



International IDEA

2025 Annual Review

30 years of making a difference



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Cover images (Clockwise, from top-left):

1. Marching along the streets of Freetown, Sierra Leone in commemoration of International Day of Democracy on 15 September 2025. Credit: International IDEA/Bilkisu Jah
2. International IDEA's project team in Nepal interviews Dalit representatives of She Phoksundo Rural Municipality in 2024 to understand the reasons behind vacant seats of Dalit women in local government. Credit: International IDEA
3. Seema Shah, International IDEA Democracy Assessment Head, presents the findings of the Global State of Democracy 2022 Report at the launch event in Stockholm. Credit: Malin Huusmann
4. Ngozi Valentina Enih, Hon. Commissioner for Children, Gender Affairs and Social Development, Enugu State, speaks at the second Conference of Commissioners of Women Affairs held on 10 March 2025 in Abuja, Nigeria. Credit: International IDEA

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International IDEA Annual Review 2025

30 years of making a difference

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Message from the Secretary-General



In 2025 the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA) celebrated its 30th anniversary. We seized the occasion not just to look back but to push forward, alongside our Member States—led by Switzerland, our 2025 Council Chair—and other partners: building consensus, resolve and action to support democracy in an era of crisis and uncertainty.

This Annual Review is about much more than 12 months of activities. It is about lasting and tangible improvements to people's lives, made possible by a unique combination of research, programmes and convening power—all grounded in the credibility of a global intergovernmental organization. It is about how our work is making a difference.

We are making a difference in Ukraine, for example, where we are helping the Ukrainian Central Election Commission prepare for post-war elections—so Ukrainians can once again choose their own future in freedom and safety.

We are making a difference in Nigeria too, where reforms we facilitated are helping victims of violence obtain legal support and protection, and giving all citizens better access to the world's financial system because their country now meets anti-corruption standards.

We are making a difference globally, as our analysis, advice and advocacy generate international commitments and policy innovation on issues from electoral risk management to artificial intelligence and political finance transparency.

This is what we do. This is what our Member States, partners and donors support when they work with us. As we look ahead to the next 30 years, we will remain resolute in our mission to support democracy globally. We will continue to make a difference.



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

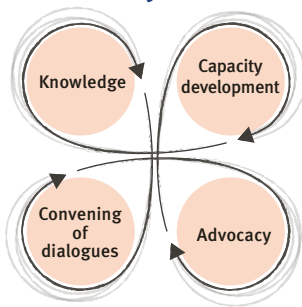
International IDEA advances, promotes and protects sustainable democracy worldwide in consideration of human rights commitments through policy-relevant knowledge, capacity development, advocacy and the convening of dialogues.

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](#).

We provide capacity development and expert advice to democracy actors, including governments, 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

60+
operations in 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.

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.

Constitutional governance and rule of law

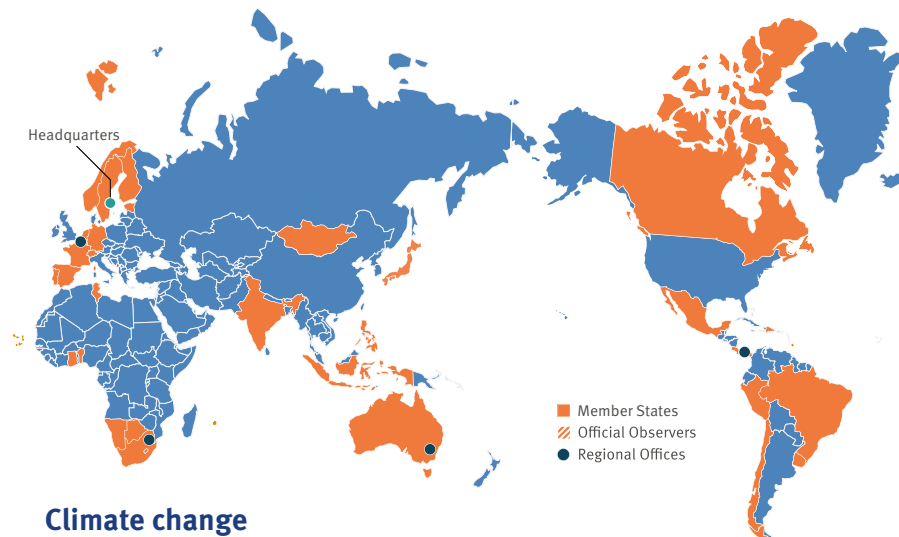
We develop comparative knowledge and provide advice on constitutional design, constitution-building processes and the rule of law, in fragile as well as more consolidated democracies.

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.

Project highlights from around the world



- Climate Change and Democracy
- Democracy Assessment
- Electoral Processes
- Money in Politics
- Constitutional Governance and Rule of Law
- Digitalization and Democracy
- Gender and Inclusion
- Political Participation and Representation
- Advocacy



30 years of International IDEA's convening power around the world



'Democracy requires constant adaptation. International IDEA ... exists precisely to serve that purpose: to remind governments and civil society that there is still much to be done.'

Gabriel Boric,

President of Chile, at an International IDEA event held September 2025

International IDEA celebrated 30 years of supporting democracy by convening Member States, world leaders, policymakers, civil society and partner organizations for major conferences across the globe, including in Belgium, Chile, Indonesia, South Africa, Sweden, the United States, and at the United Nations.

In Stockholm, election officials and diplomats from over 40 countries discussed how to safeguard democracy and protect elections. More than 300 people, including Gabriel Boric, President of Chile at the time, attended the Institute's conference in Santiago on advancing democracy in Latin America. In Pretoria, experts, grassroots activists and officials from across the globe discussed the crucial role of Global South leadership on democracy.

These gatherings and others in 12 countries worldwide—made possible by support from the Council of Member States, led by the 2025 Chair, Switzerland—enabled reflection, commitment and action in support of democracy globally. The events and the Institute's landmark publications on challenges to electoral integrity and the Global State of Democracy report were covered by dozens of major international media, reinforcing International IDEA's role as a trusted convenor and source of information.

Above all, the events reflected the diversity, reach and impact of an organization that works in more than 60 countries ranging from Moldova to Libya and from Nepal to Peru. With democracy facing major global challenges such as rising authoritarianism, widespread polarization and accelerating technological change, the 30th anniversary showed that the Institute's leadership, convening power and expertise are more essential than ever.



At top: President of Chile Gabriel Boric at 30th-anniversary event in Santiago, September 2025. Credit: International IDEA/ Pablo Sanhueza

At top, right: Daron Acemoglu, winner of the 2024 Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences, speaks at a 30th-anniversary event at the Organization of American States in Washington, DC, October 2025. Credit: Organization of American States/Juan Manuel Herrera

At middle, right: Pamela Figueroa Rubio, President of the Board of Directors, Electoral Service of Chile, speaks at the Stockholm Conference on Electoral Integrity, June 2025.

(l-r) Patricia Danzi, Director General, and Hanspeter Wyss, Policy Advisor, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation/Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland; Adrian Junker, Ambassador of Switzerland to Sweden; and Kamapradipta Isnomo, Former Indonesian Ambassador to Sweden, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia, in Stockholm, June 2025.

'We are grateful for the partnership we have with International IDEA and for the important work the Institute does for democracy around the world.'

Maria Malmer Stenergard,
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden



At top: Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden Maria Malmer Stenergard greets International IDEA Secretary-General Kevin Casas-Zamora at the 30th Anniversary High-Level Session in Stockholm in June 2025. Credit: Malin Huusmann

Above left: The Council of Member States meeting at International IDEA headquarters in Stockholm, June 2025. Credit: Malin Huusmann

Above right: Former President of Costa Rica Laura Chinchilla delivers a keynote address at the International Day of Democracy event in Brussels, September 2025. Credit: Cédric Puisney

Indonesia and Switzerland co-hosted a Canberra 30th anniversary luncheon for Member States at the Indonesian Embassy to Australia, August 2025. Credit: Indonesian Embassy in Canberra

'International IDEA sits at the intersection of practice and principle. It combines global reach with local insight, offering evidence-based, non-partisan guidance. Its neutrality, quiet diplomacy, convening power and deep technical credibility are rare and valuable. It represents a genuine zone of democratic competence and advocacy at a time when both are in short supply.'

