

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

EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP & DEMOCRATIC CULTURE

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

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

EFFECTIVE DEMOCRACY THAT SERVES US ALL

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

