

International IDEA

2023 Annual Review

POLLING STATION

How our work makes a difference



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Cover image: Voters queue at a polling station in Banjul on 1 December 2016, during presidential elections. Gambians cast their ballots in a presidential poll that poses the strongest challenge yet to the current president's 22-year rule, with political rivals energized by an unprecedented opposition campaign. (Photo by MARCO LONGARI / AFP) (Photo by MARCO LONGARI/AFP via Getty Images).

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International IDEA Annual Review 2023

How our work makes a difference

Contents

Message from the Secretary-General	4
Introduction	6
Supporting democracy worldwide	7
Our reach around the world	8
Our impact	10
France becomes International IDEA's 35th Member State	11
Member States support International IDEA in new and diverse ways	12
Monitoring and analysing the global state of democracy	13
Protecting electoral processes and holding elections during times of crises	14
Sharing political finance assessments for evidence-based reform	16
Spotlight on the Democracy Tracker	18
Enhancing gender equality as a prerequisite for democracy: 2023 Summit for Democracy and beyond	19
From discussion to action: The impact of Women Constitution-Makers' Dialogues	20
North America and the Office of the Permanent Observer to the UN	22
Building a multi-stakeholder coalition to protect and promote democracy	22
Serving as a catalyst for democracy and SDG 16 at the United Nations	23
Africa and West Asia	24
Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption Programme in Nigeria	24
Nurturing democracy defenders in Sierra Leone and crafting a manifesto for journalists	25
International IDEA supports electoral transparency demands in Mozambique's 2023 municipal elections	26
From Yemen to Tunisia: Fostering dialogue and democracy awareness across the Arab region	27

Asia and the Pacific	28
The climate change and democracy nexus in Asia and the Pacific	28
Protecting Indigenous rights in the Philippines.....	29
Helping CSOs advance electoral reform in Nepal	30
Europe.....	31
Assisting Ukraine in preparing for post-war out-of-country voting.....	31
Albania gears up for increased political finance oversight through digitalization	32
Sparking an EU debate on a new democracy narrative.....	33
Latin America and the Caribbean.....	34
Promoting creative solutions from young citizens in Peru	34
Preparing women leaders for political participation in Paraguay.....	35
Young people in Costa Rica promote interparty ethics pact.....	35
International IDEA in numbers.....	36
Highlighted media outlets	37
Financials	38
Donors.....	40
Partners	41

A message from the Secretary-General



Democracy faces critical challenges around the world, from polarization and authoritarianism to disinformation and climate change. What's more, these issues are not unique to developing countries or to nascent democracies. They are problems common to all democracies, and they require collective solutions. In such a context, the unique mandate of the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA) to support sustainable democracy globally has become more important than ever.

In 2023, we successfully delivered on this mandate, while continuing our growth trajectory in terms of programmes, membership and policy influence. The Institute became more relevant and more impactful, in line with the four pillars of work in our institutional strategy.

We improved the quality and impact of our knowledge production, including via a reconceptualized *Global State of Democracy* Report that now integrates qualitative data from our Democracy Tracker.

We grew our capacity development programming, launching our single largest programme anywhere, a European Union-funded initiative to support rule-of-law and anti-corruption efforts in Nigeria, as well as major new initiatives in Peru, Ukraine and the Western Balkans, to name but a few.

We enhanced our global influence and convening power by welcoming France as our 35th Member State and by reinforcing partnerships with other intergovernmental organizations, including around the Summit for Democracy.

And we stepped up our advocacy efforts—for instance, by supporting Sweden's Presidency of the Council of the European Union with recommendations to enhance the EU's global support for democracy, and by using our United Nations Permanent Observer status to make more statements at the UN General Assembly on key issues connected with democracy.

Even in these challenging times, we continue to expand our work, helping people, communities and organizations that are striving to make their countries more democratic places to live. I am very proud of our ever-growing contributions as a convenor, programme implementer and policy research institute, all supported by an organizational commitment to learn from our activities and enhance our results. When you read the stories of action and impact in the following pages, I hope you will agree that this work is relevant, valuable and worthy of support.



Dr Kevin Casas-Zamora

Secretary-General, International IDEA

Introduction

Our vision

A world in which everyone lives in inclusive and resilient democracies with accountable actors, institutions and processes able to respond to citizens' needs, protect human rights and deliver sustainable development.

Our mission

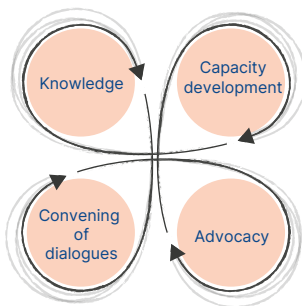
International IDEA advances, promotes and protects sustainable democracy worldwide in consideration of human rights commitments through policy-relevant knowledge, capacity development, advocacy and the convening of dialogues.

Supporting democracy worldwide

Who we are

We are an intergovernmental organization, founded in 1995 with a mandate to support sustainable democracy worldwide. We have Permanent Observer status at the United Nations.

Our Four Ways of Working



What we do

We develop policy-friendly research and analysis related to elections, parliaments, constitutions, digitalization, climate change, inclusion and political representation, all under the umbrella of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

We assess the performance of democracies through our unique Global State of Democracy Indices and the Democracy Tracker.

We provide capacity development and expert advice to democracy actors including government, parliaments, election officials and civil society.

We develop tools and publish databases, handbooks, reports and primers in several languages on topics ranging from voter turnout to gender quotas.

We bring states and non-state actors together for dialogues and lesson sharing.

We stand up and speak out to promote and protect democracy worldwide.

35
Member States

20+
offices around the world

Working in
60+
countries

Our expertise

Democracy Assessment

Our Global State of Democracy Reports and Indices provide accurate, detailed and timely information on democratic performance across the world. Our Democracy Tracker continually monitors trends in 173 nations.

Electoral Processes

Our expertise stretches from risk management in elections to special voting arrangements and the future of electoral assistance. This enables us to support electoral management bodies and election officials.

Constitution-Building and Rule of Law

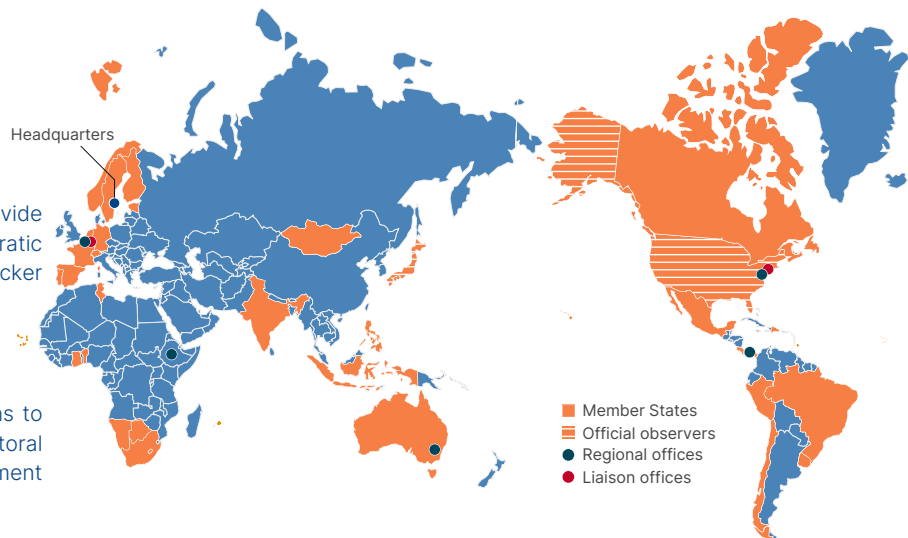
We develop comparative knowledge and provide advice on constitutional design, constitution-building processes and the rule of law, in fragile as well as more consolidated democracies.