Tom Rogers, former Australian Electoral Commissioner and International IDEA Board Member



June

High-level session; Stockholm Conference on Electoral Integrity; Council and Board of Advisers meetings

Stockholm, Sweden
10–12 June



July

High-Level Dialogue on Re-imagining Democracy in Africa–Pretoria Consensus

Pretoria, South Africa
19–20 June

Democracy Support in the New World Order: Threats and Future Strategies (Apoyo a la Democracia en el Nuevo Orden Global: Amenazas y Estrategias a Futuro)

Santiago, Chile
21 July



Brussels International Democracy Day Conference

Brussels, Belgium
18–19 September



UN General Assembly event on Support for Democracy in a New Geopolitical Context at the Ford Foundation Center

New York, United States
25 September

October

International Workshop on Electoral Efficiency and Sustainability

Bandung, Indonesia
21–23 October



August

September

Canberra 30th-anniversary luncheon

Canberra, Australia
5 August

Regional meeting—30 Years of International IDEA: Advancing Democracy in Latin America and the Caribbean

Santiago, Chile
3–4 September

Fourth Annual Retreat for Special Envoys and High Representatives of Regional Economic Communities; Africa and West Asia's regional Global State of Democracy report launch

Dakar, Senegal
14–16 September

Meeting with ambassadors from Member States on the upcoming 2026 elections in Peru

Lima, Peru
17 September



November

Panama's Democracy: An Overview after 30 Years of International IDEA (La Democracia de Panamá: Una Mirada a los 30 Años de IDEA Internacional)

Panama City, Panama
22 October

The Inter-American Democratic Charter: The Promise of Democracy and Prosperity for the Western Hemisphere

Washington, DC, USA
31 October

Jakarta round-table discussion on political rights of overseas citizens

Jakarta, Indonesia
26 November

Our impact

At right: Marisol García Apagüño, President, Federation of Kichwa Indigenous Peoples of Chazuta Amazonas, at the 30th-anniversary event in Pretoria, South Africa, June 2025.

Below: At the 30th Anniversary event in Stockholm in June 2025, the Council of Member States agrees to a statement affirming their continued commitment to International IDEA's work. Credit: Malin Huusmann

At bottom: Participants at the International Democracy Day conference in Brussels, Belgium, September 2025. Credit: Cédric Puisney



Europe

Strengthening Ukraine's preparedness for post-war elections

Funding: European Union, Norway, Sweden, Finland and France

Theme: Electoral Processes

With millions of Ukrainians displaced across Europe, ensuring their right to vote is central to Ukraine's democratic recovery. In 2025 Ukraine's Central Election Commission, with International IDEA's support, conducted eight consultative missions to Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Ireland, the Netherlands, Poland and Sweden—countries hosting a combined total of more than 1.5 million Ukrainian voters. The consultations brought together electoral authorities and government institutions to address legal frameworks, security, logistics, data protection and the use of non-diplomatic voting premises.

These exchanges strengthened institutional trust, clarified host-country requirements and informed realistic models for administering large-scale out-of-country voting. A concluding dialogue at the European Parliament consolidated lessons learned and advanced international coordination, significantly improving Ukraine's readiness to prevent democratic exclusion abroad.

Preparing for post-war elections in Ukraine also demands institutional resilience in the face of security threats, cyber risks and persistent information warfare. International IDEA supported Ukraine's Central Election Commission in strengthening its preparedness in three critical areas related to these challenges: (a) electoral risk management; (b) communication; and (c) information and communications technology and cybersecurity.



A delegation from Ukraine's Central Election Commission and Ministry of Foreign Affairs during a consultative visit on out-of-country voting at the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Helsinki, 8 September 2025. Credit: International IDEA

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‘The right to vote is a cornerstone of any democracy, and preparing to safeguard it in the post-war period is our duty. We highly appreciate the support in strengthening our capacity to protect electoral integrity, build inclusive processes and ensure that every Ukrainian, in the country or abroad, can take part in shaping the democratic future of Ukraine.’

— Oleh Didenko, Head of the Central Election Commission of Ukraine

Reinforcing Moldova's resilience against electoral interference

Funding: European Union, Sweden and France

Theme: Electoral Processes

International IDEA supported Moldova in organizing free and fair parliamentary elections against a backdrop of covert digital threats, unregulated online political advertising and coordinated third-party campaigning capable of undermining the integrity of results. Ahead of the elections, the Institute anticipated these risks by helping oversight bodies respond to threats and strengthening the Central Electoral Commission's ability to oversee the compliance of online campaigning and political advertising. This support enabled the Commission to assess violations, engage social media platforms and issue sanctions. These oversight practices will be embedded within the Commission and will strengthen its capacity to safeguard future elections.



Staff of the Central Electoral Commission of Moldova review findings from social media monitoring during a post-election lessons-learned session in Chişinău, 2025. Credit: International IDEA

“

‘Monitoring online campaigning on social media platforms and gaining situational awareness through International IDEA has proven essential to our ability to protect the integrity of elections.’

— Angelica Caraman, Chair, Central Electoral Commission of Moldova

Albania breaks new ground with first digital campaigning code

Funding: Finland, co-implemented with the Rule of Law Center of Finland

Theme: Electoral Processes

Ahead of Albania's 2025 general election, International IDEA supported the creation of the country's first Code of Conduct on Digital Campaigning, developed with the Central Election Commission, the National Democratic Institute and the University of Helsinki's Rule of Law Centre. Signed by all major political parties, the Code introduced a voluntary framework to curb disinformation, improve transparency and promote respectful online debate. It prompted parties to appoint digital focal points, enabled civil society and observers to monitor online violations, and elevated public debate on issues such as hate speech, political advertising and data use.

The Code marked an important step towards sustainable digital accountability. The initiative was cited in both the final report on Albania's elections published by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and the European Commission's 2025 enlargement package, each acknowledging the Code as a positive development for transparency and accountability.



Representatives of Albania's key political parties sign the Code of Conduct on Digital Campaigning on 25 March at the Central Election Commission in Tirana, Albania. Credit: International IDEA

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'I thank the political parties that have embraced the Code of Conduct on digital campaigns and call on all those contesting the 11 May [2025 parliamentary] elections to run a fair and respectful campaign and uphold the highest ethical standards it represents.'

— Ilirjan Celibashi, Albanian State Election Commissioner

Africa and West Asia

Helping Nigeria return to the international financial fold

Funding: European Union

Theme: Constitutional Governance and Rule of Law

Nigeria has for years been on the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) grey list—a designation for countries with gaps in tackling money laundering and terrorist financing. Countries on the list face strict restrictions in their ability to conduct international financial transactions, harming the economy of one of Africa’s powerhouses.



Barbara Omosun, Chief of Staff to the Nigerian Bar Association President, delivers a speech on 4 February 2025 at an event in Abuja, Nigeria, on rules of professional conduct for legal practitioners. The event was part of International IDEA’s efforts to help Nigeria fulfil the conditions for removal from the FATF’s grey list. Credit: International IDEA

International IDEA stepped in to help Nigeria strengthen its financial integrity through targeted reviews, focused round tables, practical training and strategic international engagement. The Institute worked closely with key government finance, justice and law-and-order institutions to assess risks and overhaul systems. These efforts played an important role in Nigeria’s removal from the grey list—a milestone expected to reinforce the country’s financial system and boost wider economic confidence.

The initiative formed part of an agreement with the EU to deliver the second phase of the Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption Programme (RoLAC II) in Nigeria—International IDEA’s largest project in Africa.

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‘We must specifically thank International IDEA and our other development partners for their unwavering technical support and guidance throughout this rigorous process. Their collaboration was instrumental in strengthening our Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism frameworks and ultimately ensuring that Nigeria was removed from the Financial Action Task Force grey list, restoring global confidence in our financial system.’

— Dr Faisal Shuaib, Nigerian Financial Intelligence Unit

Code of conduct in Gabon paves way for peaceful 2025 elections

Funding: European Union, France and the Netherlands

Theme: Electoral Processes

Following Gabon's transitional period after the annulment of the country's 2023 general elections, International IDEA urged the presidential candidates to sign the country's first voluntary code of conduct—the Code of Good Conduct for the Candidates for Peaceful Presidential Elections in Gabon. Despite initial mistrust, the initiative helped foster a more peaceful electoral environment and inspired similar practices ahead of subsequent legislative and local elections.

Following the overthrow of former President Ali Bongo Ondimba and the annulment of the 2023 general elections, Gabon entered a transitional period aimed at restoring public institutions and returning to constitutional order. As preparations for the 2025 presidential election gathered pace, national stakeholders expressed concerns about political polarization, inflammatory rhetoric and the risk of election-related tensions, while also identifying the need to strengthen the transparency and credibility of electoral processes. In this context, national authorities requested that International IDEA provide technical assistance to strengthen electoral integrity and build the capacity of key electoral actors.

Overseen by respected moral guarantors, the voluntary code of conduct contributed to a notably calm electoral environment, with the 12 April 2025 presidential election taking place without major incidents. The initiative became a reference point for subsequent legislative and local elections, inspiring similar measures introduced by Gabonese institutions later in 2025.



Gninga Chaning Zenaba, the only woman candidate to run in Gabon's April 2025 presidential election, signs the voluntary code of conduct prior to the election. Libreville, Gabon, 27 March 2025. Credit: International IDEA

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‘This moment marks an essential step in the consolidation of our democracy and in the quest for a peaceful, inclusive and transparent electoral process.’

— Bishop Ruffin Ngoubou, Vicar General, Representative of the Archbishop of the Catholic Church of Gabon

Advancing gender equality in The Gambia’s Parliament

Funding: European Union

Theme: Political Participation and Representation

International IDEA’s Consolidation of Democratic Dispensation in The Gambia project is driving a major step forward for women’s political participation in The Gambia, where women currently hold only 8.6 per cent of seats in the National Assembly, the country’s parliament. To help increase women’s parliamentary representation, International IDEA supported the National Assembly’s Gender Select Committee on a study trip to Kenya, where members learned from successful gender-quota reforms. Inspired by this experience, the Committee drafted The Gambia’s first Gender Committee Women Bill, proposing a constitutional quota to guarantee women’s representation. Submitted in October 2025 and expected to be added to the parliamentary agenda in March 2026, the Bill is now the focus of outreach to legislators to build understanding and support. If passed, it would mark a transformative step towards a more inclusive and representative democracy.



