



International IDEA Newsletter

Focus: Democracy Matters | October - December 2014 Newsletter

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#DEMOCRACY MATTERS

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How Democracy Matters



I am pleased to present another edition of our International IDEA newsletter. Highlighted in this edition is our participation at the **69th Session of the United Nations General Assembly** where we focused on the role of democracy in the post-2015 development and human rights and the **Fourth Annual Inter-Regional Dialogue for Democracy** hosted by the Organization of American States.

Also, each year International IDEA's chair holds the Annual Democracy Forum. This year, Botswana was the chair and I had the pleasure of leading my first such event in Gaborone, 24-25 November. The theme was "Fostering

Democracy and Development through Sound Management of Natural Resources". This event kicked off our **#DemocracyMatters** campaign – a partnership between International IDEA and DEVEX.

As we wrap up 2014 – a year when more than half the world went out to vote, I invite you to offer your view on how or why democracy matters. Join our social media campaign at **#DemocracyMatters** – because your voice matters.

Happy Holidays,

Yves Leterme, Secretary-General

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FOCUS: DEMOCRACY MATTERS

Why Does Democracy Matter?

International IDEA believes that democracy should be non-prescriptive - not a one size fits all approach. So what should we expect from democracy?

As citizens we need to feel we are part of the decision-

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NEW RELEASES

Videos: Constitutions Made Simple

making process – and equally important, politics need to be accountable: to deliver results. Failure to do so can cause a disconnect between politicians and citizens which could become a major threat to democracy. Inclusive democracy requires participation not only from their elected representatives but also from the citizens themselves.

Hear what International IDEA Secretary-General Yves Leterme has to say in full.



How Can We Fix the Resource Curse?

An integral part of our **#DemocracyMatters** campaign comes in the form of op-eds from subject experts, including an article due shortly from best-selling author Prof. James A Robinson (Harvard University).



Men at a mine in Kailo, Democratic Republic of the Congo.
Photo by: **Julien Harnois / CC BY-SA**

One of our featured op-eds from Einar Steenaes, co-founder of the **Oslo Center for Peace and Human Rights**, shines a light on the complex relationship between democracy and development.

A country blessed with valuable natural resources faces many exciting opportunities, but also demanding challenges. A sound, responsible approach to the management of natural resources is therefore vital to ensure these challenges are met.

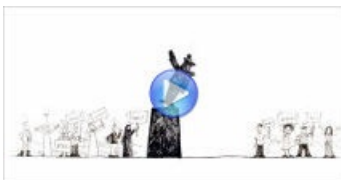
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NEWS FROM THE FIELD

Tunisian Elections – A Win for Democracy

One of the most notable electoral events this year was the elections held in Tunisia: the first elections following the adoption of the new constitution in January 2014. The results were recognized internationally for their democratic viability and saw the country make some big leaps in terms of gender equality. A total of 68 seats, equivalent of 31 per cent of the People's Assembly are women.

Women Deputies Inside the People's Assembly by Constituency



Now available: **Animations illustrate the nuts and bolts of constitution building**

- » [What is a Constitution?](#)
- » [How are Constitutions Made?](#)
- » [Why do Constitutions Matter?](#)

Electoral Justice Database

The completely revised database features data for more than 170 countries



» [Read more](#)

The Use of Open Source Technology in Elections

Explore how Open Source Technology can contribute to increased trust and transparency in the electoral process



» [Read more](#)

Democratic Accountability in Service Delivery: A Practical Guide to Identify Improvements through Assessment

The latest assessment methodology in identifying improvements in democratic accountability mechanisms

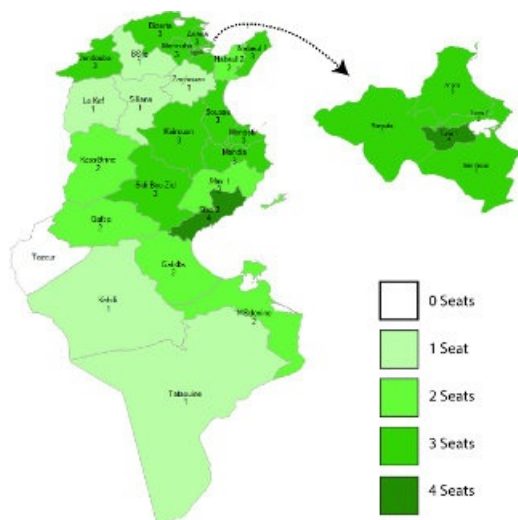


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Constitution Building: A Global Review (2013)

This review of constitution-building processes across the world highlights connections between these very complex processes





Sixty-eight out of the 217 deputies at the People's Assembly are women (31%)
(Click for larger version)

Read an analysis about the **Tunisian elections** from our Regional Director for West Asia and North Africa, Ayman Ayoub.

FORUMS, CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

As part of our advocacy and policy work we collaborate with our international networks via events, conferences and high level meetings. During the past three months we have led on a range of activities to bring democracy in focus at a regional, national and international level.

The Annual Democracy Forum

One of our top events of the year took place in Gaborone, Botswana, 25-26 of November. This year's **Annual Democracy Forum** focused on "Fostering Democracy and Development through Sound Management of Natural Resources". The forum brought together leading experts, including Harvard Professor James A. Robinson, co-author of best-selling book "Why Nations Fail". This event kicked off our current #DemocracyMatters campaign – [join the discussion](#).

Democracy as Part of the Post-2015 Development Agenda

In September IDEA Secretary-General Yves Leterme emphasized the importance of Democracy at the **69th United Nations General Assembly**.

The focus on the post-2015 Development Agenda continued at the **Fourth High Level Meeting** of the Inter-Regional Dialogue on Democracy held in Washington DC 16-17 October, in collaboration with the Organization of American States.

Local Democracy Today and Tomorrow - Learning from Global Knowledge and Practices

In today's globalizing world there is a growing recognition of the importance of deepening democracy at the local level. This event was held at our headquarters with a range of internal and external experts including academics and practitioners. The workshop identified potential focus areas for our future democracy assessment strategy at the local level and set the ground for new knowledge resource development.

Focus on Electoral Integrity

In our Latin American and Caribbean region, a lot of activity has been centered on electoral integrity and the sharing of good practice in this area. Most recently, International IDEA joined more than 30 experts from the Latin America region to discuss various issues related to electoral systems and processes at the **Second International Congress of Electoral Studies**, held on 27-29 November.

Illicit Networks and Politics in Latin America

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International Obligations for Elections: Guidelines for Legal Frameworks

An essential tool for anyone involved in drafting and reviewing legal frameworks for elections



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Illicit Networks and Politics in Latin America (Spanish)

Understand how the world of organized crime in Latin America impacts on democratic politics



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Constitution Building Primer: Limitation Clauses

A new primer offers insight on how to balance rights for the good of all by using limitation clauses



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As part of our launch for the "Illicit Networks and Politics in Latin America" publication, a range of discussion events were held in New York in collaboration with the United Nations, the International Peace Institute (IPI), Folke Bernadotte Academy and The National Endowment for Democracy. If you missed the IPI launch event, watch the **recorded webcast**.

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Feedback: We want to hear from you! Email your comments and suggestions to info@idea.int

International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA).

Tel: +46 8 698 37 00, Fax: +46 8 20 24 22 | E-mail: info@idea.int | Web: www.idea.int

Editor: Maria Rossall

International IDEA, Strömsborg, SE-103 34 Stockholm, Sweden

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