

About the contributors

Luis Arias Núñez is the president of the Plenary of the Central Electoral Board in the Dominican Republic and a former judge. He has had a long career as a professor and researcher, and has published several books and more than 400 articles in the fields of law and international politics in national and international specialist journals, as well as in newspapers of the Dominican Republic. He has a PhD in jurisprudence from the University of Warsaw, and a Master's degree in international affairs and a PhD in law from the Autonomous University of Santo Domingo.

Reginald Austin has extensive experience of election management. During the 1960s and 1970s he was actively involved with the political and armed struggle of the Zimbabwean nationalist movement in the then Southern Rhodesia. He was a legal adviser to PF-ZAPU (Patriotic Front-Zimbabwe African People's Union) during the constitutional and ceasefire negotiations in 1976–9, and in the Election Council and Ceasefire Commission during the 1980 independence election. From 1982 to 1992 he served on the Zimbabwean Electoral Delimitation Commission, on the Zimbabwe Red Cross and at the Zimbabwe Legal Resources Centre. During the 1980s he worked with the Council for Namibia, the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC), advising on transition and post-conflict multiparty elections in Mozambique and Angola. In 1992 he worked in the United Nations on drafting an electoral law for the transition in Cambodia, and was appointed chief election officer (CEO) of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC). In 1994 he headed the UN Observer Mission in South Africa (UNOMSA) electoral operation in South Africa, and in 2003–4 he undertook the same task with the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) for the presidential election there. Between 1994 and 1998 he was director of the Constitutional and Legal Division of the Commonwealth Secretariat, and from 1998 to 2003 a director of International IDEA. Since 2005 he has undertaken independent consultancy work.

Nadja Braun is currently working as a legal adviser in the Political Rights Section of the Swiss Federal Chancellery (the Swiss federal electoral management body). She has wide experience in the field of e-voting and direct democracy. She was the Swiss legal expert in the Council of Europe's group of experts on e-voting, and her other assignments include membership of the IDEA group of experts on direct democracy. She completed her PhD in law at Bern University. Her recent publications include *Stimmeheimnis* [The secrecy of the vote] (Reihe: Abhandlungen zum schweizerischen Recht 708, Bern, 2005), based on her doctoral dissertation; *Guidebook to Direct Democracy in Switzerland and Beyond* (co-edited with Bruno Kaufmann, Rolf Büchi and Paul Carline, 2005 edn); and 'E-Voting: Switzerland's Projects and their Legal Framework in a European Context', in Alexander Prosser and Robert Krimmer (eds), *Electronic Voting in Europe: Technology, Law, Politics and Society* (2004), pp. 43–52.

Leticia Calderón-Chelius is a researcher and professor at the José María Mora Institute in Mexico City and a member of the National Researchers System in Mexico. She was the coordinator of *Voto en la distancia: Extensión de derechos políticos a migrantes, experiencias comparadas* [Voting at a distance: the extension of political rights to migrants, comparative experiences] (2004) and co-author (with Jesús Martínez) of *La dimensión política de la migración mexicana* [The political dimension of Mexican migration] (2003). She has a PhD in social sciences from the Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO), Mexico.

Manuel Carrillo has been chief of staff for international affairs at the Federal Electoral Institute of Mexico (Instituto Federal Electoral, IFE) since 1993. He has worked on the public officials' training programme at the National Institute of Public Administration, as well as several agencies of the Mexican Government, and has participated in several electoral observation missions and technical assistance projects on the organization of elections in other countries; and he has written several articles on electoral issues. He has a BA in political science and public administration from the Faculty of Social and Political Science of the National Autonomous University of Mexico, and a Master's degree in political science from the Center of International Studies of the Colegio de México.

Arlinda Chantre joined the Portuguese Directorate General for Electoral Management in 2003. She works mainly on the legal bases of voter registration and elections, providing legal advice to both political parties and electoral enrolment commissions, and on the administration of voter registration and electoral administration. She has a law degree from the Universidade Católica Portuguesa, and was a postgraduate student at the Instituto Superior de Ciências Políticas e Sociais (in international relations) and the University of Lisbon Law Faculty (in political and international studies).

