

INTERNATIONAL IDEA'S ANNUAL OUTCOME REPORT 2024



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EUR 295,000



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EUR 82,000



Estonia
EUR 70,000



Brazil
EUR 61,000

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Cover photo by Lila Bahadur Tamatta. International IDEA's research team interviewing the elected representatives of She Phoksundo Rural Municipality, Dolpa to identify the hidden stories behind the vacant seats of Dalit women in local governments of Nepal on 22nd October 2024.
Design and layout: International IDEA

Acronyms and abbreviations

ACJA	Administration of Criminal Justice Act (Nigeria)
ACTU	Anti-Corruption Technical Unit (Nigeria)
AES	Alliance of Sahel States (French: Alliance des États du Sahel)
AFD	Agence Française de développement
AI	Artificial intelligence
BRIDGE	Building Resources in Democracy, Governance, and Elections
CC	Constitutional Commission (Mozambique)
CC-DEMOS	The EU Commission's Community of Practice of the Competence Centre on Participatory and Deliberative Democracy
CDP	Citizens Democratic Party (Sierra Leone)
CEC	Central Election Commission (Albania, Moldova, Ukraine)
CEPP	The Parliamentary Commission for the Evaluation of Public Policies (Côte d'Ivoire)
CFR	Council on Foreign Relations
CSLS	The Centre for Socio-Legal Studies (Nigeria)
CNE	National Elections Commission (Mozambique)
COSP	Conference of the States Parties
CPLP	Community of Portuguese Language Countries
CRPH	Committee Representing the Union Parliament (Myanmar)
CSO	Civil society organization
CTA	The Centre for Transparency Advocacy (Nigeria)
DAC	OECD's Development Assistance Committee
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
EBA	Expert Group for Aid Studies (Sweden)
ECNE	European Cooperation Network on Elections
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EFCC	The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (Nigeria)
EPP	Evaluation of Public Policies
ERM	Electoral Risk Management
EU	The European Union
FATF	The Financial Action Task Force (Nigeria)

FAWE	Forum for African Women Educationalists (Kenya)
FCT	Federal Capital Territory (Nigeria)
FFO	The German Federal Foreign Office
GAP	Gender Action Plan
GDC	Global Democracy Coalition
GDC	Global Digital Compact
GSoD	Global State of Democracy
IACC	International Anti-Corruption Conference
ICPC	The Independent Corrupt Practices (and other related offences) Commission (Nigeria)
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IFES	The International Foundation for Electoral Systems
iKNOW Politics	The International Knowledge Network of Women in Politics
INE	Instituto Nacional Electoral (Mexico)
IPU	The Inter-Parliamentary Union
IRI	International Republican Institute
List PR	List Proportional Representation
KNOCA	Knowledge Network on Climate Assemblies
MP	Members of Parliament
NAPTIP	National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (Nigeria)
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NBA	The Nigerian Bar Association
NDA	National Democratic Alliance (Sierra Leone)
NGC	National Grand Coalition (Sierra Leone)
OEC	Office of the Election Commissioner (Mauritius)
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OSCE-ODIHR	The OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
OGP	The Open Government Partnership
PDP	People's Democratic Party (Sierra Leone)
PDSS	Police Duty Solicitors Scheme
PODS	Perceptions of Democracy Survey
PPRC	Political Parties Regulation Commission (Sierra Leone)
PROPACI	Parliament's citizen participation platform (Uruguay)
PVT	Parallel Vote Tabulation
REC	Regional Economic Community

REDPAR	Red Paraguaya para la Integridad Electoral (Paraguay)
RoLAC	The Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption Programme (Nigeria)
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SARC	Sexual Assault Referral Center (Nigeria)
SCUML	The Special Control Unit on Money Laundering (Nigeria)
Sida	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
SLPP	Sierra Leone People's Democratic Party
UCG	Unconstitutional Change of Government
UCGL	United Cities and Local Governments
UKFCDO	UK Foreign, and Commonwealth and Development Office
UN	United Nations
UNCAC	UN Convention against Corruption
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
UN OHCHR	UN Human Rights Office
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WPP	Women's Political Participation programme
WYDE	The Women and Youth in Democracy Initiative
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

International IDEA's results framework and system for learning-based management is informed by the latest thinking on, and understanding of, complex social and democratic change processes. Its focus is on mapping out what is often described as the 'missing middle' between what a project does and how its activities contribute to desired societal goals. It thus pays special attention to results that are within the Institute's sphere of influence; that is, outcomes in terms of changes in behaviour, relationships and practices by the institutions and actors the capacity of which International IDEA is seeking to strengthen. These 'target groups' are referred to in the results framework as boundary partners.

In line with this results framework, the 2024 Annual Outcome Report reports 53 outcome narratives on changes in behaviour, relationships and practices among the 16 types of boundary partners in International IDEA's six workstreams. These narratives do not account for all International IDEA's activities and results but are representative examples of what the Institute does and achieves. Hence, the outcome narratives in this report shall be regarded as qualitative indicators of International IDEA's results.

In the workstream on **constitution-building processes** International IDEA works with *advisers to constitution makers*, *constitution makers* and *civil society* to design inclusive constitution-building processes and legitimate constitutions, and *constitution implementers* to operationalize constitutions under agreed frameworks. In recent years, the Institute has developed its constitution-building programming in the interlinked areas of transitional justice, conflict mediation and the rule of law. This has broadened the Institute's networks with these communities.

As an example of these developments International IDEA has led a consortium, which deploys specialised experts in **transitional justice** or constitution building based on requests from national stakeholders, EU delegations or the European External Action Service. Between 2019 and 2024, the Facility

The outcome narratives in this report shall be regarded as qualitative indicators of International IDEA's results.

Over the past ten years International IDEA has been steadily increasing its involvement in the field of mediation.

responded to requests from more than 20 countries on four continents and, among other things, contributed to setting up information management systems in a truth commission in Ethiopia and a hybrid tribunal in the Central African Republic.

Over the past ten years International IDEA has been steadily increasing its involvement in the field of **mediation**. For example, International IDEAs Staff Members have regularly been requested by the UN Mediation Support Unit and Political Missions to provide constitutional assistance to support their mediation efforts in countries such as Haiti, Syria, South Sudan, Yemen and Libya. Moreover, in 2014 the Institute launched the Edinburgh Dialogues on Post-Conflict Constitution Building which brings together leading actors from the mediation support community and constitution building community together with national stakeholders in countries experiencing current or recent conflict-to-peace transitions.

Moreover, with support from the Government of the Netherlands, International IDEA has supported several mediation efforts led by African regional and subregional organizations. A key outcome from this work is that the Institute has contributed to strengthening relationships between international, regional, national, and local stakeholders in fragile and conflict-affected states in the Sahel region and on Africa's horn. As an example of this International IDEA supported efforts of Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and national stakeholders in addressing complex constitutional transitions in Somalia, Gabon, and Yemen and respond to Unconstitutional Changes of Government (UCGs) in Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, and Sudan. Moreover, transitional authorities in Gabon have consulted International IDEA to shape the country's political transitional process after the 2023 coup d'état.

Finally, International IDEA has always been engaged in **rule of law work**, albeit from the perspective of establishing the foundations of the rule of law, and with a democracy promotion lens. In November 2023, International IDEA expanded this work by signing an agreement with the European Union to manage a second phase of the Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption Programme (RoLAC II) in Nigeria. In 2024, some of the key outcomes of this comprehensive multi-year programme include that:

- Lawyers have started to provide legal services to vulnerable groups through a network of legal aid volunteers. These services aim to ensure that clients' human and legal rights are protected and have contributed to the Nigerian Police introducing Standard Operating Procedures for how to question and detain suspects.
- The Attorney General in Nigeria announcing that non-custodial measures will be the default option for courts in the future. Moreover, justice sector institutions and actors have expanded the utilization of non-custodial sentencing in Lagos state.

- The Ministries of Justice and the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons' (NAPTIP) has strengthened practices to prosecute perpetrators of, and provide support to victims of, domestic violence.

The **democracy assessment** workstream mainly includes the work on the Global State of Democracy (GSoD) Indices and annual report. In recent years, the GSoD Indices have developed into a broader initiative that includes policy briefs, press releases and social media posts, as well as launches and workshops. The GSoD initiative aims to influence governmental and non-governmental policy influencers and policymakers as well as media across the world to use GSoD data, democracy analyses and recommendations for increasing knowledge about the state of democracy, improving analysis, designing democracy programmes, and to shape well informed and constructive discussion on democracy.

In 2024, GSoD Initiative products have inspired CSOs advocacy, and programme design. Think tanks and civil society organizations have also incorporated GSoD data into their analysis and presentations, and academics continued to use the GSoD Initiative as a source, averaging roughly 50 academic citations per quarter in 2024. Moreover, policy makers such as government agencies, public officials, and intergovernmental organizations, regularly use GSoD data, analysis, and recommendations. In 2024, users included the European Union, UN agencies, the Council of Europe, OECD, the Finnish Innovation Agency (Sitra), and the Office of the Special Envoy for Syria. A noteworthy outcome is that the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency's (Sida) has decided to pilot a version International IDEA's results framework, which is underpinned by the GSoD conceptual framework and GSoD data, for result reporting to the Swedish government.

Finally, the GSoD initiative aims to shape well-informed media reporting and support media to be able to hold policymakers to account on democratic governance. In 2024, Reuters, Politico, Associated Press, El Pais, Voice of America, Washington Post, BBC, Le Figaro, ABC news, and BBC as well as hundreds of local newspapers used the GSoD indices for reporting on the state of democracy.

In 2023, International IDEA started a new workstream on **digitalization and democracy**, which aims to protect and defend democracy against digital threats and reinforce it through technology. In 2023 and 2024, International IDEA established itself as an authoritative actor in the field of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and elections. It developed partnerships with the private sector to increase AI literacy among Electoral Management Bodies (EMBs), civil society, and the media, and supported parliaments in considering AI adoption and regulation. Moreover, the Institute partnered with Member States and international CSOs to incorporate respect for human rights in the Global Digital Compact (GDC), a framework under the United Nation's Pact for the Future.

