



## THE ROLE OF GLOBAL AND REGIONAL INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS TO FOSTER INTERNATIONAL CONTROL OVER THE DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM

### O PAPEL DAS ORGANIZAÇÕES INTERNACIONAIS GLOBAIS E REGIONAIS PARA PROMOVER O CONTROLE INTERNACIONAL SOBRE O SISTEMA DEMOCRÁTICO

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#### ABSTRACT

**Objective:** To analyze the role of global and regional international organizations in strengthening international oversight of the democratic system, assessing their legitimacy, mechanisms of action, and impact on national sovereignty.

**Method:** The study applies a qualitative, descriptive, and analytical approach, drawing on a literature review, United Nations resolutions, international conferences, and case studies of democratic monitoring missions conducted by institutions such as the UN, OSCE, Arab League, African Union, among others.

**Results:** The findings indicate that international monitoring of democracy serves as a crucial tool to support democratic principles such as free elections, human rights protection, and peaceful power transitions. However, it also raises concerns regarding non-interference and national sovereignty, particularly in politically unstable or transitional states.

**Conclusion:** While international monitoring does not guarantee the full realization of democracy, it functions as a vital support mechanism to promote best practices and strengthen democratic institutions. The adoption of international standards alongside respect for national sovereignty is key to balancing external assistance with the self-determination of nations.

**Keywords:** Democracy; International oversight; Elections; Human rights and fundamental freedoms.

#### RESUMO

**Objetivo:** Analisar o papel das organizações internacionais globais e regionais no fortalecimento do controle internacional sobre o sistema democrático, avaliando sua legitimidade, mecanismos de atuação e impacto sobre a soberania nacional.





**Método:** A pesquisa utiliza abordagem qualitativa com método descritivo e analítico, fundamentando-se em revisão bibliográfica, análise de resoluções da ONU, conferências internacionais e estudos de casos sobre missões de monitoramento democrático promovidas por instituições como a ONU, OSCE, Liga Árabe, União Africana, entre outras.

**Resultados:** O estudo revela que o monitoramento internacional da democracia é uma ferramenta importante de apoio aos princípios democráticos, como eleições livres, respeito aos direitos humanos e transferência pacífica de poder. No entanto, também aponta tensões com o princípio da não intervenção e soberania nacional, especialmente em contextos de transição ou instabilidade política.

**Conclusão:** Embora o monitoramento internacional da democracia não garanta sua implementação plena, ele atua como mecanismo de suporte essencial para promover boas práticas e reforçar instituições democráticas. A adoção de padrões internacionais e o respeito à soberania são essenciais para o equilíbrio entre apoio externo e autodeterminação dos povos.

**Palavras-chave:** Democracia; Supervisão internacional; Eleições, Direitos humanos e liberdades fundamentais.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Democracy" is a word we hear a lot in political and legal forums and international conferences global and regional. It is used by rulers and those in power, cheered by the elite and scientists, intellectuals and simple people. Everyone wants a democratic country or seeks to raise this slogan, as the issue of establishing a democratic country has become in the eyes of many the only way to achieve the freedom of peoples and eliminate tyranny to accommodate the opinion and the other opinion in a peaceful atmosphere to guarantee the fundamental rights and freedoms. For showing the role of international mechanisms in strengthening the democratic system, it is necessary to review the international monitoring committees of international institutional (non-)governmental and organizations and regional organizations. These organizations have given international control to the establishment of the foundations of democracy is of particular interest.

### 1.1. The importance of research

International control over democracy and international delegations in the framework of observation and follow-up or the provision of international assistance





faced widespread criticism at the international level by countries opposed to the idea of censorship for violating the national sovereignty and non-interference of the sovereign state's internal affairs. Yet, the states supporting the idea of international control over the elements of democracy have considered it a means to help strengthen a democratic system. An international cooperation would guarantee the political rights and freedoms of individuals, international political stability and keeping the international peace and security.

## **1.2. Research objectives: - The study aims are as follows: -**

- Identifying the concept of democracy.
- Identifying the meaning of international monitoring to promote democracy, and what is the international legal basis for it.
- Identifying the controls and means surrounding international monitoring missions to promote democracy and their work.