Political Participation and Representation

We support political parties, parliaments, and women and youth with knowledge and capacity development, with an increasing focus on new forms of political participation and representation.

Money in Politics

We produce data and research, provide technical assistance to political finance oversight agencies and political parties, and support peer-to-peer learning among practitioners.



Climate Change

We develop research and tools that can help democracies tackle the climate crisis.

Gender and Inclusion, Conflict and Environment

Gender equality and inclusion, conflict sensitivity and environmental protection are mainstreamed in all areas of our work, from project planning to implementation.

Digitalization

We support institutions in reaping the benefits of digital innovation as well as countering digital threats to ensure the protection of fundamental human rights.

Our reach around the world



Annika Silva-Leander, Head of North America and Permanent Observer to the UN, presents her credentials to UN Secretary-General H. E. António Guterres, on 16 June 2023. Credit: UN Photo



On 9 June 2023, Dr Kevin Casas-Zamora (left), signed a memorandum of understanding with Mohamed Ould Amar, Director-General of the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization. Credit: International IDEA



The Gambia's President Adama Barrow (fourth from right) meets with International IDEA staff member Maurice Mboula Jean-Claude Didier Enguelegue (at left) in 2023. Credit: International IDEA



The President of Mauritius H. E. Mr Prithvirajsing Roopun (right) receives a gift from Dr Kevin Casas-Zamora. Credit: International IDEA



President of Brazil, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva (left) is greeted by Dr Kevin Casas-Zamora, at the 2023 UN General Assembly in New York. Credit: International IDEA



H. E. Dasho Tashi Dorji, Chairperson of the National Council of Bhutan from 2018 to 2023 (centre) pictured with Pema Tenzin (left), International IDEA Project Manager for Bhutan, and Leena Rikkilä Tamang (right), International IDEA Director for the Asia and the Pacific region. Credit: International IDEA



Botswana President H. E. Mokgweetsi E. K. Masisi regards the gift shared by Dr Kevin Casas-Zamora during a visit to Botswana, an International IDEA Member State since 1997. Image courtesy of Daily News.

International IDEA's Secretary-General meeting with Swedish Foreign Minister Tobias Billström. Credit: International IDEA



Dr Kevin Casas-Zamora and Jutta Urpilainen, European Commissioner for International Partnerships. Credit: International IDEA



Dr Kevin Casas-Zamora greets former President of Nigeria Goodluck Jonathan at the Special Envoys Retreat on Constitutional Transitions convened by International IDEA in Abuja, Nigeria, October 2023. Credit: International IDEA



Professor Eddy Maloka, CEO of the African Peer Review Mechanism, and Roba Sharamo, International IDEA Director for the Africa and West Asia region, during the signing of a memorandum of understanding. Credit: International IDEA



Event of the Global State of Democracy 2023 Report, Brussels, 17 November 2023. From left: Marilyn Neven, Programme Manager EU Liaison, International IDEA; H.E. Anders Eide, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Norway to the European Union; H.E. Hadja Lahbib, Minister of Foreign Affairs, European Affairs and Foreign Trade of Belgium; Sam van der Staak, Director for Europe, International IDEA. Credit: Bruno Maes

Our impact



Our Impact page (three images):

1. Voting in progress for the presidential election 28 March 2015 in Abuja, Nigeria. Credit: Photo by U.S. Embassy / Idika Onyukwu
2. Students at the Political School for Women Leaders in Paraguay present a government plan. Credit: International IDEA/ Gabriela Fariña.
3. A participant shares her comments during the Indigenous Peoples Champions' National Forum on 23 October 2023, Manila, Philippines. Credit: International IDEA

Governance

France becomes International IDEA's 35th Member State



From left to right: Etienne Le Harivel de Gonneville, Ambassador of France to Sweden; Clémence Weulersse, Head of the Department for Democratic Governance, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (France) and Dr Kevin Casas-Zamora, Secretary-General of International IDEA, at a ceremony marking France's accession to International IDEA, Stockholm, 1 December 2023. Credit: International IDEA

France became International IDEA's 35th Member State on 1 December 2023. France's accession came with a strong message of support for International IDEA's work and a particular interest in supporting political participation and parliamentary cooperation.

France's application for membership came after years of close collaboration and dialogue with the French embassy in Stockholm and a visit by International IDEA's Secretary-General to Paris earlier in 2023. These preparatory discussions emphasized the value of closer collaboration between International IDEA and the French Government in areas such as electoral and parliamentary assistance as well as climate change and democracy.

France's membership represents a milestone for International IDEA and reinforces International IDEA's status as a leading convener of democracies, and it brings further unity and cohesion to the international democratic landscape.

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'We are humbled and honoured to join International IDEA today, to join this fraternity of nations united by a common goal to support democracy in the world.'

— Etienne Le Harivel de Gonneville, Ambassador of France to Sweden

Governance

Member States support International IDEA in new and diverse ways

At this crucial juncture for democracy around the world, it has become more important than ever that International IDEA's Member States support the Institute financially, in accordance with its Statutes and their respective means. In 2023 a growing number of Member States demonstrated their commitment through new financial and in-kind contributions:

- The Netherlands, Norway and Switzerland recommitted to multi-year core funding agreements of EUR 12 million over six years, NOK 120 million (USD 11 million) over four years and EUR 3.3 million over four years, respectively. Finland committed to its first multi-year core funding agreement, and Luxembourg became a core funder for the first time.
- Canada provided funding to hire the Institute's first Head of Digitalization and Democracy, while Germany extended the secondment for the Institute's inaugural Lead Advisor on Climate Change and Democracy. In addition to a core contribution of EUR 500,000 for 2024, France proposed providing a seconded expert to shape work on political participation and parliamentary cooperation.
- As Vice-Chair of the Institute in 2023, Ghana convened a national seminar on disinformation, elections and peace that was co-hosted by and co-branded with International IDEA.

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‘International IDEA continues to be a highly respected player on the global stage in advancing democracy.’

— Carl Hartzell, Deputy Director General, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Sweden



International IDEA Secretary-General Dr Kevin Casas-Zamora, seated third from the left, listening to Ghana's Minister of Information, alongside Ghana's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of National Security, Election Commissioner and Ambassador to Sweden, at the seminar in Accra, Ghana, 19 October 2023. Credit: Ghana's Ministry of Information

Global Programmes

Monitoring and analysing the global state of democracy

Funding: Core, European Union, German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Robert Bosch Stiftung

Theme: Democracy Assessment

The Global State of Democracy Initiative provides timely, cutting-edge data and analysis to help stakeholders create informed and targeted interventions, to understand democratic deterioration, and to capitalize on and learn from successes. For the release of the fifth edition of its flagship *Global State of Democracy* Report in November 2023, International IDEA convened experts and policymakers in discussions on safeguarding democratic political institutions. The Report has been covered in nearly 1,000 news articles in some 100 countries, including high-profile outlets such as *The New York Times*, the BBC and the *Financial Times*.