In 2023, International IDEA also started up a new workstream on **climate change and democracy**, which aims to support democracies to develop and

The GSoD initiative aims to shape well-informed media reporting and support media to be able to hold policymakers to account on democratic governance.

implement effective and citizen-owned climate action responding to their Paris Agreement commitments. Over the last two years there are two outcomes that stands out from this workstream:

- By combining knowledge production with awareness-raising events, International IDEA inspired policymakers, media, CSOs, and academia to engage in discussions about how innovative forms of deliberative democracy can impact climate policy and action.
- The Stockholm Series of Public Lectures on Climate Change and Democracy inspired climate change and democracy professionals to engage in cross-discipline dialogue and learning on the interlinkages between climate change and democracy.

By working through and together with a professional community of electoral assistance practitioners in its **electoral processes** workstream, International IDEA aims to inspire and support EMBs, policymakers and civil society to adopt behaviours, relationships and practices that are conducive to credible and well-run electoral processes. International IDEA is a global leader in providing databases, dashboards and publications which support informed decision-making by electoral stakeholders. An online portal to electoral knowledge resources (<https://www.aceproject.org>) co-developed by International IDEA receives over 2 million visits per year, while seven databases on electoral processes had more than 400,000 viewers and over 144,000 active users from across the globe in 2024.

Other key outcomes in 2024 include the Institute's efforts to support the OECD's Development Assistance Committee's Governance Network to discuss updating the principles and practices of electoral assistance. Significant work has also been invested in strengthening EMBs capacities to protect elections by adopting a structured methodology to identify and mitigate electoral risks, in countries such as Ukraine, Mexico, Finland, and Mauritius. Finally, International IDEA has helped improve relationships between civil society and EMBs in Panama and supported CSOs in Nepal and Paraguay to improve public participation in electoral processes.

**International IDEA
is a global leader in
providing knowledge
products and data.**

By cooperating with political parties, national and subnational parliaments, public administration, civil society organizations, and oversight agencies, International IDEA aims to inspire and support these actors to adopt behaviours, relationships and practices that are conducive to **political participation and representation**. International IDEA is a global leader in providing knowledge products and data on this topic. Among the Institute's many digital tools and databases is the Gender Quota Database, which aim is to provide policy makers, political actors and parties, gender equality advocates and election practitioners with an easily accessible resource on gender quotas; and the Youth Democracy Academy, which is designed to give young people knowledge and skills to participate in political life. The Institute also manages the International Knowledge Network of Women in Politics (iKNOW Politics), which is a leading virtual platform which fosters networking,

knowledge exchange, capacity development, and advocacy for gender equality in politics.

Key outcomes in 2024 include the Institute's growing work with parliaments. For example, International IDEA has supported: the Uzbek and Chilean Parliaments to develop a fruitful partnership on parliamentary practices with parliaments in the EU; the Parliament in Côte d'Ivoire to embark on a transformative journey focused on improving evaluation of public policies; Myanmar's elected Members of Parliament (MPs) to conduct outreach, advocacy, and network with the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU); and the Uruguayan Parliament to take global leadership in legislative innovation on AI governance. International IDEA also helped advance transparent and ethical campaigning for the 2024 European Parliament elections through a Code of Conduct, signed by all ten European political parties.

Other important outcomes have been achieved in cooperation with CSOs. Among other things the Institute has helped: more than 140 CSOs in the Global Democracy Coalition (GDC) to engage in a unified global call to action for democracy; local CSOs in Nigeria and other places to improve accountability and transparency by developing their administrative capacities; local CSOs in Peru to facilitate constructive discussions where stakeholders have been able to deal with deep-rooted political tensions and conflicts to solve problems.

FOCUSING ON RESULTS WITHIN INTERNATIONAL IDEA'S SPHERE OF INFLUENCE

International IDEA's results framework and system for learning-based management is informed by the latest thinking on and understanding of complex social and democratic change processes and inspired by theory of change¹ and outcome mapping² methodologies. Its focus is on mapping out what is often described as the 'missing middle' between what a project does and how its activities contribute to desired societal goals. It thus pays special attention to results that are within the Institute's sphere of influence; that is, *outcomes* in terms of changes in behaviour, relationships and practices by the institutions and actors the capacity of which International IDEA is seeking to strengthen. These 'target groups' are referred to in the results framework as *boundary partners*.³

The Report focuses its reporting on changes in behaviour, relationships and practices among the 16 types of boundary partners that International IDEA targets with its activities.

In line with this framework, the Annual Outcome Report focuses its reporting on changes in behaviour, relationships and practices among the 16 types of boundary partners that International IDEA targets with its activities. As these changes are complex and therefore difficult to quantify, the report contains *qualitative* outcome narratives which describe how International IDEA has influenced boundary partner's relationships, behaviour and practice. The 51 stories in the report do not account for all of International IDEA's activities and results but are representative examples of what the Institute does and achieves. Hence, the stories should be regarded as indications or *qualitative*

¹ *Theory of change* is a comprehensive yet somewhat simplified description and illustration of how and why a desired change is expected to happen in a context. Through this approach, the link between activities and the achievement of long-term goals are more fully understood. This leads to better planning because activities are linked to a detailed understanding of how change happens. For more information, see <<http://www.theoryofchange.org>>.

² *Outcome mapping* is a methodology for planning, monitoring and evaluating development initiatives designed by the International Development Research Centre (Canada). As the name suggests, its niche is understanding outcomes—the so-called missing middle or black box of results that emerge downstream from a project's activities but upstream from longer-term societal changes. For more information, see <<https://www.outcomemapping.ca>>.

³ The term boundary partners come from Outcome Mapping. From a results perspective it is conceptually important to use a term that indicates that the actors and institutions whose capacity International IDEA aims to strengthen are actors rather than 'target groups'. International IDEA can inspire and support, but not compel, these actors to change relationships, behaviour and practices in accordance with good democratic practices. Hence, these actors are not passive recipients or targets of support, but active participants that are in charge of their change processes.

indicators of International IDEA's results. To mirror the wide range of work done by the Institute, each story is linked to a boundary partner and thereby to one of the 16 outcome objectives of International IDEA.

To clarify what an outcome aims to *contribute to* at the societal level in countries, International IDEA has formulated impact objectives and indicators for change in three of its six workstreams: electoral processes, constitution-building processes, and political participation and representation. Depending on the context, activities within the workstreams on digitalization and democracy, climate change and democracy, and democracy assessment can contribute to achieving these impact objectives. The impact indicators comprise a mix of attributes, sub-attributes and indicators from International IDEA's GSoD indices.⁴

Finally, the impact objectives are linked to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets, which serve as overall goals for International IDEA's work. The most relevant SDG targets for International IDEA are: SDG 5.1, End all forms of discrimination against women and girls everywhere; SDG 5.5, Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision making in political, economic and public life; SDG 16.3, Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels; SDG 16.6, Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels; and SDG 16.7, Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision making at all levels.

As the ultimate achievement of the impact objectives and SDG targets depends on a complex web of societal and political processes that are beyond International IDEA's sphere of direct influence it is not meaningful to claim such societal changes as results of International IDEA's activities. However, the use of these goals and indicators aligns International IDEA's objectives to the international development agenda and demonstrates a project's *relevance* from that perspective.

Annex 1 outlines International IDEA's complete results framework and shows how the impact objectives, impact indicators, boundary partners and outcome objectives are interlinked with each other. All the outcome stories in this report are aligned with and mirror this results framework. Annex 2 outlines the Theory of Change that underpins the results framework.

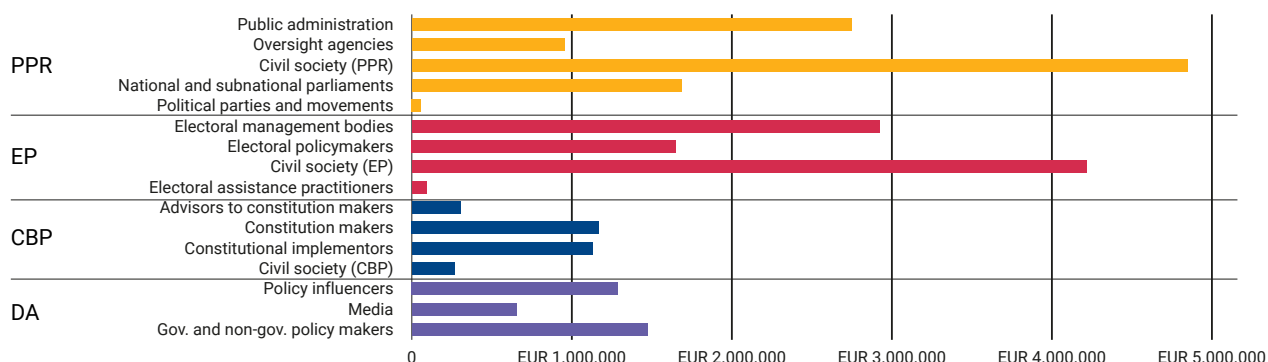
The ultimate achievement of the impact objectives and SDG targets depends on a complex web of societal and political processes that are beyond International IDEA's sphere of direct influence.

⁴ <https://www.idea.int/gsod-indices/sites/default/files/gsod-indicators-and-sources.pdf>

INTERNATIONAL IDEA'S INPUTS AND OUTPUTS IN 2024

In 2024, International IDEA invested €58.1 million in delivering activities aimed at inspiring and supporting the Institute's boundary partners to carry out their democratic functions more effectively. Figure 1 lists these investments by boundary partner.

Figure 1. International IDEA's investments by boundary partner in 2024



This investment has been delivered through 63 restricted projects in addition to core funded products and services. International IDEA has grouped the core funded products and services into seven output categories and developed 15 standardized output indicators. These measure the quantity of products and services delivered and how many men and women have been reached by International IDEA's activities across the core funded projects. International IDEA's outputs in 2023 and 2024 are listed in Table 1.

