
OBSERVING (AND ASSESSING) THE GOOD ELECTION

*NEW APPROACHES TO ELECTORAL OBLIGATIONS AND INTEGRITY
FROM THE CARTER CENTER*

CONNIE MOON SEHAT

ELECTORAL RISK MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE • 2 DECEMBER 2015



OVERVIEW

- Brief introduction of the Carter Center and election observation
- Implementing an impartial assessment of the process:
considerations as we observe elections (and the digital tools helping us to do this)
 - Closer look at *obligations*, our human-rights based methodology
 - Closer look at questions that help us assess, such as on e-day (ELMO)
- Where we are headed in the future

BRIEF INTRODUCTION: THE CARTER CENTER

- The Carter Center is based in Atlanta, Georgia. It was founded by former President Jimmy Carter.
 - Peace and health related work
- The Peace Programs: Democracy Program, Conflict Resolution, and Human Rights
- Democracy Program:
 - Election Observation
 - Transition Monitoring and Civil Society Support
 - Defining Election Standards (EOS Database and handbooks)
 - Improving Observation (ELMO Project)



BRIEF INTRODUCTION

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 - *What does mean?*

ELECTION OBSERVATION: WHAT AND WHY?

“The systematic, comprehensive, and accurate gathering of information concerning the laws, processes, and institutions related to the conduct of elections and other factors concerning the overall electoral environment.”

“International election observation expresses the interest of the international community in the achievement of democratic elections... including respect for human rights and the rule of law... International election observation... is part of international human rights monitoring.”

-Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation

ELECTION OBSERVATION: WHAT AND WHY?

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- ✓ *The purpose of an election observation mission (EOM) is to provide a credible and impartial assessment of the electoral process.*

ELECTION OBSERVATION: HOW?

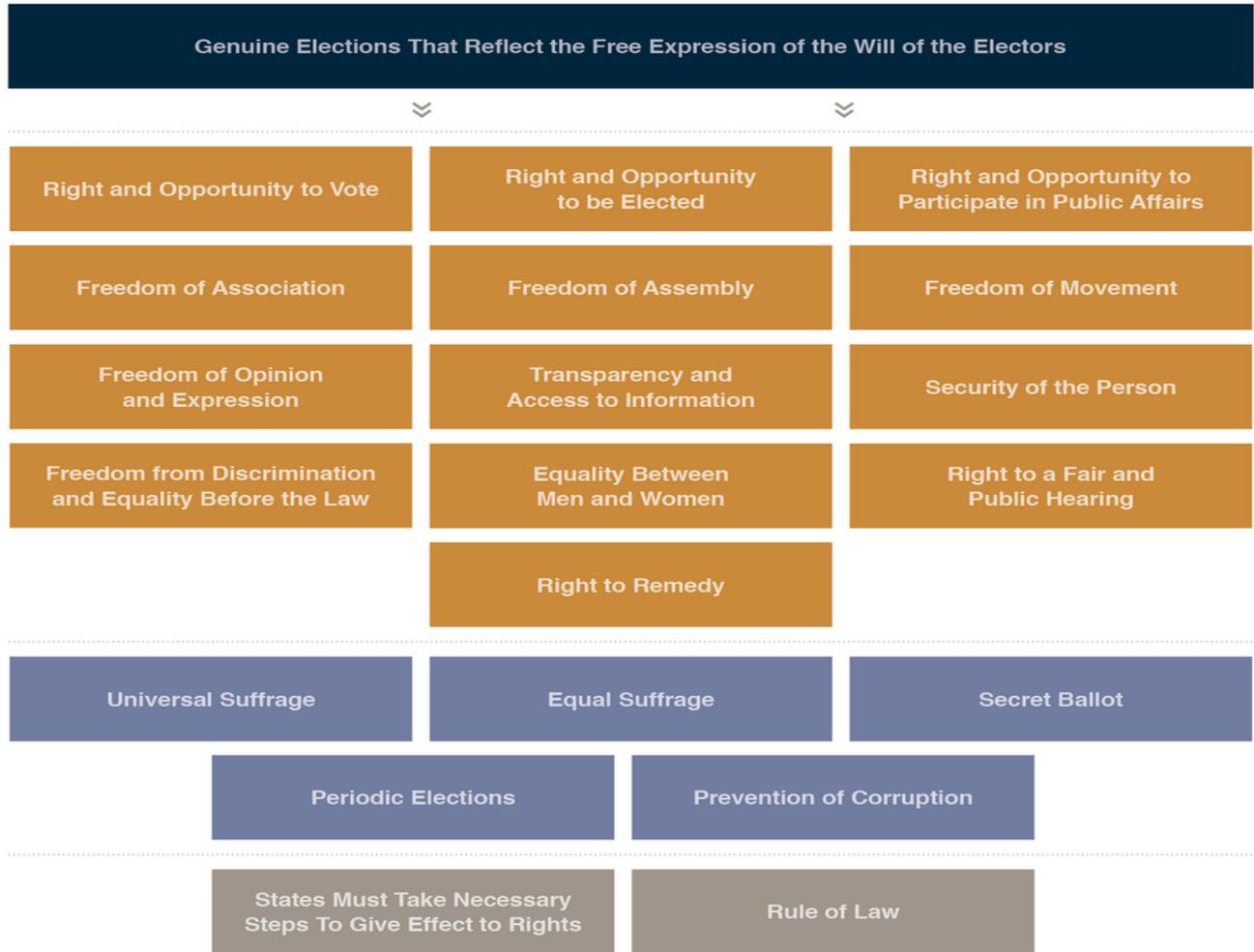
Several considerations, including:

