



The European Union would like to thank the Forum for 21st Century for initiating the discussion and organizing the conference on global issues, notably the new concept and redefinition of fundamental human rights and freedoms. At the same time we express our full support towards solving essential challenges occurring in the new global scenario. After an in-depth analysis of the draft proposed by the Forum for 21st Century let us annotate it and include our suggestions as well.

In the section *Notes*:

- As written in Preamble of Fundamental Rights of the European Union „The peoples of Europe, in creating even closer union among them, are resolved to share a peaceful future based on common values.“ The European Union is founded on indivisible, universal values of human dignity, freedom, equality and solidarity. It is also based on principles of democracy and the rule of law. The Union contributes to the preservation and to the development of these common values while respecting the diversity of the cultures, traditions and national identities of its citizens.
- With due regard for the powers and tasks of the Community and the Union and the principles of subsidiarity, the rights as they result, in particular, from the constitutional traditions and international obligations common to the Member States, the Treaty on European Union, the Community Treaties, the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, the Social Charters adopted by the Community and by the Council of Europe and the case law of the Court of Justice of the European Communities and of the European Court of Human Rights. Protection of human rights is founding principle of the European Union and an indispensable prerequisite for its legitimacy.
- The European Union welcomes the idea of supporting and strengthening international and regional framework for the protection and promotion of human



rights. The EU sees a large role in creating international tribunal or extending legal powers of already existing tribunal to solve problems and complaints concerning human rights regardless of persons nationality, gender, age or religion. The European Union recognise the need to create a mechanism supporting the work of Non Governmental Organisations to monitor compliance with human rights standards.

- The European Union agrees with the necessity to strengthen the protection of fundamental rights in the light of changes in society, social progress, scientific and technological developments by making those rights more visible and universal and to sign a new international accord, serving as a basis for the legislation while respecting principles of subsidiarity.
- The European Union strongly believes that effective poverty reduction is not possible without implementation of human rights in poverty reduction strategies. The EU also believes that democracy is a universal value that should be vigorously promoted around the world. Human rights and democracy are integral to effective work on poverty alleviation and conflict prevention.

In the section *Proposals*:

- The European Union is supporting action on human rights and democracy issues. The EU considers that the promotion, development and consolidation of democracy and the rule of law, is essential in maintaining peaceful future, including building confidence in and enhancing the reliability and transparency of democratic electoral processes, in particular election observation.
- The European Union stresses that work being done and through civil society organization aimed at defending the fundamental rights and freedoms which form the basis for the democratic processes and helping society to become an effective force for political reforms and defense of democracy. Non Governmental Organizations offers independence of action, allowing for the



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delivery of assistance without the need for governmental consent, which is crucial in the sensitive areas of democracy and human rights.

- The European Union recommends leading constructive dialogue on issues related to gender equality. The relevant legislation is regarded as insufficient; there is a lack of institutions with concrete and specific functions in this area. The EU sees the necessity to promote gender equality and implement the rights of women in practice.