



“The U.N. would probably have to rest on two pillars: one constituted by an assembly of equal executive representatives of individual countries, resembling the present plenary, and the other consisting of a group elected directly by the globe’s population in which the number

of delegates representing individual countries would, thus, roughly correspond to the size of the nations.”

Václav Havel, former President of the Czech Republic (1993-2003)

A global campaign

The establishment of a U.N. parliament is supported in all political camps. The Socialist International and the Liberal International have endorsed it, as have the German Greens and many conservative politicians. In response to an initiative of the Committee, the majority of the Swiss National Council has joined the call. Up to date, the most important political support comes from the European Parliament.

An appeal launched by KDUN so far has been endorsed by personalities from over 40 countries - among them parliamentarians, Nobel Prize laureates, Right Livelihood laureates, professors and other leaders in public life.

More information on the proposal is available in the strategy paper “Developing International Democracy - For a Parliamentary Assembly at the United Nations”. May 2005, Horizonte Publishers, ISBN 3-89483-104-9.

On the internet: www.uno-komitee.de



About the Committee

The establishment of a Parliamentary Assembly at the United Nations is the main goal of the Committee for a Democratic U.N. (KDUN), which was founded in 2004. The Committee’s members are, among others, scientists, parliamentarians, human rights activists and other individuals, who are committed to the goal of international democracy. The Committee is non-partisan, non-governmental and recognized as charitable under tax laws. It is based in Germany.

Support our cause through a donation or membership in the Committee’s supporter’s circle!

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Developing International Democracy

For broader participation in the United Nations

COMMITTEE FOR A
DEMOCRATIC U.N.

Cover photo: U.N. General Assembly 1998. © UNIDPI. Above: Members of KDUN's Board and Advisory Council.

Why broader participation in the United Nations?

Humanity faces the task of ensuring the survival and well being of future generations as well as the preservation of the natural foundations of life on Earth. Additionally, in the course of globalization all political fields are increasingly affected by international influences. To cope with critical developments and to be able to shape globalization positively, international cooperation in the frame of the United Nations system has to be strengthened.



Protests against the World Trade Organization in Seattle, 1999

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A strengthening of the international level, however, is only justifiable if the international political structure is made more democratic at the same time. The citizen's voice must be integrated in global politics. Today's democracy deficit at the international level is more than obvious. Even national parliaments are marginalized in international decision-making.

More directly and adequately including citizens in the institutions and decision-making processes of the international system is of crucial importance to prevent growing discontent and to ensure acceptance and legitimacy of international cooperation. Furthermore, critical developments have reached

such proportions that it is no longer possible to come to sustainable solutions without taking into account the will, ideas and initiatives of the world's citizens.

Creating a global representation of the world's citizens

The Committee for a Democratic U.N. (Komitee für eine demokratische UNO, KDUN) considers the establishment of a United Nations Parliamentary Assembly (UNPA) to be the decisive step to introduce a new quality, new impulses and better citizen representation into the international system.

A Parliamentary Assembly at the U.N. wouldn't simply be a new institution. As the voice of citizens, focussing on humanity's common interest, the assembly would be the manifestation and vehicle of a changed consciousness and understanding of international politics.

At first, the Parliamentary Assembly at the U.N. could be established as a consultative body or special organization attached to the U.N. General Assembly. For this it would not be necessary to change the U.N. Charter, thus, a veto would not be applicable.

"A Parliamentary Assembly would make the U.N. more transparent, efficient and more democratic."

Boutros Boutros-Ghali,
former U.N. Secretary-General
(1992-1997)



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"A parliament at the U.N. would symbolize the notion of humanity as a community of world citizens."

Günter Grass, writer and
Nobel Prize laureate in literature
(1999)

Holds the main responsibility for the maintenance of world peace:
The U.N. Security Council



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Developing a United Nations Parliament step-by-step

Initially, the U.N. parliament could be composed of national parliamentarians. Step by step, it should be provided with genuine rights of information, participation and control vis-à-vis the U.N. and the organizations of the U.N. system. In a later stage, parts or the whole of the assembly could be directly elected and it could be given the status of a U.N. main body. The European Parliament provides an example for such a development.

Catalyst for U.N. reform

In the beginning, the assembly could focus on possibilities and concepts to reform the U.N. and the international system.