Linda Edgeworth has been a consultant specializing in international election law and administration for 16 years and is associated with such organizations as IFES (formerly called the International Foundation for Election Systems), the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), and the UN. In that time she has served in 31 countries including many in the

Caucasus, the Balkans, Central Asia, Central and Eastern Europe, and Africa, as well as in Bangladesh, Yemen and the Philippines. From 1997 to 1999 she was the OSCE director of elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina, where she developed and implemented the first voter registration programme after the war, conducted elections at all levels of government, and initiated programmes to ensure a smooth transition of electoral functions from international to domestic control. In 2001 she designed the polling-station, vote-counting and auditing procedures for Kosovo. She has also been involved in projects related to the advancement of women in political life and leadership, and the development of international standards for the conduct of democratic elections. Most recently, she has consulted with several states in the United States regarding election reform and implementation of the Help America Vote Act. Prior to her international work Ms Edgeworth was an election administrator for the US state of Alaska.

Andrew Ellis is currently the Director of Operations at International IDEA in Stockholm. Between 2003 and 2006 he was the head of the Electoral Processes Team. He has wide experience as a technical adviser on electoral and institutional matters in democratic transitions. He acted as senior adviser for the National Democratic Institute (NDI) in Indonesia from 1999 to 2003, working with members of the Indonesian legislature on constitutional amendment and reform of the electoral and political laws, and with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and political commentators. His other recent assignments include acting as chief technical adviser to the Palestinian Election Commission under the European Commission's support for all aspects of the preparation of the first Palestinian elections in 1996, and design and planning for the commission's electoral assistance programme in Cambodia for the 1998 elections.

Jeff Fischer is the team leader for Elections and Political Process programming at Creative Associates International, Inc. where he leads initiatives to establish and conduct programmes to develop democratic processes and culture. He has held three internationally appointed posts in post-conflict electoral transitions. In 1996, he was appointed by the OSCE to serve as director general of elections for the first post-conflict elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In 1999, he was appointed by the UN as chief electoral officer for the Popular Consultation for East Timor, and in 2000 he received a joint appointment from the UN and OSCE to head the Joint Registration Taskforce in Kosovo and served as the OSCE's director of election operations in Kosovo. Additionally, Mr Fischer served as a senior adviser to the United Nations and the Independent Electoral Commission of Iraq during the 2005 election cycle. Since 1987, he has conducted electoral assistance and observation or provided conference services in over 50 countries and territories in the Americas, Europe, the Middle East, Africa and Asia. In the United States he has been an election official, as a commissioner on both the Kansas City (Missouri) Election Board (1985–9) and the Missouri Campaign Finance Review Board (1990–2). Mr Fischer has published numerous articles on electoral processes, and in the autumn term of 2006 he was a visiting lecturer in international affairs at the Woodrow Wilson School of Princeton University teaching a course on Managing Elections in Fragile States, and a lecturer at the Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna in Pisa, Italy.

Jon Fraenkel is a senior research fellow in governance at the Pacific Institute of Advanced Studies in Development and Governance (PIAS-DG) at the University of the South Pacific. He is the author of *The Manipulation of Custom: From Uprising to Intervention in the Solomon Islands* (2004). His research and publications focus on the economic history of Oceania, electoral systems and contemporary Pacific politics, and he regularly covers Pacific issues for international press and radio outlets.

Maria Gratschew joined International IDEA in 1999 as project manager responsible for the Voter Turnout Project (<<http://www.idea.int/turnout>>) and works mainly on voter turnout and civic education, election administration, external voting and compulsory voting issues in International IDEA's Design of Democratic Institutions and Processes Programme (formerly the Elections Team). She is a graduate of the University of Uppsala. Together with Rafael López Pintor she served as lead writer and editor for International IDEA's *Voter Turnout since 1945: A Global Report* (2002), *Voter Turnout in Western Europe: A Regional Report* (2004) and *Engaging the Electorate: Initiatives to Promote Voter Turnout from Around the World* (2006).

Phil Green has been the electoral commissioner for the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) since 1994, having previously worked for the Australian Electoral Commission from 1982 to 1992 in a variety of roles, including director for information and director for legislation and research. He specializes in the Hare-Clark Single Transferable Vote system, which is used in the ACT, and has used technology extensively for ACT elections. Most notably, he was responsible for the first use of computers for electronic voting for a legislative election in Australia, using computers at the October 2001 and October 2004 ACT Legislative Assembly elections to take votes and distribute preferences (see <<http://www.elections.act.gov.au>>). He was the lead writer for the Elections and Technology topic area of the Administration and Cost of Elections (ACE) Project (see <<http://www.aceproject.org>>).

