International IDEA

The International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance

A record of actions 2011

Annual Report

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The century of the citizen

2011 was a momentous year for democracy around the world. The Arab Spring changed the lives of millions as a wave of citizen-led uprisings swept across North Africa and the Middle East, toppling longstanding autocratic regimes in its path. In established democracies, citizens have mobilized in massive popular protests across all continents as an expression of frustration with how politics has not delivered fair access to opportunity, employment and education. While popular protest is hardly a new phenomenon, what was completely different about the 2011 events was the lead taken by ordinary citizens in their quest for democracy and dignity against overwhelming odds – including the support of their oppressors by key international actors. This makes 2011 not just an eventful year, but the year that ushered in what might be called the century of the citizen.

During the first ten years of the 21st century, there has been a shift of power from the state to the citizen. People have rapid access to information as never before, and individuals and non-governmental organizations are using that information to influence decision-making and policymaking processes. Because they are more informed, ordinary people are demanding greater accountability from decision makers. Through rapid information flows, events in one country can rapidly cause ripple effects in another. Meanwhile, economic inequality and lack of equal opportunity are huge mobilizing forces, particularly among young people who feel marginalized by political and economic elites.

However, it is not possible to build democracy simply by occupying a central space like Cairo's Tahrir Square or by protesting on Wall Street. The challenge for citizens is to channel their mobilization into institutions and processes that can influence real action. This means building political parties afresh and overcoming the establishment's instinctive resistance to change.

As events of 2011 reaffirm that the citizen is at the heart of democracy, and democracy is central to people's aspirations, there is now an urgent need to seek new and creative approaches to ensure democracy will be strengthened, not weakened, by the on-going shift of power to the citizen. International actors in foreign policy, security and development need to appreciate and respect the reinforced role of citizens, and support their integrity in national democracy-building efforts. At the national level, the desire for change and accountability needs to be captured by political parties if they are not to become marginal actors in political processes. And participation in politics must be equal and representative of men and women, minority and majority groups.

International IDEA's new strategy for 2012–2017 charts the course for the Institute over the coming years and is strongly aligned with the need to capture societal dynamics and work with the actors who are demanding change. In the coming period, International IDEA will renew its focus on bringing global knowledge and experience into practical partnerships with those pursuing democratic change at the country level.

International IDEA during 2011

In 2011, IDEA responded quickly to requests for assistance from Egypt, and the rest of the Arab world, by establishing a regional programme to support the on-going democratization processes. Much progress has been made by citizens throughout the Arab region to transform their desire for democracy into real political processes. At the same time, and not unexpectedly, democratization processes are facing immense challenges not least in relation to including all the population in the building of new political systems; the role of the military; and how to distribute economic resources in a way which benefits all citizens. One of IDEA's approaches in the region is to help Arab stakeholders exchange experiences with the rest of the world, learning from past successes as well as mistakes. Countries with established democracies could also learn a lot from the new and continuing mobilization of citizens seen across the region: it may well lead to completely new models of politics.

The democracy building process relies on inclusion and this is another strand to IDEA's strategy: to ensure all stakeholders – including minority groups and women – are involved in designing new political parties, constitutions and electoral systems, thereby laying the foundations for a vibrant democracy. In parts of the Arab world, increasing the role of women in politics poses a significant challenge, although a positive message emerged from Tunisia in 2011: women make up 27 per cent of the Constituent Assembly, and out of 89 seats taken by the Islamist party in the Assembly, 42 have been taken up by women.

Demand for knowledge based reform partnerships in 2011 has also come from South Sudan, where a new state came into existence in July. Meanwhile, in Haiti, the long-standing political crisis and lack of a functioning relationship between the executive and the parliament has effectively blocked economic development over the past 20 years. Here, IDEA is helping to create space for political dialogue, which we hope will lead to a more unified vision for developing the country (more on page 47).

2011 was also a watershed year for Myanmar which has made important steps towards a transition to a democratic civilian government. I visited the country in early 2012 to investigate how IDEA can work with Myanmar in its process of democratization, and we will continue to explore ways in which IDEA can support the democratic transition process in the country.

While the 'century of the citizen' brings with it a great deal of optimism, we are also mindful of the considerable challenges facing emerging, as well as established, democracies. What is certain is that all democracies need to deliver on their promise of true citizen participation and representation. With International IDEA's global experience and membership, and our specialized expertise on democracy, anchored in a non-prescriptive and collaborative approach, we seek to be a trusted partner as more and more countries address this challenge in the coming years.

Vidar Helgesen
SECRETARY-GENERAL, *International IDEA*

IDEA's approach to democracy

Our member states have given us the mission to support sustainable democratic change by providing comparative knowledge, assisting in reform, and by influencing policies and politics. The mission guides how we work: we derive knowledge from practical experience; our knowledge is put to use in supporting reform; and we influence policies and politics through our knowledge resources as well as engagement in reform.

Democracy cannot be imported or exported, but it can be supported. Those seeking to strengthen democracy in their own countries can be inspired by what others are doing elsewhere around the world. International IDEA plays an instrumental role in supporting their initiatives by providing comparative knowledge and experience in the field of electoral processes; constitution building processes; political parties, participation and representation; democracy and development; and democracy self-assessments. Issues and themes that cut across these areas are gender, conflict and security, and diversity.

Democracy grows from within societies. It evolves constantly and never reaches a state of final consolidation. Our work reflects this: we engage with partners in the democratic process and support their own particular role whether it be an election official, member of parliament, political party official, candidate for political office or a representative of civil society.

We bring experience and options to the table but do not prescribe solutions – true to the principle that the decision makers in a democracy are the citizens and their representatives. We also play a role by bringing together a wide range of political actors, providing the opportunity for them to exchange views and experience at seminars, conferences and other capacity building activities.

Table of contents

The century of the citizen
By Vidar Helgesen, Secretary-General, International IDEA 2

Electoral Processes 6

Responding to the Arab Spring 7
Coping with conflict 10
Supporting electoral reform in Latin America 12
Building skills for managing elections 13
Promoting knowledge sharing among EMBs 15

Political Parties, Participation and Representation 18

Money in politics 19
Political party assistance 21
Promoting equal representation and participation for women 22
Creating forums for inter-party dialogue 25
Assessing the state of democracy 26

Constitution Building Processes 28

IDEA's knowledge resources 29
Supporting constitution building in the Arab world 31
Building a constitution for the new Sudan 33
Building a network of support in Nepal 33
Support for constitutional implementation in Latin America 34

Democracy and Development 36

Addressing poverty, inequity and security in Latin America 37
Building a culture of consensus in Bolivia 38
Towards more inclusive democracy and development in Peru 38
Calls for change of thinking on development in Africa 40
Designing politics for development 40

Global and Regional Cooperation 42

United Nations 43
African Union 44
Organization of American States 45
League of Arab States 46
Inter-regional dialogue on democracy 46

Publications Released in 2011: Highlights 48
International IDEA's Databases and Networks 50
About International IDEA 52
International IDEA's Board of Advisers 53
Financial Overview 54

Elections Free & Fair
or Just Hot Air?

Electoral Processes

In December 2010, Tunisian street vendor Mohammed Bouazizi burned himself to death in protest at police harassment and corruption. What followed was an extraordinary year, as pro-democracy rebellions erupted across North Africa and the Middle East. Civil society led revolutions took place in Egypt and Tunisia, ousting their longstanding ruling regimes, and a peaceful uprising that quickly became armed conflict in Libya removed the dictator Gaddafi. Meanwhile, street protests swept through Yemen and eventually led to a peaceful handover of power by President Saleh. Major protests also took place in Algeria, Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco, Oman and Syria.

While elections lie at the centre of democratic processes, carrying out elections does not necessarily create democracy. This is especially true in post conflict countries where societies may be unable to hold free and fair elections. Too often, the international community focuses excessively on one-off, highly visible elections, with insufficient attention paid to the need to build and consolidate the local capacities that will make democratic change sustainable over time.

The people want to bring down the regime (Ash-shab yurid isqat an-nizam)

A major slogan of demonstrators in the Arab world in 2011

International IDEA meets the need for better knowledge and skills among those managing electoral processes in countries around the world. This support encompasses the development and provision of comparative knowledge on electoral processes being undertaken around the world, institutional strengthening and capacity development, and promoting opportunities for networking and dialogue.

Responding to the Arab Spring

After weeks of street protests, the people of Egypt and Tunisia were successful in ousting their longstanding undemocratic Heads of State. They immediately started preparing for the first democratic elections in living memory. In response to this clear need for support, IDEA established a new regional office in Cairo. Throughout the year, the Institute has been working with local partners and, where appropriate, contributing to their initiatives in Egypt, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia, as well as in Jordan.

…in Tunisia

The Constituent Assembly elections in Tunisia 2011 determined the composition of the interim government and started the process of drafting a new constitution for the country. The peaceful conduct of these first post-Arab Spring elections provides a ray of hope for citizens in the region who are still struggling to make their voices heard.

Electoral System Design and Electoral Management Design

Overview publications of these two IDEA Handbooks are now available in Arabic.

To meet the need for knowledge in constitutional drafting processes, the Al Kawakibi Democracy Transition Center organized a workshop in Tunis in September. IDEA provided background information and expert input for the event. Opened by the Chairman of the National Committee for the Preservation of the Revolution's Objectives – the top political entity during the transitional period – the workshop attracted national and international experts and practitioners and featured widely in the media. The event kicked off a series of studies on constitutional matters involving a number of Tunisian and international experts. The results of the first study – on working rules and procedures of the newly elected Constituent Assembly – will be discussed at a follow-up workshop in late January 2012.

Before Tunisia's National Constituent Assembly elections in October, the country's electoral management body (ISIE) approached International IDEA to help them undertake an in-depth assessment of the elections. A Tunisian electoral expert and a leading global authority on electoral processes from International IDEA, conducted the assessment. The IDEA Secretary-General presented the final report to ISIE in December.

The report was generally positive, concluding that the elections were carried out in accordance with international standards. Voter turnout was higher than expected, despite problems with the registration process, and the presence of domestic and foreign observers had enhanced confidence and transparency. Furthermore, complaints were dealt with effectively and the media were able to report freely. The report also makes some recommendations for improving the electoral process in the future. By inviting expert scrutiny of its electoral process and its management of the first elections since the overthrow of Ben Ali, Tunisia has set an international example.

…in Egypt

In Egypt, a number of partners engaged in democracy building – including Cairo University, the National Council for Human Rights and local civil society organizations – requested assistance from IDEA. This support encompasses contributions towards several different aspects of the electoral and constitutional reform process. In addition to coordinating training sessions for the security forces, IDEA has provided training for a large number of judges responsible for conducting the elections, and further training is forthcoming through a European Union-funded electoral support project. This project targets various key stakeholders in the electoral process, including the electoral authorities and civil society. So far, two courses have been completed on elections for civil society

organizations, and one on election observation for accredited domestic observer organizations. The trainees have gone on to train others within their organizations. Additional groups have asked IDEA to conduct similar activities and plans are underway to take the courses to a number of areas outside of Cairo.

Having identified a need to support the role of women in the transitional process, IDEA consulted with relevant partners to identify the main challenges and define strategies for increasing the inclusion of women in Egyptian politics. In June, in partnership with the Egyptian organization Nazra for Feminist Studies and iKNOW Politics (see page 24), IDEA hosted a roundtable discussion for non-governmental organizations dealing with election observation and gender equality. Participants from more than twenty-three organizations discussed the current challenges and how IDEA might support them. IDEA shared experience from Latin America on media coverage of elections from a gender perspective, and presented examples of its capacity building activities and knowledge resources on gender issues. The event identified a good number of organizations and individuals interested in training support and, at the same time, the discussions helped tailor the training materials to local needs. Later the same month, another seminar was conducted in Cairo on Pathways for Women in Democratic Transitions, also aimed at addressing the need to increase women's participation in Egyptian politics.

…and in Jordan and Libya

The National Dialogue Committee in Jordan is working on the development of a new electoral law, a new political parties law and, in conjunction with the constitutional reform committee, on some constitutional amendments. IDEA was requested to contribute towards this process by providing expert advice and facilitating discussions and workshops, as well as through provision of its comparative knowledge resources and tools. Government legal committees and members of parliament have also asked IDEA for advice as they begin to reform the electoral and political parties' laws, including the new law for the establishment of an independent electoral management body.

In Libya, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is being drafted to formalize the collaborative relationship between the National Transitional Council and International IDEA and identify the support to be provided by IDEA. Assessment missions have specified the priority needs, which include support for elections, constitution building, national dialogue and reconciliation, and general public awareness about the process of transition to democracy. Because Libya has virtually no institutional structure or relevant experience in inclusive democracy, IDEA's approach is based on

the need to work on 'nation building' and 'state building' in parallel. The MoU should be signed early in 2012. A partnership agreement has already been signed with the European Union which is jointly funding the initial implementation programme.

