International IDEA

**The International Institute for Democracy
and Electoral Assistance**
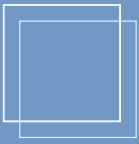
A record of actions 2007

Annual Report

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Making Democracy Work Better

PROFOUND POPULAR SUPPORT for democracy cuts across countries and regions, cultures and religions, peoples and politics. That is why there is continued reason for optimism, even though we have been witnessing a setback for democratic practices in too many countries and regions in recent years. If this setback is to be temporary, there is at the same time a need for a renewal of international commitment to democracy building, and a renewal of democracy assistance approaches.

It is a big paradox that while democracy is cherished, its most important actors are generally not. Political parties and parliaments are among the institutions least trusted by citizens almost anywhere. One likely reason is that democratic institutions and the political actors within them do not live up to popular expectations. This, in turn, can result from political parties and their leaders having created too high expectations in the first place, but also from ineffective, elitist, or even corrupt governance that does not deliver social and economic development. In either case democracy will suffer in the long term, possibly leaving a space to be filled by populist or authoritarian rule, not infrequently in combination. There is a need, therefore, for political actors to critically reassess how they represent and interact with citizens. In doing so they could take the help of their citizens. International IDEA's methodology for citizens' assessment of democracy provides a helpful tool. In 2007 such democracy assessments were completed in South Asia, initiated in Mexico, and led to reform proposals in countries as far apart as the Netherlands and Mongolia.

Democracy assistance, too, is in need of re-assessment. Given that most people all over the world want democracy, the challenge for democracy assistance is not only to promote the values of democracy but to enable democracy to work better in more countries. While there are many authoritarian environments in need of democratization, democracy also needs nurturing in countries where it is considered to have taken root. Such nurturing may come from knowledge and practical tools based on best practices from a variety of contexts. International IDEA's assistance in Mexico's reform of its electoral system following the divisive elections in 2006 is an example of such provision of relevant knowledge upon which national decision makers can build consensus for change.

In recent years, some activities under the banner of democracy promotion have come to suffer from a credibility problem, not least because they have become entangled with the war in Iraq. Poor or even negative outcomes have led to partial stalemate in international support for democracy building. At the same time, the struggle for democracy in Latin America, Africa, and Asia over the past 30 years has produced a wealth of experience and knowledge on democracy building. International IDEA devotes considerable resources to drawing on experiences from the global south in building and sharing expertise and advice on electoral processes, political party development, constitutional processes and advancing the role of women in politics. In line with this we are strengthening our collaboration with regional organizations such as the African Union and the Organization of American States. Effective democracy assistance and support needs to draw on experiences that demonstrate how democracy can flourish in very different environments. The diversity of democratic practices needs to be better reflected in international democracy building policy approaches and assistance programmes. Only then can democracy assistance be helpful in realizing the aspiration held by people everywhere in the world: to be citizens of truly democratic societies.

Vidar Helgesen

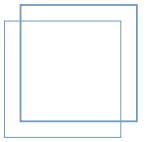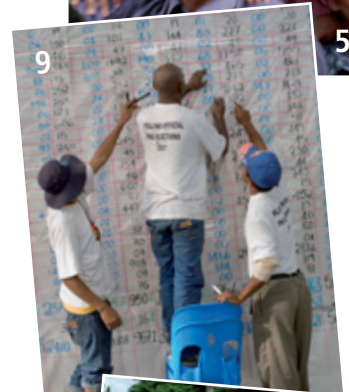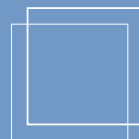Vidar Helgesen
SECRETARY-GENERAL, *International IDEA*

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Pro-democracy protesters cheer at a rally the morning after King Gyanendra announced that he was giving up power and restoring the parliament, Kathmandu, Nepal, April 2006.

International IDEA in Context

INTERNATIONAL IDEA WORKS to strengthen democratic institutions and processes throughout the world. As an intergovernmental organization, International IDEA takes its mandate from its Member States – 25 democracies drawn from all continents.

International IDEA argues that there is no single model of democracy. However, a genuine democracy needs to be based on two fundamental principles:

- Popular control over public decision making and decision makers
- Equal respect and voice for all citizens in the exercise of that control

International IDEA does not prescribe particular solutions. Instead, it provides knowledge, advice and assistance for stakeholders in democracy building to make their own choices. In this way, it seeks to be a catalyst for democratic reform by making options known to citizens and political actors wanting to improve the way democracy works in their country.

The headquarters of International IDEA are in Stockholm, Sweden. It has regional offices in Costa Rica and South Africa, and a Permanent Observer office at the UN in New York. In 2007 it also had offices in Peru, Bolivia, Ghana, Nepal, and Armenia. The Institute also maintained joint projects during the year with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Bogota, Colombia, and with the Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD) in Quito, Ecuador.

Where did it start?

The wave of democratization in the 1980s and early 1990s created a demand for international support for democracy-building efforts.

In January 1991, the Swedish Parliament tabled a joint proposal that called for the establishment of an international organization for the purpose of supporting democratic elections. The Nordic countries and others in Europe, Latin America, Africa and the Asia-Pacific supported the initiative and International IDEA was established in 1995.

In its first ten years of existence, International IDEA developed knowledge bases in areas of electoral processes, women in politics, political parties and conflict management. It formulated principles for electoral administration and developed capacity building training programmes to meet needs of election administrators. The Institute conducted democracy dialogues in several countries – including Guatemala, Indonesia and Nigeria – which were used to work out plans for political or electoral reform. International

IDEA also developed a methodology to allow citizens to assess the state of democracy in their own country.

International IDEA evolves

Since then, International IDEA has grown in size to meet the expectations of Member States and the demands of the international community for democracy-building assistance. A new strategy was adopted by the Council of International IDEA's Member States in 2006. Thus this annual report covers the first full year of implementation of International IDEA's new approach which seeks to ensure that its knowledge base is actively put to use for improving democracy-building policies and practices, as well as for assisting in democratic and political reform. The strategy also emphasizes the need to better capture and learn from democratization experiences of the global south in order to inspire further democratic reform.
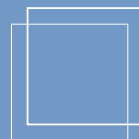
The strategic direction set for International IDEA covers working in three distinct areas which – when put together – add up to an integrated approach to democracy building:

- Providing **KNOWLEDGE RESOURCES** in the form of handbooks, databases, websites, training materials and via expert networks.
- Engaging in **POLICY DEVELOPMENT** in the area of democratization in order to provoke action and change.
- **ASSISTING DEMOCRATIC REFORM** in response to national requests and in partnership with regional or other organizations.

International IDEA's expertise is concentrated in these areas:

- Electoral processes
- Political parties
- Constitution building
- Democracy and gender
- Citizen assessment of democracy

Underpinning International IDEA's work is a conviction that sound democratic politics are essential for human and economic development. Conversely, in order to sustain the legitimacy of democracy, political actors and institutions need to meet basic needs of people for social and economic development. The Institute also works to increase the understanding of the importance of democratic processes for conflict management and peacebuilding.

Working in global and regional partnerships

International IDEA seeks to fulfil its mandate through partnerships at global, regional and country levels. Partnering with peer organizations enables the Institute to develop and strengthen knowledge networks, limit duplication, and maximize impact. The development of key knowledge resources, such as the ACE Electoral Knowledge Network and the Building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Elections (BRIDGE) election management training programme, has brought together partners with an expertise on the management of elections. The International Knowledge Network of Women in Politics (iKNOW Politics) has been developed with organizations with a strong record of gender issues.

Current partnerships with regional organizations include close collaboration with the European Commission on the issue of effective electoral assistance. In Africa, International IDEA and the African Union signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in 2007 aimed at supporting the organization in the dissemination and implementation of the African Charter on *Democracy, Elections and Governance,* approved by African States in July 2007 (see more under the "Africa and the Middle East" section). In the Americas, the key partner is the Organization of American States (OAS): International IDEA signed a cooperation agreement with the OAS in 2007 and has been working on an assessment of democratic progress in the region since the beginning of the Third Wave of democratization in the region (see more under the "Latin America" section).

