Supporting democracy worldwide

Who we are

We are an Intergovernmental Organization with 34 Member States founded in 1995 with an exclusive mandate to support and advance democracy worldwide.

What we do

We produce comparative, policy-friendly knowledge and provide technical assistance on issues relating to elections, parliaments, constitutions, money in politics and political representation, all under the umbrella of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. We assess the performance of democracies around the world through our unique Global State of Democracy Indices and reports.

How we do it

We use our knowledge to provide technical assistance and expert advice to governments and civil society around the world. We publish digital handbooks, books, databases, and primers annually in several languages on topics ranging from voter turnout to gender quotas. We engage in conversations and convene agenda setting dialogues and partner with likeminded organizations, including the EU, AU and the UN, to achieve greater impact. We have status as UN Permanent Observers.
Gender equality and inclusion are cross-cutting issues that are mainstreamed in all our work. In addition, we work with projects specifically aimed at increasing women’s political participation.

Our areas of expertise

Global State of Democracy
Our Global State of Democracy reports and indices provide accurate, detailed and timely information on democratic performance in 170 countries.

The Global Monitor on Covid-19’s Impact on Democracy and Human Rights is a go-to knowledge hub to understand the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on democracy and human rights.

Constitution-Building
Our Constitution-Building Programme develops cutting edge comparative knowledge and provides expert advice on constitutional design and constitution building processes. We support countries in transition, and fragile as well as more consolidated democracies. The programme collaborates with national, regional and international organisations to support democratic constitution-building processes worldwide.

Electoral Processes
Our wide-ranging expertise on electoral processes, stretches from risk management in elections to special voting arrangements and the future of electoral assistance. This knowledge enables us to efficiently support electoral management bodies and election officials all over the world.

Money in Politics
Our Political Finance Database provides the basis for political finance reforms, while our money in politics data exposes threats and opportunities for improved oversight. Our reports support legislative efforts around the world.

Climate Change
Our work is currently expanding to address issues related to climate change and democracy with the aim of developing knowledge and tools that can help democracies tackle the climate crisis.

Gender Equality and Inclusion
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