Coping with conflict

An early warning system for election related violence

Election related violence in the wake of the contested election results in Côte d'Ivoire in November 2010 turned the capital, Abidjan, into a war zone. More than 500 people died and over a million fled the city. In 2011, elections sparked violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Nigeria, while earlier, electoral violence was recorded in Pakistan in 2010, Iran and Moldova in 2009, Mongolia in 2008, and in Kenya in 2007–2008. This all-too-common occurrence is often associated with corrupt electoral processes and difficult contexts in which elections take place. At the same time, election related violence undermines the credibility of democracy and the organizations mandated to implement it.

IDEA has been working on conflict management as a means of safeguarding democracy for more than thirteen years. While the concept of managing conflict through the electoral system or political arrangements is now well understood, there is a lack of information and the tools to help countries recognize the warning signs and take preventative action. In response IDEA has, over the past two years, been developing an electoral risk management tool with the aim of releasing it as a global public good.

Back in 2009 the IDEA team began this initiative by working with international and national experts and academics. In 2011, they expanded the focus to include input from national stakeholders and started pilot testing the tool with civil society organizations which specialize in monitoring and addressing electoral violence. This included the Electoral Observation Mission (La Misión de Observación Electoral) in Colombia, the Centre for Monitoring Electoral Violence in Sri Lanka and the Independent Electoral and Boundary Commission (IEBC) in Kenya.

IDEA has a framework agreement to support IEBC in Kenya. Testing the electoral risk management tool is an important part of this collaboration with benefits for both partners: IEBC is gaining knowledge on how to be more conflict sensitive in the run up to the 2013 elections, while IDEA is able to test and improve the methodology by applying it in a 'real life' situation. IEBC has developed a small analytical hub to collect and analyze data using IDEA's tool, and to produce risk maps. In November 2011 they organized a workshop in Nairobi, inviting forty participants from election

offices, the security sector, civil society and academia who worked together to define risk factors for violence and the likely geographical spread, and identifying potential prevention and mitigation measures. The event highlighted the need for further consultations and analysis, so IEBC decided to hold further workshops for 'regional risk champions' and additional police and civil society representatives. Following the workshop recommendations, IEBC plans to establish an inter-agency platform for collaboration to bring the security sector together with election bodies and civil society organizations. This will create a forum within which to discuss and coordinate prevention and mitigation actions.

At the same time, IDEA is helping the IEBC to organize a public opinion survey to measure citizens' perceptions relating to the likelihood of violence ahead of the 2013 elections. This information will help to further customize the tool and enhance its relevance and usefulness.

Opportunities for additional tests and pilot studies are being explored in countries across Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America. IDEA will support the organizations involved to create a network among them for exchanging knowledge and expertise, while ensuring there is sufficient backing for the global launch of the tool in 2013.

Building capacity for prevention of election related violence

The European Commission-UNDP Joint Task Force on Electoral Assistance requested IDEA to partner with in organizing a workshop on elections, violence and conflict prevention in Barcelona, Spain, in June 2011. The workshop examined ways in which electoral assistance programmes and projects can help prevent the escalation of election related violence and conflict throughout the electoral cycle.

IDEA's Electoral Risk Management Tool

The tool is designed to empower those who have the responsibility to prevent and mitigate election related conflict and violence, such as electoral management bodies (EMBs) and government agencies. It is also envisaged to help those who have the capacity to influence policymakers, including civil society organizations, local communities, regional and international stake-holders, academia, political actors and others. Above all, the tool is designed to induce concrete actions to prevent election related violence and to promote collaboration between elections and conflict experts. The tool brings together knowledge resources, analytical instruments and prevention and mitigation strategies. It can be used as an early warning tool or risk assessment methodology before, during and after an election.

www.idea.int/elections/new_resource_developed.cfm

Ojos que no ven

Cobertura mediática y género en las elecciones latinoamericanas

(Unseeing Eyes: Media Coverage and Gender in Latin American Elections)

In a society where the mass media are the main platform for political information and electoral competition, limited visibility during a campaign can be challenging to a candidate and limit the possibilities of being elected. This study covers five countries in Latin America and identifies differences and inequalities that women candidates face in media coverage before elections.

Co-publisher: United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)

Mirando con lentes de género la cobertura electoral

Manual de monitoreo de medios

(Election Coverage from a Gender Perspective. A Media Monitoring Manual)

This manual presents a methodological tool for monitoring media coverage during election campaigns. It focuses on a gender perspective using objective and verifiable information, and is based on experiences of six Latin American institutions.

Co-publisher: United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)

European Union, UNDP and electoral management body practitioners from countries worldwide attended the five-day workshop, strengthening their knowledge on general and specific patterns of electoral violence within electoral processes through an in-depth examination of case studies. During the workshop, a detailed framework on the connections between elections and violence was mapped out, focusing on the ways in which violence can erupt throughout the electoral cycle and what preventive measures can be taken.

Supporting electoral reform in Latin America

Latin America has made significant progress in the areas of free and fair elections, and respect for human rights. The region's democracies however, still experience large deficits and varying degrees of fragility. At the same time, they face many challenges such as institutional issues affecting governance and the rule of law, corruption, the weakening of political parties, and serious security problems. Requests to IDEA for support for electoral reform have come from Argentina, Dominican Republic, El Salvador and Uruguay; and also for IDEA to help establish dialogues among EMBs, political parties, academics, journalists and politicians.

Learning from experience is a key concept that was explored in a series of three dialogues co-organized by IDEA and the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. The dialogues examined current electoral processes and their implications in the regional and national contexts. These included the 2011 elections in Argentina, Colombia, Guatemala and Nicaragua, and the pre-electoral dynamics in Mexico and Venezuela in advance of their 2012 elections. The panels and audiences discussed a variety of issues. For example, what do these elections tell us about changing political and economic realities in the region? what are the main issues shaping upcoming campaigns? and what mechanisms will ensure fair outcomes? The dialogues promoted lively debate on the current status of the electoral processes, highlighting the key concerns for the upcoming elections. IDEA will continue to work with the Woodrow Wilson International Center in 2012, focusing primarily on the presidential elections due to take place in Venezuela in October.

Latin American EMBs sign up for electoral justice

Free and fair elections require an effective justice system, and voters must get sufficient information before the event otherwise doubts may surface concerning the legitimacy of the new government. In October, representatives from eighteen Latin American countries – a

record number of nations, which included Cuba for the first time – attended the third Ibero-American Conference in Ecuador on Electoral Justice. The representatives signed a declaration ratifying their respect and support for political institutions, democracy and electoral processes in the region, committing their respective countries to action that will contribute to greater transparency in political organizations as a means of strengthening their democratic systems.

IDEA was part of the Academic Committee of the Conference and was involved in organizing the event, working with the Elcano Royal Institute (Real Instituto Elcano). The fourth Conference will take place in El Salvador in 2012 and the organizers have already asked IDEA to provide substantive and institutional support to this event.

Building skills for managing elections

Professional and competent electoral management is vital to ensure elections are credible and transparent. Consequently, there is huge pressure on the EMBs to build and maintain people's confidence during the entire electoral process. Working with several partners, IDEA contributes to building national capacity on elections through the BRIDGE programme (see box). The Institute also shares resource material on elections through the ACE Electoral Knowledge Network, as well as bringing people from different countries together to share knowledge and how they have dealt with common problems.

The BRIDGE Train the Facilitator course, which run for ten days, provides not only training on the BRIDGE curriculum but also equips people with the skills and techniques required for effective facilitation for training adults. One person, for example, who completed the course, Jebeh Kawah from Liberia, reported that

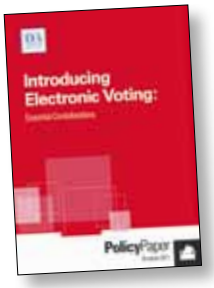
BRIDGE is perhaps 100 % relevant to my work as the gender focal person within our EMB. Its principles are applicable almost on a daily basis.

Jebeh Kawah,
Liberia

BRIDGE training in Africa

Building capacity for managing elections is a key area of action outlined in the African Union (AU) and IDEA Joint Activity Plan (see page 44). In 2011, IDEA staff organized ten BRIDGE training courses for 192 African election administrators. The training modules were designed to equip the participants with the knowledge they need to address such topical issues as voter registration and electoral dispute resolution. At the same time, the trainees built their own training skills so they can go on to train others. The Australian Government funded the courses through its development arm, AusAID.

In addition to training African election administrators, IDEA also held BRIDGE courses on the theme of Gender and Elections with the purpose of building capacity on elections, gender and women's participation, together with knowledge of relevant legal frameworks. One course, held in Pretoria in South Africa in May 2011, benefited nineteen gender specialists, election administrators and others working in the field of elections from twelve African countries.



Introducing Electronic Voting: Essential Considerations

This policy paper, launched at the EMB Dialogue, outlines contextual factors that can influence the success of e-voting solutions and highlights the importance of taking these fully into account before choosing to introduce new voting technologies.

About BRIDGE

Building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Elections (BRIDGE) is the world's foremost training curriculum on electoral processes. Developed by International IDEA and the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC), United Nations Election Assistance Division (UNEAD), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), BRIDGE builds the capacity of national election administrators and supports trainers to use BRIDGE in their own national organizations to build capacity in electoral processes.

BRIDGE in Nepal

The IDEA Nepal team conducted two BRIDGE workshops during 2011 (one on political parties and elections, and the second on gender and elections) for representatives from the political parties and election commission. Pre- and post-training evaluation demonstrated tangible learning outcomes.

BRIDGE course in Pretoria, South Africa, May 2011.

Another course held in Pretoria in August trained twenty people from fifteen countries to become training facilitators for gender-focused training.

At the end of November, IDEA took five African EMB personnel – from Botswana, Ghana, Malawi, South Africa and Zimbabwe – on a study visit to the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) in Sydney. They had all earlier taken part in IDEA's regional BRIDGE training programme as part of the AU-IDEA Joint Activity Plan. The visit helped them increase their knowledge of electoral administration and share experience with their Australian counterparts. Several more of these study visits are planned to take place over the next two years.

ACE Electoral Knowledge Network

The ACE Electoral Knowledge Network was the first online resource of its kind in the field of elections, and is the world's largest online repository of electoral knowledge and material. ACE provides more than 10,000 pages of specialized technical facts, country- and region-specific information, comparative data, a global election calendar, the latest electoral news and events, and real-time knowledge services and exchange. The website is available in Arabic, English, French, Russian and Spanish. Supported by over 400 electoral experts and practitioners from around the world, ACE material is constantly being updated and expanded to provide a 'living' encyclopaedia. In addition to accessing information online, users can seek answers and initiate discussions by posing questions to experienced electoral professionals who belong to the ACE Practitioners' Network.

In 2011, ACE grew significantly in content and available languages, as well as strengthening its strategic direction. The website recorded 1.1 million visits in 2011, with a large growth in demand from the Arab region. By the end of 2011, when the Arabic translation was completed, over 97,000 people had visited the Arabic site, with hits increasing from under 3% of total visits in 2010 to 8.5% in 2011. In response to a request from the UNDP regional office, the ACE Secretariat developed a guide to navigate the ACE knowledge resources in Arabic.

Meanwhile, the ACE Practitioners' Network increased from 200 elections practitioners to over 400. By enhancing and more actively engaging its membership, the Network increased its exchanges to a record number compared to previous years. An external global evaluation and recommendations helped to strengthen ACE's strategic direction and recommended that ACE return to its roots, making its knowledge resources the primary focus. As a result, the encyclopaedia and knowledge content is being updated, and the Practitioners' Network re-structured to capture members' exchanges more effectively.

In October 2011, the ACE Electoral Knowledge Network launched the Election Observation Portal, a joint project on behalf of the organizations endorsing the Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation. The Declaration is endorsed by thirty-five international organizations, which pledge their commitment to assuring integrity and transparency in election observations. At the 2009 Annual Meeting, member organizations discussed the development of a joint database to contain observation reports of all endorsing organizations, proposing ACE as a suitable vehicle. After two years' work, the ACE election observation portal was launched at the 2011 Annual Meeting in October in Brussels. The portal's database currently contains over 1500 reports from twenty-five organizations, covering 160 countries for the period 1990–2011.

Partners in ACE

In addition to IDEA, which hosts the transitional Secretariat, the ACE partners include Elections Canada, the Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa (EISA), Federal Electoral Institute of Mexico (IFE), the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), the United Nations Electoral Assistance Division (UNEAD) and the European Commission (ex officio).

5th Global Electoral Organization Conference: Credible Elections for Democracy

The deliberations ended with the Gaborone Declaration which will serve as a reference point for the future to ensure more credible and inclusive electoral processes. This report serves to summarize the major discussions stemming from the conference. It is divided in four sections, one for each language, English, Spanish, French and Portuguese.

