

FORUM: Political Committee

Question of: Tackling the issue of corrupt and unfair voter manipulation

Submitted by: Sudan

Co-submitters: Colombia, Turkmenistan

The United Nations Political Committee,

Bearing in mind Article 21 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the United Nations (on December 10th, 1948): “Everyone has the human right to take part in the Government of one’s country directly or through free and fair elections and access to their public services”,

Referring to the Charter for Free and Fair Elections, which indicates the correct election principles and standards,

Considering Article 5 of the European Convention on Human Rights, which is a very important foreword of free voting and affirms that “Everyone has the right to liberty and security of person. No one shall be deprived of his/her liberty”,

Noting with appreciation that UN in the resolution A/RES/58/4 has set an International Anti Corruption Day, 9th December, to "promote and strengthen measures to prevent and combat corruption more efficiently and effectively”,

Having recognized that Political Parties have given voters incorrect information about the timing and the location of polling stations causing people to miss their right to vote and that they used “propaganda” to distribute misleading information in order to gain a positive outcome in elections,

Observing that voter intimidation involves people putting pressure on the voter so that he/she will be influenced by his/her vote and that the voter often does not have the protection and privacy of a polling location,

Realising that disenfranchisement deprives people of the right to vote by legislative or illegal ways thanks to laws banning people such as immigrants from voting or using unfair methods,

1) Calls for an increase in the number of United Nations Protection Forces (UNPROFOR) according to the level of voter manipulation in a particular country to bring about a more safe and secure environment;

2) Proposes that each Member State should welcome UN observers on a rotational basis, working to provide United Nations Electoral Assistance when general elections take place in order to guarantee a more transparent and accountable procedure;

3) Endorses Human Rights Advocates (HRA) to send volunteers to inform citizens about their rights to vote in order to

- a) safeguard this fundamental right,
- b) influence Government decisions,
- c) ensure a free and fair election;

4) Strongly recommends the creation of an entity called OSGGI (Office of the Secretary General Group for Information) with the following features and functions:

- a) it must include at least 10 OSG's members (Office of the Secretary General),
- b) it must establish and control an on-line forum, called United Nations Window on the World (UNWW),
- c) it must report the main evidence to the OSG;

5) Firmly declares that the UNWW will have the following rules and purposes:

- a) the forum will be tasked to spread information about each Member State's political problems, especially concerning free and fair elections and voter manipulation,
- b) the issues will be explained in the UNWW by every Nation wishing to present its own position about a specific topic,
- c) only members will be allowed to write their opinions in the UNWW,
- d) exclusively serious proposals will be taken into account by the OSGEI;

6) Expects Member States to offer voters more information so as not to mislead them with wrong ideas, for example by:

- a) inviting Member States to use Social Networks and Newspapers to inform voters about the timing and the location of polling stations,
- b) distributing information points throughout the city,
- c) using radio and television;

7) Encourages all Nations to confront the problem of corruption by choosing among the awareness activities recommended by the Anti Corruption Day:

- a) demonstrative posters,
- b) witnesses' evidence,
- c) school and university propaganda;

8) Requests to include in the next session the item entitled "Tackling the issue of corrupt and unfair voter manipulation".