

Community of Democracies
Invitations Process



International Advisory Committee (IAC)

Statement and Recommendations on Government Invitations

March 2009



“Invitations to participate [in the Community of Democracies] will be issued to genuine democracies and those countries undergoing democratic consolidation, in accordance with the established criteria.”

*Community of Democracies Criteria for Participation and Procedures
Seoul, September 2002*

The Community of Democracies, a global association of states committed to upholding and defending democratic principles and practices, has adopted a novel approach to selecting which governments adhere to its core values and therefore merit invitation. For each biennial ministerial meeting, its Convening Group of 17 states that serve as the body's agenda-setting committee evaluates which states meet the official criteria for participation based on international norms of democracy and human rights, including the Community's founding Warsaw Declaration of June 2000. Those states which fulfill the criteria are invited as full participants to the meeting; governments that do not meet the criteria but "are in a transition process and have given concrete steps" toward fulfillment of the criteria may be invited as observers.

The value of such an approach is three-fold: first, it holds all states to the same universal standards of democracy and human rights; second, by requiring a regular review, it acknowledges that democracy is not an end-state but a process in which states may advance on or fall away from the path of democracy; and third, it offers the incentive of membership to governments pursuing genuine progress on democratic reforms. In practice, however, such a task is undoubtedly complicated by competing political, economic and security interests.

To be credible, the Community of Democracies Invitations Process demands objective analysis of a broad cross-section of information by independent experts. For this purpose, an international blue-ribbon panel of prominent figures was composed from politics, diplomacy, academia, media and civil society, all of whom are independent figures known for their commitment to democracy and human rights around the world. This International Advisory Committee (IAC) was created prior to the Community of Democracies IV Ministerial held in Bamako in November 2007 and made

recommendations¹ to the Convening Group as to which governments should be invited as participants, which as observers and which states should not be invited.

The Convening Group gave careful attention to the recommendations of the IAC in making its decisions about particular states. The Ministerial Consensus document² adopted at Bamako welcomed the role of the IAC and sought its continuing guidance:

We welcome the engagement of civil society in the Community of Democracies and commend the efforts of the International Advisory Committee (IAC) for its input to the invitation process. We commit to engaging the IAC to further strengthen the Community of Democracies.

The government of Portugal, the current chair of the Convening Group, asked the IAC late last year to provide recommendations on an urgent basis for the next Ministerial meeting to be held in Lisbon in July 2009. Although it was concerned that there was not sufficient time nor the resources to perform the full review that had been done for the Bamako ministerial, the IAC felt an obligation to respond affirmatively to this request.

Supported by a Secretariat convened by the Democracy Coalition Project and including the Bertelsmann Stiftung in Germany, and Freedom House in the United States, the Members of the International Advisory Committee for the Community of Democracies Invitations Process dedicated their personal time to evaluate the state of democracy in the world. Because of the short time available the IAC decided to focus only on the 34 countries in which the trend toward respect for democracy and human rights appeared to have changed significantly as compared to two years ago when the IAC made its original recommendations. For all other countries the IAC reaffirms the recommendations made in its first report.

¹ To access the IAC recommendations for Bamako in 2007, please see: <http://www.demcoalition.org/site09-2008/pdf/IAC%20Brochure.pdf>

² To access the Ministerial Consensus Document adopted at Bamako, please see: <http://www.demcoalition.org/site09-2008/pdf/CONSENSUS%20OF%20BAMAKO%20FINAL.pdf>



The result is the Committee's statement, which makes recommendations on invitations to the next Community of Democracies Ministerial Meeting to be hosted by Portugal. The short papers³ that were prepared by the Secretariat for the 34 countries that we reviewed can be accessed on the Democracy Coalition Project's website.

The Secretariat and the IAC regret that there was neither the time nor the resources to do a full report as was done for the previous Ministerial. We look forward to continuing this effort for future meetings in more favorable circumstances. Nonetheless, we trust that this report will be of value to the Convening Group in making its decisions on invitations to the Lisbon Ministerial.

Our hope, in producing these materials, is that a process of serious reflection on the quality of democracy and human rights can move forward and that governments adopt reforms so that some day all nations of the world may be welcomed into the Community of Democracies.

Morton H. Halperin

President

Democracy Coalition Project

March 2009

³ To access the short papers that were prepared by the Secretariat for the 34 countries reviewed, please see: http://demcoalition.org/site09-2008/2005_html/commu_cdm09.html

The International Advisory Committee for the Community of Democracies Invitations Process was established in 2006 for the purpose of assessing the quality of democracy in countries participating in or aspiring to participate in the Community of Democracies, a global association of governments dedicated to strengthening democracy around the world. The Committee's specific task was to evaluate the fulfillment by governments of their commitments to respect fundamental principles of democracy and human rights in accordance with the Criteria for Participation adopted by governments at previous Ministerial Meetings. Based on our assessments, we made recommendations to the 16 members of the Convening Group⁴ of the Community of Democracies regarding invitations to its Fourth Ministerial Meeting to be held in Bamako, Mali, in November 2007. Upon the invitation of the Portuguese government, which is the current chair of the Community of Democracies, we hereby make recommendations regarding invitations to the Fifth Ministerial Meeting to be held in Lisbon, Portugal in July 2009.

