

Resolution adopted by the 3rd Global Greens Congress

Dakar, Senegal, March 29-April 1, 2012

Sponsored by Ecolo (Belgium), the Federation of Young European Greens, the Australian Greens and Europe Écologie-Les Verts (France) with amendments adopted at a workshop in Dakar on March 31.

For Global Democracy and a United Nations Parliamentary Assembly

The Global Greens reaffirm their condemnation of all dictatorships and regimes which deny human rights and reemphasize their commitment to representative and participatory democracy as expressed in point 12 of the declaration on 21 Commitments for the 21st Century adopted at the preceding Global Greens Congress 2008 in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Greens recognize that the need to strengthen democracy and participation in the system of global governance has become urgent. The ongoing attempt of some governments to implement a potentially far-reaching multinational treaty for the purpose of establishing international standards for intellectual property rights enforcement, the so-called Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement ACTA, without any meaningful public consultation and discussion makes it evident that parliaments, elected representatives, citizen groups and the public need to be involved early in international agenda-setting and rule-making.

Organizations such as the European Union, the Pan-African Parliament, the Mercosur Community, the Arab League, the Council of Europe or the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe include parliamentary assemblies as treaty organs in order to involve elected representatives in their work.

Greens take note of the fact that no parliamentary body exists within the framework of the United Nations, the World Bank group, the International Monetary Fund or the World Trade Organization. We believe that the lack of parliamentary representation in these organizations strongly contributes to the international democratic deficit.

The Global Greens Congress reaffirms its support for the creation of a United Nations Parliamentary Assembly (UNPA) as a parliamentary body within the UN system that is complementary to the UN General Assembly. As a first step it should be composed of representatives of national parliaments but ultimately it should become a body that is directly elected by the world's citizens.

The Congress furthermore notes that in a first step the creation of a UNPA does not require a change of the UN Charter. It could be established by the UN General Assembly according to Article 22 of the Charter or through a new intergovernmental treaty.

We call upon Greens around the world to participate in the international campaign for a UNPA.

We call also upon the Green members of parliament to be active in their national parliaments to promote the goal of a UNPA.

We invite the Global Greens Secretariat, working in consultation with the International Secretariat of the UNPA Campaign, to prepare a report on the various issues involved in establishing a UN Parliamentary Assembly, and report back to Federations within 12 months.