

Universal Declaration of Democracy

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Preamble

Recognizing that democracy is the foundation of free, just, and peaceful societies,

Affirming that all individuals have the inalienable right to participate in democratic governance, where power derives from the will of the people,

Recalling that throughout history, democracy has been a safeguard against oppression and a pathway to progress, equality, and human dignity,

Emphasizing the importance of democratic institutions, the rule of law, human rights, and the separation of powers in ensuring stability and justice,

We, the undersigned, declare our commitment to the universal principles of democracy and the protection of democratic governance worldwide.

Article 1: Definition of Democracy

Democracy is a system of governance in which political power is exercised by the people, either directly or through elected representatives, in a framework of equality, freedom, and the rule of law.

Article 2: Right to Free and Fair Elections

All individuals have the right to vote and to stand for public office in free, fair, transparent, and periodic elections that reflect the genuine will of the people.

Article 3: Fundamental Freedoms

Democracy requires the protection of fundamental freedoms, including freedom of speech, press, assembly, association, and religion. No government shall infringe upon these rights.

Article 4: Separation of Powers and Rule of Law

A democratic system must ensure a clear separation of powers between the executive, legislative, and judicial branches, with an independent judiciary that upholds the rule of law.

Article 5: Political Pluralism and Participation

A democratic society guarantees political pluralism, allowing for multiple political parties, civil society organizations, and public participation in decision-making without fear of persecution.

Article 6: Accountability and Transparency

Elected officials and public institutions must be accountable to the people. Transparency, open governance, and mechanisms to prevent corruption are essential to democracy.

Article 7: Protection of Minority Rights

Democracy is not merely majority rule; it must safeguard the rights and voices of minorities, ensuring inclusion, equal treatment, and protection against discrimination.

Article 8: Right to Civil Resistance

People have the right to protest, assemble, and demand democratic governance and reform in the face of oppression, authoritarianism, or violations of democratic principles.

Article 9: International Cooperation for Democracy

Nations committed to democracy must support each other in upholding democratic principles, assisting countries in democratic transitions, and opposing authoritarian regimes.

Article 10: Education and Promotion of Democratic Values

Democracy must be actively nurtured through civic education, fostering a culture of democratic participation, critical thinking, and respect for human rights.

Final Provisions

This Declaration serves as a guiding document for all individuals, organizations, and governments committed to defending and promoting democracy.

Adopted on this day, in the spirit of liberty, justice, and democratic governance.