We welcome the ongoing dialogue between representatives of this Committee and senior officials from the Community of Democracies Convening Group governments. We appreciate the Ministerial and Convening Group's recognition of the value of objective, independent research and analysis and its appreciation for the importance of establishing a credible and transparent process for determining participation in the Community of Democracies. We also appreciate the Convening Group's decision to welcome this initiative and to use our report in its deliberations regarding invitation to the Lisbon Ministerial meeting.

In preparing our recommendations, the Committee relied on a variety of available information collected and analyzed by a Secretariat composed of three organizations – the Bertelsmann Stiftung, the Democracy Coalition Project, and Freedom House. We also relied on our own personal knowledge and

Statement on Government Invitations to the V Community of Democracies Ministerial Meeting, Lisbon

sources gained from years of experience in politics, human rights and research. Based on these inputs, we have reached consensus on the following set of recommendations regarding invitations to the Fifth Ministerial Meeting of the Community of Democracies. Because of the serious limits of time and the lack of resources we were only able to conduct a new review of 34 countries where we determined, with support of the Secretariat, that there might have been significant improvement or deterioration of the situation since we prepared our first report two years ago. Brief papers⁵ on each of those countries, prepared by the Secretariat, can be accessed on the Democracy Coalition Project's website. For all other countries we reaffirm our previous recommendations.

The Community of Democracies represents an innovative and important contribution to one of the most positive trends over the last several decades – the growing number of societies from every region of the world governed by their citizens in accordance with the rule of law.

We believe that the value of the Community of Democracies rests to a great extent on the character of its membership. Governments which themselves practice the fundamental principles of democratic governance – transparency, accountability, respect for human rights and the rule of law – are naturally

March 5, 2009

⁴ The members of the Convening Group are: Cape Verde, Chile, Czech Republic, El Salvador, India, Italy, Mali, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, South Africa, and the United States. Lithuania became a member of the Convening Group in 2008.

⁵ http://demcoalition.org/site09-2008/2005_html/commu_cdm09.html

inclined to respect and defend these values in their international relations. The over one hundred governments which have endorsed the Community of Democracies commitments have recognized this by establishing specific standards for inviting to its ministerial meetings “only those countries where constitutional rule and democratic practices exist.”⁶ In elaborating this norm, the participating governments have promulgated a comprehensive definition of democracy well-founded in the major principles of international law and standards codified in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international instruments. It is this set of universal standards, as set forth in the Community of Democracies official Criteria for Participation and the Warsaw Declaration, which this Committee has applied when assessing whether a government merits an invitation to the Lisbon Ministerial in 2009.

While the Committee sought to uphold these standards rigorously, we are also mindful of the Community of Democracies’ desire to keep the door open to those countries which have not yet met the criteria for participation. For this purpose, the Convening Group has created an “observer” status for those governments that “fail to meet international standards of democracy and human rights, but are in a transition process and have given concrete steps along the lines of the Criteria”.⁷

In evaluating which governments meet the official criteria for participation, we have strictly followed the criteria itself. In order to be invited to each ministerial meeting, a government must meet the standards for democracy and human rights that the governments have set for themselves in the key official documents and declarations of the Community of Democracies process; if they do not, according to the same criteria, they must demonstrate they are making progress in that direction to be invited as an observer. If neither test is met, then they should not be invited.

We believe that every society is capable of attaining the comprehensive standards established by the Community of Democracies. As the Community of Democracies is a privileged intergovernmental forum for the defense and promotion of democracy, however, we focused in particular on a government’s demonstration of political will to continue or advance a democratic transition process. This approach allowed us to take into account differing levels of democratic development while upholding the basic aim of the invitations process.

There is no such thing as a perfect democratic society and no one model of democratic government. We do believe, however, that there are minimal standards and practices that constitute democracy and that citizens and their freely elected political leaders have an ongoing obligation to deepen and strengthen democracy regardless of a country’s level of economic or social development.

We urge the members of the Community of Democracies Convening Group, when communicating to certain governments the results of the invitations process, to convey a common message of concern regarding actions taken that undermine or violate respect for democracy and human rights and measures to address them. A collective approach would leave little doubt of the international community’s support for the millions of people who yearn to live in free and open societies but are blocked by rulers unprepared to share power, tolerate dissent or abide by the law. The committee believes that if the following countries are invited to be present at Lisbon, either as participants or as observers, that the Convening Group convey in a letter to the government concerns about backsliding in its adherence to the criteria for participation: **Burundi, Colombia, Georgia, Kenya, Lebanon, and Moldova.** We ask that such a process be as transparent as possible to allow a full and open discussion by all interested actors of the democratic deficits demanding attention.

⁶ The Community of Democracies 2005 Santiago Ministerial Commitment, April 30, 2005, Section VI, p. 12.

⁷ Community of Democracies Criteria for Participation, September 27, 2002.