Promoting knowledge sharing among EMBs

…through the GEO

The Global Electoral Organization (GEO) Conference is an invitation-only event, which brings electoral practitioners and other democracy experts together to exchange knowledge and share experience. The Conference creates a networking opportunity, stimulates debate and promotes relevant initiatives. The Steering Committee includes International

Democracy has a global value but it cannot be forced and dictated from the outside.

Indonesian President, Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, *in his opening speech at the EMB forum in Jakarta, Indonesia, October 2011*

Thai political parties sign Code of Conduct

Leaders and representatives of nineteen political parties signed a Code of Conduct for Thailand's July 2011 elections in the presence of the Speaker of the Senate, the Secretary-General of the Election Commission, religious leaders and the media. The Thai Code of Conduct was drawn up through a process of dialogue coordinated by the Research Centre for Peace Building at Mahidol University and supported by IDEA through its document, *Code of Conduct: Political Parties Campaigning in Democratic Elections.* The parties have pledged to follow the letter and the spirit of the constitution, electoral laws and regulations, to refrain from vote buying and using public resources for campaign purposes, to campaign peacefully and avoid inflammatory language, to keep the monarchy out of the election campaign, and to accept the election results. The parties also requested the Election Commission to conduct their duties fairly with integrity and to process complaints in a timely manner. They have stablished a coordinating committee to monitor compliance with the Code.

IDEA, Association of European Election Officials, Electoral Commissions Forum of Southern African Development Community, Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa, IFE Mexico, International Foundation for Electoral Systems, UN Development Programme, and UN Electoral Assistance Division.

In 2011, the Botswana Independent Electoral Commission and International IDEA worked together to host the fifth GEO, which was held in Gaborone. EMBs, politicians, academics and donors, as well as representatives from international organizations were invited to share experience and discuss the current challenges facing elections and new approaches for managing them. Under the theme Credible Elections for Democracy, almost 250 delegates from more than forty-nine countries examined different aspects of the election process, including electoral reform, elections and conflict, and how to engage stakeholders. The deliberations concluded with the launch of the Gaborone Declaration, which will serve as a reference point for promoting more credible and inclusive electoral processes in the future.

Since the GEO meeting, IDEA has promoted the Declaration in other EMB forums (including the EMB Dialogue in December, see below) and sent the report to 440 people in EMBs and partner organizations around the world.

…in Southeast Asia

Experience and expertise in democracy building are growing fast throughout Southeast Asia and it is important to share this expanding knowledge base. In October 2011, the General Election Commission of the Republic of Indonesia and the Government of Indonesia organized a forum for EMBs from Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Member States. The forum was held in Jakarta as part of Indonesia's 2011 programme of events as Chair of ASEAN. It provided an opportunity for electoral professionals and election monitoring organizations from the ASEAN nations to discuss the management and conduct of credible elections and to share knowledge, expertise and experience. IDEA provided the majority of the comparative knowledge input. A key outcome of the meeting was the establishment of a network for the electoral managers, practitioners and civil society organizations within the ASEAN Member States, with a view to promoting greater collaboration in meeting the challenges of organizing credible elections at all levels in their countries.

…and through a dedicated platform for IDEA Member States

The first EMB Dialogue, held in Stockholm in December 2011, was open to the Electoral Management Bodies in all twenty-seven IDEA Member States. A total of thirty-four persons from twenty States attended the event.

The plan was to create a forum for the EMBs to exchange experience and share knowledge, as well as feeding information into IDEA knowledge management tools like ACE and BRIDGE. The topics covered included the role of EMBs in promoting gender equality in electoral processes, the challenge of e-voting, dealing with election related conflict, making the most of social media, and managing the transition for an EMB from being controlled to becoming politically independent. IDEA will continue to support and promote an active network of these EMBs via its website and through future meetings.

Building democracy is a complex process. Elections are only a starting point but if their integrity is compromised, so is the legitimacy of democracy.

Kofi Annan, *Chairman of the Global Commission on Elections, Democracy and Security*

Global Commission on Elections, Democracy and Security

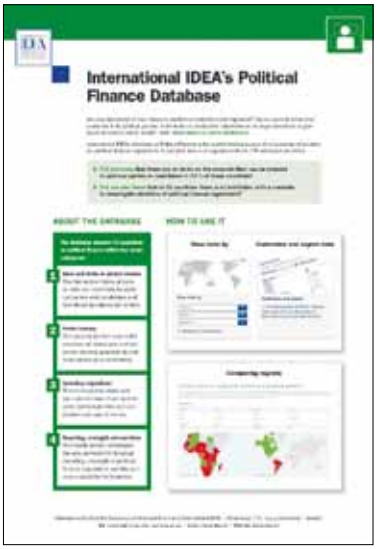
The Global Commission on Elections, Democracy and Security – created jointly by International IDEA and the Kofi Annan Foundation – comprises twelve eminent persons from around the world. With Kofi Annan as Chairman, the Commission includes such persons as Ernesto Zedillo, Martti Ahtisaari, Madeleine Albright and Amartya Sen (for full list see http://www.idea.int/elections/global_commission_launch.cfm). Launched in March 2011 in Pretoria, South Africa, the Commission aims to highlight the importance of the integrity of elections to achieving a more secure, prosperous and stable world. In late 2012, the Commission will produce a report with recommendations that aim to encourage the international community to apply political solutions to the problems surrounding elections, rather than adopting purely technical approaches. So far, the Commission has conducted research and consultations leading to the production of nine discussion and background papers on various subjects such as elections after civil war, elections in authoritarian regimes, and the quality of participation and representation of women.

future
leader

Political Parties, Participation and Representation

Recent events illustrate how the 'century of the citizen' (see page 2) and pro-democracy movements can succeed in dismantling dictatorships and single-party states. The world watches and waits in hope that these will be replaced by functioning democracies and not by prolonged civil strife. However, if these fledgling democracies are to reach maturity, they need to be built on a firm foundation of strong and sustainable political parties. The parties need the capacity to represent the country's citizens and provide policy choices that demonstrate their ability to govern for the public good. Political parties provide the vehicle for the electorate to express itself by accommodating diverse interest groups and offering voters different political options. They are also the key institutions that ensure inclusive participation and accountable representation, responding and delivering to the needs of the people.

International IDEA's Political Parties, Participation and Representation programme provides direct support to political parties and works for stronger alignment of approaches in party assistance. It promotes equal representation for women, creates platforms for inter-party dialogue and helps protect legitimacy in politics. Furthermore, IDEA has developed State of Democracy and State of Local Democracy assessment frameworks, which provide a tool for citizens to use in assessing their own democratic systems.



Money in politics

A database of political finance regulations

The potentially negative influence exerted by money in politics is recognized in the United Nations Convention Against Corruption, which calls on countries to take "appropriate legislative and administrative measures" to enhance transparency in the funding of candidates and political parties. Signatory countries have introduced various provisions to limit the amount of money that can be contributed, state how the funds may be used, guide financial reporting, and provide for oversight and enforcement.

The International IDEA database on political finance regulations contains information on political finance control provisions in 179 countries, making it the largest collection of such information in the world. Created originally in 2003, the database has been substantially revised and developed during 2011. The database describes different types of national regulations and can be used to compare provisions across countries and regions; it now also includes a gender dimension. Anyone interested in how the role of money in politics is regulated will find it useful – this includes legislators, regulators, political party officials, civil society activists, journalists and concerned citizens (www.idea.int/political-finance/index.cfm).

Reforming political parties in the Dominican Republic

A seminar on the activities, running and legal framework of political parties was the first event to take place in the Dominican Republic since it became a new International IDEA Member State in December 2010. Organized by the Central Electoral Board, the Senate, the House of Deputies and IDEA, with the sponsorship of UNDP and the Spanish Agency of International Cooperation for Development, the seminar was held in January 2011 in Santo Domingo. The event was part of the support on political and institutional reform provided by International IDEA to the electoral agencies in Latin America and the Caribbean. The information exchanged provided valuable input for possible reforms to existing legislation in the Dominican Republic on political parties. The event also provided an opportunity for International IDEA and the Dominican institutions to identify areas for future cooperation.

Protecting legitimacy in politics: a new IDEA project

Organized crime has the potential to erode democratic institutions from within, as well as compromising the legitimacy of political life in both established and emerging democracies. Illegal networks can influence political processes in numerous ways, ranging from the illicit financing of a political campaign and voter intimidation, to collusion with established political figures and parties. IDEA's *Protecting Legitimacy in Politics* project promotes dialogue on policy options at global, regional and national levels. At the same time, the project supports locally led initiatives to prevent or mitigate the effects of organized crime networks on political processes. The overall project design has been enhanced through input from inter-governmental and civil society organizations, including the World Bank, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the State Department of the USA.

Initial project activities commenced in Latin America; these highlighted the need for a wider programme involving more extensive data gathering to provide information on which to base policy reform. As a result, activities have been extended to include Asia, the Baltic region of Europe and West Africa.

In the Baltic region, IDEA is working with the Swedish Institute for Security and Development Policy (ISDP). The collaboration brings ISDP's expertise in organized crime issues together with the political knowledge of IDEA. The first step is to gather empirical information on the many ways in which illegal networks form links with political actors. For example, in smaller countries, close relationships may be formed through family ties, joint economic enterprises or a common school. The team is gathering data through semi-structured interviews with a range of stakeholders – including politicians, civil society organizations and national chapters of Transparency International, other non-governmental organizations, the security police and other state organizations, and the office of the prosecutor general. At the same time, this work is being complemented through an in-depth microanalysis of exemplary cases. Work in the Baltic will be completed in mid-2012 and will inform policy dialogues in the region. Work in Asia, Latin America and West Africa is scheduled to begin early in 2012.

Transparency Forum to fight corruption

The relationship between money and politics is a key issue affecting the quality of democracy throughout Latin America. Countries are therefore, keen to share information on how to eradicate corruption. Costa Rica hosted the Second Central America and Dominican Republic Transparency Forum

in November 2011, bringing together representatives of governments, political parties, the private sector and civil society. IDEA assisted Costa Rica's Vice-Presidency and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Transparency International, the National Democratic Institute, the State of the Region Program and the Foundation for Peace and Democracy in the organization of the meeting. The discussions focused on the funding of politics and political parties, the threats posed by the penetration of organized crime, and the scrutiny of parties and campaigns. Using the joint IDEA and Organization of American States (OAS) publication *Funding of Political Parties in Latin America* as a basis for the discussion, specific actions in the fight against corruption were identified, and the participants made a formal agreement to update and implement on-going transparency initiatives and other anti-corruption measures.

'Empty chair' initiative

The 'empty chair' initiative is an example of an initiative led by the Colombian national programme *Strengthening Democracy*, supported by IDEA, NIMD and UNDP. When an elected MP is implicated in organized crime, what happens when they are convicted? To address these questions and to stop the party replacing them with equally corrupt officials, the Initiative lobbied for a new law that would force the party to lose the seat, while providing for a more critical review of the candidate list to eliminate those suspected of involvement in organized crime. The law, promulgated in 2011, was applied in the regional elections held in October 2011. This resulted in 1700 candidates being rejected. IDEA provided support to the Government and Congress by supplying examples of how sanctions are applied to parties in other countries which allowed officials to make more informed decisions.

Funding of Political Parties in Latin America

This is a joint publication from International IDEA and the OAS, published by the National Autonomous University of Mexico. The book examines the major features of political party and election campaign funding in eighteen Latin American countries. The book was presented at several meetings in 2011, including the Second Latin America Democracy Forum in Mexico and events in the Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, Honduras and Uruguay.

Political party assistance

A new strategic partnership

International IDEA has been collaborating with the Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD) since 2006 on joint programmes in Ecuador and Colombia, as well as on a more strategic level in political party assistance. In 2011, the two organizations strengthened their relationship by signing a Strategic Partnership Agreement. This will create synergy, since the partners will benefit from each other's organizational strengths: IDEA is an inter-governmental organization with a reputation for its comparative knowledge, while NIMD is a political party assistance organization with a large network of in-country political party dialogue

mechanisms. The partners have agreed to start by identifying priority areas where they could work together. Following meetings in Cape Town and Stockholm, they came up with a list of joint activities for implementation in 2011–2012.

Streamlining approaches to party assistance

In the desire for greater impact, donors are working together more closely at the strategic level, with the aim of streamlining their approaches to party assistance. IDEA and NIMD are both key members of the 'Wilton Park' network (named after the location of the first meeting), a group of organizations who gather regularly to share experience and ideas. In 2011, as part of its contributions to the network, IDEA commissioned a paper, *The Challenges of Political Programming: International assistance to parties and parliaments*. Presented at the network meeting in June in The Hague, the Netherlands, the paper examines the ways in which different donors and implementing organizations are responding to current challenges, and identifies lessons for supporting initiatives. The paper draws on interviews with international development staff and independent consultants working on the design, delivery and evaluation of party and parliamentary assistance projects. It also includes analysis of strategy papers and planning documents from a variety of organizations, and an in-depth examination of political programmes conducted with parties and parliaments in four countries (www.idea.int/resources/analysis/the-challenges-of-political-programming.cfm).

