Preambles from Constitutions Around the World

Preamble of the Constitution of the Federative Republic of Brazil, 1824, amended 1988
We, the representatives of the Brazilian People, assembled in the National Constituent Assembly to institute a Democratic State for the purpose of ensuring the exercise of social and individual rights, liberty, security, well-being, development, equality and justice as supreme values of a fraternal, pluralist and unprejudiced society, based on social harmony and committed, in the internal and international spheres, to the peaceful solution of disputes, promulgate, under the protection of God, this Constitution of the Federative Republic of Brazil.

Preamble of the Constitution of China, 1982 (excerpt)
The People's Republic of China is a unitary multinational state created jointly by the people of all its nationalities. Socialist relations of equality, unity and mutual assistance have been established among the nationalities and will continue to be strengthened. In the struggle to safeguard the unity of the nationalities, it is necessary to combat big-nation chauvinism, mainly Han chauvinism, and to combat local national chauvinism. The state will do its utmost to promote the common prosperity of all the nationalities. …

This Constitution, in legal form, affirms the achievements of the struggles of the Chinese people of all nationalities and defines the basic system and basic tasks of the state; it is the fundamental law of the state and has supreme legal authority. The people of all nationalities, all state organs, the armed forces, all political parties and public organizations and all enterprises and institutions in the country must take the Constitution as the basic standard of conduct, and they have the duty to uphold the dignity of the Constitution and ensure its implementation.

Preamble to the Constitution of Cote d'Ivoire, 2000
The People of Côte d'Ivoire, Conscious of their liberty and national identity, of their responsibility before history and humanity; Conscious of their ethnic, cultural and religious diversity, and desirous to build one nation unified in solidarity and prosperous; Convinced that union with respect for diversity assures economic progress and social well-being; Profoundly attached to constitutional legality and to democratic institutions; Proclaims its adherence to the rights and freedoms as defined in the Universal Declaration of the Rights of Man of 1948 and in the African Charter of the Rights of Man and of Peoples of 1981; Expressing its attachment to democratic values recognized to all, the free people, notably:
—The respect and the protection of fundamental freedoms, individual as well as collective,
—The separation and the equilibrium of powers,
—Transparency in the conduct of public affairs,
Committed to the promotion of regional and subregional integration, in view of the constitution of African Unity, Gives freely and solemnly as the fundamental law this Constitution adopted by Referendum.

Preamble of the French Constitution, 1958
The French people solemnly proclaim their attachment to the Rights of Man and the principles of national sovereignty as defined by the Declaration of 1789, confirmed and complemented by the Preamble to the Constitution of 1946, and to the rights and duties as defined in the Charter for the Environment of 2004. By virtue of these principles and that of the self-determination of peoples, the Republic offers to the overseas territories which have expressed the will to adhere to them new institutions founded on the common ideal of liberty, equality and fraternity and conceived for the purpose of their democratic development.

Preamble of the Constitution of India, 1949
WE, THE PEOPLE OF INDIA, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a SOVEREIGN SOCIALIST SECULAR DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC and to secure to all its citizens:

(Continued on page 18)
JUSTICE, social, economic and political;
LIBERTY of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship;
EQUALITY of status and of opportunity;
and to promote among them all
FRATERNITY assuring the dignity of the individual and the unity and
integrity of the Nation;
IN OUR CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY this twenty-sixth day of November,
1949, do HEREBY ADOPT, ENACT AND GIVE TO OURSELVES THIS
CONSTITUTION.

Preamble of the Constitution of Iran, 1979 (excerpt)
The Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran advances the cultural,
social, political, and economic institutions of Iranian society based on
Islamic principles and norms, which represent an honest aspiration
of the Islamic Ummah.
This aspiration was exemplified by the nature of the great Islamic
Revolution of Iran, and by the course of the Muslim people’s struggle,
from its beginning until victory, as reflected in the decisive and forceful
calls raised by all segments of the populations. Now, at the threshold of
this great victory, our nation, with all its beings, seeks its fulfillment. …

Preamble to the Constitution of Ireland, 1937
In the Name of the Most Holy Trinity, from Whom is all authority and to
Whom, as our final end, all actions both of men and States must be referred,
We, the people of Éire,
Humbly acknowledging all our obligations to our Divine Lord, Jesus Christ,
Who sustained our fathers through centuries of trial,
Gratefully remembering their heroic and unremitting struggle to regain
the rightful independence of our Nation,
And seeking to promote the common good, with due observance of
Prudence, Justice and Charity, so that the dignity and freedom of the
individual may be assured, true social order attained, the unity of our
country restored, and concord established with other nations,
Do hereby adopt, enact, and give to ourselves this Constitution.

Preamble to the Constitution
of the Russian Federation, 1993
We, the multinational people of the Russian Federation, united by a common
destiny on our land, asserting human rights and liberties, civil peace and
accord, preserving the historic unity of the state, proceeding from the
commonly recognized principles of equality and self-determination of the
peoples honoring the memory of our ancestors, who have passed on to us
love of and respect for our homeland and faith in good and justice, reviving
the sovereign statehood of Russia and asserting its immutable democratic
foundations, striving to secure the wellbeing and prosperity of Russia and
proceeding from a sense of responsibility for our homeland before the present
and future generations, and being aware of ourselves as part of the world
community, hereby approve the Constitution of the Russian Federation.