Stakeholders take part in the opening ceremony of the first-ever National Conference on Women’s Political Participation and Representation in The Gambia, held in Banjul on 15–16 December 2025. Credit: International IDEA

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‘Parliament is the people’s House, and the people include the women of The Gambia. The barriers of gatekeeping within political parties must be dismantled. Political parties must move beyond using women as mobilizers and start investing in them as candidates.’

— Hon. Abdoulie Ceesay, Deputy Majority Leader, National Assembly of The Gambia

Strengthening justice and rights protection across Nigeria

Funding: European Union

Theme: Constitutional Governance and Rule of Law

International IDEA's work through the RoLAC II programme has strengthened Nigeria's justice sector by improving detainee rights, ensuring access to justice for vulnerable groups, promoting the adoption of non-custodial sentencing and safeguarding the rights of persons with disabilities. The key to success has been fostering greater accountability and trust among lawyers, magistrates and police by supporting regular monitoring of detention practices.



Adebayo Akinlade, Convener, Duty Solicitors Network, gives a briefing on the provision of free legal aid to suspects at police stations during the Nigerian Bar Association's Annual General Conference, held in Lagos, 26–29 August 2024. Credit: International IDEA

Support for the Police Duty Solicitor Scheme and for magisterial cell visits has increased accountability at police stations and enhanced detainees' access to legal assistance. The Scheme provides free legal assistance to inmates in police detention facilities across the country. Coordination committees have improved collaboration across justice actors, leading to a record number of child protection restraint orders and cross-sector initiatives in Lagos and Edo State. Advocacy and training have expanded the use of community service, parole and restorative justice, signalling growing acceptance of non-custodial sentencing. Meanwhile, engagement with disability rights groups has contributed to new state-level legal frameworks, improved accessibility measures and expanded availability of sign-language interpretation, reinforcing the recognition of persons with disabilities as rights holders.

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'The Police Duty Solicitor Scheme is a crucial mechanism for providing timely legal assistance during the most vulnerable stage of the justice process—investigations and interrogations. It is not just about legal representation; it is about upholding due process and ensuring that the rights of every Nigerian citizen are protected from the very moment of arrest.'

— Aliyu Bagudu Abubakar, Director-General of the Legal Aid Council of Nigeria

Modern protection for millions: Nigeria advances ambitious social development reform

Funding: European Union

Theme: Constitutional Governance and Rule of Law

Nigeria is taking a landmark step towards modernizing how it protects and empowers its people. With support from International IDEA's CSO Strengthening Bridge Project, the country has drafted a new Social Development Act Amendment Bill—as the old law no longer reflects Nigeria's rapidly growing population, its complex social challenges or the vital role of civil society.

The draft Bill introduces a modern legal framework designed to strengthen social protection systems, clarify the role of government institutions and create a more enabling environment for civil society organizations. It responds to persistent gaps in regulation, coordination and legal clarity that have long hindered effective social development in Africa's most populous nation.

Ahead of the 2025 National Summit, International IDEA supported the full review and drafting process, ensuring the Bill addressed these systemic challenges. At the Summit, government bodies, regulators and civil society reviewed and refined the text, grounding it both technically and politically. The result is a forward-looking framework with the potential to shape how millions of Nigerians access services, participate in public life and hold institutions to account.



Patience Otozi, Chief Social Welfare Officer, Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, shares feedback and lessons from Nigeria's Ebonyi State at the National Summit on Repositioning the Social Development Framework held in Abuja, Nigeria, 26 November 2025. Credit: International IDEA

“

'The Social Development Act is older than many of us. Outdated provisions and emerging social challenges demand urgent reform. The unity of civil society organizations is essential; one stick is easily broken, but a bundle of broomsticks is not. We must speak with one voice to deliver an Act worthy of a nation committed to inclusive development.'

— Ngozi Valentina Enih, Commissioner for Children, Gender Affairs and Social Development, Enugu State, Nigeria

Asia and the Pacific

From the margins to the ballot: Inclusive electoral participation in Nepal

Funding: European Union

Theme: Gender and Inclusion

A consortium of civil society organizations (CSOs) in Nepal, supported by International IDEA, established a civil society platform to advocate for an electoral system that better enables women, Dalits and youth to assume political roles. The platform has helped build the capacity of Nepalese CSOs to advocate for citizens' political rights. The project provides technical support to the Election Commission, advocates for legal and institutional reforms, counters misinformation and promotes digital civic education.

Extended in response to a youth-led protest movement and resulting early elections, the project has taken on renewed urgency, particularly for young people. It has already contributed to greater participation of Dalits and women in electoral processes. In 2025 the project convened civil society organizations, the Journalists Society for Parliamentary Affairs and electoral stakeholders at a critical moment to drive more inclusive reform debates, producing four major policy research reports on campaign financing, out-of-country voting, vacant seats reserved for Dalit women and Dalit representation in local governments in Madhesh Province.



Youth at a provincial deliberation event organized by Yuwa, one of International IDEA's consortium partners, discussing inclusive youth participation in politics and barriers to political engagement. The event was held from 15 to 18 December 2024, in Pokhara City, Gandaki Province, Nepal. Credit: International IDEA

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'The political issues were not much of a concern for me before. Now that I'm engaging in these kinds of events and paying attention to the current political climate, I've become more interested and want to stay informed about what's happening in politics.'

— Workshop participant discussing electoral reform and research

Overseas voting in Asia and the Pacific: Challenges and policy pathways

Funding: International IDEA Member State core contributions

Theme: Electoral Processes

International IDEA released three publications in 2025 examining the voting rights of overseas citizens across Asia and the Pacific. Migration is deeply embedded in the region, with many citizens studying, working or settling abroad while elections take place in their countries of origin, posing challenges for voter registration, participation and representation. The publications—reports on the Pacific Islands and South Asia, as well as a study on online voting among Filipino citizens living abroad—analysed the challenges facing diaspora voters and identified opportunities for policymakers and stakeholders to expand enfranchisement. In the Philippines, the Commission on Elections circulated International IDEA’s online overseas voting report as part of its evaluation of the 2025 midterm elections, contributing to the Commission’s own organizational learning in preparation for the next elections. Across the region, the findings also informed policy debates. In Nepal, for example, International IDEA delivered technical advice to the Ministry of Home Affairs on out-of-country voting options.



A migrant worker boards a flight from Nepal. Credit: Migrationlab/Upasana Khadka

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‘The enfranchisement of absent voters represents a challenge—but also an opportunity for more representative forms of democratic governance in the Pacific.’

— From the publication *The Absent Voters of the Pacific Islands* by Kerry Baker, Fellow in Pacific Politics in the Department of Pacific Affairs at the Australian National University, and Antonio Spinelli, Senior Advisor for Electoral Processes at International IDEA

Myanmar's democratic blueprint takes shape against the odds

Funding: Luxembourg, Norway, Finland

Theme: Constitutional Governance and Rule of Law

International IDEA's Building Federal Democracy in Myanmar Programme has become a driving force in the country's post-coup push for a democratic future. Despite conflict and fragmentation, the programme helped institutions involved in the democracy movement chart a transitional constitutional path and spur the adoption of six new state and regional constitutional frameworks. Through targeted governance support, mediation and dialogue, International IDEA broke deadlocks and strengthened coordination across the democratic movement. The Institute's civic education and inclusion work brought more women, youth, Rohingya and persons with disabilities into the process. Across 399 activities, International IDEA reached over 14,600 people directly and more than half a million online. Strategic UN and regional advocacy kept Myanmar firmly on the global agenda and built consensus to reject the junta's staged 2025–2026 elections.



Woman protests in Myanmar. Credit: The Myanmar Photo Collective – Visualrebellion.org

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‘International IDEA’s technical expertise, financial assistance and strong cooperation, particularly in standing with us against the sham election and advocating for federal democracy, have been invaluable to our movement and to the people of Myanmar.’

— Myanmar’s National Unity Consultative Council

Latin America and the Caribbean

Strengthening democracy in Latin America through strategic electoral missions

Funding: International IDEA Member State core contributions

Themes: Electoral Processes

Amid one of the most intense electoral calendars in recent years—spanning presidential and legislative elections in Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, Guyana and Honduras, legislative polls in Argentina, subnational elections in Uruguay and Honduras, and judicial elections in Mexico—the region confronted deep public frustration with democratic performance. This frustration was reflected in lower voter turnout, a rise in protest voting and increasingly radical candidacies, alongside mounting concerns about potential foreign interference.

Against this backdrop, International IDEA placed a strong emphasis on electoral missions supporting key processes in Chile, Guyana, Honduras and Mexico. These missions provided not only a visible international presence but also essential support to electoral authorities navigating a complex political climate. In Mexico, the Institute participated in the first-ever citizen-led election of judicial officials.

