DEMOCRACY & EMERGENCIES: LESSONS FROM COVID-19 FOR DEMOCRATIC RESILIENCE

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE GLOBAL COMMISSION ON DEMOCRACY AND EMERGENCIES

MECHANISMS OF DEMOCRACY & FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS

1. Strengthen institutional resilience & capacity to deal with crises
   - Flexible rules of procedure
   - Contingency plans
   - Digital technologies

2. Protect checks and balances, fundamental rights and the rule of law
   - Constitutional safeguards
   - Clear legal frameworks for emergencies
   - Effective parliamentary and judicial oversight
   - Open government

3. Pre-empt and counter disinformation
   - Proactive evidence-based communication
   - Responsible journalism and media
   - Information awareness & digital literacy

4. Rethink institutional design for participation
   - New tools for civic engagement in policy-making
   - Public dialogue on critical risks and preparedness

SOCIAL INCLUSION

5. Adopt an equity-based approach to emergency response
   - Oversight mechanism with equity focus
   - Equity-sensitive risk management and preparedness plans

6. Finance emergency response through progressive and effective fiscal frameworks
   - Temporary fiscal levies & permanent progressive fiscal instruments
   - Effective tax collection
   - Fight against corruption

7. Build universal social protection and healthcare systems
   - Contribution- and rights-based schemes
   - Complete population registries
   - Equitable quality of care
   - Global Fund for Social Protection

8. Ensure that emergency response meets the needs of vulnerable minorities
   - Disaggregated data on vulnerable minorities
   - Targeted outreach
   - Civil society empowerment

9. Encourage corporate social responsibility in emergency response
   - Responsibility in the use of emergency support funds
   - Incentives for corporate contributions to emergency relief

10. Bridge the digital divide
    - Expanded connectivity infrastructure and access
    - Digital skills

11. Be prepared
    - Increased political attention for emergency preparedness
    - Coherent strategy for emergency risk management
    - Clear roles for national vs local governments
    - Post-hoc oversight and policy learning

12. Lead with facts and decisiveness
    - Evidence-based policy making
    - Strong advisory structures
    - Clear hierarchy of policy objectives
    - Open consultations with parliament, opposition parties and social actors

13. Communicate with truth and empathy
    - Straight talk
    - Proximity communication
    - Clear and consistent messaging

14. Build partnerships
    - Local authorities
    - Businesses – with transparency and due diligence
    - Civil society

EFFECTIVE DEMOCRACY THAT SERVES US ALL

15. Open up civic space
    - Limited restrictions on civic space
    - Consultation mechanisms
    - Deliberation mechanisms

16. Foster responsible citizenship
    - Clear recommendations on appropriate behaviour
    - Community engagement in emergency preparedness

17. Include women in decision-making
    - Disaggregated data on gender-differentiated risks
    - Oversight mechanism with gender focus
    - Gender balance in emergency management structures

18. Include youth in decision-making
    - Mechanisms for youth engagement in emergency preparedness and response
    - Capacity-building and empowerment

19. Think of future generations
    - Mechanism for policy scrutiny focused on long-term risks and impacts

20. Work with international partners
    - Democratic peer networks
    - Democratic solidarity between countries
    - Multilateral institutions