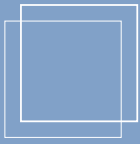# International IDEA

The International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance

A record of actions 2009

Annual Report

International IDEA

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Annual Report

THE YEAR 2009 MARKED 20 years since the fall of the Berlin Wall, 15 years since the first post-apartheid elections in South Africa, and three decades since the beginning of the third wave of democratization in Latin America. Indeed, in recent decades we have seen significant success stories in democratic development across the world, from Brazil to Eastern Europe and from Ghana to Indonesia. Where democracy is in short supply, popular demand for it is evident, as witnessed in Iran and Myanmar. There is also some progress at the level of international bodies, as demonstrated by the African Union's responses to unconstitutional changes of government in Guinea and Niger.

However, 2009 also saw spectacular setbacks to democracy. Some of the failures made global headlines, not least the elections marred by violence and fraud in Afghanistan. We also saw the continued fragility of the power-sharing arrangements in Kenya and Zimbabwe, and an initially united but eventually ineffective international response to the coup in Honduras.

Meanwhile, multiple challenges to democracy abound outside the spotlight of the international media. Manipulation of the electoral process is all too common and often marked by fraud, violence, illicit financing and uneven access to m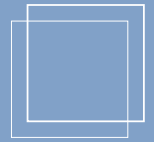edia and other campaign resources. Even in cases where the election itself may be technically acceptable, governance between elections does not often provide a level playing field nor sufficient space for democratic dialogue on major policy issues such as security, development and human rights. Democratic checks and balances are often weak because parliaments are rendered powerless, political parties are elitist and unrepresentative, and the public media are controlled or manipulated. Constitutions are too often changed in the interest of current power holders or manipulated in order to do away with term limits for presidents. The most glaring democratic deficit in most countries – in all regions of the world – is the gross under-representation of women in political institutions and processes.

So what will it take to make democracy stronger?

First, democracy needs to reconnect with its core: the citizen. It has become a truism that democracy can only grow from within; so much a truism in fact that even autocrats like to state it in order to avoid external scrutiny. So the truism should be qualified: Democracy can only grow from below, from the citizen. Only the citizen can answer the key question: How democratic is a country and its government? International IDEA's democracy assessment framework can help answer this question and I am pleased to see the extent to which it is being used by citizens, and receiving considerable interest, in different parts of the world.

New Regional Programme for Asia and the Pacific
Building on IDEA's existing work in Nepal, the new programme will extend support to additional regional democracy-building initiatives such as the Bali Democracy Forum in Indonesia, which brings countries together to share their experiences of democracy.

Second, the strength of democracy hinges increasingly on its ability to deliver equitable development. The financial crisis has exacerbated this challenge. Regrettably, unresponsive and polarized national politics often get in the way of the ability of societies to effectively pursue economic and social development. Moreover, international development aid is often channeled in a way that cements executive power rather than strengthening the entire democratic process in a country, including political parties and parliaments. There is a need to make development and democracy assistance work in far better synergy to overcome these challenges.

Third, democracy needs to regain lost ground in international relations while avoiding falling back into the old, intrusive and prescriptive pattern of one-way 'democracy promotion'. Democracy still has a strong normative position but there is nevertheless, a wider margin of comfort for autocratic governments than was the case some years ago. This situation results from some significant failures and double standards in the name of democracy promotion during the past decade, and is reinforced by the new balance of power at global level. Many urgent international challenges – Afghanistan, Iran, North Korea, climate change, the financial crisis, and so on – require stronger collaboration between democratic and non-democratic governments alike. However, this reality should not compromise basic democratic principles for reasons of security interests or political expediency. Certain events, not least the aforementioned 2009 Afghanistan elections, have left an impression that the international community does not put its politics where its mouth is when it comes to democratic principles. This situation is not tenable and demands a profound process of rethinking how the international community should approach elections and democratic processes in difficult contexts.

So, the challenges are huge, but they are not insurmountable. The many democracy success stories should encourage longer-term policy shifts in international support to democracy. International IDEA's process of multi-regional consultations on the EU's role in democracy building in 2009 captured a strong need for a new partnership paradigm to replace the old donor-beneficiary relationship while, at the same time, defending and further strengthening the high standards of democracy to which citizens of all countries and all regions are entitled.

In 2009, International IDEA operated its first full year under a new governance model in which the Council of Member States has the ultimate decision-making authority. I wish to thank the Government of Mexico for its competent leadership of the Council during the pioneering first year. I also wish to thank our departing Board chair Ms Lena Hjelm-Wallén for her invaluable leadership during six years of transition, and to welcome our two new Board Members: Ms Margot Wallström and Dr Soledad Loaeza.

Vidar Helgesen
SECRETARY-GENERAL, *International IDEA*

Implications of the global financial crisis on democracy building
As the current global financial and economic crisis enters its second year, the social and political impacts of the economic downturn are already emerging as a major threat to the development gains of the past decade. The democracy dimensions of the crisis therefore should not be neglected. This was the key message of the statement made by Massimo Tommasoli, Permanent Observer for International IDEA to the United Nations, at the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on Development held at the UN Headquarters in New York in June 2009.

New Board members

MS MARGOT WALLSTRÖM (Sweden), former Vice President of the European Commission, now Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Sexual Violence and Conflict.

DR SOLEDAD LOAEZA (Mexico), Professor and Researcher at the Centre of International Studies of El Colegio de México.

IDEA's approach to democracy

OUR **MEMBER STATES** have given us the mission to support sustainable democratic change by providing comparative knowledge, assisting in reform, and by influencing policies and politics. The mission guides how we work: we derive knowledge from practical experience; our knowledge is put to use in supporting reform; and we influence policies and politics through our knowledge resources as well as engagement in reform.

Democracy cannot be imported or exported, but it can be supported. Those seeking to strengthen democracy in their own countries can be inspired by what others are doing elsewhere around the world. International IDEA plays an instrumental role in supporting their initiatives by providing comparative knowledge and experience in the field of electoral processes; constitution building processes; political parties, participation and representation; democracy and development; and democracy self-assessments. Issue and themes that cut across these areas are gender, conflict and security, and diversity.

Democracy grows from within societies. It evolves constantly and never reaches a state of final consolidation. Our work reflects this: we engage with partners in the democratic process and support their own particular role whether it be an election official, member of parliament, political party official, candidate for political office or a representative of civil society.

We bring experience and options to the table but do not prescribe solutions – true to the principle that the decision makers in a democracy are the citizens and their representatives. We also play a special role by bringing together a wide range of political actors, providing the opportunity for them to exchange views and experience at seminars, conferences and other capacity building activities.

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Elections in Bolivia, 6 December 2009.

Elections: Building Skills, Creating Credibility

Democracy is likely to be effective only when the elections on which it is based are managed in a credible and effective way. Unfortunately, despite heavy involvement from the international community, the 2009 presidential election in Afghanistan was marked by controversy and the outcome threatened to undermine the credibility of international electoral assistance. The election itself was relatively peaceful and orderly, but after two months of political turmoil and allegations of fraud and corruption, the results were declared invalid and a second runoff election ordered. Then, just days before the scheduled vote, President Karzai's main rival withdrew. While Karzai was declared the winner, he lacked the popular mandate required to influence real change in the country's prospects for peace.

More often than not – and particularly in post-conflict settings like Afghanistan – the efforts of the international community are too focused on the electoral event, with insufficient attention paid to the need to build and consolidate local capacities that will make change sustainable over time. International IDEA works with countries to help them improve the efficiency of their electoral administration systems. This means building the capacity of national electoral administrations to run credible electoral processes.

Supporting electoral reform in Latin America...

While Afghanistan has held only two elections (both since the fall of the Taliban in 2001), the process of democratization in Latin America has reached its 30th year. To mark this milestone, International IDEA joined forces with national institutions to organize a seminar in the Dominican Republic. Focusing on topics such as democracy, growth with equity, and social cohesion, the October event attracted high-level support. Participants included the President of the Dominican Republic, the Vice-President of Argentina, and the former presidents of Colombia and Panama. They were joined by many Latin American politicians, academics and journalists.

Bolivia and IDEA

International IDEA has been working in Bolivia since 2004, supporting the processes of dialogue and consensus building on various issues connected with building a new constitution. Through these activities, alliances have been established with the National Electoral Court. In 2009, IDEA advised on implementation of the Court's work plan in several different areas: a) providing technical assistance for the creation of new national voter rolls; b) helping develop a communications strategy for the court; c) providing assistance for a comprehensive reform of electoral legislation including the

drafting of two laws, one for the electoral institution and the other for the electoral regime; d) helping develop rules for advertising and propaganda; and e) assistance for the development and implementation of a system for voting abroad. In acknowledgement of its contributions, IDEA received a formal letter of appreciation from the Vice Minister of Institutional Management at the Ministry of Foreign Relations.

