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## Resolutions

**As adopted by the 56<sup>th</sup> Congress of Liberal International,  
Cairo, 30-31 October 2009**

### *The World Today*

- The Liberal International convening in Cairo for its 56th Congress emphasizes the crucial role of education for the realisation of a liberal society. Education is a key-principle for Liberalism; it prepares human beings for the future. It teaches them to have one's own opinion and give them a solid base of knowledge and capabilities to fully participate in society. In addition, education facilitates progress for a society as a whole. Education has rescued millions of people around the world from illiteracy and poverty. Knowledge-based economies around the world are built on education and research. Liberals around the world should heart education into their policies, because it is the basic condition for freedom. As the Dutch liberal Ms. Haya van Someren has said: "To whom belongs the child? Isn't it the highest ideal that it becomes as soon as possible of it's own, not of someone else, not of the state, not of an idea? This ideal is in a historical perspective one of the most beautiful survivals of the French revolution: to educate a young child to become of its own.'

### **Americas**

- Liberal International congratulates the Liberal Network of Latin America (RELIAL) for its fourth Congress organized in Caracas, Venezuela in May 2009. Liberal International continues to support RELIAL and its aim to strengthen and spread liberal democracy in Latin America. Liberal International also congratulates RELIAL for having gained a place among the TOP 25 think tanks in Latin America.
- Congress congratulates President Barack Obama and the Democratic Party from the United States for the successful election campaign in which the core messages were based on active citizenship, tolerance, dialogue, individual rights, freedom and democracy. Liberal International underlines the importance of the proactive approach of the United States in the fields of international multilateralism, international dialogue, promotion of democracy and human rights, free trade and international development.
- Congress applauds the Liberal Party of Canada for the successful organisation of the 182nd Executive Committee of Liberal International in Vancouver, British Columbia. Monitoring the political debates in Canada closely, Congress expresses surprise over the unusual populist policies of the current Canadian government. The election of Michael Ignatieff as new leader of the Canadian Liberals raises the hopes for furthering the liberal agenda both in Canada and on an international level.
- Following our principles, Congress expresses a degree of concern for the cases of extension of the mandate of an incumbent president, when it is not in conformity with the current constitution. Expressing profound concern by the undemocratic and authoritarian tendencies in a number of Latin American countries, Liberal International calls for democracy to be strengthened in all the countries of the region

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and for all democratic institutions to continue working towards this aim, both on a national and regional level.

- Congress calls on the Organisation of American States to play a stronger role in promoting democracy, respect of Human Rights and rule of law on the basis of equal standards to all its member states.
- LI congratulates the nomination of RELIAL President Otto Guevara for the presidential elections of Costa Rica in February 2010. Congress believes that through unity the liberal forces in the country can achieve substantial electoral success.
- Liberal International has been following the developments in Honduras with great concern. The country went through a period of serious disturbances provoked by the violation of its Constitution by the President of the Republic. Liberal International condemns all unconstitutional acts and calls for the restoration of democracy and rule of law in the country. LI believes the support of the international community in ensuring that the upcoming presidential elections in Honduras are free, fair and democratic remains crucial.
- Liberal International is concerned with the political situation and the continued spread of nationalism and populism in Venezuela under the Hugo Chavez regime. LI condemns Venezuelan president's Hugo Chavez's continuous attacks on the opposition, NGOs and the independent media. The new "Law on media crimes" aims to limit freedoms, control and regulate all content of media outlets and to threaten journalists with up to four years in prison. LI is also concerned with the nationalisation of all major industries in the country. LI is concerned and condemns the government's repeated violations against human rights and democracy. Congress calls for greater collaboration between civil society, independent media, opposition and entrepreneurs as the only means to address the raising authoritarianism in the country.
- LI is concerned about the dangerous power grab of the populist president of Nicaragua, Daniel Ortega, and the changes that he wishes to make to the constitution, allowing his re-election – as Presidential re-election is prohibited under the current constitution. Congress re-affirms the Resolution passed by the Executive Committee in January 2009 and condemns the fraud in the last Nicaraguan local elections, demanding international observers to verify the results at the next elections. Congress calls on all liberal forces in the country to unite in order to return to liberal democratic governance in the country.
- LI congratulates Ricardo Martinelli for winning the presidency of Panama. Congress supports Martinelli's efforts to convert Panamá into a more free and prosperous country with opportunities for everyone.
- Liberal International deplores the fact that the personal changes in the communist leadership of Cuba have not lead to democratic reforms. Congress calls for the democratization and opening of Cuba, which 50 years after the revolution still has a government which does not respect human rights, freedom of speech or freedom of association.
- Congress expresses support to the fight against the narco-trafficking led by Columbian President Alvaro Uribe. An obstacle standing in the way of combating narco-trafficking is the corruption.
- Liberal International calls for a united regional and international front against narco-trafficking, in which US/Colombian military cooperation would be integral. At the same time, Congress finds it crucial to Colombian democracy that the respect for the current constitution is upheld when it comes to the mandate of the incumbent president.
- Congress believes that the reduction of press freedoms and liberties by the ruling administration of President Kirchner in Argentina is a step in the wrong direction. The country can return to the glorious days of development through reforms that would guarantee democracy, freedom of expression, as well as freedom of movement of people, capital and goods.
- LI is concerned about the political situation in Bolivia and the spread of nationalism and populism in the country under the leadership of the country's president Evo Morales. The leadership of the country threatens the democratic governance and might provoke further civil unrest and split of the country.

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- Liberal International is concerned over the escalating waves of drug-related violence witnessed in Mexico. Special attention must be paid to the fact that women are yet again major victims of violent attacks and conflicts. Over 4000 people have lost their lives so far this year due to the drug war. LI calls upon the authorities to work hard to achieve security, peace and order throughout the country.