Fourth: - The research problem: - The research problem revolves around the following question: Is democracy one of the basic human rights, which allows international monitoring missions to supervise it? Can it be considered a sufficient reason to sacrifice the fundamental principles on which the international system has been established? How can the fear of small states be dispelled so that they do not use democracy as a justification for interfering in their affairs and violating their sovereignty in order to exercise international control over them to support the democratic system? In other words, what are the international controls to promote democracy?

## **2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

The descriptive and analytical approach will be relied upon to explain and clarify the concept of international control over democracy, and the extent of its legitimacy.

Sixth: - Research Structure: -

We preferred to answer the problem posed in the following plan: -





## **2.1. The first requirement: - Definition of international control over democracy.**

Section I: International control over democracy (Deuxième Conférence internationale des démocraties nouvelles).

Section II: The legal basis for international control over democracy.

The second requirement: - Controls and means of international control over democracy

Subchapter I: International Controls on Democracy Controls.

Section II: Means of international institutional control over democracy

## **2.2. The first requirement: - Definition of international control over democracy**

Before delving into the controls of international control over democracy and the means of international control and supervision of democracy, we learn in this demand about the meaning of international control over democracy, and the legal basis for international control over democracy.

Section I: Definition of international control over democracy

Toynbee defines democracy as "the effective control of human affairs by the masses". Encyclopedia of America defines it as the different ways in which the people participate in governance. According to the Encyclopaedia Britannica: it is government with the total population exercising directly the right to make political decisions in application of majority rule

While international monitoring of democracy is defined as objective and impartial procedures by persons who have been officially assigned to exercise follow-up, monitoring and fact-finding, on the validity of the conduct and conduct of the election and verify claims that indicate any human rights and freedom violations, provided that this is done based on the regulations and laws in this framework). International standards are limited with the success of the democratic process in the following points(Sheeran, Rodley, & Sheeran, 2013):

1- Universal suffrage, which is to ensure the right to vote and nominate everyone in the electoral process.





2- Free and fair elections, i.e. ensuring the voter freedom in opinion and choice as he sees fit.

3 - Establishing the rule of law, as "Barthélemy and Doiz" believe that the control of the law and the declaration of its superiority, and the end of the idea of not being subject to the authority of the law. So, the subordination of the authority to the law and the imposition of respect for the legal rule on those who issued that rule is the essence of the idea of legality (PEACE-1200).

4- The power peaceful transfer, in other words, the ruler succession in its narrowest sense and to changing the ruling elite as a whole in its broadest sense (Philipp, 2003).

Section II: The legal basis for international control over democracy.

### **2.3. First: Resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA):**

This Assembly issued a set of resolutions related to this field. These resolutions were considered the first basis and starting point that defends the idea of international control to strengthen the democratic system and not to prejudice national sovereignty. They can be applied to sovereign states (member states) or applied for decolonization or within the supervision of elections of countries that suffer from the remnants of the transitional period (Transition from a dictatorial to representative democratic system). For instance, a resolution was issued on national sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of states, confirming no single global political system suiting all countries, because this is related to the many political, religious, cultural and economy of society. So, everything related to the process of establishing the elements of democracy shall be in accordance with the internal laws of States, which concerns and concerns the peoples alone. It is stressed that any direct or indirect international intervention affecting the election is violates the United Nations Charter and the International Law on Friendly Relations and Cooperation. It is also recognized that the assistance provided by their system to Member States in the election is not needed except in special cases of Decolonization or in peace operations regionally or internationally or at the request of the States concerned, and by a resolution of the Security Council or the General Assembly with strict and strict compliance of sovereignty and non-intervention in States (Philipp, 2003).





Furthermore, the General Assembly condemns any armed or threatening action against peoples, their governments or their legitimate leaders, preventing any funding or support for political parties or groups that would undermine the electoral process and stressed that there is no need for help in the election except in some cases (Habegger, 2010).

From another angle, the United Nations to establish friendly relations among States must be based on respect for equality of human rights and fundamental freedoms and self-determination, and to take the necessary measures to promote world peace (Roberts, 2022). The Assembly resolution entitled "The Right to Development" urged international organizations Governmental and non-governmental and regional meetings of governmental experts and representatives of (non-) governmental and grass-roots organizations with the aim of seeking to conclude agreements on the implementation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in terms of preservation and promotion of civil, economic, social, cultural and political rights through international cooperation. They are considered rights defended by the United Nations system within the framework of self-determination and democratic governance. The resolution recognized the importance of assistance for States for free and fair (democratic) elections, protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms, politically as an effective element in strengthening institution-building related to human rights and pluralistic civil society (Office, 1996).