New Electoral Code for Costa Rica and Ecuador

In August 2009, after more than a decade of parliamentary discussion, Costa Rica enacted a new Electoral Code. International IDEA provided technical support to the Supreme Tribunal of Elections and members of Congress throughout the entire process and its assistance was publicly acknowledged. The new legislation addressed most of the electorate's concerns regarding the funding of political parties. As well as making substantial changes to public funding, the reforms should also improve the transparency of private funding. In addition, the new code will make provision for overseas voting, increase the quota for women in party positions and improve accessibility of voting for particular groups such as the visually impaired.

International IDEA will continue to work closely with the implementing bodies of the new electoral code. To mark this new phase of cooperation, IDEA organized a workshop in September to provide information and promote discussion on the new electoral rules and how the changes will affect party dynamics during future elections.

When Ecuador's constitution was approved in September 2008, the National Constituent Assembly's Legislative and Inspection Commission was tasked with preparing bills for a national electoral code. Their first priority was to develop a bill covering electoral law that needed to be passed within 180 days of the constitution being adopted. International IDEA, working in partnership with the Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD) in the *Ágora Democrática* project, was engaged by the Policy Coordination Ministry to provide technical support for this task.

The first step was to convene an advisory team, which included several experts in electoral systems, an Ecuadorian jurist and a legal assistant. The team quickly formulated a preliminary proposal for a suitable electoral law drawing on Ecuadorian and regional legal precedents. They also organized consultations with relevant arms of government, the National Electoral Council and the Electoral Litigation Tribunal. A draft proposal was then submitted to political parties, academics and civil society for further comment. Together with a new political parties law, this legislation formed the new 'Code of Democracy', which was approved in April 2009.

It is my pleasure to write you to express my thanks for the cooperation that International IDEA has provided to the Ministry of Foreign Relations with technical and financial assistance for implementation of Phase I of the Consulate Assistance System for Citizens Residing Abroad, which will be very useful for this ministry and for our fellow Bolivians abroad. I would like to reiterate my appreciation and the hope for continued cooperation between our agencies.

AMBASSADOR MÓNICA SORIANO LÓPEZ, *Vice Minister of Institutional Management, Ministry of Foreign Relations, Bolivia, in a formal letter of appreciation, 26 January 2010.*

Local government elections set up by the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) in the rural town of Nkandla, South Africa, 2006.
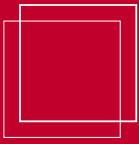
...and electoral audit in Botswana

Botswana is the only mainland nation in Africa to have maintained free and fair elections since its independence. The most recent election – its tenth – was held on 16 October, 2009. Working closely with Electoral Reform International Services (ERIS), International IDEA helped develop an election audit methodology to assess the readiness of the country for these elections and to determine the extent to which its legal framework complies with international law and good legal practices.

The election audit methodology was first developed by IDEA in 1999 and was piloted in the previous Botswana elections in 2004 and in Zambia in 2008. The audit is carried out in phases and these include observing the polling and counting as well as interviewing stakeholders. According to Tiro Seeletso, Secretary of Botswana's Independent Electoral Commission, the final phase of the audit involves organizing a regional workshop to discuss the audit report and showcase the audit methodology to a wider audience.

What is 'BRIDGE'?

Building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Elections (BRIDGE) is widely recognized as the leading global training curriculum for election administrators. Developed by International IDEA and its partners[1], it improves the management skills, knowledge and confidence of election officials and others involved in electoral processes (e.g., political parties, election observers and the media). IDEA contributes to both the development of the course concepts and modules, and to the delivery of the courses in individual countries. Since its development in 1999, BRIDGE courses have taken place in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, the Middle East and the Pacific.

[1] BRIDGE was developed by International IDEA together with the Australian Electoral Commission and the United Nations Electoral Assistance Division. In 2007, the partnership group widened to include the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), both of which implement BRIDGE through their own programmes.

Building skills for managing elections

An election is the largest and most complex logistical operation that a country ever undertakes during peacetime. Indeed, the better an election is run, the simpler it looks. Committed, ethical, professional and confident election administrators are vital to running a good election, in both emerging and more established democracies. International IDEA provides a range of training courses and workshops designed to build national capacity for managing elections and its 'BRIDGE' courses (see box, page 9) have become well known around the world.

BRIDGE in Asia

IDEA staff continue to add and improve the BRIDGE courses and modules to meet local needs. They piloted a new BRIDGE module on democracy and governance in Bhutan in 2009, establishing a new relationship between IDEA and the world's newest democracy. "BRIDGE opened my eyes to the world of facilitation, which is not as easy as people think it is," said one of the first Bhutanese facilitators to receive training and accreditation.

In Nepal, election officials responded enthusiastically to a BRIDGE training course designed to help them with voter registration. National BRIDGE facilitators delivered the sessions with overall guidance from two international experts. "Before this I had only heard about the theoretical obstacles in the process of voters' registration and the systems of registering voters in the world," said Gopal Prasad Bagale, District Election Officer from Palpa District, "but this training helped me to learn about the types of voters' registration systems, especially the practical sessions."

The training was part of the ongoing BRIDGE programme run by International IDEA in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) and Nepal's Election Commission, which aims to build the capacity of the Election Commission to conduct effective elections and develop a robust election process. Also part of this programme was a module on electoral system design intended for stakeholders from political parties, opinion leaders and members of the Constituent Assembly.

BRIDGE in Africa

The year 2009 was a busy year for BRIDGE training in Africa, with 122 participants from 35 countries benefiting from various courses. The programme was the result of an ambitious partnership initiative between International

> Working on the BRIDGE curriculum has greatly enhanced my electoral knowledge and facilitation skills.
>
> KINLEY, *Accredited Workshop Facilitator, Election Commission of Bhutan*

IDEA and the African Union (AU) Democracy and Electoral Assistance Unit (see box). The aim of the Africa BRIDGE programme is to use the curriculum to build the capacity of election administrators and to create a network of people who can deliver electoral training programmes in their home countries.

The training comprised three 5-day BRIDGE professional development courses, two in English and one in French. The participants learned about technical issues of election administration, such as strategic planning, leadership, stakeholder relations, electoral dispute resolution and the electoral cycle.

There were also three *Train the Facilitator* courses, again two in English and one in French. These courses aim to provide an element of sustainability by giving the national electoral commissions the skills and materials they need to run their own training programmes.

Attending BRIDGE training courses creates a useful peer network of professional election administration experts. Indeed, the international nature of IDEA's BRIDGE programme can foster an understanding between election administrators about common pressures and challenges and, more importantly, they can find out how others have overcome similar hurdles.
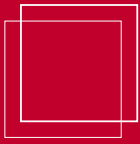
BRIDGE in Latin America

In Latin America, IDEA conducted two BRIDGE training courses in Peru and one in Colombia. The first Peruvian course, entitled *Strengthening Equality of Opportunities for Political Participation in Peru*, was attended by 30 men and women from Peruvian political parties, regional political movements and civil society organizations. "It was the first experience of running BRIDGE for political parties in Latin America," says Nicholas Garrigue, Consultant to IDEA and Lead Facilitator. The course helped the participants develop strategies to overcome obstacles faced by women in accessing elected offices and exercising their citizenship rights. The second course was a *Train the Facilitator* course attended by 12 election administrators from the National Electoral Jury.

The Colombian BRIDGE course, on *Polling, Counting and Results*, attracted 18 members of staff from the Registraduria Nacional del Estado Civil, several of whom had participated in a previous IDEA *Train the Facilitator* course. "This was a good decision as they could deepen their knowledge about BRIDGE methods by attending this second course, even if they were not participating as facilitators," adds Garrigue, "and many of them expressed the desire to be given the chance to complete their accreditation at the next available opportunity."

IDEA-AU Joint Activity Plan
International IDEA and the AU have been collaborating since 2008 on a broad programme known as the Joint Activity Plan. This is an ambitious 5-year programme of activities designed to support democracy in Africa. It is centred on the *African Charter for Democracy, Elections and Governance* adopted by the AU in 2007. The Plan has two main strands: capacity building for the AU Secretariat (including the Political Affairs Department, responsible for the Charter) and implementing projects under the Charter, such as BRIDGE and other activities falling under IDEA's mandate.

Myanmar referendum 2008 stickers.

Increasing access to knowledge

Much of the material used in the BRIDGE training courses is available online through the ACE Electoral Knowledge Network (www.aceproject.org). This resource aims to provide election practitioners, electoral assistance providers and other stakeholders with all the information they need to increase the transparency and credibility of electoral processes. Users can access advice from electoral experts located around the world and there is a space where they can share their knowledge with others.

