSG was circulated to ECESA members for comments earlier in the month.** The Chair added that on 20 November the Policy Committee would consider a paper from UNDP providing an update on the implementation of the Secretary-General's decisions on MDGs.

The Chair invited a discussion and comments on the democracy item. He offered to convey the outcome of the discussion and comments to the Policy Committee on behalf of ECESA members, along with DESA's comments.

The Chair noted that he was not sure whether democracy was a priority of all UN membership. He pointed out that the list received by GA Conference Management from Member States showed climate change ranked first among their priority issues, followed by conflict and the MDGs. The Chair stated that he was '100 per cent for democracy', but that we should not advocate for only one type of democracy.

There was an observation that the contribution of the UN to advance governance and democracy issues in Africa may have exceeded funds spent on development. It was felt that the UN needed to consider the results of its past work on this topic and then decide whether this has contributed to participatory democracy. This would guide the selection of the best approach to take.

It was pointed out there are essentially three schools of democratic processes recognized by Member States. Principals suggested the UN should act as a consensus and bridge builder among these different schools. It was also pointed out that democracy should not only be seen as a formal process but also as a process of empowering people, in terms of the opportunities it created for development, and as an extension of citizenship. The issue is about accountable governance. Democracy needs to be considered not only within the context of inclusive and sustainable economic and social development, but also in terms of the international economic order.

Principals agreed that there was not one single formula for democracy. In terms of human settlements, it is important to consider democracy at all levels, starting from the local, and to promote balance in territorial development through decentralization. It was also said that democracy should be put in the context of governance discussions, and be guided by the countries themselves. Africa was actually governing itself better and becoming more credible, especially through the process of the African Peer Review Mechanism.

It was noted that the country focus of UNDP was on economic governance, which emphasizes the ability of states to function in a participatory and regulatory way, and the strengthening of development institutions. For example, there is a need in Africa to strengthen capacity to negotiate good contracts.

It was pointed out that while 'everybody was for democracy' there should not be double standards. The outcome of the democratic elections in Palestine and the Presidential elections in Lebanon were cited as examples where this double standard had been evident.

It was suggested that it might be useful to place the discussion in a broader as well as in a historical perspective. SG Boutros Ghali had made democracy one of his three pillars – peace, development and democracy – and advanced an approach that emphasized democracy at the national and international levels. But his 'agenda for democracy', launched near the end of his term, did not find traction in the intergovernmental process. SG Annan subsequently redefined the three pillars as peace and security, development, and human rights. It was that formulation that Member States advanced in the outcome of the 2005 World Summit. Current proposals seem to lean

towards adding democracy as a fourth pillar for the UN. The key issue is the relationship between this proposal and the rest of the UN's work.

Principals agreed to provide written comments on the draft paper on democracy. The Chair assured that he will convey their views and comments to the Secretary-General.

Democracy
Submission to the Policy Committee

RECOMMENDATIONS

i. **UN position and strategy:** The UN should adopt a proactive and norm-based position on democracy without launching a major new initiative at this stage. Core elements and assumptions regarding the UN's position are contained in the Annex and should be endorsed. They should also form the basis of an Organization-wide strategy that further defines the UN approach to supporting democracy and specific roles in this area. The strategy should clearly anchor the issue of democracy within the three pillars of the UN's work - peace and security, development and human rights.

ii. **Coherence and strategy development:** The ECPS should be designated as the coordinating mechanism for further strategy development, to ensure coherence across UN departments, funds and programmes, and regular follow-up on this issue. As initial tasks, the ECPS should identify strategic issues that require further analysis and discussion across the Organization and coordinate the further development of a UN strategy on democracy (based on the Annex) that is to be submitted to the Policy Committee in 2008.

iii. **Country-specific support:** The ECPS should also help coordinate HQ support to UNCTs and integrated missions on democracy related issues. It should provide a forum for the appropriate ECPS member to lead country-specific discussions on these issues, as well as to help ensure a consistent application of the strategy to be developed in accordance with recommendation (ii). UNCTs and integrated missions should be encouraged to share lessons learned with the ECPS.