Country Specific Recommendations⁸

Governments to be invited as Participants to the V Ministerial meeting of the Community of Democracies

Albania	Ecuador*	Luxembourg	St. Kitts & Nevis
Andorra	Estonia	Macedonia	Saint Lucia
Antigua and Barbuda	Finland	Madagascar	St. Vincent & Grenadines
Argentina	France	Malawi *	Samoa
Australia	Georgia^c	Malta	San Marino
Austria	Germany	Marshall Islands	Sao Tome Principe
Bahamas	Ghana	Mauritius	Senegal
Barbados	Greece	Micronesia	Serbia
Belgium	Grenada	Moldova *^c	Seychelles
Belize	Guatemala	Monaco	Slovakia
Benin	Guyana	Montenegro	Slovenia
Bolivia	Honduras	Mozambique	Spain
Bosnia-Herzegovina	Hungary	Namibia	Suriname
Botswana	Iceland	Nauru	Sweden
Brazil	Indonesia	Netherlands	Switzerland
Bulgaria	Ireland	New Zealand	Tanzania
Canada	Israel	Niger	Timor-Leste
Colombia *^c	Jamaica	Norway	Trinidad & Tobago
Costa Rica	Japan	Palau	Turkey
Croatia	Kiribati	Panama	Tuvalu
Cyprus	Latvia	Papua New Guinea	Ukraine
Denmark	Lebanon *^c	Paraguay	United Kingdom
Dominica	Lesotho	Peru	Uruguay
Dominican Republic	Liechtenstein	Romania	Vanuatu

Governments that should be invited as Observers to the V Ministerial meeting of the Community of Democracies

Bangladesh	Kenya^c	Maldives	Thailand
Bhutan	Kuwait	Nepal	Yemen
Burundi^c	Liberia	Pakistan	Zambia
Haiti	Malaysia	Sierra Leone	

⁸ Due to short time limits, the Committee was only able to review anew those countries listed in bold. Reports for those countries can be accessed at http://demcoalition.org/site/09-2008/2005_html/commu_cdm09.html.

* Countries which deserve close monitoring in the coming months to allow further examination of an evolving political situation (e.g., the conduct of elections, constitutional reform, trends in human rights, etc.)

^c Countries which deserve a letter of concern from the Convening Group to the government about backsliding in its adherence to the participation criteria.

Governments that should not be invited to the V Ministerial meeting of the Community of Democracies⁹

Afghanistan	Cuba	Kyrgyzstan	Sudan
Algeria	Democratic Republic of Congo	Laos	Swaziland
Angola	Djibouti	Libya	Syria
Armenia	Egypt	Mauritania	Tajikistan
Azerbaijan	Equatorial Guinea	Myanmar (Burma)	Togo
Bahrain	Eritrea	Nicaragua	Tunisia
Belarus	Ethiopia	Nigeria	Turkmenistan
Brunei	Fiji	North Korea	Uganda
Burkina Faso	Gabon	Oman	United Arab Emirates
Cambodia	The Gambia	Qatar	Uzbekistan
Cameroon	Guinea	Russia	Venezuela
Central African Rep.	Guinea Bissau	Rwanda	Vietnam
Chad	Iran	Saudi Arabia	Zimbabwe
China	Iraq	Singapore	
Congo Brazzaville	Jordan	Somalia	
Côte d'Ivoire	Kazakhstan	Sri Lanka	

Members of the Community of Democracies Convening Group¹⁰

Cape Verde	Italy	Morocco	South Korea
Chile	Lithuania	Philippines	United States
Czech Republic	Mali	Poland	
El Salvador	Mexico	Portugal	
India	Mongolia	South Africa	

⁹ Due to short time limits, the Committee was only able to review anew those countries listed in bold. Reports for those countries can be accessed at http://demcoalition.org/site/09-2008/2005_html/commu_cdm09.html.

¹⁰ Since the Convening Group governments will be responsible for issuing the invitations to the CD Ministerial, the IAC does not submit any specific recommendation on them.

Members of the International Advisory Committee

Genaro Arriagada

Former Minister of the Presidency
Chile

César Gaviria

Former President of the Republic
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Republic of Korea

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Former President of the Republic
Cape Verde

Nadezhda Mihaylova

Member of Parliament
Bulgaria

Mark Palmer

Board Member, Freedom House
United States of America

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Genaro Arriagada

Genaro Arriagada served as the Chilean Ambassador to the United States (1998-99) and as Minister of the Presidency (1994-96). Today he is member of the Steering Committee of the World Movement for Democracy, board member of Banco del Estado de Chile, and Editor of www.asuntospublicos.org, a think tank devoted to the study of public policies. He served as national director of the “No” campaign that defeated Gen. Pinochet’s plebiscite in 1988 and later directed the presidential campaigns of Presidents Eduardo Frei and Ricardo Lagos. In 1988, he received the Averell Harriman Democracy Award, conferred by the National Democratic Institute of International Affairs, for those who have internationally excelled in their services to the cause of democracy. An author, Mr. Arriagada has published several books, articles and columns on political, social, and economic issues. As a fellow at the Woodrow Wilson Center and Harvard University’s John F. Kennedy School of Government, Mr. Arriagada has lectured at several universities throughout the US.

