INTERNATIONAL IDEA

INSTITUTE FOR DEMOCRACY AND ELECTORAL ASSISTANCE

INTERNATIONAL IDEA
Supporting democracy worldwide

INSPIRING CHANGE, ACHIEVING RESULTS

Annual Outcome Report 2018

INSPIRING CHANGE, ACHIEVING RESULTS

Annual Outcome Report 2018

International IDEA
SE–103 34 Stockholm
SWEDEN
+46 8 698 37 00
info@idea.int
www.idea.int

Contents

Letter from the Secretary-General

In 2018, the state of democracy around the world oscillated between hope and despair. While some countries showed signs of improvement, data from International IDEA's Global State of Democracy Indices also revealed that for the first time in 40 years, more countries' quality of democracy worsened than improved. International IDEA's sole mandate is to support sustainable democracy worldwide. Thus, the threats to democracy perceived globally, in both new and established democracies, were a clear message that our work is needed, possibly more now than ever.

To this end, we have increased our efforts to cover new geographic and thematic areas, developing knowledge products and implementing projects that support state and non-state democratic actors in the areas of electoral processes, political parties and representation as well as constitution-building processes.

In 2018 we increased our Member State base by welcoming Luxembourg and Panama, as well as our physical presence in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America through new offices in Mozambique, Fiji and Mexico. Thematically, we have expanded our global reach through projects aimed at improving regulatory frameworks for political finance and contributing to ongoing electoral reform and constitution-building processes in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Throughout the year, we have amplified our efforts to explore the impact of information and communication technology on democratic processes, ranging from new forms of citizen engagement to cyber security in electoral processes. The work on accurately depicting the global state of democracy through the new Global State of Democracy Indices, launched in 2017, also continued in 2018, showing that democracy, albeit challenged, shows signs of resilience.

As always, our work has been characterized by a determination to contribute to tangible, lasting results. This Annual Outcome Report describes some of our achievements over the last year. It provides an inspirational, empowering journey around the world, and shows that despite all the challenges, there is still hope for democracy.

Yves Leterme

Secretary-General

International IDEA headquarters on Strömsborg in Stockholm, Sweden.

Photo credit: International IDEA.

Introduction

2018 results: our work towards a more democratic world

International IDEA has crafted its work around research that leads to policy recommendations and contributes to results in communities around the world. We continue to embrace building collaborations with other institutions. In 2018, we signed 22 memoranda of understanding that bolster joint activities with civil society, practitioners, media and government agencies.

International IDEA is grateful to our Member States and partners for their commitment to advancing democracy and for their financial and in-kind contributions. Without such support, we could not produce our well-researched and often-cited knowledge products, results-oriented workshops or agenda-influencing dialogues. The results reported here span several themes and countries, and highlight strong achievements in policy reform, electoral reforms on the path to success, and lessons learned that bring us one step closer to better solutions.

International IDEA's Member States are democracies and provide both political and financial support to the work of the organization. They are Australia, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Canada, Cabo Verde, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Finland, Germany, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Luxembourg, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Namibia, Netherlands, Norway, Panama, Peru, the Philippines, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Uruguay. Japan has observer status.

This *2018 Annual Outcome Report* highlights International IDEA's successes and progress in contributing to democratic strengthening and reforms. We develop comparative knowledge, assist in democratic reform, and influence policies and politics, focusing in three main policy-relevant impact areas: electoral processes, constitution-building, and political participation and representation. We also address gender, diversity, and conflict and security.

This year we launched a new five-year International IDEA Strategy (2018–22) that drives our initiatives to focus on democracy's most pressing and emerging issues, while remaining true to our statutes.

The strategy is centered on our sole mandate to support democracy worldwide as well as the United Nation's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. As new challenges to democracy arise, we are proud to say that we continue to assess and analyse political issues, and explore solutions through dialogue, research and innovative approaches. The Global State of Democracy Initiative draws on all areas of the organization's expertise. It is a useful mechanism that helps to gauge changes to democracy; it guides our research and recommendations to national leaders, policymakers, academics and citizens.

The strategy also highlights hybrid regimes, conflict and war, migration and refugees, populism and nationalism, and information and communication technology in elections as important current topics. Additional areas to address include parliaments and electoral management bodies with a low representation of women, illicit funding of political parties and campaigns, and constitutional reforms needed to set nations on a peace-building path.

The Global State of Democracy: an International IDEA Initiative

The Global State of Democracy (GSoD) Initiative, launched in 2017, provides evidence-based analysis and data on the global and regional state of democracy to contribute to the public debate on democracy, inform policy interventions and identify problem-solving approaches to trends affecting the quality of democracy. The initiative provides up-to-date indices, a biennial report and regular evidence-based analysis briefs called *GSoD In Focus*.

International IDEA's GSoD Indices show that the post-1975 global democratic gains have stagnated in the last decade. Since 2014, the number of countries experiencing democratic decline is now greater than the number experiencing democratic gains. These declines have been observed in many dimensions of the GSoD Indices, including **Representative Government** (which evaluates free and equal access to political power), **Fundamental Rights** (which assesses individual liberties and access to resources) and **Checks on Government** (which measures effective control of executive power).
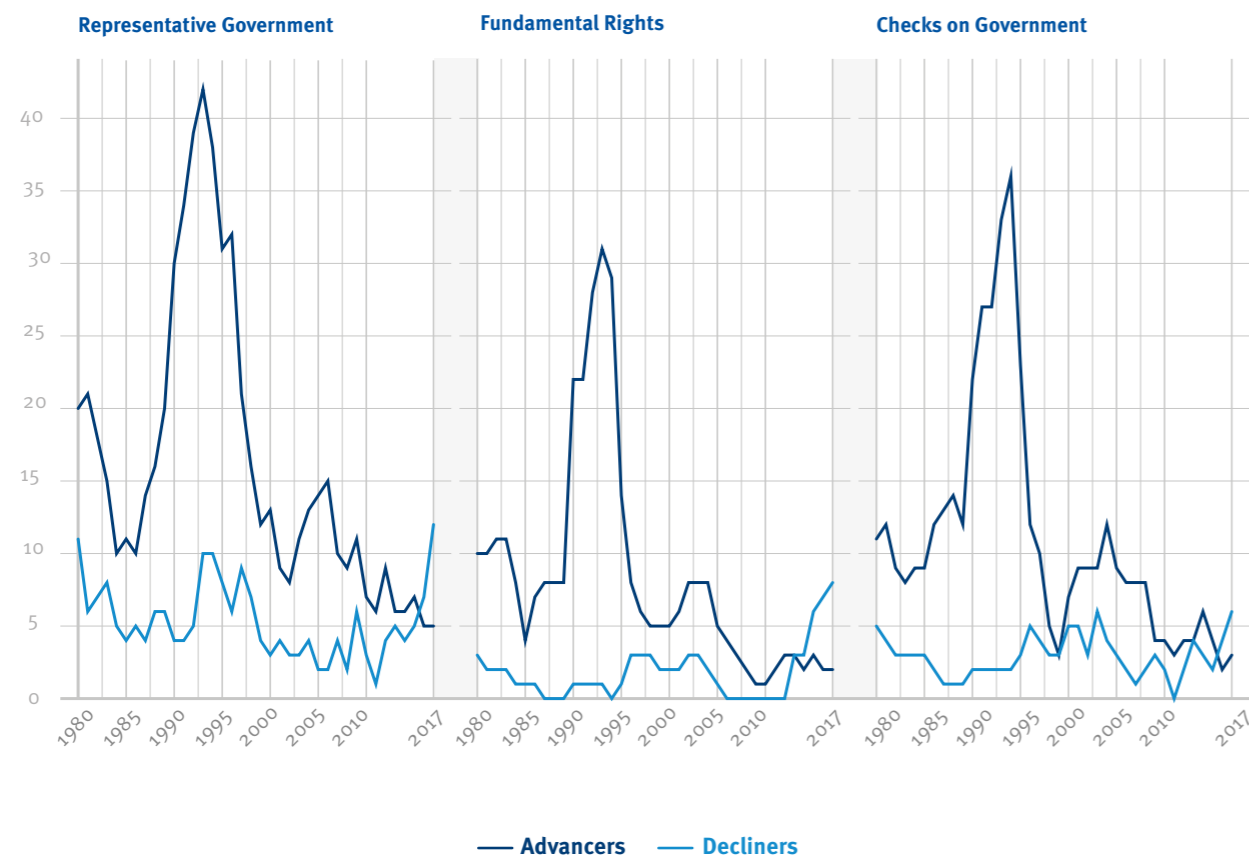
The data also indicate that civic space is shrinking. Declines in a number of countries were also observed in the areas of:

- **Civil Liberties** (the extent to which civil rights and liberties are respected);
- **Freedom of Expression** (how openly the public can discuss political issues);
- **Freedom of Association and Assembly** (how freely political and civil rights groups can organize);
- **Civil Society Participation** (the extent to which organized, voluntary, self-generating and autonomous social life is dense and vibrant) and
- **Media Integrity** (the extent to which the media landscape offers diverse and critical coverage of political issues).

Over the last five years, regions with a concentration of so-called established or high-performing democracies (e.g. in North America, Europe and, more recently, Latin America and the Caribbean) have experienced 'modern democratic backsliding'—when democratically elected political parties or leaders use legal means to weaken democracy from within. While Africa and Asia have continued to experience democratic expansion during this period, a large percentage of countries in these regions still have low levels of democratic performance.

In the context of these worrying global developments, International IDEA's work is more relevant and in demand than ever. The Institute has experienced a notable increase in requests from countries for democracy support and technical assistance, as well as a push to advance research on democracy, and to increase the production of knowledge products and the sharing of experiences and good practices.

Representative Government   Fundamental Rights   Checks on Government

— Advancers   — Decliners

Source: Global State of Democracy Indices

Results framework

Introduction

International IDEA's results framework, created in 2018, identifies three levels of results:

1. The first level relates to International IDEA's **performance**—the products and services it delivers within its three impact areas: electoral processes, constitution-building processes, and political participation and representation. To assess and report on performance, eight output categories, with 15 standardized output indicators, have been established.

2. The second level relates to **outcomes** within International IDEA's sphere of influence. Outcomes are defined as changes in behaviours, relationships and practices by the institutions and actors with which International IDEA interacts. International IDEA submits a representative set of examples in an annual outcome report for the Council of Member States. This is the first such report.

3. The third level relates to **impacts** (or societal trends) to which International IDEA contributes indirectly. In International IDEA's system for learning-based management, analyses of societal trends guide the annual planning process, which makes strategic decisions on approaches and activities. The outcome of this process is documented in each year's Programme and Budget, which is presented to the Council of Member States annually.

Performance

The first level of the results framework groups International IDEA's products and services into four complementary approaches (see Figure 1).

Four of the approaches aim to *inspire* institutions and actors to change:

Convening events such as (i) **dialogues** and (ii) **short training sessions** facilitate face-to-face interactions among individual democracy practitioners. These events may inspire participants to adopt new behaviours, relationships and practices.

In a complementary approach, International IDEA produces (iii) **communication products** and (iv) **publications** on recent experiences and best practices. These products are made available to the institutions and actors that International IDEA strives to inspire, and aim to help create the conditions for change.

If the targeted institutions and actors are inspired to engage in a change process, International IDEA provides four types of supportive approaches:

Through (i) targeted **capacity development** and (ii) **advisory services**, International IDEA engages with individual democracy practitioners on adopting new behaviours, practices and relationships within their respective political systems.

To complement face-to-face interaction, the Institute produces online (iii) **interactive tools** and (iv) **databases** to help institutions and actors develop democratic practices. These approaches create a supportive environment for change.

Figure 1. International IDEA's complementary approaches

Inspiring approaches / Supportive approaches

Approaches targeting individuals
- Events
- Training
- Capacity development
- Advisory services

Approaches aimed at creating an enabling environment for change
- Communication products
- Publications
- Digital tools
- Databases
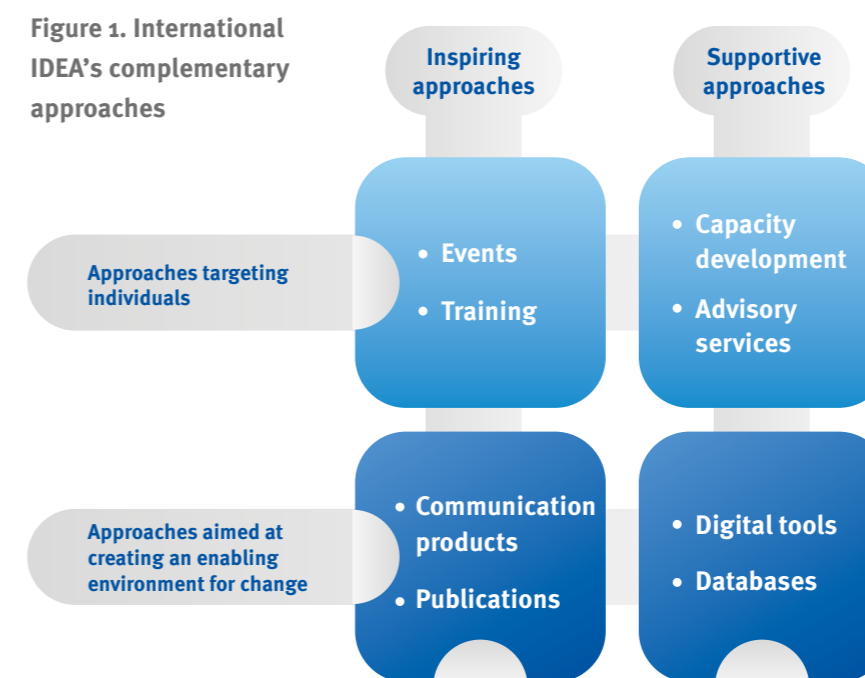
Figure 1. illustrates that some of the work that International IDEA undertakes aims to inspire institutions and actors to engage in change processes. Such inspiring work is a crucial element of creating an enabling environment for change. This type of work also creates and deepens International IDEA's relationships with its boundary partners (institutions and actors with which International IDEA works). Through such relationships, change processes emerge, and tailored supportive activities can be developed.

