

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 of networks,” 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 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), and assists in the development of regional and functional networks. In 2007, the World Movement will also focus more specifically on strategies to combat backsliding from democratic progress in various countries and the international “backlash” against democracy assistance to NGOs.

Fourth Assembly

The World Movement held its Fourth Assembly in Istanbul, Turkey, on April 2 to 5, 2006. The Assembly brought together nearly 600 democracy activists,

practitioners, and scholars from close to 120 countries. The plenary sessions, panel discussions, and some 50 topical, regional, and functional workshops resulted in practical recommendations and initiatives on a broad range of issues and challenges. The Assembly also helped participants to develop solidarity and mutual support across borders.

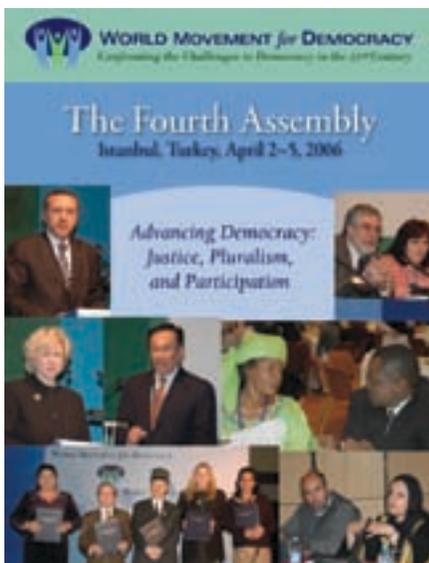
Under the theme, “Advancing Democracy: Justice, Pluralism, and Participation,” the Assembly addressed some of the leading challenges to promoting democracy in diverse societies. The Turkish Economic and Social Studies Foundation (TESEV) and the Helsinki Citizens Assembly, Turkey served as local partners.

The Assembly opened with welcom-

ing remarks and an address by the Prime Minister of Turkey, the Honorable Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. The Honorable Kim Campbell, Secretary-General of the Club of Madrid and former Prime Minister of Canada, and the Honorable Anwar Ibrahim, former Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia, also made presentations.

Following the opening session, the speakers joined the participants and other local dignitaries for dinner at which the ambassadors of Sweden and the United States, Christer Asp and Ross Wilson, respectively, and the president of the Taiwan Foundation for Democracy (TFD), Michael Kau, expressed in person the support that the U.S. and Swedish governments and the TFD provided to help make the Assembly possible.

A highlight of each Assembly is the presentation of the World Movement’s Democracy Courage Tributes, which give special recognition to groups of activists working in particularly dif-



Recep Tayyip Erdoğan,
Prime Minister of Turkey

difficult circumstances, but outside the spotlight of world attention. At the Fourth Assembly, Tributes were presented to the Crimean Tatars and their Mejlis (Parliament), the civil society of Nepal, the human rights and democracy movement in Uzbekistan, and democracy activists in Vietnam.

World Movement Networks

During the past year, the World Movement Secretariat staff at NED worked with participants to continue development of both regional and functional networks affiliated with the World Movement. In addition to the activities described below, these networks organized various plenary sessions and workshops at the Fourth Assembly.

- **The African Democracy Forum (ADF)** is the World Movement's regional network in Africa. The ADF includes over 100 members and provides a platform for mutual support and the sharing of resources. In addition to facilitating information sharing through an email list, the ADF developed a website (www.africandemocracyforum.org) through which it continues to develop an online

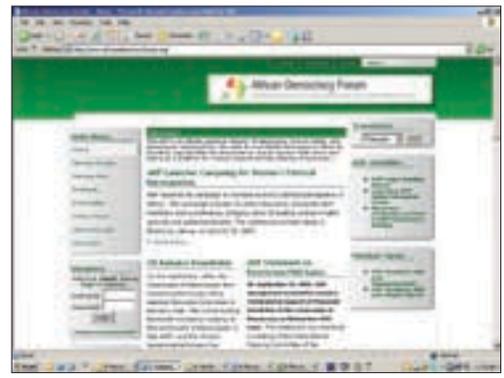
community for African democrats. In collaboration with the Montreal-based Rights & Democracy and the Guinean Organization for the Defense of Human and Citizens Rights, the ADF organized a conference on "post-conflict democracy building" in Conakry, Guinea, in December 2005. The Nairobi-based Kenyan Human Rights Commission serves as the ADF Secretariat.

- **The World Forum for Democratization in Asia (WFDA)** was established to reaffirm the core values of Asian democrats and to extend these values throughout the continent by facilitating concrete measures and strategies to assist the democratization process in Asian societies. Among other activities in the past year, the WFDA issued statements and press releases on current issues, such as Sri Lanka's presidential elections in November 2005, trumped-up criminal charges against WFDA Organizing Committee member Chee Soon Juan of Singapore, the newly established UN Human Rights Council, and Thailand's military coup d'etat. In August 2006, in cooperation with the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC) and the Asia-Pacific Solidarity Coalition (APSOC), the WFDA sent a solidarity mission to Timor-Leste.