## **Africa**

- Liberal International congratulates the liberals on the African continent and their international partners for their steady investment in the development of the Africa Liberal Network (ALN). Congress is pleased that ALN activities put emphasis on prominent African issues, with particular attention paid to the conditions of ordinary citizens and their rights and responsibilities in an open democratic society. Liberal International notes with satisfaction the positive evolution of the parliamentary network the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe, Africa, Pacific and the Caribbean (ALDEPAC) in the framework of the European Parliament's cooperation with the APC countries.
- Congress reaffirms the Resolution of the 182nd meeting of the Executive Committee on the Democratic Republic of Congo and strongly condemns the continuing violence and human rights violations. Liberal International expresses deep concern over a new threat of famine. Congress deplores the continuing atrocities committed by Government forces and the different rebel groups in the Lakes area of the Democratic Republic of Congo and calls for greater efforts by the African Union with the assistance of the international community to protect the people of the area from killings, rapes and mutilation. Special attention must be paid to the rape of women in Congo as a part of the war machinery and more efforts must be done by the international community to handle the aftermath of war as hospital care for the victims of rape and trauma rehabilitation
- Liberal International strongly condemns the arrest and imprisonment of Madagascar opposition leader Rakotonirina Manandafy, who has only recently been released. Liberal International urges all parties involved to come to a power-sharing agreement, as it is crucial for the country to go back to constitutional rule as soon as possible. Congress calls for free and fair elections, under rigorous international observation, as precondition for stability and development of the country.
- Congress deplores the continuing violence in Somalia which continues to be a failed state with refugees all over the World and where the militants of Al Shabab, backed by jihadists from other countries, continue an inhuman civil war. Congress congratulates the African Union on its role in defending the recognised Government and calls for more international aid to build a civil society and end the trauma of the Somali people. Congress recognizes the need for continuous evaluation of the Somali Transitional Federal Government and support where it's unable to meet the needs of the country.
- Liberal International congratulates South Africa's Democratic Alliance and its leader Helen Zille on its unprecedented gain in South Africa's 2009 parliamentary election. Liberal International strongly supports the DA in its fight against widespread corruption and cronyism in South Africa, and its goal to make the country a true open opportunity society. Congress calls for solidarity from the liberal community in support of the DA's vital role in the promotion and protection of democracy in South Africa. In particular, we recognise recent threats to the independence of the judiciary and the future of the provinces in that country and call for international vigilance in this regard.
- Congress welcomes the power-sharing agreement between ZANU-PF and the two factions of the Movement for Democratic Change and notes the economic improvements already manifest. However, Congress deplores the continued violence perpetrated by armed forces and militias against MDC supporters, and harassment of MDC and human rights activists through the Zimbabwean police forces, Attorney General, minister of Justice and some courts. Congress calls on all parties to reward Zimbabwe for respecting the power sharing agreement, whilst insisting that those already subjected to UN or European Union sanctions remain restricted. Congress looks forward to a stable and prosperous Zimbabwe which will allow the safe return of all Zimbabwean exiles.
- Congress notes the decision of the International Criminal Court to indict the President of Sudan, Omar Bashir, and calls for his early arrest to face trial in The Hague. Congress firmly rejects the notion of impunity for Heads of State for atrocities committed by forces under their command. Congress welcomes reports of a diminution of the tragedy of Darfur and urges the Government of Sudan to work with all concerned to bring about a new political settlement respecting the aspirations of all communities. Congress notes with alarm disputes between Khartoum and the Government of Southern

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Sudan and urges both sides to reach a quick resolution of all territorial disputes, with mediation from the African Union if required. LI emphasizes the importance of a greater roll in Sudan played by the AU.

- Liberal International is gravely concerned about the action of the authorities in Tanzania of denying many Zanzibaris, particularly the supporters of the Civic United Front, to be registered in the Zanzibar Voters Register for the forthcoming 2010 General Elections. The past three elections in 1995, 2000 and 2005 were rigged by using the coercive machinery of the state and the people of Zanzibar were denied their democratic rights to get a leadership they had elected. In 2001 the armed forces killed more than 60 innocent people in order to prevent peaceful demonstration. The Congress is gravely concerned that the use of armed forces to deny many eligible Zanzibaris to be registered as voters can cause bloodshed and severe political crisis in Zanzibar and the whole of Tanzania. LI commends The Civic United Front for its leadership in peacefully fighting for democratic rights of Zanzibaris and all Tanzanians. The Congress calls for the establishment of truly independent Zanzibar Electoral Commission and Tanzania National Electoral Commission. All eligible citizens should be allowed to register as voters and the General Elections in 2010 in Zanzibar and the whole of Tanzania should be free and fair.

### **Middle East and North Africa**

- Liberal International congratulates liberal democratic forces from the Arab World who have worked tirelessly in the past 18 months to further develop and strengthen the Network of Arab Liberals. Congress expresses satisfaction that Liberal International in a period of only 3 years organised its largest reunion in an Arab country. Liberal International remains fully committed to support all individuals and political parties in the Arab world that fight for freedom, democracy, human and individual rights.
- We welcome the openness of the approach of the new US President Barack Obama towards the Muslim and the Arab world in his speech in Cairo in the spring of 2009.
- Liberal International praises the Egyptian Democratic Front Party for putting forward all its political and organisational capacities to host the most important liberal event in 2009. Congress welcomes the release of Dr. Ayman Nour of LI-member El Ghad Party after more than three years of imprisonment. Liberal International hopes for Dr. Nour's release and the work of the LI member parties in Egypt to be an inspiration for liberal and democratic forces, and once again stresses the need for freedom of speech, democracy and political and religious freedom in that country.
- Congress notes the progress in the democratic development in Lebanon. It is of great importance for Lebanon and its people to create a political arena where religious, ethnic and sectarian belonging is a private matter, rather than political, and to move from the inherited politics where every group is pre-determined to a position. For a dynamic and effective and free political process, political parties and positions should be built on political platforms. Liberal International encourages all parties in Lebanon to work towards national reconciliation and long-term stability. Congress reiterates the importance of the full withdrawal of the Syrian governmental and military presence from Lebanon.
- Liberal International reiterates the call for enhanced dialogue between the Israeli and Palestinian authorities. Restraint from all sides against provocation, especially of a violent nature, is crucial for the peace process. Congress welcomes the appointment of George Mitchell as a special envoy to the Middle East and the careful involvement of the new US administration. Liberal International hopes for steady progress in the implementation of the relevant UN resolutions.