## 2.4. Second: International Conferences:

The processes of democratic transition in countries that were suffering from the negatives of the authoritarian dictatorial regime are a very important station, as they help people to build an international system according to the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, especially human rights and fundamental freedoms. The politics, economy, society and cultural were discussed in the first conference of new and restored democracies held in Manila in 1988. 13 countries (Argentina, Spain, Ecuador, Uruguay, Brazil, Portugal and Greece, where it resulted in a set of recommendations, including: Peru, Dominican Republic, Salvador, Philippines, Nicaragua, Honduras) came with the following recommendations (Assistance, 2008):







- The need to promote and maintain democracy once it is reached.
- The necessity of solidarity and international solidarity to overcome internal and external forces that could endanger the democratic system.
- To ensure the exercise of power over government with a sense and to guarantee the rights and freedom of peoples.
- Pledge political pluralism to achieve freedom of expression.
- Appealing to ancient democracies to stand in solidarity with (recovered and modern democracies), which are states resulting from a political system in two forms (states with a dictatorial regime - post-conflict states).
- Providing no assistance to groups that threaten democratic institutions.
- Rejecting any external interference and support international cooperation to achieve the goals of the democratic system.
- Endorsing the role of NGOs to help establish democracy and democracy.
- Establishing an advisory mechanism to assist participating countries in times of danger and crises experienced by the newly recovered Dimand Krayat.

Then the second conference in Manago, Nicaragua in 1994 confirmed what was stated in the first conference of new and restored democracies, with the participation of a group of countries. It was followed by the third conference in Bucharest in 1997 (101 countries intergovernmental and non-governmental) has come with the general rules for achieving democracy, where it recommended international solidarity in all Financial, logistical (technical) or educational fields to establish the rules of democracy. The international cooperation in this field recommended the fight against corruption (forgery, for example, and the exploitation of public office ...), improve the national legal and the national judiciary systems and the activation of its role in establishing democracy, the democratization and education of civil society, and emphasizing the role of GO and NGO and the United Nations in supporting the electoral process as the election is the main pillar of democracy ...etc.

As a result, the Fourth Conference was held in Kototo (Benin) in 2002, in which a group of countries (105 countries, intergovernmental organizations and one non-governmental organization as an observer) participated, and stressed the promotion of democracy in the path of strengthening new and restored democracies, as this conference resulted in a set of recommendations for the consolidation of democracy and international cooperation for development, where it recommended helping new





and restored democratic systems. Its request and with the assistance of international and academic institutions in the development of indicators allow the analysis of the progress made in the process of democratization(Boli & Thomas, 1999; Lena Hjelm-Wallén IDEA Board Chairperson, 2005).

The international assistance has a major role in establishing the rules of democracy at the request of these countries without prejudice to national sovereignty while emphasizing the absence of a single political system and comprehensive international. Then the Fifth Conference of 2003 held in Ulaanbaatar (Mongolia), has recommended the following(Burnett, 2015).

- Emphasizing that the effective and unhindered participation of civil society is essential for the consolidation of democracy and good governance.
- New or restored democracies face the challenge of consolidating their sovereignty, but thanks to international solidarity, a path can be opened for further strengthening of the global democracy movement, which requires the support of other countries to introduce democratic reforms for all members of society.

It was followed by the Doha Conference (Qatar) held in 2006, where it emphasized the consecration of democracy. The Doha Declaration focused on self-determination and emphasized the diversity of political systems, protecting human rights, freedoms and law, and political decision-making. They are comprehensive and representative available to all sectors of society. Also, the parliament has a central role as the elected representatives express their will and interests to ensure their well-being(Carter, 2008).

The second requirement: - Controls and means of international control over democracy

Subchapter I: International Controls on Democracy Controls.

**International oversight as a measure of the democratic system:** - The international conventions affirmed the idea of democracy in political systems, defending it and establishing its components in the texts of its articles. Also, the system that guarantees the rights and freedoms of individuals and guarantees their right to participate in governance through representatives of their choice(Carroll).

