

Chair's Press Communiqué

DEMOCRACY CAUCUS MEETINGS
OF THE COMMUNITY OF DEMOCRACIES

New York, November 8, 2004
(59th session of the United Nations General Assembly)

1. In accordance with the agreement reached by Permanent Representatives at a meeting held on October 25, 2004, the Democracy Caucus met for the first time in the United Nations, on November 1, 2004 at the expert level, and on November 8, 2004, at Deputy-Permanent Representative level, coinciding with the 59th session of the United Nations General Assembly.
2. The convening of these meetings was in response to the mandates given by the Ministerial Conferences of the Community of Democracies of Warsaw and Seoul regarding the formation of a Democracy Caucus, within the United Nations, to support resolutions and other international activities aimed at the promotion of democracy. Those mandates were subsequently reaffirmed by the Community of Democracies Convening's Group Ministerial Meeting and the Ministerial Meeting of the Community of Democracies, held in New York on September 26, 2003 and September 22, 2004, respectively.
3. The meetings of the Democracy Caucus heard presentations by the authors of four resolutions submitted to the General Assembly, namely:
 - "Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment" (Denmark);
 - "Promotion of cooperation among religions" (the Philippines);
 - "Enhancing the role of regional, subregional and other organizations and arrangements in promoting and consolidating democracy" (Romania, United States, Peru and Timor-Leste); and
 - "Improvement of the status of women in the United Nations system" (Australia).
4. At the meeting held on November 8, 2004 the Democracy Caucus agreed to recommend that participants of the Community of Democracies give positive consideration to those draft resolutions.