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- Congress notes that President Obama recognizes the need for an immediate and complete halt to Israel's illegal expansion of settlements on land occupied since 1967, and calls on Israel to comply with International Law in the interest of a permanent peace.
  - Congress further takes note of the Report by Judge Richard Goldstone on the Gaza conflict, on behalf of the UN Human Rights Council, and its condemnation of illegal acts by both Hamas and the Israeli Defense Force. Congress calls on Israelis and Palestinians to respect the full human and civic rights of all of its citizens, regardless of religion or ethnicity. Congress Supports the three demands from the quartet on Hamas: recognizing the state of Israel's right to exist, ending the violence and respect the existing treaties.
  - Liberal International supports the newly emerging Liberal Alliance in Iraq. The Liberal Alliance is planning on participating in the upcoming elections in Iraq in the beginning of 2010 as one political entity, which should contribute to gathering the liberal voters in the country.
  - Congress notes as positive the withdrawal of foreign troops from the Iraqi urban and rural areas, as well as the progress that the country is making towards establishing a true democracy. Congress calls for peaceful, inclusive, free and fair elections in the beginning of 2010 and expresses support for the democratic and liberal political forces in the country.
  - Since the presidential election in June 2009, the human rights situation in Iran has deteriorated dramatically, with an escalation of violence leading to a climate of fear, even far beyond its internationally recognized borders. Liberal International deplores the violence perpetrated by the Iranian authorities and the paramilitary forces in the aftermath of the disputed Presidential elections as well as the ongoing surveillance of citizens communication through the internet and mobile phones.. Congress stresses the importance of the right of freedom of expression of the will of the Iranian people for the stability of the country and the future of peace in the region and declares support for all Iranian citizens who embrace the values of freedom, democracy, human rights, civil liberties and rule of law. Congress strongly condemns the continuous inflammatory rhetoric of President Ahmadinejad, in particular his anti-Semitic statements. Congress expresses enormous concern over the development of the nuclear capacities of Iran and calls on firm unity of the international community in dealing with the issue of regional and international security.

## Asia

- Liberal International congratulates the Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats (CALD) for the success of its 15th Anniversary Conference held from 27-30 March 2009 in Bangkok, Thailand and applauds its progress and achievements in strengthening liberal principles and democratic values, and promoting a liberal agenda in the region. LI also praises CALD's efforts and success in bringing new technology such as live broadcasting and online chat-room discussion in its 6th Communication Workshop for a meaningful and fruitful participation of liberal networks around the globe.
- Liberal International welcomes the greater regional cooperation of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and its efforts in enhancing its role in the promotion and protection of human rights in the region by forming its first human rights body. Liberal International also approves of the actions of the Thai government, ASEAN's chair country, for its commitment to ensuring that this human rights body is efficient and effective.
- Liberal International is encouraged to see the restoration of stability and progress of liberal democracy in Thailand by the new Democrat-led government. LI applauds Prime Minister Abhisit's committing efforts in being the contributing force in addressing human rights issues in the region. LI welcomes the transparent and comprehensive approach of the new Thai foreign policy with its particular sensitivity to regional issues.
- Liberal International strongly condemns the arrest and continued detention of the Burmese pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi. LI condemns the Burmese authorities for its continued abuse of power through the suppression of political and religious dissidents, including violent oppression of

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peaceful protests. Liberal International will not recognise the legitimacy and credibility of any political process proposed by the military junta until Aung San Suu Kyi and other political prisoners are released and allowed to take part in free and fair elections.

- Liberal International urges the Burmese authorities to respond to international calls and to open dialogues with the opposition and dissidents as the only way forward towards national reconciliation and transition to democracy.
- Liberal International condemns the Cambodia government for using criminal charges of defamation and disinformation against government critics, opposition politicians and journalists. LI finds the verdicts by the Cambodian Court on recent defamation and disinformation cases unacceptable as they undermine the fundamental and constitutional freedom of expression which every citizen in Cambodia is entitled to. LI further urges the Cambodian government to ensure the country embraces the principles of democracy and human rights, tolerance of legitimate dissent and the independence of the judiciary.
- LI expresses support for opposition MPs such as Mu Sochua from the SRP, in their struggle against oppression and harassment, and demands an end to the selective removals of Parliamentary immunity from MPs, and to the legal pursuits against MPs for defamation, when they make normal speeches critical of the government, or pointing out instances of corruption
- Liberal International welcomes talks between Taiwan and China as long as the dialogue is transparent and on the basis of mutual respect and benefit. There can only be 'peace talks' when the Chinese government removes the 1400 missiles targeting Taiwan. LI believes a better relation between Taiwan and China on the basis of peaceful engagement will be beneficial to the stability and prosperity in East Asia and the world. In the end, the change of the current status quo can only take place with the consent by the people of Taiwan through their democratic institutions.
- LI expresses grave concern over the fact that former president Chen Shui-Bian was sentenced to life in prison on corruption charges after legal proceedings in which individual politicians and the media have tried to influence the magistrates. Liberal International asks President Ma Ying-Jeou to guarantee that during the appeal there will be no political interference and that Mr Chen will get all necessary medical attention and will be granted the freedom to read and write.
- LI notes with concern that the open, democratic society, together with civil liberties and the rule of law are under pressure in Taiwan due to the fact that party politics are given priority over the general interest of country and people. Taiwan clearly lacks a bipartisan consensus on cross straits and international relations and the rule of law. Liberal International calls on the President of Taiwan to start a bipartisan dialogue and to promote multiparty democracy and human rights as he signed the instruments of ratification of two covenants on human rights – the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in May.
- LI expresses concern that the Communist Party of China has recently made attempts to tighten control on human rights activities. LI condemns the arrest and disappearance of more than fifty human rights lawyers including renowned lawyers. LI believes that a fair and just judicial process is a vital element to immediately release these lawyers and refrain from harassing and suppressing them as they seek to defend the rights and interests of China's disadvantaged groups through a fair and just judicial process free of political interference.
- Liberal International continues to be concerned about the ongoing oppression of the legitimate rights of the indigenous peoples of Tibet and Xinjiang. Liberal International expresses its grave concern over the recent violence and unrest in Urumqi, and calls for the Chinese leadership to work towards a peaceful reconciliation through dialogues with the ethnic Uighur people to ensure stability in the region.