Recent *Global State of Democracy* Reports have informed processes from high-level interventions at the Summit for Democracy to national parliamentary research, and they have fed into analysis published by the European External Action Service, the UN Development Programme, the World Bank, *The Economist*, and many of the world's most influential and widely read news outlets. The data and analysis provided in *Global State of Democracy* Reports have been invoked by leaders to highlight the importance of election observation, to call for coordinated action through deliberative democracy and citizens' assemblies, to take stock of domestic democratic reforms and progress, and to explore legislation to expand LGBTQIA+ rights protections.

Additionally, audiences from the UN Headquarters in New York, the European Parliament, foreign ministries, the CIVICS Innovation Hub and the Robert Bosch Stiftung all learned about the Democracy Tracker and how to use the new tool.



Global Programmes

Protecting electoral processes and holding elections during times of crises

Funding: Core

Theme: Electoral Processes

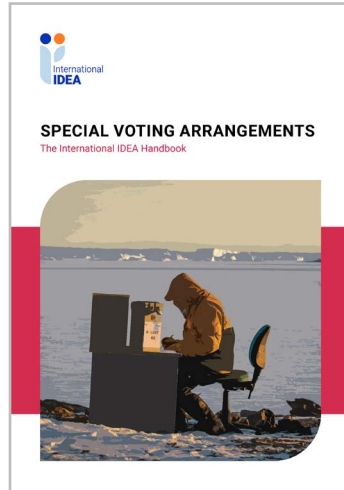
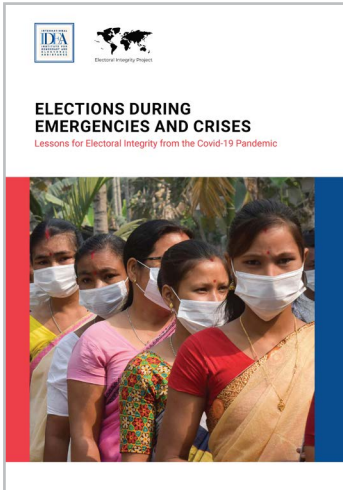
Global natural hazards—such as the storms, floods, earthquakes and wildfires that are wreaking havoc on electoral calendars and budgets—pose new challenges for electoral management bodies (EMBs). Additional risks are emerging from the threat of digital disinformation and manipulation, which can undermine trust in election results.

International IDEA is at the forefront of exploring the effectiveness of various approaches to these challenges, including the implication of digitalization on democracies and elections, highlighted by two donor-funded, multi-year and multi-region projects. A German Government-funded initiative encourages locally owned, multi-stakeholder solutions to protect electoral integrity and trust in the information environment, and a Canadian Government-funded initiative supports the development of ways to safeguard electoral processes.

In 2023, International IDEA (as a steering committee member) joined USAID and electoral assistance organizations around the world, in launching the Global Network for Securing Electoral Integrity (GNSEI), which convenes election stakeholders around a shared vision: to inspire and inform action to advance electoral integrity in the face of critical threats to democracy. GNSEI brings together electoral assistance actors to develop, advance, and promote adherence to norms, guiding principles, and codes of conduct that address emerging and long-term threats to electoral integrity.



The participants of the Fiji Working Group on Protecting Electoral Processes in the Information Environment in 2023.
Credit: International IDEA



The Covid-19 pandemic served as a catalyst for International IDEA to consolidate expertise on lessons learned from the pandemic and on the resulting challenges, such as the implementation of special voting arrangements. Alternative voting practices were required in response to the seeming incompatibility between in-person voting and public health requirements on social distancing. Two books published in 2023, [Elections during Emergencies and Crises: Lessons for Electoral Integrity from the Covid-19 Pandemic](#) and [Special Voting Arrangements: The International IDEA Handbook](#), provide key lessons.

The book on elections during emergencies and crises was launched in May 2023 at the Council of Europe parliamentary conference on elections in times of crises, in collaboration with the Swiss Parliament. Participants from Council of Europe member states produced a final declaration that endorsed many of the recommendations from the conference on the need for election reform in light of future emergencies. International IDEA and the Electoral Integrity Project were awarded an International Institutional Engagement Award in Lisbon, Portugal.

“

‘Studying, analysing and publishing the various paths that countries took for their elections helps ensure that the planet’s hard-won experience can be shared as widely as possible. And, appropriately, it writes these extraordinary efforts into the global story of democracy.’

— Ellen L. Weintraub, Commissioner on the Federal Election Commission, United States of America

Global Programmes

Sharing political finance assessments for evidence-based reform



From left to right: Dr Paul Chambers, Naresuan University; Professor Punchada Sirivunnabood, lead national consultant; Dr Laddawan Tantivitayapitak, Open Forum for Democracy Foundation; and Khushbu Agrawal, International IDEA, discuss the findings from the Report *Political Finance Assessment of Thailand* at the Report's launch event. Credit: International IDEA/ Leena Rikkilä Tamang

Funding: Core

Theme: Political Participation and Representation

In August 2023, International IDEA launched the Report *Political Finance Assessment of Thailand* at an event in Bangkok attended by representatives of the Election Commission of Thailand, political party leaders and International IDEA Member States, as well as researchers, academics and civil society actors.

Thailand has made several efforts to reform key aspects of its political finance system, most recently in 2017. As of 2023, no thorough assessment of the system had been carried out. The Report, based on International IDEA's assessment framework, is the first initiative of its kind to undertake an overview of the political finance system in Thailand.

The Report's findings were well received by stakeholders and civil society organizations (CSOs) in Thailand have used the findings to bolster their efforts in calling for political finance reforms in the country.



From left to right: Miika Tomi, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Finland in Thailand; Professor Punchada Sirivunnabood; and Leena Rikkilä Tamang, International IDEA's Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific. Credit: International IDEA

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‘The report is ... an important contribution because political finance is of immense importance in Thai politics. It is a wonderful and all-encompassing report looking at public funding, private funding, spending regulations, reporting and disclosure requirements and sanctions. That’s a lot to uncover.’

— Dr Paul Chambers, Naresuan University

Global Programmes

Spotlight on the Democracy Tracker

Funding: Core, European Union, German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Robert Bosch Stiftung

Theme: Democracy Assessment

The [Democracy Tracker platform](#), launched under the Global State of Democracy Initiative in November 2022, monitors and assesses the most important developments relating to democracy and human rights in 173 countries on a monthly basis. The platform contributes to a favourable global information ecosystem for policymakers, CSOs, media, activists and strategic partners to protect and promote democracy. The tool links individual events to high-level data visualization and provides expert analysis on how individual events impact democracy.

In 2023, the Democracy Tracker established itself as a key global resource; it was viewed 232,264 times by 77,763 users during the year.

Throughout the year, International IDEA presented the Democracy Tracker at 34 meetings and events around the world, from South Africa to Thailand, to stakeholders including UN permanent representatives, the US State Department, Global Affairs Canada and the European Parliament Research Service, as well as to EMBs, civic educators, universities and foundations.

“

‘This looks very useful for us because we get questions from members of parliament or party group secretaries in the parliament. So, this looks like a very good system to find information in a structured way. I think my researchers will have use for it.’

