

## □ EDITORIAL

**Sudan's elections bring challenges into focus**

The April 2010 elections in Africa's largest country, Sudan, offered us a snapshot of some of the challenges currently facing electoral processes throughout the world and particularly in countries with a heavy legacy of conflict and political polarization.

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By Martin Van Weerdenburg, Acting Secretary-General

## □ FOCUS: ELECTIONS IN SUDAN



Electoral campaigns training workshop in Sudan, run by IDEA.

**Sudan: strengthening political parties to strengthen democracy**

Posted: May 25, 2010

The need to build properly functioning political parties in Sudan has been a major priority for International IDEA and its partners since becoming involved there in 2006. In 2008, International IDEA and UNDP entered into a cooperation agreement for a project titled "Sudan Political Parties Development" (to be run by IDEA) which aims to build the capacity of 24 Sudanese political parties through systematic training programme over 18 months. Some 1074 individuals benefited from the training between May 2009 and March 2010.

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## □ OTHER NEWS

**Regional conference on the State of Local Democracy in Egypt, Yemen, Morocco and Jordan**

Posted: May 24, 2010

Some 85 participants from across the Middle East and North Africa attended a conference in the Jordanian capital, Amman, on 6 May 2010 to discuss the findings of State of Local Democracy assessments in the region.

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**International IDEA renews collaboration with the Mexican Senate for 2010**

Posted: May 10, 2010

International IDEA has been working in Mexico for over a decade. Following the landmark presidential elections in 2000 and the controversial 2006 elections when Felipe Calderón Hinojosa was declared president securing victory over the leftist candidate by barely a half-percentage-point, the need for an electoral reform in Mexico was strikingly evident.

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**Comments on Nepal's preliminary draft constitution**

Posted: May 15, 2010

International IDEA and Nepal Law Society put together an expert team to analyze the draft concept papers and preliminary drafts of Nepal's constitution and provided legal commentaries for the Constituent Assembly.

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**New ACE website launched**

Posted: May 4, 2010

Since 2006, the Administration and Cost of Elections (ACE) Electoral Knowledge Network has been the world's largest online election network. With an ever-increasing number of users and knowledge added, ACE continues to be the number one global electoral resource available free of charge to practitioners all over the world. This year a totally revamped website has been launched.

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**Conflict management through the lens of African traditions**

Posted: May 5, 2010

On 28–29 April 2010, a Francophone West African regional launch seminar for the recently-published French translation of IDEA's report *Reconciliation and Traditional Justice After Violent Conflict: Learning From African Experiences* was held at the Institut de Gorée in Dakar, Senegal.

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### **Democracy in Development – global consultations on the EU’s role in democracy building**

The European Union Presidency Project (EUPP) at International IDEA has ended. The final report (available in Arabic, English, French, and Spanish), the regional chapters and the background materials are online at [www.idea.int/eu](http://www.idea.int/eu).

### **Young leaders look at democratic trends in Latin America**

Posted: April 30, 2010

On 22–23 April 2010, International IDEA and the Organization of American States (OAS) held a workshop in Lima entitled *Politics and Democracy in the Sub-Andean Region: Principal Challenges*.

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### **Gender in the new constitution from the Maoist perspective**

Posted: May 15, 2010

International IDEA organized a one-day conference on *Addressing women’s issues in the new constitution: Do the concept notes include a gender perspective?* on 25 February 2010 at the request of women Constituent Assembly members from the All-Nepal Women’s Association-Revolutionary (ANWA-R).

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### **Status review in Ecuador**

Posted: May 5, 2010

To mark the 63rd anniversary of the National Electoral Council and the associated Electoral Litigation Tribunal, Ecuador’s National University and Agora Democratica (NIMD-International IDEA project) co-sponsored a series of three events on the theme *Political Parties and Democracy*.

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## **NEW PUBLICATIONS**

### **Annual Report 2009 – A record of actions**



Highlights International IDEA’s objectives and main activities in 2009.

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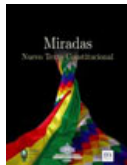
### **One Size Does Not Fit All: Lessons Learned from Legislative Gender Commissions and Caucuses (Spanish)**



This guide seeks to provide information to gender commissions and caucuses, and serves as a tool to help men and women legislators to exercise good practices in organizing and developing joint efforts that promote gender equality.

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### **A Closer Look: Bolivia’s New Constitution (Spanish)**



This publication offers analysis of the 2009 constitution of Bolivia. It aims to guide further reflection and debate, and enrich the process of putting together complementary legislation and thus move towards the establishment of a new state.

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### **Democracy in Development – global consultations on the EU’s role in democracy building – now also in Arabic, French, and Spanish**



This is the result of global/regional consultations led by International IDEA and sponsored by Sweden, aimed at producing a deeper understanding of how the EU can best assist democracy building efforts worldwide.

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### **Assessing the Quality of Democracy: An overview of the International IDEA Framework – now in French**



This overview is expected to generate greater interest in the application of International IDEA’s State of Democracy methodology in francophone countries, such as in West Africa. The full publication will be available in French in September 2010.

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