ACE is built around a number of Regional Electoral Resource Centres: electoral institutions or organizations active in the area of democracy support. These knowledge hubs provide a two-way information flow, collating information to share with the rest of the world and acting as a source of regional knowledge and expertise. The four regional centres in Africa (located in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Senegal and South Africa) are developing a joint Memorandum of Understanding to promote greater collaboration among themselves.

Coping with conflict

Several African countries have experienced election-related violence in recent years and electoral assistance providers need to be ready to deal with such events. Providing opportunities to share and exchange knowledge and experience is a logical step and one of IDEA's first activities in this

area involved convening a workshop entitled *Towards a Global Framework for Managing and Mitigating Elections-Related Conflict and Violence*. The workshop underlined the importance of creating a community of practice that reaches beyond electoral assistance providers and incorporates other actors working in fields such as mediation, security and the media. Such a community would provide the foundations for knowledge development, sharing and coordination in order to address this phenomenon systematically. Held in Johannesburg, South Africa in October 2009, the workshop attracted 30 participants from over 20 different organizations.

Linking electoral observation with assistance

Electoral observation is an important means of preventing conflict as well as fraud. Observation missions, such as those provided by the European Union (EU), also have significant potential to draw conclusions on the state of democratic progress and make recommendations for future electoral assistance and political reform. International IDEA is set to play a leading role in improving the ability of EU election observers to provide more informed and comprehensive assessments of electoral processes. It is doing this through its leadership of the Network for Enhanced Electoral and Democratic Support (NEEDS) project, a European Commission-financed initiative to improve the standard of EU election observation, established in late 2008.
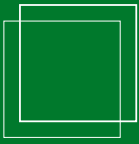
The first training event for domestic observer organizations was held in Johannesburg in May 2009 with eight African non-governmental organizations (NGOs), including the Ghana Centre for Democracy and Development and the Zimbabwe Election Support Network. The training was based on discussions and exchange of experiences: analysing the different methodologies used by participating organizations and building a common methodology by extracting the best practices of each. Further events took place in Costa Rica, Indonesia, Lebanon, Romania and Senegal. In all, around 100 representatives from 50 domestic observer organizations have taken part in NEEDS training so far.

As part of its growing partnership with the AU, the European Commission asked NEEDS to organize a seminar for EU and AU delegates to exchange best practices on international election observation. The event also provided an opportunity for AU delegates to observe the EU parliamentary elections. A similar event is planned for 2010 based around the Swedish elections.

Making Electoral Assistance Effective: From Formal Commitment to Actual Implementation – ACE "Focus on…" Series

The evolution from event-driven support to process and demand-driven support in electoral assistance programmes has proved to be a long one. Effective electoral assistance primarily means long-term institutional strengthening and capacity development. This publication represents a first assessment of the way in which electoral assistance is delivered on the ground, and the effect that these new ideas are having in shaping other development agencies' priorities in this field.

Teenagers interviewing people in Pietermaritzburg, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa.

Political Parties, Participation and Representation

Different political parties accommodate diverse interest groups and offer voters different political options; thus they are essential to a functioning democracy. Yet parties often lack the trust of voters and can suffer from institutional problems. In addition, women are usually under-represented. Assistance to the strengthening of political parties is therefore seen as an increasingly important theme within democracy support. International IDEA further developed its activities in this area in 2009, when the current political parties programme was assessed and re-shaped following an external evaluation and broad-based internal discussions.

The new programme: *Political Parties, Participation and Representation* will continue to provide direct support to political parties and promote gender equality, while focusing on two new areas. The first of these is building cooperation and consensus within the prevailing political culture of competition; and the second looks at the political cycle of accountability. This refers to the relationship between the state, the citizen as the voter who can demand accountability, and the citizen as the beneficiary of the results delivered by the political system.

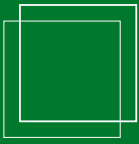## Supporting political parties in eastern Africa

The signing of Sudan's Comprehensive Peace Agreement in 2005 ended the decades-long conflict between the South and the Government in Khartoum, paving the way for planned elections and a referendum on the possible secession of South Sudan from the country. However, disagreements between different political parties still threaten the process and voter turnout could remain problematic, particularly amongst the displaced people of Darfur. International IDEA has been working in Sudan since 2006, where its efforts are focused on the strengthening of political parties – and their relationships with each other – in the lead up to the elections scheduled for 2010.

In addition to promoting a culture of intra-party democracy and gender equality, the Sudan project takes a consultative and participatory approach to increasing political parties' knowledge of electoral processes and improving their ability to interact with and engage key stakeholders. Two training events took place in 2009. At the first in May, 97 participants from 22 different political parties learned about political party systems and organization. The second course in June attracted 88 people and focused on political parties and elections. Both events were featured on national radio. Participants at the June event identified a need for further training and knowledge exchange on the process of electoral campaigning.

Seminar on quality party assistance
The results of the evaluation of IDEA's political parties programme featured on the agenda of a seminar on quality party assistance organized by IDEA and the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID) in September. During this event, the participants (who included donors and members of international party assistance organizations) discussed the broader aspects of party assistance with the aim of developing a platform for dialogue on more coordinated, coherent and effective approaches.

Elections in Indonesia, April 2009.

The IDEA team consequently organized a workshop for political party representatives and members of the media to fill this gap, followed up by two further training workshops on media and elections.

Because there are so many different political parties in Sudan, the IDEA team felt it was important to introduce some sort of coordination mechanism, so they invited a representative from each of the 24 parties to sit on a coordination committee. The committee acts as a focal point between the parties and IDEA, providing a channel for information and assistance. The members held 11 meetings during the year and, as a result, they were able to identify their major training needs and develop proposals for joint training workshops on the election process.

Meanwhile in Kenya, the country's political institutions are working towards an extensive reform process. As they prepare for the 2012 elections, they hope that the violence and civil unrest that marked the 2007 elections can be avoided next time. During 2009, IDEA responded to requests for short-term assistance from a number of Kenyan political institutions. These requests have come at an important moment in Kenya's political reform process and provide an opportunity for IDEA to build a longer-term programme and contribute to the wider process of democracy building in Kenya.

Aims of IDEA's Sudan project:
To strengthen Sudan's political parties so they become:

- Effective actors of democratization and good governance

- Trusted by voters

- Representative of and responsive to public needs and concerns

- Able to support the Government through constructive opposition.

Promoting gender equality

Influencing change in Africa

While the principle of gender equality and the political participation and representation of women has been generally accepted in sub-Saharan Africa, it is not always translated into practice. In some countries, relevant policies and legislation aimed at promoting gender equality and women's empowerment have been adopted, but they have not been fully implemented, enforced or scaled up. Substantive change in the inequality of power relations between women and men therefore, remains an elusive goal and women are still in a minority in political parties, occupying less than 20% of legislative seats.

International IDEA is working to influence the transformation of power relations in Africa by promoting gender equality in terms of inclusiveness, participation, representation and accountability within democratic processes. The range of activities in 2009 included political parties training and consultation in Sudan and a sub-regional round table for parties in Central, North and West Africa entitled *The Role of Political Parties in Democracy Building: the Gender Challenge*.

The political parties capacity building workshops in Sudan focused on helping participants to enforce gender quotas and thereby increase the representation and participation of women in Sudanese politics. The interim constitution of Sudan provides for a 25% quota for women's political participation and representation, but this is below the 'critical minority' target of 30% considered necessary for women to have a significant influence on the decision-making process. Participants at the workshops included male and female prospective party candidates and male party leaders. They learned about established strategies and tools that would help their parties identify, nominate and select suitable women candidates to achieve the desired target. The party leaders also committed to developing plans for integrating gender issues into party processes.
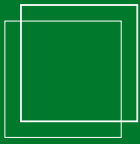
Working with the Institute for Gender and Development Studies, the IDEA team also arranged a consultation meeting between female representatives of Sudan's six major political parties. The aim was to identify and discuss the capacity building needs of potential women candidates for the 2010 election.

The sub-regional round table provided an opportunity to increase political parties' awareness and understanding of gender equality within

iKNOW Politics
The International Knowledge Network of Women in Politics (iKNOW Politics) aims to increase the participation and effectiveness of women in political life. Its online workspace (www.iknowpolitics. org) allows users to access resources, create knowledge and share experiences. Resources are available in English, French, Spanish and, new for 2009, Arabic.

iKNOW Politics is a joint project funded and managed by International IDEA, UNDP, UNIFEM, the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI) and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU).

democracy and strengthen the parties' capacity to integrate gender into party constitutions and policy. Four participants (a man and a woman from the ruling party and from the main opposition party) attended from each country scheduled to hold elections in 2010 or 2011 in Central, North and West Africa. The round table helped them identify policy measures and strategies that would improve participation and representation in democracy building from a gender perspective. Some parties also asked International IDEA for direct assistance in developing the gender aspects of their constitutions and manifestos.