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- Liberal International praises the decision of Senator Mar Roxas, leader of the Liberal Party of the Philippines, to withdraw from the presidential race and support Senator Noynoy Aquino, son of former President and democracy icon Corazon Aquino, in the Presidential campaign in 2010. LI considers the move as a strengthening of the internal coherence of the party ahead of the elections. LI expresses its support for Liberal Party's candidate Noynoy Aquino in the 2010 elections. LI praises the Liberal Party for its efforts in tackling corruption and restoring transparency, as well as pushing for development and reform in the Philippines.
  - Liberal International strongly urges the Malaysian government to abolish the controversial Internal Security Act (ISA) which allows incommunicado detention for up to 60 days at the discretion of the police and indefinite detention without trial at the discretion of the Home Minister. Liberal International finds the Internal Security Act intolerable as the ISA has been widely used against politicians and dissidents for expressing religious or political views and the fact that it contravenes international law, including rights of liberty, freedom from arbitrary arrest, and the right to be informed of reasons of arrest. LI urges the new Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak to fulfil his commitment, which he made when taking office in April, to conduct a thorough review of the ISA.
  - Liberal International denounces Singapore's recently passed 'Public Order Act' which tightens restrictions on freedom and enhances discretionary power of the police. LI strongly urges the Singapore government to work towards true democracy by ensuring its citizens full democratic rights, including the right of expression, the right of assembly, and the right for opposition to hold peaceful protests. LI expresses support for Dr Chee Soon Juan and his Singapore Democratic Party and their continued efforts to bring multi-party democracy to Singapore.
  - Liberal International notes with grave concern the gross abuse of human rights, especially against civilians and children during the decade-long civil conflict between the Tamil Tigers and the Sri Lanka government force. LI urges the Sri Lanka government to work on peaceful reconciliation and reconstruction in the region after the civil war. LI firmly believes that only through peaceful solutions and the respect for human rights can bring stability and prosperity in the country.
  - Congress welcomes the end of the civil war in Sri Lanka. However, Congress deplores the continued detention of Tamils and others, most of them non-combatants, in camps without access to IRC or other assistance. Congress calls for the immediate return of all displaced persons to their homes and a new political settlement recognising the basic human rights of all of Sri Lanka's ethnic and religious communities. Mindful of the problem of anti-personnel mines in the affected area, Congress calls on the Sri Lankan Government to use international expertise, in addition to their own, to expedite clearances for humanitarian reasons. LI deplores the treatment of journalists in Sri Lanka and calls on the Sri Lankan government to open up the North to independent observers with immediate effect."
  - Liberal International congratulates the Democratic Party of Japan on its historic victory in the general elections in August, in which it won 308 out of 480 seats in the House of Representatives, giving the DPJ control in both the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament. LI calls on the new government led by Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama to build a stronger alliance with the European Union, the United States and the democracies in Asia such as Thailand, South Korea, the Philippines and Indonesia. LI is glad to see a truly liberal Japan playing a more active and key role in international relations.
  - Liberal International welcomes the initiatives for the comprehensive reform program, taken by India's new government led by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh who took the post for a second five-year term. LI urges the Singh administration to do everything possible to carry out the economic reforms and social welfare measures to benefit the minorities and millions of the poor. LI also calls on the Indian government to work with the international community and play an active role in engaging in talks with its neighbouring countries and maintaining peace and stability in South Asia region.

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- Liberal International calls on newly-elected Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono to make every effort in addressing human rights issues in Indonesia, including freedom of expression, religious freedom, unlawful killing by military forces, forced child labour, and the situation in Papua, in his second presidential term.
  - Liberal International condemns North Korea's threat of using nuclear weapons to endanger the peace and security of Northeast Asia and the world and the communist government's gross violations of human rights. LI calls on the North Korean authorities to return to the six-party talks, which provide a solution in addressing North Korea's nuclear program through dialogue.
  - Liberal International is concerned about the fragile situation in Pakistan, as the stability of the country is fundamental for the stability of the region and the world. The nuclear potential of the country must be carefully observed and protected from fundamentalist and radical forces. Congress calls for vigilance from the international community regarding the developments in the country and to support of the democratic forces.
  - Congress expresses deep concern about fraud and diverse violations that have happened during the presidential elections in Afghanistan and calls on all parties involved to adhere to the principle of free and fair elections in its upcoming second round. Congress is appalled by the rising tendency to diminish instead of improve the human rights in the country, in particular the rights of women in Afghanistan. We reaffirm the resolution on Afghan Women's Rights adopted by the 182nd meeting of the LI Executive Committee in Vancouver regarding the new family law and call on all international actors involved in developing the Afghan society to use their influence for such negative tendencies to end

## Europe

- Liberal International congratulates ELDR and its member parties, as well as the ALDE group for the impressive pan-European campaign they have organised for the European Parliament elections in June 2009. Congress supports the liberal group in the European Parliament positioned in the political centre as a decisive force.
- Liberal International congratulates former Belgian Prime Minister Guy Verhofstadt for his election to the post of leader of the ALDE group in the European Parliament. Following the successful leadership of Graham Watson, LI calls on all European liberals to continue this trend of successful legislation and progressive policies under the new leadership of Mr. Verhofstadt.
- Liberal International, in response to the rise of extremist far-right parties in the last European elections, appeals to the ALDE group as the moderate voice in the European parliament to speak out against xenophobic and racist tendencies and legislations that these parties could attempt to integrate into European policy.
- LI supports the ALDE group in the European Parliament especially in regards to their chairmanship of the Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee. Through the continued work of the ALDE group, LI envisages a liberal response to the crisis which will aid in the recovery of the European economy based on fiscal responsibility, long term structural reforms and measures addressing both the global economic crisis and the climate crisis.
- LI supports the efforts of the ALDE group in its proposal for a 'horizontal' directive on the fight against discrimination in the European Union which would widen the existing legal framework of discrimination to include all types of discrimination including age, sexual orientation and religion. This initiative recalls the resolution on the prohibition of persecutions and discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation adopted by the 55th Congress of LI.