The United Nations

Since its inception International IDEA has been collaborating closely with different parts of the United Nations, and is a Permanent Observer to the UN. In order to further strengthen partnerships with UN entities, International IDEA opened an office in New York in February 2007. The office provides policy input to UN processes in democracy building, peacebuilding and development.

In September 2007 the office held a workshop with the International Peace Academy (IPA) on the subject "UN and democracy assistance: a new strategy?" The discussion generated recommendations for the UN's overall strategy for democracy assistance. The office also organized a workshop on "Improving the Quality of the Electoral and Parliamentary Process" with the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU). This was attended by parliamentarians, election management bodies and electoral experts from international organizations.

The New York office also covers relations with the US and Canada-based institutions in the democracy-building field. A number of these – including IFES and the International Development Research Centre, Canada – are key partners for International IDEA. The office is also working closely with both Member and non-Member State missions in New York.

"As the only intergovernmental organization designated to work in the field of elections, IDEA is globally very crucially needed….It is also a support for the UN in democracy in the field and also in the UN itself."

SIRPA PIETIKÄINEN, *member of the Board of International IDEA, Member of the European Parliament, Chairperson of the Finnish UN Association, November 2007*

The counting room of the Rigo Open electorate in Central Province during the 2007 general elections, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea.

Building and Sharing Knowledge to Build Democracy
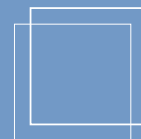
Making elections work better

Presidential election in Nigeria, 2007.

Elections are at the heart of democracy. Electoral processes need to be transparent, effectively managed, and facilitate a level playing field for political contestants if public support and credibility are to be retained. Only then can a democratic system based on free and fair elections, with equal voting rights for all, become entrenched.

International IDEA builds and shares expertise on electoral systems and electoral management, and provides tools and training material supporting professional election administration globally.

Elections – not one-off events

2007 saw a breakthrough for the "electoral cycle" approach to electoral assistance, developed by International IDEA, European Commission (EC) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) electoral specialists together. This is a planning and training tool that emphasizes the need to support the entire electoral process rather than just the conduct of an election - which is a single technical event. Electoral assistance needs to be focused on building the capacity of national electoral administrations to run credible electoral processes. Supporting the professionalization of Electoral Management Bodies (EMBs) as a means of countering dependence on external assistance and finance, is a better long-term investment than mere funding the conduct of elections. This approach is fundamental to International IDEA's work.

International IDEA is taking the lead to develop a broad international understanding about what constitutes effective electoral assistance based

In October 2007, some 80 people participated in the third joint EC-UNDP-International IDEA Training on Electoral Assistance in Brussels. Participants came from EC delegations, UN agencies, bilateral development agencies, NGOs and the EMBs from Brazil, Canada, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), India, Mexico, South Africa, Sudan and Zambia. The course reviewed the lessons learned from electoral assistance and emphasized the importance of the electoral cycle approach.

The sessions were filmed for the development of an e-learning version of the course. The e-learning course meets the need from around the world for this type of training and will assist International IDEA to further the idea of the electoral cycle as the basis of effective electoral assistance in areas where it does not have a physical presence.

on the electoral cycle approach. The UN Secretary-General supported this approach in his Report to the General Assembly 2007 which states that UNDP's "approach has shifted to focus support on electoral cycles rather than specific elections" [Art.9] and in general recommends that "a cyclical approach to electoral assistance will help ensure sustainability" [Art.40].

Bringing the world's leading experts together

The ACE Electoral Knowledge Network is a series of new information products on election management brought together under one online portal (**www.aceproject.org**) and developed by eight partners[1].

The ACE Electoral Knowledge Network features authoritative information on nearly every aspect of elections, building on the longstanding ACE (Administration and Costs of Elections) Project. It provides online access to a network of experts offering "real-time" knowledge and also incorporates various capacity development initiatives. The ACE Electoral Knowledge Network is a popular resource and the website records around 100,000 visits each month.

In 2007 the ACE Electoral Knowledge Network went truly global. Nine Regional Electoral Resource Centres located strategically around the world were officially launched at an ACE workshop hosted by International IDEA in July 2007. This expansion improves the range and relevance of the materials available in ACE, not least because it provides for capturing more experiences from the global south.

The ACE Regional Electoral Resource Centres are all electoral institutions or organizations active in the field of democracy building. Contracted by International IDEA and funded by the European Commission and the UN Democracy Fund, the Resource Centres strive to develop electoral expertise in their own regions, and they feed knowledge into the ACE network. This allows knowledge to be exchanged between election practitioners and electoral assistance providers around the world.

The Regional Centres help make knowledge available to wider audiences due to the translation, dissemination and context-specific application of the material. ACE country pages are being translated into Spanish, French, Arabic and Russian.

1. International IDEA, Elections Canada, EISA, Instituto Federal Electoral, IFES, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) and the United Nations Electoral Assistance Division.

ACE Regional Electoral Resource Centres

- Central and Eastern Europe - The Association of European Election Officials (Hungary)

- West Africa - Goree Institute (Senegal)

- Eastern Africa - Institute for Education in Democracy (Kenya)

- Central Africa - Commission Electorale Indépendante (Democratic Republic of Congo)

- Southern Africa - EISA (South Africa)

- Arab World - Al Urdun Al Jadid Research Centre (Jordan)

- South-East Asia - The Centre for Electoral Reform (Indonesia)

- Central America - Instituto Federal Electoral (Mexico)

- South America - Jurado Nacional de Elecciones (Peru)

Training for making elections work

Capable and professional election administrators are essential for organizing elections: without the right skills in place, election processes can be easily undermined. Yet there were limited formal opportunities available for comprehensive professional development in election administration until the first BRIDGE (Building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Elections) course was developed by International IDEA, the Australian Electoral Commission, and the UN Electoral Assistance Division in 1999.

2007 was a significant year for the project with the completion and launch of the second generation of BRIDGE in December. BRIDGE Version 2 has been further internationalized and adapted to different regional contexts by the team of expert writers from the Americas, Africa, Europe, the Middle East and the Asia Pacific.

BRIDGE is now firmly established as the most comprehensive professional development course in election administration worldwide. Two new organizations joined the BRIDGE partnership in 2007: IFES and UNDP. The status of BRIDGE was further consolidated when the EC and UNDP adopted the curriculum as a key part of their own electoral assistance programmes.

Enabling people to vote from abroad

As the number of countries holding democratic elections has increased, the ability of people to exercise their right to vote from outside their home country has become an issue of greater interest. While the constitutions of many countries guarantee the right to vote for all citizens, in reality voters who are outside their home country are often disenfranchised because of a lack of procedures enabling them to exercise that right. In recent years, more countries have introduced voting provisions to cater for electors absent on polling day. Other countries have expanded existing external voting rights to cover everyone who would be eligible to vote at home.

A new handbook *Voting from Abroad*, developed with Mexico's Instituto Federal Electoral, was launched in Bamako, Mali in November 2007. The handbook provides legislators and electoral administrators with technical information as well as case studies. It compares external voting around the world, including different legislative and administrative arrangements in place to implement it. At the same time the book responds to political interest in external voting from refugees or migrant groups who are lobbying for such a right.

In September 2007, participants from Niue, Samoa, American Samoa, Tonga, the Solomon Islands and Australia underwent a new BRIDGE training module on external voting in the Cook Islands. International IDEA also provided information on external voting to Mongolia throughout the year.

The impact of direct democracy

The use of referenda, plebiscites or other means of direct voting has increased in recent years, but little has been done to analyse the use – and potential misuse – of direct voting. In 2007 International IDEA progressed a new handbook on direct democracy which is due to be released in 2008. The knowledge for the handbook formed the key content of a public event held by International IDEA and Costa Rica's Supreme Elections Tribunal in Costa Rica in May 2007 ahead of the referendum on the Central American Free Trade Agreement (the first direct vote for the country).