E. Gyimah Boadi

Professor E. Gyimah-Boadi is the Executive Director of the Ghana Center for Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana), a research think-tank for democratic development in Ghana and the West Africa sub-region and co-director of the Afrobarometer (a survey project tracking public opinion on democratic and market reforms in 18 African countries). Mr. Gyimah-Boadi is also a professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of Ghana and a member of the Research Council of the International Forum for Democratic Studies, the Editorial Board of the Journal of Democracy, and the Governing Council of the Ghana chapter of Transparency International. Prof. Gyimah-Boadi has taught at various institutions, including Dartmouth College, American University and the School of Advanced International Studies at the Johns Hopkins University. A visiting fellow at the Woodrow Wilson Center and the National Endowment for Democracy, Prof. Gyimah-Boadi has consulted in the past for the African Development Bank, the World Bank, USAID, UNDP, the Overseas Development Council, OECD, Africa Leadership Forum, and the Global Coalition for Africa.

César Gaviria

H.E. Cesar Gaviria is the former President of Colombia (1990-1994) and former Secretary General of the Organization of American States (1994-2004). He is the current head of the Colombia Liberal Party, and a founder of Hemispheric Partners, an international business advisory firm located in New York. President Gaviria was first elected to the Colombian Congress in 1974, and rose to the top position in the House in 1983. He also served as Minister of Finance and Minister of the Interior in the second half of the 1980s. During his presidency, Colombia adopted a new constitution and advanced in the peace process with the guerilla. While heading the OAS, President Gaviria was an active mediator in the Venezuelan political crisis, and initiated important institutional changes that gave a new vigor to the inter-American agenda. A recipient of many international awards, President Gaviria is the author of numerous books and articles on Colombia and Latin America.

Morton H. Halperin

Dr. Morton H. Halperin is President of the Democracy Coalition Project. He is also a Senior Fellow at the Center for American Progress. Dr. Halperin served in the federal government in the Clinton, Nixon and Johnson administrations. From December 1998 to January 2001 he was Director of the Policy Planning Staff at the Department of State. He served as Director of the Center for National Security Studies from 1975 to 1992, focusing on issues affecting both civil liberties and national security, such as the proper role of intelligence agencies and government secrecy. From 1984 to 1992, he was also the Director of the Washington Office of the ACLU, with responsibility for the ACLU's national legislative program as well as the activities of the ACLU Foundation based in the Washington Office. Dr. Halperin has authored, coauthored and edited more than a dozen books - including *Bureaucratic Politics and Foreign Policy*, *Democracy Advantage*, and *Protecting Democracy* - and articles on subjects including civil liberties and American foreign policy. He has testified often before congressional committees. Dr. Halperin is a member of the boards and Chair of the Executive Committees for both ONE and ONE Action, and a member of the boards of The Constitution Project, the Center of Democracy and Technology and the Council for a Community of Democracies. He is Chair of the Advisory Board of the Center for National Security Studies.

Josef Janning

Prof. Josef Janning is Senior Director at the Bertelsmann Stiftung in Germany. He has been a driving force behind the Bertelsmann Transformation Index, one of the world's leading studies on the state of democracy and market economies worldwide. Prof. Janning has taught at the University of Mainz, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and University of Munich. He is a member and chairman of various study groups on European affairs, East-West and Mediterranean issues and transatlantic relations. He has advised the German government on European Affairs, and is a regular contributor to German and international newspapers and journals on various international relations issues.

Hong-Koo Lee

H.E. Hong-Koo Lee is the former Prime Minister of South Korea (1994-1995) and Chairman of the Board of the Seoul Forum for International Affairs and the East Asian Institute. Mr. Lee has had a distinguished teaching career at Emory University, Case Western Reserve University and Seoul National University. He was President of the Korean Political Science Association from 1986 to 1988, and member of the executive committee of the International Political Science Association. He was also a fellow at Woodrow Wilson International Center and Harvard Law School. Before being elected Prime Minister of South Korea, Mr. Lee was Minister of National Unification (promoting the dialogue between the two divided Korean states), South Korean Ambassador to the United Kingdom, and member of the Commission of Global Governance. After leaving office, he was a member of the Korean National Assembly, Chairman of the New Korea Party, and Ambassador to the United States from 1998 to 2000. Mr Lee was the Chairman of the Korean and Japanese 2002 World Cup Bidding Committee.

Antonio Mascarenhas Monteiro

H.E. Antonio Manuel Mascarenhas Monteiro served as the first democratically elected President of Cape Verde in 1991 and was reelected for a second mandate in 1996. After leaving office, Mr. Mascarenhas Monteiro was Chairman of the OAU Contact Group sent to Madagascar to mediate conflict following presidential elections in March 2002. In October 2003, he became member of the Club of Madrid and during the following year, Mr. Mascarenhas Monteiro was designated special envoy by the International Organization of the Francophonie (OIF) to Haiti, following the resignation of President Jean Bertrande Aristide. In February 2005, he led an OIF good-will delegation to Togo after President Eyadema's death and subsequent decision of the Togolese Armed Forces to replace the President with his son, Mr. Faure Gnassingbabe. Currently a member of the Africa Forum and Global Leadership Foundation, Mr. Mascarenhas Monteiro has widely published on African politics and democratization.

