

Obvious electoral fraud, the transformation of legitimately elected governments into autocracies, the suppression of the division of powers, the systematic subjection of the administration of justice to the political branch of government, and serious and systematic attempts to stifle the freedom of expression or other fundamental freedoms should be rejected in solidarity.

A collective reaction can encourage domestic political, social and institutional forces to demand the re-establishment of the rule of law and democratic life. The democracy charter should establish a flexible and pragmatic mechanism that, with adequate legal safeguards, will be capable of adapting to the specific circumstances of each case.

An inter-American democracy charter would constitute a benchmark for the actions of governments. It would also be a means of contributing to the materialization of the aspirations of our peoples to justice, liberty and well-being.

The path marked out for us by history demands that we shoulder our civic responsibilities to make the Americas a place of freedom, a place of democracy and respect for human rights, a continental space where the poor have hope of overcoming their poverty — and are able to do so. A space where social justice is a daily reality rather than an ideal.

