

2022 Charter Amendments

Proposal No. 9 – Communications, resolutions and policies mentioning a specific country or territory other than of the United States shall be presumed to violate the duty not to participate in the politics of any country other than the United States of America

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Purpose: The Charter's prohibition on engaging in foreign policy has been called vague and its enforcement has been haphazard at best and often inconsistent. This amendment is intended to clarify under what conditions DA may engage in foreign policy, what body is authorized to take that decision and in the event it is a gray decision, which country committee(s) and/or transnational committee(s) should be consulted and provide its advice and consent.

Affected Sections: Sections 1.1 and 1.2

Resolution Text:

Be it Resolved, that the existing text under Article 1 of the Charter be placed under a heading "Section 1.1";

Be it Further Resolved, that the following be inserted into the Charter under the heading "Section 1.2":

Section 1.2

1. A communication, resolution, or policy of Democrats Abroad or a country or transnational committee that mentions a specific country or territory other than of the United States shall be presumed to violate the duty not to participate in the politics of any country other than the United States of America unless:

(a) it arises only incidentally to the performance, or discussion of, the work or structure conducted by Democrats Abroad, its country or transnational committees, without any comment on any government or political party of any country or territory outside the United States; or

(b) it arises only incidentally to discussion on the operations of the United States government or officials (or discussion on the operations of government or official within the United States or any territory of the United States), and it neither is intended to express an opinion in respect of any foreign government or official, nor could it reasonably be interpreted as expressing an opinion in respect of any foreign government or official.

2. A presumption created by paragraph (1) above may be rebutted by certification by the International Executive Committee that the communication, resolution, or policy does not constitute participation in the politics of any country other than the United States of America. Such certification shall not be issued unless the requirements of paragraph (3) have been met.

3. The International Executive Committee shall not be entitled to issue a certification under paragraph (2) unless:

(a) If there is a country or transnational committee for the country or territory concerned in such communication, resolution or policy, the body that is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the country or transnational committee has been consulted, no member of that body has disclosed any reason to believe that the certification by the International Executive Committee will be prejudicial to the country or transnational committee or its membership (or any portion thereof), and such body has given its advice and consent for the International Executive Committee to issue the certification;

(b) If there is not a country or transnational committee for the country or territory concerned in such communication, resolution or policy, the International Executive Committee has undertaken all reasonable endeavours to consult leaders and volunteers of Democrats Abroad in the country or territory concerned, and the result of such consultation discloses no reason to believe that the certification by the International Executive Committee will prejudice the interests or welfare of leaders, volunteers, or members of Democrats Abroad within the relevant country or territory (or any portion thereof).

4. For the purpose of paragraph (3) above:

(a) A country or territory concerned shall include any country or territory other than one of the United States of America that is mentioned in a communication, resolution or policy to which the presumption in paragraph (1) applies, as well as any country or territory outside the United States that could reasonably be understood to be implicated; and

(b) Where there is more than one country or territory concerned, there shall be a duty to comply with the requirements of paragraph (3) in respect of each country or territory concerned, failing which the International Executive Committee shall not be entitled to issue a certification under paragraph (2).