Women take their place in Latin American politics

In contrast, the past 20 years have seen a dramatic increase in the number of Latin American women engaged in politics, most notably the rise to power of three female presidents: Michelle Bachelet in Chile, Cristina Fernandez in Argentina and, most recently, Laura Chinchilla in Costa Rica. But while some legislatures are approaching 40% female representation, others appear to be stuck at only around 10%. International IDEA is helping to redress the balance by supporting analysis and public debate on equality and providing women opportunities to gain the political skills they need to compete for office.

Bolivia and Ecuador are currently leading the way in the reform process, having recently embraced the issue of equality as a basic principle of democracy in their new constitutions. International IDEA and the Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD) are working together in Ecuador through the *Agora Democrática* project to provide technical input and comparative knowledge to the parliamentary caucuses charged with making gender equality happen in practice. Meanwhile, IDEA's Bolivia programme is working with the *Coordinadora de la Mujer*, a network of women's organizations to mainstream gender equality into all aspects of political life. The first notable success was the *Mujeres listas para las listas* (Women Ready for Lists) campaign, which meticulously monitored compliance with the candidate list presented by political organizations for accordance with Article 9 of the new Constitution. As a result of this campaign and other forms of electoral and party support, the percentage of women in the Bolivian Senate increased impressively, from 3.7% after the 2005 election to 41% in 2009.

Bolivia's new constitution also provides for greater autonomy for the country's indigenous people, among whom the process of gaining equal rights for women lags behind. Working with the

From Words to Action: Best Practices for Women's Participation in Latin American Political Parties

This book has been translated from the Spanish original published by UNDP. It provides political party members and leaders with the means to implement concrete strategies for achieving equality for women within party organizations and to access positions of power and representation.

United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the Universidad Andina, International IDEA has organized capacity-building courses for women leaders of indigenous groups. In helping the women gain knowledge of international instruments that protect women's rights, the course facilitators were also able to gather valuable information on the status of women in indigenous communities together with the myths and attitudes that maintain current inequalities.

In Peru, International IDEA worked with the three principal parties to promote women's equality, in particular by facilitating the secretaries-general of the parties to sign an agreement committed to improving women's participation within the parties. Individual party support involved helping to organize the first national women's meeting of *Partido Nacionalista Peruano* (Peruvian Nationalist Party), during which presidential candidate and party leader Ollanta Humala joined four members of Congress and other stakeholders in a lively debate on gender equality and women's participation in politics. Meanwhile, IDEA supported the leaders of *Acción Popular* (Popular Action Party) by helping develop a 'term of office' proposal to incorporate in their party statutes. The proposal has been approved in a recent party assembly. IDEA also supported *Partido Popular Cristiano* (People's Christian Party) in organizing workshops to promote equal opportunities for women.

In April 2009, nearly 100 Peruvian women completed an IDEA training programme designed to help them gain political leadership skills and deal with media and equality issues. The participants were selected from political parties in 12 regions across the country. As well as strengthening their leadership capability the programme aimed to promote cultural dialogue between different parties and improve the quality of debate within their own parties. During the course the women delivered replica training exercises in their own social and political organizations, extending the learning experience to 800 people overall.

Colombia is one of the lowest ranking countries in Latin America for women's participation in politics. International IDEA has been working in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for some years to redress the balance. In 2009, IDEA provided training for 50 female congressional candidates and almost 400 women running for local office. The purpose was to strengthen women's leadership of political parties at the regional level.

Manual de reportería política con enfoque de género Manual

(Manual for Gender Mainstreaming in Political Reporting)

This book provides updated data about women's participation in national public life and proposes eight areas for the media to follow in its political reporting. The manual was discussed at a seminar in Colombia attended by 40 female congressional candidates and members of the National Network of Political Editors.

Co-publisher: Comisión para la inclusión y representación Política de las mujeres, Colombia and others.
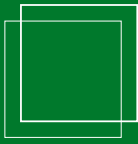

Los caminos de la paridad: Mujeres participación y representación en el proceso pos constituyente

(Paths to Parity: Women's Participation and Representation in the Post-Constituent Assembly)

This publication focuses on the road travelled by women on the way to gaining full political citizenship in Bolivia. It provides a historical perspective and describes the processes of strengthening democracy and women's participation. It examines existing national and international legislation and identifies important achievements in democracy, pluralism and inclusion within the framework of the Constituent Assembly.

Co-publisher: Coordinadora de la Mujer, Bolivia.

IDEA complemented its candidate training with a parallel line of activities aimed at promoting non-sexist media coverage of the upcoming political campaigns. In partnership with UNDP and other organizations, IDEA produced the publication: *Manual for Gender Mainstreaming in Political Reporting*, and this was presented to the National Network of Political Editors.

Cooperation with political parties

Progress in Peru

Public perception and approval of Peruvian political parties has long been amongst the lowest in the region and there is a real need for neutral organizations, such as International IDEA, to help stakeholders push for change.

IDEA's training courses to improve the skills of Peru's political parties were particularly important during 2009, in advance of the 2010 elections. The courses offered sessions on democracy and politics, the parties system, equal opportunities, the electoral system, public management and economic policies as well as territorial development. Over 300 people from 42 political organizations attended and they then carried out follow-up training to others in their own areas, extending the benefits to over 3500 people, almost half of them women. The courses helped improve the internal agenda of political organizations and created areas for multi-party political debates that promote a culture of dialogue among representatives of different political organizations. As a result, various political organizations have begun to carry out their own capacity-building and knowledge exchange programmes.

Isabel Montalvo Roel, National Secretary of Women's Affairs for the political party *Perú Posible*, attended one of the courses. "I acquired much knowledge about gender issues, the system of political parties and other related topics, which strengthened my leadership," she says. "I was able to offer many conferences about the same topics as follow-up training to other women and men in my party . . . *Perú Posible* is the first and only political party that offers virtual courses and they are highly successful, thanks to the courses offered by IDEA, which served as a good example to follow."

Countering corruption in Colombia

Colombia has a long tradition of multi-party politics. Its Liberal and Conservative parties, founded in 1848 and 1849 respectively, are two of the oldest surviving political parties in the Americas. Like Peru, the country is gearing up for elections in 2010.

As part of a political reform initiative designed to prevent criminal organizations infiltrating politics during elections, International IDEA and UNDP have organized discussions to enable politicians to hear the views of civil society. Within these discussions, IDEA organized an international seminar on *Political Reform and the Political Parties Act* to create space for Congress to debate reform proposals with representatives from civil society and the government. The reform process hit a setback when congress eased sanctions for political parties with links to illegal armed groups and drug traffickers, but at least the channels are open for discussion.

Díme a quien escuchas: Think tanks y partidos politicos en América Latina

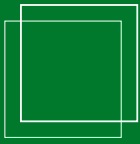(Thinking Politics: Think tanks and political parties in Latin America)

This publication examines the historical relationship between think tanks and political parties in Latin America. The book offers recommendations for reinforcing the relationship between research and politics, with the aim of strengthening democracy and sustainable development in the countries covered by the studies (Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru).

Co-publisher: the Overseas Development Institute, UK.

THE 2009 ROUND TABLE: ILLICIT FINANCE IN POLITICS

Delegates at the 2009 IDEA Democracy Round Table, held in Mexico, addressed a highly controversial subject: the challenge of illicit finance in politics. The round table is held every year to coincide with IDEA's annual Council meeting and Mexico's President Calderón suggested this theme in his capacity as Council Chair. Instead of hiding or denying a problem that affects Mexico and many other countries, Calderón called for international solidarity and action, using the meeting to launch an appeal to all nations to defend their democracies against corruption. International IDEA is an appropriate forum at which to raise the often divisive issue of illicit finance and organized crime in politics. The Mexico Round Table produced a wealth of new ideas that will help make IDEA's programmes more relevant and responsive to the needs of those seeking support and assistance.

Assessing the State of Democracy

International IDEA's State of Democracy (SoD) assessment frameworks allow citizens to assess the strengths and weaknesses of their democratic systems and use the results to lobby for improvements and reforms. The assessment frameworks can be used at national and local government levels.

Several countries have already used, or are planning to use, these instruments as a means of strengthening the accountability and transparency of local and national democracy. In 2009, these included Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Yemen – countries that have recently introduced competitive elections at different levels of government. One of the main obstacles to democratic reform in the Arab world is the need to find new mechanisms of participation that give people a voice in ways that are appropriate to local customs and traditions. International IDEA's State of Local Democracy assessment framework helps to do just this. The project enabled the citizens of these countries to assess – in as open and honest a way as possible – how well their towns and cities are run; to develop policies for reforming local governance and giving a voice to local people; and to encourage appropriate decisions at national level to support these moves. Since the results were identified by local people and were sensitive to the customs and traditions of the local areas, the process created a sense of ownership among them. The

National State of Local Democracy conference in Cairo, Egypt, March 2009.

findings were presented at national conferences attended by high-level government ministers and officials as well as the national media. The next step is to present the conclusions to additional Arab countries through a regional event.