- The Center assesses the electoral process based on a country's legal framework and its *obligations* for democratic elections contained in regional and international treaties.
- History of elections and democratization within the country
- Current context leading up to the elections

ELECTION OBSERVATION: HOW?

Several types of observation, including:

- Long-term observation (LTO) in advance of and after the election
- Short-term observation of election day



- Macro-level Obligation
- Process-focused Obligations
- Individual Rights and Freedoms
- Foundational Obligations

OBLIGATIONS FOR DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS

EOS Election Obligations & Standards Database

[Search](#)[Advanced Search](#)

EOS [ee-yOSS]

is The Carter Center's **searchable database** of nearly 200 sources of public international law related to **human rights and elections**.

[Learn more >](#)

✓ Obligations

- Genuine Elections That Reflect the Free Expression of the Will of the People
- Right and Opportunity to Vote
- Right and Opportunity to Be Elected
- Right and Opportunity to Participate in Public Affairs
- Freedom of Association
- Freedom of Assembly
- Freedom of Movement
- Freedom of Opinion and Expression
- Transparency and Access to Information
- Right to Security of the Person
- Freedom from Discrimination and Equality Before the Law

⚙ Election Parts

- Legal Framework
- Electoral System and Boundary Delimitation
- Election Management
- Voter Registration
- Voter Education
- Candidacy and Campaigning
- The Media
- Voting Operations
- Vote Counting and Tabulation
- Electoral Dispute Resolution

🚩 Browse by Country

↩ Ratification Status

View ratifications by country:

– OR –

View ratifications by document:

THE
CARTER CENTER

EOS DATABASE: ELECTION OBLIGATIONS AND STANDARDS

eos.cartercenter.org

EOS Election Obligations & Standards Database

[Advanced Search](#)

Ethiopia ✕

Genuine Elections That Reflect the Free Expression of the Will of the People ✕

[Clear Search](#)

Narrow By

Country

- Abkhazia
- Afghanistan
- Albania
- Algeria
- American Samoa
- Andorra
- Angola
- Anguilla

✓ Obligation ?