Nobel Peace Prize winners 2011. From the left: Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Tawakkol Karman and Leymah Gbowee.

Another Wilton Park network meeting took place in Washington DC, USA in October. This focused on the ways in which political parties can strengthen their policymaking activities and the ways in which organizations like IDEA and NIMD can help. Following the academic presentations, which included discussions on IDEA's research, the participants developed a practical list of 'Dos and Don'ts' to guide their input to party assistance in the future. They also agreed to enhance the network's activities by expanding the number of participating organizations and joint research projects.

Promoting equal representation and participation for women

Despite increasing awareness of the importance of creating equal opportunities for women in politics, the number of female members of parliament worldwide stands at less than 20% of the total. Furthermore, only nineteen countries have achieved the 1995 Beijing Process goal of at least 30% representation for women in national legislatures. International IDEA promotes gender equality as an integral goal for democracy building by supporting knowledge transfer and capacity building to empower women across its key areas of work. At the regional level, this takes the

form of establishing platforms for dialogue and, at the country level, by supporting national partners' advocacy and reform initiatives, and strengthen the momentum for gender equality reform.

IDEA commissioned an analysis of political parties' policy documents from a gender perspective. The study examined the role of political parties in achieving gender equality and women's empowerment in political leadership and decision-making across thirty-six African and three Asian countries. The results are being analyzed and the findings will be presented at a number of global and national events during 2012.

African partnerships for action

While several countries in sub-Saharan Africa have adopted policies and legislative frameworks on gender equality and women's empowerment, many of these have yet to be fully implemented, enforced and scaled up. IDEA responds to requests for support from specific countries and partners where it can complement the work of on-going initiatives in this area.

A sub-regional dialogue for West Africa held in 2010 identified several on-going activities in Liberia, Senegal and Sierra Leone where IDEA could assist national partners by providing comparative knowledge on gender issues. The success of this event prompted IDEA to hold a similar forum for twenty Southern and Eastern African countries in 2011. Participants at this second event – held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania – were drawn from governments and state agencies, electoral management bodies, members of parliament and civil society, including human rights organizations. The roundtable stimulated discussions among legislators and policymakers on current challenges and best practices, also in addition to identifying specific potential areas of cooperation with International IDEA.

Designing for Equality: Best-fit, Medium-fit and Non-favourable Combinations of Electoral Systems and Gender Quotas

– now available in Burmese

This book describes the various quota arrangements made for women in different electoral systems and how they have affected women's representation. It assesses how women's representation can be increased under different combinations of electoral systems and quotas, and serves as a reference tool for all those who work to increase women's representation in politics.

In 2005, Liberia became the first country in Africa to elect a woman – Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf – as President; and was re-elected for a second term in November 2011. Despite setting such a bold precedent, Liberia has only 13% representation of women in positions of power. Women's rights and gender equality advocates are hoping to increase the number of women in decision-making positions through enactment of a gender equity law, which will mandate a minimum of 30% women in the lists of candidates contesting senatorial and house seats in future parliamentary elections.

The efforts of the Women's Legislative Caucus and the Coalition of Political Parties' Women of Liberia (COPPWL) led to development of the draft legislation. IDEA supported the process by setting up opportunities for

iKNOW Politics informs on the Arab Spring

The International Knowledge Network of Women in Politics or iKNOW Politics is an interactive global network that provides shared experiences and access to resources and advisory services, as well as opportunities for networking and collaboration on issues relating to women in politics. IDEA is one of the partners and provides regular updates to this portal. Throughout 2011, IDEA's Cairo-based regional coordinator provided a constant stream of news on the rapidly unfolding events and important changes taking place in the Arab world. Women's rights activists throughout the region accessed the resource, which helped them to keep abreast of events and link with other like-minded groups.

The partners are the United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs, the Inter-Parliamentary Union and International IDEA.

www.iknowpolitics.org

dialogue between political parties, legislators and the Ministry of Gender and Development to establish consensus on the need for legislated electoral quotas and mobilize the necessary political support for their adoption. To reinforce these efforts, IDEA worked with the National Election Commission to create a dialogue on Gender in Political Parties' Policy Documents. This dialogue focused on identifying strategies for adopting gender-sensitive internal policies within political parties, providing greater opportunities to women members to assume leadership positions within parties, and gaining party nominations for parliamentary elections. Representatives of the twenty-five parties present at this dialogue pledged their commitment to support the Gender Equity Bill.

In Sierra Leone, the Women's Solidarity Support Group (WSSG), an umbrella body supporting gender equality, women's rights and good governance, is working towards the introduction of gender-based quotas to address women's under-representation in positions of power and decision-making. IDEA is contributing towards this campaign by providing information on quotas from other countries. IDEA is also facilitating discussion forums among other stakeholders, including the parliamentary committees, the Ministry of Justice, civil society organizations, women leaders and representatives of local traditional and religious groups. The aim of a roundtable held in March on Gender Parity in Decision Making Processes was to build consensus on the way forward for the development of legislation on gender quotas. At this event, IDEA shared experiences from Tanzania, a country that has already achieved at least 30% women's participation and representation in parliament.

Enacting new laws in Latin America

Following the lead set by Peru in 2003, Colombia has passed a new law setting a 30% quota for women in both general and internal party elections. Working with UNDP and NIMD, IDEA provided knowledge input into the national programme *Strengthening Democracy*, which is part of the International Cooperation's Gender Committee. In 2011, this programme was instrumental in the creation of the Legal Commission for the Equality of Women within the Colombian Congress. Preparations leading up to the enactment of the law included advocacy work and the organization of a forum to exchange experience on the functioning of women's commissions and delegations within Latin American congresses. Members of the Mexico and Uruguay congresses participated in this event, along with representatives from *Strengthening Democracy* and IDEA.

Implementation of the quota law was accompanied by an advocacy campaign promoted by the Gender Committee with support from the National

Government, the Legal Commission for the Equality of Women and civil society, with the aim of increasing the number of women elected. The law is already proving successful, with women making up over 35% of the candidates registered for the October municipal, departmental, council and assembly elections – up from less than 20% in 2007.

IDEA will continue to work with the Gender Committee in 2012 on furthering regional and local agendas for gender equity, creating women's delegations in public offices nationwide, and supporting political parties in the implementation of the quota law.

Supporting the Women's Multiparty Group in Ecuador

Ecuador's new constitution calls for substantial restructuring of the state architecture and includes a strong focus on gender equality. The Women's Multiparty Group is one of the leading groups working for the inclusion of gender equality in the country's new legislation. The joint IDEA-NIMD programme *Agora Democrática* has been active in Ecuador for the past three years, working to support the Women's Multiparty Group and other actors. In 2011, the programme organized three seminars in different areas of the country, to provide a forum for discussion on Ecuador's political party system, the Democracy Code and the political participation of women. More than 200 women from political organizations and civil society took part. They shared experience on the best ways to strengthen women's participation in political organizations and local government as well as analyzing the Democracy Code from a gender perspective.

This work provides an invaluable base for the Women's Multiparty Group as it defines its 2012 agenda, during which it will be reviewing reforms to the Democracy Code regarding a new method of seat allocation and in terms of women's political participation leading up to the 2012 elections.

Creating forums for inter-party dialogue

By establishing a neutral platform for dialogue, IDEA can help promote dialogue among political parties in an environment of cooperation and consensus, despite a prevailing culture of competition. In addition to supporting dialogue events around the world with its organizational capacity and knowledge input, IDEA in 2007 produced a comprehensive *Dialogue Handbook*. Building on the knowledge of this Handbook, IDEA is currently producing a dialogue guide

Parlamentos sensibles al género

El estado de la cuestión en América Latina

(Gender mainstreaming in Latin American Parliaments: A work in progress)

Gender equality in political participation is an indicator of the level of democratic development. This study draws on questionnaires and interviews with parliamentarians as well as five national case studies.

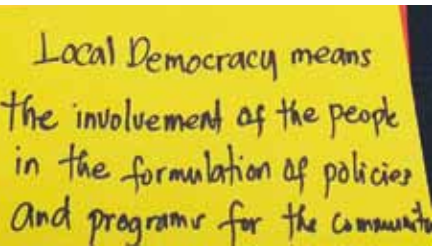
Co-publisher: Inter-Parliamentary Union

Democratic Dialogue: A Handbook for Practitioners

– now available in Arabic

Dialogue processes can be used to address societal challenges in an inclusive and democratic way that engages a broad range of actors to bring about positive change. This Handbook offers a comprehensive overview of their use for people engaged in organizing, sponsoring, promoting or facilitating dialogue processes.

Co-publishers: Canadian International Development Agency, the Organization of American States and the United Nations Development Programme



State of Democracy training in the Maldives (top photo), State of Local Democracy training in the Philippines (middle photo), and State of Local Democracy workshop with Edna Co. from the Philippines in Zambia (bottom photo).

specifically for political parties. This Guide reflects recent learning on political party dialogue mechanisms, an increasingly popular model for consensus building around political reform. *The Political Party Dialogue Guide* is based on IDEA's experience in Nepal and Latin America as well as information gathered from partner organizations. The Guide will be launched in 2012 and will highlight practical steps towards establishing regular and continuous dialogue between political parties, answering questions such as how to start and sustain dialogue mechanisms and which parties to include.

Dialogue on parties in West Africa

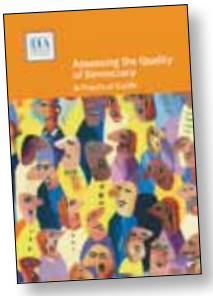
The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) held a regional conference on inter-party dialogue in Accra, Ghana in September for political parties, election administrators and other stakeholders. The aim was to learn more about how stakeholder dialogue contributes to enhancing the credibility and acceptance of outcomes of electoral processes. IDEA provided organizational capacity and knowledge input to the event. Lessons were drawn from research conducted by IDEA staff in Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Ghana, Liberia, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo. As a result of this initiative, IDEA produced a guide to inter-party dialogue and a short film. The guide will be useful throughout Africa to help political parties play a more central role in promoting good practice in electoral processes. The film focuses on West Africa, highlighting the challenges and experiences associated with inter-party dialogue.

Inter-party dialogue in Ghana was the focus of a one-day workshop held in March 2011 in Accra. Organized by the Electoral Commission of Ghana and IDEA, the participants were drawn from the Chairs, Secretaries-General of all political parties and Members of Parliament. IDEA provided knowledge on how to set up appropriate mechanisms to promote inter-party dialogue and, more importantly, provided a platform for the parties to reflect on the challenges facing Ghana's Inter-party Advisory Committee and make recommendations for improving its effectiveness.

Assessing the state of democracy

Since citizens are at the heart of democracy, any judgements about how it is working should be based on their input. IDEA's State of Democracy and State of Local Democracy methodologies empower citizens to assess the strengths and weaknesses of their own democracies, and to use the results to lobby for improvements and reforms. The assessment frameworks have been used in more than twenty countries since 2000.

Zambia finalized its State of Democracy assessment in 2011. The country made a successful transition from being a one-party state to becoming a multiparty democracy in the early 1990s and remains one of the few southern African countries to experience peaceful alternation of power between opposing parties. The Foundation for Democratic Process (FODEP) and the Department of Political and Administrative Studies at the University of Zambia conducted the assessment with support from IDEA. The process created a platform for engaging with a broad spectrum of citizens across the country, in which ordinary Zambians were able to share their experiences, views and suggestions. The final report, launched in December 2011, attracted high-level interest from Zambia's new government as well as broad support from the media, civil society and the international community. The report will be disseminated through the local partners and the exercise provides useful experiences for similar initiatives elsewhere in the region.



Assessing the Quality of Democracy: A Practical Guide

– now available in Arabic

This guide presents International IDEA's State of Democracy assessment framework, which has been developed to facilitate the conduct of comprehensive democracy assessments that are led and owned by local actors.

In 2008, the Maldives also made a peaceful transition from one-party rule to a multiparty democracy. As part of the strategy to consolidate its democratic processes, the Human Rights Commission of the Maldives and other local partners are planning to conduct a State of Democracy assessment from an economic and social rights perspective, using the IDEA methodology. The aim is to use the findings to identify pathways for further consolidation of democracy in the Maldives ahead of the country's next elections, scheduled for 2013.

Recent democracy assessments in the Philippines (2005, 2007 and 2010) have already illustrated how the assessment framework can be broken down and customized to a particular context. The team from Manila is now working with a team from the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao to conduct a State of Local Democracy assessment, due to be completed in 2012. Furthermore, one of the Filipino researchers travelled to Malé to share lessons learned with the potential Maldivian assessment team during a training workshop facilitated by IDEA at the end of October.

