



International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA)

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List of Acronyms

ACE	Administration and Cost of Elections (IDEA)
ACEEEO	Association of Central and Eastern European Election Officials
AEC	Australian Electoral Commission
ANND	Arab NGO Network for Development
AU	African Union
AULA	African Union of Local Authorities
BEAT	Basic Election Administration Training (IFES)
BRIDGE	Building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Elections (IDEA)
CDE	District Electoral Commission (Mozambique)
CDG	Center for Democratic Governance (Burkina Faso)
CETRO	Centre for Electoral Reform (Indonesia)
CFCR	Citizens' Forum for Constitutional Reform
CNE	National Electoral Council (Colombia)
CPE	Provincial Electoral Commission (Mozambique)
CSDS	Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (India)
CSES	Comparative Study of Electoral Systems
DAW	Democracy in the Arab World (IDEA)
DEC	District Election Commission (Georgia)
DPD	Regional Representative Council (Indonesia)
EISA	Electoral Institute of Southern Africa
EMB	Electoral Management Body
EPIC	Election Process Information Collection (IDEA)
EU	European Union
GEO	Global Election Organizations
IADB	Inter-American Development Bank
IAEC	Interim Afghan Electoral Commission
ICTJ	International Center for Transitional Justice
IFE	Instituto Federal Electoral (Mexico)
IFES	International Foundation for Election Systems (US)
IMD	Institute for Multiparty Democracy (Netherlands)
IMPACS	Institute for Media, Policy and Civil Society (Canada)
INEC	Independent National Electoral Commission (Nigeria)
IPI	International Press Institute
IPU	Inter-Parliamentary Union
KPU	General Election Commission (Indonesia)
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OAS	Organization of American States
ODA	Overseas Development Assistance
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Parlatino	Parlamento Latinoamericano
PIANZEA	Pacific Islands, Australia and New Zealand Electoral Administrators
PGA	Parliamentarians for Global Action
SADC	Southern African Development Community
STAE	Technical Secretariat for Election Administration (Mozambique)
TEPJF	Tribunal Electoral del Poder Judicial de la Federación (Mexico)
TRC	Truth and Reconciliation Commission
TRIFE	Tribunal Federal Electoral (Mexico)
UN	United Nations
UNAMA	United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan
UN DESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UN EAD	United Nations Electoral Assistance Division
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNMISSET	United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor



Executive Summary

The general aim of the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA), in working to support sustainable democracy, is to improve knowledge and understanding of issues that condition progress on democratization among governments, those engaged in democracy promotion at the national, regional and international levels, and the public at large. IDEA also seeks to improve the efficiency of democracy promotion, notably through cooperation with its members and with other partner organizations, such as the European Union (EU) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

IDEA's primary concern in 2003 was to help improve the design and effectiveness of certain key democratic institutions and processes, especially in newer democracies. During the year, its activities were guided by the following general objectives:

- To establish effective reconciliation processes through extensive dialogue and inclusive decision-making, especially whenever political reforms or major public policies are to be adopted, so as to ensure maximum consensus and local ownership.
- To develop more credible and efficient electoral processes, so as to enhance confidence in the electoral process and to facilitate the participation of all groups.
- To create a more supportive environment, conducive to reform and development by political parties, so that they become more effective actors in democratization, more trusted, responsive and representative.

The focus of IDEA's work in 2003 can be categorized as follows:

1. Democracy Building and Conflict Management

To promote consensual and effective progress on democratization, IDEA maintained its practice of organized dialogue, engaging a wide range of local stakeholders

in analysis of problems of democracy and priorities for political reform. In the context of its continuing work on conflict management, IDEA produced and disseminated its *Handbook on Reconciliation after Violent Conflict*. The release of this Handbook resulted in various initiatives, including two briefing sessions with the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the provision of assistance to the Sierra Leonean Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) for the dissemination of its report, and a series of activities organized with the TRC in Peru. **Strong links were also developed with various agencies**, including the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ).

Other activities in the field of democracy building and conflict management included the following:

- Continued **cooperation with the United Nations (UN) on peacekeeping and democracy building**, notably an evaluation of developments in Kosovo and Sierra Leone and the dispatch of a preparatory mission to Timor Leste to plan an assessment of the effect of the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISET) and to determine the role to be played by the UN in future in promoting democracy in the country.
- **Providing input to constitutional reform processes** in Indonesia and Nigeria, including assistance with the institutional design of Indonesia's second parliamentary chamber, the Regional Representative Council (DPD), created as a result of a 2001 constitutional amendment.
- **Building democracy at the local level** in the South Caucasus and in Southern and Eastern Africa, including the publication (in English and Russian) and the dissemination of *Democracy at the Local Level: A Guide for the South Caucasus* and the establishment of a **capacity-building project for local governments in Southern and Eastern Africa**, developed in cooperation with the African Union of Local Authorities (AULA).
- **Dialogue and democracy building**. A highlight in 2003 was the implementation of a pilot project on 'Democracy in the Arab World (DAW)', focusing on the initiation of in-country and regional dialogues on electoral reform, gender, and political participation and political parties. IDEA also facilitated dialogue on democratic reforms in **Peru** and the **South Caucasus**.

2. Improving Capacity and the Effectiveness of Electoral Processes

Political participation begins with voter registration and electoral involvement. In order to ensure that electoral processes are transparent, professional and accurate and thus merit the trust of the electorate, IDEA has continued to streamline and strengthen its technical support for, and its training of, electoral institutions, such as Electoral Management Bodies (EMBs), and to develop new tools to respond to issues like institutional independence, financing, media relations, and electoral violence.

Key activities in 2003 included the following.

- **Development and application of electoral training tools**, including the implementation and adaptation of the election administrators' training course, Building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Elections (BRIDGE), in Mozambique and the South Caucasus.
- **Technical support and advisory missions**, including a joint mission to Afghanistan to assist with the development of a comprehensive capacity-building programme for the Interim Afghan Electoral Commission (IAEC), and a mission to Colombia to assist in drawing up regulations for the registering of candidates for the October regional polls. IDEA was also part of an expert group set up by the African Union (AU) for its project on democracy, elections and good governance. Other related work included the supply of technical assistance to, and the carrying out of preliminary election assessments in, Nigeria and the South Caucasus, as well as the provision of technical assistance to, and the conduct of a review of electoral laws in, Indonesia.
- **Capacity building and networking with EMBs**. During 2003, the seventh meeting of Electoral Management Bodies was held in New Delhi, India, with a focus on electoral participation. IDEA also co-sponsored the second Global Election Organizations' (GEO) Conference, held in Mexico on 25–28 March 2003. Other work included capacity building for the IAEC and the Indonesian **General Election Commission (KPU)**, via peer dialogue and experience sharing.
- **Research on other electoral issues**, including equal access for people with disabilities to electoral and political processes, and the role of the media in elections.

3. Strengthening the Capacity and Effectiveness of Political Parties

Given that political parties are essential to the democratic political process, they became an important part of IDEA's work in 2003. Building on its analysis of political party financing, IDEA continued to study experiences across the world and 'external' regulatory provisions in order to produce appropriate tools and guidelines for legislative reform and enforcement. In parallel, it worked with appropriate partners to garner comparative data and to detail good practice in regard to the 'internal' management of political parties, which will be shared with the parties themselves and with interested members of the donor community.

To this end, a main task in 2003 was to finalize the collection of data on laws, rules and regulations on party finance from all over the world, as well as regional and thematic studies. A main output was the *Handbook on the Funding of Political Parties and Election Campaigns*, which is thought to contain one of the largest collections of information on party finance laws, rules and regulations.

Latin America was the focus of work in the field in 2003. A highlight was the involvement of IDEA, in coordination with local partner Asociación Civil Transparencia, in the adoption of Peru's first **Political Party Law**. Electoral and political party assistance was also extended to **Mexico**, where, a book entitled

Dinero y contienda politico-electoral (Money and the political-electoral contest) was published, in conjunction with the Instituto Federal Electoral (IFE) and the Tribunal Federal Electoral (TRIFE).

Political party partnerships and networks were also strengthened in 2003. A proposal for a multilateral fund for the strengthening of political parties and political party systems in Latin America was drafted during the third meeting of the **Inter-American Forum's Advisory Council on Political Parties**, held in Cartagena, Colombia, in November 2003.

4. Gender and Political Participation

Over and above its work on participation and inclusiveness in the context of electoral processes and political parties, IDEA is continuing to develop and disseminate its research related to the participation of women in political life. A major focus of IDEA's work in 2003 has been the issue of **quotas for women**. IDEA, in cooperation with Stockholm University, launched a website at the beginning of 2003 on the implementation of female electoral quotas. Furthermore, IDEA held two regional workshops in Africa and Latin America to garner information on experiences of quota implementation. (A similar workshop was held in Asia in 2002.) Based on the debates that took place at these regional workshops and the contributions of experts and practitioners, IDEA started to publish a series of reports in 2003 on the implementation of quotas. Reports published by the end of the year included the *Implementation of Quotas: Asian Experiences* and the *Implementation of Quotas: Latin American Experiences*.

Regionalized versions of the *Women in Parliament: Beyond Numbers Handbook* (in Bahasa Indonesia, French and Spanish) formed the basis for discussions in a series of seminars on challenges to the political participation of women, held in 2003 in Argentina, Burkina Faso, Indonesia, Peru, Senegal, and Venezuela. **A regionalized version of the Handbook, including the main chapters, was also published in Russian** in 2003.