— **Gunnar Fors**, Head of the Research Service at the Swedish Parliament, on the Democracy Tracker



Global Programmes

Enhancing gender equality as a prerequisite for democracy: 2023 Summit for Democracy and beyond



Government Offices of Sweden



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS



Summit for Democracy Cohort on Gender Equality

- Statement of Recommendations
- Roadmap of Recommendations
- Briefs on Gender Equality by Theme

Funding: Sweden Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Core

Theme: Gender and Inclusion, Political Participation and Representation, Electoral Processes

International IDEA spearheaded the institutionalization of gender equality as a pillar of democracy by providing substantive technical support for the Summit for Democracy Cohort on Gender Equality. Romania, Sweden and the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security co-led the Cohort, while International IDEA supported the Cohort's agenda-setting efforts by convening dialogues and stakeholder consultations to make recommendations for the Summit and beyond.

The Cohort's initiatives leveraged International IDEA's positioning as a global convener and its capacity to cross-fertilize its work on gender equality and women's empowerment with International IDEA Member States and global partners.

Governments and civil society from around the world—Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Europe and North America—engaged in the initiatives.

The Cohort on Gender Equality also developed five [thematic policy briefs](#) for the hosts of the Summit for Democracy (the Netherlands, South Korea, the USA and Zambia) on gender dimensions of the Summit's focus areas—free, fair and transparent elections; anti-corruption; youth; media freedom; and information and communication technologies.

Global Programmes

From discussion to action: The impact of Women Constitution-Makers' Dialogues



Participants of the fifth forum of the Women Constitution-Makers' Dialogue held in The Hague in 2023.
Credit: International IDEA

Funding: United Kingdom Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office

Theme: Constitution-Building

Women constitutionmakers utilize International IDEA's knowledge and networks to give high-quality advice and advance inclusive practices in constitution-building processes.

Of the 75 countries that underwent constitutional reform or a negotiated transition from authoritarianism to democracy between 1990 and 2015, only 19 per cent of the members of the constitution-making bodies involved were women. And even as the representation of women in constitution-making bodies grows, their contributions are often pigeonholed into 'women's issues', leading to the systematic exclusion of women from crucial discussions over forms of governance.

International IDEA, in collaboration with the Peace and Conflict Resolution Evidence Platform (PeaceRep) and the Edinburgh Centre for Constitutional Law, established the Women Constitution-Makers' Dialogue in 2019. This initiative provides a peer-to-peer platform for women to exchange experiences in constitutionmaking. To date, participants have included members of constitution-making bodies from more than a dozen countries, including Chile, Tunisia and Yemen.



Christina Murray, UN Mediation Support Standby Team and Professor Emeritus of Human Rights and Constitutional Law, University of Cape Town, South Africa. Murray presented her ideas at the fifth forum of the Women Constitution-Makers' Dialogue held in The Hague in 2023. Credit: International IDEA

Feedback collected in 2023 revealed the transformative impact of these annual Dialogues. Participants not only expanded their knowledge and capacity for constitutional negotiations but also deeply valued the supportive network of solidarity created by the Dialogues, particularly given the pushback or even backlash many of them have faced because of their involvement in constitution-making processes.

Many participants have integrated and utilized the knowledge they gained from the Dialogues in subsequent constitution-building activities. One participant from South Sudan, for example, trained over 100 national- and state-level legislators on the constitution-making process.

North America and the Office of the Permanent Observer to the UN

Building a multi-stakeholder coalition to protect and promote democracy

Funding: Core; Ford Foundation; Robert Bosch Stiftung

The Global Democracy Coalition (GDC), convened by International IDEA in 2021 ahead of the first Summit for Democracy, has developed into a network of more than 120 civil society, philanthropic, academic and multilateral organizations aimed at fostering collaboration on democracy building. In 2023, the GDC played a pivotal role in the second Summit for Democracy, facilitating dialogues for civil society, participating in the main plenary and providing a platform for non-governmental stakeholders to have their voices heard.

The GDC also spearheaded initiatives, such as the [2023 Global Democracy Coalition Forum](#), which convened GDC partners in Brussels and Washington; the [Democracy Defenders campaign](#), which highlighted the work and experiences of democracy activists; and [Partners for Democracy Day \(P4D\)](#), which provided a global stage for civil society and other actors to bring attention to critical issues on the global democracy agenda, with more than 70 events held by 111 democracy organizations from around the world ahead of the second Summit for Democracy. GDC partners also made 74 pledges to strengthen democracy worldwide.



A group workshop held on the first day of the Global Democracy Coalition Forum in Brussels, Belgium on 28 February 2023. Credit: Bruno Maes



Leopoldo López, a Venezuelan activist and co-founder of the World Liberty Congress, shares his experiences as a democracy defender and political activist for the Global Democracy Coalition’s spotlight video on Plenary Day of the 2023 Summit for Democracy. Credit: Image from the video

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‘What a collaborative and inspiring way to generate momentum and leverage action. They laid out their own set of commitments to renewing democracy and shared their vision for this dynamic moment. We just wanted to acknowledge that.’

— **Rosarie Tucci**, acting Deputy Assistant Administrator, USAID Bureau for Democracy, Human Rights and Governance, speaking on the importance of the GDC in her remarks at the opening of the second Summit for Democracy.

Serving as a catalyst for democracy and SDG 16 at the United Nations

Funding: Core

The Office of the Permanent Observer for International IDEA to the UN works with member states, multilaterals and civil society to advocate for greater visibility on issues linked to democracy. In 2023, International IDEA co-organized 14 events, including on the human rights situation in Myanmar, the breakdown of Sudan’s democratic transition and obstacles to women’s political participation.

Partnering with civil society and multilaterals, the Institute spearheaded initiatives leading up to the SDG Summit, highlighting the significance of peace, justice and inclusive institutions for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Moreover, International IDEA delivered 17 powerful statements, bringing the lens of democracy into UN consultations, debates, and negotiations.

The North America programme also launched a UN and democracy newsletter and laid the groundwork for a UN and democracy hub—a digital portal to be launched in 2024 that will provide a one-stop shop of resources on the UN and democracy.



Amanda Sourek, International IDEA’s Outreach and UN Liaison Officer, delivers a statement on behalf of International IDEA at the 11th Emergency Special Session of the UN General Assembly on 23 February 2023, at UN Headquarters, New York. Credit: Sunil Pal, International Development Law Organization



International IDEA Secretary-General Dr Kevin Casas-Zamora (left) moderates the event ‘Delivering the SDGs through Peace, Justice, Inclusion, and Strong Institutions (SDG16+)’, on the sidelines of the 78th UN General Assembly. The event was co-hosted by the TAP Network; Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies; the UN Development Programme; and other members of the SDG16+ Coalition on 20 September 2023. Credit: Joel Thomas Sheakoshi

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‘International IDEA believes that advancing democracy is critical to achieve the 2030 Agenda ... Therefore, promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, ensuring access to justice for all and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels, are tasks essential for the achievement of the SDGs.’

— Excerpt from [statement](#) by Dr Kevin Casas-Zamora, Secretary-General of International IDEA, 25 April 2023.

Africa and West Asia

Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption Programme in Nigeria

Funding: European Union

Theme: Constitution-Building

International IDEA launched Phase II of the Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption Programme, funded by the EU, in 2023 to bolster the rule of law, combat corruption, reduce gender-based violence, and promote human rights and inclusivity in Nigeria.

The programme pursued high-level engagements with the National Assembly, Nigeria's parliament, to call for appropriate funding and oversight for the implementation of legislation that provides robust protection and social welfare for victims of violence and stringent punitive measures to punish and deter perpetrators. In partnership with the UN Development Programme and the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative, the programme also organized a parliamentary summit in November 2023.