Since the past two decades, on Soviet Union collapse and its rings from the Eastern Bloc in 1989, countries have witnessed a major wave of democratic







transformation (transition from authoritarian rule to democratic rule)(Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa (EISA)). So, most countries of the world are holding elections, and despite these attempts(Parliamentary Meeting on the Occasion of the Sixth International Conference of New or Restored Democracies - Doha (Qatar)). Only half of this number is held in which competitive democratic elections are held, while the elections in the rest of the other are not described as such, due to the development of methods that rob them and cancel this characteristic. They manipulated the results and fraud, so the question arises, how can countries reach free and fair democratic elections?

## **Democratic elections are based on two basic principles (Abdullah, 2005):**

- The electoral process is not free unless it ensures that individual freedoms and fundamental rights must be respected.
- Impartiality of the administration supervising the electoral process.

Hence, democratic elections are free and fair, describing the referendum held in Togo in 1956 for independence. They then traded its term on similar cases in the electoral processes supervised by the United Nations, because of its keen interest in electoral processes and supervision(special report).

For example, the International Election Monitoring Institute that took place in Iraq noted the extent of the commitment of the Independent High Electoral Commission to the ballot integrity based on the international standards in terms of the distribution of polling stations, casting votes and the counting process(PEACE-1200). The 2007 EU Election Observation Mission (EUMSIL) praised Mauritania in its initial declaration that: the legal framework for the elections was in conformity with international standards and the first presidential elections took place on March 11 with calm and transparency and based on procedures specified .....(Karbish, 2008).

Based on the above, the oversight work of the international committees to monitor the elements of democracy aims to strengthen the principle of periodic and fair elections(ARIC DIVYS dumocrcyin.Iraq), and thus strengthen the democratic system in the international ground(Report of the International Institute of Election Observers Iraq Team Final Report Iraqi Elections March 2010).





## **International monitoring as a mechanism for human rights and freedoms:**

International interest in human rights has grown after the end of the cold war. The charters were issued and several international conventions were concluded to build human rights. The international attention was limited to this idea initially about human rights in general without scrutiny or detail. Yet, the situation has differed because of the international community development as a whole that the interest in these rights has become more scrutinized. It focused on defending the rights of certain groups: - "Minorities, women, children.... etc.". So, the rights to be defended and in general are: freedom of expression, thought, press and belief, etc. have been considered rights and freedoms must be preserved and defended (Initial report of the European Union Election Observation Mission Mauritania 2007).

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948 has affirmed the right of government participation, directly (direct democracy) or through freely chosen deputies (representative democracy). In addition, the will is the government basis and its legitimacy. Also, this will show periodic and honest elections held by universal suffrage equally among voters by secret ballot or equivalent free voting.

So, the question arises: - How to strengthen what is international oversight to protect and preserve the right to vote and the free will expression?

International missions to strengthen the democratic system monitor elections or provide electoral assistance through their concerted efforts in providing their work of monitoring and controlling the integrity and credibility of elections (Attia, 2010). This is in terms of the absence of discrimination between individuals in registering within the electoral lists. It takes into account non-discrimination between members of society ethnically, religiously or gender during registering in the electoral lists (Hajjaj, 2009). The Convention rejected racial discrimination 1965. The States Parties to this Charter prohibits and abolishes racial discrimination, with no distinction, according to sex, colour or national or ethnic origin, to equality by law (Article (21)).

**International control and non-interference in internal affairs:** - International element control of democracy according to many scholars of international law violates the internal sovereignty of the state. If the oversight work of international missions is projected on sovereign and autonomous states, the idea of sovereignty carries within its traditional concept the absolute rejection of the idea of international control as a kind of international interference in the national affairs. It destroys the principle on which





sovereignty is based, namely the "principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States". Therefore, the question arises: to what extent does the idea of international control over democracy affect non-interference in the internal affairs of states? Is it the result of the transformation of the idea of sovereignty from absolute to relativism, which opened the door to international control legitimately?

Through absolute sovereignty, in "the freedom of the state to manage its internal and international affairs"(Article (21)), rejecting international interference in the internal affairs of states or non-intervention. It is defined according to what is stated in the UN Charter of 1945 to prevent and prohibit any characteristic of interference in the entity or personality of states in any aspect of this entity, whether political, economic or cultural, whatever such interference "(Al-Aifa, 2009).