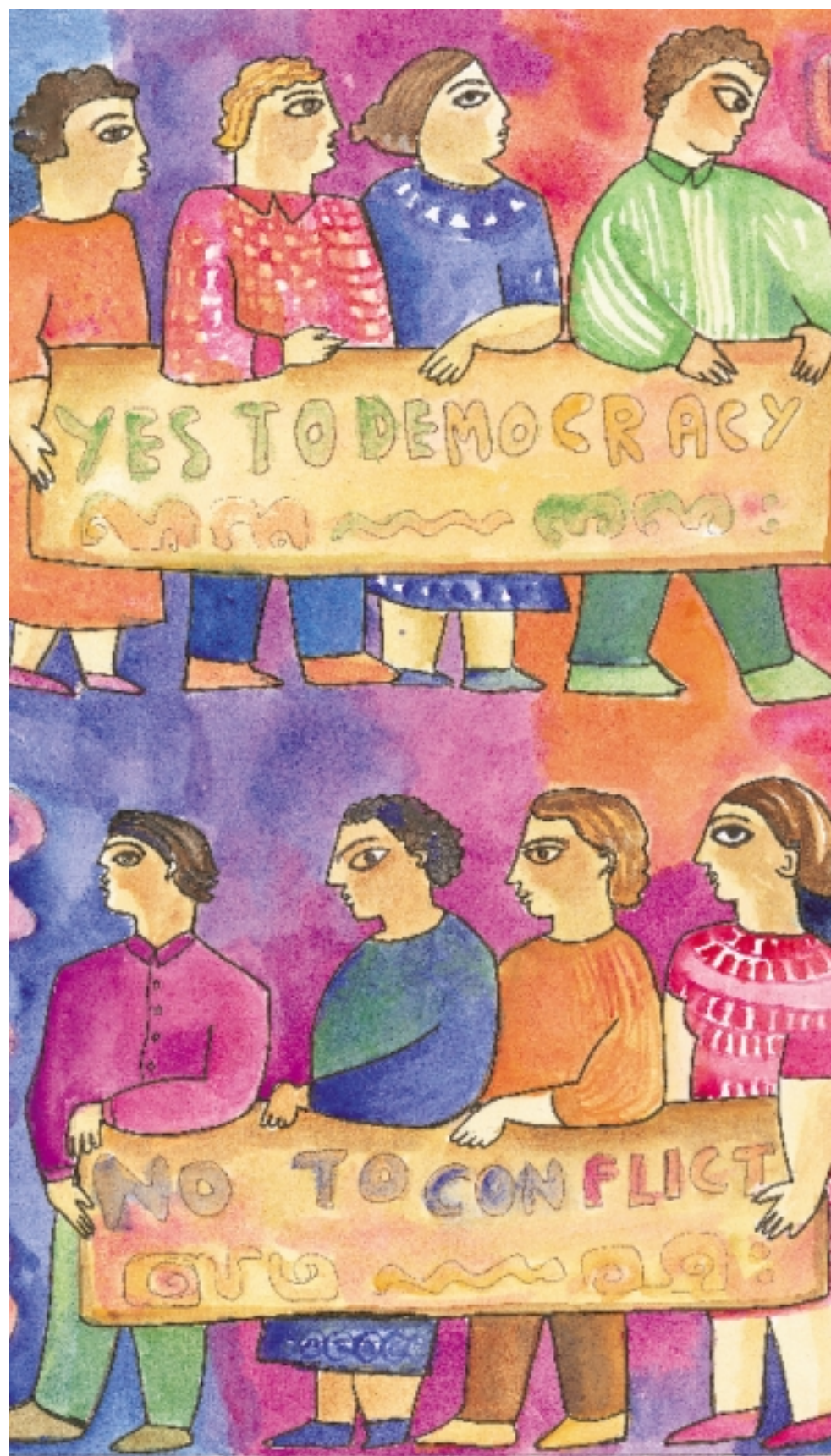
IDEA's work on gender and politics in **Latin America** focused on women and constitutional reform, quotas, women and financing, and women in parliament, including the organization of **an international roundtable on strategies for increasing female participation**, held in Lima, Peru. **In Indonesia**, IDEA worked with national partners to implement a two-track strategy under which aspiring female politicians are to be promoted and trained. The initiative aims to prevent party leaders from disregarding the recommendation of the 2003 general election law on the grounds that there are not enough women willing or qualified to become parliamentary candidates.

5. Democracy Analysis and Assessment

IDEA continued its work on democracy analysis and assessment and related

indicators, highlighting the importance of local ownership of the appraisal process. In 2003, the institute sought to generate broader public interest in, and to stimulate more debate on, basic concepts and the meaning of democracy, comparing public perceptions with other assessments and analyses of democratization trends.

A highlight was the publication of the results of a democracy assessment exercise in the South Caucasus, with a focus on Georgia. **Twelve discussion papers were published in English and Georgian**, covering key topics like electoral and constitutional reform, political parties and regionalism, and local self-government in Georgia. Other activities included the adaptation and adoption of IDEA's Democracy Assessment Framework in **South Asia** and the initiation of a dialogue on democracy analysis and assessment in **West Africa**.



Programme of Activity

1. Democracy Building and Conflict Management

Although conflict prevention has become a more prominent issue in international relations, there is still a great deal of reluctance to engage in dialogue with those with grievances in order to develop political processes that can address sources of conflict. Building on its significant experience of using dialogue processes to facilitate consensus on political reform matters, IDEA worked in 2003 towards setting priorities, designing political institutions and constitutions, enabling dialogue, and promoting reconciliation and inclusive democracy. IDEA also carried out further **research and analysis** in this area and sought to apply its tools in the field and to encourage their use by those engaged in building peace and democracy in post-conflict environments.

Sustainable Reconciliation

The highlight of the year was **the publication in February of *Reconciliation After Violent Conflict: A Handbook***, following more than two years of work. With a foreword by Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the Handbook presents a range of tools to be employed in the design and implementation of reconciliation processes, most of which are derived from the experience of people struggling with the problems of past violence and injustice. Demand for the Handbook was instant and intense, so much that it had to be reprinted by the summer. A Policy Summary was also published, which proved to be just as popular. The latter has been translated into Spanish (specifically for use in Peru); both the Handbook and the Policy Summary have been translated into French. Many academics, trainers and practitioners have requested permission to copy and use the materials for their own purposes.

Given the importance of the Handbook as an agenda for action, strong links have been developed with various agencies with a view to future implementation of reconciliation-based initiatives.

A working relationship with the OHCHR has developed well. The Handbook was officially launched at a joint seminar hosted by the OHCHR in Geneva, Switzerland, in September. More substantively, agreement has now been reached with the OHCHR on a biannual joint seminar to explore reconciliation topics – the first is scheduled to take place in May 2004 and is on the subject of ‘Reconciliation: Lessons Learned from Sierra Leone and Timor Leste’.

A strong strategic partnership has also been forged with the New York-based **International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ)**. Stemming from initial cooperation on some aspects of the Handbook, a plan is now in place to cooperate on the production of joint policy papers, the development of networks of expertise, and on OHCHR briefings.

Various activities have taken place as a result of the publication of the Handbook. Two briefing sessions were organized for the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs. IDEA was invited to join the advisory group to the Reconciliation Initiative of the Stability Pact for Southeast Europe. The institute also continued to advise the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU): its 2004 General Assembly meeting will concentrate on the issue of reconciliation.

In the field, contacts have been developed with local and international actors in Sierra Leone, and **IDEA is now part of a group that is contributing to the dissemination strategy for the report of the Sierra Leonean Truth and Reconciliation Commission.** In addition, an exploratory visit was made to **Macedonia** in April 2003 to gauge interest in a ‘seeding seminar’ on sustainable reconciliation. The trip revealed, however, that too many relevant players believe that the atmosphere is still too tense for such an upfront dialogue.

In June, IDEA provided support for a series of regional public information meetings to publicize the work of the TRC in Peru. A seminar, entitled ‘From forgotten to acknowledgement’, was co-organized by the ICTJ, IDEA, the TRC of Peru, and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCR), and brought together 17 international experts on truth commissions and dialogue processes. The Spanish version of the Policy Summary of the IDEA’s Handbook on Reconciliation was presented at the seminar.

Cooperation has continued, and there are plans to support the development of a new institute in Lima to carry on the reconciliation work of the TRC and also to support the newly established Ombudsman’s Office.

The United Nations and Democracy

As part of IDEA’s initiative to evaluate international experience of promoting democracy in post-conflict states, workshops were held **in Kosovo** (on civil society and local governance) and **in Sierra Leone** (on local governance and political

participation) in February 2003 with local organizations and UN representatives. Follow-up meetings were held with local actors to discuss the effects and the level of success of UN democratization efforts, including a reporting seminar for the Kosovo evaluation, held in November in Oslo, Norway, in cooperation with the UNDP Oslo Governance Centre. One of the aims of the meeting was to evaluate the UN’s role in Kosovo and to develop recommendations that would be relevant to the future development of Kosovo and that could also be applied in other post-war contexts. Discussion focused on local level democratization, including the critical issues of decentralization, the transfer of political power and authority from international organizations to local authorities, and the role of citizen and civil society participation at the local and regional levels of government. A final report will be published in early 2004.

A preparatory mission was sent to **Timor Leste** in July to plan an evaluation of the impact of UNMISSET and to determine the role to be played in future by the UN in promoting democracy in Timor Leste. Agreement was reached with UNDP and with a local organization that will allow IDEA to facilitate a workshop that will focus on local governance and parliamentary roles following village level elections in Timor Leste in June 2004. A final report is planned.

