

## Annex E. About International IDEA

### **Supporting democracy worldwide**

Created in 1995, the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance – IDEA – is an intergovernmental organization that supports sustainable democracy. Working globally, but with a current focus on Africa and the Middle East, Latin America and South Asia, IDEA seeks to improve the design and effectiveness of democratic institutions, and to strengthen democratic processes. IDEA:

- provides researchers, policy makers, activists and media representatives with a forum in which to discuss democratic principles;
- blends research and field experience, develops methodologies and provides training to improve democratic processes; and
- promotes transparency, accountability and efficiency in managing elections.

### **Its main areas of activity include:**

*Democracy building and conflict management.* IDEA's work in this area focuses on constitution building, reconciliation, inclusive dialogue and human security. It targets societies in transition, particularly those emerging from periods of violence and weak governance.

*Electoral processes,* including ensuring the professional management and independence of elections, adapting electoral systems, improving access and building public confidence. IDEA develops training modules and materials for election officials and provides comparative data and analyses on both the political and the technical aspects of designing, organizing and running elections.

*Political parties,* political equality and participation (including women in politics). IDEA's work includes the review of political parties' external regulations, public funding, their management and relations with the public. It also includes identifying ways to build commitment to inclusive politics, especially those related to the inclusion of women in politics, through for example the provision of comparative experiences on the application of special measures like gender quotas.

### **Membership**

Membership of IDEA is open to governments. Currently IDEA has 24 member states: 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.

### **International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA)**

Strömsborg, SE-130 34 Stockholm, Sweden

Tel: +46-8-698-3700; Fax: +46-8-20-24-22

E-mail: [info@idea.int](mailto:info@idea.int)

<<http://www.idea.int>>