In addition, this principle is enshrined in the Declaration issued by the UNGA on the Declaration on International Law of Friendly Relations based on the UN Charter (Bouars, 2009). It prohibits interference in of States (in)directly, and using any political or economic justifications in order to coerce States to waive their sovereign rights. American States in Articles 15 and 16((2)) and the Charter of the African Union(UNGAR No. (26/25) of 1970)

So, the interference inadmissibility in the states' affairs directly and expressly, as for the Charter of the League of Arab States enshrined non-intervention seeking to achieve it, as it stipulated the following -Each of the States participating in the League respects the existing system of government in the other States of the League, considers it their right, and undertakes no action aimed at changing that system. ".

So, all international conventions referred to the inadmissibility of intervention, and considered any kind of intervention as a violation of national sovereignty. On this basis, the idea of international control over the elements of democracy is a kind of political intervention. Thus it is a clear prejudice to the national sovereignty of states, and this view has been embraced by countries opposed to the idea of international control, especially since the resolution the UNGA issues for the year 1991 and ratified by 120 votes to 40 against and 13 abstentions, which stipulated the following: - "Respect national sovereignty and non-interference in election"(Item (2) of Article (5) of the African Union Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights of 1981).





Besides, the resolutions of 1992 and 1993 affirmed that: " The governments is responsible for free and fair elections lies with." (Article (8) of the Charter of the League of Arab States of 1945) Draft resolution 1999/1999.

In line with the above, it is clear to us that the United Nations system, by the resolutions of General Assembly, affirms and enshrines the principle of the interference inadmissibility, whatever the type of interference. Simultaneously, it has participated in the process of monitoring and observing the extent of the commitment of States to establish the elements of democracy for a group of countries. National sovereignty, based mainly on non-intervention has witnessed a wide development through international historical times, and this was shown through the abandonment of the international community from the absolute concept of sovereignty, where this act was expressed by the jurist Morelli thus: - "The concept of sovereignty may have been useful in the fifteenth century, but today it no longer has any meaning, ... The concept of state sovereignty must simply and completely be abolished from international law, as it constitutes an abstract extension of a concept that has never been clearly defined, and shows complete contradiction with the development of the international community....." (UNGAR No. (46/130) of 1991).

It was concluded through this that the concept of absolute sovereignty has disappeared to show the relative concept as an alternative to it, as this concept reduces the reality of the severity of non-interference. This is a solidarity and international cooperation between international laws, where several concepts have emerged that affected the idea of absolute sovereignty from (the principle of international solidarity, scientific and economic progress and globalization.) So, this concept stand in front of recent international developments, including the international judiciary represented in combating international crime (United Nations General Assembly Resolution No. (47/138) of 1992) the International Criminal Court (Baydoun, 2008). Also, the key humanitarian concerns represented in preserving human rights and freedoms, the protecting minorities and self-determination.... etc (Al-Azmi, 2023)

Supporters of the international control to establish democracy have considered that the idea falls within the framework of the modern and relative concept of the idea of sovereignty. The control process advances the international community within the framework of strengthening the elements of democracy. Also, all individuals have the right to choose their political system and rulers, as well as to exercise power





themselves or by choosing representatives as their deputies in that, under the slogan "international cooperation"(Fattah, 2024).

The UNGA's resolution in 1991 affirmed that a central point must be established to ensure the consistency of processing requests for electoral assistance. It stipulated participating in governance directly or by freely elected representatives, equal access to public services. Also, the will forms the legitimacy of the Power through periodic honest and fair elections by universal suffrage, on an equal footing of voters by secret vote(Philipp, 2003).

In view of the contradictory concepts adopted by the UN charters and resolutions, which prohibit interference in the internal affairs of States in the theoretical aspect, and what contradicts it at the realistic and practical level of the UN system in monitoring the election in Nicaragua in 1989, supervising elections in Namibia and monitoring elections in Haiti in 1990... etc. To avoid this contradiction, the UN system announced a resolution in 1988 in which the General Assembly invited the Commission on Human Rights to write a report on the UN supporting the election of the States without infringing on the national sovereignty of the State concerned with the elections(Shehata, 2000).

