# Can democracies win the modern battle?

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## Executive Summary

Humanity has reached a new juncture. We are living in the Anthropocene; in a hyper connected, complex, interdependent and intertwined world, where humanity is the most dominant force of altering life support systems on planet earth. With 7.6 billion co-citizens on Earth, committed to 9 billion just in the next 30 years; we have just over the last 50 years gone from being a relatively small world on a big planet. Reaching to the desired level of human security, economic prosperity, social inclusion, environmental sustainability and resilience of the social-ecological systems is almost impossible in the context of exclusionary governance and fragile statehood.

Governance based on the core values of democracy can win the battle of contemporary scenarios. Democratic governance is widely supported as method of resolving social and military conflict in a non-violent and deliberative manner. Governance as the exercise of political, economic, and administrative authority in the management of a country's affairs at all levels. Governance thus focuses on the mechanisms, processes, relations, and institutions through which citizens and groups articulate their interests, exercise their rights and obligations, and mediate their differences. Capacity development as the process through which individuals, organizations, and societies obtain, strengthen, and maintain the capabilities to set and achieve their own development objectives over time.

We are also set to take ethical responsibility for human wellbeing for all co-citizens on Earth. In the present scenario the parliaments and the people representatives should lead to comprehensively work on finding solutions for the most pressing global issues; including but not limited to nuclear and biochemical warfare, violent extremism and the resulted terrorism, climate driven migration, human rights violation, international peace and security, rule of law, gender equality, freedom of expression and affordable access the basic human needs of health and education. The nature of the problems in the 21st century requires policy formulations in a way which is beyond frontiers, globally suitable and locally administrable. Governments, political parties and civil society are responsible for upholding and promoting democratic culture and practices and are accountable to the public in this regard. Parliaments and representative local

governments and other forms of local governance are essential elements in the exercise of democratic governance.

Parliamentary oversight, promotion of people to people contacts is imperative for increased interaction among the people's representatives of the different faiths through global and regional parliamentary forums. This can be done so by recognizing the inalienable right of individuals to participate in democratic processes. The combination of our diversity and our shared inheritance in language, culture and the rule of law; and bound together by shared history and tradition; by respect for all states and peoples; by shared values and principles and by concern for the vulnerable. Nevertheless, there are ways to address these shortfalls and problems through democracy and its values by winning the hearts and minds of the people.

The aim of the paper is therefore highlighting how the development of technologies and the dynamics of the modern era have harmed the understanding of the life basis and how postulating the new lifestyle philosophy of living can be a basis for sustainable development. Qualitative methods of diverse opinions are used in the paper by taking into account historical aspects with specific focus on democracy, international peace and security, the human rights, and Freedom of Expression.

**Keywords:**- Democracy, human rights, international peace and security, freedom, sustainable development.

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**International peace and security**

International peace and security, sustainable economic growth and development and the rule of law are essential to the progress and prosperity of all. Wars have actually become a dominant factor in controlling resources. Lust for power has given birth to the challenge of maintaining the international peace and security. The power to control the air, the water and the land and to improvise all potential to do so is factually weakening the commitments to an effective multilateral system based on inclusiveness, equity, justice and international law as the best foundation for achieving consensus and progress on major global challenges including piracy and terrorism.

At the same time however that international efforts for peace and disarmament at the United Nations and other multilateral institutions to contribute to the promotion of international consensus on major global political, economic and social issues have been maligned by the ardent advocates of democracies. This means that international peace and security if deteriorates is not the failure of democracy but the failures of those who are at the helm of the affairs. The need here is to democratically peruse a way where the peace of all the people on this earth is ensured. Can we put a cut the on defense budgets? We need an international consensus to it, We need to work together as a diverse community of nations.

"Think globally and act locally" has become a popular slogan that identifies the local as a site of existence against global culture, where consumers are assumed to have a sense of global responsibility, and new articulations have occurred between "the global" and "the local" (Hall 1992: 304). Historically the concept of welfare has been difficult to interpret. The same situation is about economy. The economist Arthur Cecil Pigou determined that it is sufficient to define dogmatically two proposals – the elements of welfare and their possible relations are dependant on the state conscience, and welfare can be reached according to the category – greater and smaller (Pigou 2006: 10).

