



## Founding manifesto

### Democracy Without Borders-South Africa

November 2024

Democracy Without Borders (DWB) is a global civil society organization that promotes global citizenship, global democracy and effective global governance. On the path towards realizing its vision of a democratic global constitution, with an elected global parliament as a centerpiece, DWB pursues the creation of a Parliamentary Assembly at the UN. The South African chapter helps advance the programs, mission and vision of the global organization.

The objective of realizing a democratic global order transcends the divide of Global South and Global North and addresses injustices of the past and present. These divides underpin the polarity of international relations which too often are based on the exercise of power instead of human rights and the rule of law. Our response is an unwavering commitment to democracy, global solidarity, humanism and collaboration. The polarized global order and the conflicts it generates requires voices who consistently advocate principles of human rights and democracy without being compromised by ideological considerations or parochial interests.

The recent trend of democratic recession in many states in the world demonstrates the incapacity of the UN to advance democratic values and principles. A Parliamentary Assembly at the UN could be an inclusive platform and a catalyst for a global discussion on matters in the intersections of democracy, peace and security, and sustainable development.

South Africa centres multilateralism and Pan-Africanism as a key tenet of its foreign policy and is committed to pursuing reforms of the UN. In alignment with this, the South African chapter advocates for South African support of a creating UN Parliamentary Assembly. The chapter further advocates for South African foreign policy to be coherent and principle-based and will point out possible inconsistencies. The chapter in addition has a regional and continental outlook that goes beyond the UN. We support South Africa's promotion of democratisation and a deepening of democracy on the continent. This could be pursued at the African Union level as well as regional communities. The chapter develops its views on continental matters in exchange and coordination with the other African chapters.

The continent faces the resurgence of coups and concerns over the legitimacy of elections in many countries. Another key issue is a relapse into internal conflict in many countries after hard won peaceful periods. This places the concept of transitional justice at the heart of the chapter's efforts. The experience of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in South Africa will serve as a good example to draw upon.

The chapter upholds the democratic values, principles, rights and institutions enshrined in the South African constitution. We defend the constitution and reject calls for its overhaul.

We believe in the visions of Ubuntu and a “Rainbow Nation” that succeed in bridging divides, achieve a life in dignity for everyone, and bring about unity in diversity. The South African chapter of Democracy Without Borders believes that these visions equally can and should be pursued for humanity as a whole.

The chapter’s members are united in their commitment to the goals and principles set forth in this manifesto and in the mission statement of the global organization. In pursuit of these common goals and principles they endeavour to work together in a manner that bridges other possible differences they may have, whether political, ideological or otherwise.

