



**DEMOCRACY
COALITION
PROJECT**

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NEW SURVEY RATES 40 COUNTRIES ON PRO-DEMOCRACY POLICIES

Washington, Oct. 31, 2002 – The first-ever survey assessing how democratic governments pursue a democratic foreign policy concludes that governments are doing a better job of promoting democracy beyond their borders, but still put other interests first when dealing with dictatorships or responding to violations of democratic rights.

Defending Democracy: A Global Survey of Foreign Policy Trends 1992-2002, released today, grades 40 countries on implementation of their pledges to protect and promote democracy, based on their response to such events as General Musharaff's coup in Pakistan, flawed elections in Zimbabwe earlier this year, and the attempted ouster of Venezuelan President Chavez in April. Each surveyed state is given a "defending democracy" rating ranging from very good to poor.

Morton H. Halperin, President of the Democracy Coalition Project, described the findings as "clear evidence that promoting democracy is not only the right thing to do, but the smart thing to do. The report makes a compelling case that the United States and its allies must do much more to build coalitions of like-minded states to promote and defend democracy."

The survey found that, while the gap between rhetoric and reality is closing, promoting democracy is not yet a central element of the foreign policy of the world's democracies. When the defense of democratic norms clashed with economic, military or other national interests, surveyed states chose to diminish their support to democratic forces.

The survey also found a strong direct correlation between a country's internal democratic development and its support for democracy abroad – the stronger a country's record on protecting democracy and human rights at home, the more likely its government defends democracy and human rights abroad.

It concludes that the world's democracies have a vital stake in promoting democracy beyond their borders and should do much more to enforce democratic standards already adopted.

The survey authors rated 19 of the 40 states (47%) as either "good" or "very good" promoters of democracy abroad, while 15 states (38%) were given a grade of "fair" and six a grade of "poor." The United States, along with Germany and the United Kingdom, were among those receiving a "good" rating. Only Canada, Netherlands and Sweden received the "very good" rating.

The survey noted that, while the United States increased both its resources and rhetoric on democracy in the 1990s, "it has lost some of its moral leadership by expressing support for preferred candidates in close elections and by pursuing anti-terrorism strategies at home and abroad that have emboldened authoritarian leaders intent on suppressing internal dissent, thereby undermining fragile democratic processes."

In general, more established democracies scored higher, although a number of newer democracies also earned a score of "good," including Ghana, Chile, Poland and the Republic of Korea. Leading democracies such as Japan, France and South Africa, however, earned only a rating of "fair." Those with the poorest "defending democracy" records – Georgia, Indonesia, Jordan, Kenya, Morocco, and Russia -- were also those with the lowest levels of internal democratic development.

In June 2000, Foreign Ministers from more than 100 countries met in Warsaw as the Community of Democracies and declared their intention to "work together to promote and strengthen democracy." They will meet again on November 10-12, 2002 in Seoul, Korea to adopt a plan of action on promoting democracy. The survey assesses whether 40 of those countries are fulfilling their pledge. It was conducted by the Democracy Coalition Project, an independent nongovernmental organization, and funded by the Open Society Institute.

The full text of the survey and information about the conference in Seoul are available on the Democracy Coalition Project's website, www.demcoalition.org, or by contacting its offices at 1120 19th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036; tel. 202-721-5630; fax 202-721-5658.