In Chile, a State of Democracy assessment is being planned to coincide with the country's 2010 bicentenary celebrations. International IDEA is contributing the ongoing process of reflection and evaluation by working with three local organizations that are promoting dialogue with civil society.
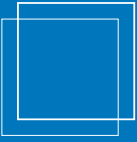
Zambia has reached an advanced stage in developing plans for conducting an SoD assessment. Meanwhile, in West Africa, International IDEA has conducted an initial regional needs assessment and evaluation during 2009 to identify the feasibility and desirability of a two-phase regional SoD assessment covering a further eight countries.

**Assessing the
Quality of Democracy:
A Practical Guide**

This guide describes the different elements of IDEA's SoD assessment framework and the links between the democratic principles on which it is based. The book also sets out the mediating values, and the structure and range of search questions that can be used to establish the existence of democratic institutions and the way in which they perform in practice.

Spanish version published in 2009. French and Arabic versions are due out in 2010.

Understanding and discussing the key issues and options of federalism are at the heart of the current constitution building process in Nepal. Five open-air theatre performances on federalism were held on different campuses in Kathmandu Valley in September 2009.

Building Consensus for Formal Constitutions

A country's formal constitution establishes the rights and duties of citizens and state institutions, and reflects the way in which society itself wishes to be governed. But it is not the constitution itself that maps the route to effective democracy: the process of building a constitution is just as important as the content. It is vital to engage a wide range of stakeholders, establishing a sense of ownership and creating broad-based support for the political process and democratic government. This is particularly important in post-conflict situations, where there is strong demand from emerging national opinion leaders – particularly those previously excluded from governance – for skills to negotiate new constitutions and design fresh democratic institutions.

International IDEA works closely with its partners to support inclusive, participatory and sustainable national processes of constitution building by promoting dialogue, sharing experiences, guiding policy and providing comparative knowledge.

Gathering and sharing knowledge

As countries initiate and implement the process of constitution building, stakeholders gather new knowledge on what works and why, particularly in deeply-divided and conflict-affected states. For instance, allowing ordinary citizens to have a say in their constitutions is a relatively new phenomenon, but it is extremely important, particularly when the capacity of local institutions is weak. International IDEA contributes to the pooling and sharing of such practical comparative knowledge, particularly within a South–South framework.
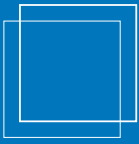
> My message to anybody negotiating anywhere is to have patience: it holds the key. Secondly, never be off sight of the principal goal: an enduring constitution for your country.
>
> JUSTICE ALBIE SACHS, *former Chief Justice of the South African Constitutional Court (Interview with Bal Krishna/IDEA, Nov 2009).*

IDEA's Constitution building training curriculum
IDEA's capacity development programme aims to equip national players with the skills they need to build an effective constitution: such skills as leadership, negotiation and partnership building. The courses also aim to give an insight into institutional roles and governance, and to show participants how to include marginalized groups in the process.

In all, there are eight different modules and two of these were piloted in November 2009 in Nairobi, Kenya (*Addressing and Preventing Conflict through Constitution Building* and *Building a Culture of Rights and Responsibilities*). The 25 participants – coming from Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Uganda and Zimbabwe – joined in an interactive learning experience where they were encouraged to share experiences from their own countries.

In 2009, International IDEA continued to facilitate its *South–South Dialogue on Constitutional Design for Diversity and Conflict Management* (organized in partnership with the Non-Aligned Movement Centre for South–South Technical Cooperation or NAM CSSTC). Held in Jakarta, Indonesia, the event attracted participants from Australia, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Nepal, the Philippines, Thailand, South Africa and Sri Lanka. They exchanged lessons on various topics, including the adequacy of constitutions in shaping national political identities; how processes of constitution building have been facilitated to broaden their national ownership; and the practical merits of innovative solutions to constitutional design in response to societal fragmentation.

Knowledge and policy resources

HANDBOOK: International IDEA's forthcoming handbook: *Constitution Building for Practitioners* is designed for stakeholders in countries emerging from conflict or a period of transition who want to learn more about constitutional options and experiences. It will be available in 2010.

POLICY PAPERS: IDEA is currently mapping different patterns and practices of international assistance and engagement in constitution building with the aim of using the information to improve future efforts and policies. The information will soon become available as policy papers and through round table meetings for policy makers.

WEBSITE: The constitution building website (www.ConstitutionNet.org) hosts an interactive, online community of practice and an 'ask the expert' facility as well as a virtual library of official documents from countries engaged in constitution building worldwide. The handbook and policy papers will be available here too.

Supporting constitution building in Nepal

Nepal's 2008 elections ended a decade of civil war, popular protest and constitutional stalemate. The elected 601-member Constituent Assembly (CA) is now charged with developing a new constitution for the country that will balance the needs and demands of the different factions and work towards more decentralized governance. While the constitution building process is advancing, the road is far from smooth and there is a need for continuing support to promote consensus and mutual trust between the political parties.

International IDEA has been working in Nepal since 2004, initially in the area of citizen's assessment of democracy. Since the rise of the People's Movement for Democracy and the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in 2006, IDEA has been supporting national actors in the process of constitution building by providing knowledge resources and promoting public participation.

The new constitution will also provide scope for greater decentralization of government. It is hoped that changing to a federal system will empower previously marginalized communities in remote parts of the country and promote religious, linguistic and ethnic diversity. Understanding and discussing the key issues and options of federalism are at the heart of the current constitution building process. Recognizing the importance of debate around federalism in Nepal, International IDEA carried out a number of activities to encourage informative, fact-based discussions on federalism, without forgetting the emotions that are running high around this topic. One of the more innovative activities was the staging of theatre performances aimed at student audiences. The interactive nature of the performances allowed different views to be recorded and these will be developed into recommendations for the CA. IDEA has also produced a glossary of federalism terms in English and Nepali to help build common understanding on the concepts and ideas behind them.
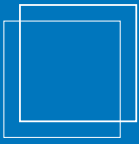
IDEA has gained much goodwill as an organization characterized by neutrality and effectiveness and has been asked by the CA and its committees to assist with several constitution building programmes. One of the most important recent initiatives was the support given to the Public Opinion Collection and Coordination Committee (POCCC), the body responsible for organizing the next round of public consultation on the draft constitution. IDEA helped by giving input into the Committee's action plan, sharing international experiences in similar exercises, and organizing a three day retreat to plan for the next round of consultation.

English-Nepali Glossary of Federalism Terms

This book meets the need for a common understanding of many federalism terms. It contains around 300 words related to federalism and has definitions in both English and Nepali. A joint effort by Nepali and international experts, the book's contributors include members of the CA, prominent members of civil society, intellectuals, lawyers and journalists. It was launched in September 2009 in Kathmandu.

Co-publisher: Forum of Federations, Canada.

Theatre performance on federalism in Kathmandu Valley, Nepal, September 2009.

The task is a huge one and involves distributing copies of the draft constitution and questionnaire to all 5.3 million households, then recording their responses in written or audio form. When asked about IDEA's support for building public ownership, Pramod Gupta, Chair of the POCCC, said: "As a chair of this committee, I feel myself responsible

Nepali women participate

Nepal is making good progress in promoting women's rights and 33% of Constituent Assembly (CA) members are women. "The male-dominated Nepalese society is slowly waking up to realize that there was gender discrimination in the past, and now they are supportive for the women's cause," says Usha Kala Rai, member of the women's caucus within the CA. "However, there is a long way to go to realize full rights for women."

IDEA has been working hard to raise awareness and interest in the issue of women's participation in building Nepal's new constitution, for example, by convening an advisory group comprising mostly female members of leading political parties and the CA, which comments on each new theme of the constitution. These efforts are now paying off and women are being encouraged to speak in CA meetings, participate in committee work and take higher positions.

"We have benefited from the resources provided by IDEA. These have helped me work better in my work related to gender," says Usha Kala Rai. Next steps include reaching out to women in remote rural areas and ensuring their voices are heard in building a new democratic Nepal.

for making every person participate in the process of constitution building." He went on to add: "Linking public consultation and public ownership is a very good idea. Certainly this gives us a long-lasting and democratic constitution. IDEA's view is similar to ours . . . our objectives complement each other."

In a low-key initiative designed to find common ground between different political parties, the IDEA team facilitated several dialogue sessions with different parties, analyzing party positions and preparing background notes on the main similarities and differences between them. Around ten sessions have been held to date and the parties are engaged in continuing the process.