- Genuine Elections That Reflect the Free Expression of the Will of the People
- Right and Opportunity to Vote
- Right and Opportunity to Be Elected
- Right and Opportunity to Participate in Public Affairs

35 Results

 Print

Sort By

Authoring Body

✓ Genuine Elections That Reflect the Free Expression of the Will of the People

●●●● *Genuine elections are required to express the will of the people.*

AU: African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, art. 12.1

 Cite

●●●● ⚙️ Legal Framework, Electoral System and Boundary Delimitation, Election Management, Voter Education, Candidacy and Campaigning, Voter Registration, Voting Operations, Vote Counting and Tabulation, The Media, Electoral Dispute Resolution

 Ratified/Acceded: Ethiopia

“State Parties undertake to implement programmes and carry out activities designed to promote democratic principles and practices as well as consolidate a culture of democracy and peace. To this end, State Parties shall: 1) Promote good governance by ensuring transparent and accountable administration.”

AU: African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, art. 3.4

 Cite

●●●● ⚙️ Legal Framework, Electoral System and Boundary Delimitation, Voter Education, Voter Registration, Electoral Dispute Resolution, Election Management, Voting Operations, Candidacy and Campaigning, The Media, Vote Counting and Tabulation

 Ratified/Acceded: Ethiopia

“State Parties shall implement this Charter in accordance with the following principles: 4. Holding of regular, transparent, free and fair elections.”

EOS DATABASE:
ELECTION
OBLIGATIONS
AND
STANDARDS

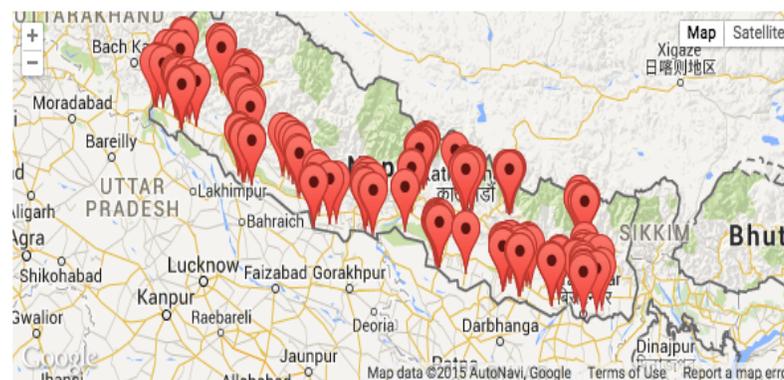
eos.cartercenter.org

ELMO REPORTING NEPAL EXAMPLE

LATEST RESPONSES

Form	User/Team	Districts	UnauthPersons	Submission Time	Reviewed?
Updated Cour	nepaltoFWR		No	Nov 26 2013 1	No
Updated Cour	nepaltoTR		N/A	Nov 25 2013 0	No
Updated Cour	nepaltoWR		No	Nov 24 2013 1	No
Updated Cour	nepaltoFWR		Yes	Nov 23 2013 1	No
Updated Cour	nepaltoWR		No	Nov 22 2013 2	No
Updated Cour	nepaltoFWR		No	Nov 22 2013 1	No
Updated Cour	nepaltoFWR		No	Nov 22 2013 1	No

RESPONSE LOCATIONS



SUMMARY

0 Recent Responses
399 Total Responses
22 Awaiting Review

TOP FORMS

248 Updated Polling Form
54 Updated Counting Form
34 Updated Closing Form

LOW ACTIVITY

0 Curtis Palmer
0 Jonathan Stonestreet
0 Ramiro Martinez

REPORT: ASSESSMENT QUESTIONS

Choose a Report...

