

World Movement for Democracy

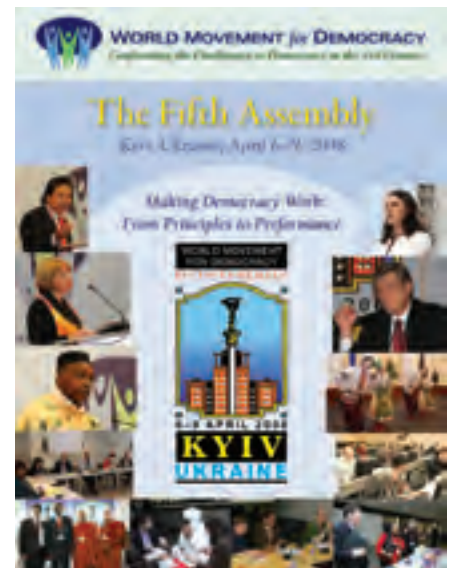
AS NED CHAIRMAN VIN WEBER NOTES IN HIS OPENING message of this report, the World Movement for Democracy marks its tenth anniversary in 2009 as a global network that, since its inception, has expanded its reach to thousands of democracy activists, practitioners, scholars, and others engaged in the advancement of democracy around the world. It brings together participants both regionally and globally in various areas of democracy work, such as research, local governance, women's issues, and youth. The World Movement is led by an international Steering Committee and NED serves as its Secretariat. In addition to organizing biennial global assemblies, including, most recently, the Fifth Assembly, held in Kyiv, Ukraine, in April 2008, the staff at NED facilitates communications among participants, maintains the World Movement website (www.wmd.org), assists in the development of regional and functional networks, and provides leadership on special projects, such as the Defending Civil Society project launched in 2007 and a project on Assessing Democracy Assistance launched in 2008.

Fifth Assembly

The World Movement held its Fifth Assembly in Kyiv, Ukraine, on April 6-9, 2008. The Assembly brought together over 450 democracy activists, practitioners, and scholars from more than 100 countries. The plenary sessions, panel discussions, and some 35 topical, regional, and functional workshops resulted in practical recommendations and initiatives on a broad range of issues and challenges. The Assembly also helped participants develop relationships of solidarity and mutual support across borders. The Ukrainian NGO, Europe XXI Foundation, served as the local partner organization for the Assembly.

Under the theme of "Making De-

mocracy Work: From Principles to Performance," the Assembly fostered discussions on how to consolidate democratic progress through the establishment of democratic institutions and by addressing critical needs, such as poverty and social inequality. By introducing the World Movement's recently published *Defending Civil Society* report (see page 13) and featuring panel discussions and workshops to discuss it in depth, the Assembly also focused on developing effective responses to the increasingly restrictive environments in which democracy and human rights organizations carry out their work. A statement issued earlier in the year by the World Movement Steering Committee, entitled, "Cur-



rent Challenges to Democracy," also provided a basis for discussions at the Assembly. The statement is available on the World Movement website.

President Victor Yushchenko delivered a special address to the Assembly, which opened with welcoming remarks from First Lady of Ukraine, Kateryna Yushchenko, followed by presentations from former president of Peru, Alejandro Toledo; the former chair of the Kenyan National Human Rights Commission, Maina Kiai; and Myroslava Gongadze, founder of the Gongadze Foundation (named for her husband, an independent journalist who was murdered prior to the Orange Revolution).

A highlight of each assembly is the presentation of the World Movement's Democracy Courage Tributes, which give special recognition to democratic groups and movements that work in particularly difficult circumstances but often outside the spotlight of world attention. At the Fifth Assembly, the Tributes were presented to the Monks of Burma, the Legal Community of Pakistan, and the Independent



Steering Committee member from Iran, Mahnaz Afkhami (center), with representatives of (from left to right) the Legal Community of Pakistan, the Independent Journalists of Somalia, and the Monks of Burma who received Democracy Courage Tributes at the Fifth Assembly. Afkhami chaired the presentations at the John B. Hurford Memorial Dinner.

Journalists of Somalia for their valor and commitment to democracy.

A final report on the Assembly, containing all the reports from the plenary sessions, panel discussions, and numerous workshops, has been published (available upon request) and posted on the World Movement website.

Defending Civil Society Project

The World Movement initiated the Defending Civil Society project to respond to efforts by various governments to close the space for civil society work through new “NGO laws” and other measures designed to frustrate democracy and human rights groups and movements. Since its appearance early in 2008, the *Defending Civil Society* report, published by the World Movement Secretariat at NED in partnership with the International

Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL), has increasingly been used as an education and advocacy tool by many civil society organizations. Ranging from discussions at the Ministerial Meeting of the Community of Democracies held in Mali to an endorsement of the African Commission on Human and People’s Rights, the report has garnered widespread attention for articulating the long-held and widely-respected principles that have served to protect civil society (such principles include the right to create an organization, to operate free of government interference, to communicate and advocate freely, to receive assistance domestically and across borders, and the state’s duty to protect these rights). These and other discussions among World Movement participants, including at the Fifth Assembly in Kyiv, as noted above, have made clear

the critical need to continue regional, sub-regional, and country-specific efforts to help counteract measures that restrict civil society work, and to monitor the use of such measures in countries around the world. The World Movement continues to work with ICNL, therefore, to use the *Defending Civil Society* report as a practical tool to foster reforms of restrictive legal environments.

