Geographic definitions of regions in *The Global State of Democracy*

Background Paper

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In order to examine and compare trends in democracy and resilience, *The Global State of Democracy 2017: Exploring Democracy's Resilience* (International IDEA 2017a) groups countries according to geographical and political factors. This Background Paper outlines the geographical divisions that underpin the qualitative analysis in the publication, as well as the quantitative analysis based on the Global State of Democracy indices (International IDEA 2017b). For information purposes, it also lists organizations mentioned in the publication.

This Background Paper consists of three sections. Section 1 outlines the geographical and regional divisions for independent countries used in *The Global State of Democracy*. Section 2 outlines the divisions used in the quantitative analysis. Section 3 lists the organizations mentioned in the full publication.

The Global State of Democracy aims to provide policymakers with an evidence-based analysis of the state of global democracy, supported by the Global State of Democracy (GSoD) indices, in order to inform policy interventions and identify problem-solving approaches to trends affecting the quality of democracy around the world. The first edition, published in 2017, explores the conditions under which democracy can be resilient and how to strengthen its capacity as a system to overcome challenges and threats.

For more information on the Global State of Democracy indices methodology used in the publication see *The Global State of Democracy Indices Methodology: Conceptualization and Measurement Framework* (Skaaning 2017).

The full report can be accessed online: <http://www.idea.int/gsod>.

1. Geographical and regional divisions

For the purposes of *The Global State of Democracy*, International IDEA uses the geographical and regional divisions for independent countries outlined in Table 1.1. The country groupings primarily follow a geographical logic, but also take account of cultural and historical links, particularly in the regional subdivisions. The overseas/administrative territories of countries are listed separately (see Table 1.2) but have been assigned a geographical subregion.

Note

The country names in Table 1.1 and Table 1.2 do not represent the official position of International IDEA with regard to the legal status of, or policy on, the entities mentioned. The tables are a harmonization of often-divergent lists and practices.

TABLE 1.1. GEOGRAPHICAL DIVISIONS USED IN *THE GLOBAL STATE OF DEMOCRACY*

Region/subregion	Country
Africa	
East Africa	Burundi, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, South Sudan, Uganda, Tanzania
Central Africa	Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Republic of Congo, Sao Tomé and Principe
North Africa	Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Sudan, Tunisia
Western Sahara	Western Sahara
Southern Africa	Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia, Zimbabwe
West Africa	Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cote d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo
Latin America and the Caribbean	
Caribbean	Aruba, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Bonaire, Cuba, Curacao, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago
Central America and Mexico	Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama
South America	Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay, Venezuela
North America	
North America	Canada, United States of America
Central Asia	
Central Asia	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan
Asia and the Pacific	
East Asia	China, China (Hong Kong Special Administrative Region), China (Macao Special Administrative Region), Taiwan, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Japan, Mongolia, Republic of Korea
South Asia	Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka

South East Asia	Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Viet Nam
Oceania	Australia, New Zealand
Melanesia	Fiji, New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu
Micronesia	Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Northern Mariana Islands, Palau
Polynesia	American Samoa, Cook Islands, Niue, Samoa, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu
Middle East and Iran	
Middle East	Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, State of Palestine, Syria, United Arab Emirates, Yemen
Iran	Iran
Europe	
East Europe	Belarus, Bulgaria, Czechia, Hungary, Poland, Moldova, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Ukraine
North Europe	Channel Islands, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Guernsey, Iceland, Ireland, Isle of Man, Jersey, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom
South Europe	Albania, Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, Holy See, Italy, Kosovo, Macedonia, Malta, Montenegro, Portugal, San Marino, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain
Israel	Israel
Turkey	Turkey
West Europe	Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, Netherlands, Switzerland
South Caucasus	Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia

TABLE 1.2. LIST OF OVERSEAS TERRITORIES REFERRED TO IN *THE GLOBAL STATE OF DEMOCRACY*

Region/subregion	Overseas territory
North Europe	Åland Islands (Finland), Faeroe Islands (Denmark), Svalbard and Jan Mayen Islands (Norway), Greenland (Denmark)
South Europe	Gibraltar
Southern Africa	Reunion (France), Mayotte (France)
West Africa	Saint Helena (UK)
Caribbean	Anquilla (UK), Martinique (France), Monserrat (UK), Puerto Rico (USA), Sint Eustatius and Saba, Sint Maarten (Netherlands), Saint-Barthélemy (France), Saint Martin (France), British Virgin Islands (UK), Cayman Islands (UK), Guadeloupe (France), United States Virgin Islands (USA), Turks and Caicos Islands (UK)
South America	French Guiana (France)
North America	Bermuda (UK), Saint Pierre et Miquelon (France)
Oceania	Norfolk Island (Australia)
Polynesia	French Polynesia (France), Pitcairn (UK), Wallis and Futuna Islands (France)

2. Quantitative analysis

The GSoD indices only include countries with a population of over one million. Table 2.1 shows the geographical divisions used in the GSoD indices. The regional definitions used by the GSoD indices are based on the geographical division of countries outlined in Section 1. Some further modifications were made, however, to enable meaningful analysis of relatively coherent regions with comparable social, political and historical backgrounds.