Florian Grotz is adjunct professor ("Privatdozent") for political science at the Free University of Berlin. His research has focused on German politics, political institutions in Europe and electoral systems in comparative perspective. His books include *Political Institutions and Post-Socialist Party Systems in East Central Europe* (2000), *Elections in Asia and the Pacific* (2 vols, 2001, co-edited with Dieter Nohlen and Christof Hartmann), *Professionalising Europe: Order of Competencies and Institutional Reform within the EU* (2005, with J. J. Hesse), *Europeanisation and National State Organisation: Institutional Politics in Federal and Unitary EU States* (2007) and *Comprehensive Encyclopedia of Political Science* (4th ed. 2007, co-edited with Dieter Nohlen).

Nada Hadzimehic has been involved in the conduct of elections since 1996 when she was employed by the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina for the country's first post-war elections. In 1998 she became the first Bosnian national to be made a division director within the OSCE Election Department, where she was directly responsible for supervising the registration of all political parties and candidates for elections at all levels of government. Following the adoption of the Election Law of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the transfer of election responsibilities to the Central Election Commission, Ms Hadzimehic continued

to provide these services for the Election Commission Secretariat. She also served as project manager for the Association of Election Officials of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Since she left the Secretariat, her involvement in elections has extended more broadly in the international arena. She was the project manager for the Money and Politics Project organized by IFES. Most recently she has worked with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) on the out-of-country voting programmes for the elections in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Graham Hassall is professor of governance at the Pacific Institute for Advanced Studies in Development and Governance, University of the South Pacific. He attended the University of Sydney (BA Hons), the University of New South Wales (B.ED), and the Australian National University (PhD in Pacific and Asian history) before teaching at the University of Melbourne and the University of Papua New Guinea. He has published on electoral systems, parliamentary affairs, conflict resolution and civil society. His recent publications include *Asia Pacific Constitutional Systems* (2002) and his current projects include coordination of the *Third Pacific Human Development Report*.

Jacobo Hernández Cruz is a lawyer and notary from the Universidad Autónoma de Honduras. He is a magistrate of the Supreme Electoral Court of Honduras, which he previously chaired, and a member of the Honduran Bar Association. He was a professor at the Instituto de Investigaciones Jurídicas at the Facultad de Ciencias Jurídicas y Sociales in the Universidad Autónoma de Honduras and has held different public offices, including as a deputy to the National Constituent Assembly, a deputy to the National Congress, and one of three elected vice-presidents of the Republic. As a magistrate he has represented the Supreme Electoral Court in different electoral observation missions in countries such as El Salvador, Colombia and Spain.

Brett Lacy has served since 2006 as a programme officer at the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs in the United States, where she contributes to democracy and governance programmes in Central and West Africa. Previously, she served as senior long-term observer and then deputy director of the Carter Center's International Election Observation Program in Liberia, where she organized long-term observation and reporting on that country's post-war presidential and legislative elections in 2005. She has also worked as an assistant project coordinator with the Carter Center's Democracy Program, contributing to election observation, civil society and rule-of-law programmes in East Timor, Zambia, Nicaragua, Guyana and Indonesia. In 2004 Brett was the Hybl Democracy Studies Fellow at IFES, where she produced a policy paper examining issues surrounding refugees, the internally displaced, and the right to political participation. Her BA degree (in political science) is from Duke University, in 1999, and her MA degree in international administration with a focus on human rights is from the Graduate School of International Studies of the University of Denver.

Stina Larsrud joined International IDEA in 2003 and has acted as project manager for the Electoral System Design Project, primarily with *Electoral System Design: The New International IDEA Handbook* (2005). As a member of International IDEA's Elections Team, she worked on issues relating to electoral legislation and electoral administration

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Marina Costa Lobo is a political scientist researcher at the Instituto de Ciências Sociais at the University of Lisbon, where she co-directs a project on Portuguese electoral behaviour and political attitudes. Her research interests centre on Portuguese electoral behaviour, political parties, and political attitudes towards Europe. She has published on these topics in international journals including *Party Politics*, the *European Journal of Political Research* and *South European Society and Politics*, as well as in Portuguese. She is co-author of *Portugal at the Polls* (forthcoming 2007). Her DPhil is from Oxford University (2001).

Pasquale Lupoli is the head of the Operations Support Department of the IOM.