Constitutional Reform

In 2003, IDEA continued to act as a catalyst to stimulate dialogue on options for the institutional design of **Indonesia’s second chamber**, the Regional Representative Council. The DPD was created following the passing of a constitutional amendment in 2001, and members will be elected for the first time in the 2004 general election. Drawing on the rich experience of South Africa (which established a regional chamber in 1997), IDEA conducted a comparative review of the legal framework for the DPD in 2003. This review encouraged dialogue between civil society activists, national and regional parliamentarians, and members of the provincial governments. Consultations between national parliamentarians tasked with reviewing the bill in relation to the structure and composition of the DPD, members of provincial governments and parliaments, and representatives of local advocacy non-governmental organizations (NGOs) took place in eight of Indonesia’s 32 provinces. These provinces were selected on the basis of national representation, according to criteria like population, religion, size, and wealth. Furthermore, a qualitative survey was conducted in eight provinces, identifying voters’ attitudes towards the regional chamber. The survey was presented to the representatives of three of Indonesia’s five main political parties in the national parliament.

Work to support the constitutional reform process **in Nigeria** continued in 2003. The project managed to generate consensus within its partner organization, the Citizens’ Forum for Constitutional Reform (CFCR), a civil society umbrella association, on an outline for a constitutional reform dissemination and advocacy strategy.

Democracy Building at the Local and Regional Levels

Focusing on the issue of local governance and facilitating research and dialogue at the regional level, IDEA published *Democracy at the Local Level: A Guide for the South Caucasus* in English and Russian in November 2003. This is the regionalized version of *Democracy at the Local Level: International IDEA's Handbook on Participation, Representation, Conflict Management and Governance*. The publication is designed to offer insight on the critical elements that shape systems of good local governance and to highlight the experiences of the countries of the South Caucasus (Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia) in three key areas: local elections; political parties; and the participation of citizens. These three themes were explored, along with new local governance systems, by independent experts from the region. The publication has been disseminated in the three countries of the South Caucasus (except Azerbaijan) and in Europe.

On 8–9 December 2003, IDEA convened a two-day **regional workshop in Tbilisi, Georgia**, on 'Local Democracy in the South Caucasus, the current situation and developments'. It sought to promote the themes touched on in the above publication and to support those prepared to implement reforms in the South Caucasus both at the national and regional levels, by giving them the opportunity to take advantage of the recommendations made in the publication.

In cooperation with the AULA, IDEA developed a **capacity-building project for local governments in Southern and Eastern Africa**. The project aims to provide local authorities with the tools to identify the challenges to, and the opportunities for, democratic governance, and to encourage and assist them in introducing and advancing participatory forms of government. For this purpose, in 2003, a **local democracy assessment instrument** was developed. It will be used by four research teams in early 2004 to assess the state of representative and participatory democracy in Gaborone (Botswana), Lusaka (Zambia), Mwanza (Tanzania) and Nairobi (Kenya). In June 2003 and again in August 2003, IDEA and the AULA convened two workshops in the region to review the assessment methodology and to prepare and brief the teams of officials, civil society leaders, and specialists that will conduct the evaluations. The results of the four pilot studies will be released and debated at a regional meeting in 2004.

Dialogue and Democracy Building

IDEA continues to focus on promoting extensive dialogue and inclusive decision-making processes whenever there are political reforms or major public policies to be adopted, so as to ensure maximum consensus and local ownership. The Dialogue Processes Project was established in 2003 and will be developed further in 2004. Partners are lined up, including the Carter Center and UNDP. The methodology was also developed in 2003 and case studies are scheduled to begin at the start of 2004.

Facilitating dialogue on democracy building in the Arab world

A pilot project on 'Democracy in the Arab World' was launched in February 2003. Despite delays and uncertainties caused by the war in Iraq and regional tensions, activities have made good progress, occurring with the cooperation of the Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND). Workshops on electoral reform were held in Jordan and Egypt (with the input of Yemen) and a synthesis conference was convened in Beirut, Lebanon, in October. Documents have been produced by local and regional actors on the issues of electoral reform, women in politics, and political party reform. A regional report is expected imminently. Solid working relationships have been established with relevant regional entities, including UNDP, the German foundations, and national actors in the three targeted countries – Egypt, Jordan and Yemen.

Enabling dialogue on reform in the South Caucasus

In April 2003, with the support of IDEA's South Caucasus team and its local and international partners in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, the pilot issue of the "Pomegranate: Democracy and Diversity in the Caucasus", – a Journal of Democracy for the South Caucasus – was published and widely disseminated over the course of the following three months in the region and in Europe. The journal aims to promote public dialogue, offer a platform for the exchange of views and experiences, and to initiate regional debate on the different meanings and expressions of democracy building in the Caucasus.

'Citizens for Good Governance' group created in Peru

IDEA also supported the creation of the 'Citizens for Good Governance' group, comprising 18 Peruvians who throughout 2003 held weekly working sessions in order to produce a report on the obstacles to good governance in Peru. The report is in final draft form and consists of seven chapters that detail the reform areas that citizens consider to be critical, including the strengthening of political parties, the role of the media, and the participation of civil society. Activities aimed at enriching the report include five regional workshops and over ten working sessions involving experts from different disciplines.

2. Electoral Processes

IDEA's Electoral Processes Programme aims to support the development of credible and efficient electoral processes and to assist in the building of public confidence by ensuring professional management of elections and the independence of EMBs and by increasing the level of access and the voter turnout rate.

Training Tools and Resources

Taking into account experiences and good practice from around the world, IDEA continued in 2003 to streamline and improve its existing information and training

tools, such as the Voter Turnout Database, the Administration and Cost of Elections (ACE) Project, Election Process Information Collection (EPIC) Project and BRIDGE, as well as to build and develop new tools. IDEA's online resources continued to generate increasing global interest, with its website receiving an average of 600,000 hits per month in 2003. In November, 10,000 visitors to the websites stayed over five minutes and 14,000 made a second visit to the sites.

The BRIDGE Project

The BRIDGE Project was initiated in 2002, in partnership with the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) and the United Nations Electoral Assistance Division (UN EAD). The aim of the project is to develop short-course curricula for election administration professionals on the principles of election planning and management using up-to-date adult learning methods. The year 2003 witnessed a considerable rise in the popularity of the BRIDGE Project among election managers in different parts of the world. More organizations, including EMBs and civil society groups, translated BRIDGE materials – for example, into Portuguese in Mozambique, French in Burkina Faso and Georgian in Georgia. BRIDGE materials are expected to be translated into Russian and Spanish during 2004.

In preparation for the November 2003 local government elections in **Mozambique**, IDEA, in cooperation with the Mozambican Technical Secretariat for Election Administration (STAE), engaged in a number of joint activities designed to improve operational training materials and the training techniques of the STAE. BRIDGE curriculum training Material and Methodology were adapted to create two specialized training courses on 'Voter Registration' and Election Day 'Polling and Counting'. These courses were used by the STAE to train all of its personnel for the 2003 local elections. In addition, two 'Train-the-Trainer' courses were organized for the 40 national and provincial STAE operational trainers in order to teach them the new teaching methodology and course content. Building on the work done on course development and on improving training capacity, a two-day training course was organized a few weeks ahead of the November elections for all 550 members of the 11 Provincial Electoral Commissions (CPE) and the 33 District Electoral Commissions (CDE) in the country. The training, carried out by IDEA in collaboration with the STAE, covered the role of the electoral commissions in the election process.

Professional electoral administration was identified as one of the most problematic areas in democracy building in Georgia and the other nations of the **South Caucasus**. IDEA, in partnership with the International Foundation for Election Systems (IFES) and the UNDP office in Georgia, launched a project on 'EMB Professional Development', based on the BRIDGE curriculum and methodology. Two meetings were held, bringing together IDEA and international BRIDGE experts, as well as partners in the BRIDGE South Caucasus Project. Key activities included planning of the BRIDGE South Caucasus Project (in Yerevan, Armenia)

and preparation of training materials in Georgian and their testing on a focus group (in Tbilisi, Georgia).

In September 2003 IDEA financed and organized, together with its partners, a 'Train-the-Facilitator' course with selected District Election Commission (DEC) staff in Georgia, the first example of 'cascade training' of electoral administrators in Georgia. A detailed plan for the 2004 BRIDGE South Caucasus Project was also finalized in October–December 2003, with a focus on creating a BRIDGE facilitators' corps in the South Caucasus, enabling locals to carry out further capacity building independently, providing international expertise, and increasing EMB networking in the region. Graduates of the BRIDGE course in Georgia played a key role in reviewing and reforming election administration after the "Rose Revolution" in 2003.

BRIDGE Election Administration Training was also provided to 90 political party representatives in **Burkina Faso**. The training aimed to enhance the capacity of political party representatives and their understanding of key electoral issues and processes in the country.

The ACE Project

The ACE Project (www.aceproject.org), developed and implemented by IDEA in partnership with the IFES and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), seeks to provide a globally accessible information resource on election administration. It offers user-friendly, operationally oriented information on options, detailed procedures, alternative solutions and the administrative and cost implications associated with the organization of elections.

IDEA continued to play a leading part in the development of ACE, and in 2003 took over responsibility for coordination of the project, with efforts focused on the revision of certain topic areas. By December 2003, **work had been completed on 12 different topic areas**: electoral systems; legislative framework; electoral management; boundary delimitation; voter education; voter registration; voting operations; parties and candidates; vote counting; media and elections; election integrity; and elections and technology. In 2004, compact disks will be disseminated that contain information on the topic areas in three different languages (English, French and Spanish).