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- Liberal International, in its continued support for Serbia (as adopted in the World Today Resolution passed at the 55th Congress of Liberal International) applauds the arrest and trial of war criminal Radovan Karadzic. Serbia's cooperation with The Hague Tribunal for war crimes has been necessary both as a legal obligation according to international law and as a means of facing the recent past and overcoming the policies of crime and destruction that had prevented Serbia from advancing towards European integration.
  - Liberal International strongly condemns the military conflict between Russia and Georgia during August of 2008, which resulted from a serious escalation of tension. LI is concerned by the fact that steps to reduce tension were not taken and the possibility of military intervention became an option for both sides in the conflict. LI calls Russia and Georgia to refrain from hasty political steps and statements leading to further escalation of tensions. LI calls all parties involved to guarantee the human rights of all civilians who suffered from the conflict and particularly refugees and displaced persons."
  - Liberal International opposes the legislation which has extended the term of the Russian Presidency from four to six years, going against the basic democratic rule of governmental change and leading to the growth of bureaucratic supremacy and corruption in Russia. LI is concerned about the ongoing trends towards the abolition of fair, competitive elections and the curbing of human rights in Russia.
  - LI supports its member party Yabloko and the liberal forces in the country in their determined stance against authoritarianism in Russia. LI further condemns officially inspired homophobia and calls upon Russia to observe its commitments under the European Convention of Human Rights.
  - LI calls upon the countries of the world to continue to support the independent nation of Kosovo. LI notes that over 45 countries have recognised Kosovo as an independent state. Congress urges the European Union and the other European institutions to integrate Kosovo into their programmes and networks.
  - Liberal International congratulates former Danish Prime Minister (and leader of LI full member Venstre) Anders Fogh Rasmussen on his appointment as Secretary General of the North Atlantic Treaty Responsibility. Congress is convinced that his track-record of responsible, liberal governance will ensure that NATO will move forward with these ideals at the fore.
  - Liberal International supports the continued dedication of European liberals to the final ratification of the Lisbon Treaty. LI hopes that the Lisbon Treaty will be ratified by the Czech Republic as soon as possible fulfilling the procedures initiated with the Treaty of Rome in 1957.
  - LI welcomes future enlargements of the EU, made possible by the ratification of this treaty, specifically in South Eastern Europe. LI congratulates the liberal parties in South East Europe for championing the regional cooperation and being the first genuine network of such character.
  - LI supports the dedicated work of LIBSEEN (the liberal network of South Eastern Europe) and hopes that their dedication to multilateral cooperation in the region will serve as an example to other countries and eventually lead the region to EU accession.
  - Congress is concerned over the new tendencies where bilateral issues like Macedonia-Greece and Slovenia-Croatia become obstacles for full integration of nations into the European Union. As liberals we believe that the values of the EU are not restricted to only certain religions or ethnicity. We fully support membership of Turkey in the EU based on fulfillment of the Copenhagen criteria
  - LI reiterates its support to Macedonia's integration in the Euro-Atlantic structures while preserving its right on self-determination over its national and cultural identity.
  - Congress welcomes the result of the second round of elections in Moldova where three liberal parties outpulled the Communist government, and welcomes the advent of a new 4-party coalition. Congress further calls upon the Government of the Russian Federation to work with the new Government of Moldova to bring about reunification of the country.
  - Congress regrets that Belarusians continue to live under the authoritarian regime of President Lukashenko. We are concerned that the members of the opposition continue to be oppressed and jailed,

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while the draconian NGO laws restrict the freedom of association and expression. Congress warns that Belarus continues to set a bad example that has recently inspired other countries, like Azerbaijan. Congress urges the Russian Federation to end all support to the regime in Minsk and the European Union to become more open for the citizens of Belarus.

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## *Individual Member Party Resolutions*

### **1 DEMOCRAT PARTY (THAILAND)**

#### **Promoting and Protecting Human Rights in Southeast Asia**

Reiterating the human rights as one of the most important attributes of liberalism;

Recalling that Liberal International is renowned for its contributions towards liberalism, in which the promotion of political and civil rights are mandatory in order to achieve equality and freedom for the people, as well as for the progress towards democracy;

Noting that promotion of human rights is still limited in a number of Asian countries;

Acknowledging the establishment of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights to address the human rights concerns and improve the human rights situation in Southeast Asia;

Emphasizing an important role that political parties, which share the common cause of liberalism, could play in the furtherance of protecting and promoting human rights through working with the governments and civil society;

Be it therefore resolved that Liberal International concentrate more efforts on human rights and call on all its members to become more involved in the promotion and protection of human rights as well as to encourage their respective governments to be more active and effective in protecting human rights and preventing any violation of them.

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## 2. FOLKPARTIET & CENTREPARTIET (SWEDEN)

### The citizen's right to privacy and free communication

Recognizing that everyone has the right of freedom of expression and respect for their private life, their home and their correspondence

Notes in the current state of the means of communication and given the generalized development of public online communication services, and the importance of the latter for the practical participation in democracy and expression of ideas and opinions, that the right of freedom of expression and free communication implies freedom to access such services

Stresses that there shall be no interference by a public authority with the exercise of these rights except as are proportionate, prescribed by law and necessary in a democratic society, notably in the interests of national security, public safety, for the prevention of disorder or crime or for the protection of the rights and freedoms of others and is necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security, public safety, for the prevention of disorder or crime or for the protection of the rights and freedoms of others

Recalls that in the determination of their civil rights and obligations, or of any criminal charge against them, everyone is entitled to be presumed innocent until proven guilty by an independent and impartial tribunal established by law, acting in due process of a fair trial

Firmly believes that any monitoring and storage of citizens communication by civil and public authorities must be laid down by law in line with respect of fundamental rights and freedoms, in particular in relation to a strict limitation of the invasion of privacy.