Results framework

Outcomes

The four approaches outlined work together to stimulate outcomes—changes in the behaviours, relationships and practices of boundary partners. These institutions and actors are labelled boundary partners in the framework. For each type of boundary partner International IDEA interacts with, the results framework establishes an outcome objective that defines its ideal behaviours, relationships and practices, and summarizes how these ideals can produce societal change. Table 1 describes the boundary partners and outcome objectives for each of the three impact areas.

This annual outcome report provides examples of changes to behaviours, relationships and practices among our partners in the last year.

Table 1. International IDEA's boundary partners and outcome objectives

ELECTORAL PROCESSES

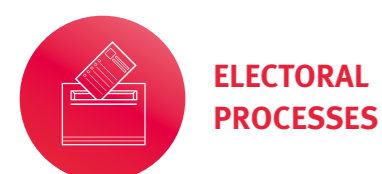| Boundary partner	Outcome objective
Electoral management bodies	Recognize and respond to complexities and risks in the electoral processes, and effectively implement the electoral cycle approach. Embody principles of impartiality, integrity, transparency, efficiency, professionalism and service-mindedness.
Electoral assistance practitioners	Provide support, informed by norms, good practices and research in electoral processes. Contextualize norms, practices and research to local conditions.
Policymakers	Make more informed choices to support practices that foster inclusivity and accountability in electoral processes. Recognize and consider risks in these processes.
Civil society	Engage and collaborate in national and international discourse on electoral reforms in an informed and effective way. Demand accountability from policymakers and electoral management bodies, and identify and advocate the removal of obstacles to accountability to promote public participation.

CONSTITUTION-BUILDING PROCESSES

Boundary partner	Outcome objective
Constitution makers	Apply knowledge and skills to make more informed choices regarding constitutional design and process.
Advisers to constitution makers	Utilize International IDEA's knowledge and networks to offer high-quality advice to constitution makers, civil society and constitution implementers. Expand coordination and collaboration in a coherent and communicative community of practice to advance good practices in constitution-building processes.
Civil society	Hold constitution makers accountable, inform the public about constitution-building processes, and promote public participation in the process.
Constitutional implementers	Interpret and operationalize constitutional provisions following ratification in a manner that respects fundamental democratic principles and human rights. Promote respect for the rule of law and constitutionalism under agreed constitutional frameworks.

POLITICAL PARTICIPATION AND REPRESENTATION

Boundary partner	Outcome objective
National and subnational parliaments	Improve their legislative, oversight and representation functions, and institutional systems to become more transparent, inclusive, responsive and accountable to all citizens.
Political parties and movements	Improve their functions (mobilizing citizens, aggregating their interests into political programmes, recruiting political leaders to contest elections and organizing governments and parliaments) so they contribute to a party system that is inclusive, responsive and accountable to all citizens.
Public interest groups	Engage with representative institutions in a democratic and effective way to improve public policy and practice, and to hold political decision-makers to account.
Oversight agencies	Monitor, prevent and mitigate threats to democracy, and threats posed by both illegal and illicit money in politics.
National and subnational governments	Improve their practices and decision-making processes to become more transparent, inclusive, responsive and accountable to all citizens.

Outcome stories

**ELECTORAL
PROCESSES**

Institutionalizing electoral risk management in Botswana

From an International IDEA workshop to an action plan: Botswana shares its path to electoral risk management

International IDEA helped Botswana's Electoral Commission develop practices to recognize and respond to electoral complexities and risks.

Funding: Core

A Technical Training on International IDEA's ERMTool was held Gaborone, 21-23 June 2017.

Botswana's Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) was established in 1997 in an effort to bring integrity, confidence and trust into the electoral process. The IEC has so far successfully conducted four general elections, in 1999, 2004, 2009 and 2014. Recently, it has incorporated electoral risk management (ERM) into its Strategic Plan (2015–2020) and annual performance plans.

The deliberate steps from strategy to implementation in institutionalizing electoral risk management began with an IEC officer's participation in an International IDEA workshop held in South Africa on 'EMB Performance Audit and Electoral Risk Management' in November 2014. The workshop report sparked the interest of the secretary to the IEC, who brought the rest of the senior management and commissioners on board. ERM was endorsed and incorporated into IEC activities.

Although Botswana has never experienced election-related violence, according to Kesego Sei Sekgwama, the Performance Improvement Coordinator at the IEC, elections are a complex undertaking and prone to risks that

may compromise the credibility of the process. The IEC believes it is imperative for the commission and senior management to be aware of these risks in order to make informed strategic decisions.

The IEC established an ERM Technical Team comprised of representatives from all divisions to ensure broad ownership. The Information, Education and Research Division was given the responsibility to coordinate ERM. This division worked closely with the office of Performance Improvement Coordination. The IEC started conversing with International IDEA in 2015 to learn more about the ERMTool. That dialogue led to the first meeting, which involved an overview of ERM for a group of commissioners, senior managers and the Technical Team later that year.

In 2016, continued consultations between the IEC and International IDEA resulted in a capacity-building workshop, which in turn led to a comprehensive context overview attended by the senior management team, representatives of the security services and the ERM Technical Team. The participants identified, discussed and deliberated on the most likely risks to the country's electoral process.

The Technical Team was then trained on International IDEA's ERMTool in June 2017. The IEC advocates stakeholder involvement; thus, the Technical Team embarked on a mission to familiarize members of staff (at both headquarters and outstation offices) with the ERM concept. By the end of 2017, all staff members received training. Other key external stakeholders (e.g. political parties, youth, people with disabilities, media) have also been scheduled for training.

The Technical Team's implementation plan includes identifying one risk champion per constituency to serve as a whistle-blower. It has also developed a risk matrix, and an International IDEA officer was invited to review the team's progress during the last workshop that was held in April 2018. Once the implementation plan is approved, the team will prepare to institutionalize the new risk management practices for the 2019 elections.

Photo credit: International IDEA

ELECTORAL PROCESSES

Strengthening the political participation of women and young people in Paraguay

The Superior Tribunal for Electoral Justice trains youth facilitators and launches the country's first school for political training for women leaders

International IDEA supported Paraguay's Superior Tribunal for Electoral Justice to implement practices for the enhanced participation of women and youth in politics and elections.

Funding: European Union

Young leaders being trained as youth facilitators to promote democratic values and political participation through International IDEA and Paraguay's Superior Tribunal for Electoral Justice Political Participation Unit.

Paraguay faces numerous, deep-rooted challenges related to the under-representation of certain groups in politics and elections. The general elections held on 22 April 2018 represented a backtracking of earlier timid advances in women's parliamentary representation. With 37 men and eight women in the Senate, the Paraguayan Parliament continues to have an overwhelming gender imbalance.

Since March 2017, International IDEA has been working to help promote democracy by developing the capacity of the national electoral management body, the Superior Tribunal for Electoral Justice (TSJE), and the results of this support have started to emerge. With financial support from the EU, International IDEA's Paraguay office began

by assisting the TSJE to create two specialized units focused on gender and political participation. International IDEA's role was to support the strategy and implementation design for the new endeavours.

As a result of this process, the TSJE now apply gender mainstreaming practices to achieve better gender equality, and inclusiveness has become a central concern in its agenda. It has thus become a strong advocate of gender equality and promotes women's participation in politics and elections only a year after the project began. The TSJE launched the first 'School for political training for women leaders' in March 2018. More than 150 women have been trained, and the first graduates are preparing their primary campaigns for the 2020 municipal elections.

International IDEA has also assisted TSJE's Political Participation Unit reach out to more than 300 young leaders through the 'Impulso Democrático' project, which focuses on the political and electoral participation of young people. The project has trained young leaders as youth facilitators to promote democratic values and political participation, with the aim of increasing electoral turnout and well-informed electoral participation.

Some participants mentioned that the workshop had helped them rediscover their enthusiasm for politics and encouraged them to vote in the 2018 elections. Furthermore, a number of participants replicated the initiative in the lead-up to the general elections, becoming facilitators themselves in workshops on political rights and electoral participation addressed to young people. In the framework of the Impulso Democrático project, International IDEA strengthened the institutional capacity of the Political Participation Unit by creating a pool of facilitators from different units in charge of the training component. This project also allowed the unit to renew its commitment to the principles of openness and transparency, strengthening ties with civil society organizations that promote youth participation, which has enhanced the institution's public perception and credibility.

Photo credit: International IDEA

ELECTORAL PROCESSES

Engaging in long-term electoral support reduces invalid votes

International IDEA assists Myanmar's Union Election Commission to manage its counting procedures

Training of subcommissioners in Tharsi.

Among the many findings and recommendations of the EU Election Observation Mission to Myanmar in 2015, a key goal was to reduce the number of invalid ballots. The number of invalid ballots is an indicator of the functioning of a country's electoral process. It can point to inadequate training of election administration staff, lack of voter awareness of the mechanics of voting, or electoral malpractice.

Since 2015, International IDEA has supported Myanmar's Union Election Commission (UEC) in using the electoral cycle approach under the EU-funded Support to Electoral Processes and Democracy (STEP Democracy) project. During this time Myanmar has held three elections: the 2015 general elections and by-elections in 2017 and 2018.

> **International IDEA organized trainings for Myanmar's election administration staff and poll workers to support them in effectively implementing the electoral cycle approach.**

> **Funding: European Union**

International IDEA, in cooperation with other technical assistance providers, has provided several types of support. In 2017, International IDEA helped the UEC print informational material for polling station staff, such as polling station manuals specifying how to determine if a ballot is valid or not, providing examples and focusing on the intention of the voter. In 2018, International IDEA extended its support to the UEC and teamed with the International Foundation for Electoral Systems to provide training to 150 participants from the state/region, district, and township subcommission levels. Those participants were newly recruited by the UEC to serve as chairmen and members of subcommissions, and needed training on their duties, mandates, responsibilities and functions.

In addition, International IDEA organized trainings for more than 4,200 subcommission and poll workers as part of the UEC capacity-building activities for the 2020 general elections. Through cascade training, nearly 13,000 poll workers were equipped with knowledge and deployed on election day in 2018. These sessions represented the only countrywide trainings on election day preparations and procedures in 2018. It was the first training for many poll workers.

These activities, and the long-term support provided to the electoral administration, has paid off: the percentage of invalid votes has been steadily reduced from 5.3 per cent in 2015, to 4.3 per cent in 2017 and 2.3 per cent in 2018.

Training of subcommissioners in Meikhtila, Mandalay.

> **'This training is more powerful as it is done by experienced trainers and it provides useful materials like laws, by-laws and guidelines.'**
>
> *Paukchung ward chairman in Meikthila, Mandalay*

ELECTORAL PROCESSES

The growing use of social media as a political campaigning tool in Cameroon

Electoral actors in Cameroon sign a draft Code of Conduct on the Use of Social Media During Electoral Campaigns

International IDEA training events on social media in election campaigns inspired policymakers in Cameroon to support practices which foster inclusivity and accountability in electoral processes.

Funding: Core

Roundtable on tentative commitments to create a Code of Conduct on the use of social media during the presidential electoral campaign. The session was moderated by Professor Laure Fotso, MP.

Social media played a prominent role in the lead-up to Cameroon's October 2018 presidential election. Access to social media and messaging apps was reportedly blocked for months in certain regions of the country before the election.

Considering presidential candidates' use of social media (including Twitter and Facebook) for their electoral campaigns, a training session was held on the Sincerity of the Communication of Political Parties During Electoral Campaigns (with a focus on the use of social media).

Together with École Citoyenne et Politique de Yaoundé (ECPY), International IDEA's Africa and West Asia Programme convened a Consensus Building Platform for MPs, political party leaders, electoral stakeholders and media in Yaoundé, Cameroon in August 2018. A representative of the ECPY stated that 'never before has pre-election political debates shifted so much from the consecrated frameworks to virtual spaces, like traditional media, and most especially social networks'.

The event, which brought together approximately 80 selected participants, aimed to sensitize participants to the critical role of communication during the electoral campaign in order to promote positive changes in the behaviour, relationships and practices of the participants regarding communication during electoral campaigns.

The training increased the participants' awareness and knowledge of the importance of social media in election campaigns, as well as the associated positive and negative aspects. This training resulted in the signing of a Draft Code of Conduct on the Use of Social Media During Electoral Campaigns. Signatories have committed to try and transmit the draft to the National Assembly in order to transform it into a Proposal of Law, and to work closely with the Ministry of Communication and the National Commission of Communication to ensure the implementation of the agreed principles, thus effecting positive changes in behaviour regarding social media use in electoral campaigns.

The activity was implemented as part of the support to the AU Structural Preventive Diplomacy and Political Analysis project, which is funded by the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office through a grant agreement that runs to 2020, in line with International IDEA's Memorandum of Understanding with the African Union Commission.

ELECTORAL PROCESSES

Bringing civil society and state authorities closer together in Fiji

International IDEA in its work through the European Union-funded project, 'Upholding Citizens' Constitutional Rights for Democratic Consolidation', helped civil society in Fiji to engage and collaborate in national discourse on electoral reforms in an informed and effective way.

Funding: European Union

International IDEA's Senior Program Manager for Asia and the Pacific and Fiji Country Manager, Adhy Aman, (center) with Fiji's Supervisor of Elections (at right) and the Director of Fiji Human Rights & Anti-Discrimination Commission (at left) at an open forum session between the Fijian Elections Office and the Fijian civil society organizations in July 2018.

International IDEA's Senior Program Manager for Asia and the Pacific and Fiji Country Manager, Adhy Aman, (center) with Fiji's Supervisor of Elections (at right) and the Director of Fiji Human Rights & Anti-Discrimination Commission (at left) at an open forum session between the Fijian Elections Office and the Fijian civil society organizations in July 2018.

One of the key outcomes of the Upholding Citizens' Constitutional Rights for Democratic Consolidation, C3-Fiji Project (C3-Fiji) is to facilitate engagement between the Fijian Elections Office (FEO) and Fiji-based civil society organizations (CSOs). Meaningful interactions between the FEO and CSOs through C3-Fiji have fostered a closer working relationship between the two entities—a relationship that for some time has been strained.

CSOs now communicate with the FEO more often and more substantively than ever before. The FEO and CSOs in Fiji have had a strained relationship in the past, but are gradually appreciating the value of interacting with each other. C3-Fiji has made a significant achievement in relationship building between the state institutions and the CSOs, which has promoted democracy strengthening in Fiji.

