

The Global State of Democracy Indices

About the indices

- The Global State of Democracy (GSoD) indices depict democratic trends at the country, regional and global levels across a broad range of attributes of democracy in the period 1975–2015. They do not provide a single index of democracy.
- The indices produce data for 155 countries. The data underlying the indices is based on 98 indicators devised by various scholars and organizations using different types of source, including expert surveys, standards-based coding by research groups and analysts, observational data and composite measures.
- The indices consist of attribute and subattribute scores per country per year for the period 1975–2015. All scoring runs from 0 to 1, with 0 representing the lowest achievement in the sample and 1 the highest.
- Democracy is conceptualized as popular control over public decision-making and decision-makers, and equality of respect and voice between citizens in the exercise of that control. These principles have been translated into 5 main democracy attributes that cover 16 subattributes in total.

Attributes and subattributes

- **Attribute 1: Representative Government**
Subattributes: *Clean Elections, Inclusive Suffrage, Free Political Parties, Elected Government*
- **Attribute 2: Fundamental Rights**
Subattributes: *Access to Justice, Civil Liberties, Social Rights and Equality*
- **Attribute 3: Checks on Government**
Subattributes: *Effective Parliament, Judicial Independence, Media Integrity*
- **Attribute 4: Impartial Administration**
Subattributes: *Absence of Corruption, Predictable Enforcement*
- **Attribute 5: Participatory Engagement**
Subattributes: *Civil Society Participation, Electoral Participation, Direct Democracy, Subnational Elections*

Where to find the data

The data will be made available on the International IDEA website in November 2017.

Users will be able to generate their own data visualizations and extract data at the country, regional and global levels across the attributes and subattributes for specific years or for selected time periods between 1975 and 2015.

Visit: <http://www.idea.int/gsod-indices>

Overview of the GSoD indices conceptual framework: attributes, subattributes and assessment questions

The GSoD indices cover 5 attributes and 16 subattributes. The subattributes are coupled with an assessment question that guides the selection of empirical indicators.

Attribute	Subattribute	Assessment question
1. Representative Government (free and equal access to political power)	1.1. Clean Elections	To what extent are elections free from irregularities?
	1.2. Inclusive Suffrage	To what extent do all adult citizens have voting rights?
	1.3. Free Political Parties	To what extent are political parties free to form and campaign for office?
	1.4. Elected Government	To what extent is access to government determined by elections?
2. Fundamental Rights (individual liberties and resources)	2.1. Access to Justice	To what extent is there equal, fair access to justice?
	2.2. Civil Liberties	To what extent are civil liberties respected?
	2.3. Social Rights and Equality	To what extent are there basic welfare, and social and political equality?
3. Checks on Government (effective control of executive power)	3.1. Effective Parliament	To what extent does parliament oversee the executive?
	3.2. Judicial Independence	To what extent are the courts independent?
	3.3. Media Integrity	To what extent are there diverse, critical media sources?
4. Impartial Administration (fair and predictable public administration)	4.1. Absence of Corruption	To what extent is the exercise of public authority free from corruption?
	4.2. Predictable Enforcement	To what extent is the enforcement of public authority predictable?
5. Participatory Engagement (instruments of and for the realization of political involvement)	5.1. Civil Society Participation	To what extent do people participate in civil society organizations?
	5.2. Electoral Participation	To what extent do people participate in national elections?
	5.3. Direct Democracy	To what extent are mechanisms of direct democracy available and used?
	5.4. Subnational Elections	To what extent are there free regional and local elections?