Nadezhda Mihailova

H.E. Nadezhda Mihailova is currently Deputy Speaker of the Bulgarian Parliament and a former Minister of Foreign Affairs. From 1999-2006, Mrs. Mihaylova served as Vice President of the European People's Party. After working as a free-lance journalist during the Communist dictatorship in Bulgaria, Ms. Mihailova entered politics in the early 1990s, serving as the spokeswoman for the government of Philip Dimitrov and Chief of the Press Centre. As an MP in the 37th, 39th, and 40th National Assemblies, she was a member of the Parliamentary Foreign Policy Commission and of the Bulgarian delegation to the Council of Europe. She was appointed Deputy Chairperson of the Union of Democratic Forces in 1995 and re-elected in 1997. On May 21, 1997, she was appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs in Ivan Kostov's cabinet and has served as head of the Union of Democratic Forces, a party in the opposition.

Mark Palmer

Ambassador Mark Palmer is a long-time fighter for democracy and human rights both inside and outside government. He participated in the American civil rights movement and remains active in pursuit of better opportunities for African-Americans. In the U.S. State Department from 1964 to 1990, he specialized and served in communist countries, wrote speeches for six secretaries of state and three presidents, and was Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe and then U.S. Ambassador to Hungary. For his contributions to assisting with the liberation of Poland, the Baltic States, Hungary and Russia he has received awards from democratic governments and human rights organizations. Currently, Ambassador Palmer is the President of Capital Development Company LLC. He serves on the boards of Freedom House, International Centre for Democratic Transition, Council for a Community of Democracies, SAIS Johns Hopkins University, Institute for the Study of Diplomacy at Georgetown University, American Academy of Diplomacy, Center for Communications, Health and the Environment, Friends of Falun Gong, and New Tang Dynasty Television. Ambassador Palmer is the author of *Breaking the Real Axis of Evil: How to Oust the World's Last Dictators by 2025*.

Ted Piccone

Ted Piccone is a Senior Fellow and Deputy Director for Foreign Policy at the Brookings Institution. From 2001-2008, Mr. Piccone was the Executive Director and Co-Founder of the Democracy Coalition Project, a research and advocacy organization working to promote international cooperation for democracy and human rights around the world. Mr. Piccone also served as the Washington Office Director of the Club of Madrid, an association of nearly 70 former heads of state and government engaged in efforts to strengthen democracy around the world, and continues to act as an Advisor. Previously, Mr. Piccone served eight years as a senior foreign policy advisor in the Clinton Administration on the Secretary of State's Policy Planning Staff (1998-2001), at the National Security Council (1996-98), and in the Office of the Secretary of Defense (1993-1996). Mr. Piccone also served as Counsel for the United Nations Truth Commission in El Salvador (1992-93) and as Press Secretary to U.S. Rep. Bob Edgar (1985-87). A graduate of Columbia Law School, he has written and published articles on transitional justice, international organizations, U.S.-Latin American relations and democracy promotion policy.

At their meeting of September 12, 2000, the Foreign Ministers of the Community of Democracies Convening Group agreed to direct senior officials to prepare proposals that would allow for the establishment of basic criteria for participation in the Community and establish procedures to govern its activities as well as those of the Convening Group.

The Final Warsaw Declaration provides a reasonable approach to the definition of criteria for participation, which should reflect a clear linkage between participation and the observance of internationally accepted fundamental democratic principles, values and standards in the countries concerned.

The criteria should also reflect a balance between the Community of Democracies aim to promote and strengthen democracy and the acknowledgement that its current participants are at differing stages in their democratic development.

*Approved on
September 27, 2002*

I. Participation Criteria

The Final Warsaw Declaration draws on major principles of international law and standards codified namely in the UN Charter, the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

The Warsaw Declaration recognized the interdependence between peace, development, human rights and democracy, as well as the universality of democratic values. The Community of Democracies should be a privileged forum for the defense and promotion of this comprehensive concept of democracy.

In this sense, in accordance with the Criteria for Participation adopted by the Community of Democracies, states willing to participate in the Community of Democracies should respect democratic standards as follows:

- Free, fair and periodic elections, by universal and equal suffrage, conducted by secret ballot
- Multipartidism, the freedom to form democratic political parties that can participate in elections
- Guaranteeing that everyone can exercise his or her right to take part in the government of his or her country, directly or through freely chosen representatives
- The Rule of Law
- The obligation of an elected government to protect and defend the constitution, refraining from extra-constitutional actions and to relinquish power when its legal mandate ends
- Ensuring equality before the law and equal protection under the law, including equal access to the law
- Separation of powers, separation of the judiciary, legislative and executive independence of the judiciary from the political or any other power
- Ensuring that the military remains accountable to democratically elected civilian government

- The respect of human rights, fundamental freedoms and the inherent dignity of the human being, notably
 - Freedom of thought, conscience, religion, belief, peaceful assembly and association, freedom of speech, of opinion and of expression, including to exchange and receive ideas and information through any media, regardless of frontiers: free, independent and pluralistic media
 - The right of every person to be free from arbitrary arrest or detention from torture or any other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment
 - The right to a fair trial, including to be presumed innocent until proven guilty and to be sentenced proportionally to the crime, free from cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment
 - The right to full and non-discriminatory participation, regardless of gender, race, color, language, religion or belief, in the political, economical and cultural life
 - The promotion of gender equality
 - The rights of children, elderly and persons with disabilities
 - The rights of national, ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities, including the right to freely express, preserve and develop their identity
 - The right of individuals to shape their own destiny free from any illegitimate constraint

Governments are to defend and to protect all of these rights and to provide the appropriate legislation for this purpose.