The project's two main activities were implemented in the pre-election period. The first activity was a three-day Building Resources in Democracy and Governance (BRIDGE) workshop in April 2018 in which 25 CSO participants learned about the principles of electoral system design and operations, and the principles of constitutional rights and the rights-based approach. One of the BRIDGE facilitators for this training was a FEO staff member tasked to facilitate by the supervisor of elections. This was a first step towards closer cooperation between the FEO and the CSO community in Fiji.

Second, C3-Fiji organized two meetings in July 2018—a closed and an open forum—with CSO leaders, academics, selected community leaders and the FEO. In the closed forum, the supervisor of elections closely interacted with the participants by answering many questions related to the electoral processes of the 2018 elections. Similarly, in the open forum, the FEO had the opportunity to clarify many election-related issues for a broader audience of CSOs and the media. More such interactions are planned in the post-election period in order to further enhance the working relationship between the FEO and CSOs.

International IDEA is now preparing for a constructive and results-oriented platform for dialogue and engagements between the FEO and CSOs through an agreement. This next step was initiated by the FEO. This closer relationship will bring civil society into discourse over democratization in Fiji, particularly pertaining to efforts to improve electoral processes.

ELECTORAL PROCESSES

Improving communications between Mexico's electoral authorities and citizens

Mexico's Federal Electoral Tribunal creates an organization-wide communications strategy

International IDEA training with Mexico's Federal Electoral Tribunal led to the development of a full communications strategy that will increase the institution's professionalism, transparency and service-mindedness.

Funding: Mexico

The vibrant participation of different departments of the tribunal, such as the judges' advisory team, the communications team, and the institutional relations area, led to the creation of a Strategic Communications Plan for the organization designed to structurally improve all its communications. The plan also pointed out the advantages that need to be highlighted and maximized.

These efforts produced changes in the tribunal's communications strategy. The institution disseminated the content of its work in a far-reaching, friendlier manner. The design of the web pages and social media styles were changed for consistency. People's perception of the institution changed, enhancing the tribunal's credibility and reputation. It also helped the tribunal to fulfil its transparency and accountability duties in a more comprehensive manner.

Communication is one of the most strategic areas of any organization. Transmitting what an institution does, how it does it (and under what circumstances) is fundamental to projecting its own image, reputation and performance. International IDEA and Mexico's Federal Electoral Tribunal—the country's highest authority on electoral justice— organized a strategic communications workshop in the run-up to the 2018 election to improve its communications strategy, especially in the area of social media. The workshop also aimed to provide participants with the necessary tools and concepts to strengthen the organization's identity—its mission, vision and objectives—and to help them relate to international best practices on the matter. The project consisted of a five-session, 32-hour programme.

CONSTITUTION-BUILDING PROCESSES

Preventing internal conflict and implementing federalism in Nepal

Supporting greater understanding of the new constitution

Constitution makers in Nepal apply knowledge and skills to make more informed choices regarding constitutional design and process.

Funding: Governance Facility

The Civic Participation in Peace Building and Democratic Development programme carried out events to educate the public on issues including constitutional transition, human rights, federalism, lawmaking processes and local governance.

Nepal's 2015 constitution was a long-awaited accomplishment after a long struggle over peace building. Several segments of society welcomed the promulgation of the new constitution, but there were serious trust deficits, low levels of understanding and a lack of ownership among citizens. This was particularly the case for the concepts of federalism and state structuring that exacerbated the tension, leading minority groups and movements such as the Madhesi and Tharu communities to reject the new constitution outright. This rejection resulted in widespread violence that caused more than 50 deaths and a blockade at the border with India.

To address the urgent need to support the government in implementing the constitution, International IDEA launched the Civic Participation in Peace Building and Democratic Development (CIVIP) programme in partnership with the Nepal Law Society. The programme was carried out in collaboration with the Legislature Parliament Secretariat of Nepal and was supported by the Governance Facility.

—————

Photos credit: International IDEA

CIVIP was designed to educate citizens and political and social leaders on constitutional issues including basic features of the constitution, constitutional transition, human rights, federalism, lawmaking processes and local governance. CIVIP has directly reached more than 19,000 people in 71 districts of the country by organizing various events, and more than 500,000 people indirectly through its media programmes and other knowledge products.

Nearly 90 per cent of participants report that CIVIP has increased their understanding of constitutional issues. In addition to clarifying misconceptions about the constitution, the programme also increased ownership of and support for the constitution as it addressed critical governance challenges for Nepal by promoting and safeguarding inclusive federalism. Hence, the programme aims to contribute to a political settlement in Nepal that facilitates sustainable peace.

'The resistance continued and even intensified after the constitution was promulgated. There was not only a lack of ownership but a total rejection of the constitution...In such a situation, it was very commendable of the CIC [Civic Initiative Centre] to be able to conduct a programme on the constitution...to pass on the message that there are some good provisions in the constitution...to leave the impression that...the correction in the constitution can be done through constitutional amendment.'

— *Dipendra Jha, current attorney general of Province 2*

'The discussion of the draft bill on the National Dalit Commission was conducted at [exactly the right moment]. At that time, we did not even know the content of the bill. The programme not only provided us with insight on what was lacking in the draft bill, but also gave us a clear picture of what should be included.'

— *Dulari Harijan, former Member of Parliament*

'I was a social worker before. The involvement with the CIC...advanced my knowledge of the constitutional and legal issues...People noticed me and I got an offer to fight for the local elections. I won with the highest majority. I dedicate my victory to the CIC.'

Kiran Thakur, deputy mayor of Gaur Municipality of Rauthat district and former staff member at the Civic Initiative Centre

CONSTITUTION-BUILDING PROCESSES

Substate constitution-building in Myanmar

International IDEA's Myanmar-language policy paper and seminars debunk common misconceptions about constitutional space and demands for autonomy

International IDEA convenes dialogues on what constitution-building at the substate level means for Myanmar to support informed choices regarding constitutional design and processes.

**Funding:
Norway and Luxembourg**

Left: Group photo with the members of the Constitutional Tribunal and International IDEA experts in Myanmar in June 2018.
Right: Participants discuss the comparative perspective offered in the seminars and substate constitutions in the context of Myanmar.

Substate constitutions (SSCs) are one of the most hotly debated issues in Myanmar today—particularly whether they guarantee more autonomy to substate entities. International IDEA produced a policy paper on this issue: Substate Constitutions in Fragile and Conflict-Affected Settings. Authors Kimana Zulueta-Fuelscher and Asanga Welikala addressed such questions at the launch of the Myanmar-language version of the publication, and in a series of seminars in Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw. The events, organized by International IDEA Myanmar's MyConstitution programme and supported by the governments of Norway and Luxembourg, reached senior officials in government and the judiciary as well as civil society. The programme seeks to strengthen expertise in constitution-building, which in turn supports stable and inclusive peace and democracy in Myanmar.

The seminars introduced SSCs, unpacked the concept of constitutional space—the degree to which entities can define their own goals and establish their own institutions and processes—and how it determines the scope for constitution-building at the substate level. Participants welcomed the comparative perspective offered in the seminars and engaged in lively discussions on SSCs in the context of Myanmar.

A participant from the Constitutional Tribunal reflected that 'it is good to know more about federal and non-federal countries and their [substate and central] constitutions. It will be useful to overcome the challenges we face when Myanmar becomes a federal system'. A member of the Thanintharyi Constitution Drafting committee remarked that the seminar cleared up several misconceptions and would be useful to the committee, and said he would share and apply the lessons learned in the drafting process.

A common misconception in Myanmar is that SSCs automatically lead to more autonomy for substate entities, and are thus a means to, and a key part of, self-determination. This is not necessarily the case and depends on the constitutional space that the central state constitution grants the SSCs. SSCs are also often viewed as a necessary condition for federalism. Yet the programme highlighted that both unitary and federal states can have SSCs, and that many well-functioning federal states do not have—or even *prohibit*—them.

Min Zaw Oo of the Myanmar Institute for Peace and Security noted that SSCs do not necessarily equal self-determination, but that they have the potential to establish power sharing, room for substate legislation, a distinct substate identity, and to strengthen the role of institutions at various levels of government. Finally, he expressed that the policy paper provides insights that go beyond the focus on secession and self-determination, and that this could prove helpful in the ongoing talks in Myanmar.

This broad engagement enhanced understanding among key project stakeholders of the connection between the peace and constitution-building processes and federalism, and an increased desire for more seminars on this topic at the state or region level. Following the MyConstitution seminars, two civil society boundary partners formally requested that International IDEA organize similar seminars in Myanmar's states and regions, which has been incorporated into the programme's work plan for 2019 onwards.

CONSTITUTION-BUILDING PROCESSES

Pioneering constructive engagement and dialogue in reforming Lebanon's constitution

Working group dialogue series involving political parties creates space for reforming key constitutional provisions

International IDEA assists constitution makers in Lebanon to apply knowledge and skills to make more informed choices regarding constitutional design and processes.

Funding: Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen

The first meeting of the working group to set priorities for the coming year with representatives of the German Embassy in Beirut, Lebanon, on 11 November 2017.

For decades, Lebanon's constitution has contributed to a series of crippling political crises, which have increased in intensity, length and frequency. As a result, a broad range of Lebanese political actors and commentators agree that some form of constitutional reform is both desirable and necessary. For the first time in Lebanon's recent history, activists representing nearly all political parties engaged in constitutional dialogues, jointly facilitated by International IDEA and the Lebanese non-governmental organization Beyond Reform & Development.

The working group of 15 young political activists, lawyers and journalists debated necessary reforms with the aim of proposing solutions to a series of constitutional crises. The discussions, held in Beirut, covered the presidential election mechanism, distribution of powers within the executive and appointment procedures for the highest political offices. The many notable recommendations for constitutional reform that emerged from these dialogues are being compiled into a single Reform Proposal for publication.

'The project has already achieved a lot. For representatives of all of the main parties to get together and engage in a serious discussion of the constitution over a sustained period of time is a major achievement.'

—Gilbert Doumit, managing partner at Beyond Reform & Development

With the project now nearing the end of its first year, International IDEA has successfully improved the engagement of (and interaction between) key stakeholders in constitution-building processes. These stakeholders include leaders of the country's main political parties and several high-ranking Members of Parliament (MPs) who participated in nearly every dialogue session and are expected to express their support for broader public debate on the Reform Proposal when it is ready.

The project is now entering its second phase, which will disseminate the Reform Proposal in a concerted public outreach campaign in 2019. This next phase will give the core working group members a voice and a platform to advocate institutional reform for the benefit of ordinary citizens. This increased focus on institutional reform will help harness the current political momentum to encourage a wider public debate on the constitution and involve ordinary citizens in discussions about their country's future.

Photo credit: FNF Lebanon & Syria

CONSTITUTION-BUILDING PROCESSES

Facilitating a deeper understanding of semi-presidentialism in Ukraine

International IDEA's report developed Ukraine-focused resource on government reform with comparative lessons learned

International IDEA inspires constitution makers in Ukraine to apply knowledge and skills to make more informed decisions regarding the balance of power between Ukraine's president and parliament.

Funding: Core

Since gaining independence from the Soviet Union, many of Ukraine's political conflicts have centred on the division of powers, and power sharing between a powerful president and the parliament within its semi-presidential system. The country has experienced cyclical efforts to concentrate power in the Office of the President. For example, there were moves towards super-presidentialism from 1994 to 2004, while the period following the 2004 Orange Revolution was characterized by efforts to establish a dual executive, shared between the president and prime minister. The pendulum swung back towards super-presidentialism between 2010 and 2014, but these efforts were reset yet again after the Euromaidan Revolution in 2014.

As Ukraine strengthens its democracy post-Euromaidan, Ukrainians want to learn from their own constitutional history and compare these to experiences in the region and beyond. There is additional interest in exploring the strengths and weaknesses of its current political arrangement in terms of good governance, democracy and the rule of law.

To inform the debate on constitutional good governance in Ukraine, International IDEA, the Center for Constitutional Transitions, and the Centre for Policy and Legal Reforms, a leading Ukrainian think tank, joined forces to develop a comprehensive analysis of semi-presidential governance in the country. The publication **Semi-presidentialism and Inclusive Governance in Ukraine: Reflections for Constitutional Reform** assesses how semi-presidentialism can promote stable, democratic and inclusive governance in Ukraine. It analyses key challenges to the country's constitutional stability in recent decades, presents relevant comparative knowledge, and provides reflections and recommendations that could benefit a wide range of stakeholders, such as legislators, policy advisers, think tanks and grassroots activists.

Since its launch in April 2018, the report has been well received by a broad group of influential constitutional law and design experts, current and former members of the Constitutional Court, MPs, civil society organizations and the media, with endorsements from representatives of the Council of Europe's Venice Commission and the European Union. The report has also informed discussions at several other meetings with MPs, the executive and civil society organizations, including in partnership with the USAID Responsible Accountable Democratic Assembly programme. These have focused on ways to strengthen parliamentary oversight functions—a core democratic principle for ensuring that checks and balances work properly across various branches of government and help protect the integrity of the constitutional order.