Drafting new legislation in Bolivia

After a long string of military coups, Bolivia elected its first democratic government in 1982. And in January 2009, the people of Bolivia took a further democratic step forward by voting in a referendum to adopt their new constitution, setting in motion the enormous task of developing the necessary legal and institutional arrangements needed to implement it. The new constitution allowed for a president to serve two consecutive terms and in December 2009, President Morales was re-elected for a second 5-year term. The first legislation to be introduced under the new government was an Autonomies and Decentralization Law that will shape the legal framework for the autonomy status of the country's regions and municipalities.

Since International IDEA had already been helping Bolivia with the development of the constitution, it was natural to continue this support. In providing assistance with drafting the Autonomy Law, International IDEA conducted a range of different studies, which included examining how the Law will be implemented and what mechanisms are needed for assigning, transferring and delegating functions between the national and autonomous governments; looking at scenarios and a model for redistribution of revenues from natural resources; and conducting analyses of legislation and conflicts of functions under the new autonomy structure. The team organized eight workshops with different audiences (including journalists and representatives from national non-governmental organizations, civil society, indigenous peoples and smallholders' organizations) to explain, discuss and identify elements that would complement the framework legislation. They also brought in experts on fiscal arrangements in autonomous jurisdictions from the Instituto Español de Estudios Fiscales (Spanish Institute for Fiscal Studies). This support was officially recognized in a formal letter of appreciation from the Minister of Autonomy.

Taking this opportunity to express my deep appreciation for the assistance provided for the Ministry's work and the national dialogue and consensus-building process, it is my pleasure to inform you of our progress in reflection on and development of a new system of financing for the autonomous jurisdictions, an area in which we have received valuable assistance from International IDEA.

DR CARLOS ROMERO BONIFAZ, *Minister of Autonomy, Bolivia, in a formal letter of appreciation, 7 January 2010.*

International IDEA promotes global policy discussions on how to strengthen political institutions to deliver on development.

Democracy and Development: Global Consultations, Mutual Support

While the advance of sustainable development is undoubtedly hampered by a lack of democratic governance structures, it is also true that poverty and lack of economic development present an obstacle to the progress of democracy. It is true that progress in one area often initiates an improvement in the other, but the relationship between democracy and development remains a complex one. However, the growing need for a new partnership paradigm to replace the old donor-beneficiary relationship of democracy support is clear. At the same time, opinion leaders and policy makers need to acquire greater awareness and knowledge of the potential synergies that can link democracy and development.

Through its activities, International IDEA therefore seeks to promote global policy discussions on how to strengthen the ability of political institutions to deliver on development as well as how to build and strengthen democracy and governance in all regions of the world.

Global consultations on the EU's role in democracy building

As the world's largest provider of international development assistance, the European Union (EU) has a major influence on the way democracies develop. Opinion leaders and policy makers from all over the world observe its lively discussions on democracy and human rights as well as its handling of internal affairs, foreign and security policy, trade, agriculture and migration – and international development cooperation. But how can the stories of democratization from the 27 EU countries be used in the best way to support democracy building abroad?

In September 2008, International IDEA launched a new initiative to deepen understanding of how the EU could adapt its policies and actions on democracy support to respond better to its partners' needs. A series of consultations with partner organizations in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Arab world revealed much about how the EU is perceived to work in these regions. The discussions also highlighted regional needs and suggested ways in which the partnerships could be improved.

The message people think they are communicating is often very different from what is interpreted by the receivers, so the starting point was to find out how other countries view the EU's policies on democracy building and support. By comparing the EU's intentions with perceptions of how the policies are working in practice, the project points to areas in which the EU can improve its operations.

> . . . it took Europe 300 years to become democratic and people in Latin America are saying this is outrageous, we have already spent 30 years after transition and we are still not democratic, which is not recognising the basic historical facts that democracy is a long-term goal and you shouldn't get impatient because you go too slow.
>
> MARTA LAGOS, *Director of Latinobarómetro, Latin American opinion pollster.*

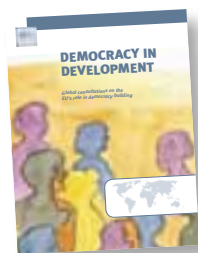The consultations can be summarized in four key messages for EU policy development:

- Tap the EU's own experience to inform its long-term vision, strategy and external action for democracy;

- Apply a broad understanding of democracy; it is not just about elections, it is how political systems support citizens' needs;

- Stand by the EU's long-term commitments, especially when the going gets tough;

- Move towards genuine partnership and dialogue with regional actors for the benefit of all.

The full report on the consultations was handed over to Gunilla Carlsson, Sweden's Minister for International Development Cooperation, at a round table meeting organized by International IDEA at the European Development Days in October 2009. The meeting was part of a whole day of discussion on the theme of democracy and development, during which IDEA organized a high-level plenary session and special round table with representatives of major regional organizations, including the Vice Chair of the African Union (AU), the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States and the Director of the Organization of American States (OAS).

On 17 November the EU Council adopted specific conclusions on democracy support (*Democracy Support in the EU's External Relations*) and a corresponding agenda for action (*EU Agenda for Action on Democracy Support*). Both documents closely mirror the findings of the IDEA-led global consultations and set the stage for a new phase of EU democracy support with partnership at its heart, a mission that strongly echoes that of International IDEA. As a follow-up, and confirming a long-term commitment to democracy development, the EU has stated its intention to establish pilot countries, to develop country-specific analyses, and to invite all responsible EU institutions to report back to the Council in 2010 on the progress achieved during its implementation.

Democracy in Development: Global consultations on the EU's role in democracy building

This publication presents the results of the global consultations conducted by IDEA, which revealed gaps between the EU's intentions and the perceptions of its partners. The book describes key areas in which the EU's policies and actions could be strengthened and includes region-specific analyses and recommendations.

Several discussion papers on relevant topics have also been commissioned and are available at www.idea.int/eu

The IDEA project also played a part in the European Parliament Resolution on the same topic (adopted 22 October 2009). The project team provided inputs on drafts and gave a presentation of the findings to the Parliament's Development and Human Rights Committees.
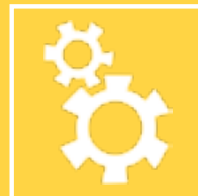
"As far as policy influencing goes, this is possibly the strongest singular achievement in IDEA's history," says Vidar Helgesen, Secretary-General of International IDEA. "In particular because the

Sweden's Minister for International Development Cooperation, Gunilla Carlsson, receives International IDEA's report *Democracy in Development: Global consultations on the EU's role in democracy building* at the European Development Days in Stockholm, October 2009.

idea and carry-through has been distinctly IDEA-led from start to finish, while involving many partners along the way."

By bringing stakeholders from different regions together, IDEA is acting as a catalyst, sparking additional progress. For example, actors in South Asia are now working towards formulating a democracy charter, based on the experiences already gained in Africa and Latin America. Furthermore, the relationship and degree of cooperation between the AU and the OAS in the area of democracy building is now being reinforced.

IDEA at the United Nations

The goal of building democracy is related closely to the three pillars of the United Nations: development, peace and security, and human rights. As a Permanent Observer to the United Nations, International IDEA supports the UN's objectives by contributing to policy debates and agendas on democracy; working in partnership to develop internationally accepted codes of conduct, principles and guidelines in the fields of democracy assistance; and helping the UN implement democracy assistance initiatives around the world.

December saw International IDEA organize a round table on democracy, peace and security with the main emphasis on the role of the United Nations. The UN Department of Political Affairs (UN DPA), UN Development Programme (UNDP) and UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (UNDPKO) were also involved in the initiative. The findings and recommendations will inform United Nations policy debate, particularly within the context of the Peace-building Commission and the Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations.
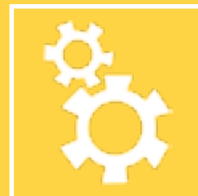
Mutual support for democracy and development

Surveys show that societies want the political freedom and equality provided by democracy as well as the social and economic benefits of development. Public support for democracy therefore remains strong. However, a rift is opening between support for democracy and the distrust of some democratic actors (i.e., politicians, political parties and parliaments), and this is creating a need to strengthen political institutions to make them more credible and able to deliver on the promise of public goods. Democracy and development must support each other on the ground.

In addition to leading the EU consultations, International IDEA held a 'stock-taking' exercise throughout 2009 with view to identifying the key dimensions of democracy and development to which it can add value. This took the form of consultations in different regions and with various donor agencies, including the relevant government departments of the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom. The discussions helped IDEA to outline a targeted strategy and work programme, which identifies three overlapping areas: a) democratic accountability in service delivery; b) the role of political institutions in development; and c) democracy in the new aid architecture.

