

■ EDITORIAL

Creating a level playing field for women in politics

International Women's Day reminds me every year that there is no shortage of international and national commitments to gender equality and women's political participation. Yet until we move beyond paying lip service to these principles, real progress will remain elusive.



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Vidar Helgesen

By Vidar Helgesen, Secretary-General

■ FOCUS: INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2012



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Making democracy deliver on women's empowerment

Posted: March 8, 2012

For International IDEA, women's empowerment is essential for democracy building and therefore, the question is: is democracy delivering on women's empowerment?

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Women in politics – is there progress in Latin America?

Posted: March 7, 2012

Women in Latin America continue to make political gains but they are still far from reaching parity with men in terms of political representation.

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Political parties' commitment to gender equality

Posted: March 7, 2012

"We know that women are woefully underrepresented in democratic politics, in parliaments, executives, judiciaries, media and in political parties," said Vidar Helgesen at a roundtable on the commitment of political parties to gender equality, a side event of the 56th Session of the UN Commission on Status of Women, in New York.

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Towards a female quota: supporting Haiti's newly adopted constitutional amendment

Posted: March 1, 2012

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■ SPOTLIGHT ON

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– now updated and online!

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IDEA's Marie-Laurence Jocelyn Lassègue shares her personal reflections on advocating for the merits of female quota in the Haitian parliament.

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Has democracy delivered for Dalit women?

Posted: February 25, 2012

Three women of the Nepali marginalized lower caste Dalit are fighting for their rights. Read about the Dalit people, and about the fascinating lives of these women.

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Bread, freedom and social justice – one woman's reflections on the Egyptian revolution

Posted: February 4, 2012

Young Egyptian, female activist, tells her story about being a woman during the Egyptian revolution.

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Finding ways to improve gender equality in Morocco

Posted: January 31, 2012

Morocco is assessing the state of their local democracy from a gender perspective.

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Linking public funding of political parties to gender equality

Posted: March 1, 2012

Information on practices in the field of political finance – including one section specifically addressing whether public funding in a given country is related to gender equality among candidates – is detailed in International IDEA's Political Finance database.

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■ OTHER NEWS

New strategic partnership between International IDEA and Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy

Posted: March 8, 2012

International IDEA and the Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD) announced a new strategic partnership between their two organizations in the area of democracy cooperation.

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Preventing election related violence – Colombia a test case

Posted: March 5, 2012

IDEA's *Electoral Risk Management Tool* has been piloted in Colombia, the first out of four pilots, testing how the design works in preventing and mitigating electoral violence.

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New Guide to constitution building for democracy

Posted: March 5, 2012

IDEA launched *A Practical Guide to Constitution Building* in New York, together with a discussion focusing on the winds of change blowing across the Arab world, and what it means for the international community's democracy cooperation efforts and constitution building.

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- Read also about four practitioners, from different walks of life, who have been involved in constitutional change processes.

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■ NEW PUBLICATIONS

Gender and Political parties: Far from parity



This report provides information on the situation and challenges of women's political participation in Latin America.

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Women Members of the Constituent Assembly: A study on contribution of women in constitution making in Nepal



Presents the stories of the 197 women Constituent Assembly members in Nepal.

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Security: The Role of the UN

Recommendation emerging from a roundtable on the United Nation's role in promoting democracy, peace and security co-organized by International IDEA.



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