The programme held its annual Network Conference of Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) in November 2023 in Abuja, bringing together over 90 SARC managers and commissioners of state ministries of health, women's affairs and justice to review the centres' effectiveness. SARCs provide immediate medical treatment, counselling and follow-up support for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence. The programme also supported the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons in organizing a group mental health therapy session for 60 front-line officers (including prosecutors and investigators), where some of the officers processed their trauma for the first time in their careers.

Previously, Phase I of the programme saw collaboration with state and non-state actors to advocate policy and practical changes, resulting in the passage of 23 laws. Additionally, the first phase of the programme impacted 35,000 survivors of sexual and gender-based violence by supporting the establishment and operation of sexual assault and referral centres.



Dr Auwal Ahmed Musa, Centre Manager at the Nana Khadija Sexual Assault Referral Centre, Sokoto speaking at the Network Conference of Sexual Assault Referral Centres in Abuja in November 2023. Credit: International IDEA

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‘Corruption weakens the trust of citizens in democratic institutions and can threaten stability. The fight against corruption is, therefore, a fundamental part of the EU’s agenda, both internally and externally, and is a priority in our engagement with partner countries.’

— H. E. **Samuela Isopi**, EU Ambassador to Nigeria

Nurturing democracy defenders in Sierra Leone and crafting a manifesto for journalists

Funding: European Union

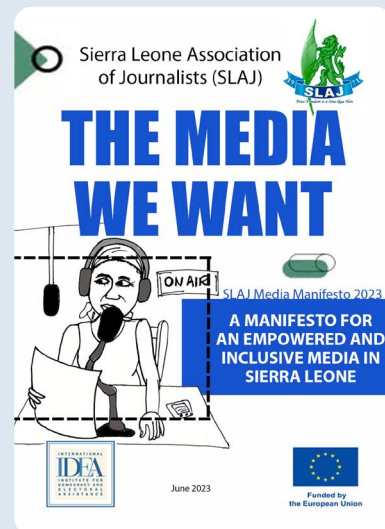
Theme: Political Participation and Representation

As part of its efforts to support electoral and democratic processes in Sierra Leone, International IDEA engages with young people and promotes media freedom in the West African country. The Youth in Democracy Traineeship initiative, implemented by International IDEA and the Political Parties Regulation Commission (PPRC) as part of the [Sierra Leone Democracy Strengthening Programme](#), seeks to empower young individuals with expertise in electoral and democratic governance. One of its primary goals is to foster an environment conducive to credible and peaceful electoral processes and post-election reforms. This is achieved by enhancing the capacities of key institutions such as the PPRC, one of Sierra Leone’s two election management bodies and independent constitutional institutions, as well as by supporting civil society organizations, the media and citizen observers.

On 5 June 2023, the Sierra Leone Association of Journalists (SLAJ), in collaboration with International IDEA and funding from the European Union, launched a manifesto titled ‘The Media We Want’, representing a significant aspect of International IDEA’s commitment to supporting the media landscape in Sierra Leone. The unveiling of this manifesto, occurring just weeks before Sierra Leone’s general elections, is intended to advance media freedom, professionalism, gender equality, inclusivity, safety and media literacy.



Young people promoting unity and peaceful dialogue during a peace parade in Freetown ahead of the June 2023 elections. Credit: International IDEA/Alfred Fornah



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‘This manifesto consolidates our significant gains, representing our collective vision for the future of media. We seek political leaders’ commitment to prioritize media freedom, development and viability in the years to come. It is our framework for all future interventions in the Sierra Leone media sector.’

— Ahmed Nasralla, President of the Sierra Leone Association of Journalists

International IDEA supports electoral transparency demands in Mozambique's 2023 municipal elections

Funding: European Union

Themes: Electoral Processes, Political Participation and Representation

International IDEA supported a consortium of seven CSOs, called Mais Integridade, that observed the 2023 municipal elections in Mozambique. This support was part of a six-year programme aimed at consolidating democracy in Mozambique, including improving the quality of election observation by civil society, funded by the EU and the Austrian Development Agency.

On election day alone, the consortium deployed 1,689 observers covering a quarter of all polling stations. The consortium also produced an independent evidence-based assessment of the entire electoral process in a politically tense and sometimes hostile context, thus contributing to increased transparency of the elections.



A woman in Mozambique voting in the 2023 municipal elections.
Credit: International IDEA

From Yemen to Tunisia: Fostering dialogue and democracy awareness across the Arab region

Funding: European Union, German Federal Foreign Office

Themes: Political Participation and Representation, Constitution-Building

From encouraging reconciliation in war-torn Yemen to supporting the Libyan Parliament and encouraging debate about constitutional developments in Tunisia, International IDEA fosters democratic support across the Arab region. Following the outbreak of Yemen's most recent conflict, a reconciliation commission was established in Taiz province, where the Institute helped organize training and dialogue sessions. International IDEA also organized, in cooperation with South Africa's Department of International Relations and Cooperation, a study tour to Pretoria to enable the commission to learn about South Africa's experience with reconciliation. International IDEA has been working in Yemen since 2014, helping the country navigate its transition and assisting the UN in negotiating a peaceful end to the conflict. International IDEA supported electoral reform in Lebanon to advocate for an independent election management body and in Palestine by supporting the Central Electoral Committee in its consultation's efforts on reforms to local election.

The institute also helped organize a high-level expert meeting on political parties in the Arab region, covering Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Sudan, Tunisia and Yemen.

As part of a broader effort aimed at making the work of parliaments in emerging democracies and countries in transition more effective, International IDEA arranged a visit to the Czech Parliament for 14 department heads from the Diwan, the Secretariat of Libya's House of Representatives. Organized on a peer-to-peer basis, the visit enabled representatives to exchange experiences especially on parliamentary research, organizational management and legal drafting and analysis. The Tunis Office organized a Moot Court competition in March 2023, centered on the concept of proportionality and the Tunisian constitution's limitations on rights and freedoms, involving teams from the Higher Institute of the Legal Profession and the National Bar Association.



Credit: Werner Bayer, 1996-Yemen Sanna.

Asia and the Pacific

The climate change and democracy nexus in Asia and the Pacific

Funding: Core

Theme: Climate Change and Democracy

The Report *Climate Change and Democracy: Insights from Asia and the Pacific* focuses on the challenges facing and opportunities for regional democracies amid this global environmental crisis.

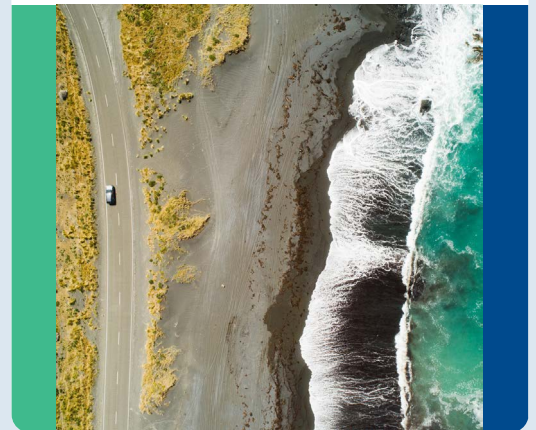
The first publication of its kind, the Report investigates the complex relationship between democratic governance and meaningful climate action and shows how democracy itself can be improved by interventions that mitigate climate change.

The Report explores how democracy and climate crisis intersect through 10 case studies from Asia and Oceania, ranging from large countries such as Australia, India and Indonesia to small island states, such as Fiji, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. The Report also discusses Bhutan, Japan and Singapore.