Table 1. International IDEA's outputs in 2023

Output category	Output indicators	2024	2023
01. Publications: Handbooks, thematic reports, translations, policy papers and training modules published by International IDEA or jointly with partners	Number of released publications	115	99
	Number of copies distributed	8,106	4,732
	Number of downloads of publications from International IDEA's websites	58,890	85,824
02. Communication products: News articles, opinion pieces, press releases, films, social media posts and brochures produced by staff members and published either on one of International IDEA's websites or externally	Number of communication products	1,430	992
	Number of visits to individual webpages	2,054,796	2,303,743
03. Databases, and digital tools and platforms: Data or interactive software made available on one of International IDEA's websites	Number of visits to databases via International IDEA's websites	406,042	303,536
	Number of external media mentions of International IDEA's databases	634	364
	Number of visits to digital tools and platforms via International IDEA's websites	27,112	39,428
	Number of countries from which visitors come	151	114
04. Events and dialogues: Dialogues, network meetings, workshops, seminars, roundtables or conferences convened by International IDEA	Number of events and dialogues convened	160	198
	Number of participants	8,120	8,742
05. Training: Teaching on skills, knowledge and tools.	Number of trainings	15	32
	Number of participants	605	231
06. Advisory services: On-demand consultations provided by International IDEA	Number of boundary partners that receive advice from International IDEA	4,230	4,771
07. Capacity development: A process that takes place over a longer period with the purpose of assisting individuals and organizations to obtain, improve or retain the skills, knowledge and tools needed to do their jobs to a greater capacity; may include for example on-the-job training and coaching, advisory services, events and training, and the production of publications such as handbooks and manuals.	Number of projects with restricted funding	63	52

OUTCOMES FROM THE CONSTITUTION-BUILDING PROCESSES WORKSTREAM



Working with *advisers to constitution makers*, International IDEA aims to support *constitution makers* and *civil society* to design inclusive constitution-building processes and legitimate constitutions, and *constitution implementers* to operationalize constitutions under agreed frameworks. The Institute does this by providing non-prescriptive comparative knowledge and options and facilitating processes that help stakeholders to explore solutions that suit their contexts. The theory of change underpinning this approach is that:

- **if advisers to constitution makers** utilize International IDEA's knowledge and networks to expand coordination and collaboration to advance good practices in constitution-building processes, they can effectively inspire and support constitution makers and civil society to constructively engage in inclusive constitution-building processes, and constitution implementers to implement the constitution under agreed constitutional frameworks; and

- **if constitution makers** increase their knowledge and skills on constitution-building and apply these competencies to design a well-informed inclusive constitution-making process; and
- **if civil society** increases knowledge and skills on constitution-building and applies these competencies to hold constitution makers accountable, inform the public on constitution-building processes, and promote public participation in the process; **then** ...

... responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision making (SDG 16.7) is ensured in the constitution-building process. **And then** the likelihood of overall success and legitimacy of the constitutional reforms increases assuming that the constitution-building process and reforms are considered legitimate by citizens and;

- **if constitution implementers** increase their knowledge and skills, and apply these competencies to interpret and operationalize constitutional provisions following ratification in a manner that respects fundamental democratic principles and human rights;
- **and if** they promote respect for the rule of law and constitutionalism under agreed constitutional frameworks, **then** ...

... tensions and conflicts in society are likely to reduce.

This chapter reports results from the four boundary partners that International IDEA is working with on constitution-building processes. As these changes are complex, the report provides qualitative outcome narratives, which describe how International IDEA has influenced each of these boundary partner's relationships, behaviour and practices. These stories do not account for all of International IDEA's activities and results in the area of constitution-building processes but are *representative examples* of what the Institute has done and achieved. Hence the narratives should be regarded as *qualitative indicators* of International IDEA's results.

International IDEA's Constitution Building Programme was launched in 2006 and has since grown to become a thought-leader in the field of constitutional transitions, producing well over 100 publications and providing support in over 30 countries worldwide. Its reputation as an expert specialist in providing external assistance to constitutional reform processes has led to partnerships with a wide range of multilateral actors – such as the United Nations, European Union and African Union – as well as with a number of leading academic institutions and think-tanks around the world. As a global leader in providing knowledge products on constitution-building the Institute manages ConstitutionNet, an online information portal that provides up-to-date news and analysis of constitution-building around the world, as well as thousands of items of background material. ConstitutionNet is the 'go-to' online resource in the field of constitution-building.

ADVISERS TO CONSTITUTION MAKERS USE INTERNATIONAL IDEA'S KNOWLEDGE AND NETWORKS TO PROVIDE HIGH-QUALITY ADVICE AND ADVANCE INCLUSIVE PRACTICES IN CONSTITUTION-BUILDING PROCESSES

Expanding constitution building work to transitional justice, conflict mediation and the rule of law

Funding

Implemented with core funding and restricted funding from the Netherlands, the European Union, and the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office.

In recent years, International IDEA has developed its constitution-building programming in the interlinked areas of transitional justice, conflict mediation and the rule of law. This has broadened the Institute's networks with these communities, both internationally and in many countries.

International IDEA's experience over almost two decades has led to a specialist expertise in the design of constitutions and the processes of constitutional change. But more broadly, it has brought a great deal of learning in terms of how the legal framework of democracy works, an understanding the complexities in the negotiations over the structures of power during transitions, and how certain institutional forms can be more or less resilient to attacks on the rule of law.

The Facility supported the setting up of information management systems in two transitional justice mechanisms

Since 2019 International IDEA has led a consortium on the EU's Facility for Justice in Transition which deploys specialised experts in transitional justice or constitution building based on requests from national stakeholders, EU delegations or the European External Action Service. **Between 2019 and 2024, the Facility responded to requests from more than 20 countries on four continents. This has involved a wide range of activities from direct support to constitutional review processes (e.g. in The Gambia, Libya and in Armenia) that also took into consideration potential or actual linkages to transitional justice, to wider issues related to rule of law as part of a transition process,** for instance related to judicial reforms and the integration of elements of traditional judicial mechanisms in national legislation. In several contexts (e.g. in the Gambia, Liberia and Mali) transitional justice experts also analysed the interplay between transitional justice, judicial reform and security sector reform processes. The Facility's work has extended to the management of information, an essential part of good governance. For example, **the Facility supported the setting up of information management systems in two transitional justice mechanisms, a truth commission in Ethiopia and a hybrid tribunal in the Central African Republic.**

Intra-state conflict is often linked to a renegotiation of the social contract, in particular as it pertains to access to power and resources, and protections for group identity. This invariably involves renegotiation of the constitution, and thus the fields of conflict mediation and constitution building are closely linked. Over the past ten years International IDEA has been steadily increasing its involvement in the field of mediation. **In 2014 it launched the Edinburgh Dialogues on Post-Conflict Constitution Building which bring together leading actors from the mediation support community and constitution building community with national stakeholders from government and civil society in countries experiencing current or recent conflict-to-peace transitions.** The series is now in its twelfth iteration and is funded by the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (UKFCDO).

Moreover, with support from the Government of the Netherlands, International IDEA has in the past three years supported a number of mediation efforts led by African regional and subregional organizations. **The Institute provides quick response backstopping for mediation missions on issues relating to constitutional governance and also holds an annual retreat bringing together regional and subregional special envoys and other mediators together with national stakeholders.** Lastly, IDEA Staff Members have regularly been requested by the UN Mediation Support Unit and Political Missions to provide constitutional assistance to support their mediation efforts in countries such as Haiti, Syria, South Sudan, Yemen and Libya.

Constitution Building is inextricably linked to the rule of law. Constitutions are the supreme law of the land and provide the constraints on power necessary to avoid a tyranny of the majority. They also seek to provide the separation of powers and protections for judicial independence required for any systems based on the rule of law. As such, International IDEA has always been engaged in rule of law work, from the perspective of establishing the foundations of the rule of law, and with a democracy promotion lens.

In 2024, the Institute worked in two very different contexts in strengthening the rule of law. Firstly, following the democratic backsliding in Poland under the Freedom and Justice Party in Poland, the new government has faced a series of challenges in restoring the rule of law. **International IDEA partnered with the Ministry of Justice in Poland to convene local civil society organisations to discuss and debate various proposals for restoring judicial independence, to assist the Ministry in its decision-making.** Secondly, in Nigeria International IDEA is implementing a project to strengthen the criminal justice. anti-corruption and access to justice institutions.

The Institute provides quick response backstopping for mediation missions on issues relating to constitutional governance.

CONSTITUTION MAKERS APPLY INCREASED KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS TO MAKE INFORMED CHOICES ON CONSTITUTIONAL DESIGN AND PROCESSES

Dialogues build trust in fragile and conflict-affected states in Africa

Funding

Enabled by core funding and implemented with earmarked core funding from the Netherlands.

In 2024, International IDEA's constitution-building programme has strengthened relationships between international, regional, national, and local stakeholders in fragile and conflict-affected states in the Sahel region and on Africa's horn.

International IDEA has supported efforts of RECs as well as national stakeholders in addressing complex constitutional transitions in Somalia, Gabon, and Yemen and respond to UCGs in Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, and Sudan. **A key component of this work has been to convene dialogues, which has strengthened relationships and trust between key actors.**

The key achievement was to open an informal, neutral, and non-prescriptive channel of communication between transitional authorities and regional partners.

In Burkina Faso, International IDEA contributed to reducing the level of distrust between transitional authorities, bilateral and multilateral partners, and regional institutions after Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger unilaterally withdrew from ECOWAS and established an Alliance of Sahel States (AES) in January 2024. **The key achievement was to open an informal, neutral, and non-prescriptive channel of communication between transitional authorities and regional partners.**

In a subsequent high-level consultation, which International IDEA organized at the request of the ECOWAS and the AU, **regional actors strengthened coordination with the central Sahel countries.** During the dialogue the regional organizations encouraged International IDEA to deploy similar initiatives in Mali and Niger.