- **The World Youth Movement for Democracy (WYMD)** provides young democracy activists with a platform to exchange their ideas and express young people's voices concerning democracy around the world. The São Paulo office of the Global Youth

Action Network serves as the Secretariat of the Youth Movement. The WYMD organized a three-day Global Youth Conference on Democracy and Political Participation in São Paulo in December 2005, bringing together over 100 young activists from Brazil and other countries around the world. The conference facilitated exchanges of ideas and views among participants and focused on issues of democracy and political participation. As part of the annual Global Youth Campaign for Democracy, the Youth Movement organized a World Youth Day for Democracy on October 18 encouraging youth organizations worldwide to conduct various activities, such as community workshops, youth festivals, and democracy marches, to mobilize youth involvement in politics. Reports on Youth Day activities are posted on the WYMD website (www.ymd.youthlink.org).

- **The Global Network on Local Governance (GNLG)** seeks to develop and promote a sound understanding of local democracy at the regional and global levels and to facilitate the means for sharing knowledge and experiences. During the past year, the Institute of



www.africandemocracyforum.org



www.gnlg.org

Social Sciences (ISS) in New Delhi, India, began serving as the network's Secretariat and launched a website (www.gnlg.org) for the network that features information about local government legislation in some 20 countries. The GNLG recently published the first issue of its newsletter, which catalogues global developments and trends in local governance, reports on success stories, and posts upcoming events, including a local government elections calendar. In addition, the ISS, in partnership with the Democracy Development Program in South Africa and the World Movement Secretariat, organized a conference on February 24 to 26, 2006, in New Delhi that brought together the GNLG's steering committee and representatives of local governments to discuss the network's future activities.

• **The International Women's Democracy Network (IWDN)** emerged in 2004 from the World Movement's Third Assembly in Durban, South Africa. In 2006, the network's Secretariat, hosted by the Women's Learning Partnership for Rights, Development, and Peace, developed a website and facilitated global discussions on the obstacles to women's political participation and the challenges they face in fulfilling their roles in family, social, and political life within democratic societies. The IWDN encourages and facilitates exchanges of experiences, sharing of best practices, and training in democracy work. It also develops and supports advocacy campaigns.

World Movement Steering Committee

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Ivan Doherty <i>Ireland</i>	Melinda Quintos de Jesus <i>Philippines</i>	Can Paker (Treasurer) <i>Turkey</i>	

*Ex-officio member as representative of the Secretariat.

• **The Network of Democracy Research Institutes (NDRI)**, administered by NED's International Forum for Democratic Studies, is a global association of research centers that study democracy, democratization, and political reform. NDRI promotes collaboration and the sharing of ideas among democracy scholars, strengthens and improves the management and administration of democracy study centers, and helps disseminate research findings and policy recommendations among government officials, the media, and the business and academic communities. The NDRI, which currently consists of 66 institutes, publishes a bi-monthly electronic newsletter, Democracy Research News, and a weekly e-mail message, Worth Reading, that recommends a specific publication on a democracy issue or on an important new approach or trend in democracy research. During the past year, the NDRI conducted its annual Washington

Workshop for Think-Tank Managers.

• **The International Movement of Parliamentarians for Democracy (IMPD)** is a coalition of likeminded parliamentarians dedicated to the defense and promotion of democracy around the world. It challenges undemocratic practices and supports international human rights campaigns, especially in defense of elected Members of Parliament who are denied the right to take office or who are the victims of persecution. At its meeting at the Fourth Assembly, participants agreed that a plan of action should include an action alerts facility to assist parliamentarians or aspiring parliamentarians whose human rights are being violated and ways to combat the current international backlash against democracy assistance.

• **The LusoForum for Democracy** is a network of Portuguese-speaking people committed to the promotion of democracy in several Lusophone

countries—Angola, Mozambique, São Tomé & Príncipe, Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau, Brazil, East Timor, and Portugal. Created in 2002, the LusoForum is based at the Institute for Political Studies at the Catholic University of Lisbon, Portugal, and held its first meeting at the World Movement’s Third Assembly in 2004. At this meeting, the members committed themselves to work toward the following goal: to convey the concept that democracy is itself a human right to the more than 200 million Portuguese speakers around the world. The members also reiterated their commitment to cooperate with the World Movement’s African Democracy Forum (ADF) to advance democratization in Lusophone countries in Africa.

Information on these and other networking initiatives can be found on the World Movement Web site at www.wmd.org.



www.wmd.org

World Movement Website and Electronic Communications

Participants Database. The Secretariat recently updated the online, searchable Participants Database on

the World Movement website. Each participating organization has a database entry that includes contact information, website link, areas of democracy work the organization is engaged in, types of activities it conducts, its publications, and other pertinent information. The Participants Database currently includes some 370 organizations worldwide.

“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. In the past year, the section focused on human rights and democracy work in Turkey to coincide with the Fourth Assembly in Istanbul, and on “memory projects” that seek to preserve and come to terms with a country’s past and create hope for the future

Democracy Alerts. During 2006, the World Movement Secretariat issued and updated a number of alerts on World Movement participants and other democracy activists facing danger. Among others, alerts were issued on behalf of civil society groups confronting democratic backsliding in Russia, members of the Iranian Union of Workers of the Tehran and Suburbs Bus Company imprisoned for planning a strike to protest the detention of their president, the democracy movement in

Assembly Funders

- **Alfred Mozer Foundation (The Netherlands)**
- **Hurford Foundation**
- **Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality**
- **The Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy**
- **Rights and Democracy (Canada)**
- **Swedish International Development Cooperative Agency**
- **Taiwan Foundation for Democracy**
- **Tippling Point Foundation (Bulgaria)**
- **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**
- **The Westminster Foundation for Democracy (UK)**
- **The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation (USA)**

Singapore, and human rights activists in Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Zimbabwe.

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.