Across all these engagements, International IDEA offered technical assistance aimed at strengthening electoral integrity, countering disinformation and fostering more inclusive participation—particularly among women and historically excluded groups. This comprehensive support helped reinforce public trust and bolster democratic resilience at a time of heightened uncertainty across the region.



A polling station in the outskirts of Tegucigalpa, Honduras, during the 2025 general election on 1 December. The National Electoral Council (Consejo Nacional Electoral) invited International IDEA to support the international mission on electoral process. Credit: International IDEA/Nicolás Liendo

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‘Democracy must deliver; it is not enough to be the best system in theory. It must transform lives with justice and empathy. There are three paths to revitalizing it: effective public policies, political parties that remain connected to citizens, and active, diverse participation—especially from younger generations.’

— Remarks by Michelle Bachelet, former President of Chile, during International IDEA’s event on support for democracy in the new global order, July 2025 in Santiago, Chile

Press under pressure: Supporting media freedom in Latin America

Project: *Strengthening Electoral Integrity Ecosystems to Protect Democracies in Latin America*

Funding: Spain (AECID)

Project: *Improving the Resilience of Democracy in Central America and Consolidation of Peruvian Democracy*

Funding: Luxembourg and European Union

Theme: Democracy Assessment, Gender and Inclusion, Political Participation and Representation

The year 2025 marked a decline in press freedom, as highlighted in International IDEA's Global State of Democracy report. Across Latin America, the Institute collaborated with journalists, fact-checkers, civil society organizations, digital platforms and electoral authorities to strengthen efforts to counter disinformation and gender-based digital political violence.

This initiative was carried out in Chile, Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Mexico, Peru and Uruguay. Building on long-standing work with journalist networks in countries such as Peru, International IDEA expanded its target audience in 2025 by engaging independent and non-traditional media outlets in Central America.

International IDEA also raised the alarm about the situation facing journalists in countries experiencing clear democratic backsliding, such as El Salvador, Nicaragua and Venezuela, where running a free press is becoming increasingly difficult.



Journalists in Peru take part in a training session on the fight against disinformation in electoral contexts, as part of a course on journalism and politics organized by International IDEA, the Gustavo Mohme Llona Foundation and the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru. Credit: International IDEA/Jairo Reátegui

“

‘The exchange of perspectives, experiences and information generated during the regional meeting organized by International IDEA and the Training Centre of Spanish Cooperation was immensely valuable and inspiring. The encounter renewed my motivation to continue advancing the anti-disinformation project we are leading at Mexico’s National Electoral Institute.’

— Alfonso García, Deputy Director of Information Monitoring and Synthesis, National Electoral Institute of Mexico

Closing the digital gap to level the playing field for women in Latin America

Funding: International IDEA Member State core contributions and European Union

Theme: Gender and Inclusion

Women continue to confront entrenched barriers and new forms of inequality throughout their political careers. In 2025 International IDEA’s work put a spotlight on a fast-growing threat—how digitalization, generative AI and online disinformation are fuelling gender-based political violence and shrinking democratic space for women.

Working with partners including the UN Development Programme, UN Women, ParlAmericas, Casa de América and Fundación Carolina, International IDEA advanced strategies to counter digital harms and strengthen women’s political leadership.

In Panama, for example, the Institute brought the National Assembly—the country’s unicameral legislature—political organizations, civil society and women leaders together to push for gender parity as a core electoral reform priority, demonstrating how digital-era challenges and long-standing inequalities must be tackled in tandem.



Deputies of the National Assembly of Panama with representatives of the Ministry of Women, the EU, International IDEA and other partners during Parity Week discussions on strengthening gender parity in Panama. Credit: International IDEA/ Elizabeth Hernández

“

‘This project on electoral integrity and gender seeks to consolidate the conditions that enable free, fair and trustworthy elections in the face of challenges such as disinformation and gender-based digital violence. For Mexico, it represents an opportunity to strengthen our institutions while, at the same time, sharing experiences that can benefit the rest of the region.’

— Arlene Cabral, Coordinator for International Affairs, National Electoral Institute of Mexico

Global Programmes

Civil society leverages Global State of Democracy initiative to strengthen democratic practices

Funding: International IDEA Member State core contributions, European Union and Robert Bosch Stiftung

Theme: Democracy Assessment

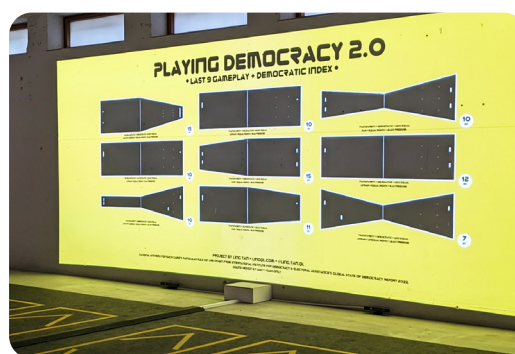
The Global State of Democracy (GSoD) initiative is one of International IDEA's flagship initiatives, which aims to provide up-to-date, incisive and relevant data, analysis and policy guidance that helps shape the global debate on democracy. The Institute's annual Global State of Democracy report is a reference point for policymakers and media, while the monthly Democracy Tracker monitors progress and setbacks around the world.

Think tanks and advocacy groups worldwide are leveraging GSoD data and report findings to inform debate and promote democratization efforts. Users in 2025 included Democracy Without Borders, the Kofi Annan Foundation, the Middle East Institute and the National Democratic Institute. The GSoD initiative's findings also inspired dialogue on regional democratization efforts in the Western Balkans.

High-profile figures, such as Pita Limjaroenrat, the legitimate winner of Thailand's 2023 general election, and Michelle Bachelet, former President of Chile and UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, have helped to amplify the Democracy Tracker and the GSoD report.

In 2025 non-governmental organizations used GSoD data in educational materials that build public understanding of issues such as press freedom. Initiatives such as Playing Democracy 2.0 (pictured above) used the GSoD initiative to engage communities through participatory art.

The private sector also emerged as a more prominent user of GSoD data, as businesses increasingly recognized the connection between democratic governance and responsible investment. Covalence, a Geneva-based company that evaluates businesses on environmental, social and governance (ESG) criteria, integrated the GSoD Indices into its evaluations, demonstrating the framework's relevance beyond the public sector.



A wall projection at the STRP Festival in Eindhoven, the Netherlands, in April 2024 shows past gameplay conditions along with each game's democratic index in Playing Democracy 2.0—a giant multiplayer game of Pong exploring the principles of democracy. Credit: Playing Democracy 2.0/Ling Tan

“

‘The 2025 Global State of Democracy Report by International IDEA is a timely reminder that political elites must listen to citizens, and citizens must never relent in defending democracy. Because, despite the setbacks, democracy is worth it. I invite you to read this report. It is a masterpiece.’

— Samson Itodo, International IDEA Board Member and Executive Director of Yiaga Africa

Strengthening global electoral integrity through innovation and partnership

Funding: International IDEA Member State core contributions

Themes: Electoral Processes

International IDEA’s Electoral Processes Programme continued strengthening global electoral integrity in 2025. International IDEA advanced good practices among electoral assistance practitioners, policymakers, electoral management bodies (EMBs) and civil society, influencing reforms and capacity-building efforts across regions.

International IDEA also strengthened relationships with professionals working in the areas of disaster risk reduction and climate change. Highlights include bolstering electoral resilience in countries such as Finland, Panama and Ukraine; and empowering civil society in Gabon, Guyana, Nepal and Paraguay to promote participation, combat misinformation and strengthen accountability.

International IDEA maintained six major electoral databases and key digital tools, supporting media, practitioners and policymakers worldwide. Data from the Special Voting Arrangements Database informed international media’s reporting on democracy, as over 50 media outlets carried International IDEA’s analysis of President Donald Trump’s claims about postal voting in the United States, including the BBC, *El País*, Reuters, *The Guardian* and *The Independent*.



Participants attend a train-the-trainers workshop on protecting elections, held in Stockholm, November 2025. Credit: International IDEA/Julian Tucker

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‘We want to thank everyone at [International] IDEA for all the incredible work, especially under very tough circumstances. As an EMB, we have benefited so much from [International] IDEA’s activities and knowledge; it is thanks to your efforts that [International] IDEA is such a vital part in the landscape of elections and democracy, and the values that it represents.’

— Election official from an International IDEA Member State

Transforming gender norms through dialogue across Africa

Funding: European Union

Theme: Gender and Inclusion

Throughout 2025, International IDEA convened a series of regional dialogues across Africa under the WYDE Women's Leadership Initiative. Bringing together politicians, emerging leaders and civil society actors from more than 30 countries, these safe, mixed-gender spaces confronted the patriarchal norms that continue to restrict women's political participation. Men spoke candidly about privilege and how patriarchy shapes their lives, while women set out clear expectations for authentic allyship. The result was a stronger, shared commitment to transform harmful gender norms, shift leadership cultures and build more inclusive political environments—an urgent response to the EU Gender Action Plan III (2021-2025), SDG 5 and the UN Development Programme (UNDP) 2023 Gender Social Norms Index that underscore the persistence of discriminatory gender social norms across the world.