The observance of international law as well as internationally accepted democratic principles and values.

Respect for universally accepted labor standards.

Criteria for Participation and Procedures

II. Criteria for Conference Participation

The Convening Group (CG) will draft the list of participants and observers, not based on participation in the Warsaw meeting but rather on a state's adherence to main requisites. In subsequent years the CG will review each participant's, observer's, and non-participant's compliance with requisites to determine participation.

If any state fails to comply, for a reasonable period of time, with one or several of these main requisites, it will not be invited to participate in any events of the Community of Democracies, for a limited time and as long as deemed necessary.

Alternatively, a state may be invited as an observer for as long as is determined appropriate.

The fact that countries find themselves at different stages in their democratic development is to be considered. Nevertheless situations that raise a question regarding their commitment to democratic values will be evaluated by the CG. Different stages must not mean different criteria.

III. Other factors likely to promote democracy, security and development

Democracy means freedom, freedom to choose and substitute political leaders and parties in power. However, democracy must also mean freedom to choose what one can do with one's resources. Therefore, free initiative should be another component of democracy. Modern and competitive economies play an important role in giving real substance to democracies.

Education and access to information are fundamental in building and consolidating a democratic society. Education is both a human right in itself and an indispensable means of realising other human rights. Education is a tool for empowering every human being to actively participate in the decisions, and it is a fundamental vehicle for combating poverty and for resisting discrimination in all its forms. Education makes it difficult for dictators, whose weapon is ignorance.

Governments should by all means avoid violence in the political speech. This sort of aggression leads to a climate of intimidation that prevents people from exercising in its entirety their political and civil rights. Democratic societies must be free from fear.

IV. Procedures

Decisions concerning participation or matters related to the Convening Group or the Community of Democracies (CD) should be taken by the consensus of the CG.

CD meetings will be held every two years by agreed rotation within CG countries. Countries hosting CD meetings will chair the CG starting with the calendar year following the previous meeting. Senior officials of the CG will meet periodically in the interim in order to guide follow-up activities and preparation for upcoming CD meetings.

CG Ambassador and Sherpa level meetings will be called by the CG Chair as necessary.

Countries can either request to be CD participants or observers, or they may be invited by the CG.

A Quatro constituted by one representative from each continent, including past, present and future CD conference hosts, will facilitate conference planning. In keeping with this responsibility, the Quatro will apply criteria articulated in this paper to determine which countries should be invited to participate in, and which countries should be invited to observe, CD Conferences. Quatro recommendations will be endorsed by the CG.

- Invitations to participate will be issued to genuine democracies and those countries undergoing democratic consolidation, in accordance with the established criteria.
- Invitations to observe will be issued to countries that fail to meet international standards of democracy and human rights, but are in a transition process and have given concrete steps along the lines of the Criteria above.
- Observers are encouraged to participate in the roundtables. Observers may adhere to final documents and resolutions once adopted.
- Invitation can be issued to international or regional organizations when it is deemed appropriate.

Sharing of information among participants of the CG and other participants of the CD is to be assured.

WARSAW (2000)
SEOUL (2002)
SANTIAGO (2005)
IAC – BAMAKO*
BAMAKO (2007)¹¹
IAC – LISBON*

*As recommended by the International Advisory Committee for the Community of Democracies invitation process.

COUNTRY

Categories:

NI
(Not Invited/
Do Not Invite)

I
(Invited/Invite)

I*
(Invite, deserves
close monitoring)

O
(Observer)

P
(Participant)

C
(Country of Concern)

D
(Withhold Invite
Pending Development)

NR
(No Recommendation)

N/A
(Not applicable)

Bold:
IAC reviewed but did
not change its Bamako
recommendation.

Bold Italics:
IAC reviewed but changed its
Bamako recommendation.

↓ :
IAC lowered its
recommendation for Lisbon.

↑ :
IAC raised its
recommendation for Lisbon.