In October the Institute convened a panel on UCGs at a peace mediation conference, organized by the EU in Brussels. **The panel discussions contributed to coordination and potential change of practices in dealing with UCGs among international and regional actors.** During the same month the Institute co-organized the third annual retreat for Special Envoys and High Representatives of the African RECs, in Nairobi. **The retreat provided an opportunity for high-level informal political networking and consultations between the special envoys and representatives of countries in transition.**

Following Puntland's withdrawal from the permanent constitutional making process in Somalia in 2023, International IDEA has convened a series of dialogues with Somalia-based actors. Consultations in February and May led

to the decision to invite representatives of all stakeholders of the constitution making process to the Annual Retreat of RECs Special Envoys and High Representatives in November. In conjunction with that meeting International IDEA organized a strategic dialogue on emerging opportunities to support democratization in Somalia. **The meeting brought together 25 key Somalia stakeholders, including members of parliament, former ministers, election officials, and influential leaders and contributed to developing relationships and trust between them.**

Facilitating dialogue among stakeholders in the constitution-building process in The Gambia

Funding

Enabled by core funding and implemented with earmarked core funding from the Netherlands and restricted funding from the European Union.

In September 2020 the Gambian Parliament rejected a proposal for a new constitution. Since then, International IDEA has supported the constitution-building process by facilitating dialogue between stakeholders and assisting legal drafting.

The Gambia has been one of International IDEA's longest standing partners in Africa, with consistent support being provided to key institutions throughout its democratic transition. Initial engagement began in 2016, just before the first democratic elections, and the foundations for the current portfolio of programming were laid in November 2017 when International IDEA was involved in the constitution-building process. After three years of work on a new constitution, which should replace the 1997 constitution, Gambia's lawmakers rejected the draft in September 2020.

Over the last few years International IDEA has supported the process of revising the rejected draft and in 2024 the Institute facilitated discussions on a revised draft with Members of Parliament; supported the legal drafting team at the Ministry of Justice; and built consensus among constitution makers to keep the constitutional reform process alive.

After presenting a revised draft constitution to Parliament in February 2024 the cabinet made numerous fundamental changes to the draft. International IDEA realized the serious risks associated with these changes and developed a risk analysis that was shared with the Attorney General and the Minister of Justice. In response to this analysis the draft constitution was gazetted on 16 August with an explanatory note.

However, the cabinet draft and explanatory note were condemned by opposition political parties and civil society. The Attorney General and the Minister of Justice therefore invited International IDEA to take steps to support

The actors agreed to reconvene consultations after the gazetting period and before the re-submission of the draft constitution to the National Assembly.

a mediation process. Following this invitation, International IDEA consulted with leaders of political parties represented at the National Assembly, and CSOs. **The actors agreed to reconvene consultations after the gazetting period and before the re-submission of the draft constitution to the National Assembly.** Meanwhile, International IDEA will continue to provide advice and facilitate formal and informal dialogue among stakeholders.

Supporting political transition in Gabon

Funding

Enabled by core funding and implemented with earmarked core funding from the Netherlands.

The Committee for the Transition and Restoration of Institutions took power in the 2023 Gabonese coup d'état. In 2024, transitional authorities consulted International IDEA to shape the country's political transitional process.

Some suggestions proposed in the option notes were implemented by transitional authorities in Gabon.

At the beginning of 2024 International IDEA developed a background analysis of the on-going political transition in Gabon. Subsequently the Institute deployed a mission to Gabon to meet transitional authorities and stakeholders. The mission led to the development of an action plan to support the constitutional reform process, which was shared with all transitional stakeholders and international partners.

As a first step in the action plan constitutional reform experts at International IDEA developed five option notes. **Some suggestions proposed in these option notes were implemented by transitional authorities in Gabon**, including the proposal to profile participants to the Inclusive National Dialogue and the adoption of a voluntary code of conduct for participants, as well as recommendations on the composition of the body in charge of drafting the new constitution.

In April International IDEA attended the opening ceremony of the Inclusive National Dialogue and set up a standby support team to the Bureau of the Inclusive National Dialogue. **The support team was consulted by the Political Committee of the Inclusive National Dialogue to provide advice and share comparative experiences, which influenced the design of the transitional process.**

Moreover, International IDEA has provided an induction session on the constitution building process for 150 members of the Transitional National Assembly and the Transitional Senate. The session contributed to developing and strengthening skills and knowledge of participants on the design of the constitutional reform process, based on lessons learned from other African countries in similar situations. **The session also provided an opportunity to establish a formal space for dialogue between members of the transitional**

parliament and the Ministry of Institutional Reforms on the content of the draft constitution.

The Institute has also provided training on electoral risk management for 15 senior staff members at the General Directorate of Elections of the Ministry of Interior and Security and 15 Representatives of CSOs. **The training led to the development of a risk analysis with mitigation measures in preparation for the constitutional referendum, which took place on 16 November 2024.**

CONSTITUTIONAL IMPLEMENTERS PROMOTE RESPECT FOR RULE OF LAW AND CONSTITUTIONALISM UNDER AGREED CONSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS

Improving access to justice for vulnerable groups in Nigeria

Funding

Enabled by core funding and implemented with restricted funding from the European Union.

International IDEA and its RoLAC partners have improved collaboration between justice sector actors, which has contributed to better delivery of legal aid services for vulnerable groups in Nigeria.

In November 2023 International IDEA signed an agreement with the EU to manage a second phase of the Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption Programme (RoLAC II), in Nigeria. The overall goal of the programme is to contribute to the consolidation of the rule of law and anti-corruption reforms in Nigeria.

A key outcome is that International IDEA initiated consultations between the Legal Aid Council and the Ministry of Justice has resulted in more domestic funding for this work. Moreover, **with support from RoLAC, Nigeria's Legal Aid Council is working on establishing a formal system for para-legal services.** Another key outcome related to this work is that **the Legal Aid Council of Nigeria and the Nigeria Police Force have intensified efforts to ensure that crime suspects have access to justice while in detention**, through the provision of legal aid under the Police Duty Solicitors Scheme (PDSS). The PDSS aims to ensure that lawyers are on call at police detention centres to support bail applications, that detainees are not pressured to make statements under duress, that police stations comply with judicial directives, and that suspects have legal representation in court.

According to representatives of the Legal Aid Council International IDEA's support to these efforts has helped to improve the reach and effectiveness of

With support from RoLAC, Nigeria's Legal Aid Council is working on establishing a formal system for para-legal services.

the PDSS and resulted in the establishment of PDSS Advisory Committees in seven states, which help coordinate public and private legal aid actors.

RoLAC II also enables lawyers to provide legal services to vulnerable groups. Activities include legal aid clinics, where legal aid volunteers across the country exchange experiences and knowledge, and subsidies for costs associated with representing clients. **A key outcome from this work is the expansion of a network of legal aid volunteers coordinated by the Duty Solicitors' Network.** The volunteers visit police stations regularly to support clients who would be put in custody awaiting hearing and, according to legal volunteers, 'unnecessarily clog up the over-burdened system'. Moreover, these services aim to ensure that clients are treated with dignity and that their human and legal rights are protected.

Legal volunteers in Abuja attest that there is a shift of practice at police stations: 'We have seen that the police do not keep suspects in detention over the extended time allowed. They know that we will be there to hold them accountable.' Representatives of the Legal Aid Council in Lagos confirmed that they had made similar observations and said that their presence 'keep the police on their toes'. Moreover, **police officers testify that they have changed their practices as RoLAC has supported them in introducing Standard Operating Procedures for how to question and detain suspects.**

Non-custodial measures assist decongestion in correctional centres in Nigeria

Funding

Enabled by core funding and implemented with restricted funding from the European Union.

International IDEA and its RoLAC partners have advocated for non-custodial measures, probation, and suspended sentences as an alternative to prison in Nigeria. In November 2024 the Attorney General announced that non-custodial sentencing will be the default option for courts in the future.

Through advocacy and technical support PRAWA, a RoLAC-supported CSO, has played a crucial role in facilitating the enactment of the Nigerian Correctional Services Act. In a transformative shift from a punitive to a correction-driven paradigm, this legislation changed the name of the 'Nigeria Prison Service' to 'Nigerian Correctional Services'. Consistent with this conceptual change, the Act complements and reinforces the provisions of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act (ACJA) of 2015 on non-custodial measures. Following the recent devolution of correctional services, International IDEA and its RoLAC partners are supporting the enactment of similar laws at the sub-national level.

RoLAC's continuous work on this topic has included convening a series of sensitization events to create awareness about non-custodial measures, probation, and suspended sentences. Town hall meetings were conducted across RoLAC's six focal states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), with 149,254 persons reached on X, Facebook and Instagram. Moreover, **sponsorship of several stakeholder engagements - involving the police, judiciary, and other relevant criminal justice sector institutions and actors - has expanded the utilization of non-custodial sentencing in Lagos state.**

Sponsorship of several stakeholder engagements has expanded the utilization of non-custodial sentencing in Lagos state.

However, at the national level, the Nigerian Correctional Services reports that there has not been a significant uptick in the number of non-custodial sentences due, in part, to the fact that non-custodial sentencing is relatively new in Nigeria's criminal jurisprudence. However, it is possible that a breakthrough was achieved in November 2024, as **the federal Attorney General during a press conference that was broadcast on national television stated that non-custodial sentencing will be the default option for courts in the future.**

Strengthening the protection of victims of domestic violence in Nigeria

Funding

Enabled by core funding and implemented with restricted funding from the European Union.

With support from International IDEA and its RoLAC partners the Ministries of Justice and the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons' (NAPTIP) in Nigeria strengthen practices to prosecute perpetrators of, and provide support to victims of, domestic violence.