In a symbolic gesture, participants of the Dialogue for Male Engagement on Gender Equality and Transformative Social Norms clap their hands, with a forward motion embodying the act of debunking social norms, on 21 August 2025 in Nairobi, Kenya. Credit: Events Comm Empire/Francis Mwangi

“

‘Men must establish self-reflection and personal transformation: we must examine our own privileges if we want to make change.’

— Curtis Dorley, Deputy Minister for Research, Policy and Planning, Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, Liberia

Young Women’s Empowerment Academies: Challenging norms, shaping leadership

Funding: European Union

Theme: Gender and Inclusion

International IDEA convened four Young Women’s Empowerment Academies across Southern Africa, East Africa, West Africa and South Asia, bringing together 110 young women from 35 countries. Aspiring candidates, party members, youth leaders and elected officials articulated clear commitments at the individual, community and political levels, positioning themselves to contest elections, reform party structures and mobilize others in support of transformative and inclusive democratic change.



Young Women’s Empowerment Academy for the Economic Community of West African States, in Abuja, Nigeria, November 2025. Credit: Mediaswitch for International IDEA

“

‘The Academy has been a transformative experience for me. It gave me the opportunity to deeply reflect on gender social norms, leadership and inclusive governance. Meeting young women leaders from diverse contexts inspired me to think beyond my own limitations and to see the collective power of women’s voices.’

— Amtul Dinana Chowdhury, Legal Officer, Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust

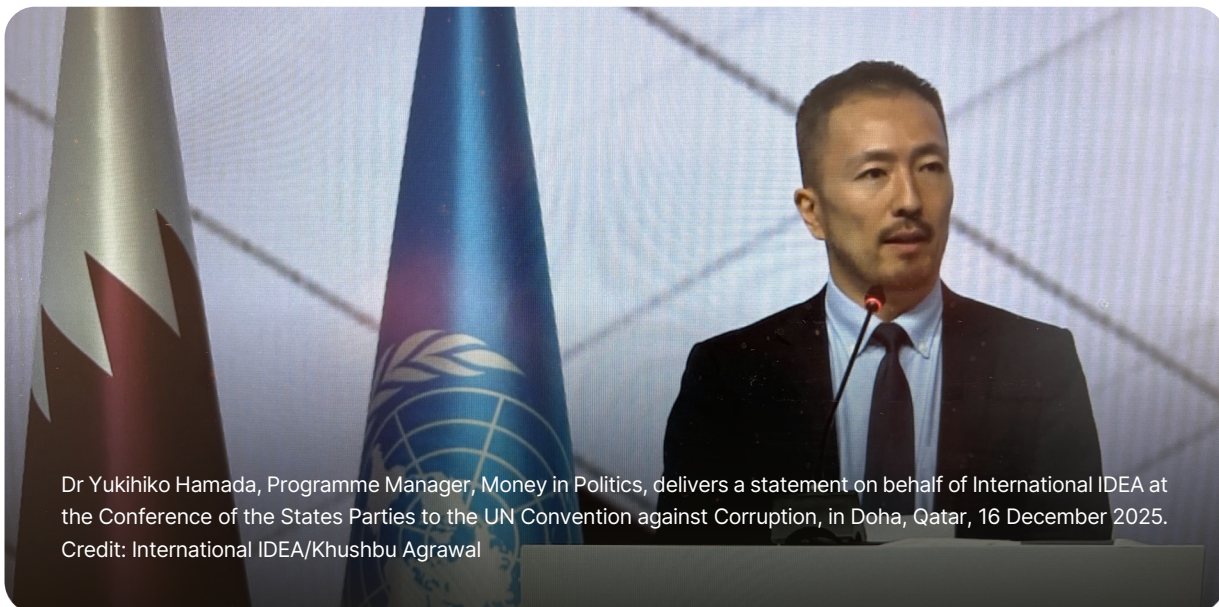
Helping deliver landmark UN political finance reform

Funding: International IDEA Member State core contributions

Themes: Political Participation and Representation, Money in Politics

In December 2025, 192 States Parties to the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) adopted the first-ever UN resolution dedicated to political finance transparency at the UNCAC Conference of the States Parties in Doha. This milestone reflects years of advocacy and technical leadership by International IDEA, in close collaboration with partner organizations. The resolution recognizes opaque political funding as a global corruption risk and creates a new international framework to support national reforms.

The resolution is the result of persistent and strategic engagement across multiple international platforms. International IDEA worked with partners over several years to build political momentum through forums such as the International Anti-Corruption Conference, the UN General Assembly, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and regional anti-corruption dialogues.



Dr Yukihiro Hamada, Programme Manager, Money in Politics, delivers a statement on behalf of International IDEA at the Conference of the States Parties to the UN Convention against Corruption, in Doha, Qatar, 16 December 2025. Credit: International IDEA/Khushbu Agrawal

“

‘As an intergovernmental organization with a sole mandate to support democracy worldwide, International IDEA contributes to global anti-corruption efforts through our long-standing expertise in political finance.’

— International IDEA Statement delivered by Yukihiro Hamada at the Conference of the States Parties to the UN Convention against Corruption

Powering climate action through democratic innovation

Funding: Germany, France (AFD) and European Climate Foundation

Theme: Climate Change and Democracy

International IDEA advanced its climate change and democracy work in 2025 by demonstrating how democratic innovation can strengthen climate action globally. In Brazil, the Institute partnered with Delibera Brasil to pilot two climate assemblies that brought citizens, local governments and civil society together to shape priorities for climate finance ahead of COP30. Their recommendations—shared with governments, donors and development banks—helped bridge the gap between community needs and global climate finance actors. A case study report produced by International IDEA and partners examines how climate assemblies could help bridge this gap and shares what was learned about climate deliberation in the process.

At COP30, International IDEA also launched the International Climate and Democracy Coalition, a new global community of practice fostering collaboration across governments, civil society and donors on the climate–democracy nexus. The launch convened central actors and stakeholders in this field to reinforce the need for joint democratic responses to the climate crisis.

International IDEA also advanced global dialogue on climate litigation through the publication of a new report, *Let the Courts Decide? The Potential and Limitations of Climate Litigation from a Democracy Perspective*, highlighting how legal action can strengthen democratic accountability while acknowledging its limits. This effort expanded informed debate among policymakers, activists and legal experts worldwide.

“

‘We must strengthen democratic resilience as a condition for climate resilience.’

— Natascha Beinker, Head of the Climate Policy Division at the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development



Carol Gonçalves (left) from Delibera Brasil, an International IDEA local partner organization, presents a postcard from citizens participating in the climate assemblies held in Brazil's Pará State to Marina Silva, Minister of the Environment and Climate Change of Brazil, on 19 November 2025. Credit: Delibera Brasil

Building electoral resilience from Africa to Latin America for the artificial-intelligence era

Project: *AI Literacy for Electoral Actors: Fostering Awareness and All-of-Society Resilience on AI in Elections*

Funding: Microsoft and OpenAI

Project: *Strengthening Electoral Integrity Ecosystems to Protect Democracies in Latin America*

Funding: International IDEA Member State core contributions and Spain (AECID)

Theme: Digitalization and Democracy

In 2023 International IDEA launched a digitalization and democracy workstream to safeguard democratic processes from digital threats, as the adoption of artificial intelligence (AI) in electoral processes is outpacing many institutions' ability to fully understand its impact. In 2025, with support from Microsoft and OpenAI, International IDEA completed its first global workshop series to build AI literacy and resilience for electoral management bodies and civil society.

International IDEA expanded partnerships across Africa, Europe, Latin America and Asia and the Pacific to counter foreign interference, strengthen digital regulation and build resilience. The Institute convened a meeting of nearly 200 officials from 70+ countries; supported electoral integrity through new standards, such as Albania's Digital Campaigning Code of Conduct; and advanced ethical digital governance, including by providing support to Chile's National Congress.

The Institute released a methodology on enablers and incentives behind foreign information manipulation. Civil society organizations used it to guide national analyses and identify enablers and incentives in Côte d'Ivoire, Moldova, North Macedonia and Senegal.

In Colombia, Mexico and Panama, International IDEA trained stakeholders and facilitated debates with partners on innovative technologies for democracy—and how to address them. The Institute also worked with authorities, digital platforms and civil society through regional networks to show how disinformation influences citizens' decisions.



Valerie Edna Awuor Odhiambo, Policy Analyst at Lawyers Hub, speaks at a workshop held on 7–8 April 2025 on artificial-intelligence literacy for electoral actors in Johannesburg, South Africa. Credit: International IDEA/Juliane Müller

“

‘International IDEA brings to the table experts from a wide range of fields and disciplines. This allows for a broader conversation that prepares the electoral authority with stronger foundations to adopt the necessary measures, while also fostering collaboration with interested third parties who can contribute to the proper conduct of electoral processes such as that forthcoming in Colombia.’