Notes with deep concern the collection of communications and correspondence from citizens. Collection of such information should only be allowed in the effort to combat terrorism and serious crime and should require the authority of the courts in every case.

- Calls upon its member parties to analyze existing and proposed laws, regarding the citizen's access to free communication as well as the monitoring and storage of such communication, according to the principle of proportionality and transparency.

- Calls upon its member parties to strictly limit and control the purposes for which the extent to which the citizen's right to free communication is restricted, as well as the purposes for which retained data may be provided to law enforcement authorities

- Calls upon governments – national and local – and the member parties to incorporate into their political work respect for citizen's right to privacy and free communication and the inviolable right to a fair trial at each political level in order to create a liberal and open society

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### **3. FOLKPARTIET & CENTREPARTIET (SWEDEN)**

#### **In support of CDM efforts in agriculture to ensure a sustainable development (CDM-Clean Development Mechanism)**

- Recognizing the need to ensure sustainable development as one of the key challenges facing developed and developing countries,
- Recognizing that implementing sustainable development of the agriculture for developing countries requires a balance between economic, social and environmental components,
- All the countries of the world has to take their responsibilities according to the Kyoto Agreement,
- Recognizing the need of a general agreement for free trade as a follow up to Doha and Accra
- Recognizing the fact that in many developing and other poorer countries many women are engaged in agricultural sector,

#### **However noting that**

- Agriculture is an important measure that should be highlighted in order to decrease the -greenhouse gases,
- Climate friendly agriculture may look very different in different regions and countries. The common aim is to be independent on fossil energy.
- Agricultural is the key element to fight hunger and poverty in many countries,
- Recognizing the challenge of food supply whereas the agricultural sector is the largest provider of food
- The property right of the farmer and mainly women involved in this sector in poorer countries is very limited,
- CDM is mainly a tool of practice in the developed countries to reduce the greenhouse gases,

#### **Having in mind**

- The responsibility in front of the Copenhagen Climate Conference,

#### **The Congress calls**

- therefore on all member parties and parliamentarians to commit promises into effective action, in order to assist the poorer countries fulfill their Copenhagen commitments,
- through providing sustainable means for a environmentally and climate friendly agriculture using CDM. Also highlighting that the most vulnerable groups involved are the women. This support to be institutionalized by the LI would undoubtedly lead toward a stronger position of the women in these countries.

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#### 4. FOLKPARTIET (SWEDEN)

##### The Global Financial Crisis

### Final text will be available shortly!

- notes that the 181<sup>st</sup> Executive committee gathered in Strasbourg (France) on the 25<sup>th</sup> of January 2009 gave a mandate to LI Vice-President in the Bureau, Juli Minoves-Triquell, to prepare an essay on liberalism and the World Economic Crisis
- recalls the aforementioned essay by LI's Vice-President in the bureau entitled "The World Economic Crisis: an essay on its origins, characteristics and possible outcomes from a liberal perspective" presented and discussed at the 182<sup>nd</sup> Executive Committee in Vancouver (Canada) on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May 2009
- recalls, in the context of that paper, that the causes of the crisis include unparalleled expansion, unbridled optimism, lack of perspective in the economic profession, blind belief in the unbreakable strength of large financial and economic institutions, the failure of regulatory supervision, unwillingness to assess real risks, and accumulation of debt, both public and private, in an environment of expanding optimism, and that all these constitute failures of stewardship
- notes that the International Monetary Fund, which has a leadership mandate, near universal membership, and a blend of macroeconomic and financial expertise, is instituting steps to increase global coordination
- recalls the huge benefits created by free trade during the past decades and its ability to lift people out of poverty,
- recognizes with satisfaction that there is an understanding among many policy makers of the benefits of international trade to the world and to individual countries,
- notes however also that protectionist measures and tendencies have surfaced in some countries in response to the economic slowdown and to difficulties in individual companies,
  - believes that national protectionism distorts competition, involves large costs for tax payers, imperils the functioning of the world economy and makes a sustainable economic recovery more difficult,
- believes that the global economic crisis can be an opportunity to create an Eco-efficient Economy that manages to create more wealth and new, sustainable jobs at the same time as we use less natural resources and cause less impact on the environment
- urges national governments not to resort to protectionism, but instead respond to the crisis by efficient short term policies to support the economy and by introducing reforms which supports sustainable growth in the longer term,
  - urges world leaders to honor their commitments made within the framework of the WTO and to press ahead with the Doha round of trade negotiations
- urges international financial institutions to work on a new warning exercise that can bring together scattered macro-financial expertise, piecing together macroeconomic and financial sector developments into a big picture that takes into account cross-country spillover effects and can drill down on key threats, and to review its lending framework to make sure it is well-suited to members' needs.
- acknowledging that the bureaucratic ways and rigid power structures that characterize large financial institutions have shifted the policy debate towards smaller, more flexible groups, including to the G-20 and the FSF, notes that these smaller groups have their own problems of legitimacy and capacity for follow-up, and urges to make decision-making more accurately reflect today's global economic landscape which would require a further rebalancing of voice and representation among IMF members.
- notes that the world will not be the same at the end of the current crisis. Important changes will reflect new attitudes toward stewardship, including a new industrial revolution impelled by ecologically sustainable development. In many countries, research for new production systems, conservation, and the thrifty use of energy are already expected to be a means for creating new jobs. The fundamental stages of human

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economic development have always coincided with the ability to capture new sources of energy: fire, wind, water, sun, natural gas, petroleum. But solutions cannot rest on technology alone; in many ways heightened financial technologies abetted the current monetary crisis and a variety of biological innovations have the potential to alter the world's commodity markets.