For a durable peaceful, inclusive, cohesive and prosperous societies around the globe democratic governance is the appropriate option. The seven nuclear powers and their in-between and among differences can take them to be involved in the ever disastrous wars of nuclear weapons. Whatever is happening besides, i.e. the battles in the Gulf and Middle East countries particularly Syria can take the entire globe into an endless bloody battle. Similarly, what would be the future of Afghanistan, Palestine and the issue of Kashmir and similar such bilateral and multilateral problems between and among the states. Democracy will have to play its bit in

solving the above problems. This is the real challenge to democracy. It has to bring the world from conflicts to peace.

It is un-doubted that democracy is a good form of managing human affairs through a certain code of conduct. Nevertheless, it is imperative to understand that the democratic system is merely 4 or 5 centuries old. Therefore, democracy has to look to practices, norms and values of the other social systems which prevailed before democracy and has managed the people well. For example for achievement of durable peace among people of different states or cultures or even faiths, ideas and suggestions may be considered from within.

Full-fledged wars between states remain rare, but the distinction between intrastate and inter-state conflicts is now often badly blurred. Of the 47 intrastate wars recorded by the Uppsala Conflict Data Program in 2016, 18 (38%) were internationalized, "in the sense that external states contributed troops to one or more sides of the conflict" This figure is exceptionally high by post-Cold War standards (Figure 1.1). It may also underrepresent the number of internationalized civil wars as it does not include conflicts where outside actors support combatants with arms, money or proxy forces rather than their own troops.

Clearly, countries that are not necessarily characterized by endemic violence may also be considered fragile. On the other hand, conflict, especially civil war, is a major trap for fragility. According to Paul Collier (2007), for instance, 73 percent of the people living in fragile settings have recently been through a civil war or are still in one, and having experienced a civil war doubles the risk of another conflict. Thus, while post-conflict transitions offer an important window of opportunity for (re-) construction and regeneration, they also entail high risks of crisis that can rapidly degenerate into renewed warfare.

Scientifically, this works on a stable planet. We are all connected and we have to address development universally across the entire planet. We are the first generation who has a completely new face of development. We now have quantitative roadmap that integrates very inspirational and important equitable goals to eradicate poverty and hunger and to ensure human wellbeing, good quality of life for all citizens in the world within a stable and resilient Earth system. We have goals for climate, for biodiversity, for oceans, and for fresh water.

**Response to the Modern Battle**

Under the business as usual trajectory, there are certain instances that democratically elected governments have not only remained unsuccessful in addressing the grand and most pressing global problems i.e. climate change, terrorism, militancy and extremism based blasphemous contents, but also host them with their implications. These include (to varying

degrees in different countries) pollution and biodiversity loss, nuclear waste management, nuclear proliferation, cyber(in)security, financial insecurity, business flight, growing wealth inequality, public debt management, migration, intercultural integration, and terrorist radicalization.

The international institutions mandated and supported by democratic governments like the United Nations and the European Union, have not been particularly successful in addressing these issues either. In many democracies, citizens are not only frustrated with the relatively poor performances of their governments, but also increasingly resentful of institutions and procedures that they perceive as inaccessible, arcane, dominated by partisan interests, crowded with rent-seekers, and generally detached and unresponsive to their needs and interests.

Retrospectively, presiding officers of the legislatures can help to sensitise public opinion to the common ground of their legislative agendas which lies in ensuring that governments are accountable for their actions to the respective publics in terms of basic human needs.  By setting high standards in the domestic arenas for debate and public policy decisions in legislatures and by faithful adherence to norms for the effective use of the democratic process and rejecting the use of violence as a means to pursue political aspirations, the Speakers and parliamentarians can help to break down stereotypes created by the volatile political environment and nationalistic and ethnic-communal frictions.

Modern democracy is generally representative of the value that free and liberal societies place on the link between politics and human rights.  Hence, meaningful and participatory democracy is a prerequisite for political stability, economic development, social cohesion and overall trust of democratic institutions. Parliaments, as legislators and highest expression of representative democracies, play a crucial role in promoting and implementing relevant reforms and in increasing the efficiency and transparency of the governing structures.

The cultural affinity among peoples is a huge asset. Shared geography and history has culminated in a unique synthesis of culture and traditions.  Placement of people at the center of processes is thus indispensable. For democracy hence, to capture the imagination of peoples and contribute to creating strong mutually beneficial bonds is a pre requisite.

Up to now the course of the humankind has been sustainable; it was only endangered by the rapid development of technologies, when the humans' mental development started lagging behind. Money and material benefits were considered to be not the aim, but means for welfare. Feeding the hungry, visiting the sick, setting free the captives, battle the evil within, kindness and forgiveness, useful to others, speak the truth and be careful because we are not better than

people who are a different color unless we are better in pity. No one should boast over another and no one should oppress another.

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