— Pamela San Martín, Co-Chair of Meta's Advisory Council

Playing a pivotal role in Ghana’s constitutional reform

Funding: Switzerland and the Netherlands

Theme: Constitutional Governance and Rule of Law

In January 2025 the president of Ghana established a Constitutional Review Committee (CRC) to develop recommendations to strengthen the country’s Constitution as an engine for democratic development. International IDEA supported Ghana—a Member State since 2008—by providing training and technical advice and convening officials and civil society. In December 2025 the CRC submitted its recommendations to the president, and International IDEA—together with Member State partners—is now supporting the next phases of the process as the Government looks to implement the recommendations.



A statue of Kwame Nkrumah in Accra, Ghana. Credit: freewheely.com

“

‘[The Constitutional Review Committee] extends its gratitude to [International IDEA] for diverse assistance and contributions in support of the Committee’s work.’

— From a report by the Constitutional Review Committee of Ghana

Citizen Engagement Guides transform parliaments

Funding: European Union

Theme: Parliamentary Engagement

Trust in democracy is declining worldwide, and parliaments face growing pressure to connect with citizens. To address these issues, Inter Pares, together with the International Parliament Engagement Network and with EU support, developed eight interactive Citizen Engagement Guides. Built on extensive global research, these guides shift the focus from citizens as spectators to citizens as active participants. They provide parliaments, staff, civil society and scholars with actionable frameworks for deliberation, co-creation and inclusive decision making. The series forms a comprehensive roadmap for innovation, helping legislatures worldwide strengthen democratic legitimacy, transparency and citizen trust.



Eight interactive Citizen Engagement Guides developed by International IDEA's Inter Pares and the International Parliament Engagement Network provide parliaments worldwide with practical, evidence-based frameworks to involve citizens meaningfully. Credit: Research Retold

“

‘At the heart of the lack of engagement with parliaments is a growing lack of understanding how they are important in a functioning democracy. I’m excited how these guides tackle rebuilding this trust.’

— Caroline Wallis, Research Lead, Parliament of New Zealand

Advocacy

Global Democracy Coalition strengthens worldwide alliances

Funding: Ford Foundation and Robert Bosch Stiftung

In 2025 International IDEA continued convening the Global Democracy Coalition, uniting more than 180 democracy partners across Africa, the Americas, Asia and the Pacific, and Europe. Regional forums in Bangkok, Buenos Aires, Milan and Nairobi deepened cooperation on polarization, civic innovation, environmental justice and youth-driven digital rights. These dialogues shaped a shared global agenda, reaffirming that diverse democratic contexts face common challenges.

In parallel, the Coalition published *When Aid Fades: Impacts and Pathways for the Global Democratic Ecosystem*, a report grounded in months of global survey data from democracy organizations. When the shutdown of US foreign aid created sudden uncertainty, the Coalition demonstrated solidarity by rapidly deploying an emergency fund to support nine Global South organizations. The year underscored that collective action is the Coalition’s core strength.

“

The power of democratic dialogue lies not only in identifying shared challenges, but in building collective action grounded in local realities. Only by bridging regional experiences with global strategy can we strengthen democratic resilience in a time of shrinking civic space and declining aid.’

— Elisenda Ballesté Buxó, Coordinator, Global Democracy Coalition



The cover of the report *When Aid Fades: Impacts and Pathways for the Global Democratic Ecosystem*, published in November 2025 by the Global Democracy Coalition in partnership with International IDEA and the International Foundation for Electoral Systems. Credits: International Foundation for Electoral Systems; Raj Bahadur Sapkota; 2024 USAID Democracy, Human Rights and Governance Photo Contest finalists; USAID Images; Alec Jacobson; Olena Hnitetska; Linda Egyir-Quainoo; International IDEA Project Voces Ciudadanas 2023/Silvia Román

Campaigning for inclusive democracy worldwide

Funding: International IDEA Member State core contributions

Advocacy remained a central pillar of International IDEA's work in 2025. Through the #DemocracyForAll campaign, International IDEA advanced a strong inclusion agenda by developing and deploying new databases, analytical tools, publications, podcasts and digital content addressing themes such as democracy assistance, migration and democratic resilience. This commitment to inclusion also shaped the Institute's 30th-anniversary activities and informed the Pretoria Consensus—a key contribution to global thinking on reimagining democracy in the Global South.

Throughout the year, International IDEA played an active role in global policy arenas, delivering 19 advocacy statements and campaign-related speeches in multilateral forums, including at the UN, and engaging widely with international media to amplify its messages. The Institute's knowledge products and outreach efforts helped drive renewed attention to democratic governance, with 13 thematic publications and 10 newsletters providing timely analysis and insights from 24 policy dialogues and public events that brought together policymakers, experts, activists and journalists to foster dialogue and shared understanding.

The iKNOW Politics digital resource, funded by the European Union under the WYDE | Women's Leadership initiative, reinforces the Institute's in-person activities with greater online reach in Arabic, English, French and Spanish languages. The platform recorded 235,000 unique visitors and 292,635 views and reach across social media platforms. These unique visitors to the iKNOW Politics platform are 53.7% women and 46.3% men, and more than half of the visitors are 18–34 years old.

Taken together, these outputs strengthened International IDEA's role as a trusted convener and authoritative voice on democracy, supporting policymaking and reinforcing the Institute's commitment to inclusive democratic institutions worldwide.



Championing democracy on the UN stage

Funding: International IDEA Member State core contributions

In 2025 International IDEA deepened its engagement with the UN by anchoring democracy, governance and inclusion within UN processes. On the sidelines of the 80th session of the UN General Assembly, the Institute convened a high-level round table aimed at renewing global democracy cooperation among International IDEA Member States, civil society and multilateral partners, reinforcing democracy as central to a resilient multilateral system.

At the 2025 UN Climate Change Conference, held in Belém, Brazil, International IDEA spotlighted inclusive climate governance and citizen assemblies, releasing a report and hosting events that linked democratic participation with equitable access to climate finance.

In Doha, Qatar, International IDEA took part in the World Summit for Social Development and the Conference of the States Parties to the UN Convention against Corruption, advocating for democracy, social development and stronger political finance transparency as pivotal to democratic integrity. International IDEA's participation in these events, among others, showcases the value that the Institute brings in placing democracy on the agenda of the UN system.



Dr Kevin Casas-Zamora, Secretary-General of International IDEA, delivers keynote remarks at the high-level round table 'Support for Democracy in a New Geopolitical Context', held in New York on 25 September 2025. Credit: International IDEA

EU advocacy drives stronger global democracy support

Funding: International IDEA Member State core contributions

In 2025 International IDEA strengthened its role as a trusted partner to the European Union—the world’s largest democracy supporter—ensuring democracy remains central to EU policymaking and programming. The Institute engaged with the Commission’s proposal for the 2028–2034 Multiannual Financial Framework and the Global Europe initiative, helping anchor democracy support as a strategic priority.

By working closely with other prominent democracy organizations, International IDEA helped shape EU deliberations on democracy support. Its contributions to Member States further advanced calls for continuing funding for democracy support, to counter democratic backsliding and to reinforce democracy in EU enlargement countries.

Regular engagement by the EU liaison team, combined with visits from senior leadership around the world, created direct channels to EU political decision makers. The team strengthened the Institute’s internal capacity through a new EU Engagement Staff Manual, now a key resource for guiding collaboration with EU institutions.

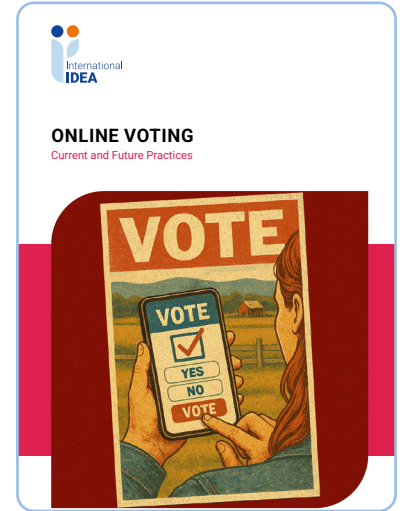


Participants attend the conference ‘A World Turned Upside Down: Democracy and Inclusion in an Age of Insecurity’, held in Brussels to mark International Democracy Day, 18–19 September 2025. Credit: Cédric Puisney

Featured publications

Online Voting: Current and Future Practices

This report takes stock of the global journey of online voting up to 2025, drawing lessons from democracies, new adopters and even authoritarian regimes. It highlights the opportunities and risks of this evolving practice and points to the conditions needed for credible and trustworthy implementation. A must-read for election officials, policymakers and anyone interested in the future of voting.



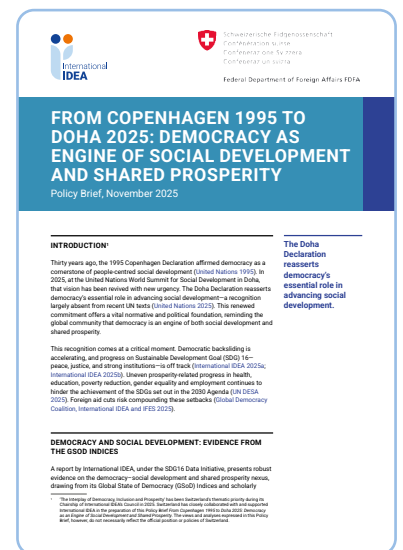
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‘People around the world have become more accustomed to completing tasks through the convenience of their mobile phones. As one senior politician of a developing nation once asked me, “If we can conveniently do our banking on our phones, why can’t we do our voting on our phones, too?” It is this fascinating tension that led us to examine the phenomenon of online voting thus far and what its future may be.’

