

## □ EDITORIAL

**Democracy beyond the crisis**

"Those engaged in supporting democracy in their countries and in the world cannot fail to notice a thought provoking calendar coincidence: this year's worldwide celebrations of 15 September — the International Day of Democracy — overlapped with a somewhat less celebratory remembrance of the first anniversary of the global financial crisis."



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By Vidar Helgesen, Secretary-General

## □ FOCUS: Traditional Justice Mechanisms



Traditional justice mechanisms — a healing session in Mozambique  
Photo ©: B. Dias Lambranca

**Whose justice?**

Posted: September 30, 2009

How can traditional justice mechanisms and processes be applied in the context of large-scale human rights abuses and mass killings? The International IDEA report *Traditional Justice and Reconciliation after Violent Conflict – Learning from African Experiences*, just released in French, presents the findings of a major comparative study of the role played by traditional mechanisms in dealing with the legacy of violent conflict across the continent.

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## □ OTHER NEWS

**Developing a federal Nepal: theatre plays a role**

Posted: September 20, 2009

Nepal is in the process of making another Constitution, which provides the scope to embody expectations of a more decentralized system of government. Recognizing the importance of debate around federalism in Nepal, International IDEA carried out a number of activities to encourage informative, fact based discussions on the issue. Five open air theatre performances on federalism were held on different campuses in Kathmandu Valley in September 2009.

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**Electoral reform in Costa Rica**

Posted: September 10, 2009

After more than a decade of parliamentary discussion, Costa Rica enacted a new Electoral Code in August 2009. Originally initiated by the Supreme Tribunal of Elections (TSE) in early 2001, the Electoral Code represents a milestone in terms of electoral reform in Costa Rica. International IDEA provided technical support to the TSE and members of congress throughout the entire process.

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**Consolidating democracy through an institutional approach**

Posted: September 16, 2009

"One important truism is that democracy is not only an end in itself but also an important means to other ends. From that point of view the recent efforts by International IDEA to carefully examine the nexus between democracy and development and how it can contribute towards effective partnership between the European Union and the rest of the world deserves special mention."

By former Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ambassador, Muhammad Zamir, Bangladesh.

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**International IDEA at the European Development Days, 22–24 October, Stockholm, Sweden.**

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**Ethiopia and International IDEA sign agreement for liaison office in Addis Ababa**  
Posted: September 9, 2009

International IDEA and the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia signed a Host Government Agreement on 9 September 2009 to provide for the establishment of an IDEA liaison office in Ethiopia. The office will allow International IDEA to work closely with the African Union Commission which is based in Addis Ababa.

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**International IDEA supports Women's Caucus in Nepal**  
Posted: September 25, 2009

Nepal has become a source of inspiration to women in many countries where women's parliamentary representation is negligible. The 197 member Women's Caucus of the Parliament/Constituent Assembly recently held two sessions in Kathmandu, one focused on the electoral system and quotas, and the other on fundamental rights.

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**Ecuadorian legislators face gender equality challenge**  
Posted: September 10, 2009

Ecuador's new Constitution includes sweeping guarantees of gender equality, which the country's legislators must now translate into laws and regulations. The Agora Democrática Programme (a joint initiative of International IDEA and the Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy) is providing information and support for the process.

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**Political reforms in Colombia: preparing for the 2010 elections**  
Posted: September 15, 2009

Colombia has been preoccupied with the difficult question of whether to allow for the re-election of the president. An initiative to hold a referendum that would allow President Álvaro Uribe to contest the 2010 presidential elections only just passed Congress. President Uribe has already been re-elected once after the adoption of a similar constitutional reform in 2005.

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**NEW PUBLICATIONS**

**Thinking Politics: Think Tanks and Political Parties in Latin America (Spanish)**

Investigates the characteristics of the historical relationship between think tanks and political parties in Latin America.

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**English-Nepali Glossary of Federalism Terms**

Aims to provide clear, value-neutral and culturally sensitive federalism terms relevant in the context of Nepal's federalization process. The Glossary offers definitions for some 300 federal terms and their translation into Nepali.

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**The New Critical Juncture in the Andean Countries (Spanish)**

Brings together distinguished specialists in Latin American political and social studies to analyze the problems and challenges that democracies in the Andean region currently face.

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**Traditional Justice and Reconciliation after Violent Conflict: Learning from African Experiences (French)**

Presents the findings of a major comparative study of the role played by traditional justice mechanisms in dealing with the legacy of violent conflict in Africa.

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**Political Parties and Policy Development: The Conditions which lead political parties to adopt progressive policies**

A UNDP-International IDEA discussion paper which analyzes the conditions and processes within parties that may promote the adoption or support of progressive policies; in particular pro-poor, pro-women, and conflict-sensitive policies.

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**From Words to Action: Best Practices for Women's Participation in Latin American Political Parties**

Provides political party members and leaders with the means to implement concrete strategies for achieving equality for women within party organizations, and to access positions of power and representation.

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