

## ■ EDITORIAL

### The lead of Arab States

With its call for a no-fly zone over Libya, the League of Arab States has placed itself more firmly on the side of the Libyan people's call for democracy than the EU, the US and the UN combined. It is indeed testimony to the revolutionary nature of these times.



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By Vidar Helgesen, Secretary-General

## ■ FOCUS: DEMOCRACY, ELECTIONS AND THE ARAB WORLD



Kofi Annan and Vidar Helgesen - Photo ©: Debbie Yazbek

### Global Commission on Elections, Democracy and Security launched

Posted: March 4, 2011

As pro-democracy campaigners take to the streets across the Arab world, and as 19 African countries prepare to hold national elections this year, an international initiative to promote the integrity of elections was launched on 4 March 2011 in Pretoria, South Africa. The Global Commission on Elections, Democracy and Security, jointly created by International IDEA and the Kofi Annan Foundation, is made up of 12 eminent individuals from around the world, including Kofi Annan, Ernesto Zedillo, Martti Ahtisaari, Madeleine Albright and Amartya Sen.

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### GEO 2011: Credible Elections for Democracy

Posted: March 9, 2011

For the first time in Africa, election experts from all over the world met in Gaborone from 7-9 March 2011 for what was one of the key events in global democracy this year. This was the 5th Global Electoral Organization (GEO) conference, this time organized by International IDEA and the Botswana Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) under the theme "Credible Elections for Democracy".

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### Nepal and Egypt: some striking parallels

Posted: March 17, 2011

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## ■ SPOTLIGHT ON

### International Women's Day 2011

International IDEA commemorated International Women's Day on 8 March 2011 along with the rest of the world. Read the dedicated newsletter [here](#)

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## ■ MORE NEWS

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In Egypt, the people took 18 days to force political change and reform. In Nepal in 2006 they took 19 days but that was the easy part: from day 20 onwards it got more complicated. Both countries show some remarkable parallels.

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### **State of Local Democracy in the Arab world – a pointer to the future**

Posted: March 11, 2011

Citizen-led State of Local Democracy assessments conducted in Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Yemen between 2008-10 provide a view of the overall challenges facing democracy in the region. The studies should be read by anyone with an interest in what is going on right now in the Arab world.

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#### ■ OTHER NEWS

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### **Latin American electoral agenda 2011**

Posted: March 4, 2011

As occurred over the last two years, in 2011 Latin America will again live through an intense electoral agenda with five presidential elections: Haiti, Peru, Guatemala, Argentina and Nicaragua.

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### **Improving inter-party dialogue in Ghana**

Posted: March 4, 2011

A one-day workshop was held on 1 March 2011 in Accra to consider a report on how to strengthen inter-party dialogue in Ghana. Organized by International IDEA in collaboration with the Electoral Commission of Ghana (EC), it was attended by representatives of all political parties, among which were chairs, secretaries-general and members of parliament.

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### **Youth participation and representation in politics: Building a stronger democracy in Ecuador**

Posted: March 1, 2011

Since the adoption of the new constitution in 2008, Ecuador introduced a model to increase participatory democracy to go alongside the already existing representative democracy.

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### **Political parties in the Dominican Republic**

Posted: February 24, 2011

A seminar on the activities, running and legal framework of political parties was the first event to take place in the Dominican Republic since it became a new International IDEA Member State late last year.

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#### ■ NEW PUBLICATIONS

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### **State of Local Democracy in the Arab World (Arabic) SOON in English!**

The aim of this report is to provide insight into the reality of local democracy in the Arab world, based on the results of self-assessments carried out in Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Yemen.



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### **Mirando con lentes de género la cobertura electoral. Manual de monitoreo de medios**

(Election Coverage from a Gender Perspective. A Media Monitoring Manual)

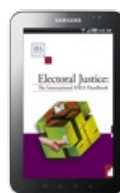


Presents a methodological tool for monitoring media coverage during election campaigns. It focuses on a gender perspective using objective and verifiable information, and is based on experiences of six Latin American institutions.

» [Read more \(Spanish and](#)

### **Electoral Justice: The International IDEA Handbook NOW in ePub!**

The Electoral Justice Handbook is now available as an electronic publication (ePub-format) for reading on a dedicated eReader or a tablet. It's available for free download at the IDEA website.



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### **Concevoir la gestion électorale : le manuel d'IDEA international**

(Electoral Management Design: The International IDEA Handbook)



**NOW in French!**

This comparative study shares the best practices and know-how from around the world on financing, structuring, and evaluating Electoral Management Bodies.

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English)

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