



Democracy Without Borders (DWB)

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Chapeau

Notes and recommendations

We recommend that the chapeau includes a renewed **commitment to democracy and human rights** as an overarching and cross-cutting theme of the outcome document. Language in this regard can be based on or taken from previous General Assembly resolutions. In particular, this ties in with commitment 10 of the Declaration on the commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations (A/75/L.1).

Proposed language

We reaffirm the significance of promoting respect for democracy and human rights as a fundamental component of fostering transparent, accountable, and responsive governance at all levels.¹

We reaffirm that democracy is a universal value based on the freely expressed will of the people.²

We underscore our collective commitment to the realization of the human rights of all and inclusive, participatory, and democratic societies.

Chapter V. Transforming global governance

Notes and recommendations

We recommend that the chapter on transforming global governance first identifies important guiding principles in this field. The goal of **implementing an equitable and democratic international order**, as continuously promoted by the General Assembly, is a principle to be referenced and included. The General Assembly has expressed its view that such an order enhances the capability of states to address global challenges which underscores its relevance. The General Assembly also expressed its view that this entails a right to participation in global decision-making beyond states (“everyone”). This connects to the item of revitalization of the General Assembly which the chapter is to elaborate on. Making the assembly’s work more accessible and inclusive is a way to enable such participation and revitalize the assembly.

With regard specifically to **revitalization of the General Assembly**, we recommend that the document includes general commitments to the establishment of a) a **UN parliamentary body**, and the mechanisms of b) **citizens’ initiative** and c) **global citizens’ assembly**. Further, we recommend that d) the office of a high-level **UN civil society envoy** be established in order to strengthen system-wide interaction with civil society.

¹ Cf. para. 10, res. A/75/L.1 (21 Sept. 2020). See also SDG 16.

² Cf. no. 5, res. A/RES/77/215 (12 Dec. 2022).

Regarding a), DWB has published a study on the underlying proposal of a UN Parliamentary Assembly to be consulted for detailed recommendations.³ The long-standing proposal enjoys strong support among civil society, experts and individual parliamentarians.⁴ a), b) and d) are demands of the “We The Peoples” campaign for inclusive global governance that is endorsed by +200 civil society groups and networks⁵ as well as the Interim People’s Pact for the Future developed and published by the Coalition for the UN We Need.⁶ Most recently, the proposals were endorsed in a report of the Climate Governance Commission.⁷ a) and b) were referenced as proposals most frequently mentioned in the UN75 consultations in 2020 in the field of UN renewal.⁸ Regarding c), a self-organized Global Citizens’ Assembly on climate in 2021 was endorsed by the Secretary-General.⁹

None of the proposals requires Charter amendments. We recommend that the chapter mandates **open and inclusive consultations** on the commitments it includes.

Finally, in line with the Interim People’s Pact mentioned before, we recommend that the document includes a reference to the need of **reviewing the UN Charter** in a next step of upgrading the United Nations.

Proposed language

We recognize that a transformation of global governance is required to deliver the future we want.¹⁰

We note that upgrading the United Nations and a reform of its three principal organs needs to enhance the realization of a democratic and equitable international order.

We recognize that a democratic and equitable international order strengthens the capacities of all countries and the United Nations to respond to global challenges.¹¹

We reaffirm that everyone is entitled to a democratic and equitable international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights can be fully realized.¹²

We underscore that a democratic and equitable international order needs to be based on the right to equitable participation of all in global decision-making and commit to implement this right.¹³

We recognize that implementing this right will bring the United Nations and its principal bodies closer to “We The Peoples” in whose name the United Nations Charter was proclaimed.

We note that the General Assembly¹⁴ is a center of global decision-making and commit to revitalize the assembly by strengthening its inclusive and deliberative character.

³ A United Nations Parliamentary Assembly: A Policy Review of Democracy Without Border, 2020. (www.democracywithoutborders.org/files/DWB_UNPA_Policy_Review.pdf).

⁴ See also unpacampaign.org.

⁵ See wethepeoples.org.

⁶ Coalition for the UN We Need. Interim People’s Pact for the Future. 2023 Civil Society Perspectives on the Summit of the Future, May 2023. (c4unwn.org).

⁷ Climate Governance Commission. Governing Our Planetary Emergency, November 2023. (www.stimson.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Governing-Our-Planetary-Emergency-Report_WEB.pdf), pp. 57-8.

⁸ United Nations. Shaping Our Future Together: Listening to People’s Priorities for the Future and Their Ideas for Action. Concluding Report of the UN75 Office, January 2021. (un75.online/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/UN75_final_report_ShapingOurFutureTogether2.pdf).

⁹ Cf. Global Assembly Team. Report of the 2021 Global Assembly on the Climate and Ecological Crisis, November 2022. (globalassembly.org).

¹⁰ Cf. para. 1, res. A/75/L.1 (21 Sept. 2020).

¹¹ Cf. p. 3, res. A/RES/77/215 (12 Dec. 2022).

¹² Cf: Art. 28, res. 217 A (III) (10 Dec. 1948) and no. 1, res. A/RES/77/215 (12 Dec. 2022).

¹³ Cf. no. 6 (h), res. A/RES/77/215 (12 Dec. 2022).

¹⁴ Cf. para. 14, res. A/75/L.1 (21 Sept. 2020).

We commit to establishing a subsidiary consultative parliamentary body of the General Assembly that includes elected representatives from Member States.

We commit to creating the mechanism of citizens' initiative that allows groups of individuals from across Member States to put forward proposals for consideration by the General Assembly.

We commit to establishing the mechanism of citizens' assembly that gathers randomly selected individuals to seek recommendations on matters of global concern.

We encourage the Secretary-General to establish, in consultation with Member States and the General Assembly, the office of civil society envoy as a focal point that helps coordinate, facilitate and strengthen the organization's interaction with non-governmental organizations.

We commit to open and inclusive consultations with experts and relevant stakeholders in pursuing these goals.

We affirm our commitment to continued work on upgrading the United Nations and will initiate inclusive and open consultations on a preparatory process for convening a conference for the purpose of reviewing the United Nations Charter.