CLIMATE CHANGE AND DEMOCRACY

Insights from Asia and the Pacific



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‘I urge policymakers, academics, civil society organizations and citizens across the Asia-Pacific region to engage with [the] findings [in this Report].’

— Enele Sopoaga, former Prime Minister of Tuvalu

Protecting Indigenous rights in the Philippines

Co-Funding: European Commission

Theme: Political Participation and Representation

The Philippines has an estimated 14–17 million Indigenous people, belonging to 110 ethno-linguistic groups. In the Bangsamoro and Cordillera regions of the Philippines, Indigenous people experience social discrimination, economic marginalization and political disempowerment, which are worsened by the pandemic and an ongoing armed conflict that imperils their land rights.

The Indigenous Peoples Champions for the Philippines project, launched in 2021, empowers local champions through capacity development, supporting them in making meaningful advocacy interventions. It envisions all participants as future leaders who collaborate with institutions for the protection of Indigenous rights, shaping a future that is more inclusive of Indigenous perspectives and customs.

Throughout the project, Indigenous Peoples Champions gain access to representatives from various levels of government, known as Institutional Champions. In 2023, the project brought Indigenous Champions together with Institutional Champions for dialogue forums in which the former presented advocacy briefs, culminating in a 10-point policy road map that calls on Institutional Champions to work with Indigenous representatives to implement inclusive policies that impact local people.



Indigenous Peoples Champions' National Forum, 23 October 2023, Manila, Philippines.

“

‘This dialogue gave us a very rare opportunity to talk to the relevant agencies. [This process] allows us to communicate our desires and interests for our communities.’

— Mel Antonette Amando, an Indigenous Peoples Champion

Helping CSOs advance electoral reform in Nepal

Funding: EU Delegation to Nepal

Themes: Political Participation and Representation

The EU Delegation to Nepal and International IDEA launched a project on electoral reform to enhance the equal participation of women, youth, Dalits and other marginalized groups in Nepal's political processes. This comes as Nepal is implementing a federal system that has increased the representation of historically marginalized and excluded groups in state bodies. The institutionalization of the new system faces risks, however, especially from political parties exploiting loopholes in electoral laws.

The project created a consortium of three CSOs, each of which focuses on one of three areas—women, youth or Dalit affairs. The project has been helping the consortium strengthen its capacity to create grassroots pressure for electoral policy reform. The idea is that electoral reform should be led by affected communities themselves.

International IDEA is facilitating this process by helping CSOs improve their understanding of issues in Nepal's electoral reform landscape through research and comparative knowledge from around the world. The project deploys young development professionals who mentor the staff from the CSOs, helping them improve their skills, which, in turn, makes the work of their organizations more impactful.



Sirjana Kafle (left), the Executive Director of Purple Foundation, speaks at an (orientation) event in Nepal on 28 September 2023 to kick off the project implementation, as Monika Paudel, a civil society organization mentor for her organization, looks on. Credit: International IDEA



Women gathering in Kathmandu's Durbar Square, March 2024. Credit: International IDEA/ Anastasia-Areti Gavriili

“

'We wanted to do this for a long time, and then we found [International] IDEA!'

— **Sirjana Kafle**, Executive Director of the Purple Foundation, one of the partners in a consortium of civil society organizations taking part in an electoral reform project in Nepal

Europe

Assisting Ukraine in preparing for post-war out-of-country voting

Funding: Core

Theme: Electoral Processes

Russia's invasion of Ukraine forced millions of Ukrainians to flee the country and search for protection across the globe. Once the war is over, Ukraine will need to hold elections for the presidency, the parliament and thousands of local self-government bodies. Organizing these first post-war elections will pose unprecedented challenges. A significant part of the electoral infrastructure has been damaged, necessitating large-scale changes to electoral procedures and voting locations.

Millions of voters will have to cast their votes in foreign locations. To design a feasible model for out-of-country voting for Ukraine, in compliance with internationally recognized electoral standards, the Ukrainian authorities and the international community must pull together to guarantee the voting rights of millions of Ukrainian refugees across the globe.

In a [high-level dialogue](#) organized by International IDEA and the European Parliament, an impressive community of 21 countries' EMBs, members of the Ukrainian and European parliaments, representatives of civil society and prominent international organizations discussed the strategy.



Parliament in Ukraine. Credit: Shutterstock, photo contributor: Paparazza

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‘Out of this parliamentary electoral dialogue emerges our appeal to the international community to support [Ukraine’s] democratic institutions. It is imperative to provide an electoral instrument for out-of-country elections to enable the millions of Ukrainian voters who became refugees abroad to exercise their right to vote.’

— **David McAllister**, Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the European Parliament

In line with the dialogue’s recommendations, International IDEA continues to support the Ukrainian Central Election Commission and other state bodies in undertaking regular thematic consultations with potential host countries and Ukraine’s diaspora across Europe.

Albania gears up for increased political finance oversight through digitalization

Funding: Rule of Law Centre of Finland

Theme: Electoral Processes

International IDEA worked closely with the University of Helsinki's Rule of Law Centre of Finland, to help Albania's Central Election Commission (CEC) and CSOs increase the transparency of political finance in the country.

The CEC piloted an online platform for political finance disclosure, which was built, among others, with input from International IDEA and the Rule of Law Centre of Finland. The platform, which allows political parties to submit their financial reports online, is expected to enable the CEC to publish the reports online in a timely and user-friendly manner. The project helps position Albania's political finance regulatory regime as one of the most transparent systems in the region.

In the lead-up to the electoral campaign, International IDEA, the Rule of Law Centre and the CEC hosted a dialogue between renowned international CSOs and local actors on how to maximize digital reporting and disclosure, an event that drew considerable media attention.

This work has also informed the decisions of Kosovo's Central Election Commission, which is undertaking a similar process of digitalizing political finance reporting and disclosure.



View of the Albanian flag and the Gjirokaster Fortress. Credit: Oscar M via Pexels

Sparking an EU debate on a new democracy narrative

Funding: Sweden

With the support of the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs and input from more than 100 democracy partners around the world, International IDEA's Report on the EU's external democracy action influenced the EU's thinking about its role in promoting democracy around the world. The Report's recommendations, including on adapting the EU's narrative on democracy to the changing geopolitical landscape, received acclaim at no fewer than 15 key EU forums dealing with human rights, development, security and external policies. The Swedish Presidency of the Council of the EU and International IDEA convened in Strömsborg, Sweden, 57 EU representatives from 27 member states to explore ways to better showcase and promote democracy as a universal aspiration.



Dr Kevin Casas-Zamora, International IDEA Secretary-General, and Dubravka Šuica, Vice-President of the European Commission for Democracy and Demography, hold up copies of the *The EU's External Democracy Action in a New Geopolitical Reality* Report during a Brussels-based launch event. Credit: International IDEA/Bruno Maes

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‘Defending democracy and the rule of law is one of Sweden’s priorities for its Presidency. The Report can be an important contribution to discussions on how the EU can strengthen its work for democracy in foreign and development policy’.

— **Diana Janse**, Swedish State Secretary to the Minister for International Development Cooperation and Foreign Trade. From a Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs Twitter account post, following the launch of International IDEA's report on EU external democracy action, in Brussels on 31 January 2023.

