



Friends of the
Inter-American
Democratic
Charter



**The Carter Center
International IDEA
Friends of the Inter-American Democratic Charter**

**Recommendations to the 37th OAS General Assembly
Panama June 3-5, 2007**

We, the undersigned organizations and individuals, respectfully submit to the foreign ministers of the Americas as they gather in Panama for the 37th General Assembly of the Organization of Americas States the following recommendations:

To preserve and promote democracy in the Western Hemisphere:

1. Member states are urged to embrace the Secretary General's report on the Inter-American Democratic Charter [Report of the Secretary General pursuant to resolutions AG/RES. 2154 (XXXV-O/05) and AG/RES. 2251 (XXXVI-O/06)] and convene a special meeting of the Permanent Council with the participation of select experts from civil society and representatives of different branches of government to move toward implementation of the recommendations therein.

In particular we find merit in the following suggestions in that report:

- a. That member states should define more explicitly the terms "unconstitutional interruption of the democratic order" and "unconstitutional alteration of the constitutional regime" (Art. 19), identifying which situations constitute grounds for OAS action under the Inter-American Democratic Charter, and should reflect upon the suggestions made by experts and civil society organizations concerning the circumstances when action may be appropriate.
- b. That in reference to who may seek assistance under the Charter, the term "government" should be understood to refer to all branches of state and not merely the Executive branch.
- c. That thematic reporting of the kind now unde

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