## Section II: Means of Institutional International Control of Democracy

### **First: - International international organizations(Shehata, 2000):**

- The intergovernmental organizations establishment of the democratic system(Khalil, 2007): -
  - 1- The UN system: - The history of the UN is linked to strengthening the democratic system with many international observations of elections during trusteeship and decolonization. During the nineties of the last century, the UN monitored or performed historic elections and popular consultations in Timor-Leste. The same is true with South Africa followed by Mozambique and El Salvador with Cambodia. Critical technical and logistical assistance has recently been in elections of Afghanistan, the Sudan, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq and Nepal, and the demand for United Nations electoral assistance, operations in duration and complexity. The United Nations has this assistance closely organized, and crystallized in resolutions adopted since 1991. Although the Un helped to the changing needs and







circumstances of its Member States, it accords in enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the will expressed in periodic and genuine elections constitutes the legitimacy of government(Khalil, 2007). "It represents the most common electoral assistance and is: - (legal, operational and logistical assistance provided to develop or improve democratic electoral laws, processes and institutions). Furthermore, technical assistance can be requested by a Member State, or on a mandate from UNSC or the UNGA(Abbas, 2018).

In addition, the UN system provides support democratization. Furthermore, the mandate of UN peacekeeping often includes provisions to implement tasks normally in their mandates in countries with such mandates. They may use their good offices and political role to contribute to the creation of an enabling environment for the promotion of democratic governance. In this regard, through its military and civilian presence in stabilizing the security situation, which is necessary to prepare for this matter, the OHCHR. Also, the UN system may monitor human rights and freedoms, during or after the elections for an appropriate environment and ensures the relevant international standards, in specific circumstances such as countries in transition (transition from authoritarian to democratic rule)(El-Din, 2012).

According to the foregoing, the integrity and credibility of elections system constitute a vital part of democratic and democratic transitions, as they are used as a peaceful means to identify the will of the people. It leads to building confidence in representative systems of government and contributes to providing greater peace and stability at the international and national levels, as elections and democratic rights are a means of reconciling the various social interests within the state(Bassiouni, 2005).

- 2- Security and Cooperation Organization of Europe: - The promotion of the democratic system, human rights and freedoms and the establishment of the law is one of the main axes Organization activities for Security and Cooperation throughout Europe, Central Asia and North America. The fifty-six countries in the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe attach significance to democratic elections. The countries of the "Copenhagen Document" issued in 1990. The document announced "the will of the people, expressed in freedom and integrity by periodic and fair elections, constitutes the authority and legitimacy of all governments..." (Bassiouni, 2005).







Furthermore, countries in Copenhagen agreed on commitments that specify the requirement of elections effectively democratic. The basic principles set out in these commitments can be summarized in the following: (inclusive - equal - fair - confidential - free - transparent - accountable. Promoting holding elections is one of the core of the OSCE's work- the Human Dimension of Security, the OSCE's Comprehensive Security dating back to the 1975 Helsinki Final Communiqué(Habegger, 2010). According to this conviction, States considered that violations of the commitments to hold democratic elections could jeopardize this stability in the OSCE region(Manasri, 2011).

The Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights in 1990 began its activity in an official capacity in late 1991, and is considered one of the most important organs and institutions of the Organization for human rights(Roberts, 2022). It seeks to support the democratic system within the member states of the Organization, by encouraging democratic practices (Election Observation Handbook, 2010). This is evident through the Office's endeavors to achieve this, through the preparation of training programs, the information exchange and experiences and the projects Democracy and local institutions by the national legislative system and adapting it to international standards, as happened with Ukraine(Qu'est ce que le BIDDH, 2024).

In the same regard, the Office of Democracies and Human Rights works to support the electoral processes within the framework of the activity area <sup>(51)</sup>, by ensuring that they are organized in an atmosphere of (transparency, freedom, justice and effectiveness) in order to establish a truly democratic society(Manasri, 2011).

The Office is the main body for monitoring elections in Europe and the countries under the banner of the Organization, as its main task is concerned with monitoring election in countries witnessing elections of any kind (presidential, parliamentary or local) according to the Istanbul Summit in 1999(Office, 1996). In the field of election observation, the Office exercises two main tasks, the first of which is sending observers to monitor the conduct of elections based on the obligations of States as stipulated in the Copenhagen Conference of June 29, 1990 through Free organization of elections, universal suffrage and secret balloting, and provision of technical assistance to interested countries(EI-Din, 2012) among the elections monitored by the Bureau. For example, the referendum on the draft constitution and electoral law on March 23, 2003 in Chechnya, and the legislative elections in Armenia on May 25, 2003, during which





observers submitted negative reports due to the large case of fraud contained in them(Office, 1996). Also it is to strengthen the unity of the law and formulate an aim line with the relevant international standards, and the obligations of the member states in judicial independence and the amendment of national legislation to support the elements of the democratic system(Organization of Islamic Cooperation, 2024).