Political parties – democracy's weakest link

Elections in Indonesia, 2004.

Political parties are, in many ways, democracy's weakest link. In Africa, polling indicates that few people expect political parties to deliver on their election promises; and in Europe and Latin America, parties rank as one of the least trusted institutions. They also suffer from institutional problems. This represents a challenge to democracy itself because there can be no properly functioning democracy without political parties. Anyone concerned about the future of democracy should put the role and functioning of political parties high on the political agenda. This is why International IDEA has identified political parties as a key priority for democracy building.

In January 2007 International IDEA launched a project to stimulate discussion on making political party assistance more effective. The aim is to develop a consensus about how party assistance projects should be planned and implemented. Some 70 experts drawn from the party internationals, governments and donor agencies attended a workshop in Stockholm to review the effectiveness of existing forms of international assistance to political parties.

"Political parties across the continent are deprived of key resources they need to play their role in democratization. They need what I want to term legal, political, and financial space for them to contribute to the sustenance of the current democratic momentum on the continent."

SIR KETUMILE MASIRE,
*Former President of
Botswana, March 2007*
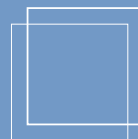
In November 2007, International IDEA took the debate further and presented a policy paper *Effective Party Assistance: Stronger Parties for Better Democracy* at a workshop in Ottawa, Canada, supported by the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade. The discussion demonstrated strong interest in an inclusive process to develop a shared understanding of how to make party assistance more effective. International IDEA strongly supports an approach that addresses the central functions of political parties; better integration of party assistance with other areas of democracy support; and better needs assessment, monitoring and project evaluation.

In 2007 International IDEA expanded its database on *Research and Dialogue with Political Parties*. This unique material on the regulation and internal functioning of parties is based on interviews with over 250 political parties throughout the world.

Based on this research and dialogue, in March 2007, International IDEA launched *Political Parties in Africa: Challenges for Sustained Multiparty Democracy* during the conference on "Sustaining Africa's Democratic Momentum" in Johannesburg, South Africa. The book intends to provoke discussions on reforming political parties in Africa and help work out how to assist parties become more responsive, representative and effective. Three related publications dealing separately with political parties in Southern Africa, East Africa and West Africa were also released during 2007.

Also in March 2007, *Political Parties in South Asia: The Challenge of Change* was launched in Kathmandu, Nepal. It provides a comparative view of the condition, role and functioning of political parties in five countries of the South Asian region: Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Over the past few years, International IDEA has been working with a broad group of researchers to produce a global comparative study of the regulation of political parties in conflict prone societies. It analyses the experience of the regulation of political parties in order to mediate conflict and assesses the capacity of external regulation to achieve this goal. In 2007 much of this work was completed which will result in 2008 in the publication of a book outlining suitable policy options. The book is to be entitled *Political Parties in Conflict Prone Societies* and will be co-published with the UN University (Japan) and the Centre for Democratic Institutions (Australia).

International IDEA developed a BRIDGE training module on party funding which provides both technical information and material on the principles behind party funding. This training module was piloted during 2007 in connection with the political parties project in Sudan.

"IDEA should not just work with political parties in different countries, but also focus the debate on why we need political parties."

LENA HJELM-WALLÉN, *Chairperson of the Board of International IDEA, former Deputy Prime Minister and former Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden, November 2007*

In Chile, in response to President Bachelet's request for International IDEA to remain involved in the political reform process, a seminar was convened in September 2007 to examine political party reform. The meeting was attended by leaders from the different political parties.

Constitution building - a compact for society

Constitution building increasingly is becoming a meeting point between democracy building, development and conflict resolution. Why? Because a constitution is essentially a compact about the shape of a society and the power structures within it.

Building on knowledge developed over the ten last years, International IDEA established a new constitution building programme in 2007. The initial phase of the programme was devoted to laying the groundwork for the development of a constitution building handbook, a website and a curriculum.

International IDEA supports inclusive and participatory Constitution-Building Processes (CBPs) that result in constitutions that are nationally owned, sustainable and sensitive to gender and conflict prevention dimensions. CBPs use dialogue to allow participants in the process to formulate long-term solutions to address their own democracy challenges. These may arise from deep political divisions, serious conflict, the denial of political participation and gross violations of human rights, or merely from the failure to improve the quality of life for ordinary citizens. The voice of citizens is critical to the process due to the need to accommodate all legitimate perspectives if support for constitutional reform is to be achieved.

Democracy assessment - from within

A road in Namibia.

Citizen assessment of democracy

There is increasing agreement internationally on the position always held by International IDEA; that democracy needs to be built from within society. This assertion nevertheless begs the question of how democracy can be supported from the outside. International IDEA's *State of Democracy* methodology provides a tool for supporting home-grown democracy
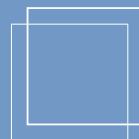
building. It is a perceptions-based assessment methodology that can be used by anyone wanting to diagnose the quality of their democracy.

Developed jointly with the UK Democracy Audit in 2000, the State of Democracy is an accessible means of empowering citizens to assess the strengths and weaknesses of their democracy, to debate priority issues; and to mount evidence-based advocacy for reform on the basis of their own conclusions. It has so far been applied in about 20 countries. Associated with the *State of Democracy* methodology is the *State of Local Democracy* which allows people to assess democracy and governance at the local level.

2007 was an active year for the State of Democracy during which International IDEA obtained and analysed feedback from every group and organization responsible for previous assessments. This proved to be a rich and valuable source of information for modifying the methodology and updating the *State of Democracy* handbook. Key changes include giving greater emphasis to parliaments, expanding the use of external democracy beyond the state and including case studies which show how democracy assessments have resulted in reform. The revised handbook and methodology will be published in 2008. A State of Democracy website is also expected to be launched in 2008.

Evaluating democracy support

Democracy support has grown enormously since 1989, but there has been little assessment of what works and what doesn't. A key question is whether the methodologies used for evaluating development assistance should also apply to democracy assistance. The short timeframe of many democracy support projects poses a challenge: projects are typically designed to run for three to five years but their effect is not usually discernible in the short term. Also, it is hard to attribute broader political developments at the national level to specific democracy assistance programmes. Despite these and other challenges, evaluating democracy support is necessary for reasons of accountability as well as for drawing lessons to improve future programmes.

In 2007, International IDEA and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) published a book entitled *Evaluating Democracy Support: Methods and Experiences* as an important contribution to this discussion.

Democracy and gender - aiming for equal representation

Women from the Women In Peace-building Network (WIPNET) march for peace, Buchanan, Liberia, 2004.

"When you are in politics as a woman you are always seen as infringing on a territory that doesn't belong to you. And what is worse, nobody says that you don't belong – but you are not ever really a part of it. It is not ever really a comfortable zone."

BRIGALIA BAM, *member of the Board of International IDEA and Chairperson of the Independent Electoral Commission of South Africa, November 2007*

If political systems are to be genuinely democratic, women and men must be equally represented in political life and have an equal voice in decision-making processes. Yet, in 2007, women only occupied 17 per cent of positions in parliaments across the globe and had achieved representation greater than 30 per cent (the so-called 'Beijing target') in only 19 countries. Although this figure has increased in recent years, minimal progress has been made, meaning that the ideal of parity between men and women in national legislatures still remains distant.

International IDEA provides comparative knowledge on how women's participation in political life can be advanced. In 2007, *Designing for Equality: Best-fit, medium-fit and non-favourable combinations of electoral systems and gender quotas* was launched. This short publication is aimed at those who take decisions about the design of electoral systems. It describes how electoral systems function with the different types of gender quotas and assesses how equal representation can be increased using combinations of different electoral systems and quotas. The publication was also translated into Armenian, Spanish and Nepali in 2007, with an Arabic version in the pipeline.