RoLAC II strengthens the Ministries of Justice and the NAPTIP practices to prosecute perpetrators of, and to provide support to victims of, domestic violence. This workstream includes institutional support to the Federal Ministry of Justice's and NAPTIP's capacity to rapidly response to cases of domestic violence and facilitate the prosecution of perpetrators. Moreover, NAPTIP's Violence Against Persons department, which was set up and staffed with funding from RoLAC I, provides services and support to victims of domestic violence in Sexual Assault Referral Centers (SARCs). **Besides providing health services and temporary protection for the survivors, the SARCs help in gathering evidence of abuse that can be used in court.** They thus provide a link between protecting and supporting victims, and the judicial actors and processes. To enable the sustainability of these institutions, work in RoLAC II includes advocacy for ensuring domestic funding.

International IDEA coordinates the network of SARCs and supports information sharing among them. In 2024, a total of 15,174 survivors had been assisted by 33 of the 41 SARCs that had provided data by September. Of the 15,174 cases

reported to SARCs, arrests were made in 3,030 cases, with 903 cases charged to court and 50 convictions secured.

Even if this is a step in the right direction, 50 convictions in over 15,000 cases is disappointing. In response to this data, senior level representatives at **the Ministry of Justice and NAPTIP reported that the two RoLAC programmes have strengthened their capacity to investigate domestic violence cases and established and trained a team of designated prosecutors and six special judges.** However, the justice sector actor's de-prioritization of such cases hampers results, and hence the number of convictions for domestic violence is increasing slowly. Moreover, prosecuting perpetrators for domestic violence is a difficult task, which includes significant work on sensitizing both citizens and justice sector institutions that domestic violence is a crime. Advocacy and public outreach campaigns are on-going and will receive continued support from RoLAC II.

OUTCOMES FROM THE DEMOCRACY ASSESSMENT WORKSTREAM



In its role as a think tank, International IDEA has developed hundreds of publications on political parties, political finance, parliaments, citizens' engagement, electoral processes and constitution-building. The Institute also maintains several influential global databases on democracy, such as the GSoD Indices and annual report, which depict democratic trends at the country, regional and global levels across a broad range of different attributes of democracy in 158 countries. In recent years, the GSoD Indices have developed into a broader initiative that includes policy briefs, press releases and social media posts, as well as launches and workshops.

The GSoD initiative aims to provide up-to-date, incisive and relevant data, analysis and policy guidance that informs, influences, and helps shape the global debate on democracy. The strategy for implementing this approach is to influence targeted governmental and non-governmental policy influencers and policymakers as well as targeted journalists across the world, to use

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- **If the media** utilize evidence-based data and research to inform the public about democracy in a deeper, more nuanced, and more conceptually rigorous way, and hold decision makers to account to these standards;
- **And if policy influencers** design and implement effective and evidence-based advocacy campaigns and recommendations based on data and research, for promoting democracy;
- **And if targeted policy makers** (representing governments, foundations and other major actors in democracy promotion) make evidence- and context-based decisions about how to promote democracy, **then** ...

... rigorous, high quality data and forward-looking analysis will inform policies and interventions that safeguard and promote democracy, and pro-democracy actors will have better access to the tools they need to help stem authoritarianism.

This chapter reports results from the three boundary partners that International IDEA is working with in the Democracy Assessment workstream. As these changes are complex, the report provides qualitative outcome narratives, which describe how International IDEA has influenced each of these boundary partners' relationships, behaviour and practices. These stories do not account for all of International IDEA's activities and results in the area of democracy assessment but are representative examples of what the Institute has done and achieved. Hence the narratives should be regarded as qualitative indicators of International IDEA's results.

POLICY INFLUENCERS PROMOTE DEMOCRACY BY DESIGNING AND IMPLEMENTING EFFECTIVE AND EVIDENCE-BASED ADVOCACY CAMPAIGNS AND RECOMMENDATIONS BASED ON DATA AND RESEARCH, AND POLICYMAKERS RESPOND TO MEDIA AND POLICY INFLUENCERS BY MAKING EVIDENCE- AND CONTEXT-BASED DECISIONS ABOUT HOW TO PROMOTE DEMOCRACY

Policy influencers use GSoD products to shape discussions on democracy

Funding

Implemented with core funding and restricted funding from the European Union and the Bosch Foundation.

The private sector, civil society organizations, think tanks and academia across the world use GSoD data, analysis, and recommendations for increasing knowledge about the state of democracy, improving analysis, designing democracy programmes, and to shape well informed and constructive discussion on democracy.

One of the groups of actors that International IDEA strategically attempts to influence with the GSoD products are policy influencers such as CSOs, media, think tanks, private sector entities, foundations, election watchdogs and trade unions. **In 2024, policy influencers were among the largest groups engaging with the GSoD report's findings, particularly higher education institutes and CSOs.** For example, two senior researchers from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government - [Phumzile van Damme](#) and [Pippa Norris](#) - both shared insights from the report. Additionally, Democracy Without Borders published an article [summarizing](#) the report's findings. Notable experts shared data visualizations from the report on social media, including a [Senior Fellow at Carnegie Endowment](#) and a [Research Director at Ipsos UK](#).

The GSoD report has also played a role in informing advocacy by CSOs. A [testimony](#) by Skye Perryman, President of Democracy Forward, to the House Oversight and Accountability Committee Hearing (US House of Representatives) references the GSoD 2021 report's analysis of the impacts of the 6 January storming of the Capitol on democracy in the United States.

Beyond advocacy, GSoD Initiative products have inspired CSOs' programme design. CIVICUS approached International IDEA to consult on the Democracy Tracker methodology to inform the design of their programme aimed at strengthening the capacity of civil society organizations. They noted: 'We have been deeply inspired by the work showcased on your website, particularly your innovative use of the arrow system and 'to watch' tags for alerting future changes in democratic space.'

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Think tanks and civil society organizations have incorporated GSoD data into their analysis and presentations.

Think tanks and civil society organizations have also incorporated GSoD data into their analysis and presentations. For instance, the Center for International Cooperation (JANIC), a Japanese CSO, reported that data from the GSoD initiative was [cited](#) at the 2023 Tokyo Democracy Forum, which focused on defending democracy and civic space in Asia. At the [European Forum](#) in Alpbach, Austria, a seminar on 'Reinventing democracy in Europe' referenced GSoD data. The seminar was chaired by representatives from Civics International and Good Lobby. Additionally, Chatham House [cited](#) the Democracy Assessment team's analysis of the Syrian parliamentary elections in an article discussing seat allocation.

Universities and academics continued to use the GSoD Initiative as an authoritative source of data and analysis, averaging roughly 50 academic citations per quarter in 2024. The Perceptions of Democracy Survey (PODS) was [cited](#) in the Journal of Democracy in a mid-year review examining the impacts of elections in 2024 on democracy. Other selected examples include a [citation](#) of GSoD Indices data in the Journal of Governance and Regulation on institutional quality and economic growth, and an article by Tanzanian researchers investigating the link between democracy and development, [published](#) in the African Journal of Economic Review. Previous editions of the GSoD report were cited in analyses of [democratization in Nigeria](#) (published in Wukari International Studies Journal) and [news use and political engagement](#) in countries in sub-Saharan Africa (published in Communication and the Public). Democracy Tracker reports were cited in a [July article](#) on content moderation and platform liability policies in Germany (published by the University of Washington) and an [August research paper](#) on gun control in Puntland (Somalia) published in Advances in Applied Sociology.

GSoD products influence democratic policies and reforms

Funding

Implemented with core funding and restricted funding from the European Union and the Bosch Foundation.

Government agencies, public officials, and intergovernmental organizations regularly use GSoD data, analysis, and recommendations to develop evidence-based democratic policies and reforms.

International IDEA's Global State of Democracy Indices and reports, as well as the Institute's Democracy Tracker seek to inform national, regional and international debates on democracy, as well as decision making on democratic policies and reforms. The aim is to shape well informed and constructive discussions as well as evidence-based decision making on democratic governance.

In October, the Finnish Innovation Agency (Sitra) [highlighted](#) key takeaways from the GSoD report in anticipation of the US election. In September, the Speaker of the Parliament in Ghana [referenced](#) the 2023 edition of the GSoD report during a keynote address for the 75th anniversary of the University of Ghana. Additionally, **the UN Human Rights Office (OHCHR) [cited the GSoD report 2023 in an article discussing the opportunities and challenges elections present for democratic health](#)**, while the latest edition of the Council of Europe Higher Education Series [referenced](#) the 2022 GSoD report. **The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD) Reinforcing Democracy Initiative report, which extensively cites GSoD Indices data and Democracy Tracker reports, was shared with all OECD member states.** Additionally, the chapter of the OECD report '[Government at a Glance 2023](#)', focused on democratic resilience, references the GSoD report 2022.

This year's report launch was widely praised by key policymakers. H.E. Xavier Bettel, Luxembourg's Vice Prime Minister, described the GSoD Initiative as 'one of the world's foremost platforms for assessing the health of democracy globally' and provided a summary of the GSoD report findings in a [video](#). Representatives from several electoral management bodies were engaged during the report's launch on 17 September. Officials from Uganda, India and Côte d'Ivoire shared that they participated in the online web stream, while the Australian Election Commissioner provided feedback in an email, calling the GSoD 2024 report 'really excellent.'

Sida's Asia department found the Asia-Pacific Outlook report 'very interesting' and requested a presentation for both Sida staff and Swedish embassies and section offices in the region. The presentation was intended to serve as a 'point of departure for reflections on the contexts of relevance to Swedish development cooperation.' They requested similar presentations for future reports as they are released.

Generally, international development actors and the foreign service were among the primary users of the GSoD Initiative's analysis among policymakers. For example, the Norwegian Ministry for Foreign Affairs [cited](#) the Democracy Tracker in a report to the Parliament on Norway's support to Ukraine. **The Office of the Special Envoy for Syria congratulated International IDEA on the Democracy Tracker and said the GSoD Indices are 'extremely useful' in their work** 'in communicating to stakeholders and colleagues alike.'