> The [Zambia State of Democracy] report comes at a very good time, with the new leadership in the country. We will read the report with keen interest because we have a desire to provide good governance to the people who gave us this opportunity to superintend over the affairs of the nation.
>
> Given Lubinda, *Zambia's Minister of Information, Tourism and Broadcasting, speaking at the launch of the Zambia State of Democracy Assessment Report.*

South Sudan became a sovereign nation in July 2011 and will now embark on a constitution building process.

Constitution Building Processes

Recent uprisings in the Arab world were inspired by a desire to end oppression and corruption and create new political and governance systems that reflect the views and aspirations of the people. While the existing constitutions of many Arab countries already express universally recognized rights and freedoms, they are frequently inadequate in terms of their capacity to advance democracy. For instance, they provide little space for true citizen participation in political processes and have ingrained gender imbalance. In addition, they often fail to create strong institutions together with the necessary checks and balances that maintain credibility. These factors have combined to promote a culture of corruption, oppression and state failure, hence the need to clean the slate and rebuild constitutions.

A formal constitution provides a blueprint for the operation of a state. It guarantees human rights and outlines mechanisms for their protection, as well as shaping the future of a nation. To be successful, the constitution building process should involve inclusive and participatory national deliberation, political negotiation, legal drafting and popular validation. Through its Constitution Building programme, International IDEA works with local, regional and global partners to raise awareness and provide the necessary technical assistance, capacity building and knowledge sharing needed to avoid conflict and consolidate democracy in the constitution building process.

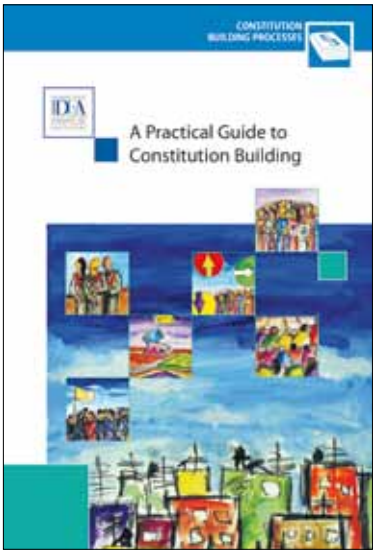
Constitution Building After Conflict: External support to a sovereign process

The international community is becoming increasingly involved in the resolution of civil and intra-state conflicts. In many cases, this leads into playing a role in national constitution building. However, outside intervention in constitution building is fraught with challenges. This paper contributes to ongoing dialogue among practitioners. It aims to present a policy perspective that calls for restrained and value-adding external support in constitution building.

IDEA's knowledge resources

A Practical Guide to Constitution Building

The result of four years' work, this newly published Guide (November 2011) aims to respond to the knowledge needs of politicians, policymakers and practitioners involved in constitution building by drawing lessons from recent trends and practice. The Guide offers a wide range of examples illustrating how constitutions develop and how they can help establish and entrench democratic values. Beyond comparative examples, the Guide contains in-depth analyses of key components of constitutions and the forces of change that shape them. The Guide is divided into seven chapters that can be read individually as stand-alone items, while the use of a consistent analytical framework across each chapter provides a deeper understanding of the range of issues and forces at work.



ConstitutionNet

The new web resource *Constitutionnet.org* further enhances IDEA's pool of online knowledge. *ConstitutionNet* allows legislators, constitutional lawyers

and other constitutional practitioners to find useful and relevant information, share knowledge and build a community of best practice.

Users registering to become members of ConstitutionNet can post comments and access analytical feeds on global constitutional developments, country constitutional profiles and search the database containing over 3000 official documents on selected constitutional change processes. The resource is continually updated and improved with news and developments in the world of constitution building. Plans are under way to activate a peer network and expert forum as well as to seek partnerships that will enhance the effectiveness of the resource and increase its reach to a wider practitioner community.

Interactive training resource for new practitioners

The new Constitution Building Training Programme builds the capacity of practitioners to solve constitution building problems through the sharing of experience. It is intended for politicians, public officials, legal practitioners, mediation experts, security sector staff, policy analysts, civil society advocates, media practitioners, lobbyists and international actors. Applying an interactive, problem-solving training methodology and a comparative approach, the curriculum is based on practical examples from around the world.

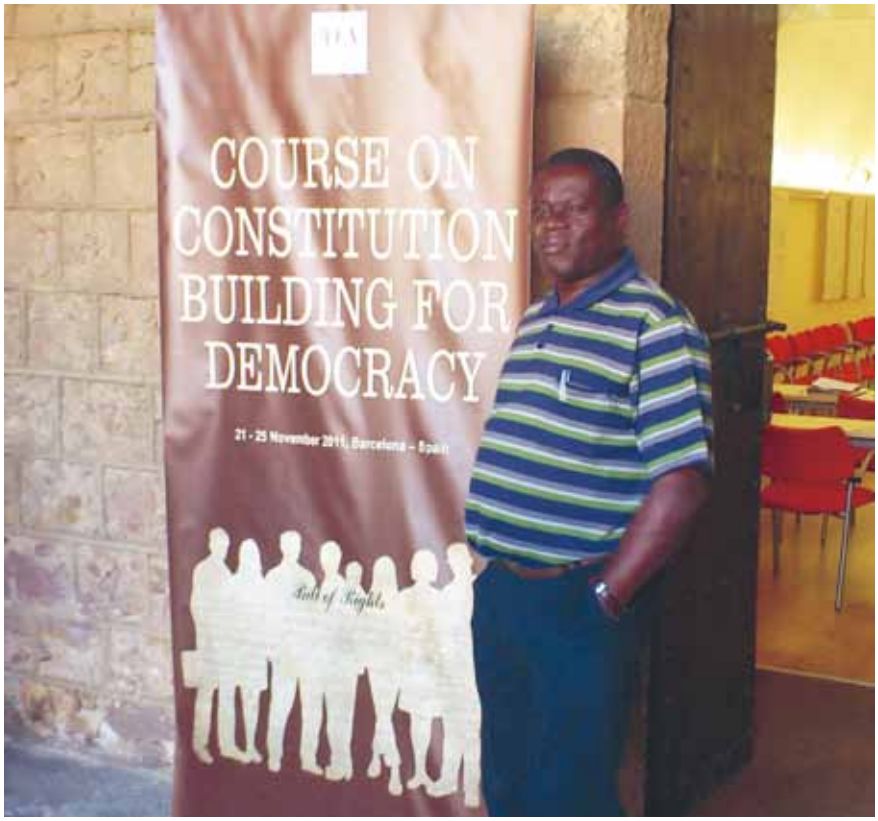
In 2011, three training courses based on the new material took place, one in Hong Kong, the second in Jakarta, and the third in Barcelona. At these events, a variety of stakeholders contributed feedback in order to strengthen the curriculum. Demand for constitution building training has been high and IDEA has been asked to conduct further training courses in Africa and Asia.

The Barcelona International Peace Resource Centre and IDEA jointly organized the Barcelona course, held in November. Among the twenty-five participants were gender and human rights activists, political party dialogue conveners, electoral specialists, legal and justice sector reformers, and parliamentary staff. Drawn from twenty different countries, all had a desire to learn how they can engage more effectively in constitutional reform and implementation processes, and to share information on solving relevant problems.

Using the IDEA six-stage constitution building cycle framework, the participants explored the issues through interactive exercises, presentations by constitutional and human rights specialists, and facilitated discussions. Several were surprised to discover so many shared challenges and all

Training on power sharing

To support United Nations Department of Political Affairs (DPA) staff enhance their knowledge of constitution building issues in post conflict contexts, IDEA organized a 'showcase' constitution building training course for their offices in New York in July. This was a milestone in the development of the training programme as it was the first time it had been presented to an international audience.
The course was based on Module 7: The Dynamics of Power Sharing in Constitution Building.



Course facilitator Okumba Miruka in Barcelona, November 2011.

valued the importance of learning through sharing experience with their peers. At the end of the course, participants pledged to undertake a variety of tasks in their own countries, which included creating a training course for women, liaising with opinion leaders to coordinate a media campaign on the constitutional reform process, initiating dialogue with stakeholders on contentious issues in the constitution, and conducting research into implementation of gender provisions in the new constitution.

Supporting constitution building in the Arab world

Tunisia takes the lead; first steps in Morocco

Tunisia has taken the lead in many aspects of democracy building since the Arab Spring. Following the successful election of a Constituent Assembly (CA), a group of experts has been established to assist the Assembly in drafting a new and democratic constitution. IDEA was asked to join this group to help identify the most relevant and potentially controversial topics. For each topic a Tunisian expert will develop a comprehensive

study from the national perspective, based on local legal traditions, culture and values. At the same time, an international expert will develop a parallel study to provide comparative experience and knowledge from around the world. The results will be discussed in workshops, with participation by local and international experts and members of the relevant CA committees. The conclusions, recommendations and lessons learned will feed into the constitution drafting process.

IDEA has developed a number of contacts with relevant authorities and civil society organizations in Morocco. IDEA's representatives continue to visit the country, where they are supporting the constitutional revision process through studies and an evaluation of the newly adopted amended constitution, which is expected to lead to further democratic reform. The outcomes will be discussed in a national conference planned for early 2012, which will also feed into the on-going processes of reform and national dialogue.

South-South Dialogue held in Cairo

In February 2011, former Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak relinquished his powers, and the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces was forced to adopt an interim Constitutional Declaration. This paved the way for elections and stipulated that the newly elected parliament should form a new constitutional drafting committee to write a new constitution.

In support of this process and action in the wider Arab world, International IDEA teamed up with the Egyptian Association for Community Participation Enhancement to host a South-South dialogue on Strengthening Constitutional Legitimacy through Inclusive and Participatory Drafting Processes. The

event was held in Cairo in October and allowed people to share experience, distil practical lessons and discuss common challenges. Importantly, they worked together to generate ideas for designing inclusive and participatory means of advancing political and constitutional reform processes throughout the Arab region. IDEA provided experience from practical cases studies from across Latin America, Asia and Africa which formed the basis for these discussions. On the third day, forty Egyptian participants joined a discussion on constitutional drafting and legitimacy to explore common practices that could be applied to the Egyptian context.

The event underlined the important role of constitution building in post-conflict and transitional settings and highlighted the need for democratic participation as the foundation on which to build new national constitutions to ensure their legitimacy, endurance and acceptability.

Building a constitution for the new Sudan

After more than thirty years of armed conflict, South Sudan officially became a sovereign nation in July 2011, following an earlier referendum. There are many hurdles to overcome as this new nation seeks to build a lasting constitutional framework that not only reflects its history and struggles, but also is capable of addressing its economic, social and political problems.

The IDEA Africa team visited South Sudan several times in 2011, meeting with politicians from the Ministries of Justice, Cabinet Affairs, Parliamentary Affairs and Foreign Affairs, as well as donors and representatives from international organizations and civil society. The team also participated in a strategy and planning workshop held by the South Sudan Law Review Commission, during which they discussed how IDEA could support the design of the constitution building process to ensure full participation and representation. Further engagement with stakeholders is anticipated in 2012 with the finalization of a formal plan of action.

Women Members of the Constituent Assembly: A study on the contribution of women in constitution making in Nepal

The election of 197 women to the Constituent Assembly of Nepal was a historic achievement and raised hope concerning gender equality in the country's constitution building process. The women come from many different backgrounds, and all have a story to tell.

Co-publishers: Women's Caucus, Constituent Assembly Secretariat and Nepal Law Society

Building a network of support in Nepal

IDEA has been working in Nepal since the Comprehensive Peace Agreement ended a decade of insurgency, popular protest and constitutional stalemate. However, the process of constitutional reform has been far from smooth, with continuing uncertainty relating to the peace process, new constitution and formation of government. From an original deadline of May 2010, the Constituent Assembly (CA) was granted three extensions during 2011 to produce the draft of the new constitution. Platforms for negotiation

IDEA has contributed effectively to the constitution making process by focusing on building a critical network of individuals and institutions in Nepal. IDEA has also generated a substantial degree of goodwill among the key players within the top echelons of Nepali political establishment. In terms of 'value for money' IDEA's investment through the project under review has been quite remarkable.

From external mid-term review of IDEA's Nepal project

and inclusion are therefore, still required and this is where IDEA helps, by providing platforms for Nepal's political parties to get together for dialogue.

Six inter-party dialogues took place in 2011 in addition to numerous inter-community discussions with regional parties and indigenous groups. Although differences of opinion remain, the parties are increasingly recognizing common ground in the constitution building process. The dialogues covered topics concerning the most contested issues, which include the form of government, electoral system and federal design.

The public needs information on the constitution building process in preparation for the country-wide public consultation due in March 2012. IDEA is helping to fill this gap by publishing bulletins and updates on current progress, and sharing this with the public through the fourteen regional constitution information centres across the country. The United Nations Development Fund and the Rights Democracy Inclusion Fund are providing funding for the centres, which have enabled around 40,000 people to participate in a range of discussions on the content of the new constitution.