Generated at Mar 04 2015 04:58 | Total Rows: 248

Submitter	ArriveTime	Time Submitted	OAAssessAPC	OAAssessBPC	OverallAssessPC	OAAssessDiff	Comments
nepalsto21	2000-01-01T07:10:00Z	Nov 19 2013 02:16	Good	Good	Good	Mostly smooth and orderly. A few hiccups such as inking right thumbs instead of left.	
nepalsto19	2000-01-01T07:40:00Z	Nov 19 2013 02:22	Good	Good	Good	Smooth and professional, minor issues only.	One case of f voting obsen
nepaltoER	2000-01-01T08:00:00Z	Nov 19 2013 02:57	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good	Very well managed with number of voters and centers at location - a total of 8	
nepalsto12	2000-01-01T08:15:00Z	Nov 19 2013 03:04	Poor	Poor	Poor	Secrecy of vote not always maintained. Security personnel with guns in the centre. Voter ID cards distributed by unauthorized personnel.	Deurali vdc
nepalsto11	2000-01-01T08:24:00Z	Nov 19 2013 03:06	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good	Very well organised and executed.	

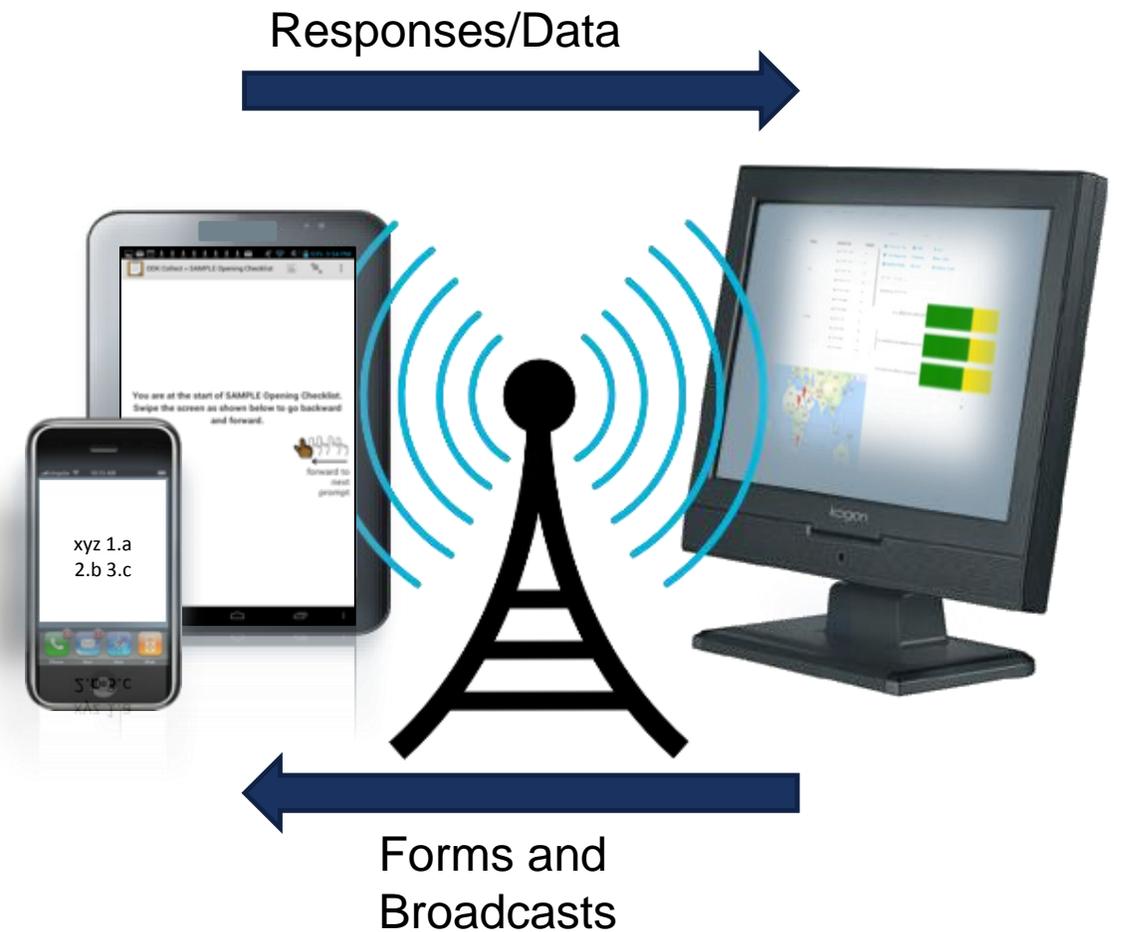
WHAT IS ELMO?