Other actors in this space also featured GSoD products among their recommended tools and resources. Luxembourg's Ministry for Foreign Affairs [highlighted](#) the Democracy Tracker and the GSoD Indices on its website, while **the EU International Partnerships Academy began including GSoD Initiative products in its Democracy, Elections & Freedom of Speech section.** Finally, development cooperation actors have begun to use the GSoD to evaluate their own results. An upcoming comprehensive strategic evaluation of Sweden's democracy support relies on the GSoD Initiative's conceptual framework to collect and analyze relevant data.

Sida pilots International IDEA's results framework

Funding

Enabled by core funding and implemented with restricted funding from Sida.

Sida pilots International IDEA's results framework for results reporting and results-based management in Swedish development cooperation.

In 2024 Sida was tasked by the Swedish government to revise its system for results reporting and results-based management. During this work, the authority sought inspiration from other actors and turned to International IDEA, which has developed an innovative system for assessing and reporting results of democracy assistance programming.

The collaboration resulted in an assignment to International IDEA to develop frameworks for results reporting for two of Sida's strategic target areas: Promoting freedom and combating oppression; and poverty alleviation through job creation, trade and education. The framework for promoting freedom and combating oppression relies heavily on the conceptual framework, which underpins the Global State of Democracy Indices, and uses data from the indices for tracking high-level development trends.

In November and December 2024 Sida decided to pilot the Promoting Freedom and Combating Oppression framework and after the pilot phase they will decide whether to implement the approach for all its operations.

Bringing defense and democracy conversations closer together at the 2024 NATO Summit

Funding

Enabled by and implemented with core funding.

International IDEA convened democracy assistance and security experts from North America and Europe to develop relationships and explore the nexus between democracy and global security.

On the margins of the 2024 NATO Summit held in Washington D.C., International IDEA convened a side event entitled 'Strengthening Security through Democratic Resilience'. The event featured speakers from diverse institutions and countries. The Head of International IDEA's North America Programme, set the stage with opening remarks that highlighted IDEA's role as a transatlantic convener on democracy. Other notable speakers included Ambassador William B. Taylor (U.S. Institute of Peace), US Representative

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Gerry Connolly (D-VA), Joseph Brinker (NATO Parliamentary Assembly), Patrick R. Quirk (International Republican Institute), David Salvo (Alliance for Securing Democracy), Calin Trenkov-Wermuth (U.S. Institute of Peace), Léonie Allard (Atlantic Council), and Johan Frisell (Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs).

Their collective expertise spanned security policy and democratic resilience, which contributed to a vibrant exchange of ideas on why democratic resilience matters for NATO, and how to bring the defense and democracy conversations closer together.

Discussions emphasized how democratic resilience is essential for global security and NATO because strong democracies promote stable governance, reduce the risk of internal unrest, and counter external interference. Resilient democracies also prevent authoritarian actors from exploiting vulnerabilities, reinforcing NATO's collective security framework and enabling unified responses to threats such as cyberattacks, disinformation, and military aggression.

A key output was the drafting of actionable recommendations, including the role of a NATO Center for Democratic Resilience — a concrete step to bolster NATO's ability to strengthen democratic resilience and advance global security. **The discussions underscored the need for continued collaboration between democracy and security practitioners, to more effectively address today's complex challenges.**

By bridging the gap between two traditionally separate spheres, the convening teased out vital insights on how democratic principles underpin effective security strategies. The event reaffirmed the shared mission to build a secure and democratic future on both sides of the Atlantic and across the world.

The discussions underscored the need for continued collaboration between democracy and security practitioners, to more effectively address today's complex challenges.

MEDIA USE EVIDENCE-BASED DATA AND RESEARCH TO INFORM THE PUBLIC ABOUT DEMOCRACY IN A DEEPER, MORE NUANCED, AND MORE CONCEPTUALLY RIGOROUS WAY, AND HOLD DECISION MAKERS TO ACCOUNT

Media across the world use the GSoD data and analysis

Funding

Implemented with core funding and restricted funding from the European Union and the Bosch Foundation.

Reuters, Politico, Associated Press, El Pais, Voice of America, Washington Post, BBC, Le Figaro, ABC news, and BBC as well as hundreds of local newspapers use GSoD for reporting on the state of democracy.

International IDEA's Global State of Democracy Indices and reports, as well as the Institute's Democracy Tracker seek to inform national, regional and international media reporting on democracy. The aim is to shape well-informed media reporting and support media to be able to hold policymakers to account on democratic governance.

Outreach to media has increased since the launch of the 2021 GSoD report, and hundreds of media outlets have been targeted with information about the report and the GSoD Indices. Direct outreach to media has proved more effective than blanket press outreach.

International IDEA's communications team recorded more than 350 news articles referencing the GSoD report in the first 24 hours of the global launch on 17 September 2024. The GSoD 2024 report had strong media coverage around the world, from large international outlets - such as [Reuters](#), [Politico](#), [Associated Press](#), and [El Pais](#) - to local and regional news sources, such as [TV4 News](#) (Sweden) to [Rio Times Online](#) (Brazil). An [interview](#) with an Adviser at International IDEA's Democracy Assessment team became one of Voice of America's most viewed articles, and was subsequently picked up by local outlets [Liberale](#) (Albania) and [Klan Kosova](#). A presentation by International IDEA's Secretary-General in Namibia on the global state of democracy was widely covered in local news, including by the Namibian Broadcasting Corporation, the [Windhoek Observer](#) and the Namibia Press Agency.

Coverage of the super-election cycle widely cited the GSoD Initiative in top international news outlets.

Coverage of the super-election cycle widely cited the GSoD Initiative in top international news outlets including [New York Times](#), [Economist](#), [Washington Post](#), [El Pais](#), [the Financial Times](#), [VOX](#), [Forbes](#), [Bloomberg](#) as well as the [Hindustan Times](#), [the South China Morning Post](#), [Mensaje](#) (Chile), [La Tercera](#), [Dagens Nyheter](#) (Sweden), [Le Figaro](#) (France), [Taipei Times Online](#), [Vanguardia](#), [RTE online](#) (Ireland), [Proceso](#) (Mexico), [El Sol de Mexico](#). German national weekly newspaper [Die Zeit](#) published a piece on the super-election cycle featuring interviews with International IDEA. An article on Venezuela's election from July, published by the [BBC](#), references GSoD Indices data.

The launch of the PODS report in April also had strong media coverage, including by the [Washington Post](#), [ABC News](#), [TV4](#) (Sweden), the front page of the international section of [El Pais](#), [Reuters](#), [ANSA](#) (Argentina), [La Stampa](#) (Italy), [The Independent](#) (United Kingdom), [Japan Today](#), [Swissinfo](#) (Switzerland), [US News](#), [Arab News](#), [Strait Times](#), [Premium Times of Nigeria](#), [RNZ Pacific](#) (New Zealand), [Yahoo News](#), [Diario de Noticias](#) (Portugal) and [AP News](#).

Over the course of the year, media outlets continued to reference GSoD tools such as the Democracy Tracker and GSoD Indices. An article in [Aftonbladet](#) (Sweden) references GSoD analysis on freedom of the press and civil society in Sweden. The Democracy Tracker Canada [country profile](#) was used as a source in a [Politico](#) article. An article in the [Daily](#)

Star examined Bangladesh's performance according to GSoD Indices data, listing the GSoD Indices as among the most prominent democracy indices.

Global Advocacy Campaign to #ProtectElections

Funding

Enabled by and implemented with core funding

In 2024, International IDEA designed and executed its first global annual advocacy campaign, focused on emphasizing and encouraging electoral integrity. The campaign inspired interest and publicity on challenges electoral integrity.

At the start of 2024, as countries with half the world's population prepared to go to the polls, International IDEA resolved to redouble its focus on the need to protect democratic elections. As reported in other narratives in this report the Institute delivered on this commitment by developing the capacity of electoral policymakers to manage risk, by convening dialogues to exchange good electoral practices and strengthen relationships among the election management bodies and foreign ministries in the Institute's Member States, and by generating and disseminating knowledge about trends and lessons through the 2024 Global State of Democracy Report and other publications.

The campaign unified and reinforced the Institute's voice as a champion of free and fair elections, while strengthening synergies and cooperation across International IDEA's teams and regions, as well as between research and capacity development programmes. Moreover, it inspired interest and publicity on global challenges to electoral integrity. One hallmark of the campaign was a new landing page highlighting the progress and developments in elections worldwide. Updated regularly, this page quickly became a reference tool for governments, media, and researchers globally. The campaign's frequent media advisories generated some 6,000 media mentions of International IDEA related to elections, including hits in the New York Times, The Economist, and other leading publications.

OUTCOMES FROM THE DIGITALIZATION AND DEMOCRACY WORKSTREAM



In 2023 International IDEA started a new workstream on digitalization and democracy which aims at shaping the behaviour, relationships, and practices of a wide range of actors to protect and defend democracy against digital threats and reinforce it through technology. This is done by protecting and reinforcing the resilience of key democratic processes and institutions against digital threats, by supporting authorities and policy influencers (such as civil society) in using technology to reinforce democratic principles and values, and by influencing global and regional policy making around technology. International IDEA focuses on supporting locally led and locally designed solutions that respond to digital threats by providing neutral perspectives, sharing international best practices, standards and perspectives, and conveying dialogue spaces.

The programme is underpinned by the following theory of change:

- **If policy influencers within civil society** effectively advocate that governmental policies and regulatory frameworks are needed to protect democratic institutions and processes from digital threats and challenges posed by emerging technologies;
- **And if EMBs and other relevant institutions'** capacity to build resilience against digital threats is enhanced and maintained;
- **And if advisors to governmental policy makers (including EMBs)** influence policy choices so that they are informed by an understanding of the impact of technologies on the quality of democracy;
- **And if governmental policy makers (including electoral policymakers)** are influenced by policy influencers and their policy advisors to develop policies and regulatory frameworks that protect democratic institutions and processes from digital threats and challenges posed by emerging technologies;
- **And if public administration** uses these policies and regulatory frameworks to develop rules and regulations to bolster and uphold democratic principles and values in the conceptualization and implementation of digital innovation and technological reforms;
- **And if digital oversight bodies and civil society** hold policy makers and public administration accountable for their digital strategies by monitoring how they prevent and mitigate threats to democracy posed by digital innovations, and ensure in their operations that the implementation of digital governance complies with fundamental democratic principles and values, **then ...**

... it becomes more likely that technology is developed, designed, governed, regulated, and used by informed, engaged and critical citizens under democratic principles, thus sustaining and affirming the protection and advancement of more democratic and inclusive societies.