Over the past two years, IDEA has been providing advice and secretarial support to both the Women's Caucus and the Indigenous Peoples' Caucus of the CA, helping them to draft their position papers, which are required to ensure their voices are heard and their agendas are taken on board in the final constitution.

Support for constitutional implementation in Latin America

…in Ecuador

Ecuador's new constitution, developed during the so-called *Revolución Ciudadana* (citizens' revolution) under the leadership of President Rafael Correa, was approved by referendum in September 2008, resulting in significant changes in the architecture of the State. At the same time, the country needs to develop and implement a new legal framework, state institutions need to be transformed and strengthened, and political parties rebuilt. In that sense, Ecuador's political situation is in a state of flux until the next elections in 2013.

The joint IDEA-Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD) programme *Agora Democrática* has been working in Ecuador for the past three years to support the decentralization process, the inclusion of gender equity in the new legislation, strengthening of political organizations, and dissemination of the constitution and laws. In 2011, the programme helped raise awareness and understanding of the new decentralization law by

compiling a '100 frequently asked questions', a tool that will be distributed among members of parliament, local authorities and civil society organizations. In addition, the programme supported the National Secretary of Planning and Development (SENPLADES) in building the National Plan of Decentralization by providing a consultant to coordinate several workshops that involved local authorities, civil society organizations, ordinary citizens and experts from SENPLADES and the National Competencies Council.

…in Bolivia

The Bolivian Constitution was approved in a referendum in January 2009, signalling a new phase of democracy and cultural values. Later that same year, the re-election of President Evo Morales reflected broad public support for the change process. The government now faces the challenge of developing legislation and adopting public policies to implement the principles and values enshrined in the new constitution. International IDEA has supported the constitutional reform process since the Constituent Assembly took office in August 2006. The Institute is currently assisting the Bolivian Congress – also known as the Plurinational Legislative Assembly – by offering technical assistance and establishing dialogues on critical issues. The current agenda includes the laws prioritized by Parliament, such as the Constitutional Procedures Law, the Public Ministry Law, and analysis and proposals for reformulating various codes governing the country's judicial system. A parliamentary guide is also being developed to help Congress members carry out their legislative oversight and management functions.

IDEA is also supporting the mainstreaming of gender in the legislative agenda. Members of the Congress, Regional Assemblies and other branches of government, civil society organizations such as Coordinadora de la Mujer are leading this work, with IDEA providing technical support. Advocacy is needed for each law on the agenda. This involves identifying important stakeholders and decision makers through making contact with ministers, vice ministers, the chamber presidents, the office of the Vice President, the heads of parliamentary caucuses, technical advisers and other opinion leaders.

It will take several years to bring national legislation into line with the new constitution. More than seventy laws are on the legislative agenda for 2012, and many will require strong advocacy for gender mainstreaming. IDEA will contribute to this process by working with local partners to identify priorities for action, providing specialized training and promoting dialogues for information exchange and negotiation on these issues.

We will
deliver.

Democracy and Development

Democracy opens up space for the poor to participate in defining the development agenda. Because political institutions in developing countries are often weak and ineffective however, development processes may not always include them. So how can democratic processes be improved to strengthen development outcomes? And how can development practices be more supportive of democracy building?

International IDEA's Democracy and Development programme works in Africa, Asia and Latin America to promote global policy discussions and develop knowledge and practical tools to strengthen political institutions so they can deliver on development. The Institute also promotes democracy building in international development efforts.

Addressing poverty, inequity and security in Latin America

Latin America is a unique region in many ways, and it has particular needs in the field of democracy and development. The good news is that nearly all countries enjoy democratic regimes; however, incomes are unequally distributed with around one third of the population living below the poverty line. Furthermore, the region suffers from the highest homicide rates in the world. Poverty, inequity and security therefore, remain key threats to the stability of the region's democracies.

The Second International Forum of Santo Domingo, Dialogue on Democracy, Development, Social Cohesion and Security in Latin America, created dialogue on the current situation and laid the foundations for the future agenda in tackling these issues. The event built on the momentum created by the first forum, held in 2009. Over sixty people attended, including the current President of the Dominican Republic, four former presidents, politicians, academics, journalists and representatives of international organizations. IDEA is producing a publication that summarizes the Forum outputs, which include discussions, presented papers, and the seven priorities identified for future action. The Presidency of the Dominican Republic, the Global Foundation for Democracy and Development, the Corporation for Latin America Studies and the Mother and Teacher Pontifical Catholic University (Pontificia Universidad Católica Madre y Maestra) jointly hosted the event, with IDEA providing organizational support and substantive input into the agenda. Financial support came from the Government of Spain.

Further discussion took place in December, when some fifty experts from international organizations, political leadership and the media came together in Costa Rica. The Economic Commission for Latin America and

Even though the topic of democracy almost always implies more questions than answers, it is only through dialogue and rigorous study that sensible proposals can be attained, and that is why seminars such as this one are so relevant.

Carlos Ricardo Benavides, *Costa Rica Minister of the Presidency, speaking at the National Visions seminar in Costa Rica.*

the Caribbean, the Peace and Democracy Foundation (Fundación para la Paz y la Democracia or FUNPADEM) and International IDEA co-organized the seminar, entitled National Visions: Social Dialogue and Democratic Strengthening, with sponsorship from Denmark. Participants acknowledged that, although significant progress had been made over the past thirty years, they still needed a clearer vision for democracy and development in the future. They agreed to develop a proper strategy with the commitment of political and social actors in each country, as well as bringing the private sector to work together with the state in a shared agenda. As a follow-up, IDEA and FUNPADEM are launching a publication, which will be used as baseline on which to build new projects and joint activities in the region.

Building a culture of consensus in Bolivia

Decentralization of power, giving autonomy to the nine regions that constitute the country, is one of the pillars of the new Bolivian constitution. However, the Regional Legislative Assemblies remain the weakest links in the decentralization process. For this reason, IDEA was asked to work with these assemblies, providing assistance to strengthen their institutional frameworks and helping them draft their Regional Autonomy Statutes. In addition, IDEA has been working with local partners for the past two years on the design and mandate of the regional authorities, and by establishing platforms for dialogue among various stakeholders, including elected politicians, civil society organizations, indigenous groups and women's groups. An important item on the agenda is to ensure that the wealth created by developing the country's rich natural resources will be distributed fairly in order to eliminate poverty and stimulate equitable economic growth. The initiative aims to create a culture of dialogue, develop concrete plans built on consensus, and capitalize on resources and assets to reduce poverty and improve equality. These are ambitious goals but functioning institutions are already in place, giving a strong signal of hope to other countries in Latin America embarking on similar processes.

Towards more inclusive democracy and development in Peru

The development of natural resources is a contentious issue throughout the Andean region, especially when a project is located in the traditional homelands of minority groups. Economic growth is a major driver of development but it is equally important that new projects remain sensitive to local needs and concerns. Driven by the International Labour Organization, Convention 169 is a requirement to promote state consultation in the face of any large development project, such as building a dam, in an indigenous area.

The Peruvian government signed this legally binding international instrument in 1993, and it took effect in February 1995. Within the framework of this convention, the Prior Consultation Law – for which enabling legislation is currently being developed – was enacted in September 2011. Local indigenous groups and government representatives are working together for appropriate legislation and implementation of the law. IDEA is assisting with capacity building and convening meetings – often in remote areas – to empower local people and gather feedback from all groups. The plan is to expand these activities to Bolivia, Colombia and Ecuador and to offer capacity building for group leaders, government officials and others who express an interest and need. At the same time, the initiative is contributing valuable information to IDEA's knowledge base on national development issues.

During 2011, several Peruvian institutions asked IDEA to provide support to their development agendas. First, the non-governmental organization Round Table Group for the Fight against Poverty (Mesa de Concertación para la Lucha contra la Pobreza) asked IDEA to provide technical and logistical support to its work in facilitating the signing of specific sub-national agreements on good governance. These agreements laid the foundations for a subsequent national proposal outlining priorities for combating poverty, which was developed in consensus with the presidential candidates and signed by them in April. Disseminating the agreement through a supplement in a national daily newspaper gained broad awareness, and the Round Table Group is now monitoring the results.

Second – as part of the strategic partnership between IDEA and Spain's Elcano Royal Institute (Real Instituto Elcano) – the two organizations held an international seminar in Spain with the aim to support the various Peruvian political positions as they advance towards consensus for the 2011–2016 government administration, and to facilitate dialogue between Peruvian and Spanish political stakeholders. The seminar helped identify points of consensus, especially the need to promote strategies for addressing inequality as well as generating economic and social development. The multiparty group warned of the increasing weakness of political organizations (parties and movements) and reaffirmed its commitment to maintaining and reinforcing democracy and good governance.

The Pontifical Catholic University of Peru (Pontifica Universidad Católica del Peru), Consortium for Economic and Social Research (Consorcio de Investigación Económica y Social) and several other organizations asked IDEA to contribute to the development of fifteen policy papers designed to guide inclusive and sustainable development in Peru for the first 100 days, the first year, and the first five years of the next administration.

IDEA team member takes up public office

Rafael Roncagliolo, IDEA's Senior Political Advisor for the Andean Region, was named Minister of Foreign Affairs for Peru in July 2011. Roncagliolo's appointment can be interpreted as a signal of the new government's commitment to the important issues of integration, transparency, human rights, democracy and inclusion.

Calls for change of thinking on development in Africa

Despite a continuous flow of international development aid into Africa, the economies of the majority of its countries stubbornly refuse to grow. In fact, for most Africans, incomes are lower than they were twenty years ago and malnourishment remains widespread. Many factors have been blamed for Africa's poor economic development, but the one cited most often is the lack of democracy and enabling policies. However, the continent's diverse traditional, cultural and historical landscape does provide a variety of innovative good practices in democratic development, offering valuable lessons to those involved in democracy building elsewhere. For example, in Botswana and Ghana, strong traditional institutions coexist peacefully and share democratic space with modern ones. Meanwhile, research in post-conflict countries – such as Liberia, Rwanda and Sierra Leone – shows how traditional values and practices can be invoked to promote transitional justice, including reconciliation and reconstruction.

To share and promote learning from such experiences, the African Academy of Languages and the Institute for African Renaissance Studies asked IDEA to work with them to organize a conference in Pretoria, South Africa in September on the theme African Renaissance, Integration, Unity and Development. IDEA's knowledge resources provided the background for presentations on a range of topics, including the contribution to democracy of traditional African governance institutions, the challenge of managing democratic elections, and how to increase women's participation in politics. Furthermore, the current strategies for African renaissance in the wake of globalization, focusing on the role of traditional culture were analysed.

The partners plan to build on this event by identifying and recording cases of good practice throughout the African continent. These can then be used to promote further learning opportunities.

Designing politics for development

Despite decades of research, evidence on the developmental effects of democracy is still inconclusive. There is no strong consensus on the causal link between regime type and development, since in reality some democracies deliver on development and others do not. So, how can democratic politics be designed to promote economic growth and social development, and what role do political institutions play? An IDEA-organized meeting held in Stockholm in December addressed these questions. The dialogue, the first in a series under the umbrella Democracy in Development Strategies, aimed to increase understanding of the conditions that enable democracies to deliver on development as well as those that hinder the process.

A mix of academics and practitioners joined in panel discussions and presentations based on research findings, empirical observation and practitioners' experience in Brazil, India and Turkey. By sharing knowledge and experience, they were able to identify some of the key political and institutional factors that may determine success or failure, as well as the inherent properties of democracy that can facilitate or constrain economic growth, social development and effective service delivery.

The second dialogue held under IDEA's Democracy in Development Strategies initiative took place in Somaliland. Key political figures joined other stakeholders to discuss how aid delivery could better support home-grown democracy. In addition to reviewing cutting-edge literature on political design for development, the participants examined case studies from Somaliland and Tanzania on the impact of aid on democracy.

The Democracy in Development Strategies project will continue to provide advice in the strengthening of democratic ownership and accountability in the aid agenda, working with the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). The OECD has already adopted best practice guidelines for donors in an effort to improve electoral cycle management, strengthen political parties and work towards more comprehensive approaches to accountability.

How do you measure accountability?

Many countries need to improve the substantive elements of democracy and its checks and balances to ensure that public goods are delivered according to citizens' expectations. To improve understanding and implementation of democratic accountability in service delivery, International IDEA is gathering knowledge and collecting examples of best practice as well as developing a practical self-assessment tool (see IDEA Annual Report 2010).