Election Process Information Collection

Established and implemented in partnership with the IFES and UNDP, the EPIC Project (www.epicproject.org) aims to collect comparative and country-specific data on election systems, laws, management and administration. The project's website also provides electoral country profiles, useful for electoral observation missions, media representatives, and practitioners in the field. In order to strengthen its capacity to supply electoral advisory services, IDEA, in 2003, established **new**

EPIC research partnerships with EMBs, regional associations of electoral administrators, and research outlets in various parts of the world. These include the South American Partnership set up by the Chilean EMB to collect information from eight Latin American countries; the Pacific Islands, Australia and New Zealand Electoral Administrators (PIANZEA) network set up to collect information from 20 countries in the Pacific region; and the Lebanon-based Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND) tasked with the collection of information from ten countries in the Arab world.

IDEA expects to have 15 regional partners in total before the end of 2004 and trusts that these facilities will enhance its capacity to network and also to collect data more effectively for the various research activities lined up for 2004 and beyond.

Electoral System Design

IDEA's work in this field dates back almost to its establishment. A main output was the ***Handbook of Electoral System Design***, which was first published in 1997 and was reprinted in 2002 due to high demand. The Handbook, translated into several languages, including Arabic, Burmese, French and Spanish, contains an easy-to-use guide detailing what factors to consider when modifying or designing an electoral system and is aimed primarily at policymakers, politicians and election administrators. In 2003, IDEA finalized arrangements for producing the much-awaited **revised version** of this premier publication, as well as for a CD-ROM with the Handbook translated into four languages.

Voter turnout

IDEA began collecting statistics on voter turnout rates in 1996. Three Global Reports on Voter Turnout have been published since then, and an online Voter Turnout Database (www.idea.int/vt/index.cfm) has been updated continuously since 1999. Information includes voter turnout figures since 1945, making it possible to analyze electoral participation trends over time and in different regions. A **Voter Turnout Expert Group**, set up by IDEA, met for the first time in Stockholm, Sweden, on 20–21 November 2003 to discuss declining voter turnout levels.

Electoral behaviour and declining voter turnout

Drawing on its work on electoral system design and voter participation, IDEA hosted a plenary meeting in October in Bålsta, Sweden, of the academic research network constituted by the **Comparative Study of Electoral Systems (CSES)**, a collaborative programme of cross-national research on elections and electoral behaviour conducted in over 50 countries around the world. The meeting addressed, among other issues, declining voter turnout rates worldwide, and the underlying factors and possible responses. Work was initiated in 2003 on the formation of a group of experts to be tasked with promoting further research in the field of voter

turnout, as a first step towards developing practical tools for legislators, EMBs and other stakeholders.

Technical Support and Advisory Missions

Although most of IDEA's work is 'upstream' from direct democracy assistance interventions, it does participate, on request, in selected advisory missions and technical assistance operations when these are of particular strategic interest, or when they are of value in regard to testing materials, developing expertise and facilitating links with mainstream democracy assistance.

At the request of the **United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA)**, IDEA took part in a joint field mission with the AEC and the IFES in October 2003, to develop a comprehensive capacity building programme for the six members of the IAEC. Drawing on existing training materials, such as the Basic Election Administration Training (BEAT) and BRIDGE, a programme to address the unique needs and priorities of the IAEC was developed, covering election administration, operational procedures and generic management.

An IDEA technical mission was also dispatched to Bogotá, **Colombia**, on 22–25 July, at the request of the National Electoral Council (CNE), to assist in drawing up regulations for registering candidates in the October regional elections. The IDEA mission joined forces with representatives of the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights, the Center for Advisory Services and Electoral Promotion, and the Organization of American States (OAS). Work was completed in time for the CNE to approve the regulations on 25 July.

IDEA also signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with UNDP Argentina**, in order to promote joint technical cooperation and support for the electoral process development in the country. Joint activities included a workshop conducted in February 2003 on electoral transparency followed by a second meeting in April, aimed at electoral officials, and focusing on control and oversight of political parties' financing. Also implemented was a seminar on the assessment of the 2003 electoral processes and enforcement of the political party funding law.

IDEA assists in drafting the African Union Charter on Electoral Standards

IDEA was part of the expert group set up by the **African Union** for its project on democracy, elections and good governance. Together with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the Electoral Institute of Southern Africa (EISA) and the UN EAD, IDEA contributed to the AU's preparations for the creation of a normative framework for the whole of Africa. In February, IDEA provided substantive input into the drafting of two documents designed to strengthen democratic processes in Africa: an AU 'Declaration on Democracy, Elections and Good Governance' and IDEA's *Guidelines for Determining Involvement in Election Observation* and the *Code of Conduct for Election Observers*. The documents

were presented to, and endorsed by, 350 representatives of African EMBs, civil society bodies, academic and parliamentary institutions, and international and regional organizations during a conference in Pretoria, South Africa, on 7–10 April. The draft was adopted at the July 2003 AU Summit in Maputo, Mozambique.

Technical assistance and a post-mortem of elections in Nigeria

The April 2003 elections dominated the political scene in Nigeria during the first half of the year. As part of its programme of support for democratic reform in Nigeria, IDEA facilitated a pre-election stakeholders' forum to foster commitment to a credible and peaceful electoral process, involving the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), political parties, and members of parliament and civil society.

IDEA also engaged in the preparations for, and the implementation of, a post-mortem on the 2003 polls. The Institute's regional office in Lagos organized a national conference on 23–25 July to reflect on democratic reform efforts and improvements in electoral processes. The aim was to provide a forum in which a range of stakeholders – such as politicians, academics, NGO representatives and election officials – could review experience and formulate recommendations on all aspects of the election, from the pre-election period (for instance, the electoral law, registration, and voter education), through the election day itself (for example, counting and collating results, security, and observers), to the post-election period (including announcements, dispute resolution, and media and party behaviour).

Preliminary assessment of elections in the South Caucasus

In October 2003, IDEA initiated an assessment of election processes in the three countries of the South Caucasus based on the views of electoral administrators and experts and activists in the region. The initiative included a comprehensive analysis of the elections held in 2003 in each of the three countries, resulting in two reports on each state. In November and December 2003, initial reports were issued on the presidential and parliamentary elections in Armenia and on the presidential poll in Azerbaijan. Due to the 'rose revolution' in Georgia, the appraisal of that particular country was not completed, but it is scheduled to be finalized in 2004. The plan is to publish the assessments as Discussion Materials in English and Russian in time for a regional workshop in 2004, which will discuss and sum up the research and assessment process.

Promoting dialogue on democratic electoral institutions in Indonesia

Informed debate was stimulated in the Indonesian Legislative and media on how to ensure the genuine independence of the KPU. The respective commissioners of India, Mexico and South Africa shared their national experiences of this crucial aspect of electoral democracy with their Indonesian counterparts, members of the Legislative and representatives of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Efforts were also made to clarify the complex texts of the election laws so that they can be easily understood by EMBs and monitoring organizations. In addition, a review was conducted on whether these electoral laws conform to international democratic standards. The review, conducted by representatives of leading Indonesian government bodies, private think-tanks and advocacy NGOs, concluded that the laws conformed broadly to international democratic standards. Upon its release in September, the review was immediately recognized by regional election managers and by national and international election observers as being a useful resource. Given that it was authored by civil society analysts, the review also contributed to the building of consensus between members of political and civil society on key elements of the electoral process.

Networking and Cooperation between EMBs

Strengthening EMBs by regularly bringing them together to deliberate issues of common interest in the realm of election management has always been a focus of IDEA's work. Almost since its foundation, the institute has hosted meetings of electoral administrators, originally from its member states, but now increasingly from many other countries and international organizations. The **seventh meeting of Electoral Management Bodies** was held in New Delhi from 5–7 March 2003. The meeting, focussing on **electoral participation**, provided a forum for discussion of issues like: quantitative versus qualitative participation; voter registration; the role of the media in encouraging electoral participation; and barriers to the involvement of marginalized groups.

In Mexico, in March 2003, IDEA co-sponsored – in partnership with Elections Canada, the IFE, the IFES and UN EAD – the second **Global Election Organizations' Conference**. The event, which offered a common meeting place for electoral administrators from nine regional and three global electoral organizations, as well as over 25 electoral commissions from around the world, further sharpened the debate on international electoral standards. Hosted by the IFE and the Tribunal Electoral del Poder Judicial de la Federación (TEPJF), the meeting was seen as renewed commitment by global election authorities to information exchange among electoral bodies, and, more specifically, to closer collaboration on key issues, such as: monitoring political finance and electoral standards; expanding electoral training and education; developing standards for the integration of modern technologies into the electoral process; and promoting the continued professionalization of election administration.

IDEA organized the visit of eminent electoral commissioners from three IDEA member states (India, Mexico, and South Africa), as well as Thailand, to Jakarta, Indonesia, in order for them to interact with the members of the KPU, and, particularly, to highlight the importance of independent, professional and permanent EMBs to transitional democracies like Indonesia. The aim of the visit was also to stress how an independent election commission can provide vital integrity to the

electoral process, as well as to offer an opportunity for the visitors to share experiences on how to ensure best practice in electoral management in new and challenging electoral situations. The delegation also discussed electoral reform options for Indonesia with standing committee members of the Legislature and representatives of the media and civil society. This visit contributed to the amendment of the Indonesian electoral law, providing for an operationally independent KPU.