While elections give citizens the opportunity to reward or punish governments for their performances, people need a means through which to challenge their demands for public goods on a more regular basis. In 2009, International IDEA started to develop tools that would increase opportunities for citizens and their representatives to hold governments to account beyond elections. In designing the tools, the team built on the experience and methodology of the State of Democracy Assessment (see page 22). In partnership with the Institute of Development Studies (IDS), IDEA has also started to gather knowledge on relevant experiences in democratic accountability and to conduct mapping studies on Mozambique's accountability chains in different government sectors. The results of these processes will feed into an international workshop on democratic accountability in service delivery to be held in Mozambique in April 2010, and possibly others in Latin America.

On democracy in the new aid architecture, IDEA worked with global partners and associates to conduct a study entitled *Democratic Dimensions of Aid*. This summarizes existing knowledge on the challenges to and opportunities for democracy building presented by the new aid architecture. Meanwhile, IDEA joined the recently established management group of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Development Cooperation Directive (DAC) Governance Network (known as GOVNET) work stream on aid and accountability. This new

work stream aims to advise donors how they can avoid distorting domestic accountability processes and instead, support key domestic accountability institutions such as parliament, political parties, media and civil society. This process could represent a major step towards a more integrated understanding of the role played by democratic political institutions and processes in development. Further policy initiatives in this area are under discussion.

Using Bolivia's resources to benefit the poor

Bolivia's economy is heavily reliant on extractive industries, with the production and export of natural gas accounting for around half the government's total revenue. Between 2005 and 2008, Bolivia experienced a boom in gas exports because of high international oil and gas prices and a new tax on oil companies. The decision to nationalize petrochemical revenues gives the government a huge opportunity to promote Bolivia's economic development, but how can this be achieved in a participatory manner? International IDEA has played a key role over the past two years in promoting dialogue on municipal agendas and fiscal policies and responsibilities for the use of oil and gas resources for the reduction of poverty. Through various support mechanisms (see box), IDEA is advocating that new legislation, such as the autonomy and hydrocarbons laws, should provide for more equitable distribution of benefits and include mechanisms for sustainable investment of petroleum revenues.
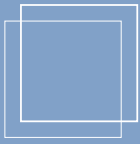
Prefecturas, renta hidrocarburífera y desarrollo departamental (1996-2007)

(Prefectures, Hydrocarbon Revenue and Departmental Development (1996-2007))

This study provides an analysis of the revenue received by the prefectures between 1996 and 2007 in each region of Bolivia. It also classifies expenses and public investment, identifies regional development priorities, and evaluates the status of economic and human development indicators. Dialogues stemming from the study are designed to spark debate over the contribution of oil and gas revenues to sustainable development and the reduction of poverty and inequality.

Support for administration of oil and gas revenue in Bolivia in 2009

- Workshop on *Procedures for Hydrocarbon Activity Oversight in the Departments.*

- Consultancy for the design of an administration and control system for mining royalties.

- Support to the Ministry of Autonomy for the study: *Scenarios and Redistribution Model for Natural Resource Revenue.*

- Support for a series of workshops to promote discussion on the Framework Law for Autonomy.

- Two studies completed: *Systematization of the Results of Hydrocarbon Nationalization and a Look at the Future and Evaluation of the Impact of Revenue Provided by Hydrocarbons at the Municipal Level.*

- Ongoing study: *Scenarios and Redistribution Models for Natural Resource Revenue.*

Publications Released in 2009: Highlights

The following publications are available in electronic form at www.idea.int and can be downloaded free of charge.

E	English
S	Spanish
F	French

Constitution Building Processes

Tendencias del constitucionalismo en Iberoamérica
(Tendencies of Constitutionalism in Latin America)

Co-publisher: Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México

2009, 1048 pp
ISBN 978-607-02-0799-0   **S**

English-Nepali Glossary of Federalism Terms

Co-publisher: Forum of Federations, Canada

2009, 238 pp
ISBN 978-91-85724-68-0   **E**

Electoral Processes

Making Electoral Assistance Effective: *From Formal Commitment to Actual Implementation – ACE "Focus on…" Series*

2009, 36 pp
ISBN 978-91-85724-68-0   **E** **F**

Democracy Assessments

Assessing the Quality of Democracy: *A Practical Guide*

2008, 318 pp
ISBN 978-91-85724-43-7   **E** **S**   NOW IN SPANISH

Democracy and Conflict

Traditional Justice and Reconciliation after Violent Conflict: *Learning from African Experiences*

2008, 204 pp
ISBN 978-91-85724-28-4   **E** **F**   NOW IN FRENCH

Democracy and Development

Democracy in Development: *Global consultations on the EU's role in democracy building*

2009, 132 pp
ISBN 978-91-85724-67-3   E

Prefecturas, renta hidrocarburífera y desarrollo departamental (1996–2007)
(Prefectures, hydrocarbons revenue and departmental development (1996–2007))

2009, 230 pp
ISBN 978-91-85724-76-5   S

Democracy and Gender

Los caminos de la paridad: *Mujeres participación y representación en el proceso post constituyente*
(Paths to Parity: Women´s Participation and Representation in the Post-Constituent Assembly)

Co-publisher: Coordinadora de la Mujer, Bolivia

2009, 50 pp
ISBN 978-91-85724-72-7   S

Manual de reportería política con enfoque de género
(Manual for Gender Mainstreaming in Political Reporting)

Co-publisher: Comisión para la inclusión y representación Política de las mujeres, Colombia and others

2009, 80 pp   S

Del dicho al hecho: *manual de buenas practicas para la participacion de mujeres en los partidos politícos latinoamericanos*
(From Words to Action: Best Practices for Women's Participation in Latin American Political Parties)

2008, 64 pp
ISBN 978-91-85724-40-6   E   S   NOW PDF IN ENGLISH

Political Parties

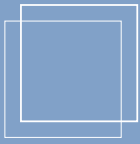**Díme a quien escuchas: Think tanks y partidos políticos en América Latina**
(Thinking Politics: Think Tanks and Political Parties in Latin America)

Co-publisher: Overseas Development Institute, United Kingdom

2009, 248 pp
ISBN 978-91-85724-73-4   S

ACE Electoral Knowledge Network
(www.aceproject.org)

The ACE Electoral Knowledge Network provides comprehensive and authoritative information on elections. It promotes networking among election-related professionals and offers capacity development services. The ACE Electoral Knowledge Network is a partnership between EISA, Elections Canada, the Federal Electoral Institute of Mexico (IFE), International IDEA, International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

BRIDGE
(www.bridge-project.org)

BRIDGE stands for Building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Elections and is the most comprehensive professional development course available in election administration. The five BRIDGE partners are the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC), International IDEA, IFES, UNDP and the United Nations Electoral Assistance Division (UNEAD).

Constitution Net
(www.ConstitutionNet.org)

The ConstitutionNet website is a joint initiative between International IDEA and Interpeace. It is designed to support the process of constitution building around the world. The website serves as a knowledge portal on constitution building and contains news and views as well as a calendar of key events. It will be officially launched in 2010.
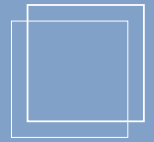
Electoral System Design
(www.idea.int/esd)

This website contains relevant information about the electoral systems used in over 200 countries and territories worldwide. The data are presented by country, by region and globally.

Global Database of Quotas for Women
(ww.quotaproject.org)

This is a global database of comparative information on the use and impact of electoral gender quotas. International IDEA and Stockholm University work as partners in this project and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) became an additional partner in 2009.

International Knowledge Network of Women in Politics: iKNOW Politics

(www.iknowpolitics.org)

This is an online workspace designed to serve the needs of elected officials, candidates, leaders and members of political parties, researchers, students and other practitioners interested in advancing the position of women in politics. Versions are available in Arabic, English, French and Spanish. The Network is a joint project managed by International IDEA, IPU, the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs, the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and UNDP.

Political Finance Laws and Regulations

(www.idea.int/parties/finance/db)

This site hosts the world's largest collection of information on political finance laws and regulations on the funding of political parties.

Reconciliation Resource Network

(www.idea.int/rrn)

This is an online forum for sharing information, best practice, links and other resources in the field of reconciliation.

State of Democracy Network

(www.idea.int/sod)

This website includes an interactive version of International IDEA's State of Democracy Assessment Framework, a collection of assessments conducted around the world, as well as interviews, related publications, links, and an 'Ask the Expert' feature.

NEW

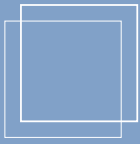## Unified Database: Community-supported democracy and election data

(www.idea.int/uid)

Several of International IDEA's key databases are now being brought together under one common interface so that navigation and appearance (maps, tables, menus, etc.) are common for all. It will be possible for visitors to contribute to improving the quality of each database, and to customize their own data.