Epp Maaten is a councillor at the Elections Department of the Chancellery of the Estonian Parliament, the Riigikogu. The main task of the department is to provide operational support to the Estonian National Electoral Committee. She is responsible for the technical and practical arrangement of elections, in particular for electoral information technology (IT) systems. Her recent assignments include working on the Estonian e-voting project and the preparation of pilots. She has prepared reports on the Estonian electoral arrangements for international institutions and has been an election observer for the OSCE.

Patrick Molutsi is currently the executive secretary of Botswana Tertiary Education. He was formerly head of the Political Participation and Democracy Assessment Methodology Programme at International IDEA. From 1996 to 1999 he was dean of the Faculty of Social Science at the University of Botswana, and before joining IDEA in 1999 he was senior research fellow at the Southern African Regional Institute for Policy Studies/Southern African Political Economy Series (SARIPS/SAPES), responsible for a regional report on governance and human development in Southern Africa. He has written and consulted actively on democracy, civil society, governance and political party issues in Botswana and Southern Africa. He has a BA from the University of Botswana, a post-graduate Diploma in Population Studies from the University of Ghana, and an MPhil and PhD in sociology from the University of Oxford.

Isabel Morales joined the International Affairs Unit of the IFE in Mexico in 2002, working initially with the Department of International Liaison and Political Affairs. She currently works for the International Electoral Studies Department, mainly on comparative studies of electoral management bodies and systems, as well as being an editorial assistant. One of her main contributions there has been collaboration with the EPIC (Election Process Information Collection) Project and with the edition of the Spanish version of the IDEA *Handbook of Electoral System Design*. She has also worked for the Electoral Institute of the Federal District in Mexico City, with the logistics team responsible for organizing local electoral processes. She has a BA in international relations from the Political and Social Sciences Faculty at the National Autonomous University of Mexico, graduating

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Simon-Pierre Nanitelamio, an electoral expert from the Republic of the Congo (Congo-Brazzaville), is currently the chief technical adviser of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) technical assistance project for the electoral process in Mozambique. Since the UN-conducted elections in Cambodia in 1992, he has acquired wide experience as a technical adviser on electoral matters in democratic transitions in Africa (Mozambique, Malawi, the Central African Republic, Guinea-Bissau, Côte d’Ivoire, Chad, and São Tomé and Príncipe), Asia (Cambodia and East Timor) and Europe (Bosnia and Herzegovina). His other recent assignments include participation in the UN Electoral Assistance Division (UNEAD) electoral advisory mission in Angola (March 2005) and electoral needs assessment missions in Côte d’Ivoire (March 2000) and Chad (October 2000). An accredited facilitator for IDEA’s BRIDGE (Building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Elections) programme, he has also conducted electoral administration courses in Mozambique (2002) and Burkina Faso (2003) for International IDEA. He has acted regularly as a technical adviser to the Mozambican electoral management bodies (in 1994–5, 1997–8 and 2003–5).

Carlos Navarro Fierro has been an official of the IFE since 1993 and is currently director of electoral studies and political affairs at the IFE’s International Department. He has authored publications prepared by the IFE for the international community, as well as various international comparative studies on political and electoral issues. He has a BA in international relations and is a candidate for a Master’s degree in Latin American studies from the Faculty of Political and Social Science at the National Autonomous University of Mexico.

Dieter Nohlen is professor emeritus of political science at the University of Heidelberg and a well-known expert on electoral systems, political development and democratization, with a focus on Latin America. He received the Max Planck prize for internationally outstanding research in 1991, the University of Augsburg prize for research on Spain and Latin America in 2000, and the Medal of the University of Heidelberg in 2005. His numerous books include *Wahlssysteme der Welt* [Electoral systems of the world] (1978; Spanish edn 1981), *Elections and Electoral Systems* (1996), *Wahlrecht und Parteiensystem* [Electoral law and party systems] (4th edn 2004), and *Sistemas electorales y partidos políticos* [Electoral systems and party politics] (3rd edn 2004). He is the editor of a seven-volume encyclopedia *Lexikon der Politik* [Lexicon of politics] (1992–8), and co-editor of *Tratado de Derecho Electoral Comparado de América Latina* [Comparative electoral laws of Latin America] (1998; 2nd edn 2005), as well as of an eight-volume *Handbook of the Third World* (3rd edn 1991–4) and a two-volume encyclopedia of political science, *Lexikon der Politikwissenschaft* [Lexicon of political science] (3rd edn. 2005, Spanish edn. 2005). Currently he is working on *Elections in Europe*, the last volume of the Elections Worldwide series, three volumes of which have already been published—*Elections in Africa* (1999), *Elections in Asia and the Pacific* (2001), and *Elections in the Americas* (2005).

