

## World Movement for Democracy

Since its founding in 1999, the World Movement for Democracy has expanded its reach to thousands of democracy activists, practitioners, scholars, and others engaged in the promotion of democracy around the world.

As a global network, the World Movement brings together participants regionally and in various areas of democracy work, such as research, local governance, women's issues, and youth. It is led by an international Steering Committee and NED currently serves as its Secretariat. In addition to organizing biennial global assemblies, the staff at NED facilitates communication among participants, maintains and updates the World Movement website ([www.wmd.org](http://www.wmd.org)), and assists in the development of regional and functional networks. As a result of discussions at the World Movement's Fourth Assembly in Istanbul, Turkey, in April 2006, World Movement activities in 2007 focused on strategies to respond to recent backsliding from democratic progress in various countries and the international "backlash" against democracy assistance to NGOs. During the last year, the Secretariat staff also prepared for the Fifth Assembly, which was held in Kyiv, Ukraine, on April 6-9, 2008. Among other objectives, the Assembly continued the World Movement's work to respond to government efforts to close civil society space for democracy promotion.

## Project on Defending Civil Society

In early 2007, the World Movement launched a new project, entitled "Defending Civil Society," to address the emerging issue of increasingly restrictive legal environments and frameworks under which civil society organizations work, particularly those focused on democracy and human rights. Through this project, the World Movement seeks to defend and enhance the public space for citizens to initiate and engage in activities to advance and consolidate democratic transitions in their countries. Thus far, the central feature of the project has been the preparation of a report of the same name, co-authored with the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL), that articulates the historically and widely accepted principles that serve to protect civil society, such as the rights to associate, advocate, and receive cross-border assistance. The report also outlines ideas for regional and global strategies to promote the adoption of the principles it articulates. To gain the broadest possible input into the drafting of the report, the Secretariat organized regional consultations in Africa, Asia, Eurasia, the Middle East/North Africa, and Latin America. The report has been translated into Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian, and Spanish and has been posted on the World Movement website and numerous other websites of relevant organizations around the world.

As of this writing, activities to formulate and implement strategies are well underway. To help

advance recognition of the report, for instance, the World Movement has assembled an Eminent Persons Group on the project that includes former Canadian Prime Minister Kim Campbell, former Brazilian President Fernando Henrique Cardoso, His Holiness the Dalai Lama, former Czech President Václav Havel, former Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, Egyptian scholar and activist Saad Eddin Ibrahim, and Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

In addition, as a result of the Middle East/North Africa regional consultation held in Casablanca, a regional report on the subject has been prepared that features country reports on Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Morocco, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, and Yemen, all prepared by civil society leaders from those countries. This regional report has been published in Arabic and English, distributed widely within the region, and posted on a variety of relevant websites.

Moreover, the Secretariat has facilitated the participation of democracy activists involved in the project, from countries including China, Malaysia, Russia, Venezuela, Vietnam, and Zimbabwe, at various international and regional fora to ensure widespread discussion of the report and the issues it highlights: In September, the Secretariat organized a workshop on the report at the biennial conference of the World Movement's Asia network, the World Forum for Democratization in Asia (WFDA), that was held in Manila, Philippines; copies of the report were widely distributed to governmen-



tal and nongovernmental delegates to the Community of Democracies ministerial meeting in Bamako, Mali, in November; and at its annual general assembly held in Kinshasa, DRC, in December, the World Movement's Africa network, the African Democracy Forum (ADF), conducted a plenary discussion on how the ADF can promote the "Defending Civil Society" report and use it to help protect civil society in the region. The World Movement also organized a discussion on the report at the European Parliament in Brussels early in 2008, and a plenary session, panel discussion, and series of workshops on the report and on restrictive legal environments for civil society at the World Movement's Fifth Assembly in Kyiv. Based on discussions at the Fifth Assembly, the World Movement will help lead an international campaign to advance the protection of civil society wherever it is under pressure, but particularly in those countries that have more recently taken measures to close civil society space.

## Fifth Assembly, Kyiv, Ukraine, April 6-9, 2008

During 2007 the World Movement's staff worked on the organization of the Fifth Assembly, scheduled for April 6-9, 2008, in Kyiv, Ukraine, under the theme, "Making Democracy Work: From Principles to Performance." The Assembly, which took place as scheduled, brought together some 450 democracy activists, practitioners, scholars, donors, and others engaged in democracy promotion from more than 100 countries, and featured a wide variety of workshops and panel discussions addressing significant challenges in all global regions.

Under the general theme of "making democracy work," workshops addressed the need to build well-functioning democratic institutions, such as independent judiciaries, effective political parties and legislatures, local government structures, and channels for the free flow of information, as well as the need to implement policies to address poverty and inequality through democratic economic reforms.

The final night of the Assembly was devoted to the presentation of the World Movement's Democracy Courage Tributes to the Legal Community of Pakistan, the Journalists of Somalia, and the Monks of Burma.

More information on the Fifth Assembly, including the agenda, can be found on the World Movement website: [www.wmd.org](http://www.wmd.org).