Latin America and the Caribbean

Promoting creative solutions from young citizens in Peru

Funding: United States Agency for International Development

Theme: Political Participation and Representation

Tambogrande is a small district in northern Peru that in 2023 began to transform itself thanks to a movement organized by school students. It was part of a project to develop a toolbox for democratic citizenship focusing on developing competencies and capacities through learning by doing in Peru.

As in other parts of the country, the district's public spaces were abandoned and covered with litter. The students got the municipality to donate trees, organized a collective clean-up of the main park with their families and neighbours, and made them aware of the importance of maintaining public spaces.

The movement in Tambogrande took place in the context of the Toolbox for Democratic Citizenship project, led by International IDEA, in alliance with the National Jury of Elections and Fe y Alegría. The project enabled high school students to identify challenges to be solved in their school communities. In doing so, the students prioritized issues such as democratic coexistence, the use of public spaces and management of their emotions.

In 2023, the project involved 75 teachers and 3,440 students at seven schools in Arequipa, Piura, Huánuco, La Libertad and metropolitan Lima. Guided by their teachers and involving key local stakeholders, the students generated project solutions to community problems.



Schoolchildren in Peru present solutions to community issues in November 2023. The initiative was part of an effort to improve democratic citizenship. Credit: International IDEA/Francesca Florián

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‘The project helped to form democratic citizens who get involved in the problems that happen around them. There are situations where they have had to talk to their families, interview neighbours or even authorities. They used to believe that citizen problems should be solved by adults, but now they realize that they can also contribute to these situations.’

— Fredil Aranda Carrión, a teacher involved in the project

Preparing women leaders for political participation in Paraguay

Funding: European Union

Themes: Elections, Political Participation and Representation, Gender and Inclusion

Six years of close collaboration between International IDEA and the Gender Policy Unit at the Superior Tribunal of Electoral Justice in Paraguay has strengthened women’s leadership and political empowerment, helping women gain access to popularly elected and decision-making positions. Joint initiatives have trained 668 women leaders and given visibility to women in the political debate. In the five elections conducted in 2023, 33 per cent of the candidates were women, and 23.5 per cent of them were elected as congresswomen. This is the highest-ever percentage of women in the Paraguayan Parliament, having increased by 57 per cent from the last election in 2018.



Nelcy Hermosa, a student at the Political School for Women Leaders in Paraguay (Caacupé location), celebrates the moment immediately after her presentation of a government plan, essential to graduating from the School. Credit: International IDEA/Gabriela Fariña

Young people in Costa Rica promote interparty ethics pact

Funding: Core

Theme: Political Participation and Representation

International IDEA supported a pact on ethics in municipal elections that was signed by 42 national and local political parties in Costa Rica. Costa Rica Íntegra, a CSO, decided to promote the interparty pact after discussions between young people from various parties and locations. Convened in Sitio Mata, they drafted 25 commitments, all agreed by consensus. International IDEA supported the initiative and participated in the launch event.



International Women’s Day in Costa Rica. Credit: Unsplash, Andrea Chacón

The pact includes commitments to respect the electoral authorities and their decisions, to promote campaigns free of personal and partisan attacks, to prevent the promotion of disinformation and fake news, to guarantee non-discrimination, to reject discriminatory and hate speech, to ensure that political financing comes only from legal sources, and to guarantee the full participation of women and true equality.

International IDEA in numbers

77,431

publication downloads on the International IDEA website

2,303,743

visits to the International IDEA website

12,346

total new followers on social media

Total on X: 3,263 | Total on Facebook: 1,458 | Total on LinkedIn: 7,625

1,399,149

total new views and reach on social media

Total on X: 793,500 (not including January 2023) | Total (reach) on Facebook: 51,939
Total on LinkedIn: 553,710 (not including January 2023)

6,080

total media mentions in 2023

Highlighted media outlets



ALJAZEERA

Democracy 'in trouble, stagnant at best, and declining in many places'



The Africa

EU: Over N1bn spent on Sarc's across Nigeria



Women MPs push for inclusion of two-thirds gender principal

EL PAÍS

It's not just Brazil: democracy is being eroded around the globe

EFE:

De los tres presidentes sudamericanos elegidos en 2021, solo Boric concluirá su mandato

THE / LOOP

Recentring the demos in the measurement of democracy

POLITICO

Milei echoes Trump with fraud claims

THIS DAY

Will more youth voters make any difference in 2023 polls?

NEPALI Times

Free and unfair

sverigesradio

Demokratin i världen backar: "Längsta tiden med nedgång"

HUFFPOST

La convivencia positiva versus el acoso

The New York Times

America's thirst for authoritarianism

VNY La Voce di New York

Obiettivo di Sviluppo Sostenibile numero 16. Il punto con Massimo Tommasoli

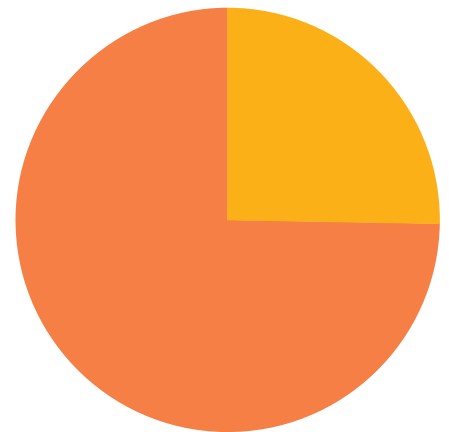
Financials

Total funding 2023 €53,535,169

- Core (€ 13,657,152)
- Restricted (€ 39,878,017)

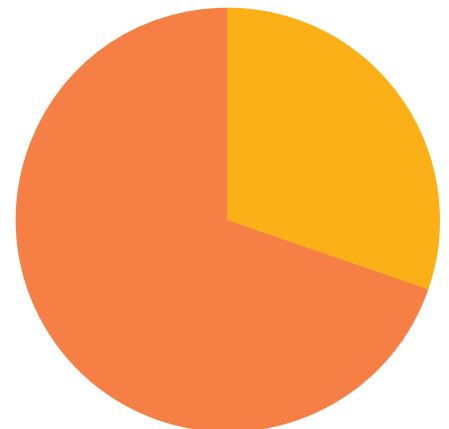
Increase in core **3%**

Increase in restricted **31%**



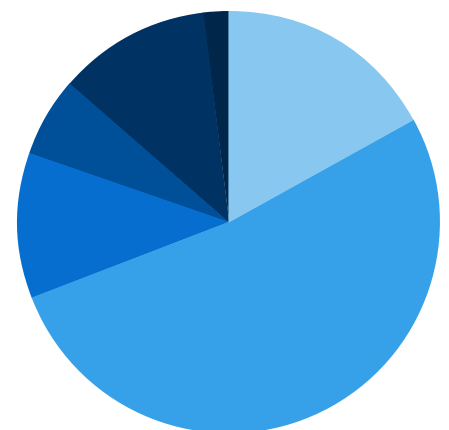
Total funding 2022 €43,658,930

- Core (€ 13,279,982)
- Restricted (€ 30,378,948)