The Toolkit for the Assessment of Democratic Accountability in Service Delivery was tested in two pilot studies in 2011, in Lesotho and Bolivia. Both pilots provided valuable feedback that will be used to further develop and modify the toolkit. The study in Lesotho investigated democratic accountability in the service provided by the Lesotho Mounted Police Force. The assessment team, led by the National University of Lesotho, used focus groups and personal interviews to investigate the challenges facing the police and the current mechanisms for holding responsible government officials accountable. The team found that the Lesotho Police have put in place political mechanisms for democratic accountability between parliament and the executive. However, these are not effective in channelling the concerns of the citizens. Government ministers and police managers cooperated fully with the assessment and welcomed the opportunity to create reform-oriented dialogue as a means of improving their accountability deficits.

Working with local partners, IDEA conducted a pilot study on the mechanisms for democratic accountability in two health insurance schemes in Bolivia, one for mothers and the other for the elderly. The study identified several problems concerning the healthcare provided. Medicines were not delivered promptly, there were insufficient specialized staff (particularly for the elderly in rural areas) and there were frequent delays in transferring budget allocations. The assessment revealed that formal and informal mechanisms for accountability existed within and between branches of government, but there were no specific mechanisms to address accountability for individual public services. As a result of the pilot study, several stakeholders have asked IDEA for assistance in the formulation of amendments to the existing legislation on social control.

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Global and Regional Cooperation

International IDEA builds synergy and maximizes its impact by collaborating closely with global multi-lateral organizations and bilateral partners. Similarly, by contributing to the international debate, IDEA supports the process of sustainable democracy development worldwide.

United Nations

Democracy building is linked to each of the three United Nations (UN) pillars – security, development and human rights – all of which are essential requirements for world peace. As a Permanent Observer to the United Nations, International IDEA supports the UN's objectives by contributing to policy debates, sharing knowledge and working with partners to implement democracy building initiatives.

From the left: Vidar Helgesen, Helen Clarke, Ban Ki-moon, and Michelle Bachelet, May 2011.

As part of a series of roundtables on the UN approach to supporting democracy, International IDEA was asked to assist with organizing a discussion on democracy and human rights at UN Headquarters in New York in July 2011. The event focused on international support given to consolidate democracy in situations of regime change. Case study examples were discussed as a basis for examining local perceptions on international support and its impact in promoting a rights-based approach to governance. Another event in July at the UN Security Council (SC) helped share experience in early warning and action to prevent election related violence. The seminar focused on early-warning tools, indicators and assessment methodologies and their contribution to the UN agenda on assessing the risk of conflict associated with electoral processes. It compared different experiences and mechanisms used to prevent and mitigate election related violence, and highlighted the role of civil society and education in building a democratic culture. IDEA's electoral risk management tool was presented (see page 11). South Africa, in its capacity as Chair of the *SC ad hoc* Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa, organized the event with assistance from IDEA and the Electoral Assistance Division of the UN Department of Political Affairs (DPA).

> Gender equality must be treated as an explicit goal of democracy building, not as an add-on.
>
> *UN Secretary-General,*
> Ban Ki-moon,
> *at the Roundtable on Democracy and Gender Equality, May 2011*

Sustained action in support of women's political participation and representation was called for at a high-level roundtable in May, opened by UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon. IDEA joined with UN DPA, the UN Development Programme (UNDP), and the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) to organize the event, Democracy and Gender Equality. A lively debate was generated among the 200 or more representatives of the UN Member States, intergovernmental and civil society organizations, academic institutions and think tanks, and a live webcast generated an online discussion on the iKNOW Politics portal (see page 24). In addition to highlighting the main priorities for increasing women's participation in politics, the event stressed the key policy and operational implications for UN efforts.

The series of roundtables and interactive panels organized by IDEA in partnership with the working group on democracy of the UN Executive Committee on Peace and Security have contributed to the development of policy-relevant recommendations on the role of the UN in democracy assistance. These are informing on-going debates on democracy building, one of the priority areas for UN action.

Democracy, Peace and Security: The Role of the UN

This discussion paper highlights recommendations that emerged from a round table on the United Nation's role in promoting democracy, peace and security, organized by International IDEA, together with the UN Department of Political Affairs, the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the UN Development Programme. It is available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, and Spanish.

Co-publisher: United Nations, United Nations Development Programme

African Union

The African Union (AU) has a longstanding relationship with International IDEA, reinforced by the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in 2007. The MoU encompasses a five-year Joint Activity Plan, outlining the key programmes of collaboration, which includes support to the implementation of the *African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance*. The main thread of IDEA's support for this initiative is to share experience from Latin America and Asia via its knowledge resources and networks, thereby helping countries drive forward their own democratic processes and reforms by adapting what has been done successfully elsewhere in the global South. IDEA opened a liaison office in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in October 2011 to facilitate the Joint Activity Plan.

The AU held its 16th Summit in Addis Ababa in January 2011. One of the Summit goals was to strengthen commitment towards democratic governance across the continent. IDEA worked with the conference organizers to produce a working paper, *Towards greater unity and integration through shared values*. IDEA staff took part in a series of discussions finalizing this document, which was presented to the participating Heads of State. The paper emphasizes that African unity is essentially built upon collective interests and a set of ideals, principles, values and norms that form the basis for democracy and the rule of law.

The AU's strategic thinking is supported by IDEA through regular events designed for exchanging views, stimulating quality policy debates, and promoting dialogue on current political issues and the most effective ways for the AU to deal with them. Working with the AU's Department of Political Affairs, IDEA contributed to a brainstorming session for developing an AU plan of action for 2012, which has been denoted the Year of Shared Values. The aim is to strengthen the commitment of AU Member States in the areas of democracy and governance, accountability, transparency, rule of law, elections, human rights and free movement of persons. IDEA's support will focus on building capacity within the AU, so it can better oversee the various tools and instruments used by its Member States in their work to strengthen democracy.

The Second Forum on Democracy and Human Rights, held in Addis Ababa in October, furthered inter-regional collaboration and cooperation between the AU and the Organization of American States (OAS). Participants at the IDEA co-organized event discussed the ways in which Africa and the Americas have furthered the cause of democracy and human rights through their Democratic Charters and human rights systems. The AU, OAS and International IDEA agreed to implement a programme of activities recommended by the Forum.

I have always maintained that a more inclusive approach and reflective engagement with experts and stakeholders would facilitate consensus on the future policy path of the AU in shared values and in particular on governance and democracy.

Dr Mamadou Dia, *Head of the Division of Governance, Human Rights and Elections of the AU Commission, speaking at a brain-storming session on the Year of Shared Values, August 2011.*

Organization of American States

The Organization of American States (OAS) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with International IDEA in 2010. This is supported by a Joint Action Plan which runs through 2012. A large part of the collaborative activities are focused towards strengthening the *Inter-American Democratic Charter*, which celebrated its tenth anniversary in 2011. To mark this occasion, the two organizations joined up with others to hold a sub-regional dialogue in Costa Rica in May, and a special 'Hemispheric Commemoration' in Chile in September. The sub-regional dialogue provided a forum for stakeholders from the Central American Integration System (Sistema de la Integración Centroamericana or SICA) and Mexico to discuss the opportunities and challenges presented by the Charter. Their conclusions and recommendations are summarized in a publication that is already being used as a baseline on which to further strengthen democratic processes in the region. Participants at the commemoration meeting recognized the significance of the Charter in marking the beginning of a new era of democracy building in the region and agreed to promote, disseminate and broaden knowledge of the Charter and its implications.

League of Arab States

In response to rapidly changing political events in the Arab world, International IDEA intensified its collaboration with the League of Arab States (LAS) in 2011. In July, a Cairo Dialogue was held on building democracy at the LAS headquarters in Cairo. Working with the UN Alliance of Civilizations, IDEA provided a range of knowledge resources on democracy building processes. At the event, international, regional and Egyptian experts, together with opinion leaders, exchanged experience and identified priorities in the transitional processes. The outcomes of the discussions are being used by IDEA to shape its activities to best support the on-going transition to democracy in the region.

Inter-regional dialogue on democracy

International IDEA began facilitating inter-regional dialogue on democracy in 2008 as part of an initiative to deepen understanding of European Union democracy support (see report on *Global consultations on the EU's role in democracy building* in the IDEA Annual Report 2009). The discussions highlighted the need for continuing the established dialogue on democracy and related issues at the regional level, allowing the regional organization members (see box) to share experience and expand their cooperation, taking into account the differences in their mandates, contexts, characters and capacities.

Partners in the Inter-regional dialogue on democracy

The current partners are: the African Union, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the European Union, the League of Arab States, the Organization of American States, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation and the Pacific Islands Forum, with International IDEA acting as facilitator.

Discussion with heads and representatives of the regional organizations led to the launch of the Inter-Regional Dialogue on Democracy in April 2011 at the headquarters of the OAS in Washington DC, USA. The Dialogue provides for an annual meeting of the regional organization heads, an annual workshop, and a virtual resource centre and secretariat hosted by IDEA.

The first Dialogue workshop, held in December 2011 in Stockholm, explored the role of the regional organizations in promoting and protecting the integrity of elections, particularly the sharing of experience with a view to making electoral observation more effective, and exploring the feasibility of inter-regional electoral observation missions. The discussions illustrated the different types of knowledge held and the political difficulties faced by the regional organizations.

The second meeting of the Heads of Regional Organizations – to be hosted by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in May 2012 in Jakarta – will focus on promoting inclusive political participation.

Launch of the Inter-Regional Dialogue on Democracy, Washington DC, USA, April 2011.

New in 2011:
Supporting democratic transition in Haiti

Haiti became the first independent Caribbean state when its citizens rebelled against French colonial control in the early 1800s. However, decades of environmental degradation, inequality, violence, instability and dictatorship have left the majority of Haiti's citizens in desperate poverty. New opportunities for peaceful democratic transition in Haiti opened up in 2011 with the election of a new president – Michel Martelly – who favours reconciliation and participation, and the reaffirmation by the international community to support Haiti's recovery and reconstruction in the wake of the 2010 earthquake.

International IDEA's involvement in Haiti, supported by the Government of Norway, aims to reconnect state and citizens and enhance democratic governability through a strengthened common commitment for accountable, credible and effective institutions and processes. Given the complex, evolving and volatile political situation, the project has adopted a flexible, process-based approach. Its specific outputs and activities are being fine-tuned by working closely with Haitian stakeholders and developing appropriate activities in response to their priorities. To date, the identified activities will focus on strengthening political representation and participation, improving the effectiveness of political parties, constitutional reform, improving electoral processes and supporting economic development.

Publications Released in 2011: Highlights

Ar Arabic
En English
Es Spanish
Fr French
Hy Armenian
Id Bahasa Indonesia
My Burmese
Ne Nepali
Pt Portuguese
Ru Russian
Th Thai
PDF

The following publications are available in electronic form at www.idea.int and can be downloaded free of charge.

Electoral Processes

Introducing Electronic Voting
Essential Considerations
2011, 36 pp
ISBN 978-91-86565-21-3 En

Electoral Management Design
An Overview of the International IDEA Handbook
2011, 38 pp
ISBN: 978-91-86586-48-0 En Es Fr Ar
NOW IN ARABIC

Electoral System Design
An Overview of the International IDEA Handbook
2011, 24 pp
ISBN: 978-91-86565-49-7 En Ar Pt Ne
NOW IN ARABIC

Electoral Justice
An Overview of the International IDEA Handbook
2011, 80 pp
ISBN: 978-91-86565-15-2 En Id Es Th
NOW IN Th/Es/Id

Code of Conduct
Political Parties Campaigning in Democratic Elections
2011, 36 pp
ISBN 978-91-86565-16-9 En Fr Ru Es Th
NOW IN THAI

Democracy and Gender

Designing for Equality
Best-fit, Medium-fit and Non-favourable Combinations of Electoral Systems and Gender Quotas
2011, 40 pp
ISBN 978-91-86565-40-4 En Es Ar Hy Ne My
NOW IN BURMESE

Women Members of the Constituent Assembly
A Study on the Contribution of Women in Constitution Making in Nepal
Co-publishers: Women's Caucus, Constituent Assembly Secretariat and Nepal Law Society
2011, 906 pp
ISBN 978-91-86565-35-0 En Ne

Parlamentos sensibles al género
El estado de la cuestión en América Latina (Gender mainstreaming in Latin American Parliaments: A work in progress)
Co-publisher: Inter-Parliamentary Union
2011, 55 pp
ISBN 978-91-86565-18-3 Es En

Ojos que no ven
Cobertura mediática y género en las elecciones latinoamericanas (Unseeing Eyes: Media Coverage and Gender in Latin American Elections)
Co-publisher: United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)
2011, 94 pp
ISBN 978-91-86565-20-6 Es En

Mirando con lentes de género la cobertura electoral
Manual de monitoreo de medios (Election Coverage from a Gender Perspective. A Media Monitoring Manual)

Co-publisher: United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)
2011, 51 pp
ISBN 978-91-86565-08-4 Es En

Democracy Assessments

Assessing the Quality of Democracy
A Practical Guide
2011, 331 pp
ISBN 978-91-86565-02-2 En Es Fr Ar

