



2nd Internal Workshop of Democratic Solidarity: **LEADERSHIP**

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Each democratic transition has its own particularities related to its economic and social circumstances which determine how the power will be taken hold of after the political change. In Chile the fundamental aspect of the success of the transition was economic development; in Argentina a decisive factor of the transition was the support of democracy from civil society; and in the Czech Republic a strong opposition movement against the totalitarian regime and their fight for the install of democratic values was crucial.

General advice for the leadership of the newly established democracies:

1. **The existence of a consensus between the elites** is vital for a successful and peaceful democratic transition.
2. **Competitiveness** inside of a democratic movement **weakens the movement** itself and is counterproductive.
3. **The willingness to pursue dialogue** with the opposite opinion spectrum is essential to maintaining internal order.
4. **Enabling of political pluralism** is fundamental and represents a guarantee of democracy.

The recommendations for the leadership of the newly established democracies in the individual sectors:

1. It is necessary to have an **action plan including economic and social policy plans** when arriving to power.
2. **Acceptation of the economic system of free market** and drawing on experience from the stable democracies is highly recommended.
3. **The creation and maintenance of democratic institutions** as well as clear **limitations to absolute power** are very important.
4. **The acknowledgment of the armed forces** that a military government cannot continue on power is essential.



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5. **Truth commissions** are a good tool for prosecuting the previous regime; judicial prosecution carries a revanchist danger.
6. **Education is an extraordinary means to renew democratic culture** in those countries where the governments have already polarized it.
7. **Stimulating the citizen participation and solidarity** and ultimately taking the transition as an opportunity to define and tackle new problems and challenges

Democratic transition and its aspects vary from case to case. A common recommendation for leadership in all the cases is communication within a new regime and a peaceful coexistence of government and opposition in order to confront challenges together.¹

¹ Conclusions were issued in the workshop 'Latin America: Leadership in the Times of Transition' organized in the framework of the Democratic Solidarity project during the 20th annual Forum 2000 Conference.