- ELMO is The Carter Center's open-source ELection MOnitoring data collection and reporting system, built specifically with election monitoring in mind.
- Observers can submit evaluations of a process – via tablets, SMS, or directly online – in real-time to mission headquarters.
- Initially developed for election observation, ELMO is now used for short- and long-term reporting, including the collection and analysis of quantitative and qualitative data.



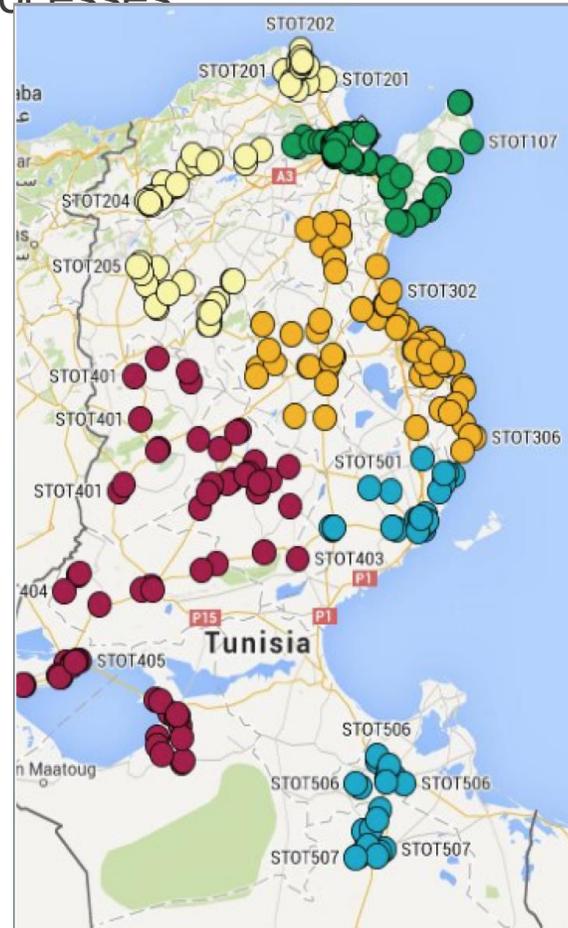
WHAT IS ELMO?

elmo 



ELMO DATA COLLECTION IN TUNISIA

- Data modeled from ELMO to show the number of polling stations visited, observers present and checklists submitted during Tunisia polling.
- ELMO allows for widespread reach and rapid reporting of data on election day, or for other processes



Polling Stations: 380

Observers: 85
(28 nationalities)

Checklists: 485



BRINGING IT TOGETHER

- ✓ **Does the station appear to be accessible to physically challenged persons, including the elderly?***

BRINGING IT TOGETHER

✓ **Does the station appear to be accessible to physically challenged persons, including the elderly?***

✓ **Freedom from Discrimination and Equality Before the Law**

Everyone has the right of equal access to any place or service intended for public use.

UN: Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, art. 9

✓ **Universal Suffrage**

Accommodation to vote should be made for voters with special needs, including persons with disabilities.

EISA and Electoral Commission Forum of SADC Countries: Principles for Election Management, Monitoring, and Observation in the SADC Region, p. 23

WHERE WE ARE HEADED



- *EOS – ELMO Integration*
- *Beyond election observation....*

THANK YOU!

- Election Standards at The Carter Center:
<http://electionstandards.cartercenter.org>
- ELMO: <http://getelmo.org>
- Questions? connie@cartercenter.org