Coinciding with the annual conference of the Association of Central and Eastern European Election Officials (ACEEEO) in London, IDEA coordinated the visit of three of the six newly appointed members of the **Interim Afghan Electoral Commission**. The trip introduced IAEC officials to the work of election commissioners and EMBs and afforded them an opportunity to meet with EMB members and election experts from different parts of the world.

IDEA also co-sponsored a Southern African Development Community (SADC) Parliamentary Forum workshop in October **in Mauritius** to examine the structure and functioning of EMBs in the region and issues concerning their credibility. More generally, the meeting sought to review 'electoral readiness' in the SADC region, given the important elections due in 2004 in five SADC states.

Research on other Electoral Themes

Equal access to electoral and political processes

Access to the electoral process for people with disabilities is an issue of concern in both established and developing democracies. In many new democracies election observers cite problems with infrastructure, especially inadequate physical access to polling stations, as a key factor limiting the ability of people with disabilities to participate in elections. A landmark achievement in this area was the adoption of a Bill of Electoral Rights for people with disabilities at a conference coordinated by IDEA in Sigtuna, Sweden, in September 2002.

Building on this, representatives of IDEA, the IFES, the IPU and a number of disability organizations met in Geneva on 21–23 September 2003 with a cross-disciplinary group of experts to draft model legislative provisions on equal access to electoral and political processes. IDEA also plans to develop a training module targeted at EMBs as part of the BRIDGE curriculum material for electoral administrators, with particular attention being paid to conditions in developing and post-conflict countries.

Media and elections

IDEA continued its discussions with partners in the media and other relevant organizations to identify priorities concerning the role and responsibilities of the media in election periods. In November 2003, IDEA hosted a meeting that

brought together an advisory expert group on media and elections, including representatives of the International Press Institute (IPI), as well as of the AEC, the European Institute of Media, the Institute for Media Policy and Civil Society (IMPACS), Oxford Media Research, and the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights. The aim of the meeting was to analyze the challenges that the media faces in covering elections, relations between the media and EMBs, and how best to improve the role of the media in the electoral process. Work will continue in this area in 2004.

Networking on practicalities

IDEA contributed to the discussion at the Second Electoral Officials International Conference in Thailand on 2–3 October by providing an overview of voter registration, presenting tools like ACE, EPIC and the IDEA Guidelines for Reviewing the Legal Framework of Elections. Co-organized by the AEC and the Election Commission of Thailand, the conference, entitled 'Election strategies for free and fair elections', focused on networking and the sharing of experiences and assessed voter registration, civic/voter education and the use of technology in election administration.

3. Political Parties

IDEA's work in this area is focused on supporting political parties as institutions that have a vital role to play in democratization and that need to become representative and responsive to public needs and concerns, as well as equipped to support government and a constructive opposition. In 2003, the focus was on research on, and some analysis of, the external regulation of political parties and the internal management challenges facing political parties. In addition, global research was conducted on women in politics and the funding of political parties and election campaigns. Data collection and analysis is meant to spur intense, problem-solving-oriented dialogue with political parties, and to provide the basis for better identifying and discussing challenges that are either global in nature or specific to regions and countries.

Funding of Political Parties

A main area of activity in 2003 was that of political finance. Laws, rules and regulations on party finance have been collected from all over the world, and regional and thematic studies have been finalized. The main output was the **Handbook on Funding of Political Parties and Election Campaigns**, which contains probably one of the largest collections of information on party finance regulations. The Handbook also looks at the strengths and weaknesses of different national laws, rules and regulations from a regional perspective and analyzes problems of enforcement and opportunities for the effective public disclosure of funds.

On the basis of the Handbook's findings, IDEA participated in a Council of Europe initiative to draw up guidelines for political finance laws, and to spread knowledge about the Council of Europe's decisions. IDEA also participated in a Council of Europe conference in Georgia, organized in cooperation with the Georgian Anti-Corruption Agency, on the topic of money in politics.

Extensive consultations have also been taken place with political party foundations, donors, and other actors involved in supporting political parties in developing democracies. On the basis of the consultations, plans have been drawn up for the next stages of the project. External regulations on political parties and internal management (especially candidate recruitment and selection) have been identified as key areas.

A Focus on Political Party Work in Latin America

Adoption of a new Political Party Law in Peru

Since February 2002, IDEA and its local partner, Asociación Civil Transparencia, played a vital role in bringing together political parties and other stakeholders to build the consensus necessary to adopt Peru's first Political Party Law. IDEA also provided technical assistance for the drafting of the law. Key provisions of the law, passed on 9 October 2003, include: a requirement for the democratic election of party authorities and candidates; a 30 per cent gender quota both for lists of candidates for public election and for party leadership positions; limits on private financing; and private media exposure to ensure greater equity between political parties. The law should make parties more democratic and transparent and help to resolve the present crisis regarding the political party system in Peru.

To enhance and widen dialogue on this issue, IDEA organized, in cooperation with its in-country partners, an international seminar entitled 'A Law for Inclusive, Democratic and Transparent Political Parties'. The aim of the meeting, held in April in Lima, was to present the Political Party Law Project promoted by IDEA and Asociación Civil Transparencia, and to strengthen the commitment of political leaders to the initiative. The seminar involved more than 400 participants, including Peru's main political and social leaders, as well as party militants, academics and students, and constituted the first open, public discussion of the project.

Financing politics in Latin America

In the run-up to mid-term congressional elections, IDEA was invited by the Mexican electoral authorities (the IFE and Tribunal Electoral) to organize a series of panel sessions from 2–7 July to analyze and reflect on some specific issues affecting the electoral process in **Mexico**. These included political party funding, the nomination of candidates and party leaders, reform of the electoral system, and electoral justice administration. A book entitled *Dinero y contienda politico-electoral* (Money and the political-electoral contest) was produced by IDEA, in conjunction with the IFE and TRIFE.

The **joint study with the OAS** on the financing of political parties in Latin America continued this year. By the end of 2003, approximately half of the planned activities had been completed: all of the country analyses had been finished, while five comparative thematic analyses (the financing system, access to the media, disclosure, enforcement, and the gender perspective) were continuing.

In Copan, Honduras, on 27–28 May, an agreement was reached between the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), IDEA and the OAS to carry out a study on the state of political party systems in Central America, as a response to the recommendation of the Quebec Summit of the Americas to increase knowledge about political parties and party systems in the hemisphere. Some preparatory workshops have already been held in this regard. IDEA also started to work jointly with the Carter Center and Transparency International on the development of standards and a set of guiding principles for political party funding.

Based on the MoU between IDEA and Parlatino Latinoamericano, a seminar entitled 'The Strengthening of Political Parties and Democracy in Latin America' was held in Lima in October. This regional encounter brought together representatives and members of the Latin American Parliament, as well as legislators, representatives of political parties and international party foundations, members of the Pro Tempore Secretariat of the Rio Group, IDEA, the OAS, and UNDP, and Latin American experts. The aim of the seminar was to present and discuss **proposals for supporting democracies and political groups in the region**. A document entitled 'Towards a new legal and ethical framework for Latin American political parties' served as the basis for the discussion. This document was prepared by IDEA, in coordination with the Pro Tempore Secretariat of the Rio Group, and will be submitted for discussion at a regional meeting with political parties in Brazil, to be held before the next Rio Group Summit in April 2004. ***Democracies in Development: Politics and Reform in Latin America***, co-edited by IDEA and the IADB, was launched during the seminar.

In cooperation with the Pro Tempore Secretariat of the Rio Group, IDEA established a working group of three Peruvian and 17 international experts to elaborate a proposal on the strengthening of democratic institutions and political party systems. This proposal was presented to the Foreign Affairs Ministers of the Rio Group at their meeting in Trujillo, Peru, as well as to the 19 Heads of State present at the seventeenth Rio Group Summit in Cusco, Peru. Parts of the proposal were included in the Cusco Declaration. The document, highlighting the importance of political parties in strengthening democratic systems, was edited and released as a bilingual publication entitled ***Democratic Governance and Political Parties in Latin America***.

Other related activities included an extended discussion with specialists from Latin America, Canada, the Caribbean, and the United States on private and public

funding instruments, the different levels of access to the media among political parties, disclosure and enforcement mechanisms, and gender and party funding. This took place during a workshop organized by IDEA and the OAS on political party funding in San Jose, Costa Rica, on 13–21 August.

Work on Political Parties Initiated in West Africa

As part of a series of meetings with political party representatives in **Nigeria**, IDEA convened a roundtable in November 2003 in Abuja with the political parties that participated in the country's 2003 elections. Concern centred on the role of money in politics, the fragile funding base of most parties, and the considerable cost of accessing the media. The parties expressed interest in working on a funding formula that balances party viability, transparency and accountability, democratic control by members, independence and inclusive participation. One of the outputs of this initiative will be the publication in 2004 of regular political party watch reports.

Partnerships and Networks

A proposal for a multilateral fund to strengthen political parties and political party systems in Latin America was drafted during the third meeting of the **Inter-American Forum's Advisory Council on Political Parties**, held in Cartagena, Colombia, in November 2003. A proposed work plan for 2004 was also prepared. A main focus of the meeting was the role of political parties and democratic governance in the Americas, with specific work sessions held on issues like: public funding of political parties; the effect of television on electoral campaign costs; how to achieve greater transparency in political funding; and funding politics and the participation of women.

IDEA signed an **MoU with UNDP Argentina** in order to promote joint technical cooperation in the country. Three workshops have been held; particular attention was drawn to the need of the CNE to strengthen its capacity to oversee political party funding.

