

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am very pleased to be participating at this conference. I feel honoured to be part of this panel and being able to address such a distinguished audience. I consider you as Guardians of Democracy in your own countries and I would like address you in that capacity.

Democracy is one of the most cherished treasure of every country and to be the Guardian of that is a very special privilege and requires very special responsibilities from all of you.

If the definition of a successful presentation is to give intelligent and powerful answers, solutions or provide recommendations to important problems / questions then you are about to witness an exceptionally unsuccessful presentation. I am not here to provide answers or recommendations. Those I hope will come at a later stage. I am here today to talk about problems, issues that are – in my opinion – critically important to anyone concerned with democracy in general.

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Democracy Development Ranking

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Issue

- **Lack of objective measuring instrument to qualify democratic development of countries**
- **As a result::**
 - **‘Democracy’ is the most abused socio-political term in the world**
 - **There is hardly any dictator around who does not claim to be a democrat**
 - **(often) hopeless struggle by under-funded opposition groups against the well funded PR machine of their oppressive Governments**

Most Governments, especially with not well developed democracies outgun their political opponents, making sometimes even small changes very hard to reach

- **Countries with non-mature democratic institutions are especially adversely affected**

Mature democracies have already made the definition of democracy for themselves with some margin of error, of course. But underdeveloped democracies really struggle.

- **Even well developed democracies need further enhancements of their system**

Democracy is not a finished product. Do not think that mature democracies do not wish or need to develop any further.

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What we monitor is what we get

(more true in business than in social matters)

- **Strong focus and commitment can make a difference**
- **Examples**
 - **Elections**

Elections are well monitored by skillful and committed people. Result: much improved elections wherever YOU are active.

- **Inflation**

Good results everywhere, where it is taken seriously.

- **Leaded gas**

Thing of the past.

- **Child labour**

On a very steep decline. Why: The World Is Watching !!!

- **Environmental awareness**

Increasing dramatically.

- **Nutrition**

Dramatic improvement. More and more knowledge is out there. Accessible knowledge that makes people think.

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World Bank: a tall order

- **Exceptionally high quality instrument to monitor & rank economies**

It measures the well-being of corporate citizens with scientific thoroughness. Companies, businesses, are the very foundation of every society. Their well being is important, very important. Incredible as it sounds, no such Authority Instrument exists to measure the well-being of an even more important segment of society: **The Voters**, the individual citizens. That is what I think should change. There have been and there are very encouraging initiatives, but none of them became like an Authority Instrument.

- **It was hardly known just a few years ago**

Not exactly sure when it was launched, but its use among business men and Government officials / employees is spreading like wild fire.

- **Today, there is hardly anyone who does not use it in business or Government**

(Large number of Governments are making the improvement of their country ranking on this Index as part of their political program. Unbelievable impact!! This is an instrument that is based on facts, free access to ALL around the world on the Net. Overpowering quality, scientific thoroughness leading up to full transparency:

- **Result / impact**
 - **Facts and reason have overtaken emotions and subjective judgment calls (in business / economic discussions)**

Discussing the economic performance of countries about ease of doing business is no longer 'One Man's Opinion'. There are easy-to-access, easy-to-interpret facts that replace subjective judgments and opinions. What a nice difference to have!!!

- **Most Governments with low ranking consider improving their ranking on the World Bank Index as strategic**
- **De Facto world standard for socio-economic application**

That is what I think most of us would call high impact.

- **Obvious linkage between democracy and economic development**

There is hardly any country with true democracy and depressing poverty. On the other hand, the number of those countries with dictatorial regimes with poor economic performance is overwhelmingly high.

Democratic poverty leads to economic poverty in more instances than not. Every one of us know about the few lucky ones with natural resources in high demand. But interestingly, a good number of those countries where the dictatorship is n aobvious fact, a lot of money is present in the system (and of course, huge

amounts are landing in private accounts of the Few) the number of international patents filed is practically zero – looking at a 20 year time window – and the participation of political and religious extremism in their ‘National Gross Product’ is alarmingly high. These are Not exactly the sings of a healthy society!!!

What is the lesson from all this. The lesson is that there is a NEED

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Lesson to be learned: Need

(Mission Statement ?)

Create an objective set of criteria based measuring instrument / yardstick to

- assess / measure and**
- monitor**

democratic development of countries.

I am sure we could create a better mission statement in a 15 workshop, so consider this is just as an example.

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Current status & possible new qualification categories

Where are we now?

On this slide, there are the possible categories for the proposed yardstick / measuring instrument to assess democracies.

Elections	Very well covered
Party financing	Not handled
Soundness of civil society	Not handled
Recall	Not handled
Independence of judiciary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police • Prosecution • Courts 	Not handled
Diversity, independence / strength of media	Not handled
... etc. ...	

Free and fair **Elections** are extremely important cornerstone of democracy. However, there is too much evidence that some countries where elections are relatively free have a lot develop on their democracies. What you see here in red, are possible democracy development assessment categories to be developed. In this example, I did not even try to be complete. These are really just food for thought.

- **Elections** are very well covered, due to the top notch work of this audience here. The ones already going to the airport, are included ... of course). There is a world-wide standard for the definition of free elections. It is mainly because of you !! But there is a whole lot more to be done.
- **Party financing** is only discussed on national levels.. There are countries even in the EU where the books of political parties are closed, they do not publish financial statements, they do not prepare tax returns. It is anybody's guess, who finances them. Not exactly good news for the public !!!)
- **Soundness of civil society**

It is one of the strongest enforcer of the law. Weak civil society is the most likely explanation of the discrepancy between election promises and fulfillment. In countries with weak civil society, there is no consequence to fail on delivery. We all know this problem. Politicians promise the world to get elected. When they are in office, they forget the voters and most of the promises. This is definitely

much less of a problem in the North American and the highly developed Western European democracies, or Australia, New Zealand, where civil participation in social and political life is traditionally very strong. This actually gets me to the next important possible qualification criteria:

- **Recall**

which is one of the important tools of keeping politicians in check and accountable to their voters. Without the instrument of the Recall, the 4 – 5 year office terms for politicians can turn out and often do turn out to be awfully long period of time. I understand that this is a very controversial topic. However, in the defense of the Recall as a political/constitutional instrument, it is worth noting that it is hard to ignore the numerous examples of countries where social and political tensions reach a sometimes unacceptable level, leading up to violent demonstrations and actions because citizens ‘run out of options’.

- **Independence of judiciary**

This is another crucially important qualifier. Having good laws is worthless without enforcement. The judiciary is THE main target for those who want to be above the law.

- **Police**
- **Prosecution**
- **Courts**

must not be accessible or as little as possible by politicians, Governments. They should belong to the civil society as much as possible.

- **Diversity, independence / strength of media**

Media can also play the important role of the Guardian of democracy. We all know that the world is full of examples of Government controlled media servicing dictatorial regimes, which is why strong, diverse and independent media is critical for the democratic development.

- **I hope that there will be more to come.**

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Solution / Execution Approach (possible)

1. Social scientists, legal & political experts and/or institutions with such expertise are **WANTED !!!**
2. Inter-disciplinary approach is required.
3. Execution Approach
 - Create the panel of experts / organisation
 - Define mission statement
 - Develop Categories / criteria
 - Develop To-Do-List
 - Identify sponsor institution(s)
 - Develop Project Plan
 - Create the Instrument
 - Maintain the Instrument

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Thank you for your attention.

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