**Part of an Amendment Proposed by the Bureau of LI**

**To be debated in Plenary – Centrepactiet (Pro) – Det Radikale Venstre (Against)**

And a rapid return to the rate of economic growth of the past decades—the aim of many policy makers around the globe—would increase the emissions of greenhouse gases that are altering the climate. Moreover, in this urgent crisis, Liberal International urges political actors to avoid the danger of restarting economic growth by any available means: returning to the levels of consumption that characterized the recent past would run up an environmental bill that the planet would surely collect.

- acknowledges that liberalism, in the sense not only of economics but of the classical regard for economic and social progress for all, will become a crucial force in the process of solving the crisis. To rebuild a new economic system, it will not be enough to improve the regulation of the banks, make balance sheets more transparent, regulate speculative funds, and refurbish the economy through public spending. Remembering that the market is an instrument in the service of economic progress, Liberal International reasserts that liberals put liberty in first place as a creative force that multiplies opportunities for everyone. Liberal International urges a return to those classical principles—principles that call for responsible stewardship of both human and natural resources— which must become part of our future.

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## **5. FOLKPARTIET (SWEDEN)**

### **Women's rights are human rights (Cairo +15)**

- Confirms the provision of universal access to reproductive health services, including family planning and sexual health as expressed in the programme of action adopted at The International Conference on Population and Development, ICPD, in Cairo, 1994.
- Recognizing the empowerment and autonomy of women, and improvements in their political, social, economic and health status, as essential for the achievement of sustainable development.
- Recognizing reproductive and sexual health as component of overall lifelong health and essential in the combat against infant and child mortality and maternal mortality.
- Upholding the principle that the human rights of girls and women are an inalienable and indivisible part of human rights, to be protected not only in areas of public life but also in the privacy of the home.
- Confirms that sexual and reproductive rights rest on the recognition of the human rights of women's right to have control over and decide freely on matters related to their own bodies.
- Recognizing reproductive decision-making, including choice in marriage, family formation, and determination of the number, timing and spacing of one's children; and the right to the information and the means to exercise those choices.
- Stresses that woman should be involved in all levels of the planning, implementation and evaluation of sexual and reproductive health care programmes.
- Notes that the principle of informed free choice is essential to the long-term success of family planning programmes.
- Stresses that abortion should not be promoted as a method of family planning, unwanted pregnancies should primary be prevented through sexual health education and family-planning services to reduce the rate of abortion.
- Calls upon the member parties to deal openly and forthrightly with unsafe abortion as a major public health concern.
- Declares that violence against women, in all its forms including sexual violence, is not just a health and social problem; it is a violation of women's basic right to freedom from torture and ill treatment, their right to liberty and security of the person, and their right to physical integrity.
- Stresses that the international community should act when women's rights, including those related to sexual and reproductive health, are violated.
- Calls upon the member parties to respect and protect women's rights in their political work, including women's sexual and reproductive rights.

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## **6. CENTRE PARTY (SWEDEN)**

### **Promoting an Eco-efficient Economy**

The Liberal International parties consider there to be no choice between caring for the environment and promoting economic growth – quite the contrary. They are deeply dependent on each other and must be tackled at once, as one. This is obvious in a time when the world faces the consequences from resource degradation, climate change and one of the deepest economic crises ever.

If the challenges are met simultaneously, it may create new business opportunities, markets and jobs and be a forceful engine for sustainable growth and competitiveness. To continue with “business as usual” is not an option. Rather, we have to shift, urgently and forcefully, to an Eco-efficient Economy that manages to create more wealth and new, sustainable jobs at the same time as we use less natural resources and cause less impact on the environment.

Important lessons and good examples on how an Eco-efficient Economy can work can be found in many sectors. Renewable electricity and biofuels for transports are examples in new, emerging sectors, and sustainable cities and energy efficiency are cross-cutting examples. In the traditional sector heating, iron and steel, chemicals and automotives may inspire. The Eco-efficient Economy is not only about eco-innovation. Mature sectors must also be included as they have very critical roles for employment and the economy and for resolving environmental problems.

#### **Considering that:**

There are many analyses which show that it does not cost much to limit the effects from climate change. The investment needed to keep the level of greenhouse gases at 450 ppm have been estimated to cost only about 0.5 per cent of global GDP over the period 2013-2030. This corresponds to a fall in global GDP growth by 0.19 per cent per year up to 2030. According to the “Stern Report” a business as usual scenario may result in losses of ca 15 per cent of global consumption in the future, due to damages on social and economic systems from climate change impacts. It is obvious that it is economically better to act now than to wait.

#### **Liberal International calls for:**

- Transiting industries and economies throughout the world for achieving an Eco-efficient Economy.
- Reaching an ambitious agreement on climate change in Copenhagen in December 2009, where all countries in the world are included.
- Cutting the global green house gas emissions with at least 50 per cent in 2050, compared with year 1990.
- Shifting the revenue base for national budgets from taxing labour and enterprises towards taxing resources and energy use as well as environmental impacts. Introducing an international price on carbon emissions and setting common minimum levels on taxation of carbon emissions based upon that.
- Expanding the global carbon trading system so that it takes into account a larger amount of countries, markets and sectors.
- Auctioning off the tradeable carbon permits instead of “grandfathering” them.
- Developing additional robust, reliable and widely recognised indicators that can be used to measure progress towards an Eco-efficient Economy

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## **7. CENTRE PARTY (SWEDEN)**

### **Energy efficiency**

The world is currently experiencing both a shortage of energy supply and climate changes. The challenge in the years and decades to come is therefore twofold. In order to reduce carbon emissions, governments throughout the world need to focus more on renewable energy and encourage energy efficiency. Energy efficiency is the most durable way to reduce dependence on fossil fuels and imports.<sup>1</sup> Measures to improve energy efficiency and green technologies can provide new opportunities for the economy, such as the creation of green, sustainable jobs, in the current difficult situation.

The international liberal parties believe that a common approach worldwide for enhancing energy efficiency should be developed.

#### **Considering that:**

The European Union has a new ambitious energy policy, agreed by the European Council in March 2007, with the commitment to the "20-20-20" initiative: reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 20%, increasing the share of renewables in the energy consumption to 20% compared to 8.5% today and improving energy efficiency by 20%, all by 2020.