Building networks for greater women's participation

International IDEA has been an active partner in the development of the first virtual network to link women in politics throughout the world. UNDP, UNIFEM the Inter Parliamentary Union and the National Democratic Institute are the other project partners. The International Knowledge

Network of Women in politics -- iKNOW Politics -- was launched during the UN Commission on the Status of Women in New York in February 2007.

iKNOW Politics is designed specifically to promote gender-sensitive governance and advance the role and number of women in politics. iKNOW Politics connects parliamentarians, representatives, candidates, political party leaders and members, researchers, academia and practitioners across borders, generations and faiths, equipping them with the materials, expertise and best practices to make their political mark. Users can access an online library with material on campaigns, elections and quotas, political parties, parliaments and representatives, advocacy and lobbying, skills building, budgets and legislation and post-conflict and transitional participation. The site also includes a discussion forum.

In December 2007 iKNOW Politics ran its first successful e-conference on the issue of "Violence against women in politics". Women from Kenya, Ecuador, Iraq, Sweden, South East Asia and South Eastern Europe shared views and proposals on how to eliminate violence.

iKNOW Politics is available in English, French and Spanish. Plans are underway to develop an Arabic language site.

Democracy and conflict - managing competing interests

Democracy offers the potential to manage different and competing group claims peacefully. It acts to prevent the tensions and conflicting interests that exist within society from erupting violently by allowing them to be dealt with peacefully through democratic institutions and processes. Ideally, decisions taken reflect the will of the majority, while protecting the interests of minorities.

However, democracy is also a political process involving the struggle for power. It generates human passions which could equally test peace and stability. Elections are divisive events which can induce violence at any stage of the process, particularly if they are part of a transitional process involving major changes in the power structure and/or social order. International IDEA aims to strengthen the conflict management capacity of democratic institutions and processes and to reduce the potential for violent confrontation by including peace building and conflict prevention as objectives of all of its programme activities.

"While the winds of change have begun to blow, women remain on the fringes of political power. That is why the creation of iKNOW Politics, the premier network for women in politics, will provide women with the tools necessary to participate meaningfully in every facet of political life."

ELLEN JOHNSON-SIRLEAF, *President of Liberia, February 2007*

Providing advice on gender issues
In 2007, International IDEA provided advice to the newly established Mongolian Office of Gender Equality on ways to increase women's participation– the Institute recommended experts on gender sensitive budgeting and material from the Ugandan and South African practices; it also raised the question of the use of gender quotas.

In Sudan, International IDEA addressed women's participation as part of a training on how political parties can increase democracy internally, pointing to the introduction of voluntary quotas for posts within political parties, as well as in the nomination process in the elections run up. This input fed into a national discussion.

In March 2007 International IDEA launched the online "Reconciliation Resource Network". The Network, funded by the Swiss Government, includes around 200 members from around the world. The Network provides a valuable online resource for the global community working in reconciliation and provides access to publications, events information and a discussion forum.

A key question facing countries emerging from civil conflict is how best to deal with the perpetrators of past – and in many cases recent – violence, while at the same time maintaining the fragile social harmony that often characterizes post-conflict societies. In Africa in particular, one potential conflict management resource lies in the sphere of traditional justice mechanisms. The International IDEA project *Reconciliation and Traditional Justice: Learning From African Experiences*, funded by the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, aims to rectify this gap by examining the role played by local/traditional justice mechanisms (TJMs) in addressing the legacy of large-scale, violent conflict in countries across the African continent. A core component of the project is a set of country specific case studies on the role and functioning of TJMs in six countries - Sierra Leone, Liberia, Uganda, Mozambique, Burundi and Rwanda. This project drew to a close in 2007 with the finalization of a report on this issue.

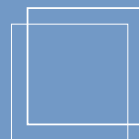## Democracy & development - democracy must deliver

The idea that democracy and development are somehow linked is not new. Yet a clearer understanding of the relationship between the two is only recently emerging. Democracy is not only a value that people struggle for because it responds to their search for freedom and individual dignity. It is also a system of governance that needs to deliver if it is to become entrenched and supported.

"…democratic governance must be seen to have an instrumentalist value and relevance to improving human development in order for stakeholders to buy-into the culture of democracy."

BRIGALIA BAM, *member of the Board of International IDEA and Chairperson of the Independent Electoral Commission of South Africa, March 2007*

In Latin America, for example, studies show a strong correlation between the disparity of income distribution and level of trust in democratic institutions. The greater the disparity: the lower the trust. The perception that democracy has failed to improve peoples' lives may seriously affect the long-term credibility and sustainability of democratic institutions. During 2007 International IDEA supported a number of activities – such as providing advice to the constituent assembly in Bolivia – where poverty eradication and furthering development became constitutional objectives.

International IDEA intends to apply the link between democracy and development more rigorously throughout its work and develop concrete

activities on this issue. These will be aimed at political parties and legislators in the first instance because, if they fail to deliver, they will cease to be relevant to their own constituencies. They will also be aimed at actors in international development cooperation efforts, seeking to ensure that they give sufficient space for democratic institutions and processes.

"For a democracy to be rooted in a country the voters need to see development coming out of the democratic process. If not, democracy will be weakened again…It is important for IDEA to put this on the agenda. Voters need to see results and see their hopes – if not fulfilled – certainly being met."

KACI KULLMANN FIVE, *member of the Board of International IDEA, former Cabinet Minister and Chairperson of the Conservative Party of Norway, November 2007*

Protests led by Buddhist monks calling for the overthrow of the country's military junta, Rangoon, Myanmar, 2007.

Supporting Democratic and Political Reform
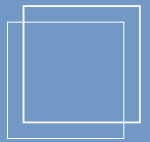
Africa and the Middle East - sustaining the democratic momentum

Chairperson of the Independent Electoral Commission of South Africa, Dr Brigalia Bam, speaks at the conference "Sustaining Africa's Democratic Momentum", Johannesburg, South Africa, 2007.

Africa contains different levels of democratic and socio-economic development. Yet the general trend is towards electoral democracy in the majority of countries. The turmoil arising out of Kenya's Presidential election in late December, the situation in Zimbabwe and continuing conflicts elsewhere – including Sudan – suggest setbacks to the democratic objective. On the other hand, the adoption of the *African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance* signals a policy commitment to furthering democratic ideals on the continent.

Minimal progress has been made with the rate of female representation in African legislatures. In 2007, the number of women in politics stood at 17.3 per cent with only five countries achieving more than 30 per cent representation, and 16 countries with less than 10 per cent. Political parties in Africa are often weak, fragmented, ethno-sectarian, undemocratic and poorly resourced. For these reasons, they are also held in low regard despite their integral role in democratic politics.

The challenge for Africa is how to keep up the momentum for democratic development. With this as a goal, International IDEA, together with the African Union and the Electoral Commission of South Africa (IEC) convened a major international conference on "Sustaining Africa's Democratic Momentum" in Johannesburg, South Africa in March 2007. Attended by around 350 delegates, including former African Heads of State and Government, continental, regional and national policy makers, EMBs, political parties, development partners and others from Africa,

"Since the winds of democracy blew over Africa's shores, major progress has been taking place on our Continent…What formidable progress we have made since the inception of our mother Organization! [The African Union] Inscribed in letters of gold are the new values and principles of the Organization's basic instruments; the practice of democracy consolidated by the regular holding of free and transparent elections, observed by teams from the Union, and the unequivocal and unreserved condemnation of unconstitutional changes of government. In addition, we have witnessed the opening of new institutions that epitomise the voice of our people, such as the Pan-African Parliament, ECOSOCC, and the African Court on Human and People's Rights. All these are evidence of admirable progress, which augur well for a radiant democratic future for the Continent."

HE PROFESSOR A O KONARE, *Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union, March 2007*

Latin America and Asia, the conference provided the forum for Africans to address the challenges facing democracy, governance and development on their continent.