Nydia Restrepo de Acosta is a magistrate and former president of the National Electoral Council in Colombia. She has had a wide-ranging career in legal positions within the public service in Colombia and has been a professor at the University of the Guajira. She graduated from the Law School at the University of Antioquia and she has a Master's degree in political studies from the University Javeriana of Bogota.

Nuias Silva is currently the general director of electoral administration in Cape Verde, and since 2004 has been a member of the Board of Directors of the Imprensa Nacional de Cabo Verde, SA, being in charge of the Department of New Technologies. He has a Master's degree on information systems management from the Instituto Superior Economia e Gestão of the University of Lisbon, a postgraduate degree on systems and technology of information from the Instituto Superior Economia e Gestão, and a degree in engineering and industrial management from the University of Aveiro, Portugal. Previously, he worked at the Sociedade Interbancaria e Sistemas de Pagamentos, SA.

Catinca Slavu is an electoral consultant who carried out an assignment with IFES as deputy director of the Out-of-Country Voting Program for Iraq's 2005 Transitional National Assembly election, conducted by the IOM. Prior to this, she was the senior adviser to the out-of-country registration and voting programme for Afghanistan's 2004 presidential election, also conducted by the IOM. She began electoral work in 1992, when she joined a human rights NGO monitoring Romanian elections, with which she continued until 2000. Meanwhile, she joined the OSCE election supervision missions in Bosnia and Herzegovina (1997–2000) and in July 2000 she moved to Kosovo to work with the OSCE on the organization of two municipal elections (2000 and 2002) and one Assembly election (2001). During her time in Kosovo, she specialized in the administration of electoral registers and managed two special-needs voting programmes. After the 2002 election, she coordinated the technical transfer of responsibility from the OSCE to the Kosovo electoral management body. She continued her capacity-building work as technical adviser for Georgia's post-Shevardnadze presidential and legislative elections of 2004, also with the OSCE. Also in Georgia, in 2004, Catinca began to collaborate with IDEA as a BRIDGE curriculum developer (ACCESS module) and as a consultant on the regionalization of the BRIDGE curriculum for the South Caucasus.

Judy Thompson is a former deputy chief electoral officer for Manitoba, Canada. She served on a national committee to develop voter education programmes for first-time voters, including new Canadians, and is currently working as an election consultant internationally. Her assignments have included election administration, external voting and training as well as democracy and voter education—most recently in Kosovo, Sierra Leone and Lesotho, and she has also been an observer for the Commonwealth Secretariat.

Ozias Tungwarara is currently deputy director of AfriMAP, a programme of the Open Society Institute that seeks to strengthen civil society capacity to monitor and advocate for African governments' compliance with human rights and governance commitments. A human rights lawyer by training, he has wide-ranging experience of implementing human rights, democracy and governance programmes and was previously senior programme

officer at IDEA responsible for cross-cutting issues such as democracy assessment, analysis and evaluations. He has also headed a USAID-funded Southern Africa Regional Democracy Fund that aimed to strengthen democratic processes in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region and has been executive director of ZimRights, a leading Zimbabwean human rights NGO.

Richard Vengroff, PhD is a professor of political science at the University of Connecticut specializing in development management, comparative politics (Africa and Canada/Quebec) and comparative electoral systems. He is an experienced administrator, most recently having been the founding dean of international affairs at the University of Connecticut, a position he held for six years. He is the author or editor of seven books, more than 75 articles and chapters in scholarly journals and edited volumes, and a series of training materials in project management. His current research is devoted to issues of electoral reform, municipal organization and reform, democratic governance and decentralization.

Kåre Vollan is a private consultant combining management consulting work with advisory services on electoral systems and electoral processes. He has advised on electoral systems in a number of countries and territories, including Nepal, Iraq, Palestine, and Bosnia and Herzegovina, and was head of the Norwegian election observation mission to Zimbabwe in March 2002. From May 1999 to November 2000 he was deputy head of the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina responsible for organizing the two elections held in 2000. In 1999 he advised on electoral and citizenship issues for the OSCE Mission to Croatia. During the period 1996–8 he was head of ten OSCE/ODIHR election observation missions and in 1995–6 he led the Norwegian observation mission for the Palestinian elections. Between 2002 and 2006 he participated in a number of missions to Palestine and he has published a comprehensive report together with Nils Butenschøn on the electoral processes in Palestine during that period. Since 2003 he has issued opinions on election laws for the Council of Europe Venice Commission covering Moldova, Ukraine, Albania and Macedonia. He is a mathematician by profession.