The digitalization and democracy workstream cut across other workstreams at the Institute, in particular the electoral processes and the political participation and representation workstream. Therefore, activities can potentially be undertaken in cooperation with seven boundary partners, as outlined in the Theory of Change.

The two stories in this section do not account for all of International IDEA's activities and results in the area of digitalization and democracy but are *representative examples* of what the Institute has achieved so far in this new workstream.

Safeguarding societies from risks associated with new technologies

Funding

Enabled by and implemented with core funding.

International IDEA cooperated with Member States to incorporate respect for human rights in the Global Digital Compact (GDC).

In 2023 and 2024, the United Nations conducted negotiations leading to the approval of the GDC, a framework under the Pact for the Future, which is the most comprehensive international agreement in decades, covering entirely new areas while also resolving issues that have long stalled consensus. The GDC aims to define technology's role in society and establish commitments for UN member states to maximize technology's benefits while safeguarding societies from its risks.

Through its Digitalization and Democracy Team International IDEA participated in the GDC process to ensure that democratic principles were integrated into the final document. To support its advocacy, International IDEA published a [policy paper](#), which was downloaded 308 times and viewed over 2,000 times. The paper positioned the Institute as a respected voice among stakeholders in this policy space.

The event enabled International IDEA to present key findings to Sweden and other Member States' permanent UN representations, which formally requested the Institute's input to shape their negotiating positions.

Moreover, on April 29, 2024, shortly before the second reading of the GDC, International IDEA hosted a [panel discussion](#) at UN headquarters in New York, co-sponsored by Brazil, Estonia, and Norway, and attended by international actors such as Article 19 and Digital Medusa. **The event enabled International IDEA to present key findings to Sweden, one of the GDC facilitators, and other Member States' permanent UN representations, including Finland, Norway, and Brazil, which formally requested the Institute's input to shape their negotiating positions.**

Building on the policy paper, the Institute shared insights through specialized media, publishing a [blog post](#) in *Tech Policy Press* in May and another [blog post](#) on International IDEA's website. Following the conclusion of the GDC negotiations, *Tech Policy Press* invited the Institute to write an [analysis](#) on the final agreement.

In September 2024, at the UN Summit for the Future in New York, [the Secretary-General](#) spoke at a high-level dialogue about the importance of democratic norms in digital governance, alongside Heads of State, Heads of Government, and Ministers from around the world.

The GDC was adopted on September 22, 2024, incorporating principles championed by International IDEA, such as respect for human rights, the protection of a multistakeholder approach to internet governance, and an

open framework for digital public infrastructure in line with international human rights laws. These inclusions reflect IDEA's advocacy objectives and the values it emphasized during negotiations.

The collaboration with International IDEA's Member State representatives at the UN illustrates the role the Institute can play in amplifying their influence on the global stage. By partnering with the Institute, Member States enhance the visibility and impact of their positions internationally and gain a knowledge and advocacy ally to advance their foreign policy objectives.

Building partnerships to take global leadership on artificial intelligence and elections

Funding

Implemented with core funding and restricted funding from Canada and the Society Resilience Fund.

In 2024, International IDEA positioned itself at the forefront of the global debate on AI and elections. A partnership with the Society Resilience Fund has enabled the Institute to develop an AI literacy curriculum and training for electoral officials, media, and civil society engaged in elections.

The work on AI and Elections is driven by International IDEA's Digitalization and Democracy workstream, a new initiative created as part of the Institutional Strategy, approved by the Council of Member States in 2023. The strategy emphasizes that International IDEA's work on digitalization should focus both on harnessing technology's potential to reinforce democracy and on protecting democracy against digital harms. Although the programme builds on previous work by International IDEA in this field, the process of moving from conceptualization and strategy to actual delivery of outputs was made possible by a grant from the Government of Canada in 2023.

During the design phase of the programme, International IDEA identified AI as a priority area, seeing it as a natural fit with the dual objectives of reinforcing democracy through technology and protecting it from digital risks. While leveraging International IDEA's expertise and networks, the programme initially focused on AI and electoral integrity. Its goal was to build a comprehensive body of innovative and actionable knowledge to address the pressing questions electoral stakeholders face regarding AI's role and impact on elections.

The first tangible output of this effort was an innovative report providing recommendations for EMBs on how to adopt AI, while outlining strategies to mitigate potential harm. The report aimed to achieve two main goals: to fill a knowledge gap by providing unique, practical insights for policymakers, and to establish International IDEA as an authoritative voice in the field. It also created

a sustainable foundation for further initiatives on AI and elections that would benefit key partners.

The report opened doors for cooperation with the Society Resilience Fund, established by Microsoft and OpenAI to promote responsible AI adoption and protect elections from potential digital harms.

The report opened doors for cooperation with the Society Resilience Fund, established by Microsoft and OpenAI to promote responsible AI adoption and protect elections from potential digital harms. The fund was part of the commitments both companies endorsed under the Tech Accord to Combat Deceptive Use of AI in 2024 elections. Building on this partnership, International IDEA launched an AI Literacy curriculum and conducted global training for EMBs, civil society, and media to increase AI literacy, and supported parliaments in considering AI adoption and regulation.

OUTCOMES FROM THE CLIMATE CHANGE AND DEMOCRACY WORKSTREAM



In 2023 International IDEA started a new workstream on climate change and democracy, which aims at shaping the behaviour, relationships, and practices of a wide range of actors to promote policies, practices, reform and innovation that allow democracies to formulate and implement effective and citizen-owned climate action. This is done by bringing attention to comparative international practices, standards and perspectives; creating accessible comparative knowledge resources; conveying and facilitating dialogue spaces between stakeholders; and building capacity of local and regional partners on the climate change and democracy nexus, in accordance with the following theory of change:

- **If policy influencers within civil society** have the capacity and knowledge to effectively advocate for policies, reform and innovation to mitigate democracy's structural weaknesses (e.g., short-termism, self-preferentialism, policy capture or inconsistency); leverage democracy's inherent qualities (e.g., consensus-building, free flow of information, civil

society engagement); and foster democratic innovation (e.g., climate assemblies, climate litigation and institutions for future generations) that are needed for more effective and citizen-owned climate action;

- **And if advisors to governmental policymakers** influence policy choices and institutional reform proposals so that they are informed by an understanding of how democracy's weaknesses and strengths impact the effectiveness, sustainability and legitimacy of climate action;
- **And if governmental policymakers** are influenced by policy influencers, policy advisors, media and civil society organizations to pursue policies, reform and innovation for more effective and citizen-owned climate action in line with their binding international commitments as Parties to the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement;
- **And assuming that media** utilizes International IDEA's climate change and democracy resources to inform the public about the climate change and democracy nexus and hold policymakers to account for progress on the reforms and innovations to strengthen the capacity of democracies to engage in effective and citizen-owned climate action in line with the Paris Agreement commitments;
- **And assuming that public administration** is capable of translating ambitious citizen-owned climate agendas into effective action on climate mitigation and adaptation while paying special attention to concerns about just transition;
- **And assuming that oversight agencies** with mandates on climate policy effectively monitor and articulate the interests of young and future generations to increase intergenerational justice perspectives in climate policymaking;
- **And assuming that parliaments** exercise their legislative, oversight and representation functions to become transparent, inclusive, responsive and accountable to all citizens on climate policy and action, **then** ...

... it becomes more likely that democracies develop and implement effective and citizen-owned climate action responding to their Paris Agreement commitments, which will strengthen democratic legitimacy and resilience and increase citizen's trust in democracy.

The climate change and democracy workstream cut across other workstreams at the Institute, in particular the political participation and representation workstream. Therefore, activities can potentially be undertaken in cooperation with seven boundary partners, as outlined in the Theory of Change. As these changes are complex, the report provides qualitative outcome narratives, in which a description is given of how International IDEA has influenced each boundary partner's relationships, behaviours and practices. These stories do not account for all of International IDEA's activities and results in the area of climate change and democracy but are *representative examples* of

what the Institute does and achieves. Hence, the stories should be regarded as *qualitative indicators* of International IDEA's results in this rather new workstream.

International IDEA inspires interest in citizen deliberation to address climate change

Funding

Implemented with core funding and restricted funding from Agence Française de développement (AFD).

By combining knowledge production with awareness-raising events, International IDEA has inspired policymakers, media, CSOs, and academia to engage in discussions about how innovative forms of deliberative democracy can impact climate policy and action.

In its Climate Change and Democracy workstream International IDEA is exploring if deliberative processes can contribute to overcoming problems that democracies face in dealing with the climate change challenge. In deliberative processes, the public is not only invited to share their views on an issue, but also to deliberate and recommend potential solutions, based on scientific and technical evidence. International IDEA is of the view that increased awareness and meaningful spaces for learning between practitioners and academic experts can help create the frameworks for further progress in this direction. The Institute's role in this regard has been to systematize knowledge and convene spaces for dialogue and learning across and between the Global South and North.

In June 2024, International IDEA published *Deliberative Democracy and Climate Change: Exploring the Potential of Climate Assemblies in the Global South*. The [publication](#) analysed experiences from deliberative democracy practices, and found that climate assemblies can help formulate citizen-owned climate agendas, raise climate policy ambition, and create a social mandate for difficult climate policy choices and trade-offs. **A [launch event](#) in Nairobi with the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung confirmed the relevance of the topic in Sub-Saharan Africa and created strategic networks for further initiatives on climate deliberation in the region.** A [launch event](#) was also held in Canberra with the Centre for Deliberative Democracy and Global Governance at the University of Canberra, creating interest from regional stakeholders.