International IDEA - African Union partnership agreement

International IDEA and the African Union (AU) Commission committed to a five-year programme of joint activities to promote democracy and develop democratic institutions in Africa. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed in Accra, Ghana in June 2007 during the African Union Summit by the Chair of the AU Commission and International IDEA's Secretary-General.

Under this programme, International IDEA and the African Union will work together to:

- Support awareness creation on the *African Charter on Democracy, Elections, and Governance*;
- Support the newly founded AU electoral assistance programme, including election observation and monitoring;
- Improve electoral capacity among Electoral Management Bodies (EMBs)
- Apply of International IDEA's State of Democracy assessment methodology;
- Provide technical aid to political parties;
- Support constitution-building processes;
- Mainstream gender in democracy, development and governance.

The joint programme builds on International IDEA's previous involvement with the AU, including its contribution to the development of the *African Charter on Democracy, Governance and Elections*, which was adopted by the AU in 2006.

Sudan - working with all parties

The Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in Sudan, signed between the government and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) in January 2005, is intended to pave the way for a transition to multi-party democratic elections in 2009. Despite the long tradition of active political parties in the country, the challenges that they face in the transition period are many. The civil wars in the South, East and West have undermined both the role and capacity of political parties, and continued conflict and instability continue to make the entire political process of implementing the CPA highly fragile.

In 2007 International IDEA conducted a number of training activities for the six main political parties in Sudan, including a workshop on internal democracy for political parties and electoral quotas for women and a BRIDGE training on political party funding for which the curriculum was specially developed.

Upon a request by the Sudan National Constitutional Review Commission, International IDEA also provided support in 2007 to the development of the draft electoral law for Sudan.
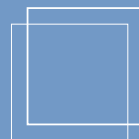
International IDEA was invited to participate in a capacity-building project aimed at political parties in Sudan together with EISA (previously the Electoral Institute of Southern Africa), the Canadian Parliamentary Centre, and Partners in Development in Sudan. The project is funded by the British government. International IDEA is organizing a series of training seminars for political party representatives on key topics such as elections, the media, internal democracy, policy platform development and gender. One notable feature of this training is the bringing together of opposing parties to work through important and contentious issues in a constructive way.

Training for making elections work in Africa

In 2007 BRIDGE trainings took place for election professionals from ten East and Southern African countries. Furthermore, 25 election administrators from East and Southern Africa took part in an "Implementation Workshop" in Pretoria, South Africa. The aim of the workshop was to train individuals and organizations in the project management skills required to implement BRIDGE training courses in their own organizations. The Pretoria course is a good example of the multiplier effect of BRIDGE. Countries such as Malawi participated with a view to running their own courses later in 2007.

Middle East - more accessible knowledge

International IDEA's engagement in the Middle East in 2007 focused on expanding the resources available in Arabic to assist democratization. Responding to increasing demands from the Arab World for high quality knowledge tools in the electoral field, translations of the handbooks on *Electoral System Design* and *Electoral Management Design* were undertaken with funding provided by the Italian government.

As part of the same project, two BRIDGE activities were undertaken in the region in September – October 2007. A "Train the Facilitators" course as well as a BRIDGE "Showcase and Implementation" workshop were held in Amman, Jordan, with participants from six Arab countries.

"We need more spaces like this, where we can discuss issues with the other parties."

Representative of the SPLM at an International IDEA conducted BRIDGE training course.

Latin America – taking stock of 30 years of democracy

A woman voting in the 2006 presidential election, Mexico City, Mexico.

Latin America has demonstrated a major political transformation in recent years: from late 2005 to the beginning of 2007, 11 of 18 Latin American countries held elections and most went smoothly. The encouraging feature of Latin American political life is how issues are now solved through the ballot box and how contested results are resolved peacefully. In some contexts, however, the political dynamics are complicated, such as in Bolivia, where the constitutional reform process at the same time reflected and exacerbated polarization and tension in the country.

International IDEA's challenge as a small intergovernmental body is how to most effectively help the process of deep democratic change taking place across the continent. Governments in Latin America are focusing on the political and electoral reform necessary to ensure governance and development. In a number of cases they are aided by their rich natural resources and current high commodity prices. This is an important point because Latin America combines democratically elected governments with high levels of poverty and disproportionate wealth distribution. This has seen citizens lose confidence in democracy and led to disenchantment with political institutions – especially political parties and parliaments. In December 2007, International IDEA sponsored a conference on "Democracy, Development and Natural Resources" in the Andean Region, held at Cartagena de Indias, Colombia. The event was also supported by the Spanish, Norwegian and British governments, UNDP and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). The discussions, which were attended by ministers from Andean countries, concluded that countries should take advantage of high commodity prices to
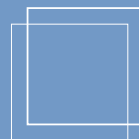
divert resources into development and social investment.

2007 proved to be a year of growing activity for International IDEA's Latin America programme. In February 2007, International IDEA and the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (OAS) signed an agreement in Washington DC, to foster representative democracy and to cooperate with OAS Member States in strengthening their democratic institutions. The agreement will involve working on the transparency, professional standards, and efficient conduct of democratic elections. It includes a component aimed at working with political parties and also adopts International IDEA's State of Democracy methodology for use by Member States.

From crisis to consensus in Mexico

In Mexico, International IDEA was heavily associated throughout 2007 with the reform of electoral law which emerged after the contested 2006 Presidential election. International IDEA responded positively to the request of the Mexican Senate to assist in the reform process.

The electoral reforms are designed to guarantee that elections become more equitable and less expensive. They introduce checks and balances in the system and increase transparency and accountability. Curbs have been introduced on the funding of political parties and how money is spent. In this connection direct state funding of political parties is to be significantly reduced. Political parties will no longer be able to directly purchase advertising from the mass media; instead the electoral authority will assign television and radio spots on an equitable basis between the parties. Pre-campaign activity will also be better regulated and campaign expenses will be subjected to scrutiny and control by the electoral authorities.

These all represent significant change to the electoral system. For International IDEA, it was a casebook example of responding to a request and the need for knowledge and technical information to allow Mexican political actors to make their own informed political choices aimed at sustaining the strength and credibility of the democratic system.

One significant event was a seminar on "Conditions of the Electoral Competition: Party Financing and Access to the Media", held in Mexico City in August 2007. The seminar was organized by International IDEA and the Comision Ejecutiva de Negociacion y Construccion de Acuerdos of the Mexican Congress and attended by members of congress and a number of international experts on party financing and the operation of electoral systems. The seminar reviewed the experiences of Chile, Brazil, Germany Colombia and Spain, particularly covering the financial arrangements in

"Over the last ten years there has been intense collaboration between Mexico's electoral authorities, the Government of Mexico and International IDEA. IDEA has been working with our Federal Electoral Institute (IFE) not only to prepare and assist Mexico through its democratic transition; but also Mexico's IFE has helped IDEA in various parts of the world to bring Mexico's experience of electoral reform to other countries. So I think it's the ideal combination of a synergy between a country and an intergovernmental organization like IDEA."

ANDRÉS ROZENTAL,
Vice Chairperson of the Board of International IDEA, Senior Nonresident Fellow at The Brookings Institution, and former Deputy Foreign Minister of Mexico, November 2007

place for supporting media access and parties in election campaigns.
In a similar vein, International IDEA organized a seminar on party funding in Uruguay in November 2007 to coincide with the consideration by the Uruguayan Senate of legislation to regulate party funding. The participants focused closely on the Mexican experience.

Political upheaval in the Andean Region

The Andean region presently experiences Latin America's highest levels of political instability, and is also the only subregion that has seen poverty rates — both in percentage and absolute terms — rise in the last 15 years. Coming out of a history of social, economic and political exclusion, the political dynamics in Andean nations are marked by political polarization, violence and insecurity.

## *Bolivia - supporting the constituent assembly*

The constitutional reform process in Bolivia represents a major power shift within the country. As part of this process, attention has been given to strengthening political parties and supporting greater inclusion of marginalized groups.