iv. **Regional consultations:** The UN should utilize its convening role to bring interested Member States, regional organizations and experts together in a series of low-key regional consultations to explore specific challenges linked to advancing democracy, lend momentum to the democracy debate and contribute towards developing the UN's strategy. Key Member States from each of the regions may be engaged to comprise a nucleus of support to the Secretary-General in this endeavor. *(Action: DPA/Regional Commissions/UNDP)*

v. **Proactive communication:** The commitment of the Secretary-General and the Organization to democracy should be communicated clearly, consistently and proactively. Messages supporting this approach should be derived from the Annex and should be compiled in a note of guidance for senior managers following further consultations with relevant UN entities. *(Action: DPI with DPA and UNDP)*

vi. **Joint website:** Building on existing initiatives, a dedicated UN website should be created as a central repository for the UN system on democracy. The website should become an information and knowledge management tool that contains current literature, normative documents, information on lessons learned and links to databases and centres of excellence. DPA, UNDP, UNDEF and DPI should consult further on how such a website could be set up and maintained, including the required capacity and funding.

BACKGROUND

1.   Around the globe, democracy is in danger of being weakened or even discredited, despite ongoing efforts to internationalize and universalize democratic norms. There appears to be a loss of momentum, possibly even a backsliding on the issue, and it is disconcerting to note the substantial number of countries where democracy is fading, failing or even nonexistent. Some trends may contribute to these developments:

- As shown is some regional surveys, there is a perception that democracy has failed to improve peoples' lives in some parts of the world. Even countries or regions where democracy was believed to have deep roots, now witness popular discontent with the lack of economic and social development, leading to the emergence of populist and extremist politics.
- In some parts of the world, "democracy promotion" is perceived merely as a cover for political interventionism of powerful, usually Western, actors.
- There has been a rise of ideological alternatives to liberal democracy. The economic growth of recent years in countries like China and Russia, have given new strength to alternative models that have potentially wide appeal.

2.   In a meeting of the ECPS on 31 May 2007, participants agreed on the need for the UN to assume a specific position in response to the perception of a "democracy backlash". The ECPS also agreed on the need for the UN to work more cohesively in implementing activities in support of democratic developments. On 6 September 2007, at the request of the UN, the International Peace Academy (IPA) hosted an expert meeting to discuss the state of the democracy debate. The participants stressed the comparative advantage of the United Nations in the democracy field, as a global actor with high credibility and exceptional moral authority based on its universal norm-setting role that was above any political agenda. The Organization's broad reach and wealth of experience, including in post-conflict situations, was seen to offer a unique platform for democracy promotion based on comparative and shared experiences, rather than externally-imposed models.

3.   The contribution of the UN to the spread of democracy around the world has been considerable. As the Secretary-General's report *In Larger Freedom* stated: "The Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the General Assembly in 1948, enunciated the essentials of democracy. Ever since its adoption, it has inspired constitution-making in every corner of the world, and it has contributed greatly to the eventual global acceptance of democracy as a universal value." The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, ratified by 160 Members States (as of 20 July 2007), contains binding obligations on Member States in respect of elections, freedom of expression, association and assembly, and other democratic entitlements.

4.   Since 1988, the General Assembly and the former Commission on Human Rights have adopted at least one resolution annually dealing with some aspect of democracy. Democracy has emerged as a cross-cutting issue in the outcomes of the major UN Conferences and Summits since the 1990s and in the internationally agreed development goals they produced, including the MDGs. In 1996, the Secretary-General's *Agenda for Democratization* presented legal, historical, and theoretical arguments that aimed to provide a "foundation" for a UN mandate in promoting democratization, arguing that democracy at

all levels is conducive to attaining lasting peace within and among states. In 2000, in the UN Millennium Declaration, Member States reiterated that they would "spare no effort to promote democracy". In 2005, heads of State and Government stated at the World Summit that "democracy is a universal value based on the freely expressed will of people" and stressed that "democracy, development and respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms are interdependent and mutually reinforcing". The Secretary- General was requested to establish the UN Democracy Fund, as a new tool in the UN system for the promotion of democracy.