IDEA also took part in several strategic meetings in Latin America, including a conference organized by the Carter Center's Americas Program and its Council of Presidents and Prime Ministers of the Americas on the subject of 'Financing Democracy in the Americas'. The conference focused on the potentially damaging effects of unregulated or poorly regulated campaign financing.

4. Gender and Political Participation

Increasing female representation and participation in decision-making bodies requires well-developed strategies and information on which measures have worked successfully in different countries with different political systems. IDEA continued in 2003 to contribute to the debate on gender and democracy issues in

general, and to promote the participation and representation of women in political life. Activities in this regard focused on identifying ways to build commitment to inclusive politics and on providing experience of the application of special measures like gender quotas.

Quotas for Women

Since 2002 IDEA has been engaged in a global research project, in cooperation with Stockholm University's Department of Political Science, on the implementation of electoral quotas for women. By comparing the use of gender quotas in different political contexts, the project aims to explore whether, and under what conditions, quotas can be implemented successfully. The main outcome of the project, the **Electoral Quotas for Women online database (www.quotaproject.org)**, was finalized in March 2003 and launched on International Women's Day. This web-site offers the first overview of the use of electoral quotas for women worldwide. It contains information on electoral quotas in more than 90 countries, as well as a discussion page and hub for papers written by different authors on the global application of quotas. In addition, there are nearly 30 case studies on the site detailing the use of quotas in different countries. The website was also launched during events in Burkina Faso, India, Indonesia and Peru.

As a means of generating comparative information on quotas and gathering together first-hand experience of quota implementation, IDEA held two regional expert group workshops in Africa and Latin America. (A similar workshop was held in Asia in 2002.) Based on the debate and the contributions of experts and practitioners, IDEA started in 2003 to publish a series of reports on the implementation of quotas. Reports published by the end of the year included one entitled the **Implementation of Quotas: Asian Experiences**, based on the outcomes of the workshop held in Jakarta, Indonesia, in September 2002, and another one entitled the **Implementation of Quotas: Latin American Experiences**, based on the outcomes of the workshop held in Lima, Peru, in February 2003. A similar report on quotas in Africa is scheduled for publication in 2004.

By comparing the use of gender quotas in different political contexts, the reports examine whether, and under what conditions, quotas can be successfully implemented. The series aims to raise awareness about the use of gender quotas as an instrument to increase female political representation and to show that quotas can and are being applied successfully. The reports also address key issues, such as: the types of quotas in use in some countries of the region in question; when, where and how quotas have worked; the challenges of implementation and enforcement; and the controversies concerning, and the consequences of, the use of quotas.

Women in Parliament: Beyond Numbers

Regionalized versions of IDEA's *Women in Parliament: Beyond Numbers Handbook* (in Bahasa Indonesia, French and Spanish) formed the basis for

discussion during a series of seminars in 2003 on challenges to the political participation of women. This included a forum in the Congress of the Republic of **Peru** on 25 February, in partnership with the Second Vice-Presidency of the Republic, a seminar on 4 March in **Burkina Faso**, in partnership with the Centre for Democratic Governance, a workshop on women in politics in **Indonesia** on 8 March, and a seminar in the Liberal Internationals Congress in **Senegal** on 13 October 2003, in partnership with the Netherlands' Institute for Multiparty Democracy (IMD).

The Spanish version of the Handbook was also presented by IDEA Board member Ms Lourdes Flores Nano during meetings of the 'Women's Citizenship Week of 2003' on 6 September in Buenos Aires, **Argentina**, and on 23 October 2003 in **Venezuela**, during an IDEA hosted event on gender and politics.

A regionalized version of the Handbook, including most of the main chapters, was published in Russian in 2003. This occurred in response to the concerns of local activists and experts in the **South Caucasus** about female participation in politics. The publication aims to share IDEA's expertise and knowledge in this area of democracy building and to promote further dialogue on this issue in the region. The publication was disseminated in the South Caucasus and in Europe.

Similarly, in **Latin America**, IDEA's work on gender and politics focused mainly on women and constitutional reform, quotas, women and financing, and women in parliament. In February 2003, in Lima, IDEA organized an **international roundtable on strategies for increasing women's participation** and an international panel on women and democracy.

In Indonesia, IDEA worked with leading national partners to implement a two-track strategy under which aspiring female politicians are to be promoted and trained. The introduction in the 2003 general election law of an article recommending that political parties field a minimum of 30 per cent of women among their parliamentary candidates is the culmination of a programme of assistance that began in 1999 with the launch of the Indonesian-translated version of *Women in Parliament: Beyond Numbers*. In September, the KPU asked IDEA to coordinate an advisory group to develop materials for its voter education campaign on the importance of electing women to parliament. The following two activities were particular highlights in 2003. **Training in lobbying and advocacy** was provided to politicians and NGO activists in mid-2003, while **'One Hundred Women for Parliament'** aimed to raise the visibility of potential female parliamentary candidates. The latter was organized jointly by IDEA and the Centre for Electoral Reform (CETRO), a leading Indonesian NGO. The initiative sought to prevent party leaders from disregarding the recommendation of the 2003 general election law on the grounds that there are not enough women willing or qualified enough to become parliamentary candidates.

5. Democracy Analysis and Assessment

There is mounting interest within, but little consensus among, international agencies and donors in regard to the methodologies for analyzing democracy or for evaluating democracy assistance. Maintaining its interest in local ownership of evaluations of democracy, IDEA continued to contribute to the international debate on democracy analysis and assessment and related indicators. It also continued to assist with the adaptation of the state of democracy methodology developed in 2002.

IDEA Democracy Assessment Framework adopted in South Asia

Since its inception in 2000, IDEA's State of Democracy Project has developed a comprehensive methodological tool that citizens of all of the world's democracies can use to assess the functioning of their own democratic system. The assessments are aimed at raising public awareness, sparking discussion and helping to identify areas for reform. To date, IDEA has tested the methodology in eight pilot countries (Bangladesh, El Salvador, Italy, Kenya, South Korea, Malawi, New Zealand and Peru) and in 2001 issued ***The International IDEA Handbook on Democracy Assessment***. A comparative volume analyzing the findings of the pilot studies was published in 2002. The State of Democracy Assessment Framework has also been employed independently in a number of states, such as Australia, South Africa and the United Kingdom.

In 2003, the research design and the framework for implementing the State of Democracy Project in South Asia were finalized, and partnerships established. The research design has been debated in national and regional fora in India, Nepal and Sri Lanka, and further dialogues are due to take place in Bangladesh and Pakistan in 2004. As a result of these dialogues, new questions and themes have been highlighted, and interest in the results of the project among the major donors, as well as among activists and academic networks in the region, has been stimulated. A contextualized version of the IDEA Democracy Assessment Framework was adopted as the starting point for the assessment and country teams have been established. A pilot survey, supported by IDEA, was carried out in five Indian states.

IDEA presented its Democracy Assessment Framework during the inaugural workshop of the 'State of Democracy in South Asia' Project, organized by the New Delhi-based Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS) and held in Kathmandu, Nepal, in June 2003. In collaboration with a network of institutions and scholars from Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, the CSDS plans to launch a 2.5-year-long research programme to examine the state of democracy in South Asia. The proposed project will be based on two of IDEA's methodological approaches. The project team plans to utilize the Democracy Assessment Framework.

Democracy assessment and the reform agenda in Georgia

During the democracy assessment process in Georgia, local experts and practitioners put forward 26 topics to be subjected to research, analysis, public debate, and dialogue in the country. In 2003, the assessment process was finalized and the results were published by IDEA in **12 discussion papers in English and Georgian**. A summary **agenda for debate, entitled *Building Democracy in Georgia***, was published in English, Georgian and Russian. The objective of the 18-month process and the resulting reports was to provide a platform for reflection and debate, to help the country assess social, political and cultural developments in the ten years since independence. Moreover, the reports aim to provide local and international stakeholders with a road map to focus their efforts. The discussion papers were widely disseminated at the national, regional and international levels. The project and the resulting reports were also discussed at an October 2003 meeting in Tbilisi, co-hosted by IDEA and the Embassy of the Netherlands. The reports generated high interest among members of civil society, state officials, and representatives of the diplomatic community and the media.

The assessment and the resulting reports were also publicized on television and in public debates in Georgia. Several public debates were organized with IDEA's local partners in Georgia, focussing mainly on the elections, the constitution, local self-government and political participation. The final outcome of this process, which is expected to be finalized in 2004–05, is an expanded and more comprehensive democracy assessment and policy agenda for Georgia.

Assessing democracy in West Africa

In October 2003, IDEA and the Burkina Faso-based Center for Democratic Governance co-hosted a workshop (in cooperation with UNDP) in Ouagadougou on 'Comparative Experiences of Democracy Assessments in West Africa'. The event focused on the findings of the democracy assessments conducted in Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana and Nigeria, the difficulties associated with evaluating democracy in West Africa, and how to adapt the methodologies for democracy assessment to the West African context without compromising universal standards. The workshop also served to raise awareness of the prospects for, and the threats to, democracy at the national and regional levels and provided input to larger dialogue initiatives at the continental level, such as the African Peer Review Mechanism of the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD).

Publications Released in 2003

Democracy Building and Conflict Management

Reconciliation After Violent Conflict: A Handbook

The International IDEA Handbook on *Reconciliation after Violent Conflict* presents a range of tools that can be, and have been, employed in the design and implementation of reconciliation processes. Most of them draw on the experience of people grappling with the problems of past violence and injustice. There is no 'right answer' to the challenge of reconciliation, and so the Handbook prescribes no single approach. Instead, it presents the options and methods, with their strengths and weaknesses evaluated, so that practitioners and policy-makers can adopt or adapt them, as best suits each specific context.