— Adhy Aman, Senior Programme Manager, Asia and the Pacific Region at International IDEA

From Copenhagen 1995 to Doha 2025: Democracy as Engine of Social Development and Shared Prosperity

This policy brief, produced in partnership with 2025 Council Chair Switzerland, highlights why democracy is essential for achieving inclusive and sustainable social development and shared prosperity. Drawing on new findings from our Global State of Democracy Indices and scholarly evidence, it shows that democracies consistently outperform non-democracies on welfare, equality and corruption outcomes, and that strong rule of law, representation, electoral integrity and rights protections are key pathways linking democratic governance to shared prosperity.



International IDEA in numbers

66,477

↑ Publication downloads on the International IDEA website
(compared with 58,890 in 2024)

2,349,233

↑ Visits to the International IDEA website
(compared with 2,054,796 in 2024)

17,961

↑ Total new followers on social media (all channels)
LinkedIn: 9,917 | Facebook: 2,480 | X: 2,150 | Instagram: 1,721 | YouTube: 1,693
(compared with 13,718 in 2024)

2,771,277

↑ Total new views and reach on social media (all channels)
LinkedIn (reach): 1,865,944 | Facebook: 419,242 | X: 237,819 | Instagram: 94,017 | YouTube: 154,255
(compared with 1,205,800 in 2024)

20,749

Total media mentions in 2025
4,952 web + 15,799 social media

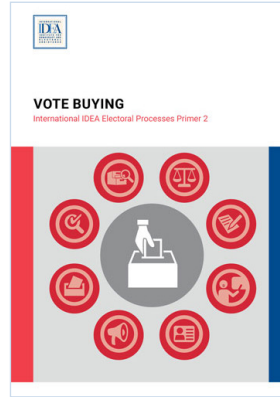
Top 10 publications downloaded in 2025



The Global State of Democracy 2025: Democracy on the Move



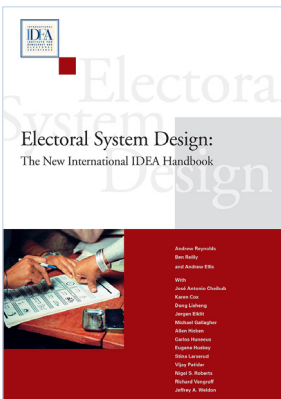
The Global State of Democracy 2025: Democracy on the Move (HTML page)



Vote Buying



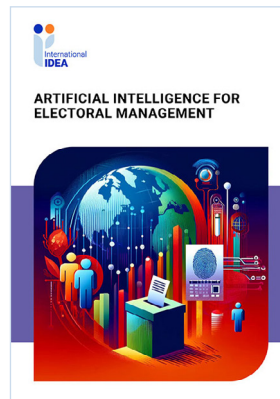
Presidential Veto Powers



Electoral System Design: The New International IDEA Handbook



Federalism



Artificial Intelligence for Electoral Management



Funding of Political Parties and Election Campaigns: A Handbook on Political Finance

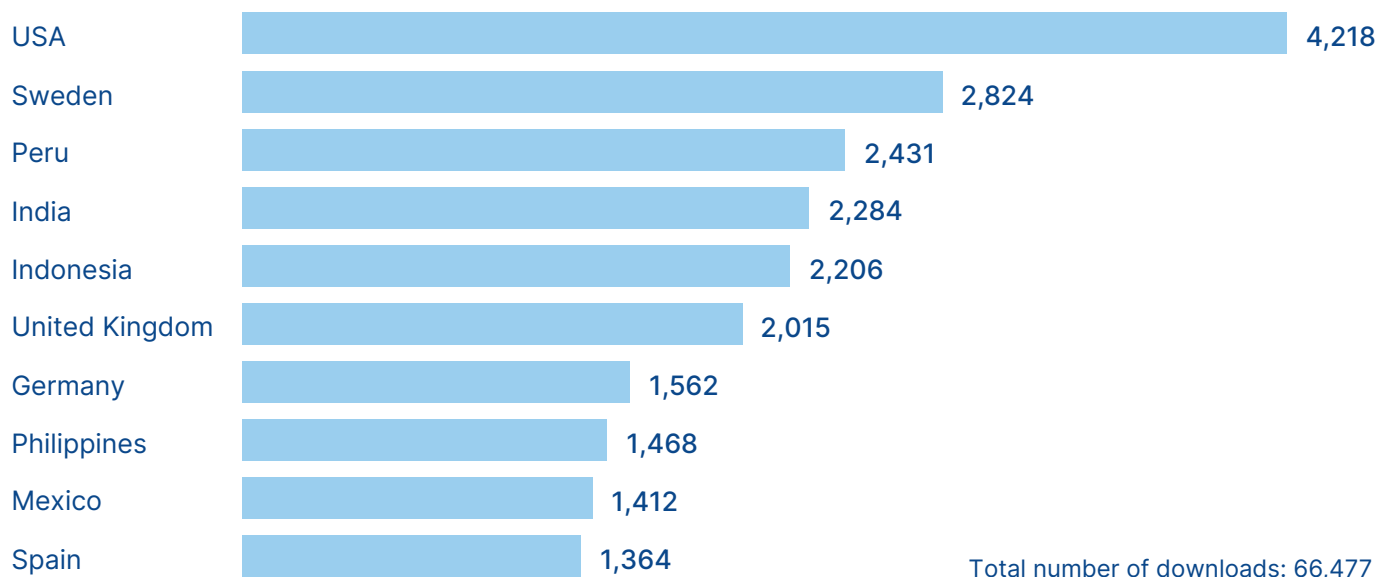


Voter Turnout Trends around the World



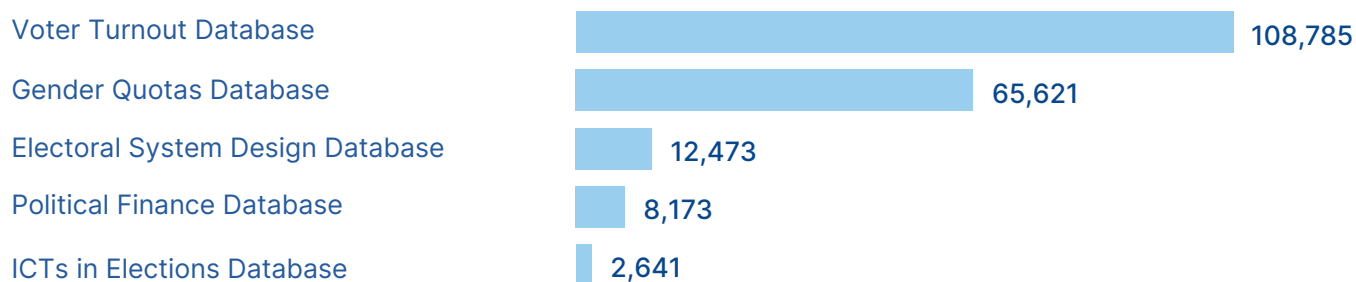
Constitutional Monarchs in Parliamentary Democracies

Top 10 countries, by publication downloads

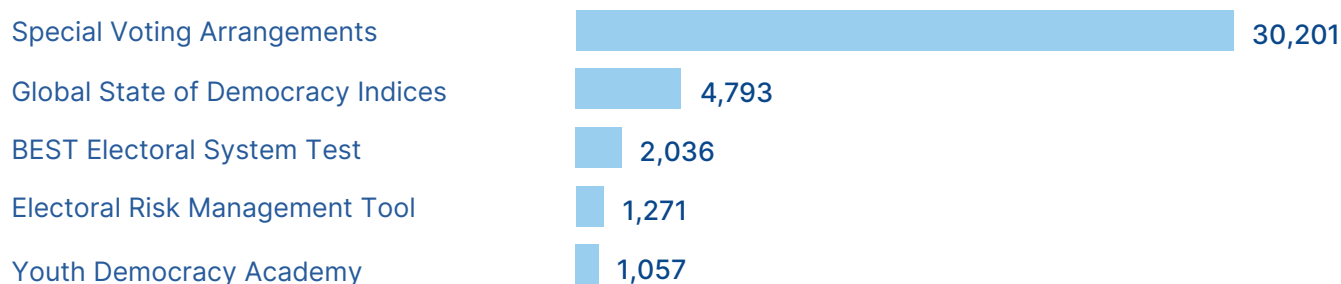


Total views of databases and tools in 2025 on the International IDEA website

Top 5 databases by views



Top 5 tools by views



Highlighted media coverage

Project Syndicate

What Democracy Means for a Society's Bottom Line

Project Syndicate NEWSLETTERS SUBSCRIBE LOG IN 🔍

LATEST ECONOMICS POLITICS SUBSCRIBER EXCLUSIVE PS QUARTERLY COLUMNISTS

SUSTAINABILITY DEVELOPMENT CULTURE AFRICA DEMOCRACY AI OCEANS

EN English Human Development f X 3 in 8

What Democracy Means for a Society's Bottom Line

Nov 12, 2025 | AMINATA TOURÉ and KEVIN CASAS-ZAMORA

History and direct political experience suggest that if democracy and broad-based social and human development are to be sustainable, they must be pursued in tandem. When people are free to choose their leaders and hold them accountable, sustainable and inclusive growth become more likely.