Alan Wall is an electoral consultant. From 2000 to 2004 he was manager of IFES' Indonesian activities, encompassing programmes assisting electoral, legal, media, parliamentary reform and civil society development. Prior to this posting he managed IFES' democracy assistance projects for the 1999 local government elections in Azerbaijan. Other recent postings include as the United Nations' chief technical adviser to the Nigerian election commission in 1998, as deputy chief electoral officer for the United Nations Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia in 1996, and as an adviser to the South African Government for the local government elections in 1995. He was one of the initial lead writers for the ACE Project (<<http://www.aceproject.org>>), the electronic textbook of electoral matters developed jointly by the United Nations, the IFES and International IDEA, and a lead writer for *Electoral Management Design: The International IDEA Handbook* (2006).

About International IDEA

The International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance—International IDEA—is an intergovernmental organization that supports sustainable democracy worldwide. Its objective is to strengthen democratic institutions and processes.

What does International IDEA do?

International IDEA acts as a catalyst for democracy building by providing knowledge resources and policy proposals or by supporting democratic reforms in response to specific national requests. It works together with policy makers, governments, UN agencies and regional organizations engaged in the field of democracy building.

International IDEA provides:

- **assistance with democratic reforms** in response to specific national requests;
- **knowledge resources**, in the form of handbooks, databases, websites and expert networks; and
- **policy proposals** to provoke debate and action on democracy issues.

Areas of work

International IDEA's key areas of expertise are:

- *Electoral processes.* The design and management of elections has a strong impact on the wider political system. International IDEA seeks to ensure the professional management and independence of elections, the best design of electoral systems, and public confidence in the electoral process.
- *Political parties.* Polls taken across the world show that voters have little confidence in political parties even though they provide the essential link between the electorate and government. International IDEA analyses how political parties involve their members,

how they represent their constituencies, and their public funding arrangements, management and relationship with the public.

- *Constitution-building processes.* A constitutional process can lay the foundations for peace and development or plant seeds of conflict. International IDEA provides knowledge and makes policy proposals for constitution building that is genuinely nationally owned, sensitive to gender and conflict-prevention dimensions, and responds effectively to national priorities.
- *Democracy and gender.* If democracies are to be truly representative, then women—who make up over half of the world’s population—must be able to participate on equal terms with men. International IDEA develops comparative analyses and tools to advance the participation and representation of women in political life.
- *Democracy assessments.* Democratization needs to be nationally driven. The *State of Democracy methodology* developed by International IDEA allows people to assess their own democracy instead of relying on externally produced indicators or rankings of democracies.

Where does International IDEA work?

International IDEA works worldwide. It is based in Stockholm, Sweden, and has offices in Latin America, Africa and Asia.

Which are International IDEA’s member states?

International IDEA’s member states are all democracies and provide both political and financial support to the work of the institute. They are: Australia, Barbados, Belgium, Botswana, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, Costa Rica, Denmark, Finland, Germany, India, Mauritius, Mexico, Namibia, the Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Uruguay. Japan has observer status.

About the Federal Electoral Institute of Mexico

The Federal Electoral Institute (Instituto Federal Electoral, IFE) is a permanent autonomous public body, independent in its decisions and its functioning, responsible for organizing federal elections in Mexico—those for president and for the deputies and senators of the Congress. The IFE was created in October 1990 by constitutional mandate, and must observe five main principles—certainty, legality, independence, impartiality and objectivity—in its operations. Its highest steering body is the General Council, made up of nine members who may speak and vote (the president of the Council and eight electoral councillors, who are elected for a seven-year term by the Chamber of Deputies) as well as councillors of the Legislative Branch, representatives of the national political parties, and the executive secretary, all of whom may contribute to its deliberations but not vote.

As of 1993, through its specialist International Department, the IFE has established systematic networking, exchange and cooperation with institutions and organizations of the international community that are involved with or specialize in the promotion of democracy and electoral technical assistance. Since then, officers and experts from the IFE have participated in over 50 missions of technical assistance in 26 countries throughout the world.

Since 1998 the IFE has maintained fruitful collaboration with International IDEA.

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