The Handbook is available in English in paper back and electronic format, as well as in French in electronic format. A French paper back version is scheduled for publication in August 2004.

IDEA also published in 2003 a **Policy Summary** of the above Handbook in English, French and Spanish. Tamil and Sinhala versions of the Policy Summary will be released in paper back and electronic format during the first part of 2004.

www.idea.int/conflict/reconciliation/index.cfm



A Burmese version released of the IDEA Handbook

Democracy and Deep-Rooted Conflict: Options for Negotiators

The demand by Burmese groups for democracy and conflict-related literature in the Burmese language led IDEA to publish in 2003, in cooperation with the Burma Fund, a Burmese language version of its *Handbook on Democracy and Deep-Rooted Conflict: Options for Negotiators*. It is hoped that the publication will stimulate discussion on national conventions, the strategic use of cease-fire agreements, third-party mediation and the politics of negotiations.

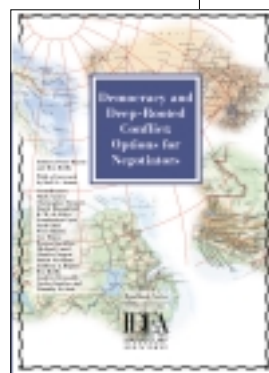
The Handbook originally published in English in 1998, focuses on the negotiation of democratic institutions as part of a peace process after civil conflict. It provides an accessible summary of then available knowledge on conflict trends and analysis, negotiation processes, the role of democratic levers in promoting sustainable peace – such as power-sharing formulas, questions of federalism and autonomy, options for electoral reform, truth commissions, transitional justice mechanisms, methods of preserving minority rights, constitutional safeguards and many others. The Handbook analyzes actual negotiated settlements with case studies from Bosnia, Fiji, Northern Ireland, Guatemala, Sri Lanka, Papua New Guinea and South Africa and it evaluates a number of thematic topics related to post-conflict peace-building. It illustrates the many, often unrecognized or underappreciated, options that negotiators can draw upon when attempting facilitate the development of democracy in post-conflict settings. The Handbook was written by international experts and experienced negotiators. Designed as a quick reference source, it provides scores of practical examples, menus of options, fact sheets and case studies.

The Handbook is available in Burmese, English and Spanish in both paper back and electronic format. A new version of the Handbook will be released in English in 2005.

www.idea.int/publications/democracy_and_deep_rooted_conflict/home.htm

Democracy at the Local Level: A Guide for the South Caucasus

Based on the *Democracy at the Local Level: International IDEA's Handbook on Participation, Representation, Conflict Management and Governance*, this Guide is designed to offer insight on the critical elements that shape systems of good local governance, with a highlight on the experiences of the countries of the South Caucasus. It also serves as a tool for local decision-makers and practitioners as they seek to learn more about models and practices of local democracy, particularly from an international comparative perspective. The Guide is divided into three main themes:



local elections, political parties and citizens' participation. These themes are explored along with an analysis of new local governance systems by independent experts from the region. The Guide includes case studies on Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia.

The Guide is available in English and Russian both in paper back and electronic format.

www.idea.int/publications/democracy_at_local_level/DLL_in_SC/dll_in_SC.htm

The original Handbook on *Democracy at the Local Level*, published in English in 2001, focuses on the design and reform of local institutions, innovative decision-making procedures for citizen involvement and practical methods to improve community input and manage diversity.

www.idea.int/publications/democracy_at_local_level/index.htm

Also published on the theme of democracy building and conflict management:

Shaping Civil-Military Relations in Burma: Learning Lessons from ASEAN. A report produced jointly by IDEA the Burma Fund and the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS-Indonesia).

www.idea.int/publications/burma/CMR_Workshops_Public_Report_April03_Website.pdf

Report on State Constitutions Protecting Minority Rights Under Federalism, Dialogues in Support of a Democratic Transition to Burma.

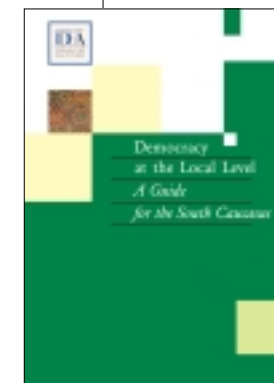
www.idea.int/publications/burma/Burma_final.pdf

Women and Peace Building: The Role of Burmese Women in Developing Peace Building Strategies. A report produced jointly by IDEA and the Women League of Burma.

www.idea.int/publications/burma/Women_and_Peace_building_Workshops_Report_June03.pdf

Democracy and Diversity in the Caucasus: Journal of Democracy in the South Caucasus – zero edition published jointly with IDEA local partners in the regions.

www.idea.int/southcaucasus/pomegranate/JOD_eng.pdf



Seminario internacional procesos post comisiones de la verdad de la negación al reconocimiento [International Seminar: Post-Truth Commission Processes]. A joint production by IDEA, the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR) and the International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ), is available in paper back in Spanish.

Electoral Processes

The IDEA Handbook of Electoral System Design published on CD-Rom in four languages.

Versions of IDEA's *Handbook of Electoral System Design* in Arabic, English, French and Spanish were compiled and published on one CD-Rom. The Handbook, originally published in English in 1997 and reprinted in 2002, presents an overview of the electoral systems in use in more than 200 states and territories. It discusses the advantages and disadvantages of different electoral systems, the factors to consider when modifying or designing an electoral system and provides insights into why certain countries choose particular systems. It also describes which electoral systems have proven advantageous for specific cultural, social and economic conditions and how electoral systems can increase participation, reach out to minorities and facilitate representation of women.

The Handbook is available in paper back and electronic format in Arabic, English and French and in electronic format in Spanish. A new version of the Handbook is due to be published in English during the second half of 2004.

www.idea.int/esd/index.cfm

Also published on the theme of electoral processes:

Administration and Cost of Elections (ACE) – CD-Rom containing the ACE Users' Guide and complete 2003 ACE database in English, French and Spanish.

www.aceproject.org

Dinero y contienda politico-electoral [Money and the political-electoral contest]. A Joint production by IDEA in conjunction with the Mexican Federal Electoral Institute and the Mexican Electoral Tribunal. Available in paper back in Spanish.



Political Parties

The Handbook on Funding of Political Parties and Election Campaigns

The role of money in politics is an issue of daily debate in old and new democracies alike. The ways that parties get access to money can influence the outcome of elections, determine the relationship between party leaders and members, affect the number of women elected and condition the level of public trust as a whole.

IDEA's Handbook on *Funding of Political Parties and Election Campaigns* is designed to encourage informed public debate. It looks at the strengths and weaknesses of the different national laws and regulations from a regional perspective. It analyses the problems of enforcement and the opportunities for effective public disclosure of funds. The Handbook also includes an extensive matrix on Political Finance Laws and Regulations for more than 100 countries.

The Handbook is available in English in paper back and electronic format.

www.idea.int/publications/funding_parties/index.cfm

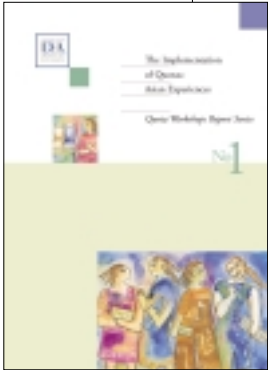
Also published on the theme of political parties:

Democratic Governance and Political Parties in Latin America. A joint production by IDEA and the Pro Tempore Secretariat of the Rio Group. The Book is available in paper back and electronic format in English and Spanish.

www.idea.int/publications/Latin_America/Political_Parties.htm



Gender and Political Participation



A series of Reports on the Implementation of Women Quotas...

Increasing women’s representation and participation in decision-making bodies requires well-developed strategies and information about which measures have worked successfully in different countries with different political systems. These reports examine, through comparing the use of gender quotas in different political contexts, whether, and under what conditions, quotas can be successfully implemented. They aim to raise awareness about the use of gender quotas as an instrument to increase women’s political representation and to show that they can and are being applied successfully. The reports also provide information about the use of gender quotas as an instrument to increase women’s political representation in Asia, and to show that they can and are being applied successfully. They address key issues such as the type of quotas used in some parts of Asia and Latin America; when, where and how quotas have worked; the challenges of implementation and enforcement and the consequences of the use of quotas. The report on *The Implementation of Quotas: Asian Experiences* includes case studies from India, East Timor, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Indonesia. The second report in this series, *The Implementation of Quotas: Latin American Experiences*, examines quotas used in Latin America, with case studies from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Mexico and Peru.

Both reports are available in English in paper back and in electronic format. A Spanish version of *The Implementation of Quotas: Latin American Experiences* will be released in the first part of 2004.

www.idea.int/publications/quotas/Asia_Report.pdf
www.idea.int/quota/publications/Quotas_LA_Report.pdf

IDEA also launched in the beginning of 2003, in cooperation with Stockholm University, **a website on the implementation of female electoral quotas.** (www.quotaproject.org).

Women in Parliament: Beyond Numbers
Extracts from the IDEA Handbook published in Russian

A summarized Russian version of the Handbook *Women in Parliament: Beyond Numbers* was published in 2003 for use in the Commonwealth of Independent States especially the South Caucasus. The structure and comparative content of the original Handbook has been mostly retained, including updates and revisions to the text required since its first publication in 1998.



The original Handbook, published in English in 1998, examines the obstacles women face in getting into parliament, how to overcome such barriers and ways in which they can make a greater impact once they enter parliament. Written by parliamentarians and researchers, the Handbook examines such topics as quotas and electoral systems, and includes case studies from Costa Rica, Egypt, India, Jordan, Lebanon, Norway, Russia and South Africa.