Throughout 2007 International IDEA provided technical assistance to the constituent assembly and support with the development and analysis of commission reports on various aspects of constitutional reform. Establishing an office in La Paz, the Institute provided assistance on matters concerning the electoral system: the type of constituencies, proportional representation, the difference between a unicameral and bicameral system. Beyond this, International IDEA was asked to provide assistance with issues of democracy and development including land rights, indigenous rights, natural resource development and energy policy.

Together with UNDP, International IDEA is running a project on the strengthening of political parties. In July 2007, the two partners sponsored an international workshop on political party building experiences in Latin America which was attended by 80 representatives of Bolivian political organizations. The workshop brought together political analysts and party leaders from Brazil, Uruguay, Mexico, Chile and Colombia to share their experiences with and observations about the development of political organizations in those countries.

Towards the end of 2007 cross-party support for a new constitution had started to unravel. International IDEA is committed to continuing to

In February 2007, UNDP and International IDEA sponsored a visit to Bolivia by members of South Africa's ANC to share their experiences of strengthening democracy. Although there are differences between the two countries' experiences, there are also similarities in their histories, which have been marked by the exclusion of a majority of citizens, political turmoil, violent and peaceful protest, a constituent assembly process and the writing of a new constitution.
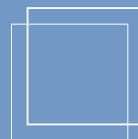
provide input to the process based on comparative experience and to find points of dialogue and consensus to maintain the process.

Ecuador - focus on constitution building

Ecuador recently opened its own constitutional reform process. International IDEA established a joint presence there with the Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD) and in July 2007 organized a seminar on constitution building. The meeting examined the experiences of African and other countries as well as the experiences of constitutional processes in Venezuela, Colombia, Guatemala, Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador and Chile.

President Rafael Correa of Ecuador attended the meeting and committed Ecuador to an inclusive constitutional reform process. Secretary-General of the Organization of American States, José Miguel Insulza, was also present. The meeting brought together a group of key participants in constitutional change processes. It also provided a platform where politicians from opposing parties could communicate with each other frankly in a non adversarial way.

Colombia - how do political parties work?

Upon a request of the Minister of Interior Affairs in Colombia, International IDEA and UNDP started a joint programme in 2007 aimed at strengthening the democratic system through reforms to the electoral rules, the legislation on political parties and the national Congress. In response to concerns about party financing, particularly before the 2007 local government elections, International IDEA organized a seminar in Bogota, "Colombia to Canvas the Transparency of Political Financing". The meeting was attended by politicians and representatives of parties from across the political spectrum. In July 2007, International IDEA completed a needs assessment of political parties in Colombia as a means of determining how to improve their institutional development. Colombia is currently going through a process of party institutionalization in order to avoid some of the political problems of neighbouring countries. In this context, International IDEA's work on the internal functioning of political parties is of particular use.

Peru - how are political parties regulated?

The Political Parties Forum in Peru, established as part of the National Accord process, met throughout 2007 to consider reforms to the laws on political parties. The group has drawn on International IDEA's knowledge in this area and, in particular, on the study dealing with the legal framework for political parties in Latin America. Also in 2007, International IDEA

joined a team of international observers for the internal party elections of the Partido Popular Cristiano of Peru. Politicians from the regions participated in a meeting in August 2007 on "Regional Movements and the Political System" organized by International IDEA and its partner Transparencia. Economic redistribution, improving education and cracking down on corruption were identified as key political challenges in Peru.

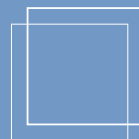*Women's congressional caucuses in the Andean region*

Women's political participation is a high priority in the Andean region. This has been taken up by providing support to the women's parliamentary caucuses that now exist in Colombia, Ecuador, Bolivia and Peru. The purpose of these cross-party groups of women legislators is to enable women politicians to have a greater voice once they are elected, and to ensure that gender and equity issues receive more attention in the political debate.

Asia/Pacific – engaging in constitutional reform in Nepal

Photo shooting from International IDEA's documentary People's Constitution in Nepal 2007.

International IDEA's only country level democratic reform involvement in Asia in 2007 occurred in Nepal, working from the office based in Kathmandu. The shifting events in Nepal in 2007 caught many observers by surprise. The postponement of constituent assembly elections slowed the move to reform as the Maoist rebels refused to participate in the previously agreed process until the monarchy was abolished. Although this appears to have been resolved with the announcement that the monarchy will be abolished, continued support for an inclusive democratic process is important.

In June 2007, International IDEA arranged a cross-party conference of women parliamentarians in Lima, Peru, to discuss their experiences as legislators and to canvass issues related to democracy and development.

In August 2007, a workshop discussing how to promote women's role in the constitutional reform process was organized in Quito, Ecuador.

In Peru, the Ministry of Women requested International IDEA's technical assistance with the development of draft legislation on the mandatory candidate selection to increase the representation of women.
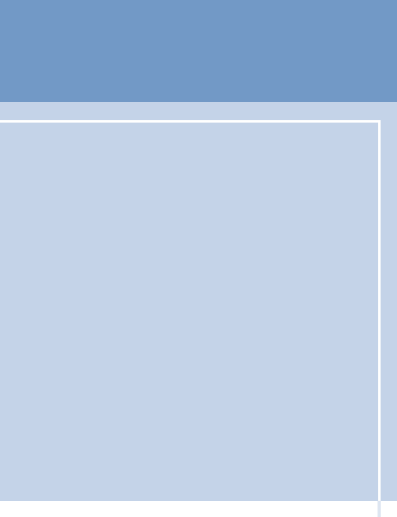
International IDEA has been engaged in Nepal since 1997. In response to requests from political parties and civil society, the Institute launched a major project in November 2006 to support the constitution-building process and lay the foundation for sustainable democracy. The project is implemented with national partners, including political parties, and coordinated with UNDP and other members of the international community. The project is supported by the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Kathmandu and the British Government.

The key objectives of the Nepal project are to build the capacity of key political players in Nepal in order to foster an inclusive, participatory and peaceful constitutional process; initiate dialogue as a means of promoting consensus on constitutional issues; and lay the groundwork for consensus by providing experiences of political bargaining and how to achieve agreement on constitutional options.

In June 2007 a week long training session on constitution and legal drafting skills was arranged in Kathmandu together with the Nepal Legal Commission. Throughout the year it became evident that a common understanding of legal and constitutional terms was needed to facilitate the drafting process. International IDEA published in Nepali a glossary of legal terms as a means of establishing a common basis for those involved in drafting the new constitution.

There were a number of preparations for the proposed constituent assembly elections during the year. An orientation programme on the nomination and selection of candidates for the upcoming constituent assembly elections was organized in August 2007 with the Nepal Electoral Commission. Some 61 political parties completed training on election law and the quota system adopted in the electoral code.

International IDEA also dedicated itself to promoting a wider understanding throughout Nepal of the constitutional reform process. First, a survey of people's expectations and perceptions of democratic institutions and constitutional choices was conducted. It found that a majority of Nepalese wanted a republic. There was also an overwhelming expectation that the new constitution would protect the rights of excluded groups – such as women, Janjati, Madhesh and Dalit peoples. The survey received wide media attention and was followed up by the production of a documentary film *People's Constitution* which showed what people wanted out of the new constitution. The documentary premiered in October 2007 and was screened on national television and at various locations in Nepal.

The political situation in Nepal grew tense and became uncertain at various points throughout the year. The Constituent Assembly elections were twice postponed and the constitutional development process looked as if it had derailed. Despite this, International IDEA continued to play an active role and was able to spend its credibility by attempting to keep parties to the reform process talking to each other and focused on points of consensus through a time of political deadlock.

*Violence against women in politics in South Asia*

In September 2007, in Kathmandu Nepal, women politicians, activists, experts and representatives of international and regional organizations came together at a conference on "Violence against women in politics in South-Asia". Delegates came from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan. The conference, organized by South-Asia Partnership International (SAP-I), International IDEA and UNIFEM, adopted a declaration condemning violence against women in politics and stating that it is an issue that cuts across party politics in the region.