NOW IN ARABIC

Constitution Building Processes

A Practical Guide to Constitution Building *contains seven stand-alone chapters, which may be ordered separately or as a collection in one box. The full Guide is available as PDF, ePub and Kindle files.*

A Practical Guide to Constitution Building
2011, 346 pp
ISBN 978-91-86565-38-1 En

A Practical Guide to Constitution Building
An Introduction
2011, 80 pp
ISBN 978-91-86565-28-2 En

A Practical Guide to Constitution Building
Principles and Cross-cutting Themes
2011, 72 pp
ISBN 978-91-86565-29-9 En

A Practical Guide to Constitution Building
Building a Culture of Human Rights
2011, 72 pp
ISBN 978-91-86565-30-5 En

A Practical Guide to Constitution Building
The Design of the Executive Branch
2011, 56 pp
ISBN 978-91-86565-31-2 En

A Practical Guide to Constitution Building
The Design of the Legislature
2011, 72 p
ISBN 978-91-86565-32-9 En

A Practical Guide to Constitution Building
The Design of the Judicial Branch
2011, 88 pp
ISBN 978-91-86565-33-6 En

A Practical Guide to Constitution Building
Decentralized Forms of Government
2011, 64 pp
ISBN 978-91-86565-34-3 En

Constitution Building After Conflict
External Support to a Sovereign Process
2011, 22 pp
ISBN 978-91-86565-17-6 En Ar

Crosscutting Themes

Democratic Dialogue
A Handbook for Practitioners

Co-publishers: Canadian International Development Agency, the Organization of American States and the United Nations Development Programme
2011, 260 pp
ISBN 978-91-86565-19-0 En Es Fr Ar

NOW IN ARABIC

International IDEA's Databases and Networks

ACE Electoral Knowledge Network www.aceproject.org
The ACE Electoral Knowledge Network provides comprehensive and authoritative information on elections. It promotes networking among election-related professionals and offers capacity development services. The ACE Electoral Knowledge Network is a partnership between Elections Canada, the Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa (EISA), Instituto Federal Electoral – Mexico (IFE), the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), International IDEA, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), and the United Nations Electoral Assistance Division (UNEAD).

Agora – Portal for Parliamentary Development www.agora-parl.org
AGORA, the Portal for Parliamentary Development, is a one-stop reference centre and hub for knowledge sharing on parliamentary development. This multilateral, global initiative brings together parliamentarians, parliamentary staff, donors and practitioners, as well as academics, civil society and the media.

BRIDGE www.bridge-project.org
BRIDGE stands for Building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Elections and is the most comprehensive professional development course available in election administration. The five BRIDGE partners are the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC), International IDEA, the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Electoral Assistance Division (UNEAD).

ConstitutionNet www.constitutionnet.org
The ConstitutionNet website is a joint initiative between International IDEA and Interpeace designed to support constitution builders globally. The website serves as a knowledge portal on constitution building, and contains news and views and a calendar of key events.

Direct Democracy www.idea.int/dd
World survey of direct democracy in 214 countries and territories.

Electoral Justice www.idea.int/ej
This database includes comparative information about electoral dispute resolution mechanisms from all over the world.

Electoral System Design www.idea.int/esd
This database contains relevant information about the electoral systems used in over 200 countries and territories worldwide. The data are presented by country, by region and globally.

GEPPAL – Gender and Political Parties in Latin America
www.iadb.org/research/geppal
This database provides comparative data on women and men in political parties in Latin America, based on a survey of 94 political parties from 18

countries in the region. This is a joint International IDEA and the Inter-American Development Bank initiative.

Global Database of Quotas for Women www.quotaproject.org

This is a global database of comparative information on the use and impact of gender quotas. The project is a collaboration between International IDEA, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and Stockholm University.

International Knowledge Network of Women in Politics: iKNOW Politics www.iknowpolitics.org

This online workspace is designed to serve the needs of elected officials, candidates, leaders and members of political parties, researchers, students and other practitioners interested in advancing the position of women in politics. Versions are available in Arabic, English, French and Spanish. The Network is a joint project of IDEA, IPU, NDI, UNDP, and UN Women.

UPDATED IN 2011

Political Finance Database www.idea.int/political-finance

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

State of Democracy Network www.idea.int/sod

This website includes an interactive version of International IDEA's State of Democracy Assessment Framework, and a collection of assessments conducted around the world, as well as interviews, related publications, links, and an Ask the Expert feature.

The Unified Database www.idea.int/uid

The Unified Database provides a unique ability to cross-reference and search International IDEA's different databases. It incorporates community-supported data and resources on: direct democracy; electoral justice; electoral systems; gender quotas; voting from abroad; and voter turnout. Maps are available for each theme with data, and the user can choose to view country by country or conduct a customized search.

Voter Turnout www.idea.int/vt

The International IDEA Voter Turnout database is the most comprehensive global collection of voter turnout statistics available. It contains voter turnout figures on a country basis for all national presidential and parliamentary elections since 1945, as well as for European Parliament elections.

Voting from Abroad www.idea.int/vfa

This database presents comparative information on external voting practices worldwide. It covers 214 countries and related territories. The data are presented by country, by region and globally.

About International IDEA

Member States

International IDEA is an intergovernmental organization that supports sustainable democracy worldwide. International IDEA's Member States are all democracies and provide both political and financial support to the work of the Institute. The Member States include Australia, Barbados, Belgium, Botswana, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, Costa Rica, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Finland, Germany, Ghana, India, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Namibia, the Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Uruguay. Japan has observer status.

Governance

International IDEA is governed by a Council composed of its Member States and assisted by a Board of Advisers.

Mr Vidar Helgesen, Norway's former Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, is the Secretary-General.

From the left: Vidar Helgesen, Trinidad Jiménez García-Herrera and Mahmoud Jibril.

Democracy Forum 2011

IDEA's 2011 Democracy Forum was held in conjunction with the 20th Session of the Council of Member States of International IDEA in November in Madrid, Spain.

Opened by Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs Trinidad Jiménez García-Herrera, former Prime Minister of the Libyan National Transitional Council Mahmoud Jibril, and IDEA Secretary-General Vidar Helgesen, the main focus was on how to sustain the momentum of democratization in the Arab world.

International IDEA's Board of Advisers

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

MS MICHELLE BACHELET *(Chile), former President of Chile, Under Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women*

DR ANNIE CHIKWANHA *(Zimbabwe), Research, Training and Policy Analysis Independent Consultant in Democracy, Governance, Human Security, and Peace & Conflict*

AMBASSADOR ANTONIO NÚÑEZ GARCÍA-SAUCO *(Spain), Ambassador of Spain to Sweden*

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

DR MANOHAR SINGH GILL *(India), Minister of Youth and Sports, Minister of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha)*

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

DR SOLEDAD LOAEZA *(Mexico), Member of the National Research System of Mexico, Professor and Researcher at the Centre of International Studies of El Colegio de México*

MR LETHEBE MAINE* *(Botswana), Lawyer with a private practice in Gaborone, the Founding Ombudsman of Botswana from 1997 to 2005*

PROFESSOR ADEBAYO OLUKOSHI *(Nigeria), Director, African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP), Dakar*

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

PROFESSOR CHERYL SAUNDERS *(Australia), Director, Centre for Comparative Constitutional Studies, University of Melbourne, Laureate Professor of the Melbourne Law School and Associate Dean of the Melbourne Law Masters Programme*

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

PROFESSOR LOURDES SOLA *(Brazil), President of the International Political Science Association (IPSA), Professor at University of São Paulo's Department of Political Science*

MS MARGOT WALLSTRÖM *(Sweden), UN Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict*

Honorary Board Member:

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

* Mr Lethebe Maine passed away in November 2011.

Financial Overview

2011 Financial Statements

A summary of the 2011 Balance Sheet and Income Statement for International IDEA is set out in Table 1.

Total revenues for 2011 amounted to EUR 20.89 Million (2010 EUR 21.78M). Total reserves as at the end of 2011 amounted to EUR 11.47 Million (2010 EUR 13.00M).

Table 1
BALANCE SHEET
As at 31 December 2011 and 2010
(In thousands of Euros)

Euro	2011	2010
ASSETS		
Cash and Bank	18,319	19,579
Receivables		
Contributions	592	553
Prepaid Expenses/Accrued Income	474	28
	1,066	581
Other Receivables		
Value Added Tax	78	123
Field Office Advances	-	-
Other	155	15
	233	138
TOTAL ASSETS	19,617	20,299
LIABILITIES AND RESERVES		
Accounts Payable		
Trade Creditors and Accruals	2,422	2,103
Personnel Liabilities	925	952
Contributions	4,795	4,245
	8,143	7,299
Reserves	11,474	13,000
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND RESERVES	19,617	20,299

INCOME STATEMENT
For the years ended 31 December, 2011 and 2010 (In thousands of Euros)

Euro	2011	2010
Revenues and Gains		
Contributions	20,891	21,775
Other revenues and gains	1,104	1,401
Total revenues and gains	21,995	23,176
Expenses		
Programmes	21,196	15,234
Management and Administration	2,325	3,507
Total expenses	23,520	18,741
NET SURPLUS	(1,525)	4,435

2011 Funding Overview

Total funding for 2011 amounted to EUR 20.89 Million and was comprised of;

* Member State Core Funding EUR 12.59M (2010 EUR 12.46M);
* Restricted Project Funding EUR 8.30M (2010 EUR 9.31M);
* Other Income EUR 1.10M (2010 EUR 1.40M).

Details of Core and Project funding by Member States or other Donors is set out in Table 2.

Table 2
SOURCES OF CONTRIBUTIONS
For the years ended 31 December 2011, and 2010 (Euros).

DONORS	2011	2010
CORE CONTRIBUTIONS	**12,589,036**	**12,464,168**
Australia	223,410	307,080
Barbados	6,966	7,490
Belgium	0	0
Botswana	13,932	14,980
Canada	720,400	724,400
Cape Verde	0	0
Chile	123,082	142,015
Costa Rica	3,483	3,745
Denmark	402,300	403,200
Dominican Republic	0	0
Finland	345,000	345,000
Ghana	1,530	3,118
Germany	400,000	400,000
India	36,630	37,450
Mauritius	6,966	7,490
Mexico	34,830	37,450
Mongolia	5,000	0
Namibia	1,431	0
Netherlands	1,500,000	2,000,000
Norway	2,236,350	2,076,650
Peru	0	0
Portugal	0	0
South Africa	25,425	50,800
Spain	150,000	250,000
Sweden	5,473,300	5,081,300
Switzerland	877,140	572,000
Uruguay	1,862	0

	2011	2010
RESTRICTED PROJECT CONTRIBUTIONS	8,302,187	9,310,650
Australia		
Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID)	952,900	261,802
Belgium		
The Ministry of Foreign Affairs	0	201,343
Canada		
Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)	35,800	0
International Development Research Centre (IDRC)	0	1,836
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT)	48,443	0
Denmark		
Embassy of Denmark	0	0
European Union		
The European Commission	1,214,726	1,783,014
Finland		
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	143,926	106,611
Germany		
Deutsche Gesellschaft fur Technishe Zusammenarbeit (GTZ)	0	0
Inter-American Development Bank	111,512	0
Italy		
The Ministry of Foreign Affairs	0	491,164
Japan	0	0
Norway		
The Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs	3,616,169	3,999,064
Organization of American States	47,184	23,224
Romania		
The Ministry of Foreign Affairs	30,988	0
Spain		
The Spanish Agency for International Cooperation (AECI)	528,401	603,423
Ayuntamiento de Madrid	43,080	84,288
Sweden		
The Ministry of Foreign Affairs	414,021	485,864
Switzerland		
The Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs	380,579	171,430
The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation	0	0
United Nations		
The United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF)	0	0
The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	616,459	1,014,998
The United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)	13,267	0
The United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)	0	82,588
The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women	55,426	0
United States of America		
The Ford Foundation	49,304	0
TOTAL CORE AND EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS	**20,891,223**	**21,774,818**

INTERNATIONAL IDEA AT A GLANCE

What is International IDEA?

The International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA) is an intergovernmental organization that supports sustainable democracy worldwide.

International IDEA's mission is to support sustainable democratic change through providing comparative knowledge, and assisting in democratic reform, and influencing policies and politics.

What does International IDEA do?

In the field of elections, constitution building, political parties, women's political empowerment, democracy self-assessments, and democracy and development, IDEA undertakes its work through three activity areas:

- providing comparative knowledge and experience derived from practical experience on democracy building processes from diverse contexts around the world;
- assisting political actors in reforming democratic institutions and processes, and engaging in political processes when invited to do so; and
- influencing democracy building policies through the provision of our comparative knowledge resources and assistance to political actors.

Where does International IDEA work?

International IDEA works worldwide. Based in Stockholm, Sweden, the Institute has offices located in the Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America, and West Asia and North Africa regions.

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