Gray Background:
Member of the
Convening Group

COUNTRY	WARSAW (2000)	SEOUL (2002)	SANTIAGO (2005)	IAC – BAMAKO*	BAMAKO (2007) ¹¹	IAC – LISBON*
Afghanistan	NI	O	P	O	I	NI↓
Albania	P	P	P	I	I	I
Algeria	P	O	O	O	O	NI↓
Andorra	I	P	P	I	I	I
Angola	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI
Antigua and Barbuda	I	P	P	I	I	I
Argentina	P	P	P	I	I	I
Armenia	P	O	O	O	O	NI↓
Australia	P	P	P	I	I	I
Austria	P	P	P	I	I	I
Azerbaijan	P	O	O	NI	O	NI
Bahamas	I	P	P	I	I	I
Bahrain	NI	P	P	O	I	NI↓
Bangladesh	P	P	P	D	NI	O↑
Barbados	I	P	P	I	I	I
Belarus	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI
Belgium	P	P	P	I	I	I
Belize	P	P	P	I	I	I
Benin	P	P	P	I	I	I
Bhutan	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	O↑
Bolivia	P	P	P	I*	I	I
Bosnia-Herzegovina	P	P	P	I	I	I
Botswana	P	P	P	I	I	I
Brazil	P	P	P	I	I	I
Brunei	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI
Bulgaria	P	P	P	I	I	I
Burkina Faso	P	O	O	NI	O	NI
Burundi	NI	NI	NI	O	O	O^c
Cambodia	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI
Cameroon	NI	NI	NI	NI	O	NI
Canada	P	P	P	I	I	I
Cape Verde	P	P	P	NR	I	NR
Central African Republic	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI
Chad	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI
Chile	P	P	P	NR	I	NR
China	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI
Colombia	P	P	P	I	I	I*^c
Comoros	NI	NI	NI	NR	NI	NR
Congo (Brazzaville)	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI
Congo, DR	NI	NI	NI	NI	O	NI
Costa Rica	P	P	P	I	I	I
Côte d'Ivoire	NI	O	NI	NI	NI	NI

Croatia	P	P	P	I	I	I
Cuba	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI
Cyprus	P	P	P	I	I	I
Czech Republic	P	P	P	NR	I	NR
Denmark	P	P	P	I	I	I
Djibouti	NI	NI	O	NI	O	NI
Dominica	P	P	P	I	I	I
Dominican Republic	P	P	P	I	I	I
Ecuador	P	P	P	I*	I	I*
Egypt	P	O	O	NI	O	NI
El Salvador	P	P	P	NR	I	NR
Equatorial Guinea	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI
Eritrea	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI
Estonia	P	P	P	I	I	I
Ethiopia	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI
Fiji	NI	O	P	NI	NI	NI
Finland	P	P	P	I	I	I
France	P	P	P	I	I	I
Gabon	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI
Gambia	NI	NI	O	NI	NI	NI
Georgia	P	O	P	I*	I	I^c
Germany	P	P	P	I	I	I
Ghana	NI	P	P	I	I	I
Greece	P	P	P	I	I	I
Grenada	I	P	P	I	I	I
Guatemala	P	P	P	I*	I	I
Guinea	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI
Guinea-Bissau	NI	NI	NI	NI	O	NI
Guyana	I	P	P	I	I	I
Haiti	P	O	O	O	I	O
Honduras	P	P	P	I	I	I
Hungary	P	P	P	I	I	I
Iceland	P	P	P	I	I	I
India	P	P	P	NR	I	NR
Indonesia	P	P	P	I	I	I
Iran	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI
Iraq	NI	NI	O	NI	I	NI
Ireland	P	P	P	I	I	I
Israel	P	P	P	I	I	I
Italy	P	P	P	NR	I	NR
Jamaica	I	P	P	I	I	I
Japan	P	P	P	I	I	I
Jordan	P	P	P	O	I	NI↓
Kazakhstan	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI
Kenya	P	NI	P	O	I	O^c
Kiribati	I	P	P	I	I	I
Kuwait	P	O	O	O	O	O
Kyrgyzstan	NI	NI	NI	O	O	NI↓
Laos	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI
Latvia	P	P	P	I	I	I

Record of Participation in Community of Democracies Ministerials

Lebanon	I	O	O	I*	I	I*	c
Lesotho	P	P	P	I	I	I	
Liberia	NI	NI	NI	O	I	O	
Libya	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	
Liechtenstein	P	P	P	I	I	I	
Lithuania	P	P	P	I	I	NR	
Luxembourg	P	P	P	I	I	I	
Macedonia	P	P	P	I	I	I	
Madagascar	P	O	P	I	I	I	
Malawi	P	P	P	I*	I	I*	
Malaysia	NI	O	P	O	I	O	
Maldives	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	O	↑
Mali	P	P	P	NR	I	NR	
Malta	P	P	P	I	I	I	
Marshall Isl.	I	P	P	I	I	I	
Mauritania	NI	NI	NI	O	O	N	↓
Mauritius	P	P	P	I	I	I	
Mexico	P	P	P	NR	I	NR	
Micronesia	I	P	P	I	I	I	
Moldova	P	P	P	I*	I	D	↓ c
Monaco	P	P	P	I	I	I	
Mongolia	P	P	P	NR	I	NR	
Montenegro	N/A	N/A	N/A	I*	I	I	
Morocco	P	P	P	NR*	I	NR	
Mozambique	P	P	P	I	I	I	
Myanmar (Burma)	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	
Namibia	P	P	P	I	I	I	
Nauru	I	P	P	I	I	I	
Nepal	P	P	NI	O	O	O	
Netherlands	P	P	P	I	I	I	
New Zealand	P	P	P	I	I	I	
Nicaragua	P	P	P	I	I	N	↓
Niger	P	P	P	I	I	I	
Nigeria	P	P	P	O*	O	N	↓
North Korea	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	
Norway	P	P	P	I	I	I	
Oman	NI	O	O	NI	O	NI	
Pakistan	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	O	↑
Palau	I	P	P	I	I	I	
Panama	P	P	P	I	I	I	
Papua New Guinea	P	P	P	I	I	I	
Paraguay	P	P	P	I	I	I	
Peru	P	P	P	I	I	I	
Philippines	P	P	P	NR*	I	NR	
Poland	P	P	P	NR	I	NR	
Portugal	P	P	P	NR	I	NR	
Qatar	P	O	O	NI	NI	NI	
Romania	P	P	P	I	I	I	
Russia	P	P	P	NI	O	NI	
Rwanda	NI	NI	NI	NI	O	NI	