Regionalized versions of the IDEA Handbook *Women in Parliament* with new regional case studies are available in Bahasa Indonesia, French and Spanish, both in paper back and in electronic format.

www.idea.int/gender/wip/index.htm

Also published on the theme of gender and political participation:

Strengthening Women’s Political Participation in Indonesia. A conference report available in paper back and electronic format in English and Bahasa Indonesia.



Democracy Analysis and Assessment

Building Democracy in Georgia:

Agenda for Debate and a series of 12 Discussion papers

In the Spring of 2003, IDEA published a series of discussion papers examining the critical challenges for democratic consolidation in Georgia and putting forward recommendations – dubbed an ‘agenda for democratic change’ – on how to address those challenges. *Building Democracy in Georgia* is the outcome of a year long process of national dialogue and consultation organized throughout the country by IDEA in 2002, involving a wide range of national NGOs, media, academic and government representatives. Issues for building and improving democratic governance were identified in the course of this exercise in national consultation.

They include: the constitution; regionalization and self-government; electoral processes; the weak state, corruption and power structures; human rights; popular participation; economic reform and social security; ethnic conflict and breakaway regions; capital – regional relations; the impact of international assistance; and Georgia in the regional context. The Agenda for Debate and all 12 discussion papers are available in paper back and electronic format in English and Georgian.

www.idea.int/southcaucasus/papers.htm

Also published on the theme of democracy analysis:

La Política Importa: Democracia y desarrollo en América Latina

[Democracies in Development: Politics and Reform in Latin America].

A joint production by IDEA and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

Available in English and Spanish in paper back and electronic format.

www.iadb.org/exr/pub/pages/book.asp?id=138

IDEA Newsletter

In 2003, IDEA produced five electronic newsletters in English.

www.idea.int/publications/pub_newsletters.htm

About IDEA

Created in 1995, the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA), an inter-governmental organization with member states from all continents, has a mandate to promote sustainable democracy world-wide. IDEA's objective is to help improve the design of key democratic institutions and processes through improved knowledge and understanding of issues that condition democratic progress. It brings together those who analyse and monitor trends in democracy and those who engage directly in political reform or act in support of democracy at home and abroad. IDEA works with both new and long-established democracies, helping to develop and strengthen the institutions and culture of democracy. It works in partnership with international, regional and national bodies.

IDEA aims to:

- Assist countries in building the capacity to develop and strengthen democratic institutions and to identify and reinforce the position of key democratic actors.
- Provide a forum for dialogue between researchers and policymakers, activists and professionals in the area of democratic processes.
- Synthesize research and field experience, and develop practical tools to help improve democratic processes.
- Promote transparency, accountability and efficiency in relation to the management of elections.
- Facilitate assessment, monitoring and promotion of democracy by local citizens.

IDEA's current areas of activities include:

- *Democracy building and conflict management.* Developing the process for building consensus, setting priorities, designing political institutions and constitutions, enabling dialogue, and promoting reconciliation and inclusive democracy.

- *Strengthening electoral processes.* Adapting electoral systems, improving the level of access and voter turnout, ensuring professional management and independence, and building public confidence.
- *Developing political parties into vital democratic actors.* Reviewing external regulations and enforcement, public funding, internal democracy and management, relations with civil society and the general public.
- *Political equality and participation, especially of underrepresented segments of society (including women in politics).* Identifying ways to build commitment to inclusive politics and to provide experience via the application of special measures like gender quotas.

IDEA draws on comparative experience, analysis and extensive dialogue with practitioners to identify examples of good practice and to develop tools and guidelines to be employed in the support of democracy. IDEA has an expanding website on which it makes available free of charge materials, including datasets and regular publications. IDEA also builds networks of experts, produces training materials and offers strategic advice on issues related to its work programme. IDEA has collaborated with members of the international democracy assistance community, as well as with local stakeholders in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, and, more recently, in the Arab world and the South Caucasus.

Membership

Membership of IDEA is open to governments and inter-governmental organizations. There are currently 21 Member States: Australia, Barbados, Belgium, Botswana, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Denmark, Finland, Germany, India, Mauritius, Mexico, Namibia, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Sweden and Uruguay. Switzerland is preparing to join and Japan has taken up Observer Status. In addition, Associate Membership is open to international non-governmental organizations. There are currently four Associate Members: the International Press Institute, Parliamentarians for Global Action, Transparency International and the Inter-American Institute for Human Rights.

Partnership

Members and Associate Members are important partners of IDEA. The Institute also works with inter-governmental organizations, such as the African Union (AU), the Organization of American States (OAS), the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), and the UN, with development agencies and banks like the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank, and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) – as well as with many bilateral development agencies – with parliamentary and professional entities, and with a wide range of non-governmental and academic networks at the national and international levels. IDEA cooperates with many national institutions, including electoral management bodies, across the globe. Furthermore, on 9 December 2003, IDEA was awarded Observer Status at the UN, giving it access to a number of policy fora in which democracy-related issues are being discussed.

Organization

IDEA has an international staff based in both its headquarters' office in Stockholm, Sweden, and in several regional offices around the world. It is managed by a Secretary-General who is answerable to a Board of Directors. The Board engages in policy oversight and approves the institute's work programme and budget. Board members serve in their personal capacity. The Board is chaired by Ms Lena Hjelm-Wallén, former Minister for Foreign Affairs and former Deputy Prime Minister of Sweden. The Board and its Chairperson are appointed by IDEA's Council, comprising IDEA Member States and Associate Members. The Council, currently chaired by the Netherlands, with Canada and Chile acting as Vice Chairs, plots the overall direction of IDEA's work and approves new members. IDEA is financed through contributions from Member States and through complimentary funds obtained from a variety of other sources.

IDEA's Board of Directors

A new chairperson and six new members were elected to IDEA's Board of Directors by the Institute's Council during its meeting on 25 June 2003. IDEA's Current Members of the Board are:



▲ **Ms Lena Hjelm-Wallén**
(Chairperson), former Deputy Prime Minister of Sweden and former Minister for Foreign Affairs. (Joined in 2003)



▲ Ambassador **Andrés Rozental**
(Vice Chairperson), President of the Mexican Council of International Affairs.



▲ **Dr Brigalia Bam**
Chairperson of South Africa's Independent Electoral Commission and former Secretary-General of the South Africa Council of Churches. (Joined in 2003)



▶ **Mr Jermyn Brooks**
member of the Board of Directors of Transparency International and former Global Managing Partner at PricewaterhouseCoopers. (Joined in 2003)

▶ **Mr Thomas Carothers**
Vice President for Studies, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

▶ **Dr Ricardo Díez-Hochleitner**
Honorary President of the Club of Rome.

▶ **Ms Kaci Kullmann Five**
former Cabinet Minister and Chairperson of the Conservative Party of Norway. (Joined in 2003)



▶ **Mr Jos van Gennip**
member of the Upper House of the Netherlands' Parliament.



▶ **Mr Harri Holkeri**
Head of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and former Prime Minister of Finland. (Joined in 2003)



▶ **Dr Subhash Kashyap**
former Secretary-General of the Lower House of the Indian Parliament and Constitutional Adviser to the Indian Government. (Joined in 2003)



▶ **Ms Maureen O'Neil**
President of the International Development Research Centre, Canada.



▶ **Dr Henning Scherf**
President of the Senate and Mayor of the Free Hanseatic City of Bremen, Germany.



▶ **Mr Cassam Uteem**
former President of the Republic of Mauritius.

Ambassador
▶ **Kuniko Inoguchi**
Permanent Representative of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, Switzerland.



▶ **Ms Lourdes Flores Nano**
President of Alianza Electoral Unidad Nacional and candidate in the 2001 Peruvian presidential election. (Joined in 2003)



▶ **Ms Aung San Suu Kyi**
General Secretary of the National League for Democracy in Burma and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate.



Honorary Board Member



STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

Statement of revenue and expenditure

	Budget 2003	2003	2002
REVENUE			
Core contributions (members)		9,344,631	7,326,526
Complementary contributions		1,276,272	1,569,929
Book sales		7,077	1,706
Other income		535,406	447,713
Total revenue	11,163,386	11,163,386	9,345,874
EXPENDITURE			
Operations – thematic			
Democracy Analysis, Assessment and Assistance	220,000	155,783	170,529
Democracy, Dialogue and Conflict Management	1,598,534	1,022,432	469,257
Participation, Political Parties and Institutions	990,000	937,712	684,599
Participation and Electoral Processes	1,504,247	1,338,742	999,611
Operations – regional			
Africa	1,773,767	1,330,128	989,051
Latin America	907,401	794,649	695,618
Asia	1,019,772	879,294	841,542
South Caucasus	453,000	462,377	540,030 *
Operations – horizontal issues			
Evaluations	145,000	50,556	0
Information	455,000	304,765	791,723
Programme development	155,000	73,751	0
Total Operations	9,221,721	7,350,189	6,181,960
Management and Administration			
Management	1,525,000	1,372,093	1,659,552
Personnel costs (including recruitment)	565,000	441,008	84,992
Running costs – Headquarters	535,000	407,656	350,105
Exchange gains/losses		-325,855	-348,490
Total Management and Administration	2,625,000	1,894,902	1,746,159
Statutory Expenditures	150,000	117,297	140,733
GRAND TOTAL	11,996,721	9,362,388	8,068,852

*Including Balkans Programme in 2002