5.   The UN has also served as a forum for the development of specific initiatives, such as the International Conference on New and Restored Democracies, and has provided support to the Community of Democracies. This normative and consultative process has been matched by an increasing amount of analytical work and operational activity undertaken in the context of the three core dimensions of the UN's work - peace and security, development and human rights.

RATIONALE AND COMMENTS

Recommendation (i): UN position and strategy
6.   The Secretary General has identified the promotion of democracy as one of the priorities of his tenure[1]. To meet this commitment, the Organization needs to have a clear, Organization-wide position and strategy, drawing on the UN's moral and political authority in this area. The Organization also needs to ensure that its activities in support of democracy are consistent and effective.

7.   UN entities engaged in democracy work agree that there is currently little political space for the Organization to launch a major new initiative on the issue. Such an initiative could be misperceived as advancing the specific interests of certain Member States over those of others, a notion that would be counter-productive. To avoid this risk, the Secretary-General should anchor the issue within the three pillars of the UN's work - peace and security, development and human rights.

8.   In a series of discussions, consensus has emerged on a number of core assumptions that, if endorsed, should be reflected in an overarching strategy on democracy that is to be developed across the Organization (see Annex).

Recommendations (ii) and (iii): Coherence, strategy development, country-specific support
9.   Fragmented and sector-specific assistance has limited the Organization's ability to address the complexities of democratization processes comprehensively. The Secretary-General's report *In Larger Freedom (2005, para 151)* noted that the UN "does more than any other single organization to promote and strengthen democratic institutions and practices around the world". At the same time it stated that "the impact of our work is reduced by the way we disperse it among different parts of our bureaucracy." For the most part, democracy-related activities are pursued in their own right according to the mandates of each

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[1] Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies, Report of the Secretary-General A/62/296, para 91

organization within the UN, including DPA, EAD, DPKO, UNDP, DESA, OHCHR, UNDEF, UNIFEM, UNESCO, UNODC PBSO and others.

10.   The Secretary-General has already committed to intensifying the discussion within the UN on how to bring more coherence and consistency to the assistance it delivers in the field of democracy and how to maximize its effectiveness.[2] The Organization needs to take advantage of its ability to address challenges to democracy at a number of different levels, through a variety of different entry points, and with a long-term commitment. The ECPS mandate and membership provide an appropriate mechanism to ensure institutional coherence, including through the development of a clear organizational strategy. ECPS includes the key UN actors in each of the three pillars and regularly addresses both thematic and country-specific issues. .

11.   Regarding country-specific support, the ECPS would provide the forum for the appropriate UN entities to lead discussions on democracy related issues. The appropriate entity would be the main support department or agency for the country concerned (e.g., DPKO in the case of countries with integrated peacekeeping missions) and be responsible for leading the preparation and follow-up.

Recommendation (iv): Regional Consultations
12.   To counter the loss of momentum for democratization, the UN should capitalize on its convening power and host regional consultations on the issue. Such consultations would create political space to explore issues and challenges to democracy in a regional-specific and culturally-sensitive context. This would position the UN as a link between different regional experiences and the universal value of democracy. Unhelpful generalizations that tend to harm the democracy debate around the world would be avoided with this approach.

13.   In developing this idea further, the Organization could draw on a variety of experiences in convening regional expert group meetings. Examples in the UN system include the work done at the regional level in preparation for the regional Human Development Reports (the Arab Human Development Report and the 2002 Report on Democracy in Latin America are salient examples) and meetings held under the auspices of the Conference on New and Restored Democracies. A multitude of other regional fora exist which deal with democracy related issues, including those organized by the Regional Commissions and UNDP. Meetings have also been organized under the leadership of regional organizations such as the OAS and AU, which have specific charters on democracy. A series of region-focused meetings should build on the momentum of these initiatives and should be undertaken in collaboration with relevant regional organizations. Member States that have successfully pursued or are pursuing democratic forms of government should be actively engaged, ensuring a strong and diverse body of support for the Secretary-General's efforts in this field.