Assessing Democracy Assistance Project

As a result of discussions at a workshop on democracy assistance at the Fifth Assembly, the World Movement Secretariat has worked during the past year to develop a new project—Assessing Democracy Assistance—that is intended to evaluate the current strengths and weaknesses of international democracy assistance and to make recommendations on how the funding and program strategies can be better shaped and targeted to maximize their impact. The study will be undertaken in partnership with the Madrid-based think tank, FRIDE, which has published various reports on European approaches and contributions to democracy assistance, and the Center for Democracy, Development, and the Rule of Law (CDDRL) based at Stanford University. The report, which will be based on a “mapping” of the field of democracy assistance, some 12 country case studies, an online survey of democracy activists who have received assistance over the years, and a review of existing evaluations of democracy assistance programs, is planned for completion in time for the Sixth Assembly in 2010.

World Movement Networks

During the past year, the World Movement Secretariat staff 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**
- **The Latin America and Caribbean Network for Democracy**
- **The World Forum for Democratization in Asia**
- **The World Youth Movement for Democracy**
- **The Global Network on Local Governance**
- **The International Women's Democracy Network**
- **The Network of Democracy Research Institutes**

Links to and information on these and other networking initiatives can be found on the World Movement website: www.wmd.org.

World Movement Website and Electronic Communications

Social Network and Resources Database. During the last year, the World Movement Secretariat worked to develop a Social Network and Resources Database for the



Launch meeting, held in Panama City, on February 28-March 1, 2008 of the Latin America and Caribbean Network for Democracy, the World Movement's most recent regional networking initiative.

World Movement to facilitate more direct and effective communications among participants, as well as provide direct access to electronic publications (many in full-text) in NED's Democracy Resource Center, including many NED grantee publications. Features will include a social networking function for which participants will develop and maintain personal profiles focused on their democracy-promotion work; a dynamic search function on the World Movement website that will

result in a list of participants, full-text articles, current news from media sources, and other information, all related to the user's search term; and interactive tools that will allow World Movement participants to contact each other, comment on materials, and share their publications.

"What's Being Done On...?"

The World Movement Secretariat has 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 "Democracy NGO Participation in Formal Peace Negotiations" and on "Enhancing the Political Participation of Minority Peoples." Based on a previous installment, the Secretariat also developed a resource page on



www.wmd.org

World Movement Funders

- **Communitas Foundation**—Bulgaria
- **Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian**—Portugal
- **Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade**—Canada
- **Hurford Foundation**—U.S.
- **International Renaissance Foundation**—Ukraine
- **Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic**
- **Open Society Georgia Foundation**
- **Portuguese Institute for Development Support**
- **Judy and Gilbert Shelton**
- **State Administration for the City of Kyiv**—Ukraine
- **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)**

the website devoted to human rights networking that features an expansive list of human rights networks around the world, a list of intergovernmental organizations focused on human rights, a list of resources and projects, a calendar of related events,

World Movement Steering Committee

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|---|---|
| Mariclaire Acosta —Mexico | Bambang Harymurti —Indonesia |
| Mahnaz Afkhami —Iran | Jana Hybaskova —Czech Republic |
| Igor Blažević —Bosnia | Melinda Quintos de Jesús
—The Philippines |
| Francesca Bomboko
—Dem. Rep. of Congo | Hisham Kassem —Egypt |
| Kim Campbell —Canada (Chair) | Asma Khader —Jordan |
| Kavi Chongkittavorn —Thailand | Maina Kiai —Kenya |
| Michael Danby —Australia | Reginald Matchaba-Hove
—Zimbabwe |
| Alicja Derkowska —Poland | George Mathew —India |
| Ivan Doherty —Ireland | Roel von Meijenfeldt
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| David French —United Kingdom | Carlos Ponce —Venezuela |
| Carl Gershman —United States* | Elisabeth Ungar
—Colombia (Secretary) |
| Paul Graham —South Africa | Yevgeniy Zhovtis —Kazakhstan |

* Ex-officio member as representative of the Secretariat.

and a news section that is updated monthly. The new human rights resource page was launched to coincide with the 60th Anniversary of the UN Declaration on Human Rights.

Democracy Alerts. In 2008, the World Movement Secretariat issued and/or updated some 30 alerts on World Movement participants and other democracy activists facing danger. Alerts were issued on behalf of human rights defenders and democracy activists persecuted in Azerbaijan, Burma, China, Cuba, Iran, Malaysia, Nicaragua, Russia, Singapore, Tibet,

and Zimbabwe, among others.

DemocracyNews. As the World Movement’s monthly electronic newsletter, *DemocracyNews* serves as an important tool for facilitating exchanges of information among World Movement participants. Each issue includes announcements of activities focused on democracy issues around the world, calls for collaboration, and other relevant information. Over 3,200 democracy activists, scholars, and practitioners worldwide are currently subscribed. Free subscriptions are available via the World Movement website.