Total funding by programme 2023 €52,040,326

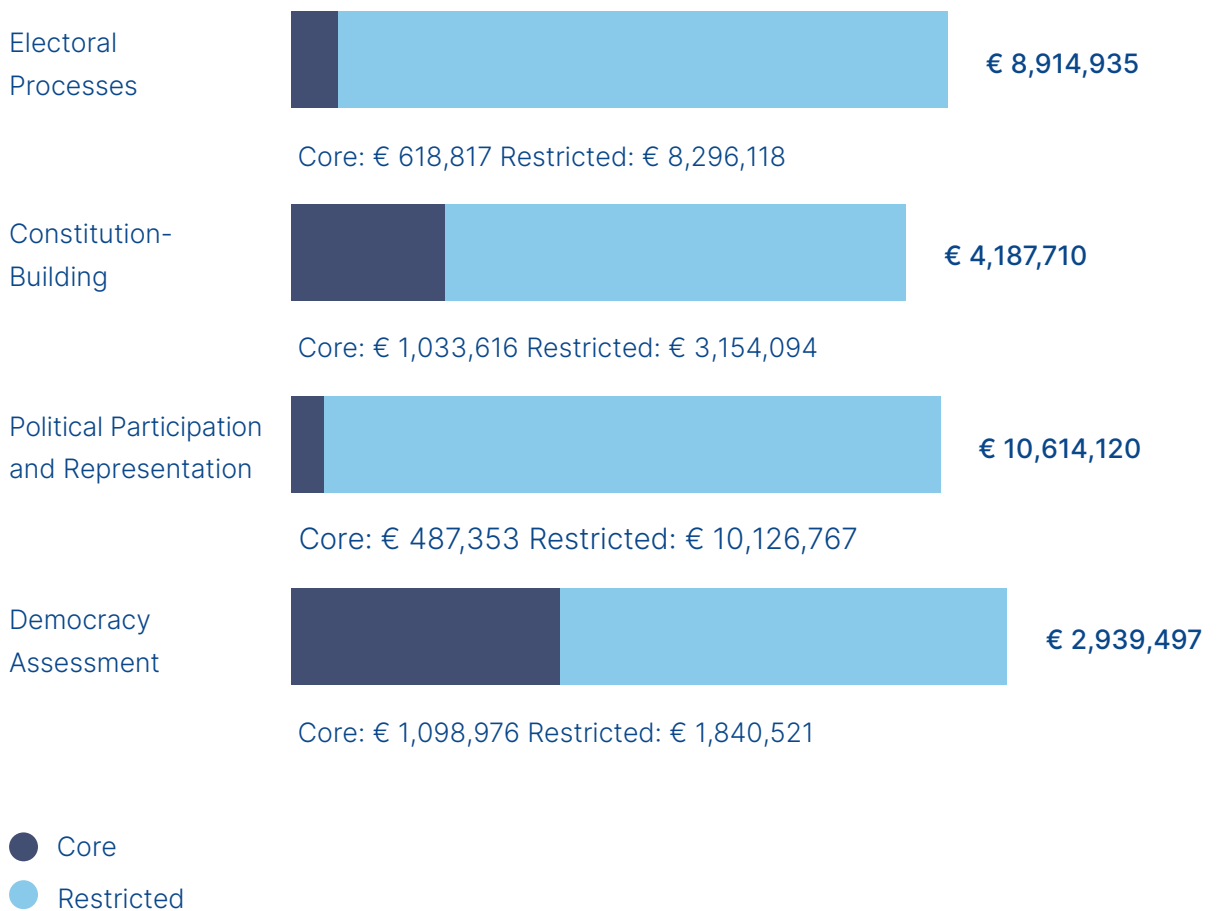
- Global Programme (€ 8,950,271)
- Africa & West Asia (€ 27,056,464)
- Asia & the Pacific (€ 5,904,354)
- Regional Europe (€ 3,151,799)
- Latin America & the Caribbean (€ 6,001,053)
- North America (€ 976,385)



97%

of funding goes to programmes

Funding by theme



Donors

Member States' and donors' contributions to the work of International IDEA are instrumental in advancing our shared vision of achieving a more resilient and inclusive democracy for all.

We are pleased to recognize our donors that partnered with us for the delivery of key outcomes for democracy in 2023.

Top 10 core funders



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Norway



The Netherlands



Switzerland



Germany



Finland



Chile



Brazil



Estonia



Spain

Top 10 restricted funders



European Union



Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

United States Agency for International Development (USAID)



Federal Foreign Office

German Federal Foreign Office



Open Society Foundations



Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office

United Kingdom Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (UKFCDO)



Finland



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Partners

Some examples of our valuable partners are shown here. To learn more about these partners and many others, please visit our Partners webpage.



United Nations



Organisation for Economic
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COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Council of Europe



African Union Commission



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)



Spring University Myanmar



Varieties of Democracies
(V-Dem)



Association of World Election
Bodies (A-WEB)



Community of Democracies



Open Government Partnership



Economic Community of West
African States (ECOWAS)



IE University



Georgetown University



Rule of Law Centre,
University of Helsinki

Our Value Proposition

International IDEA is the leading intergovernmental organization dedicated to supporting democracy worldwide.

The Institute produces and shares knowledge, develops capacity at country and regional level, convenes dialogues, and advocates for democracy on the international stage.

Expertise. Agility. Credibility.

An Effective Investment in Democracy

Investing in International IDEA delivers:

- ✓ A credible, expert partner in development assistance and democracy support.
- ✓ A connection to diverse partners and Member States for dialogue and learning.
- ✓ A political signal that human rights, fairness, and choice in government matter, and that democracy is a universal aspiration that must be asserted and improved.

Our Strengths

Democracy faces existential challenges, including weak public trust in institutions, high polarization, and rising authoritarianism. International IDEA helps democracies respond with the following assets:



We are truly global. As an intergovernmental organization, our membership includes 35 countries that respect democratic values and principles, from all continents. Our Member States represent a quarter of humanity, from South Africa and India to Sweden and Uruguay. Our reach extends even further, with 20 offices on all continents and activities in 60 countries. Our global presence gives us strong North-South, regional, and country-level insights that guide our capacity development work. We continue to grow our network of Member States, offices, and activities, especially in the Global South.



We have world-leading expertise. Our staff and networks are the world's top experts on democracy, and we apply this expertise through our capacity development work around the world. Policymakers and practitioners come to us for insights and advice on electoral management, constitutional design, inclusive politics, and much more. We have 25+ years of experience supporting democratic reforms in countries as diverse as Barbados, The Gambia, Nepal, and The Netherlands. We have a record leading innovation in areas from parliamentary gender quotas to the relationship between climate change and democracy. Our Global State of Democracy Initiative is a globally trusted reference for assessing democratic performance.



We are trusted partners. We amplify our efforts by working in partnerships—with Member States, other governments, UN agencies, regional organizations (EU, AU, ASEAN, OAS, etc.), civil society, academics, and the private sector. We are a highly flexible intergovernmental organization: equally effective taking the podium as a UN Permanent Observer; implementing projects as an EU pillar-assessed partner; or working with 100+ civil society groups we co-lead in the Global Democracy Coalition.



We are conveners for democracy. Among our Member States, International IDEA is a top forum for discussion of democracy issues by peer countries across the Global South and Global North. More broadly, the Institute holds the trust of governments, international organizations, and civil society. Our partners value our ability to build coalitions and gather diverse stakeholders for policy-relevant dialogues, including on complex topics like artificial intelligence and conflict prevention.



We give democracy a strong voice. At a time when democracy faces growing challenges, from economic inequality to disinformation, it is also too often taken for granted. With our mandate to promote democracy, we bring a democratic lens to other global agendas, from the Sustainable Development Goals to peace and security. And since we cannot advance democracy alone, we mobilize the capacities of our Member States and partners. Our voice is highly valued: the US President has quoted our research findings and we appear regularly in the world's major media.



Explore the digital version



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