



PARLIAMENTARY FORUM
FOR DEMOCRACY



SEIMAS OF THE REPUBLIC
OF LITHUANIA



URM
THE MINISTRY
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF LITHUANIA



LITHUANIAN
DEVELOPMENT
COOPERATION

International Conference

“THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS IN STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACIES IN EASTERN EUROPE: ON THE ROAD TO DEMOCRATIC SOCIETIES”

Vilnius, 3 May 2012

PARLIAMENTARY FORUM FOR DEMOCRACY DECLARATION

We, the participants of the Parliamentary Forum for Democracy, gathered at international conference “The Role of Parliamentarians in Strengthening Democracies in Eastern Europe: On the Road to Democratic Societies”

Commemorating the 3rd of May as the historical Constitution Day in Lithuania and Poland which marks the declaration on 3 May 1791 of the Constitution of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth and the Day of Media Freedom.

Recognizing democracy as broadly acknowledged ideal for free and just life as well as a goal, which is based on the common values shared or strived for by people around the world;

Expressing our common adherence to the fundamental values and principles set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, international covenants on human rights, the Agenda for Democratization presented by the UN Secretary General at the 51st session of the United Nations General Assembly and other relevant instruments of international law;

Expressing our full support for the objectives set forth in the Warsaw Declaration establishing the Community of Democracies and its subsequent declarations and documents;

Sharing the democracy building objectives of the United Nations, the Interparliamentary Union, the Council of Europe, the European Union, the EURONEST Parliamentarian Assembly, Parliamentarian Assembly of the Mediterranean and many other regional, international and non-governmental organizations;

Emphasizing our common belief that truly elected parliaments embody democracy as the key institutions which express the will of people, pass laws and to which governments are accountable;

Confirming the fact that the Parliamentary Forum for Democracy is a coalition of like-minded democratically elected parliamentarians and former parliamentarians determined to work together for the cause of advancing and defending democracies;

Recalling the documents adopted by the Community of Democracies – Vilnius Declaration setting up the Community of Democracies Parliamentary Forum (March 12, 2010), Washington Declaration (September 15, 2010) and Tbilisi Declaration (May 20, 2011) as well as the resolutions: Resolution on the nomination of Liu Xiaobo for the 2010 Nobel Peace Prize (March 12, 2010), Resolution on the situation in Georgia (March 12, 2010), Resolution calling for

support of Cuba's pro-democracy movement (March 12, 2010), Final Resolution of Parliamentary Forum Krakow meeting (July 3, 2010), Resolution calling for improvement of the political and civil society situation in Belarus (July 3, 2010), Resolution calling for improvement of the political situation in Ukraine (July 3, 2010), and Resolution calling for support of Cuba's pro-democracy movement (July 3, 2010), as well as documents adopted in Vilnius High level meeting "The Road to Democracy: Role of the Parliamentary Forum for Democracy" (June 30, 2011);

welcoming the establishment, during the Democracy Days in Vilnius on 23 June 2010, of the Young Leaders Forum, representing young leaders within the Community of Democracies for ensuring youth representation at every level of the Community of Democracies, including ministerial and working group meetings;

Have adopted the following:

1. We confirm our commitment to strengthening and defending the democratic norms and institutions around the world;
2. We condemn authoritarian and totalitarian regimes for their constant and systematic suppression of human rights, as practices separating and distancing such regimes from Community of Democracies;
3. We express our support for the opposition members in the autocratic and totalitarian states throughout the world;
4. We condemn Ukrainian government for the politically motivated trial and imprisonment of opposition leader Yulia Tymoshenko;
5. We urge Ukrainian government for the humane treatment of Yulia Tymoshenko and granting her the right to seek medical assistance abroad;
6. We encourage the CoD governments to constantly monitor the status of democracy processes in Ukraine;
7. We support the nomination of Ales Beliatzky for Nobel Peace Prize, recognizing his role in helping the families of political prisoners in Belarus;
8. We condemn Belarusian regime for persecution and imprisonment of the members of political opposition;
9. We urge Belarusian authorities to allow political parties and civil society groups to hold public meetings and have access to independent media;
10. We urge Belarusian authorities to release members of opposition from prisons and to end their torturing.
11. We express our support of United States and European Union for imposing stricter economic and political sanctions on Belarusian regime in order to increase pressure for implementation of internal democratic reforms and releasing of political prisoners in Belarus;
12. We call Belarusian authorities to conduct an upcoming parliamentary elections according to the standards and norms defined by OSCE organization and elections to be watched by international observers;

13. We regret deeply the recent 2011-2012 Presidential and Parliamentary elections in Russia being exercised in ways not corresponding and incompatible with democracy standards and weaken the legitimacy of institutions;

14. We strongly believe that people of Russian Federation will live in the democratic society and will enjoy full spectrum of their civil and political liberties in the near future;

15. We hope and believe for the improvement of political relations between democratic societies and Russian Federation in case of Russian society will initiate internal democratic reforms.

16. We support the efforts of Georgia and Republic of Moldova to further it's advancement of democratic reforms and reiterate the call to Russian Federation to withdraw it's armed forces from Georgian and Republic of Moldova territory.

17. We express our deep concern on Congo's continuing lack of democratic and institutional development as well as continuation of serious human rights violations;

18. We call for improvement of the political and human rights situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo;

19. We call the European Union and United States of America not to be complaisant but vigilant in preventing Democratic Republic of Congo president's Mr. Joseph Kabila consolidation of power resulting from flawed election process in November 2011.