

## **Workshop 3: Consolidating democracy in a sustainable way through education for democracy and human rights**

### **Panelists:**

**Dipu Moni**, Minister of foreign affairs of Bangladesh

**Suren Badral**, Ambassador at Large for the Community of Democracy Presidency of Mongolia.

**Federico Mayor**, Director of the Culture of Peace Foundation

**Wolfgang Benedek**, Co-Director European Training and Research Centre for Human Rights and Democracy

**Maria de Conceição Pereira**, PAM Vice-President, President PAM 3rd Standing Committee on Dialogue among Civilizations and Human Rights and member of the Assembly of Republic of Portugal

**Belén Alfaro Hernández**, Ambassador at large for the Alliance of Civilizations

**Ayman Ayoub**, Regional Director for West Asia & North-Africa International IDEA

**Recep Sentürk**, Director of the AOC Institute of Fatih Sultan Mehmet University, Turkey

### **Moderator:**

**Tarja Halonen**, Former President of Finland –TBC

### **Workshop Summary**

Dipu Moni emphasizes that while no other political system is more resilient than democracy it still cannot be taken for granted. That's why strong institutional politics are necessary. She underlined the importance of working together as well as the education of democracy.

Suren Badral portrayed the situation in Mongolia. While during its 70 years of dictatorship Mongolia's education on democracy concentrated on propaganda today platforms and education on democracy should ensure a sustainable democracy. Democracy considers all human beings the same, no matter what religion or colour of skin, stated Federico Mayor, and education is the way of contributing to that. Ayman Ayoub splits up the necessary education in two dimensions: the education on the value of democracy and the knowledge of the democratic system in terms of constitutional systems, parties and institutes. Ayoub also claims, that democracy is more sustainable if it is "home-grown". Wolfgang Benedek expressed that everyone has the human right to a human rights education and governments have to provide an enabling environment for that.

According to Maria de Conceição Pereira, gender issues are very important in the democratic discourse. She lists three priority issues: supporting women in policy, combating domestic violence and education for girls.

Recep Sentürk identified two kinds of society: traditional/closed societies and modern/open societies. Today's communication technologies make intense interaction possible. Therefore we need to educate a new concept of literacy containing new ethics, laws and policies to manage the global diversity.

### Quotations

#### Conceicao Pereira:

"The most developed countries have a higher elite and education level. this is due investment in training of people to create knowledge for them and society. it is conflict prevention. young woman as equal to young man in the education system."

#### Frederico Mayor:

"We must learn to know, learn to do, learn to be- a full human being."

#### Wolfgang Benedek:

"Freedom of expression is the oxygen of democracy and needs to be learned."

"We are all human rights educators, learners and defenders."

#### Ayman Ayoub:

"Democracy can neither be imported nor exported, but certainly needs to be supported."