Armenia - handover to local partners

By the end of 2007, International IDEA had concluded its work in Armenia with a view to closing its office and handing over to its local partner, Resource Building Institute in Governance, Democracy and Elections, in early 2008. International IDEA's efforts in Armenia were aimed at developing the professional capacity of the Central Election Commission and civic education on the electoral process.

Two "Train the Facilitator" BRIDGE courses were held in February and March 2007. They were attended by 28 participants from the EMB. International IDEA developed a teacher's manual on civic and electoral education (in Armenian language), called *Exploring Democracy, Governance and Elections* together with the National Institute of Education. The manual was published in December 2007 and distributed to school teachers, universities and NGOs. Twenty-seven teachers received training on the curriculum in November and December.

Publications Released in 2007: Highlights
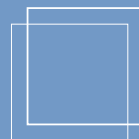
International IDEA's publications are available in electronic format at www.idea.int and can be downloaded from the website free of charge.

Language key

|							
E	English	**F**	French	**Ac**	Arabic	**Be**	Burmese
S	Spanish	**N**	Nepali	**An**	Armenian		

Electoral Processes

Voting From Abroad
The International IDEA Handbook

The constitutions of many countries guarantee the right to vote for all citizens. However, in reality, voters who are outside their home country when elections take place are often disenfranchised because of a lack of procedures enabling them to exercise that right.

This handbook contributes to the discussion on the principle of representation in democracies and is a unique resource for those involved in improving existing electoral structures or planning external voting processes. It looks at how systems can balance both inclusiveness and effectiveness, and it provides an overview of external voting provisions in 115 countries and territories around the world, including a map illustrating the regional spread.

Co-publisher: The Federal Electoral Institute of Mexico
ISBN 978-91-85391-66-0

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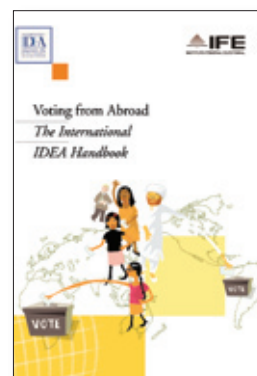
Electoral System Design
The New International IDEA Handbook

Electoral System Design: the New International IDEA Handbook is available now in Arabic. This handbook provides practitioners with a comprehensive overview of the electoral systems in use in many countries in the world. It discusses the advantages and disadvantages of different electoral systems, the factors to consider when modifying or designing an electoral system, and provides case studies with best practice and lessons learned on the choice of electoral systems and their consequences.

International IDEA is publishing this handbook as part of a project to offer a complete and systematic set of information and tools on electoral processes and systems in Arabic. The project is part of a sustained process to promote and strengthen the technical and practical dimensions of electoral administration in the Arab countries. It also aims to promote sound electoral practice in the Arab world and to assist governments, Electoral Management Bodies and citizens in the region with the development and adoption of appropriate rules and procedures governing elections.

ISBN 978-91-85391-18-9
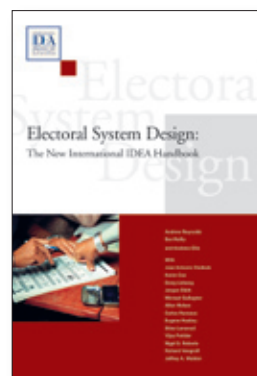
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Political Parties

Political Parties in Africa
Challenges for Sustained Multiparty Democracy

Provides a broad and comparative analysis of 75 political parties in 27 African countries. The material is derived from a series of workshops attended by political parties, researchers and civil society. The agenda for reform that emanated from the research and dialogue process is reflected and discussed in the report.

ISBN 978-91-85391-97-4

E

Democracy and Gender

Designing for Equality
Best-Fit, Medium-Fit and Non-Favourable Combinations of Electoral Systems and Gender Quotas

In 2007 only 17.4 per cent of the members of parliament throughout the world were women. This publication is a reference tool for all those who work to increase women's participation in politics. It describes the various quota arrangements for women in different electoral systems and how they impact on women's representation.

ISBN 978-91-85391-96-7

E   S   N   Ac   An

Democracy and Conflict

Democratic Dialogue
A Handbook for Practitioners

Democratic dialogue strengthens democratic institutions by providing citizens with the opportunity to voice their concerns, needs and interests. It is an important means of allowing people who are normally disempowered to express themselves.

This handbook is a practical guide on how to organize, facilitate and assess democratic dialogue processes. It combines conceptual material with practical knowledge. Practitioners are given an extensive repertoire of tools and approaches for implementing effective dialogue processes.

Co-publishers: The United Nations Development Programme and the Organization of American States
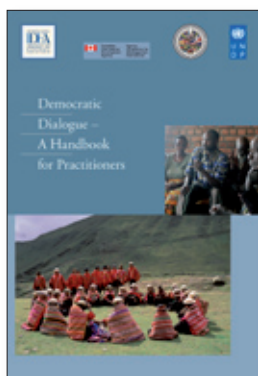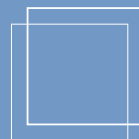ISBN 978-91-85391-94-3

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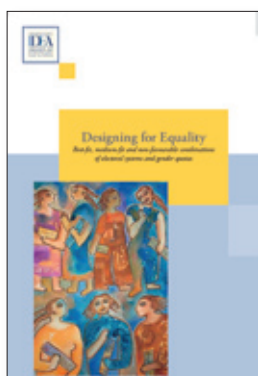
Democracy Assistance

Effective Party Assistance
Stronger Parties for Better Democracy

Party assistance as a field of international cooperation has existed since the 1950s and has been expanding steadily since, both in terms of the money spent and the number of actors involved. Yet, there is no consensus about what constitutes effective party assistance, nor is there any agreed means of measuring its impact.

Effective Party Assistance: Stronger Parties for Better Democracy argues that the assistance community should develop joint principles for project needs assessment, monitoring implementation and impact evaluation. Such principles would make activities more effective and more efficient.

ISBN 978-91-85724-27-7

Evaluating Democracy Support
Methods and Experiences

This book examines various experiences of democracy assistance and canvasses potential methodologies for evaluating the effectiveness of such assistance, including from human rights– or community-based perspectives. The new methods proposed for evaluating democracy support aim to stimulate debate on this important subject.

Co-publisher: Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)
ISBN 978-91-85724-13-0

Latin America

La política por dentro: cambios y continuidades en las organizaciones políticas de los países andinos *(Politics from Within: Changes and Continuities in Political Organizations in the Andean Countries)*

Reviews the history of the development of political parties in Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela. The report analyses internal governance and decisionmaking structures; mechanisms for oversight and training; financing; and the growing but still limited participation of women, youth and ethnic minorities.

Co-publisher: Transparencia, Peru
ISBN 978-91-85724-03-1

El estado de la opinión: los Bolivianos, la constitución y la Constituyente

(State of Opinion: Bolivians, the Constitution, and the Constituent Assembly)

In its 182 years of independence Bolivia has had 21 different constitutions, numerous constitutional modifications, and several Assemblies and constitutional conventions. The current constitution and its two modifications have seen over a decade of political-institutional crisis and Bolivians are eager for the Constituent Assembly to resolve the lingering crisis with a new constitution that, above all, guarantees the rights of all citizens.

This book provides insight into Bolivians' attitudes toward how their political system functions and the type of nation they envision for the future.

Co-publisher: Programa de la Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo (PNUD), Bolivia
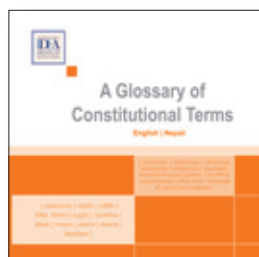
ISBN 978-91-85724-18-5

S

Nepal

A Glossary of Constitutional Terms *English – Nepali*

Nepal is at a critical juncture and needs to debate a new constitution. The people who are drafting the constitution must understand the meaning of legal terms and the implications of particular phraseology. Many legal terms, initially developed in Latin-based languages, are not easy to translate into Nepali. The purpose of this publication is to establish Nepali language equivalents of English constitutional terms and to standardize Nepali terminology relevant to constitutions.