Recommendation (v): Proactive communication
14.   An Organization-wide strategy on democracy should include a strong communication component and enhance the outreach of the Organization. In order to make the manifold

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[2] Ibid., para 91

activities of the United Nations in this field known more widely, the issue of democracy should be incorporated systematically into speeches and statements of the Secretary-General and senior officials, as appropriate. Based on the Annex, messages should be formulated for dissemination among all senior UN officials for their disposal in interactions with Member States, civil society, and the media. Linkages with other themes and communication initiatives should also be explored, e.g. between democracy and climate change, peacebuilding efforts or the MDGs.

Recommendation (vi): Joint website

15.   Democracy promotion is a crowded and increasingly complex field, in which the UN is an important player. Even where the UN is not in the lead, it should advance its crucial role as standard-setter and a provider of technical expertise. The establishment of a dedicated UN website as knowledge sharing tool on democracy would enable the UN to offer more systematic support to the UN system and to better fulfill its potential to support partners outside the UN, including governments, regional and sub-regional organizations and NGOs. Such a site would complement a number of well-known websites dedicated to sharing information on democracy, including those managed by UNDP (Democratic Governance), IDEA, and others. It could contain a compilation of all existing international, UN-endorsed definitions and statements on democracy, outcomes of democracy related events and lessons learned as well as links to other websites and processes that are related to democracy. Further discussions will be needed on the capacity and resources that will be required to set up and maintain the website. UNDEF has also suggested that a "Secretary-General's Democracy Newsletter" be considered as a more proactive way of reaching a wide audience than a website.

CONSULTATIONS

16.   Initial inputs for this submission were provided by the ECPS meeting of 31 May 2007. Additional meetings and consultations took place with UNDP, OHCHR, UNIFEM, DESA, DPKO, DPA, EOSG, UNODC, UNESCO and UNDEF, and the draft submission was shared with all Policy Committee members.

Towards a UN Strategy on Democracy: Core Elements and Assumptions

Elements of UN position

- Democracy is the best means for giving people a chance to participate in decisions that affect their lives. This includes decisions and policies about development and the allocation of resources in a society. Democracy also facilitates equitable social and economic development.

- A democratic system provides the legal and institutional guarantees for the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms. Democracy can also contribute to improved forms of conflict management, as well as expand opportunities for the participation and engagement of civil society actors.

- Good governance is a core element of a democratic system but is not synonymous to democracy.

- There is no "one size fits all" approach or single model of democracy, and it is essential that each State decide and own the form, pace and character of its democratization process. Thus, the UN should refrain from attempting a universal definition of democracy.

- Challenges to democracy are by no means exclusive to developing countries. There are democracy deficits in countries that are most often considered as advanced democracies.

Elements of UN strategy and role

- The UN should use its existing normative framework as a basis to support democracy and identify it as a universal value with international legitimacy. The UN's activities in the democracy area should be anchored within the three pillars of the UN's work - peace and security, development and human rights.

- The UN's strategy for support to democracy should have global, regional and country-specific dimensions. While the Organization should not launch any major new democracy related initiative at this time, the UN should make maximum use of its moral authority and convening power to engage Member States on the issue of democracy.

- It is often in post-conflict environments where the UN has the most influence over democratization efforts, particularly in the context of integrated missions.

- Processes of democratization take time and are not linear. A variety of factors influence the building of democratic institutions, participatory processes and a democratic culture in a given country (e.g. history, cultural context, diverse actors, etc.). They defy a formulaic approach and require that support is highly contextual and provided over a long-term basis, in accordance with democratic norms and values that are common across all democracies.