DAKAR/SAN JOSÉ – Democracy is in trouble. For nine consecutive years, [more countries](#) have suffered a weakening of democratic institutions than have experienced improvement – the longest such decline in a [half-century](#). Around the world, citizens are losing faith in democracy, and demagogues have exploited their disillusionment.

Olona Kolesnik/Getty Images

DAGENS NYHETER.

Modeorden 'demokratiskt resiliens' behöver nytt innehåll



ALJAZEERA

Canada election results: What's at stake, and what the polls say



Deutsche Welle

Is Western influence on African democracy fading?

EL PAIS

Entrevista: cómo las elecciones en Chile pueden cambiar la región y las preocupaciones de Uruguay - EL PAÍS Uruguay

INDIA TODAY

"India remains one of the great democracies of the world," Says Kevin Casas Zamora

EFE:

Un informe advierte sobre el deterioro de la democracia global y la caída en la libertad de prensa

Newsweek

Map shows worldwide fight over democracy



Freedom of the press at its lowest in 50 years: study



Reuters

US democratic backsliding under Trump encourages autocrats globally, democracy watchdog says



Will Nato make its red lines clear after Putin's drone foray into Poland?



Global press freedom suffers sharpest fall in 50 years, report finds

Hindustan Times

India will lead the Council of Member States of the International IDEA



EL UNIVERSAL

En elección judicial participarán 344 visitantes extranjeros; darán fe al proceso inédito electoral

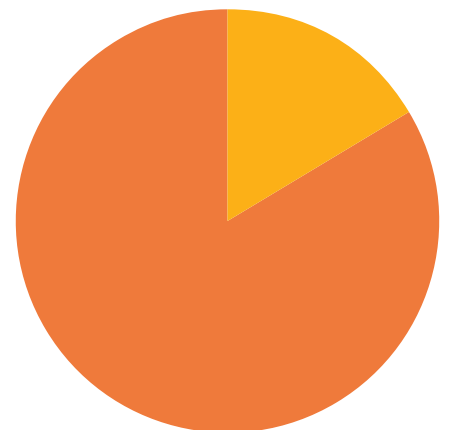
Financials

97%

of funding goes to programmes

Total funding 2025 €45,145,000

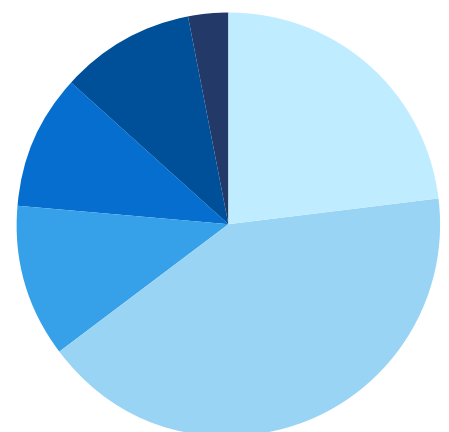
- International IDEA Member State core funding (€7,475,000)
- Restricted funding (€37,670,000)



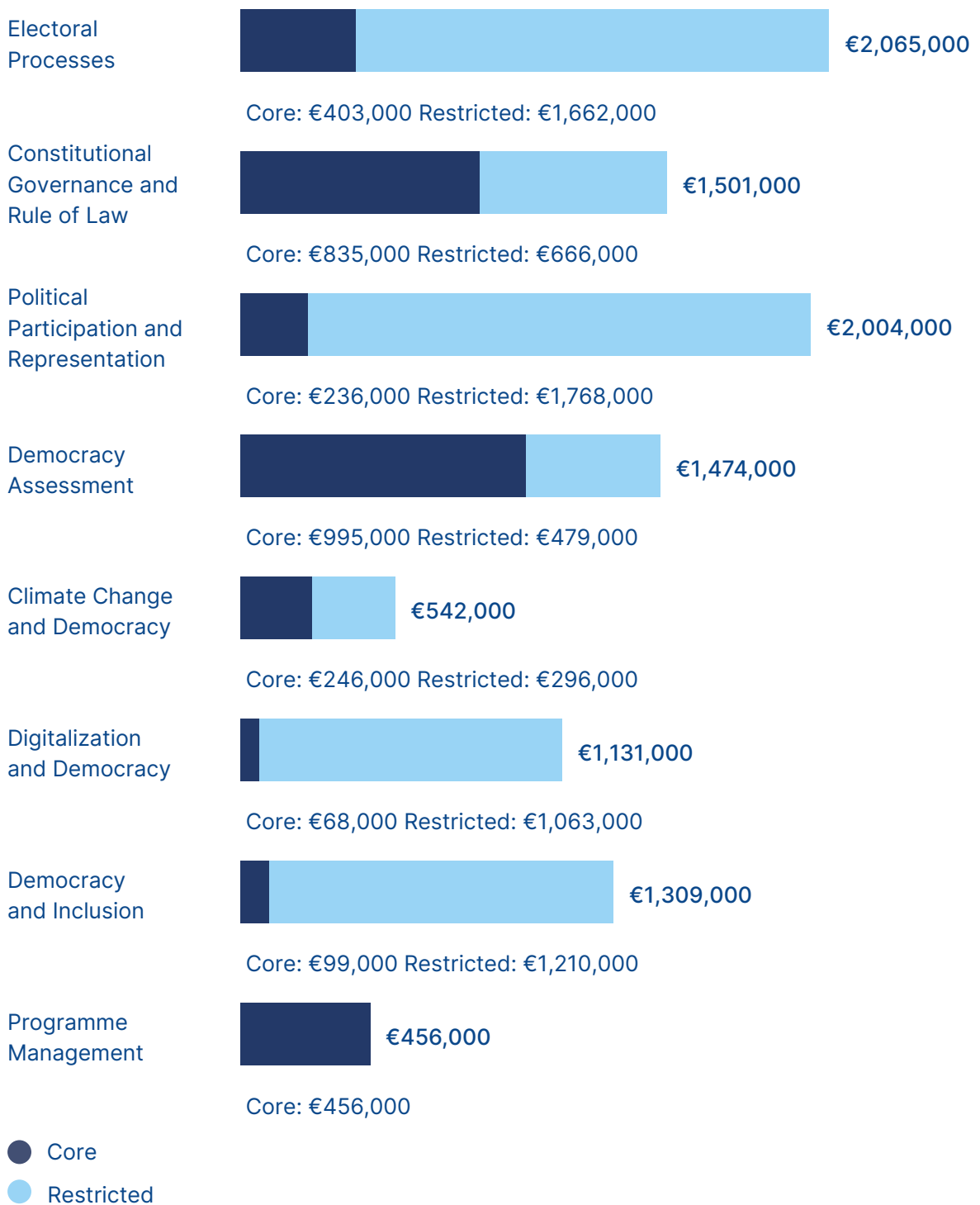
Total expenditure by programme 2025 €45,293,000

(includes activities, office, staff and indirect costs)

- Global Programmes (€10,480,000)
- Africa and West Asia (€18,934,000)
- Asia and the Pacific (€5,224,000)
- Regional Europe (€4,716,000)
- Latin America and the Caribbean (€4,558,000)
- Secretary-General's Office, Executive Division and North America programmes (€1,381,000)



Expenditure by theme (Global Programmes only)



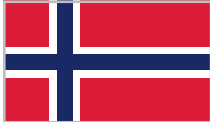
Donors

Member States' and donors' contributions to our work 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 2025.

Top 10 core and earmarked core donors



Sweden



Norway



The Netherlands



France



Switzerland



Finland



Germany



Chile



Brazil



Estonia

Top 10 restricted donors



European Commission



United Kingdom



Canada



Sweden



Private foundation



Germany



United States



Luxembourg



Microsoft



Spain

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



United Nations Development Programme



Council of Europe



African Union Commission



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

Inter-Parliamentary Union



Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development



Varieties of Democracy



Open Society Foundations



Stiftung Mercator



The World Bank



Economic Community of West African States



Ford Foundation



Robert Bosch Stiftung



Open Government Partnership



Sveriges Riksdag

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 degree of 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 include some of 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 30+ years of experience supporting democratic reforms in countries as diverse as Barbados, The Gambia, Nepal and the Netherlands. We have a record of 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 (the EU, the African Union, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Organization of American States, 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 170+ civil society groups we co-lead in the Global Democracy Coalition.



We are conveners for democracy. We serve as a leading forum where countries from across both the Global South and the Global North can discuss democracy-related issues. More broadly, we have 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 insights and expertise are valued and sought after by decision makers and media globally.



[Explore the digital version](#)



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