ISBN 978-91-85724-20-8

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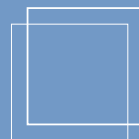
International IDEA's Databases

ACE Electoral Knowledge Network   www.aceproject.org

The ACE Electoral Knowledge Network provides comprehensive and authoritative information on elections, promotes networking among election-related professionals and offers capacity development services. It is a joint endeavour between International IDEA, Elections Canada, EISA, Instituto Federal Electoral, IFES, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) and the United Nations Electoral Assistance Division.

Political Finance Laws and Regulations

www.idea.int/parties/finance/db

The largest collection of information on political finance laws and regulations on the funding of political parties in the world.

iKNOW Politics   www.iknowpolitics.org

An on-line workspace designed to serve the needs of politicians, practitioners and researchers in the field of women in politics. The Network is a joint project of International IDEA, UNDP, the United Nations Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the National Democratic Institute (NDI) and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU).

Quotas for Women   www.quotaproject.org

International IDEA and Stockholm University have compiled comparative information on the use and impact of quotas for women in politics including the different quota systems in existence today, the percentage of women represented and representation targets in countries where these exist.

Voter Turnout   www.idea.int/vt

The most comprehensive global collection of political participation statistics available. It contains voter turnout figures on a country basis for national presidential and parliamentary elections since 1945.

Electoral System Design   www.idea.int/esd

The material on this website is a compilation of International IDEA's knowledge on electoral system design.

Reconciliation Resource Network   www.idea.int/rrn

Comprehensive material for the global community interested in reconciliation.
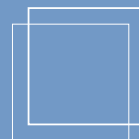
About International IDEA

Member States

The Member States of International IDEA are democratic countries. They provide both political and financial support. International IDEA's current Member States are: Australia, Barbados, Belgium, Botswana, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, Costa Rica, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Ghana (joined in April 2008), India, Mauritius, Mexico, Namibia, the Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Uruguay. Japan is an observer.

Governance

International IDEA is governed by a Council composed of its Member States and assisted by a Board of eminent personalities. Mr Vidar Helgesen, Norway's former Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, is the Secretary-General.

The highest decision-making body is the Council. In June 2007 it met in Oslo, chaired by Norway. The meeting was preceded by a Democracy Roundtable on the theme "Democracy & Diversity". Following the discussions, International IDEA started a project which intends to identify the different approaches around the world for managing diversity. This will provide the basis for developing a set of best practices and policy recommendations in this area.

The Council meeting elected India as chair for the period 2007/08. Board member Jos van Gennip fulfilled his maximum term at the Board. As new members to the Board Professor Azyumardi Azra (Indonesia) and Mr Andreas Gross (Switzerland) were elected. The Board met in December 2007 to debate and adopt "Democracy & Development" as a theme for 2008.

International IDEA's Board

MS LENA HJELM-WALLÉN, *Chairperson (Sweden), former Deputy Prime Minister and former Minister for Foreign Affairs*

AMBASSADOR ANDRÉS ROZENTAL, *Vice Chairperson (Mexico), Senior Nonresident Fellow at The Brookings Institution, former Deputy Minister of Mexico*

PROF AZYUMARDI AZRA** *(Indonesia), Professor of history and Director of School of Graduate Studies of Syarif Hidayatullah State Islamic University, Jakarta*

DR BRIGALIA BAM *(South Africa), Chairperson of the Independent Electoral Commission, former General Secretary of the South African Council of Churches*

MR JERMYN BROOKS *(United Kingdom), member of the Board of Directors of Transparency International, former Global Managing Partner at PricewaterhouseCoopers*

DR RICARDO DÍEZ-HOCHLEITNER *(Spain), Honorary President of the Club of Rome*

MS LOURDES FLORES NANO *(Peru), President of Alianza Electoral Unidad Nacional, former congresswoman and candidate in the 2001 and 2006 presidential elections*

SENATOR JOS VAN GENNIP * *(The Netherlands), member of the Upper House of the Parliament*

DR ASHRAF GHANI *(Afghanistan), Chancellor of Kabul University, former Minister of Finance*

DR MANOHAR SINGH GILL *(India), Minister of Youth and Sports, Member of the Parliament of India (Rajya Sabha), former Chief Electoral Commissioner*

MR ANDREAS GROSS** *(Switzerland), Member of Parliament*

MS KACI KULLMANN FIVE *(Norway), former Cabinet Minister and former Chairperson of the Conservative Party of Norway*

MS SIRPA PIETIKÄINEN *(Finland), Member of the European Parliament, Chairperson of the Finnish UN Association, former Minister of Environment*

MR HUGH SEGAL *(Canada), Member of the Senate, former President of the Institute for Research on Public Policy, former Associate Secretary of Cabinet and Chief of Staff to the Prime Minister of Canada*

MR CASSAM UTEEM *(Mauritius), former President of the Republic of Mauritius*

Honorary Board Member:

MS AUNG SAN SUU KYI *(Burma), General Secretary of the National League for Democracy in Burma and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate*

* to June 2007
** from June 2007

Statement of Revenue and Expenditure

Euro	Budget 2007	2007	2006
REVENUE			
Contributions	13 252 223	12 363 798	9 816 866
Interest income	100 000	167 434	133 904
Other income	487 000	538 755	543 488
TOTAL REVENUE	**13 839 223**	**13 069 987**	**10 494 258**
EXPENDITURE			
Operations expenditure			
Core programme			
* Design of Democratic Institutions and Processes	2 104 179	1 811 475	–
Democracy and Conflict Management		–	811 861
Electoral Processes		–	1 439 351
Political Parties		–	832 741
Democracy Analysis and Assessment	972 291	797 866	–
Cross Thematic	1 171 660	1 047 087	1 466 782
Regional Programmes	1 871 410	1 720 715	1 711 190
Programme Development and Follow-Up	100 000	55 546	33 913
Total core programme	6 219 540	5 432 689	6 295 838
Earmarked project expenditure	5 212 858	4 193 076	1 624 544
Total operations	**11 432 398**	**9 625 765**	**7 920 382**
Administration expenditure			
Governing bodies	197 000	163 180	170 423
Personnel costs	1 593 971	1 637 077	1 121 903
Management	456 850	368 250	124 745
Human resources	210 500	184 325	244 523
Audit and accounting	95 000	92 173	77 525
Office expenditures	724 572	864 705	804 167
Total administration	**3 277 893**	**3 309 710**	**2 543 286**
Financing costs			
Exchange (gains) and losses		13 288	155 067
Overhead recovered	(210 000)	(229 194)	(129 401)
Total financing	**(210 000)**	**(215 905)**	**25 666**
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	**14 500 291**	**12 719 569**	**10 489 334**

* The work of the Institute was restructured in 2007 bringing the three previous thematic areas - Electoral Processes, Political Parties, and Democracy and Conflict Management - solely its Constitution-Building component - together under Design of Democratic Institutions and Processes. The cross-thematic components of Gender (previously in Political Parties), Conflict Management and State of Democracy Assessments (previously under External Relations) were brought together under Democracy Analysis and Assessment.

What is 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. International IDEA acts as a catalyst for democracy building by providing knowledge resources, expertise and a platform for debate on democracy issues. It works together with policy makers, donor governments, UN organizations and agencies, regional organizations and others engaged in democracy building.

What does International IDEA do?

International IDEA's areas of work include electoral processes, political parties, constitution building, democracy and gender, citizen assessment of democracy, democracy and conflict, and democracy and development. The Institute offers to those in the process of democratization:

- Knowledge resources, in the form of handbooks, databases, websites and expert networks;
- Policy proposals to provoke debate and action on democracy building;
- Assistance with democratic reform in response to specific national requests.

Where does International IDEA work?

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