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## **Green World Congress calls for elected UN body**

### **Parliamentary Assembly proposed to overcome "international democratic deficit"**

Sao Paulo/Berlin. The outcome statement of the second Global Greens Congress adopted on 4th May in Sao Paulo has called for "the establishment of a UN Parliamentary Assembly" as one step to overcome the "international democratic deficit." "In the face of global challenges such as climate change it is pretty clear that we need much more effective international decision-making. This requires that the world's citizens are better included in international institutions. Hence the proposal for a body composed of elected representatives," said Senator Isabelle Durant, Secretary-General of the Belgian party Ecolo, in Brasil. The congress assembled representatives of green parties and movements from over 80 countries.

The leader of the Green Party of Canada, Elizabeth May, commented in Sao Paulo that "governments mainly care about advancing their national interests. By contrast, a UN Parliamentary Assembly could help to promote the global common interest." "The resolution adopted by the congress underlines that the green movement is convinced that a dialogue is needed on the notion of a bi-cameral system at the UN," May added.

The Committee for a Democratic U.N., an NGO specialized on the topic based in Berlin, Germany, strongly welcomed the resolution. The Committee noted that the Global Greens are the third major international party network to endorse the proposal of a UN Parliamentary Assembly, following the Liberal International and the Socialist International.

The support of the Global Greens adds momentum to an international campaign for the establishment of a UN Parliamentary Assembly which was launched in April 2007. The campaign is backed by more than 450 members of parliament and over 100 non-governmental organizations from around the world. The Committee for a Democratic U.N. acts as its international secretariat.

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