

## ■ EDITORIAL

### From diversity to democracy to development

Development has been described as the gradual expansion of people's choice. Democracy can be described in a similar way. Choice makes sense only if we are, and remain, diverse. Diversity becomes irrelevant if the possibility of choice is out of reach.



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By Vidar Helgesen, Secretary-General

## ■ FOCUS: Democracy and Diversity

### Confronting the 'Turtle Tendency'

Posted: June 15, 2007

Human diversity is a defining feature of countries across the globe. And increasingly it is also recognized as a force for social good, something to be nourished and celebrated rather than feared, or pushed to the margins. But, as Norwegian State Secretary Raymond Johansen noted in his opening remarks at the International IDEA Round Table on 'Democracy and Diversity' held in Oslo on 12 June, how are we to respond to the fact that the more diversity you have in your society, the lower prevailing levels of social trust are likely to be?

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## ■ OTHER NEWS

### A majority of Nepalese favours a republic, says an International IDEA survey

Posted: June 15, 2007

The public in Nepal favours a republic. That was one of the key findings in a national State of Democracy 2007 survey in Nepal conducted in April this year by the national team of the South Asia Democracy Study Group and International IDEA.

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### "Say what you mean when writing a constitution"

Posted: June 13, 2007

So urged Canadian lawyer, Phil Knight, to participants at a training week on Legal and Constitutional Drafting, 4-11 June 2007 in Kathmandu, organized by International IDEA and the Nepal Law Commission On Legal and Constitutional Drafting for the future drafters of the new Nepalese Constitution.

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## ■ IN THIS ISSUE

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## ■ COMING UP

### Voting from Abroad: Handbook on External Voting

Explains and compares external voting provisions worldwide.

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## ■ SPOTLIGHT ON

### 'Democracy and Diversity' Round Table, 12 June, Oslo

Listen to the presentations and interviews with the speakers online.

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### The ACE Practitioners' Network

The first ever global knowledge network in elections established.

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## ■ VACANCIES

Financial Planning and Analysis Officer  
Administrative Assistant  
Curriculum Developer and Adult Trainer (Constitution Building Processes Programme)

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Participants at the Constitution Drafting training in Kathmandu, 4-11 June 2007

### Building synergy between women in parliament

Posted: June 11, 2007

Women legislators from Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Uruguay met on 4-5 June 2007 in Lima, Peru, to share their experiences as legislators and to join forces in their political endeavors.

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### BRIDGE: improving electoral management in Africa

Posted: June 13, 2007

Electoral processes can be undermined if professional election administrators lack the necessary skills to do their job properly. In May 2007, International IDEA trained elections professionals from nine East and Southern Africa countries in Pretoria, South Africa, using the BRIDGE curriculum.

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### Referendum for the first time in Costa Rica

Posted: May 28, 2007

'Referendums can have an important role in complementing representative democracy, but the devil is in the detail', was the message conveyed by International IDEA Director of Operations Andrew Ellis and Regional Director for Latin America Daniel Zovatto addressing a seminar called by Costa Rica's Supreme Elections Tribunal and International IDEA in San José.

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## NEW PUBLICATIONS

### Designing for Equality

is available in Nepali and Armenian. It assesses how increased women's representation can be achieved under different combinations of electoral systems and quotas.



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### Democracies in Development - Politics and Reform in Latin America

is the English edition of *La política importa: Democracia y desarrollo en América Latina*. It describes the major reform trends in Latin America, as well as the quandaries facing the region.

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### Annual Report 2006 – A Record of Actions

highlights International IDEA's objectives and main activities in 2006.

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### Publication Catalogue 2007

lists all International IDEA's publications for sale.

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