

THE
CARTER CENTER



**Statement of the Council of Presidents and Prime Ministers of the
Americas**

**“Financing Democracy: Political Parties, Campaigns, and Elections”
The Carter Center, Atlanta Georgia**

credits; and voluntary media standards for balanced media coverage should be developed.

The institutions responsible for enforcement should provide both incentives and sanctions. Oversight entities, whether electoral management bodies or judicial organs, should be independent, non-partisan, and equipped with sufficient human and financial resources and authority to enforce the country's laws. Without this, none of the other measures suggested here will be effective. Enforcement capacity should be developed for effective monitoring, investigating, and prosecuting, and include subpoena powers, whistleblower protection, and access to bank accounts. Sanctions should include remedial actions, fines, criminal prosecution, and denial of office and/or future access to public funding.

III. SUPPORTIVE MEASURES

In improving the financing of democracy, citizens' groups and international organizations have an important role to play in helping achieve these principles. We urge the following:

Roles for International Organizations

1. The OAS Inter-American Forum on Political Parties, other international organizations, multilateral banks, and universities should sponsor research to help us better understand the contributing factors of campaign costs, the effectiveness of potential tools to control those costs, and the impact of new technology such as the internet and direct television programming. For example, conflicting information exists with regard to whether and how fast campaign costs are rising relative to GDP, and what the sources may be: television and radio advertising costs in modernizing campaigns; taxation systems; patronage politics and vote-buying in more traditional campaigns; internally democratizing parties; length of the campaign; the nature of the electoral system.
2. Hemispheric governments should adopt the Principles on Political Financing at the next Summit of the Americas, as a concrete measure to implement Article 5 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter.
3. Non-governmental organizations such as The Carter Center and Transparency International should work in collaboration with multilateral organizations such as International IDEA to develop a set of standards and benchmarks to assess progress on implementing these Principles.
4. The OAS and other organizations active in the region should provide assistance to member states to apply the Principles adopted, such as in the form of best practices

and model laws, and advice from the OAS Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression and other entities.

5. International party foundations and other organizations should continue to provide training and education for party members and electoral workers, but only in a manner consistent with national laws.
6. Governments should cooperate to help in tracing the international money trail of illicit political donations through off-shore tax havens, money laundering, and organized crime, and cooperate with each other to bring violators to justice. International assistance in training and capacity-building to trace illicit money is needed. Governments should codify these types of cooperation in international agreements. Governments should also amend money laundering legislation to require disclosure of cash transactions over a specific amount.
7. International agreements such as the OECD Convention Against Bribery and the Inter-American Convention Against Corruption should include corollaries or additional protocols prohibiting the bribery of political parties and candidates, and prohibiting foreign donations when they are illegal in domestic law.
8. International election observer missions should incorporate political finance as an element to be monitored.
9. Multilateral lending institutions should include political financing as an element within their rule of law and anti-corruption programs. Bilateral and multilateral organizations should expand efforts to help election management bodies, political parties, campaign contributors, and election monitors to comply with political finance laws.

Roles for Civil Society and Political Parties

1. Businesses should voluntarily adopt codes of conduct to disclose donations where laws do not yet exist requiring them to do so, or to disclose more fully where laws require only narrow disclosure.
2. Political parties and candidates should voluntarily adopt codes of conduct to fully disclose donations and expenditures where laws do not yet exist requiring disclosure, or to disclose more fully where laws require only narrow disclosure. Civil society organizations can encourage such codes.
3. The media should voluntarily adopt a code of ethics and norms that guarantees equitable treatment to the parties and candidates in electoral campaigns.
4. Civil society organizations and media should have independent and critical roles in monitoring campaign finance rules and publicizing violations, including monitoring

expenditures and media coverage of campaigns, generating information and encouraging public debate.

5. Watchdog groups should explore the potential to use Access to Information laws to request information on donations and expenditures from political parties and corporations, and to ensure transparency in the use of state resources.
6. So that the media may support enforcement, expose corruption and produce transparency, libel laws should be amended to follow the principles laid down in the New York Times v. Sullivan case, insult laws should be repealed, and the assault or murder of journalists should be investigated immediately and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

Signed by:

Jimmy Carter, former president of the USA

John Compton, former prime minister of St. Lucia

Leonel Fernandez, former president of Dominican Republic

Eduardo Frei, former president of Chile

Oswaldo Hurtado, former president of Ecuador

Luis Alberto Lacalle, former president of Uruguay

Carlos Roberto Reina, former president of Honduras

Miguel Angel Rodriguez, former president of Costa Rica

Lloyd Sandiford, former prime minister of Barbados

Cristiana Chamorro, representing Violeta Chamorro, former president of Nicaragua

Endorsed by:

Jaime Aparicio, Ambassador to the United States, Bolivian Embassy
Miguel Basáñez, Chief Executive Officer, Global Quality Research Corporation
Kevin Casas, International Consultant, International Foundation for Electoral Systems
Jorge del Castillo Gálvez, General Secretary, Aprista Party & Congressman, Perú
Jorge Claissac Schnake, Chief of the Jurist Division of the Interior Ministry, Chile
Henry Day, Director, Repsol YPF Comercial
Carlos David de León Argueta, Chief of the Public Ministry and Fiscal General,
Guatemala
Humberto de la Calle, Former Vice-President, Colombia
Rafael Fernández Quirós, Communications Director, Coca-Cola Latin America
L. Enrique Garcia, President & CEO, Corporación Andina de Fomento
John Graham, Chair, The Canadian Foundation for the Americas
Christian Gruenberg, Director, Anti-Corruption Program, Poder Ciudadano
Linda Hemby, Co-director, Probidad
José Miguel Insulza, Minister of the Interior, Chile
Edmundo Jarquín, Division Chief, Inter-American Development Bank
Gerardo Le Chevallier, Regional Director, National Democratic Institute
Axel Leblois, President, World Times
Ronald MacLean-Albaroa, Former Mayor of La Paz & Presidential Candidate, Bolivia
Percy Medina, Secretary General, Transparencia Perú