## World Movement Networks

During the past year, the World Movement Secretariat staff at NED has continued to work with participants on the development of the following regional and functional networks affiliated with the World Movement:

- **The African Democracy Forum (ADF) – [www.africandemocracyforum.org](http://www.africandemocracyforum.org)**
- **The World Forum for Democratization in Asia (WFDA) – [www.wfda.net](http://www.wfda.net)**
- **The World Youth Movement for Democracy (WYMD) – [www.ymd.youthlink.org](http://www.ymd.youthlink.org)**
- **The Global Network on Local Governance (GNLG) – [www.gnlg.org](http://www.gnlg.org)**
- **The International Women's Democracy Network (IWDN) – [www.wmd.org/women/womensdemocracy.html](http://www.wmd.org/women/womensdemocracy.html)**
- **The Network of Democracy Research Institutes (NDRI) – [www.wmd.org/ndri/ndri.html](http://www.wmd.org/ndri/ndri.html)**

Some activity highlights include the ADF's regional conference on women's political participation held in Monrovia, Liberia; the WFDA's biennial conference held in Manila, Philippines; and the Youth Movement's regional and global essay contest on democracy:

- The ADF conference on women's political participation took place in Monrovia, Liberia, on April 23-25, 2007, bringing together nearly 40 participants. During the opening session, Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf delivered the keynote address, discussing her government's strategies for empowering women in Liberia. The participants included current



[www.wmd.org](http://www.wmd.org)



Participants in the ADF conference on women's political participation held in Monrovia, Liberia.

and former members of parliaments, leaders of women's organizations, and representatives of human rights groups, from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Somaliland, South Africa, and Uganda.

- WFDA held its second biennial conference in Manila, Philippines, on September 19-21, 2007, bringing together approximately 100 democracy activists from the Asia-Pacific region. Participants in the conference evaluated the democratic progress

that has been made in the region, and developed the agenda for the Asia regional workshop to be held at the World Movement's Fifth Assembly.

- Working with its regional partners, the Youth Movement organized an essay contest on democracy at the regional and global levels. Through the essay contest, which is held each year, the network seeks to encourage young people to deepen their understanding of democracy within the context of their respective communities, countries, and regions. Over 50 essays

## World Movement Steering Committee

<b>Mariclaire Acosta</b> <i>Mexico</i>	<b>David French</b> <i>United Kingdom</i>	<b>Roel von Meijenfeldt</b> <i>The Netherlands</i>
<b>Mahnaz Afkhami</b> <i>Iran</i>	<b>Carl Gershman</b> <i>United States (ex officio*)</i>	<b>Can Paker</b> <i>Turkey (Treasurer)</i>
<b>Igor Blažević</b> <i>Bosnia</i>	<b>Paul Graham</b> <i>South Africa</i>	<b>Inna Pidluska</b> <i>Ukraine</i>
<b>Francesca Bomboko</b> <i>Democratic Republic of Congo</i>	<b>Han Dongfang</b> <i>China (Vice Chair)</i>	<b>Jacqueline Pitanguy</b> <i>Brazil</i>
<b>Kim Campbell</b> <i>Canada (Chair)</i>	<b>Jana Hybaskova</b> <i>Czech Republic</i>	<b>Carlos Ponce</b> <i>Venezuela</i>
<b>Kavi Chongkittavorn</b> <i>Thailand</i>	<b>Melinda Quintos de Jesús</b> <i>The Philippines</i>	<b>Elisabeth Ungar</b> <i>Colombia (Secretary)</i>
<b>Alicija Derkowska</b> <i>Poland</i>	<b>Maina Kiai</b> <i>Kenya</i>	<b>Yevgeniy Zhovtis</b> <i>Kazakhstan</i>
<b>Ivan Doherty</b> <i>Ireland</i>	<b>Reginald Matchabe-Hove</b> <i>Zimbabwe</i>	* representing the Secretariat
<b>Yuri Dzhibladze</b> <i>Russia</i>	<b>George Mathew</b> <i>India</i>	

## World Movement Funders

- Department of International Affairs and Trade - Canada
- Hurford Foundation
- Taiwan Foundation for Democracy
- U.S. Agency for International Development
- U.S. Department of State – Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor
- U.S. Department of State – Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs, Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI)

were submitted, and the finalists were announced in June. The two global winners attended the World Movement's Fifth Assembly with their costs covered. The essays of the 17 finalists from all regions are posted on the Youth Movement website, listed above.

Information on these and other networking initiatives can be found on the World Movement website: [www.wmd.org](http://www.wmd.org).

## World Movement Website and Electronic Communications

**Participants Database.** During the last year the World Movement Secretariat updated its online, searchable Participants Database. Some 380 organizations now have database

entries that include contact information, website link, areas of democracy work, types of activities, publications, and other pertinent information.

**“What’s Being Done On . . .?”** The World Movement Secretariat continued to develop topical installments of the “What’s Being Done On . . .?” section of its website. For several months at a time, the section highlights the activities of various organizations in different global regions, and links to important resources, that are focused on a particular theme or area of democracy work. During the past year, the section focused on effective networking for promoting democracy and defending human rights, and on the role of democracy NGOs in formal peace negotiations.

**Democracy Alerts.** During 2007, the World Movement Secretariat is-

sued and updated a number of alerts on World Movement participants and other democracy activists facing danger. Among others, alerts were issued on behalf of human rights defenders and democracy activists beaten and/or arrested in Iran, Kyrgyzstan, Nigeria, Turkmenistan, Vietnam, and Zimbabwe; journalists murdered in Somalia; the women’s rights movement in Iran; and the democracy movement in Singapore.

**DemocracyNews.** The World Movement Secretariat issues a monthly electronic newsletter, *DemocracyNews*, as one of the tools for the exchange of information among World Movement participants. *DemocracyNews* includes announcements of World Movement participants’ activities and other events focusing on democracy issues around the world. Over 3,200 democracy activists, scholars, and practitioners worldwide are currently subscribed. Free subscriptions are available via the World Movement website.