> '**With such knowledge resources and discussions, we continue to improve relevant legal norms and when the window of opportunity appears, we should be able to present a set of proposals for constitutional reform, developed based on expert consultations and international best practices.'**
>
> *–Yuriy Hanushchak, former Member of Parliament, constitutional law expert*

Download the publication: [Semi-presidentialism and Inclusive Governance in Ukraine: Reflections for Constitutional Reform](#)
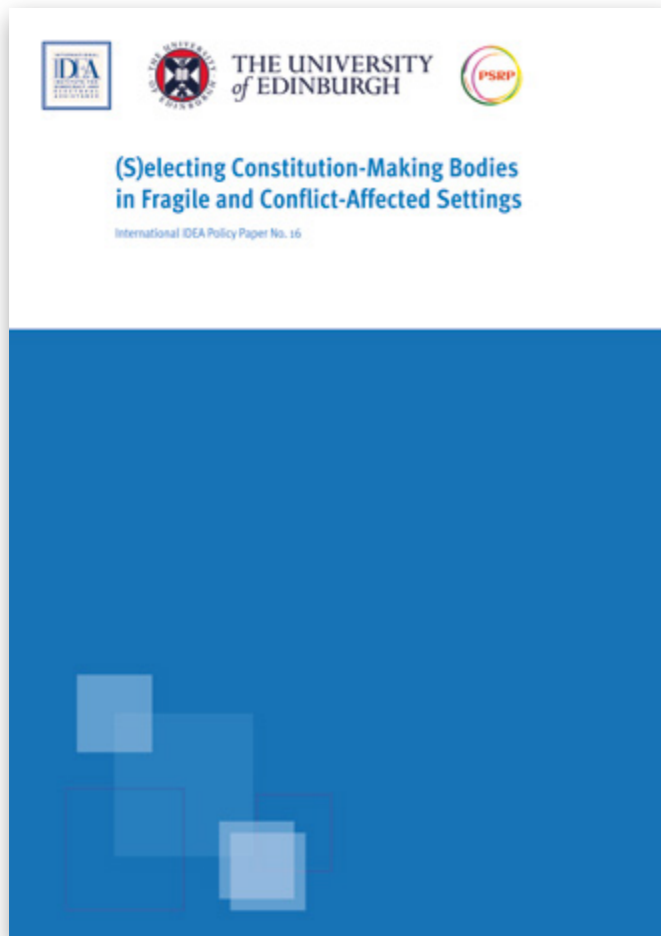
Outcome stories

CONSTITUTION-BUILDING
PROCESSES

International IDEA
supports advisers to
constitution makers to
expand coordination and
collaboration to advance
coherent approaches
and good practices in
constitution-building
processes.

Funding:
Core

Supporting constitution-building advisers to learn from each other

Constitution-building advisers rely on International IDEA knowledge products and networks to offer high-quality advice

IDEA
THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH
PSRP

(S)electing Constitution-Making Bodies in Fragile and Conflict-Affected Settings
International IDEA Policy Paper No. 16

International IDEA's **Constitution-Building Programme** (CBP) has forged and sustained crucial networking among a community of experts and advisers to constitution makers. Our multi-faceted approach to network strengthening has produced a collaborative and communicative community of practice that supports global learning, enhanced coordination and the provision of high-quality advice at the country level supported by International IDEA knowledge products.

'International IDEA's resources on constitution-making processes and constitutional design have been a reference point in literally every place I've been as an adviser: I've used them as a basis for bespoke memos on specific questions, along with other advisers I have referred decision-makers to them, and as often I've been asked about them by domestic actors who have found them on their own. For advisers in particular they are invaluable because they alert us to practices across a range of legal traditions and help curb the tendency to advice the designs and practices we know.'

– Christina Murray, senior adviser for Constitutions and Process Design, UN Standby Mediation Team

International IDEA has taken a leading role in convening annual events such as the Edinburgh Dialogues and the Melbourne Forum on Constitution-Building, which strengthen relationships between interrelated communities of practice ranging from transitional justice to conflict mediation, peace-building, elections and the rule of law. In addition, CBP regularly collaborates with advisers to constitution-building processes, including the United Nations, academic institutions and individual experts to address current issues in constitution-building and enhance coordinated country-level technical support. Through these interactions, advisers to constitution makers and other community members have come to rely on CBP's in-house specialized expertise and knowledge products, and regularly request its engagement in country-level interventions.

In early 2018, for example, Tuvalu began the process of rewriting its 1986 constitution with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) as a key partner. From 26 February to 2 March, the UNDP convened a workshop with the Tuvalu Constitutional Review Committee. The UNDP assigned International IDEA knowledge resources as background reading for all ten workshop sessions.

In December 2018, the UN held a two-day workshop in Bangkok to help country-level teams more effectively engage with constitution makers, civil society and constitution implementors. The UN facilitation team utilized several CBP knowledge products for the event, including the 2018 publication *(S)electing Constitution-Making Bodies in Fragile and Conflict-Affected Settings.* In February 2018, at a launch event for a joint paper developed by International IDEA's Africa and West Asia team and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia on future elections in Syria, a separate paper was also presented that focused on possible constitutional options for Syria. The author of this second report—a Syrian academic based in Damascus—said that this paper was very easy to write 'because IDEA's constitution-building publications are so good, and the Arabic versions are so readable. They are so good that I almost didn't have anything else to say'.

Download the publication: **(S)electing Constitution-Making Bodies in Fragile and Conflict-Affected Settings**

34   **Annual Outcome Report 2018**

International IDEA   35

POLITICAL PARTICIPATION
AND REPRESENTATION

Stronger alliances combat violence against women in Bolivia

A regional law is developed to reduce and prevent gender-based violence against women

International IDEA assists public interest groups for women in Bolivia to engage with representative institutions to improve public policy for gender-based violence prevention and response.

Funding: Core

Coordinadora de la Mujer mobilization demonstration on 'Budgets against Violence' on 26 March 2018 in the streets of Cochabamba, Bolivia.

Bolivia has one of the highest rates of violence against women in Latin America. A femicide is registered every three days, and there are 13 complaints per day regarding crimes of a sexual nature. International IDEA has therefore supported various Bolivian women's public interest groups to advocate public policies to protect women. Their objective is to push the government of Bolivia to implement and sufficiently resource a broad legal framework in favour of women's rights.

In the first step of the advocacy campaign, awareness of the problem of violence against women was raised through the national 'Budgets against Violence' campaign, which highlighted the low levels of investment in combating this problem. This work was accompanied by media administration and networking campaigns. Secondly, a network of more than sixty regional Women Special Interest Groups was developed and approximately 441 women's organizations were informed about their rights and the related tuitions of regional governments.

Next, alliances with regional governments were promoted so that regional policies and plans could be drafted with citizen participation. Six regional plans were developed and approved through technical workshops and regional meetings; in partnership with regional assembly members, three regional laws were subsequently approved.

Cochabamba was the first region in the country to develop a coordinated action plan—called 'Kallpachanakuna warmis sumaj kausay tarpuspa' ('Women, let's strengthen ourselves sowing good living'). The regional legislative assembly backed the plan with the passage of a law. 'This progress is the result of struggle of women and we have to be vigilant to comply with the Law', according to Francisca Lopez, representative of the Indigenous Peasant Women's National Confederation of Bolivia, Bartolina Sisa. Lopez emphasized that progress requires coordination among all stakeholders. For Mónica Novillo, executive director of the Coordinadora de la Mujer, International IDEA's main partner in the project, the process underway in Cochabamba is an important signal of the political will of its authorities and an example to follow.

As a result of this process, the region of Tarija developed a five-year plan and a regional law that seek to reduce and prevent violence against women. 'The drafting of the five-year plan saved the regional government time and money as it will no longer have to organize roundtables or workshops, and also gives legitimacy and richness to institutional work', said the director of citizen security of the governor's office of Tarija, Abdel Vergara Vilte. The director also emphasized that the plan constitutes accelerated progress towards more operational work.

Similar initiatives are being undertaken in four other regions (Oruro, Chuquisaca, La Paz and Santa Cruz) of the country, where International IDEA's project is taking place.

Photo credit: courtesy of Coordinadora de la Mujer

**POLITICAL PARTICIPATION
AND REPRESENTATION**

Enhancing the legislative framework for political party financing in South Africa

The Constitutional Court rules that parliament must amend legislation to ensure greater transparency

The Constitutional Court of South Africa uses publication by International IDEA's to strengthen legislation to prevent and mitigate threats to democracy posed by both illegal and illicit money in politics.

Funding: Core

The role of money in politics has been a feature of South Africa's political landscape since the early days of its democratic transition. The absence of legislation to regulate private donations to political parties is notable in a country with an otherwise relatively strong anti-corruption framework. In short, private funding of political parties has been largely unregulated, with few or no disclosure requirements. This lack of regulation has created an environment that has raised the risk of conflicts of interest and political corruption, which threaten the country's democratic governance.

Past attempts to force political parties to reveal the sources of their funding, mainly through the Promotion of Access to Information Act, have proven unsuccessful. However, on 21 June 2018, the country's Constitutional Court confirmed a ruling made by the Western Cape Division of the High Court by declaring that the act is unconstitutional because it does not 'provide for the record, preservation and reasonable disclosure of information on the private funding of political parties and independent candidates'. The judgement further ruled that Parliament must amend the act to ensure 'reasonable access to information on the private funding of political parties and independent candidates'.

In passing the judgement and highlighting the negative impact of money in politics, the Constitutional Court referenced International IDEA's publication *Funding of Political Parties and Election Campaigns: A Handbook on Political Finance.* The Institute has contributed to the broader debate on political party financing and, through the Constitutional Court's judgement, the strengthening of the country's legislation to ensure greater transparency regarding the sources of private funding for political parties and candidates.

Download the publication: **Funding of Political Parties and Election Campaigns: A Handbook on Political Finance**

POLITICAL PARTICIPATION AND REPRESENTATION

Empowering Bolivian youth to draft public policies

Young people draft proposals for improved government plans on the environment, health, citizen security, transparency and employment

International IDEA empowered public interest groups for youth in Bolivia to engage with representative institutions to improve public policy and practice, and to hold political decision-makers to account.

Funding: Sweden

National Meeting of Young Promoters of Public Policies on 27 September 2018 in La Paz, Bolivia.

Youth organizations contribute to the development and strengthening of democratic institutions in Bolivia by drafting participatory proposals for public policies and improving the relationship between the state and civil society. Given the traditional exclusion or subordination of youth in public policy issues, representatives from over 200 youth organizations, convened by International IDEA in collaboration with the Government of Sweden, expressed themselves in pluralistic advocacy platforms on the drafting and governance of public policies in the autonomous regions of El Beni, Cochabamba, La Paz, Santa Cruz and Tarija. Five parallel and widely participatory

processes have been developed on key topics of collective interest and structured in an agenda of public policy proposals with a focus on youth.

This initiative supports the country's decentralization process and coincides with the recent adoption of the State Comprehensive Planning System, which seeks to coordinate public policy planning between the central and regional autonomous governments. The main system is the Comprehensive Territorial Development Plan, which determines the institutional practices needed to achieve the goals and results set out in the medium-term plan.

Young people, through platforms promoted, linked, trained and visualized by International IDEA, conducted a critical review of the Comprehensive Territorial Development Plans of the five regions and drafted proposals to adjust the plans related to various topics, such as environment, climate change, the fight against violence, health, citizen security, transparency, open government, employment, sexual and reproductive rights, new state institutions and democracy.

The interest, commitment and openness of the leaders of the youth organizations in this unprecedented initiative is noteworthy. The organizations that participated in the process have maintained their relationships beyond the scope of the project, and have engaged in advocacy actions with legislative and executive authorities, other civil society organizations, and the main government and opposition regional political organizations.

POLITICAL PARTICIPATION AND REPRESENTATION

Improving the democratic capacity of local governments in Bolivia through a School of Governance

Santa Cruz is the first region in Bolivia to establish an institution specialized in governance training

International IDEA supported the subnational governments in the region of Santa Cruz in Bolivia to improve their practices and decision-making processes to become more transparent, inclusive, responsive and accountable to all citizens.

Funding: Core

Alfonso Ferrufino Valderama, senior adviser for International IDEA's Bolivia office, gives the opening address at the School of Governance in Santa Cruz, Bolivia.

International IDEA played a key role in an innovative endeavour to foster development in South America. One of the main barriers to development in Bolivia is the low quality of governance, which leads to inefficiency and ineffectiveness of public policies at the national, regional and municipal levels.

International IDEA, along with the Governor's Office of Santa Cruz, the country's largest region, conducted a study on the status of governance in the region. The study revealed institutional weaknesses in strategic planning, the implementation of public policies, and the monitoring and measuring of results. The analysis also determined that one of the main causes of governance flaws was the deficient technical training of public servants responsible for administrative processes in regional governments. These professional and institutional limitations were found to be similar, or more extreme, at other state and regional levels of Bolivia.

In response to the need to improve the skills of public servants, the governor's office created the School of Governance in Santa Cruz (Escuela de Cruceña de Administración Pública - ECAP), and requested specialized technical assistance from International IDEA to design the ECAP. The Institute helped design the school by tailoring successful models from other countries to the local context in Santa Cruz. The ECAP was designed to train public officials from 56 municipal governments, covering the entire territory of Santa Cruz. It can also offer training services to other public institutions or civil society organizations.

Santa Cruz is the first region in Bolivia to establish an institution specialized in governance training. To improve institutional skills in Bolivia's largest region, the ECAP will help boost development, and will become a benchmark for all other regions in the country.

Photo credit: International IDEA

POLITICAL PARTICIPATION AND REPRESENTATION

Building bridges for dialogue

Strengthening Peru's democracy in a zone of violence

Using different playful and participatory activities, students from the Monzón Valley drafted a citizen agenda to present to the mayor-elect. They also made personal and collective commitments in favour of honesty and the fight against corruption.

Learn about youth participation in Monzón Valley, Peru.

The Monzón Valley was one of the last places in Peru to be liberated from the presence of narco-terrorism. The absence of the state in this area facilitated the development of violence and illicit activities, and it became a producer of coca leaves for drug trafficking during a climate of generalized violence.

This situation began to change five years ago when government authorities and institutions started focusing on peacebuilding and promoting alternative crops such as cacao and coffee. Today, even though the local people recognize the value of the peacebuilding process, they have not yet been able to turn the legal crops into a profitable activity, therefore they mistakenly associate legality with economic precariousness.

In this context, International IDEA found an opportunity to implement a project to strengthen democratic values.

Photo credit: Joel Guillermo Utia Linares

International IDEA strengthened public interest groups for youth in Monzón Valley to engage with representative institutions in a democratic and effective way to improve public policy and practice, and to hold political decision-makers to account.

Funding: USAID

The initial proposal was to carry out activities with 30 young leaders from school councils in 2018, an election year. There was so much interest in the proposed activities among local school principals and teachers that the project broadened opportunities for participation. Consequently, three public schools from the area got involved, and the project worked with a total of 299 young people (136 girls and 163 boys) aged between 13 and 18 years.

Using several playful and participatory methodologies, the project formulated a diagnostic of Monzón to visualize the participants' dream town. International IDEA and its partners also shared information about concepts to understand democracy as a way of coexistence and government. Moreover, the students participated in a reflection on corruption and its consequences for daily life, and identified proposals to fight against it. At the end of the process, they drafted a citizen agenda and personal and collective commitments to honesty and transparency.