**Organization of Islamic Cooperation:** This was established by the historic summit held in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco on September 25, 1969 in response to burning Al-Aqsa Mosque. It is the second largest intergovernmental, with fifty-seven countries distributed on four continents, with a liaison office in Brussels with cooperating with the European Union. The OIC is the collective voice of the Islamic world for the protection and support of international peace and harmony.

The current OIC Charter by the Islamic Summit held in 2008 set out the objectives of the OIC to strengthen solidarity and cooperation among the Member States(THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE).

Among the principles of the Charter are the promotion of human rights and freedoms, good governance, the law, democratic order and accountability in Member States based on the constitutional and legal systems, trust, friendly relations, mutual respect and national and international cooperation, and the relentless pursuit of good governance at the international level and democracy. These relations are based on equality and mutual respect among States and non-interference in domestic legislation (Lena Hjelm-Wallén IDEA Board Chairperson, 2005).

In addition, the OIC has established an election monitoring unit at the General Secretariat headquarters in Jeddah supervising all technical and organizational work in election observation operations in the OIC member states. Also, the unit formation adaption the decisions of the Council of Foreign Ministers at its 41st session in Jeddah and the 42nd session in the Kuwaiti capital (Boli & Thomas, 1999).

Accordingly, it can be said that the OIC has worked in all the tasks in which it participated by observing the election processes in the Member States, adhering non-interference in the the Member States, adhering to its Constitution and internal laws on organizing and arranging elections, upholding law, a democratic system and human rights and freedoms.

**International Institute for Democracy and Elections (IDEA):** The Institute was an intergovernmental organization With fourteen members of a conference in





Stockholm in 1995, based on Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations of 1845, and has enjoyed international observer status in the UNGA since 2003 (Burnett, 2015).

IDEA's approach to utilize, analyze and disseminate knowledge to strengthen the elements of democracy at the international level is based on three main assumptions (Carter, 2008):

- There are no clear blueprints for democracy
- There is no predetermined recipe for a successful democracy.
- Democracy cannot be taken for granted.
- The international non-governmental organizations in the

democratic system (Carroll): -

**The Carter Center:** The Carter Center is an international non-governmental non-profit organization improved living in more than 80 countries by international conflicts, promoting democracy, and human rights and freedoms in 1982 by ex US President Jimmy Carter and his wife Rosalyn in with Emory University for international peace around the world (Abbou, 2011).

The Carter Center's Democracy Program promotes international democratic elections and international human rights and freedoms. It has checked about 100 elections in 38 countries since 1989 with democratic transitions with integrity and transparency. Elections, the Center also monitors long-term political transitions and consolidate civil society organizations support for democratic governance according to state obligations under public international law (Al-Shafi'i, 1994).

2- **Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI):** The Institute is a non-profit, non-partisan and non-governmental organization responding to the individuals' ambitions around the world to live in democratic societies recognizing and promoting basic human rights. Since its establishment in 1983, the Institute has supported democratic institutions and practices by political parties, civic organizations and parliaments, and protecting elections. Enhancing citizen participation and accountability in government (Jassim, 2006).

## **Second: Regional International Organizations (Promoting democracy and peace in Africa):**

**The African Union in the democratic system:** This Union encourages member states to practice democracy and good governance improving countries of





the continent, as confirmed in the clause " participation suspension " when governments was on power by unconstitutional means are prevented form activities of the Union(Article (2) of the Charter of the League of Arab States of 1945; Mansour, 2022). The Union rejected it and condemned any unconstitutional change of governments, in other words, against the military coups in Africa from time to time(Mansour, 2022). The simplest example of this is in 2020. A military coalition ousted President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita from power. The African Union suspended Mali a few weeks later following new civilian-led transitional administration(EI-Din, 2012).

It can be said that the Constitutive Act of the African Union of 2001, along with the Tommy Declaration of 2000 and the African Charter of 2007 on democracy, elections and good governance – constitute one the tasks of the African Union in protecting and consolidating the elements of the democratic system, as the Constitutive Act of the African Union stipulates (EI-Din, 2012): "Strengthening democracycy and institutions, participation and governance", and to achieve this goal, the African Union established in 2002 a specific institutional structure called the "Peace and Security Council" that deals with the prevention of conflicts and unconstitutional changes of governments in a systematic manner. and firm, and to strengthen the essential links between democracy and peace(Ibrahim, 2022).

