

## ■ EDITORIAL

### A mixed bag for democracy in 2012

The end of the year brings with it inevitable reflection upon 2012 – will the promise of democracy hold in the Arab world and Myanmar, and is democracy evolving to respond to the needs and demands of citizens around the world?

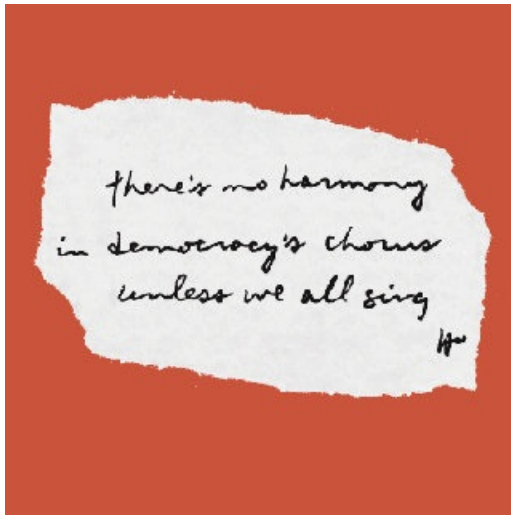


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*Vidar Helgesen*

By Vidar Helgesen, Secretary-General

## ■ FOCUS: PARTICIPATION AND REPRESENTATION



Season's Greetings 2012, take a look **INSIDE**

### Democracy Forum 2012: people power and popular participation

Posted: November 30, 2012

International IDEA's annual Democracy Forum took place in Canberra, Australia on 26-27 November 2012 to examine the theme **Beyond Elites: People Power, Popular Participation and the Integrity of Democratic Institutions**.

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### No societies without political parties

Posted: December 12, 2012

How can political parties appeal more to citizen activists and others who are not party members? Following the Democracy Forum 2012, IDEA's Sam van Den Staak explores this issue, and more.

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### Large campaign finance donations: at the expense of political equality?

Posted: December 5, 2012

The cost of political campaigning is escalating in democracies all over the world which means that political parties are in greater need of campaign funds. What are the consequences when parties turn to just a few donors with 'big money'?

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## ■ SPOTLIGHT ON

### Short film: IDEA's work in Tunisia



*After the Revolution - Building a Democracy in Tunisia (2012)*

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## Indigenous peoples' rights to prior consultation in Peru

Posted: October 25, 2012

The Peruvian Prior Consultation Law creates legal obligation for the rights of indigenous peoples to be taken into account by government. IDEA has been involved in the implementation process from its beginnings.

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## African youth and political participation

Posted: November 15, 2012

Born out of a conference, jointly hosted by IDEA, UNECA and UNDP in Addis Ababa, youth continue to building solidarity and sharing ideas "to ensure that youth are part and parcel of and drive the Democratization of our continent".

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## Uruguay: Global Forum on Direct Democracy 2012

Posted: November 22, 2012

How to build the necessary democratic infrastructures that promote the participation and the commitment of citizens was discussed at this year's Global Forum on Direct Democracy.

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### ■ OTHER NEWS

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## A bird's eye view of Ghana's 2012 elections

Posted: December 7, 2012

Leading up to the 7 December elections, IDEA witnessed the elections at first hand.

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## Nepal: Constitution building hijacked by the need for consensus

Posted: December 1, 2012

Former Chief Election Commissioner Bhoj Raj Pokharel talks about political developments in Nepal, the reasons behind the failure of the Constituent Assembly (CA) to produce a new constitution and the challenges when planning new CA elections.

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## Regional organizations and the integrity of elections

Posted: December 11, 2012

The Inter-Regional Democracy Resource Centre (Secretariat hosted by IDEA) recently launched *The Integrity of Elections: The Role of Regional Organizations*, capturing the experiences of Regional Organizations in the field of elections.

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## Social accountability in focus at Arab Governance Week in Cairo

Posted: November 26, 2012

IDEA presented its democracy assessment tools at the Arab Governance Week, where this year's theme was "Social Accountability in a Changing Region."

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## Managing the risk of electoral violence in Africa

Posted: November 19, 2012

IDEA's *Electoral Risk Management Tool* took center stage at a workshop in Addis Ababa, as understanding the risks of election related violence is an important part of supporting democracy and protecting the electoral process in the region.

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### ■ NEW PUBLICATIONS

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## Deepening Democracy: A Strategy for Improving the Integrity of Elections Worldwide

The report of the Global Commission on Elections, Democracy and Security, now available in **Arabic, English, French** and **Spanish**. It highlights threats to democratic progress and puts forward recommendations to strengthen the integrity of elections.



## The Integrity of Elections: The Role of Regional Organizations

Examines the initiatives on electoral processes of six regional organizations.

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## Participación electoral indígena y cuota nativa en el



## Electoral System Design. An Overview of the New



**Perú:  
aportes para el debate**



(Indigenous Participation in Elections and the Native Quota in Peru: Contributions to the Debate)

Is based on the recognition that effective political inclusion of indigenous peoples is a priority for the consolidation of Peruvian democracy.

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**International IDEA Handbook  
(Arabic)**



Contains a summary of the key principles of electoral system choice, the pros and cons of the options available and advice to the institutional designer.

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