One of the activities that attracted the highest level of participation was the mural painting in the schools, which featured the participants' own designs and messages. Large numbers of children and adults also visited fairs and movie forum sessions set up in public squares. It was very important to conduct these activities in public squares, notes Caleb Nieto, mayor of Cachicoto town: 'It is very exciting to see the children watch movies on the square and have fun. Some years ago, Shining Path would bring us to this very place early in the morning to punish us', he said.

The project has helped build relationships for a dialogue among the school community, students and local families. It has also inspired and supported the young leaders and farmers who drafted the citizen agenda to present it to the mayor-elect of Monzón district, who supports the development of alternative crops.

Finished mural in Antonio Raimondi school in the town of Cachicoto. It depicts the wish to have access to basic utility services such as water, sewers, roads and infrastructure, as well as a life based on agriculture and respect for nature. The mural shows the town being attacked by corruption from the sides, but at the centre the population fights for its ideals.

Photo credit: Joel Guillermo Utia Linares

POLITICAL PARTICIPATION AND REPRESENTATION

Supporting political parties to mobilize citizens through digital innovation in Ukraine

International IDEA holds regular Party Innovation Hubs for all political parties in Ukraine

International IDEA inspired political parties in Ukraine to improve their functions of mobilizing citizens and aggregating their interests into political programmes.

Funding: Core

Trainees at a Party Innovation Hub.

The political party landscape in Ukraine is still emerging. While a handful of parties have attempted to build a robust structure and develop programmatic strategies to attract and engage voters, many are set up as electoral projects with no substantive vision or efficient internal structures. In addition to these long-standing challenges, the rapid advancement of communication technology, including social media and its impact on political and civic engagement, poses new challenges and opportunities for political parties.

In this context, parties from across the political spectrum in Ukraine are keen to enhance their digital expertise to become better at managing party organizations, and to engage with citizens and increase their public support. In response to these demands, International IDEA, in partnership with the Ukrainian School of Political Studies (run by the Agency for Legislative Initiatives), launched Party Innovation Hubs in December 2017 and events continued throughout 2018. This project runs a series of workshops that introduce Ukrainian parties to cutting-edge digital tools for political outreach, accountability and policy development. It supports parties in their efforts to more effectively mobilize citizens.

Party Innovation Hubs:
- narrow the gap between political parties and citizens through the better use of information technology and the internet;
- popularize more innovative digital and non-digital solutions in party organization and management, elections and campaigning, political party finance and transparency, outreach and communication, and policy-making for political parties; and
- increase parties' accountability and transparency in order to ensure trust and effective dialogue between parties and voters.

The hubs bring together representatives from parties and electoral campaigns from various European and US parties as well as Ukrainian civic groups, and feature speakers with direct, hands-on experience in digital innovation in politics. Four Innovation Hubs were conducted in 2018. The initiative has engaged over 100 members from all parties in Ukraine, targeting their middle ranks and the younger generation. Participants usually include local campaign managers and voter outreach coordinators. Participants often return to request help in applying various digital applications within their parties, and have shown an increasing use of various customer relations management applications in areas such as party internal management, member outreach and voter preference research.

Photo credit: International IDEA

Learn more and follow the Party Innovation Hub on Facebook

POLITICAL PARTICIPATION AND REPRESENTATION

Strengthening practices for women's and youth's political participation in Mongolia

Open Society Forum brings resources to Mongolia through EU-funded Level Up: Political Finance with Integrity project

International IDEA supports political parties in Mongolia to improve their functions so that they contribute to a party system that is inclusive, responsive and accountable to all citizens. These functions include mobilizing citizens, aggregating their interests into political programmes, recruiting political leaders to contest elections, and organizing governments and parliaments.

Funding: European Union

Political parties present their commitment to create an enabling political and legislative environment to increase the participation and representation of women and youth in Mongolia.

International IDEA is undertaking multi-dimensional approaches to help level the playing field for the inclusive political participation and representation of women and youth in Mongolia. The Institute has implemented an assessment of the political finance legal framework and its implementation, facilitated interparty dialogues as channels for reform of the political and legal systems, and explored practices to address the unequal participation and representation of women and youth. The Technical Sub-Committee supporting the parliamentary taskforce in drafting an amendment to the legislation on political parties and political financing is expected to use the assessment of the political finance legal framework. The assessment document, *Political Finance in Mongolia: Assessment and Recommendations*, was launched at a national multi-stakeholder dialogue in November 2018.

By acknowledging the barriers that women and young people encounter in politics, particularly to be elected into leadership and decision-making positions, the five main political parties in Mongolia—three of which are represented in the National Parliament—committed their political parties to promote changes in the following three areas in preparation for the 2020 elections:

- **Electoral system reforms:** To introduce new legislation or amend current laws such as the Electoral Law or the Law on Political Parties after consultations with young people and women in political parties;

- **Implementation of gender and youth quotas:** To introduce mechanisms to strengthen the implementation of the legislated quotas, including enforcement within political parties and for national-level elective positions; and

- **Introduce public funding targeted at promoting youth and women's participation:** To use political financing to promote the equal nomination of women and men candidates and ensure that political parties do not nominate women at the bottom of their candidate lists (introduce the zipper system into the quota). In addition, to introduce political party financing that is earmarked for women and youth empowerment.

Political parties' stated and written commitments made during the dialogue represent a change in practice and a significant step towards creating an enabling political and legislative environment for increasing the participation and representation of women and youth in Mongolia. Such clear and positive signs of improvement within Mongolian political party functions will contribute to a party system that is inclusive, responsive and accountable to all citizens, including women and youth.

The Level Up: Political Finance with Integrity project aims to improve political finance regulatory frameworks in Moldova, Mongolia and Paraguay and is co-funded by the European Union.

Download the report: **Political Finance in Mongolia: Assessment and Recommendations**

**POLITICAL PARTICIPATION
AND REPRESENTATION**

International IDEA
inspires Japan's
national parliament
to become more
inclusive, responsive
and accountable to all
citizens.

**Funding:
Sasakawa Foundation**

Promoting gender equality in politics in Japan

Japan introduces inclusive, gender equality principles for
political parties and state and local governments
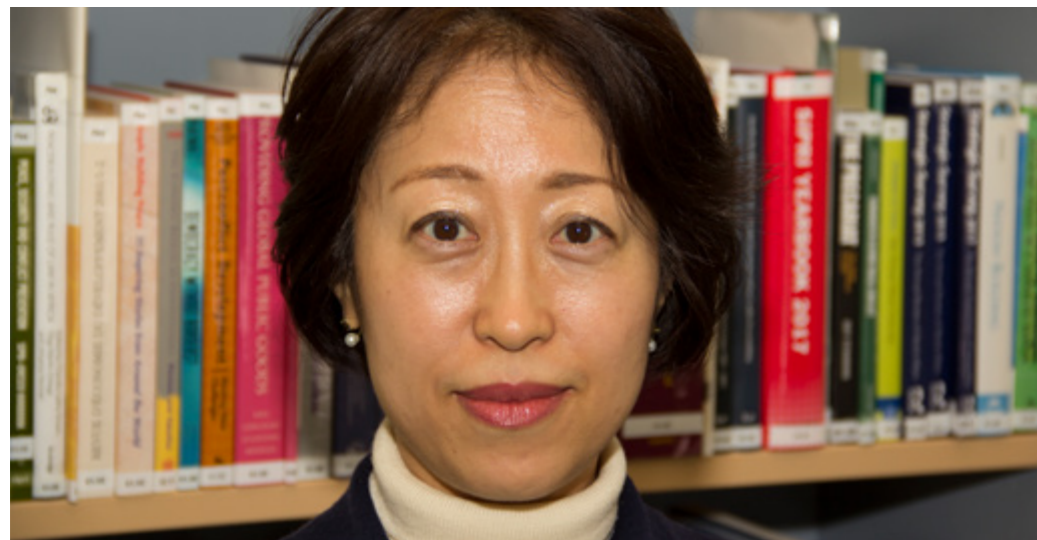
Mari Miura is a professor of Political Science at Sophia University in Japan.

Discover more about Mari Miura's work - a short interview

Mari Miura is a professor of Political Science at Sophia University in Japan and an adviser to the parliamentary group which prepared the country's Act on the Promotion of Gender Equality in the Political Field, which was passed in May 2018. In this capacity, she draws on International IDEA's Gender Quotas Project Database and other resources on democratic accountability.

While the initial approach to the legislation was to propose quotas, this proved unsuccessful due to the issues related to constitutionality it raised. 'There is no translation for [equality] in Japanese', said Miura. She translates the term 'equality of opportunity' as parity, since the goal is not necessarily to make opportunities the same for each gender.

Miura describes the law as a clear, 'shared agreement or consensus in the Japanese society and politics to achieve as a target gender parity'. Although the law is not binding, its impact is already changing how people behave. It is also a positive sign of the direction Japan's national parliament is heading towards in becoming more inclusive, responsive and accountable to all citizens. Since the drafting of the Act on the Promotion of Gender Equality in the Political Field, Miura and her colleagues have sensed a 'changed mood' in Japan. For example, newspaper articles now indicate the number of male and female candidates nominated by each party rather than just the total number because the law encourages the media to share the information.

Building on the law's momentum, Miura is leading a Japanese delegation in study visits to Sweden—including International IDEA—and the United Kingdom to consider how Japan's political parties might include incentives for gender parity and to set numerical targets. As Miura looks forward to researching monitoring practices and incentives to further strengthen legislation, International IDEA is ready to assist again with a recently updated Gender Quotas Project Database and its latest comparative research publication on *Gender-targeted Public Funding for Political Parties.*

Download the report: **Gender-targeted Public Funding for Political Parties**

**POLITICAL PARTICIPATION
AND REPRESENTATION**

Mentoring support for better democratic local governance: 160 days in Humla, Nepal

Rural municipalities in Nepal start practicing more deliberative democratic local governance processes for decision-making

Left: Community members from Humla come together to learn about local governance planning and operations from a mentor team.

Top right: A mentor discusses annual budget and plan formulation with the local people in the community.

Bottom right: The mentoring team successfully finished a Local Governance Support training in March 2018 before departing for Humla, Nepal.

Watch the journey to Humla – a short documentary

Humla is one of two remote districts in Nepal that has not yet been connected to the national road network. Due to the lack of electricity, internet, mobile networks, banking and other facilities, elected representatives are operating in difficult conditions with limited access to basic facilities and information, where also few experienced technical experts and officials would like to stay for long.

International IDEA supports local parliaments and governments in Humla to improve their practices and decision-making processes to become more transparent, inclusive, responsive and accountable to all citizens.

**Funding:
UK's Department for International Development**

A group of eight young, energetic and committed Nepalese graduates and a team leader have been working in two of Humla's rural municipalities—Adanchuli and Chankheli—as local government support and mentoring team, from March 2018. As part of a pilot programme, implemented by International IDEA, the team has been providing intensive mentoring support, to the elected representatives in particular.

People in the two municipalities quite easily accepted the four male and four female mentors into their previously closed-door meetings, community discussions and daily lives. During the first 160 days of the mentor team's stay, elected representatives learned about their individual and collective roles and responsibilities, how to reach out to citizens for example in settlement-level consultations in the local plan and budget formulation process, strategic planning and other processes. The elected representatives have also now started to give local people the chance to express their opinion as part of such consultations. "We knew nothing [but] fighting with each other to bring the projects that we favour", said Manju Shahi, an executive member and Ward 1 member. "Because of the [mentor] team we came to know about our roles and the procedure of annual budget and planning and worked through it. Now, we know the procedure, so next time we can make sure the same procedure is being followed", Shahi added.

Residents of these rural municipalities valued the mentoring approach, as it empowered representatives to better understand and embrace their functions and processes, and their role as representatives of all people in the municipality. The support encouraged these elected representatives to improve their practices, such as formulating their annual budget and strategic plan, and particularly to make decision-making processes more transparent, responsive and more accountable to citizens. They have never received this type of support before. ""We are very thankful to you [the team] because we knew nothing, and you brought us knowledge that we really needed", said the ward chair of Chankheli municipality.

The Humla Pilot is a component of the 'Coherence Programme' – a partnership between Nepal's Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration, International IDEA and the UK's Department for International Development, in operation between 2017-2019. The Coherence Programme aims to build common understanding of deliberative democratic local governance concepts and practice among federal, provincial and local stakeholders.

The positive result of the Humla Pilot team's work has prompted the neighbouring rural municipality of Tajakot in Humla to request similar support from International IDEA, and in 2019 the piloting work will be expanded to a few more municipalities in a different geographical area to test the approach in different operating conditions.

Humla Pilot mentors support local elected representatives to work towards more consultative processes, promoting democratic local governance.

POLITICAL PARTICIPATION AND REPRESENTATION

Planning Ulaanbaatar's future social services required improving policy and working with its citizens

Ulaanbaatar citizens engaged in assessing democratic accountability in services

International IDEA's citizen-led democracy assessment methodologies support public interest groups in Ulaanbaatar to engage with representative institutions in a democratic and effective way to improve public policy and practice, and to hold political decision makers to account.

Funding: Core

Left: The public forum on Strengthening Public Service Accountability through Citizen Participation in Ulaanbaatar on 6 December 2018.

Right: The assessment in Ulaanbaatar was useful in the policy, planning and operational aspects of delivering social welfare services, in part, to the elderly.

In 2015, the Ulaanbaatar city office established 'One-Stop Service Centres' to give citizens access to 380 public services offered by the municipality, and to make enquiries and file complaints. Since then, the municipality has implemented online systems to allow easy access of services and feedback mechanisms. The service centres were equipped with analysis systems to help identify flaws in existing service delivery. But there was no system in place to monitor long-term accountability in relationships, decision-making processes or management—a shortcoming identified by the local government. International IDEA's citizen-led democracy assessment methodologies were presented as a viable option to identify the gaps in the accountability mechanisms, analyse the challenges, and identify improvements in a participatory and reform-oriented approach.

Since 2016, the Asia and the Pacific and the Political Participation and Representation teams have worked with the Institute of Philosophy, Mongolian Academy of Science and Municipality of Ulaanbaatar to assess democratic accountability in the delivery of social welfare services in Ulaanbaatar. The assessment team also includes representatives of NGOs with a mandate to promote good governance.