Europe

The GSoD indices have created two new subregions to ensure that the analysis of data is as accurate as possible. This has resulted in a subregional division where all the geographically Eastern European countries that were formerly included in the Soviet Union are grouped in a post-Soviet Europe subregion that also includes Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. However, the Baltic States, because of their stronger historical and political ties, are grouped with East-Central Europe. The German Democratic Republic (former East Germany) is also included in East-Central Europe. Northern Europe and Western Europe have been combined into a single subregion, which excludes the former Eastern Bloc countries. South Europe excludes the Western Balkan countries, including Kosovo, which are grouped under East-Central Europe, and includes Turkey and Israel.

The rationale for these changes is to ensure clarity of analysis over time and to avoid the identification of different trajectories in comparison with geographically close countries. For example, if International IDEA's standard division of geographical regions (shown in Table 1.1) had been used, the trends in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania would have been masked by grouping them with established, consolidated democracies. Grouping them with the post-Soviet countries would create similar issues, as they would also stand out in this group.

Asia and the Pacific

Central Asia is grouped in Asia and the Pacific.

Stand-alone countries

Turkey and Israel are grouped in South Europe. Mexico is grouped with Central America.

Overseas territories

As overseas territories are viewed as part of the country to which they belong, such territories do not receive additional GSoD indices scores.

Note

The country names in Table 2.1 do not represent the official position of International IDEA with regard to the legal status of, or policy on, the entities mentioned. It is a harmonization of often-divergent lists and practices.

TABLE 2.1. GEOGRAPHICAL DIVISIONS USED IN THE GLOBAL STATE OF DEMOCRACY INDICES

Region/subregion	Countries
Africa	
East Africa	Burundi, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, Tanzania, Uganda
Central Africa	Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Gabon, Republic of Congo
Southern Africa	Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia, Zimbabwe
West Africa	Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo
North Africa	Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, South Sudan, Sudan, Tunisia
Latin America and the Caribbean	
Caribbean	Cuba, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago
Central America and Mexico	Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama
South America	Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela
North America	
North America	Canada, United States of America
Asia and the Pacific	
Central Asia	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan
East Asia	China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Japan, Mongolia, Republic of Korea, Taiwan
South Asia	Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka
South East Asia	Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Viet Nam
Oceania	Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea
Middle East and Iran	
Middle East and Iran	Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Yemen
Europe	
East-Central Europe	Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Estonia, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Kosovo, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia
Eastern Europe/Post-Soviet Europe	Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Russia, Ukraine
North and West Europe	Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom
South Europe	Cyprus, Greece, Israel, Italy, Portugal, Spain, Turkey

3. Organizations mentioned in *The Global State of Democracy*

The following international organizations, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations, foundations and affiliated bodies are mentioned in *The Global State of Democracy*:

African Union (AU)
Amnesty International
Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN)
The Carter Center
Council of Europe (CoE)
The Commonwealth
European Commission (EC)
Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)
European Economic Community (EEC)
European Union (EU)
Freedom House
Human Rights Watch (HRW)
Independent Commission on Multilateralism (ICM)
International Consortium on Investigative Journalists (ICIJ)
International Crisis Group (ICG)
International Foundation for Electoral Assistance (IFES)
International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA)
International Labour Organization (ILO)
International Monetary Fund (IMF)
International Organization for Migration (IOM)
Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)
Minority Rights Group International
Mo Ibrahim Foundation
National Democratic Institute (NDI)
Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD)
Open Government Partnership
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
Organization of American States (OAS)
Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)
OSCE Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)
Oxfam International
Pew Research Center
Reporters without Borders
Southern African Development Community (SADC)
United Nations (UN)
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
World Alliance for Citizen Participation (CIVICUS)
World Bank

References

International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA), *The Global State of Democracy 2017: Exploring Democracy's Resilience* (Stockholm: International IDEA, 2017a), <http://www.idea.int/gsod>

—, The Global State of Democracy Indices, 2017b, <http://www.idea.int/gsod-indices>

Skaaning, S-E., *The Global State of Democracy Indices Methodology: Conceptualization and Measurement Framework* (Stockholm: International IDEA, 2017), <http://www.idea.int/gsod>