However, to reach the objectives of sustainability, competitiveness and security of supply, a massive switch to improved energy efficiency also in other countries of the world is required.

A global agreement on climate change would create major new incentives for cooperation on energy efficiency. Energy efficiency should therefore be one of the main objectives of the world energy community in the coming years.

#### **Noting that:**

To avoid global temperature rising more than 2 degrees Celsius, drastic cuts in carbon emissions are required whereas using energy more efficiently is the most immediate and most cost-effective way.

#### **Liberal International calls for:**

- Policies promoting a high-efficiency energy system throughout the world.
  - Intensively improving energy efficiency in all sectors of the economy.
  - Common principles and consider an energy efficiency target at 40% to 2030.
- Governments to consider tight standards for new efficient buildings, accompanied by measures to increase their numbers and to improve energy efficiency of existing buildings.
- The countries of the world to begin preparing its energy future in the longer term and ending oil dependence in transport.
  - Safeguarding the security of energy supply and take necessary actions to achieve a zero-carbon electricity supply throughout the world by 2050.

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<sup>1</sup> Energy efficiency is expected to account for more than half of the reductions in energy related CO2 emissions in the world by 2030. (Source: IEA World Energy Outlook)

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## **8. INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF LIBERAL WOMEN**

### **“Ending Impunity in Burma” or Stop Impunity in Burma**

- Noting, what has happened in Burma since the 14th of May 2009, when Mrs Aung San Suu Kyi, leader of the National League for Democracy and the world's only imprisoned Nobel Peace Prize winner, without democratic legal procedures.

-Noting, that since September 2008 there have been 2100 political persons imprisoned, children forced to be soldiers, over 3300 villages destroyed, sexual violence, extrajudicial killings and torture by the military authority going on.

-Noting that INLW on the 15<sup>th</sup> May, worried about the imprisonment and announced trial of Mrs Aung San Suu Kyi, sent a letter to the Chair of ECOSOC/Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, asking her to undertake every possible effort and influence together with Secretary General Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, for an immediate release of Mrs. Aung San Suu Kyi.

- Noting that many institutions and political parties worldwide have presented statements on the imprisonment of Mrs. Aung San Suu Kyi by the military regime of Burma, also the Catalan Group in the Spanish Congress on the 19<sup>th</sup> May 2009, afterwards being adopted as a parliamentary institutional declaration of all parties calling on the international community to work together to demand the immediate release of Mrs. Aung San Suu Kyi and moreover calling on the military regime to enable Mrs. Aung San Suu Kyi, Nobel laureate to run for the presidential election, which the regime announced for 2010.

Therefore:

- INLW calls on L.I Congress to take strong action and all measures in order to work strategically with governments, parties, organisations and lobbies to stress on the release of Mrs Aung Suu Kyi from the confinement in her home in Rangoon.

-INLW claims that the Security Council resolution 1820 (2008) of the United Nations to be implemented immediately in Burma to end the impunity towards the violations of the citizen's human rights.

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## **9. VVD (THE NETHERLANDS)**

### **Resolution on Democracy Education in the Middle East and North Africa**

**The 56<sup>th</sup> Congress of the Liberal International convening from November 28-31 October 2009 in Cairo, Egypt, noting:**

That the worldwide democratic wave that originated in the 1990's has not sustained in several countries and regions around the world;

That among the few countries in the MENA region that did see forms of democratisation during the 1990's or before, few have not shown a relapse into democratic regression;

That as a result of this democratic deficit, governments in these countries largely ignore basic human rights,

That the Congress of Liberal International in its 2006 conference in Marrakech adopted the theme resolution 'Democracy and Development: a Liberal view', which stated that democratic, accountable and transparent governance is the best condition for sustainable economic development;

That this same theme resolution underlined that poverty, illiteracy and low levels of human development are factors that adversely affect the consolidation of democracy;

That democratic values are not introduced in any country or absorbed by any individual overnight, but require extensive guidance in order to garner public support and involvement;

That the very essence and nature of any democracy consists of the bottom-up and participatory process it entails, that each country needs to tailor the workings of a democratic system to its particular cultural needs and that democracy therefore requires continued involvement of large groups of citizens to adjust and strengthen its workings;

That democratic principles and democratic behaviour must be taught from the earliest stages in life as possible.

**The Congress of Liberal International calls upon the governments of the Middle East and North Africa:**

To introduce democracy education as a central part of curriculums at all levels of schooling;

To educate the young and old in this region not only in the theoretic principles of democratic governance but to also train students in the every-day practice of democratic governance;

And thus to promote public participation in democratic structures, running from school boards and community councils to sub-national and national politics;

And calls upon all member states of the United Nations to reallocate their financial means so as to enlarge the support for organisations which work for the promotion of democracy and democracy education in the Middle East and North Africa.

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**URGENCY RESOLUTION**  
**SUBMITTED BY: YABLOKO (RUSSIA)**

**Observes that:**

- The regional and municipal elections that took place in Russia on October 11, 2009, demonstrated an unprecedented scope of the falsification of the results of the voting and violations of the law, which was confirmed by observers from all the political parties (except the ruling party) that took part in the elections and mass media

**Expresses support to:**

- those millions of Russian voters whose franchise was neglected and urging them to state their lawful rights;  
- its member party YABLOKO in its fight for democratic and liberal values in Russia

**States that:**

- the liberal international community will closely observe the development of the situation with YABLOKO's law suits and complaints forwarded to the Public Prosecutor and electoral commissions.

**Calls on:**

The Russian authorities to:

- conduct a full inspection of the complaints of the actions (or negligence) of election commissions in all the Russian Federation subjects, all the evidence of fraud published by the mass media and punish all those guilty of election fraud, as well as take urgent remedy measures, if needed, declaring the elections void

- observe Russia's obligations under its membership in the OSCE and in the Council of Europe on ensuring free and fair elections in the country;

- form new electoral commissions ensuring that representatives from all of Russia's political parties should have equal participation to cast a vote

- ensure free and equal conditions for all the political parties and candidates, as well as maximum public control over elections and voting.