On 6 December 2018, the project culminated in a public forum hosted by the Ulaanbaatar municipality, discussing the findings and recommendations of the assessment. The assessment's key findings were aimed at improving policy, planning and operational aspects of delivering three social welfare services—rehabilitation services for the elderly, resort and sanatorium services for the elderly, and providing public transportation digital cards for people with disabilities. Recommendations included:

- developing new policies that would enhance the capacity of social workers at khooroo (the village) level;
- ensuring that all elderly citizens and people with disabilities receive appropriate welfare services;
- enhancing community monitoring and evaluation systems, including spaces for feedback to avoid corruption, and improved public transportation systems; and
- creating opportunities for NGOs to support and bring forward citizens' concerns.

These recommendations were positively received by the Ulaanbaatar city office, in part because the nature of the methodology ensured that Ulaanbaatar citizens were heavily engaged in the process. As a result, the municipality decided to adopt and institutionalize these recommendations in line with its strategic framework to improve local governance. Another outcome was to streamline the assessment tool and process to assess public services on a regular basis with citizen participation. A city ordinance has since been passed and signed on 30 November by the mayor. These outcomes are part of a broader public service reform agenda designed to improve the city's administrative processes and institutions (increased local good governance) through a citizen-led public service monitoring and assessment system.

Photo credit left: Municipality of Ulaanbaatar | Photo credit right: International IDEA

**POLITICAL PARTICIPATION
AND REPRESENTATION**

Opening the road to opportunities for farmers in Peru

Peru's female farmers associations use citizen-led approach to improve roads for agribusiness and community development

'We want them to take into account the experience at the farm. We also want them to take into account our proposals and what we are putting in this agenda, because we as residents know what we need and we can work in an articulated way with the authority, because in the end we all want the development of our people.'

— Adela Reyes - Flor of Boquerón.

International IDEA supports the rural female farmers groups in Peru to engage with representative institutions in a democratic and effective way to improve public policy and practice, and to hold political decision makers to account.

**Funding:
USAID**

Members of farming associations identify their communities needs and what they would like from Ucayali, Peru authorities during a day of painting.

Farmers in Peru's remote areas, such as Aguaytía, generally lack the necessary logistical resources to remain profitable and the technical knowledge to keep their associations active. However, groups such as the Association of Women Entrepreneurs, Flor de Boquerón, have a high level of activity. The association's president, Adela Reyes Cruz, has dedicated more than eight years to the cultivation and production of coca derivatives. Reyes knows about the post-eradication work of the coca leaf, as well as the alternative development program and the projects implemented from the provincial municipality of Padre Abad and the Regional Directorate of Agriculture of Ucayali. However, she feels that this knowledge is only useful if they work with the authorities. There is a clear need to protect the resources from corruption that would only harm people's lives and economy.

The Citizen Engagement for Clean Election project represents an opportunity to get involved with the authorities and the members of the Association of Agropecuarian Women Entrepreneurs of the New Ucayali farmhouse. The project involved the community in various activities, including working with young students on democratic culture, painting murals on project-related themes, and showing related films in open-air cinemas.

With International IDEA's support in the project, the associations identified their needs and recognized the importance of their participation to realize change in their communities. They actively explored their emotions and feelings about where they live, what they lived through and felt between the 1980s and 1990s. They discussed what they feel about what is happening in the country now and what they expect from the new authorities. All this emerged through activities such as clay moulding, painting and dancing that allowed them to share freely.

'They have taken us into account. They have reached out to our organization and we have had the opportunity to make our proposals heard. We did not feel that we were wrong to give our ideas because they are our ideas and they have respected them', said Reyes. 'Now that we have sent these ideas and proposals to our authorities, we hope they can listen to us. We now know that is going to be important to have direct contact with him (the mayor), and not with other intermediaries. As an association that takes us into account is very important because we have many needs, there are many other associations that should be taken into account, which are growing and if we do not have the support of the authorities, the organizations fall,' said Reyes.

The main proposals of the Citizen Agenda prepared by both groups of women in Boquerón and Nuevo Ucayali focused on attention to basic services and health appear. The agenda also highlights the need for the authorities to review processes related to agriculture and improve roads and communication. Group representatives participated in delivering the agenda to the newly elected mayor's team in a big ceremony with an audience of almost 120 people.

Developing Bhutan's democratic parliamentary practices and culture

International IDEA supports the Parliament of Bhutan to improve its legislative, oversight and representation functions, and to help make its institutions more transparent, inclusive, responsive and accountable to all citizens.

Funding: Core

Bhutanese officials and International IDEA staff in front of the Parliament of Bhutan.

International IDEA's technical expertise and experience working with democracies around the world have had a positive influence in shaping Bhutan's democratic processes, culture and parliamentary practices. International IDEA and the Parliament of Bhutan started working together in 2013 after the country's second parliamentary elections. At this time the secretarial staffs were familiarizing themselves with parliamentary functioning, and most MPs were in their first term.

With a commitment to capacity development at the national level, International IDEA was welcomed into a partnership with Parliament. The multiple-phased Bhutan Parliamentary Support project was guided closely by Parliament's Strategic Development Plans. The main objective of the project is to strengthen Parliament's capacity to exercise its legislative, representative and oversight functions to become more transparent, inclusive, responsive and accountable to all citizens in Bhutan.

Over the last five years, International IDEA has played a strategic role in enhancing the functioning of Parliament by supporting a more efficient and transparent lawmaking process; strengthening its human resources; building a modern IT infrastructure designed to support lawmaking, representation and oversight functions; and developing MPs' capacity for public communications and dialogue. This support is distributed throughout each of the four key areas of parliamentary functions—legislation, oversight, outreach and administration.

Legislation

Much of International IDEA's support has been devoted to improving the legislative capacities of MPs and their staff. Numerous training sessions on legislative drafting and legislative processes have improved MPs' understanding of the process and the secretariat staff's legislative research skills. As the capacities developed, it soon became clear that a standardized and common approach to legislation is needed. Therefore, the project was instrumental in producing a Legislative Drafting Manual designed to streamline and standardize the country's lawmaking process. Lawmakers across the country refer to the manual whenever they are drafting or amending laws, promoting consistency within the legislative mechanisms. The manual provides clear guidelines and procedures for drafting laws that result in high-quality legislation. Prior to this initiative, legislation was plagued by inconsistency, inefficiency and ambiguities.

Oversight

International IDEA's technical and financial support, especially the guidance provided in the manuals, is improving parliamentary oversight functions. The Committee Manual including research mentoring is enabling parliamentary committees to perform their oversight functions efficiently and effectively.

According to the outgoing Speaker of the National Assembly, Jigme Zangpo, 'The manuals are very useful for the parliamentarians and we will pass it on as a legacy for all future parliamentarians and their staffs. It will be read and referred to like a roadmap.' He added, 'The manuals are important to strengthen the representational, oversight and committee functions of the Parliament.'

Photo credit: International IDEA

Outreach

International IDEA's civic education programme is the first of its kind in Bhutan. Led by parliamentarians, it has helped increase familiarity in Bhutan's nascent democracy with the roles, responsibilities and functioning of parliament.

International IDEA initiated a series of media trainings for MPs designed to strengthen their ability to better represent themselves as well as the Bhutanese parliamentary processes and functions. The Institute also assisted in producing a series of talk shows on national TV, which helped increase MPs' confidence and efficiency in communicating with the media. The talk show series covered the role of parliament and its legislative procedures and generated great interest from the public as well as positive feedback from the MPs, who liked the learning experience of engaging with the media. These programmes also served as an ideal platform for the MPs to share their knowledge with the public. More importantly, some MPs felt that educating the public, as well as better informing themselves about parliamentary processes, saved them time and resources that they would otherwise have to dedicate to visiting their constituencies.

Familiarity with parliamentary processes meant that they could focus on discussing important national and local issues with the people, rather than explaining the processes through which these issues can be tackled. The program was aired in both the national language and in English; 42 parliamentarians participated in 32 shows over a two-year period.

Administration

During the project period, International IDEA conducted numerous capacity development activities for the staff of both houses of parliament. These included training sessions on legislative research and secretarial functioning, combined with several fellowship programs in which parliamentary staff were hosted in Australia, Sri Lanka and Canada. Learning from old and well-established parliaments was particularly effective in orienting young parliamentary staff on how to enhance systematic organizational practices in Bhutan. This project developed capacity within the Bhutanese Parliament to be more efficiently responsive in meeting citizen demands and performing its duties.

The coordinator of READ, a civil society organization in Bhutan, conducts civic voter education for youth in a READ centre.

Training of Assistant Research Officers, secretariat staff of Parliament of Bhutan by Carl Baker, House of Commons, Parliament of the UK, on a pro-bono basis.

Top: Photo courtesy of READ in Bhutan / Bottom: Photo credit: International IDEA

INTER-REGIONAL DIALOGUE ON DEMOCRACY

Advancing SDG 16 with partners and regional organizations

The Inter-Regional Dialogue on Democracy to continue its focus on Democracy and Peacebuilding in the margins of SDG 16

International IDEA staff and partners at the 7th High Level Meeting of the IRDD in September 2018.

Recognizing the importance of partnerships and coordinated efforts among peers and other in the field of democracy support, the leadership of International IDEA created in 2011 the Inter-Regional Dialogue on Democracy (IRDD), which aims at providing a unique platform for key global and regional organizations to gather and discuss key issues related to democracy and good governance, as well crosscutting issues such as gender, conflict, peacebuilding and sustainable development.

Among the main partners of the IRDD we include the African Union Commission, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Council of Europe, the European Union, the League of Arab States, the Organization of American States, the Pacific Islands Forum, and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation. The Community of Democracies and the United Nations are global partners of the IRDD, and the platform also provides a space for Civil Society organizations, experts and practitioners to have a direct line of engagement with government and institutions.

Photos credit: International IDEA

International IDEA strengthens partnerships and coordinates among key stakeholders through the Inter-Regional Dialogue on Democracy towards the advancement of SDG 16.

In 2018, the IRDD worked around the overall theme of "the Role of Global and Regional Organizations in the Advancement of Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Institutions", which focused on a thorough analysis of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16. We held an Inter-Regional Workshop under the auspices of the United Nations Office in Geneva, with the purpose of having an open conversation on what were the challenges and opportunities towards the achievement of SDG 16 as the main enabler of the broader 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and to propose policy recommendations that would inform decision makers at all levels based on the experiences of relevant stakeholders.

The workshop counted with the participation of key global players, including the Inter-Parliamentary Union; UNDP; the Peace Research Institute-Oslo; the Kofi Annan Foundation; Transparency International; the World Bank; UNICEF; the Global Challenges Foundation; CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation; the Quaker United Nations Office; the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund and the World Health Organization.

International IDEA also held the 7th High Level Meeting of the IRDD in September 2018, in the margins of the 73rd United Nations General Assembly, in New York City. The theme of the High-Level Meeting was "Sustainable Democracy and SDG 16: Path towards achieving Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions". This High-Level Meeting also took place in the sidelines of the 2018 Global Forum for Latin American and the Caribbean, jointly organized by International IDEA, the Global Foundation for Democracy and Development, the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, and Columbia University.

The work of the IRDD will continue to focus on the theme of Democracy and Peacebuilding in the margins of SDG 16 during 2019, and the report and policy recommendations distilled from all conferences and consultations held as part of the IRDD workplan will be presented at the United Nations High Level Political Forum to be held in New York in July 2019, and in the margins of the United Nations General Assembly in September 2019. A report with policy recommendations will be published in 2019.

As expressed by our partner institutions and reaffirmed by their continuous commitment to the IRDD platform, International IDEA has shown its leadership and convening capacity in the field of democracy support and has also proven its worth in facilitating the only global platform that enables cooperation at both, the multilateral and multidimensional levels, consolidating synergies and collaboration opportunities based on shared experiences and successful practices.

Office of International IDEA to the European Union

Helping to shape democratic governance at the EU level

The mission of the Office of International IDEA to the European Union is to represent our country programmes and knowledge resources on democracy before influential institutions and to try to impact their decision-making.

In 2018, our primary goals were strengthening and promoting EU leadership for democracy, supporting SDG 5 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women, as well as engaging young citizens to participate and discover ways to lead in the democratic process.

> **'Sweden has for a number of years put a strong emphasis on democracy promotion. The Office of International IDEA to the EU has been a valuable partner in this work, bringing a wealth of expertise and in-depth knowledge from its truly global network of researchers and practitioners. Seminars, round-table discussions and well-researched position papers have provided important input to our common democracy promotion work.'**
>
> **—Jenny Lennung Malmqvist, Counsellor at the Swedish Permanent Representation to the EU (2013–2018)**

Advocating enhanced democracy support resources in the EU Multi-annual Financial Framework 2021–2027

Will there be increased budgetary resources and improved modalities for democracy support?

Photo credit: Robyn Mack by flickr

The EU is the world's leading donor of official development assistance, and a major actor in global affairs. To uphold and further deepen its leadership role in promoting respect for democratic principles, human rights, the rule of law and inclusive governance worldwide, EU support for these values and norms must be confirmed as a key priority in the upcoming EU Multi-annual Financial Framework (MFF) 2021–2027.

In the period leading up to the presentation of the European Commission's EU MFF 2021–2027 proposal in May 2018, International IDEA's European Union office (EUO) initiated, led and coordinated among the major democracy support actors the design of a proactive advocacy strategy for increased EU budgetary resources and improved modalities for democracy support.

This led to the adoption of two joint statements by International IDEA, the European Partnership for Democracy, and the European Network of Political Foundations. The first, in May 2018, was on the importance of democracy and democracy support in the MFF. The second, in July 2018, was on the European Commission's proposal to establish the 'Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument' of the EU budget.

These joint statements were shared with key actors and bodies of EU institutions, representatives of EU and International IDEA Member States, and democracy support actors to raise awareness of the importance of ensuring an 'increased effort in democracy support and democratization (…) to protect and make democracy resilient' (Joint Statement 1, para 3) through the EU budget. To diversify these advocacy actions and increase their impact, in April 2018, the EUO organized a meeting with delegates of International IDEA Member States to the Human Rights Working Party and Development Working Party of the Council of the European Union to present recommendations on the next EU MFF, and to raise awareness about the need for active engagement on democracy support in the budget negotiations.