- **The League of Arab States in strengthening the democratic system:** - The preamble to the LAS Charter affirms that the support and consolidation of ties between Arab countries is the independence and sovereignty of those countries to strengthen relations between the countries, coordinate their political plans, and preserve their independence and sovereignty and human rights and freedoms. One of its purposes is also the close cooperation of the participating States based on government of each State(Muhammad, 2018).

At the political level, the LAS Charter has been able throughout its history to contribute to the Arab countries' access to independence and the enjoyment of the right to self-determination and self-government, where the role of the League has emerged, for example, in the field of supporting liberation efforts in countries such as (Algeria, the Sultanate of Oman, and South Yemen), and such a role was the direct reason for the expansion of the size of the League's membership on the foregoing, to include twenty-two Arab countries, while the number did not exceed the number of





Seven States are signatories to the Charter(The Australian Institute for Sustainable Development in Africa (ISA)).

In addition, the League of Arab States began to monitor elections in many Arab countries that welcomed international monitoring of elections, and the participation of LAS Charter missions in monitoring elections came in support of political reform and democratic transitions in the Arab region, and since that time the LAS Charter has worked in this field according to the invitations it received to monitor the elections(Emerging Trends and Challenges of Electoral Democracy in Africa).

As the establishment of the "Secretariat for Electoral Affairs", and as a result of the increase in calls to participate in the observation of the elections, an urgent need has emerged for the need for an institutional entity concerned with electoral affairs within the Arab League. From this point of view, the Secretariat for Electoral Affairs was established within the main structure of the General Secretariat in 2013, whose task is to supervise The tasks of monitoring the elections and carrying out all technical and organizational work related to this process, in coordination with the various sectors and departments concerned in the League and with the concerned authorities in the country where the elections are held(Emerging Trends and Challenges of Electoral Democracy in Africa). For example, the League of Arab States announced its participation in monitoring the elections of the Iraqi Council of Representatives for the year 2021.

**The role of the Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa (EISA) in strengthening the democratic system:** The Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa was established as a non-profit organization in 1996, initially focusing on the Southern Africa. Yet, in 2002 the Institute's scope of work expanded to include the entire African continent, with the aim of Consolidating democratic governance, human rights and citizen participation in a peaceful environment across the continent. It seeks to promote credible elections, support participation, and build strong political institutions to democracy in Africa, and to achieve four strategic objectives as follows(League of Arab States):

- 1- Properly administer elections in a transparent and peaceful environment.
- 2- The participation of all citizens in the democracy, especially women and marginalized groups.
- 3- Establish democratic political institutions and processes that function efficiently.





- 4- Strengthening the power and influence of the Electoral Institute, working in collaboration with various partners including electoral administrations, NGOs, political parties, parliaments, donors and relevant government bodies, and local councils(League of Arab States).

The Institute also contributes to the framework on democratization, elections and good governance through research, periodicals and scientific resources, having published 300 publications, whether papers, periodicals, reports or research on these topics, and has an enormous library and information technology department, as well as a website providing up-to-date information on various aspects of electoral systems and an electoral timetable in Africa(El-Din, 2012).

## CONCLUSIONS: -

- 1- International monitoring of the promotion of democracy does not mean achieving democracy, but is the mechanisms supporting it.
- 2- The international monitoring of democracy informs the international community of the extent to which states are committed to the elements of the success of a democratic system, such as respect for human rights and freedoms, the law, the integrity of the electoral process, and the achievement of a peaceful transfer of power.
- 3- International monitoring of the promotion of democracy is according to international foundations.
- 4- Reports and recommendations issued by international committees for monitoring democracy are not of a mandatory nature.
- 5-

## FURTHER RESEARCH (RECOMMENDATIONS)

Based on the above results, some proposals can be developed within the framework of strengthening democracy, which are represented in the following points:

- 1- Adopting electoral systems with international standards that are compatible with the principles of democracy.







2- Putting the reports issued by the international monitoring missions to promote democracy is the focus of attention and using their recommendations to develop democratic thought within societies and increase participation rates in political life.

3- Spreading the culture of democracy within civil societies to activate popular control and combat corruption in electoral processes.

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