



**DEMOCRACY
WITHOUT
BORDERS**

22 February 2023

A UN Special Rapporteur on Democracy

DWB has come to the conclusion that a UN-mandated Special Rapporteur on Democracy can help strengthen and protect democratic rights and institutions, revitalize democracy and promote improvements.

The work of this rapporteur can be based on the UN's support of democracy and numerous resolutions and instruments adopted in this regard continuously up to the present. These documents already contain collectively agreed institutional elements and principles of democracy as well as broadly accepted democratic rights related to representation and participation which can be used to underpin the mandate.

The Special Rapporteur will be in a position to conduct investigations, consultations, and research, to publish assessments and reports and to make statements and recommendations related to the state of democratic rights and institutions in UN member states and in general. While the rapporteur will need to address infringements, limitations and deficiencies and how those could be overcome, the mandate on the other hand should also include identifying and highlighting good practices and innovations in improving the quality of democracy.

We recommend that the Special Rapporteur is assisted by an advisory board composed of experts and practitioners in democracy research, monitoring and promotion which is created as an element of the mandate. The mandate holder should seek the advisory board's guidance on what countries and subjects to focus on and will benefit from the board members' expertise and input with regard to official reports, recommendations and statements.

The mandate of a Special Rapporteur on Democracy will fill a gap in the work of the Human Rights Council as there is no procedure dedicated to investigating democratic rights and institutions and their development as such. However, there are many mandates that deal with specific rights that are fundamental to democracy. While overlaps and duplication are to be avoided, the new mandate can serve an integrating role in this regard.

DWB recommends that like-minded states committed to democracy seek a swift establishment of the mandate of a Special Rapporteur on Democracy by the UN Human Rights Council. Negotiations on this new mandate should include relevant experts, researchers, civil society representatives, parliamentarians and other stakeholders.

DWB welcomes and joins coordinated civil society efforts for the establishment of this mandate.