Voter Turnout

(www.idea.int/vt)

The International IDEA Voter Turnout Website is the most comprehensive collection of voter turnout statistics available. It contains voter turnout figures on a country basis for all the national presidential and parliamentary elections since 1945, as well as for European Parliament elections.

Member States

International IDEA is an intergovernmental organization that supports sustainable democracy worldwide. International IDEA's Member States are all democracies and provide both political and financial support to the work of the institute. The Member States include Australia, Barbados, Belgium, Botswana, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, Costa Rica, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Ghana, India, Mauritius, Mexico, Namibia, the Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Uruguay. Japan has observer status.
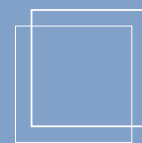
Governance

International IDEA is governed by a Council composed of its Member States and assisted by a Board of Advisers.

Two new Board members were elected in December 2009: Dr Soledad Loaeza (Mexico), and Ms Margot Wallström (Sweden).

Board members Dr Brigalia Bam (South Africa), Mr Jermyn Brooks (United Kingdom), Ms Lena Hjelm-Wallén, Chairperson (Sweden), Ms Kaci Kullmann Five (Norway), and Ms Lourdes Flores Nano (Peru) completed their term in December 2009.

Mr Vidar Helgesen, Norway's former Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, is the Secretary-General.

International IDEA's Board of Advisers

MS LENA HJELM-WALLÉN, *Chairperson (Sweden), former Deputy Prime Minister and former Minister for Foreign Affairs*

PROFESSOR AZYUMARDI AZRA *(Indonesia), Professor of history and Director of School of Graduate Studies of Syarif Hidayatullah State Islamic University, Jakarta*

DR BRIGALIA BAM *(South Africa), Chairperson of the Independent Electoral Commission, former General Secretary of the South African Council of Churches*

MR JERMYN BROOKS *(United Kingdom), member of the Board of Directors of Transparency International, former Global Managing Partner at PricewaterhouseCoopers*

DR ANNIE CHIKWANHA *(Zimbabwe), Senior Research Fellow, heading the Africa Human Security Initiative (AHSI) project at the Institute for Security Studies in Nairobi*

MS LOURDES FLORES NANO *(Peru), President of Alianza Electoral Unidad Nacional, former congresswoman and candidate in the 2001 and 2006 presidential elections*

DR ASHRAF GHANI *(Afghanistan), Chancellor of Kabul University, former Minister of Finance*

DR MANOHAR SINGH GILL *(India), Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Member of the Parliament of India (Rajya Sabha), former Chief Electoral Commissioner*

MR ANDREAS GROSS *(Switzerland), Member of Parliament*

MS KACI KULLMANN FIVE *(Norway), former Cabinet Minister and former Chairperson of the Conservative Party of Norway*

PROFESSOR ADEBAYO OLUKOSHI *(Nigeria), Executive Director of the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA)*

MS SIRPA PIETIKÄINEN *(Finland), Member of the European Parliament, Chairperson of the Finnish UN Association, former Minister of Environment*

PROFESSOR CHERYL SAUNDERS *(Australia), Director at the Centre for Comparative Constitutional Studies, University of Melbourne*
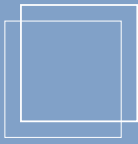
MR HUGH SEGAL *(Canada), Member of the Senate, former President of the Institute for Research on Public Policy, former Associate Secretary of Cabinet and Chief of Staff to the Prime Minister of Canada*

PROFESSOR LOURDES SOLA *(Brazil), President of the International Political Science Association (IPSA)*

Honorary Board Member:

MS AUNG SAN SUU KYI *(Burma), General Secretary of the National League for Democracy in Burma and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate*

Financial Overview

2009 Financial Statements

A summary of the 2009 Balance Sheet and Income Statement for International IDEA is set out in Table 1.

Total revenues for 2009 amounted to EUR20.45 Million (2008 EUR17.49M). Total reserves as at the end of 2009 amounted to EUR8.6 Million (2008 EUR6.76M).

Table 1
BALANCE SHEET
As at 31 December 2009 and 2008
(In thousands of Euros)

Euro	2009	2008
ASSETS		
Cash and Bank	15 504	13 594
Receivables		
Contributions	1792	660
Prepaid Expenses/Accrued Income	3	98
	1 795	758
Other Receivables		
Value Added Tax	17	71
Field Office Advances	10	350
Personnel Advances	-	25
Claims on Suppliers	14	27
	41	473
TOTAL ASSETS	17 340	14 825
LIABILITIES AND RESERVES		
Accounts Payable		
Trade Creditors and Accruals	1 356	1 369
Personnel Liabilities	1 252	1 168
Contributions	6 129	5 527
	8 737	8 064
Reserves	8 603	6 761
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND RESERVES	17 340	14 825

INCOME STATEMENT
For the years ended 31 December, 2009 and 2008
(In thousands of Euros)

Euro	2009	2008
Revenues and Gains		
Contributions	19 590	16 687
Other revenues and gains	859	807
Total revenues and gain	20 449	17 494
Expenses		
Operations	14 674	11 673
Management and Administration	3 923	4 644
Total expenses	18 597	16 317
NET SURPLUS	1 852	1 177

Vidar Helgesen
Secretary-General

Martin Van Weerdenburg
Director of Finance & Administration

2009 Funding Overview

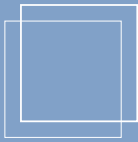Total funding for 2009 amounted to EUR20.45 Million and was comprised of;

*   Member State Core Funding EUR10.91M (2008 EUR10.52M);
*   Restricted Project Funding EUR8.68M (2008 EUR6.16M);
*   Other Income EUR0.86M (2008 EUR0.8M).

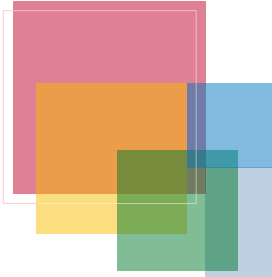Details of Core and Project funding by Member State or other Donor is set out in Table 2.

Table 2
SOURCES OF CONTRIBUTIONS
For the years ended 31 December, 2009 and 2008 (In thousands of Euros).

DONORS	2009	2008
CORE CONTRIBUTIONS	**10 913**	**10 524**
Barbados	7	0
Botswana	13	16
Canada	615	646
Chile	109	63
Costa Rica	0	4
Denmark	400	412
Finland	345	345
Germany	400	400
India	40	40
Mauritius	7	8
Mexico	17	35
Namibia	0	2
Netherlands	2 000	1 500
Norway	1 387	908
South Africa	0	20
Spain	300	250
Sweden	4 745	5 236
Switzerland	526	635
Uruguay	2	4

RESTRICTED PROJECT CONTRIBUTIONS	8 677	6 163
Australia		
Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID)	470	57
Belgium		
The Ministry of Foreign Affairs	145	44
Canada		
Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)	18	46
International Development Research Centre (IDRC)	51	43
Denmark		
Embassy of Denmark, Kenya	11	-
European Union		
The European Commission	1 993	293
The European Parliament	-	55
Finland		
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	56	-
Germany		
Deutsche Gesellschaft fur Technishe Zusammenarbeit (GTZ)	-	387
Inter American Development Bank	10	1
Italy		
The Ministry of Foreign Affairs	116	430
Japan		
Hiroshima University	-	5
The Netherlands		
The Netherlands Ministry for Development Cooperation	-	10
The Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy	-	26
Norway		
The Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs	3 693	2 994
Spain		
The Spanish Agency for International Cooperation (AECI)	382	348
Ayuntamiento de Madrid	16	-
Sweden		
The Ministry of Foreign Affairs	1 077	441
Switzerland		
The Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs	18	65
The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation	53	6
UK		
Department for International Development (DFID)	-	65
Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)	-	268
United Nations		
The United Nations Development Fund (UNDEF)	143	-
The United Nations Development Program (UNDP)	406	579
The United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)	19	-
TOTAL CORE AND EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS	19 590	16 687

INTERNATIONAL IDEA AT A GLANCE

What is International IDEA?

The International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA) is an intergovernmental organization that supports sustainable democracy worldwide.

International IDEA's mission is to support sustainable democratic change through providing comparative knowledge, and assisting in democratic reform, and influencing policies and politics.

What does International IDEA do?

In the field of elections, constitution building, political parties, women's political empowerment, democracy self-assessments, and democracy and development, we undertake our work through three activity areas:

- providing comparative knowledge and experience derived from practical experience on democracy building processes from diverse contexts around the world;
- assisting political actors in reforming democratic institutions and processes, and engaging in political processes when invited to do so; and
- influencing democracy building policies through the provision of our comparative knowledge resources and assistance to political actors.

Where does International IDEA work?

International IDEA works worldwide. Based in Stockholm, Sweden, it has offices in Africa, Asia and Latin America.