

**STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL STEERING
COMMITTEE FROM AFRICA, ASIA, EUROPE, the MIDDLE EAST/NORTH
AFRICA, and the AMERICAS**

Of the

**COMMUNITY OF DEMOCRACIES NON-GOVERNMENTAL PROCESS ON
INVITATIONS TO THE FOURTH COMMUNITY OF DEMOCRACIES
MINISTERIAL MEETING in BAMKO, MALI, 14-17 NOVEMBER 2007**

We, the undersigned, members of The International Steering Committee for the Community of Democracies Non-governmental Process (ISC) strongly support a credible and transparent process for the invitation of governments to the Fourth Community of Democracies Ministerial Meeting in Bamako in November, 2007. To that end, we welcome the careful research and analysis performed by the International Advisory Committee for the Community of Democracies Invitations Process (IAC), an independent body of renowned experts who have made recommendations to the Community of Democracies' Convening Group regarding which governments meet the Community's official Criteria for Participation. We also appreciate the IAC's ongoing consultation with civil society from around the world aimed at ensuring a balanced and objective process and outcome.

We urge the Convening Group to endorse the recommendations of the International Advisory Committee as it considers which governments to invite as participants and

observers to the Bamako meeting. We also urge the Convening Group to raise with governments that do not meet or are at risk of not meeting the Criteria for Participation their collective concerns about recent developments and suggest specific measures those governments should take to respect basic principles of democracy and human rights.

We urge the Convening Group to give full attention to the qualifications of all countries identified or requiring further investigation prior to invitation.

Sincerely,

Paul Graham, *Chair, International Steering Committee (ISC),
South Africa, IDASA*

Richard C. Rowson, *ISC Secretariat
USA, Council for a Community of Democracies*

Soon Juan Chee, *Singapore, Alliance for Reform and Democracy in Asia*

Yuri Dzhibladze, *Russia, Centre for the Development of Democracy and Human Rights*

Mort Halperin, *USA, Open Society Institute*

Oumar Makalou, *Mali, Executive Secretariat of the Non-Governmental Process of the
CD*

Matteo Mecacci, *Italy, Transnational Radical Party*

Yousry Moustapha, *Egypt, Coordinator of the Arab Human Rights Fund*

Andrea Sanhueza, *Chile, PARTICIPA*

Vo Van Ai, *Vietnam/France, Vietnam Committee of Human Rights*

Dieudonne Zognong, *Cameroon, African Democracy Forum*

28 March 2007