> **'The IDEA EU Office has a solid organization that allows for effective cooperation with the Institute's Member States, for example by bringing together EU and Member State policymakers for strategic discussions in the areas of democracy, elections and anti-corruption practices. The office helps keep these topics high on the agenda, also within the context of the next EU Multi-Annual Financial Framework, including the budget for EIDHR.'**
>
> **— Marijn Speth, policy officer at the Dutch Permanent Representation to the European Union (2015–2018)**

International IDEA's EU office influences EU democratic governance policies, and serves as a leading partner in advocacy for democracy and a broker for joint action to enhance impact.

Office of the Permanent Observer for International IDEA to the United Nations

Our commitment to progress on the UN's Sustainable Development Goals

The policy context

In the 2000 United Nations Millennium Declaration, heads of state and government affirmed their resolve to 'spare no effort to promote democracy and strengthen the rule of law'. However, the democratic optimism that marked that statement was soon reversed by the start, in the second half of that decade, of the 'democratic recession'. Despite affirming democratic principles and values in the Millennium Declaration, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) did not include actionable commitments in the area of democratic governance.

The negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda, launched after the 2012 Rio+20 conference, were influenced by a different political climate. When discussing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs, i.e. the successors to the MDGs), many countries opposed the use of the concept of democratic governance, as they considered it to be a new declination of old political conditionalities, which could potentially affect national sovereignty. Many countries resisted the inclusion of explicit references not only to the values of democracy, but even to the principle of accountability in the new SDG framework.

International IDEA's approach to policy advocacy

In this context, the Office of the Permanent Observer for International IDEA to the UN aimed to inspire an approach to defining the new agenda based on the democratic governance dimensions of the new goals. This objective required building coalitions, both with like-minded Member States and other strategic partners, to effectively exercise the leverage needed to influence complex negotiations in a crowded space, in which a plethora of stakeholders advocate several different (and competing) priorities.

The office closely consulted at all stages with the chair and the group of the troika in New York, as well as with all permanent missions of International IDEA Member States to the UN. It then promoted coalitions with a wide range of actors: the UN secretariat and UN agencies, programs, funds and entities; key strategic partners involved in the process, like the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the International Development Law Organization; and communities of practice, both from within International IDEA's key impact areas and other domains of focus, like peacebuilding, conflict prevention and the rule of law. The office produced and widely disseminated several policy briefs on democracy and the post-2015 development agenda.

Promoting democratic principles in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

International IDEA created, with 13 partner institutions, the SDG 16 Data Initiative, a project that supports the open and holistic tracking of the commitments made by all 193 UN Member States captured in SDG 16.

> **International IDEA helps create a targeted policy advocacy initiative and positioned itself as a credible and influential actor in the definition, and monitoring, of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.**

International IDEA's UN Office focused on a supportive approach based on defining indicators designed to monitor progress on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with specific reference to SDG 16. International IDEA created, with 13 other partner institutions, international organizations and think tanks, the SDG 16 Data Initiative, a project that supports the open and holistic tracking of the commitments made by all 193 UN Member States captured in SDG 16. The partners of the SDG16 Data Initiative have a diverse range of organizational focuses, covering all the issues and topics included within the 12 targets of SDG 16.

The SDG 16 Data Initiative was established to respond to the gap in comprehensive data on SDG 16 issues by combining perception- and experience-based indicators and the official indicators adopted by Member States. The initiative also makes civil society-generated data available to both policymakers and practitioners, allows for open global monitoring, and increases the availability of data for civil society actors. Collecting such data is critical for accountability and policymaking purposes, and thus plays a central role in helping to meet SDG 16. Accountability actors at the national level can use such data to hold governments to account for their commitment to establish peaceful, just and inclusive societies.

So far, the initiative has produced an online database resource and two annual reports, all of which were launched during the UN Statistical Commission with the engagement of Member States' national statistical agencies, including those of Cape Verde and the Philippines. The next report will be launched during the 2019 High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development that will review SDG 16, among other goals.

International IDEA has also produced a policy brief on *The Global State of Democracy Indices and the Sustainable Development Goals* that is being disseminated to Member States, especially those that will undertake voluntary national reviews. International IDEA has also collaborated with regional organizations through the Inter-Regional Dialogue on Democracy (IRDD), which provides a platform for regional organizations and other key stakeholders to discuss and exchange good practices on matters related to democracy, good governance and sustainable development. The IRDD platform and other partners, like the Community of Democracies, help to create a space to address the neglected regional dimensions of implementing the 2030 Agenda.

The Institute helped like-minded Member States appreciate the importance of including a democratic governance perspective in the SDG framework. The office helped shape the 2030 Agenda in three main ways:

- It helped influence the language and conceptual framework, which eventually included a reference to just and democratic societies in the preamble, and affirmed accountability as a key principle throughout the document. The office achieved this by providing Member States with focused policy analysis in support of including key principles of accountability, for example through a series of policy briefs on democratic accountability in service delivery, or by organizing Chatham House rule-based meetings with negotiators on democratic accountability at the national and subnational levels.

- It provided timely, expert advice on the architecture of the SDGs. The office successfully advocated the adoption of goals like SDG 5 on gender equality, SDG 10 on reduced inequality, SDG 11 on sustainable cities and communities, and SDG 16 on peace, justice and accountable institutions.

- It deepened Member States' understanding of the holistic nature of the agenda. Throughout the negotiation process, the office consistently emphasized that peaceful, inclusive and accountable institutions are not only a goal but also an enabler for the SDG framework, and that gender equality is not only a standalone goal and an enabler, but also an accelerator for achieving the SDGs.

Voices from the International IDEA community

Applying International IDEA knowledge
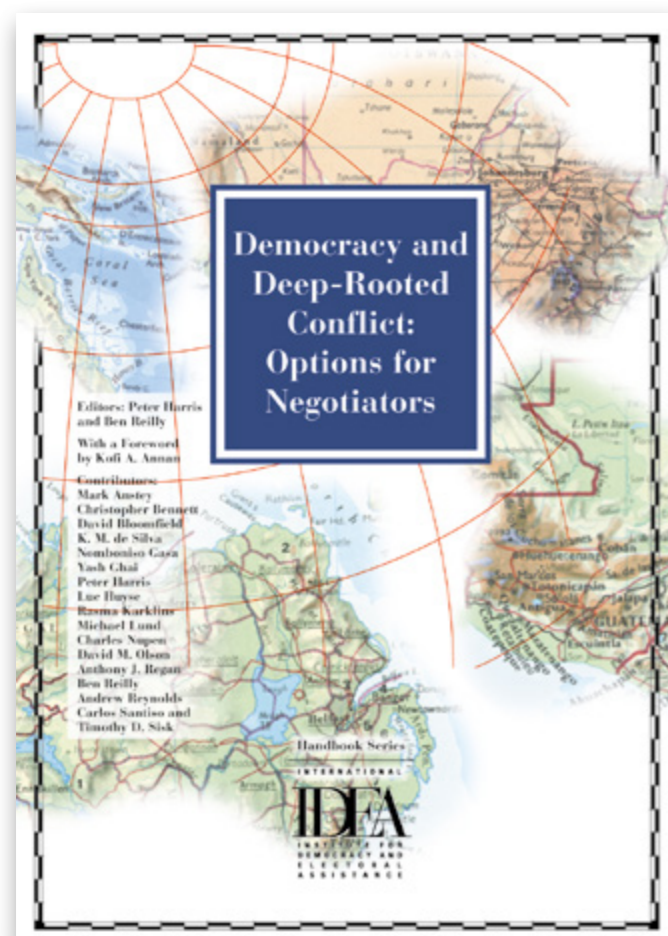
'[International] IDEA handbooks in general have always been useful. They help practitioners like me to better understand how processes work, should work or could work, whether it be electoral systems, free and fair elections, codes of conduct or [electoral management bodies'] design.

This year marked a new stage where we conducted a very successful trial in Dhaka University. Every social movement in Bangladesh, including the independence movement, has started in Dhaka University. Perhaps a movement that promotes pluralistic democracy, free and fair elections, and community harmony and resilience can also begin there! Later this year I hope to be training university peace ambassadors, where we will use some of those tools in [Democracy and Deep Rooted Conflict].'

—Alistair Legge, consultant for People Against Violence in Elections with International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), and former Chief of Party for IFES

Participants of an event held by the People Against Violence in Elections (PAVE) programme, developed by the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES).

'Democracy and Deep Rooted Conflict (DDRC) is a really well written book. It's actually interesting to read and not just a dry textbook. The case studies bring it to life, locating it within real-life events. I very much liked the analytical approach partnered with clear explanation of tools to use. I read it when it first came out and long before I started working on the issues it was dealing with. The book drew me in and helped me start to understand some of the complex issues that were occurring around the world.

When I started to work on deep-rooted conflict in Bangladesh in 2013, I went back to the book and started to adapt and use a few of the tools it contained.

The People Against Violence in Elections (PAVE) program is an innovative program developed by [the International Foundation for Electoral Systems] to address the deep-rooted conflict and ongoing election violence in Bangladesh. When I wrote the original PAVE program it was an effort to help people understand why the violence in elections was occurring, and to encourage them to take personal responsibility to address it and build peace. We were really surprised when those workshop participants started of their own volition to be engaged in peace-building activities. This became a more formal 'Peace Ambassador' program. We realized we needed to provide further education and training. That is where DDRC came in. I used some of the very practical tools (I had read so many years before) as part of their training. For example, the section on Basic Techniques for Negotiation. It's very practical. It was (and is) such a great resource.'

—Alistair Legge, consultant for People Against Violence in Elections with International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), and former Chief of Party for IFES

————
Photo courtesy of Alistair Legge.

The ACE Electoral Knowledge Network:
A Story of Democratic Resilience

ACE Electoral Knowledge Network 20th Anniversary Reception, Stockholm, 24 January 2018.

In 2018, the ACE Electoral Knowledge Network celebrated 20 years as an online source of electoral knowledge, providing specialized thematic information, country and region-specific information, comparative data, a global election calendar, the latest electoral news and events, and real-time knowledge services and exchange through the ACE Practitioners' Network.

'When democracy is threatened, people notice, people care, and people push back, illustrating the importance to citizens of ensuring democracy's resilience in the face of challenges. The story of the ACE project is the story of democracy's resilience. Twenty-three years ago, when International IDEA was founded, there was no field of electoral administration. Today, there is a thriving and bustling community of professionals who learn from one another, who have access to cutting-edge research and professional resources from around the world, and who have insights into how other countries tackle similar problems. The ACE Electoral Knowledge Network is an essential part of this story.'

— *Keboitse Machangana, director of Global Programme, International IDEA*

ACE Electoral Knowledge Network 20th Anniversary materials.

'I access the ACE website on a weekly basis for electoral information and have done so since I started working at the commission, which today runs local elections for approximately [85] million registered voters.'

— *Avinash T. Sanas, deputy commissioner, State Election Commission, Maharashtra*

'ACE is the single most valuable source of new ideas and insight for anyone involved in the design or implementation of electoral processes.'

— *Michael Maley (retired), director, Research and International Services, Australian Election Commission*