St. Kitts & Nevis	I	P	P	I	I	I	
Saint Lucia	P	P	P	I	I	I	
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	I	P	P	I	I	I	
Samoa	I	P	P	I	I	I	
San Marino	I	P	P	I	I	I	
Sao Tome & Principe	P	P	P	I	I	I	
Saudi Arabia	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	
Senegal	P	P	P	I	I	I	
Serbia	NI	P	P	I	I	I	
Seychelles	P	P	P	I	I	I	
Sierra Leone	NI	O	O	O	O	O	
Singapore	NI	O	O	NI	NI	NI	
Slovakia	P	P	P	I	I	I	
Slovenia	P	P	P	I	I	I	
Solomon Islands	NI	NI	NI	NR	NI	NR	
Somalia	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	
South Africa	P	P	P	NR	I	NR	
South Korea	P	P	P	NR	I	NR	
Spain	P	P	P	I	I	I	
Sri Lanka	P	P	P	I*	I	N	↓
Sudan	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	
Suriname	I	P	P	I	I	I	
Swaziland	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	
Sweden	P	P	P	I	I	I	
Switzerland	P	P	P	I	I	I	
Syria	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	
Tajikistan	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	
Tanzania	P	P	P	I	I	I	
Thailand	P	P	P	NI	NI	O	↑
Timor-Leste	N/A	P	P	I	I	I	
Togo	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	
Tonga	NI	NI	NI	NR	NI	NR	
Trinidad & Tobago	I	P	P	I	I	I	
Tunisia	P	O	O	NI	NI	NI	
Turkey	P	P	P	I	I	I	
Turkmenistan	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	
Tuvalu	I	P	P	I	I	I	
Uganda	NI	NI	NI	NI	O	NI	
Ukraine	P	O	P	I	I	I	
United Arab Emirates	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	
United Kingdom	P	P	P	I	I	I	
United States	P	P	P	NR	I	NR	
Uruguay	P	P	P	I	I	I	
Uzbekistan	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	
Vanuatu	I	P	P	I	I	I	
Venezuela	P	P	P	D	NI	N	↓
Vietnam	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	
Yemen	P	O	O	O	I	O	
Zambia	NI	NI	P	O	I	O	
Zimbabwe	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	

¹¹ Official invitation status for Bamako Ministerial as decided by the Convening Group of the Community of Democracies.

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The **Bertelsmann Stiftung** is a non-profit foundation that strives to encourage social change and to contribute to society's long-term viability. Working together with a wide range of partners, the Bertelsmann Stiftung aims to identify social problems and challenges early on in order to develop and implement model solutions. It uses and generates knowledge and expertise in order to both instigate public discourse on issues requiring reform and to advise policymakers. The Bertelsmann Stiftung is the publisher of the Bertelsmann Transformation Index, a global ranking that analyzes and evaluates development and transformation processes in 125 countries. The Index provides a comprehensive view of the status of democracy and a market economy as well as the quality of political management in each of these countries, aiming to improve political management processes and optimize outside support by identifying and facilitating the transfer of best practices among a broad spectrum of countries in transition.



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The **Democracy Coalition Project** is a nongovernmental organization that conducts research and advocacy relating to the advancement of democracy and human rights internationally, particularly through the United Nations and other multilateral organs. Begun in June 2001 as an initiative of the Open Society Institute, the Democracy Coalition Project (DCP) focuses its work on advocacy, research, and coalition-building toward the goal of democratic development as an essential element of international peace and human development. DCP plays a leadership role in building an international coalition of organizations to monitor the foreign policies of governments as they relate to human rights and democracy promotion. DCP also works to encourage a more transparent and active Community of Democracies and an active Democracy Caucus at the United Nations. DCP's policy agenda includes: strengthening the work of the United Nations in the area of human rights and democratic development, monitoring the foreign policies of governments as they relate to human rights and democracy promotion, promoting reform and strengthening of the United Nations through civil society participation and coalition-building, and improving international responses to democratic crises.



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Freedom House is an independent, non-governmental organization that supports the expansion of freedom in the world. Freedom House functions as a catalyst for freedom, democracy, and the rule of law through its analysis, advocacy, and action. Founded in 1941, Freedom House has been a vigorous proponent of democratic values and a leading advocate of the world's young democracies. Freedom House conducts an array of advocacy, education, and training initiatives that promote human rights, democracy, free market economics, the rule of law and independent media, drawing attention to global trends in democracy and casting a public light upon dictatorships and abuse. Freedom in the World, Freedom of the Press, Nations in Transit, and Countries at the Crossroads are regularly used as references by international journalists, press freedom advocates, policy-makers, non-governmental organizations, the US government, and the global business community. With fourteen offices throughout the world and a network of hundreds of civil society, NGO, professional and academic partners and consultants, Freedom House has an international ability for outreach.

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