



Fraktion der Europäischen Volkspartei (Christdemokraten) und europäischer Demokraten im Europäischen Parlament
Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats) and European Democrats in the European Parliament
Groupe du Parti Populaire Européen (Démocrates-Chrétiens) et Démocrates Européens au Parlement européen

Windhoek Dialogue - Dialogue de Windhoek

UPADD / UAPDD
(Union of African Parties for Democracy and Development)
(Union des parties africains pour la démocratie et le développement)

Berlin Declaration

"Free and Fair Elections in Africa"

The participants of the Windhoek Dialogue meeting (UPADD-PPE-DE) held in Berlin on 7 May 2007,

- *having regard to the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights,*
- *having regard to the UN International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,*
- *having regard to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights,*
- *having regard to the African Declaration on Free and Fair Elections,*
- *having regard to the OAU Declaration on the Principles Governing Democratic Elections in Africa, adopted in 2002,*
- *having regard to the African Charter on Democracy, Elections, and Governance (2007),*
- *having regard to the Norms and Standards for Elections adopted by ECOWAS and in the countries of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) (2001),*
- *having regard to the Founding Act for the Windhoek Dialogue of 1996;*

Duly noting that the African countries have adopted these different instruments and international and regional principles in their national legislations;

Duly noting that free, fair and transparent elections are regularly organized in many African countries;

Noting as well that reoccurring crises in many countries hinder concerted efforts and, by their very nature, thus do not enhance democratic elections;

Duly noting, nevertheless, that despite the implementation of these principles, norms and standards, there still remain inadequacies in certain countries, in particular:

- The disregard of free and fair elections as the only legitimate basis to exercise power
 - Constitutional, legislative and institutional deficits and contradictions
 - The absence of a broad political consensus concerning the nomination, selection, and appointment of national election commissions
 - Biased application of existing rules in favour of the ruling party
 - Abuse of public funds and government machinery including officials and employees in favour of the ruling party
 - Misuse of official media and lack of/or manipulation of independent media
 - Lack of adequate civic and voter education
 - Orchestrated intimidation and violence sometimes using the police, the military, and intelligence agencies
 - Deliberate mismanagement of all phases of the electoral process including voter registration, the demarcation of constituencies, partisan appointment of local election officials, the improper location of polling stations, inappropriate supply of electoral material, improper voting administration including the bribing of election officials, non-transparent counting of votes and establishing local results
 - Compromising the judiciary in various ways notably through nepotism, intimidation, and bribery
- Convinced of the political will of certain leaders of African countries to commit themselves totally to a democratic process that favours political dialogue and good governance,
- Convinced that the implementation of the principle of free and fair elections would provide for democratic governance, stability, peace, development, and prosperity for the African people,
- Convinced that only genuinely democratic and stable states will enjoy enhanced credibility and respect in the international community by creating a better framework to achieve the aspirations of their people,

thereby,

- calling on all actors, political authorities, parties and civil society to work to resolve these problems to guarantee the fairness of the electoral process before, during and after the elections, and accomplish this by establishing an appropriate legal and political framework to embody the will of the people;
- calling on all governments, consequently, to implement the African Union's Charter on Democracy, Elections, and Governance from January 2007, as well as the African Union's Declaration on the Principles governing Democratic Elections in Africa, adopted in 2002; in addition, appealing for the extension throughout Africa of the norms and values that govern the electoral processes in the region Southern Africa;
- calling on all governments and political parties to create appropriate structures for the training and civic education of our fellow citizens at all levels;
- appealing to our national business and political leaders to play an active role in resolving the issues relating to free, fair and transparent elections;

The parties participating in the Windhoek Dialogue appeal to their international partners to commit themselves to this path that holds hope for the future by providing all the support required to hold free, fair and transparent elections in Africa.

We extend our congratulations to governments that are making progress in the area of public dialogue aimed at enhancing the participation of citizens in the responsible management of "res publica" ("chose publique").

We encourage African countries in the throes of crisis to commit themselves totally to political dialogue and the organization of free, fair and transparent elections as an essential means of overcoming crises and reestablishing peace, stability and national concord.