Learn about the ACE Electoral Knowledge Network

2018 review
in numbers

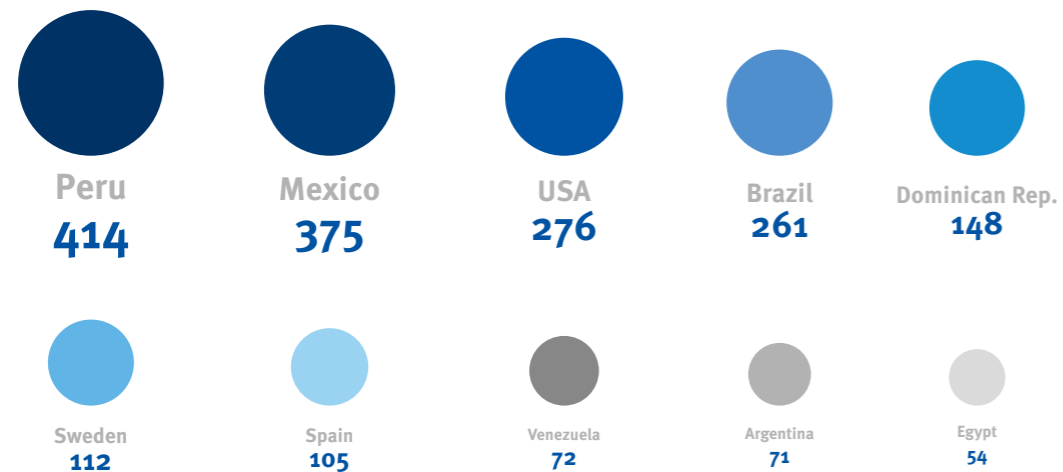# 2018 review in numbers

International IDEA in the news and knowledge resources

Number of media mentions globally

Peru	Mexico	USA	Brazil	Dominican Rep.
414	**375**	**276**	**261**	**148**

Sweden	Spain	Venezuela	Argentina	Egypt
112	**105**	**72**	**71**	**54**

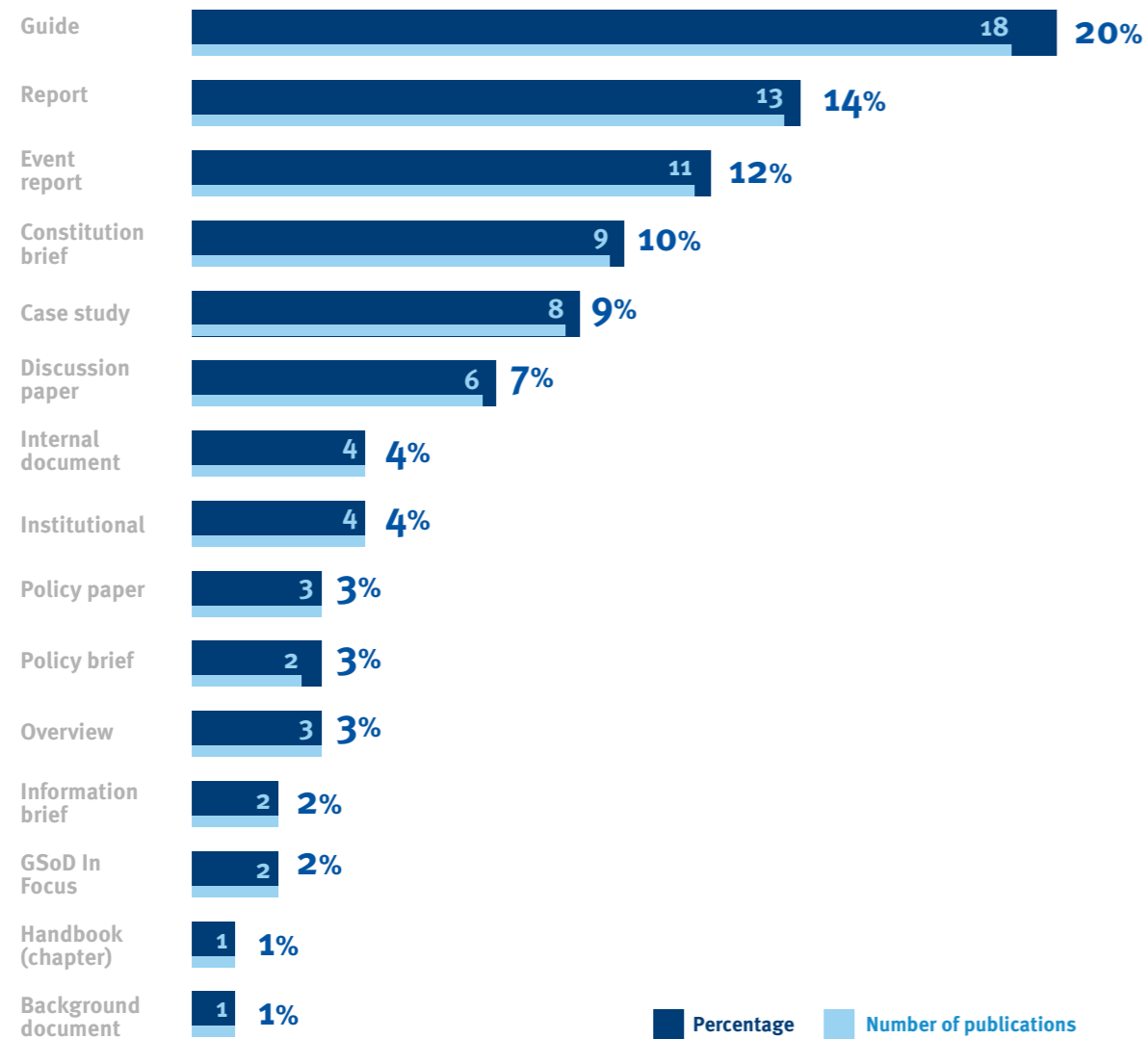Total for all countries in 2018 **2,156**

Total of the Top 10 countries in 2018 **1,888**

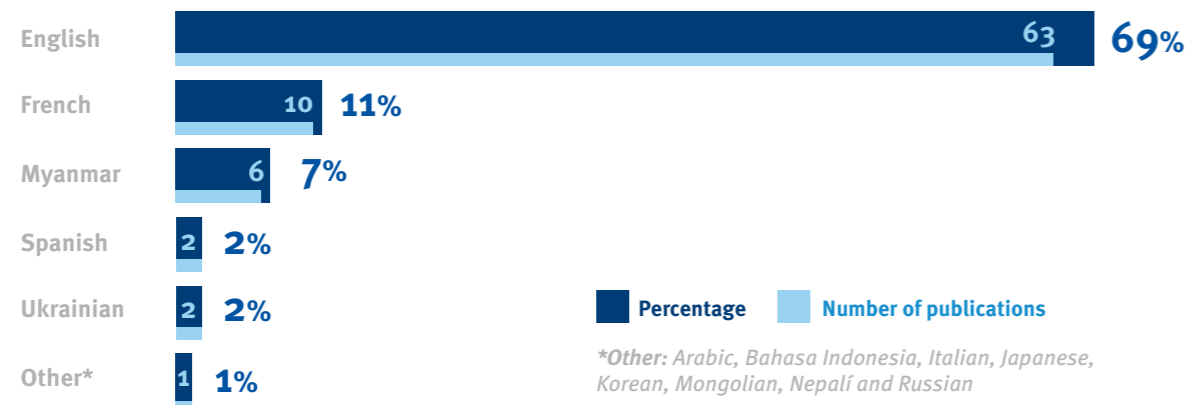**All-time Top 10 International IDEA publications, by number of citations**

	Publication Title	Year published	Number of citations
1.	*Electoral System Design: The New International IDEA Handbook* Andrew Reynolds, Ben Reilly & Andrew Ellis	2002 & 2005	795
2.	*Reconciliation after Violent Conflict: A Handbook* Editors: David Bloomfield, Teresa Barnes & Luc Huyse	2003	548
3.	*Democracies in Development: Politics and Reform in Latin America* J. Mark Payne, Daniel Zovatto G. & Mercedes Mateo Diaz	2006	382
4.	*Women in Parliament: Beyond Numbers* Editors: Julie Ballington & Azza Karam	1998 & 2005	247
5.	*Democracy and Deep-rooted Conflict: Options for Negotiators* Editors: Peter Harris & Ben Reilly	1998	239
6.	*Voter Turnout in Western Europe since 1945: a Regional Report* Editors: Rafael López Pintor & Maria Gratschew	2004	168
7.	*Funding of Political Parties and Election Campaigns* First edition: Reginald Austin & Maja Tjernström Second edition: Elin Falguera, Samuel Jones & Magnus Ohman	2003 & 2014	165
8.	*Democracy at the Local Level: The International IDEA Handbook on Participation, Representation, Conflict Management and Governance* Timothy D. Sisk & Julie Ballington	2001	98
9.	*Democratic Dialogue: A Handbook for Practitioners* Bettye Pruitt & Philip Thomas	2007	93
10.	*Assessing the Quality of Democracy. A Practical Guide* Lead editors: David Beetham, Edzia Carvalho, Todd Landman & Stuart Weir	2008	91

2018 review in numbers

International IDEA 2018 Publications by type

Type	Number	Percentage
Guide	18	20%
Report	13	14%
Event report	11	12%
Constitution brief	9	10%
Case study	8	9%
Discussion paper	6	7%
Internal document	4	4%
Institutional	4	4%
Policy paper	3	3%
Policy brief	2	3%
Overview	3	3%
Information brief	2	2%
GSoD In Focus	2	2%
Handbook (chapter)	1	1%
Background document	1	1%

■ Percentage ■ Number of publications

International IDEA 2018 Publications by language

Language	Number	Percentage
English	63	69%
French	10	11%
Myanmar	6	7%
Spanish	2	2%
Ukrainian	2	2%
Other*	1	1%

■ Percentage ■ Number of publications

*Other: Arabic, Bahasa Indonesia, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Mongolian, Nepalí and Russian
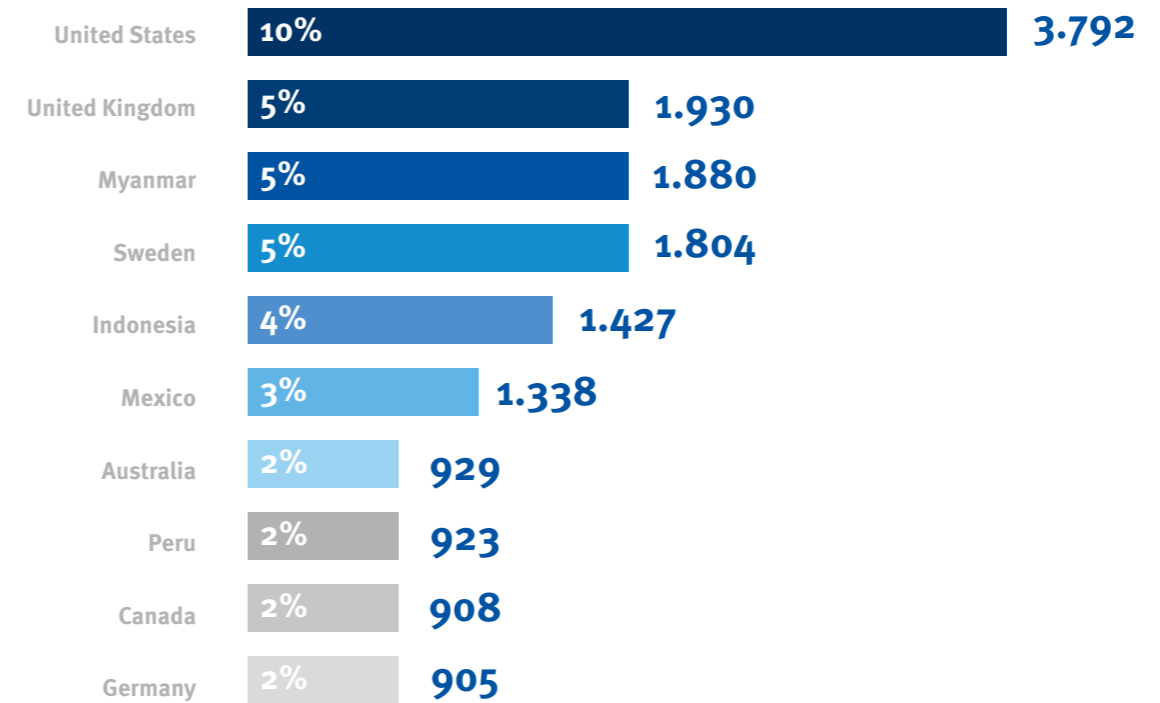
Summary report for publications downloads in 2018

Total **number of publications** downloads in 2018: **40,000**

Region	Percentage	Downloads
Europe	27%	10.828
Asia	27%	10.512
Americas	27%	10.421
Africa	16%	6.420
Oceania	3%	1.321
Not set	0%	32
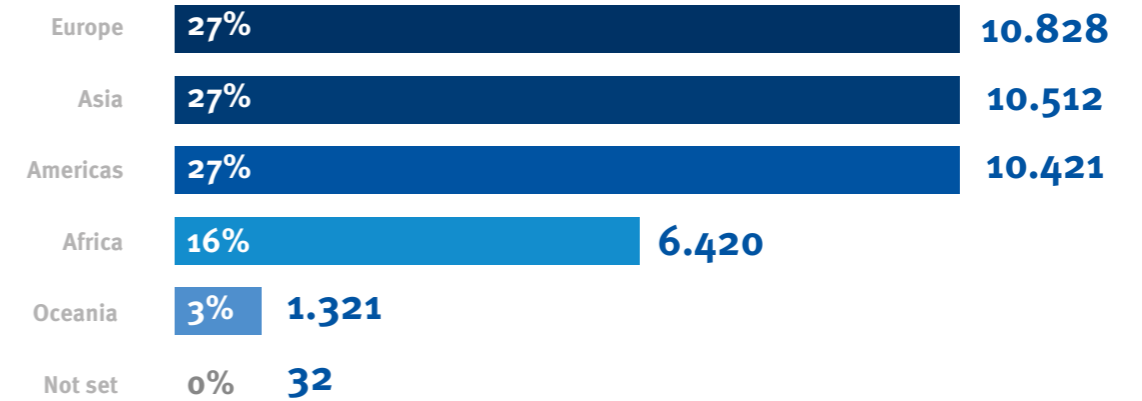
Number of publications downloads in 2018, Top 10 countries:

Total **number of titles** downloaded (including language versions): **701**

Country	Percentage	Downloads
United States	10%	3.792
United Kingdom	5%	1.930
Myanmar	5%	1.880
Sweden	5%	1.804
Indonesia	4%	1.427
Mexico	3%	1.338
Australia	2%	929
Peru	2%	923
Canada	2%	908
Germany	2%	905

2018 review in numbers

Top 10 publications downloaded in 2018

	Publication Title	Year published	Number of downloads in 2018	Percentage of downloads in 2018
1.	Global State of Democracy: Exploring Democracy's Resilience	2017	2395	5.99%
2.	Electoral System Design: The New International IDEA Handbook	2005	888	3.72%
3.	Funding of Political Parties and Election Campaigns	2014	646	1.62%
4.	Voter Turnout Trends around the World	2016	633	1.58%
5.	Women in Parliament: Beyond Numbers, A Revised Edition	2005	563	1.41%
6.	Atlas of Electoral Gender Quotas	2014	549	1.37%
7.	Political Participation of Refugees: Bridging the Gaps	2018	518	1.30%
8.	What is a Constitution? Principles and Concepts	2014	499	1.25%
9.	Gender-targeted Public Funding for Political Parties	2018	467	1.17%
10.	Assessing the Quality of Democracy: A Practical Guide	2013	414	1.04%

International IDEA Top 20 News articles and events

1. The case for / against direct democracy
2. The instruments of direct democracy
3. Women's political participation in Latin America: some progress and many challenges
4. Representation in the Age of Populism? Ideas for Global Action
5. The rise of populist and nationalist parties in Europe: How to break the trend
6. Las elecciones ticas en clave comparada latinoamericana
7. The Crisis of Representation
8. Women's participation in local government
9. Social movements are here to stay – a part of our democratic way of life
10. International IDEA in action: Myanmar
11. Challenges and opportunities for democracy in the 21st century
12. The role of technology in identifying and avoiding electoral risks
13. How to increase youth participation
14. From hashtag to change: why #MeToo matters for democratic politics
15. Election costs: Informing the narrative
16. Lowering the age limit to increase youth participation in politics
17. Political Participation of Refugees: Bridging the Gaps
18. Challenges and opportunities for women in Myanmar: a constitutional perspective
19. Is the space for civil society really shrinking?
20. Political inclusion is vital to sustainable democracy

INSPIRING CHANGE, ACHIEVING RESULTS

Annual Outcome
Report 2018

The International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA) is an intergovernmental organization with the mandate to promote and advance democracy worldwide.

International IDEA contributes to the public debate on democracy and assists in strengthening process, reforms, institutions and actors that build, advance and safeguard democracy, with a focus on electoral processes; constitution-building processes; and political participation and representation. Mainstreamed across all our work is gender and inclusion, conflict sensitivity and sustainable development.

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

International IDEA's Member States are democracies and provide both political and financial support to the work of the organization. They are Australia, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Canada, Cabo Verde, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Finland, Germany, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Luxembourg, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Namibia, Netherlands, Norway, Panama, Peru, the Philippines, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Uruguay. Japan has observer status.