The publication was shared and disseminated widely by International IDEA and partner organisations, including the [Knowledge Network on Climate Assemblies](#) (KNOCA), [Democracy R&D](#), [People Powered](#), the [EU Commission's Community of Practice of the Competence Centre on Participatory and Deliberative Democracy](#) (CC-DEMOS) and the project donor [AFD](#). **These meetings inspired increased interest and interaction among stakeholders**

Meetings inspired increased interest and interaction among stakeholders central to advancing knowledge and practices around climate deliberation.

central to advancing knowledge and practices around climate deliberation, including International IDEA's Member States and development cooperation agencies, and academic and practitioner networks. An example of this is that International IDEA's Climate Change and Democracy team has been approached on multiple occasions for contributions connected to climate deliberation in the Global South. Media has also expressed interest, as the publication and its findings have been cited by media outlets in [Latin America](#) and [Tanzania](#) since the launch.

The Stockholm Series of Public Lectures on Climate Change and Democracy creates networks between professional communities

Funding

Implemented with core funding and restricted funding from the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung's regional programme for Nordic countries.

The Stockholm Series of Public Lectures on Climate Change and Democracy has inspired climate change and democracy professionals to engage in cross-discipline dialogue on the interlinkages between climate change and democracy.

In 2024, International IDEA organized the [Stockholm Series of Public Lectures on Climate Change and Democracy](#), which is a series of high-profile public lectures addressing key issues of climate change and democracy. Through the Stockholm Series, International IDEA utilized its convening power to bring together Stockholm-based institutions with a particular interest in climate change and democracy and International IDEA's Member States.

Speakers in 2024 included Jennie King, Director of Climate Policy & Research at Institute for Strategic Dialogue, Nicole Curato, Professor of Political Sociology at the Centre for Deliberative Democracy and Global Governance at the University of Canberra, Greta Ríos, Co-Executive Director of People Powered, and Luisa Neubauer, climate justice activist and author. Over 1,000 people participated in the lectures in person or virtually and more than 260,000 people have viewed the lecture videos.

The Stockholm Series generated interest and active engagement by climate research organizations, policy-relevant think tanks and International IDEA's Member States.

The Stockholm Series generated interest and active engagement by climate research organizations, policy-relevant think tanks and International IDEA's Member States as they contributed to dialogue, peer learning and knowledge exchange in a network which did not exist before the lecture series.

International IDEA framed the climate change and democracy nexus in a way that resonated with this new platform of actors, who will now jointly take on the task of influencing local, national and global climate policies and strengthening democratic responses to the climate crisis.

The partner organization meeting in December confirmed commitment to continue the Stockholm Series in 2025, where partners will increase their outreach and direct contributions for future speakers and topics. Partner organizations also proposed concrete steps to complement the Stockholm Series with in-person workshops for relevant topics. Moreover, some of them expressed interest in replicating the lecture series to widen networks in other regions.

OUTCOMES FROM THE ELECTORAL PROCESSES WORKSTREAM



By working through and together with a professional community of *electoral assistance practitioners*, International IDEA aims to inspire and support *electoral management bodies*, *policymakers* and *civil society* to adopt behaviours, relationships and practices that are conducive to credible and well-run electoral processes. The Institute does this by providing non-prescriptive comparative knowledge and options, and by facilitating processes that help stakeholders to explore and adopt solutions that suit their context. The theory of change underpinning this approach is that:

- **if electoral assistance practitioners** are informed by norms, good practices and research on electoral processes and digitalization and elections, and have the skills to contextualize such knowledge to local conditions, they can effectively inspire and support policymakers, electoral management bodies and civil society to adopt behaviours, relationships and practices that enable credible and well-run electoral processes; and

- **if electoral policymakers** increase knowledge and skills on electoral processes, and digitalization and elections, and apply these competencies to recognize and consider risks in elections and to create an enabling environment for inclusivity and accountability in electoral processes, this will create an environment for electoral management bodies and civil society to develop knowledge and skills on electoral processes; and
- **if electoral management bodies** increase knowledge and skills on electoral processes and digitalization and elections, and apply these competencies to effectively respond to complexities and risks in electoral processes, implement the electoral cycle approach, and embrace principles of impartiality, integrity, transparency, efficiency, and professionalism in their work; and
- **if civil society** then increases knowledge and skills on electoral processes and digitalization and elections, and applies these competencies to effectively demand accountability from policymakers and promote public participation in electoral processes; **then** ...

... political institutions will become more effective, accountable and transparent (SDG 16.6) and all citizens would be more politically included (SDG 10.2); and then the likelihood of credible and well-run electoral processes would be strengthened.⁵

This chapter focuses on results in the four boundary partners that International IDEA is targeting in electoral processes. As these changes are complex, the report provides qualitative outcome narratives, in which a description is given of how International IDEA has influenced each boundary partner's relationships, behaviours and practices. These stories do not account for all of International IDEA's activities and results in the area of electoral processes but are *representative examples* of what the Institute does and achieves. Hence, the stories should be regarded as *qualitative indicators* of International IDEA's results.

⁵ This theory of change is illustrated in Annex 1.

ELECTORAL ASSISTANCE PRACTITIONERS PROVIDES SUPPORT TO ELECTORAL PROCESSES INFORMED BY GOOD PRACTICES AND RESEARCH

Building an evidence base on electoral processes

Funding

Enabled by and implemented with core funding.

In 2024, International IDEA's seven databases on electoral processes were viewed by more than 400,000 viewers and over 144,000 active users from across the globe. Data taken from the Voter Turnout Database was prominent during media coverage of the 2024 Supercycle Year of Elections.

Many of International IDEA's most sought-after publications, such as on electoral system design, electoral management design, and elections during emergencies and crises build on the trusted evidence base in International IDEA's databases and dashboards. The most recent handbook on Special Voting Arrangements draws on data that can be found at <https://www.idea.int/data-tools/tools/special-voting-arrangements>.

In 2024, a new dashboard was added to the suite of election-focused online tools. The [Election Emergency and Crisis Monitor](#) includes over 65 country briefs dating from 2001 to 2024 that can be searched by country, year, region, election type, and type of hazard. Each country brief provides a concise overview of the disaster's impact on the country and its electoral process, detailing the event, its societal effects, connections to climate change, procedural and legal adaptations, and measures taken to safeguard electoral integrity. A Global Election Monitor, inspired by a similar dashboard on Covid-19 and elections, contains a series of summaries on national elections with a focus on risks to electoral integrity and resilience-building measures.

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In 2024, International IDEA's seven databases on electoral processes were viewed by more than 400,000 viewers and over 144,000 active users from across the globe. The Voter Turnout database (<https://www.idea.int/data-tools/data/voter-turnout-database/compulsory-voting>) was International IDEA's second most visited website, with 88,363 views and 65,425 active users. **Data taken from the Voter Turnout Database was prominent during coverage of the 2024 Supercycle Year of Elections, including in news articles published by CNN, Time Magazine and the New York Times, and was integral to the popularity of International IDEA's flagship 2024 Supercycle web feature.**

Strengthening partnerships for delivering innovative electoral capacity development

Funding

Enabled by and implemented with core funding.

The BRIDGE (Building Resources in Democracy, Governance, and Elections) community, with International IDEA as one of the key partners, has reinforced its role as a global leader in electoral capacity development. Since 2001 over 2,500 BRIDGE workshops have been conducted for over 21,393 participants in more than 116 countries.

In September 2022, BRIDGE marked its 20th anniversary. It was a moment celebrated globally and included a landmark exhibition at the United Nations headquarters. The exhibition underscored BRIDGE's two decades as a globally recognized resource in election management and democratic governance.

Recognizing the importance of its facilitator community, BRIDGE has bolstered engagement through surveys and virtual Communities of Practice (CoP).

The two well-attended CoP events in February and June 2024 brought together facilitators across the globe, strengthening community ties and sharing insights. At the February event there were 174 unique participants out of 358 registrations and at the June event, 96 unique participants out of 220 registrations. Those who registered were able to watch a post-event YouTube post. This move marks a new era for BRIDGE, leveraging digital tools to connect and support its facilitators more efficiently and regularly.

BRIDGE redesigned its website and facilitator Portal in 2021 to centralize resources and enhance accessibility. Following an in-depth evaluation in 2024, the website continues to be a critical tool for BRIDGE's global reach and serves as a hub for programme administration, content sharing, and community building.

The sustainability of BRIDGE is at the forefront of strategic and implementation plans, along with prioritizing broader capacity development efforts. The Train the Facilitator course, the third most chosen BRIDGE event, has been a key vehicle to ensure the renewal of the BRIDGE facilitator community. This, along with other initiatives, has refined BRIDGE's strategy, ensuring it remains responsive and resilient to future demand.

The Strategic Plan 2025-2029 sets the foundation for the future of BRIDGE. Key areas for growth include deepening connections with institutions like the ACE Electoral Knowledge Network, where International IDEA is also an active partner. BRIDGE thus stands well-prepared to continue delivering innovative electoral training and professional development worldwide.

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ELECTORAL POLICYMAKERS CONSIDER RISKS AND DEVELOP PRACTICES THAT FOSTER INCLUSIVITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Improving political representation in Mongolia

Funding

Enabled by and implemented with core funding.

International IDEA contributed to the successful change of electoral system by the Mongolian Parliament, the Great Hural.

Since late 2022, International IDEA has supported Mongolian policymakers and civil society leaders through consultations, [written analyses](#), and discussions. The partnership culminated in a two-day workshop with senior representatives from most political parties, followed by a [public forum](#) in collaboration with Open Society Forum in March 2023. Following these activities and extensive debate, the Great Hural approved a new parallel electoral system, which aims to enhance broader political representation than the block vote system that was previously used in Mongolia.

Block vote systems do not guarantee minority representation and allow a group of voters (a voting bloc) to ensure that only their preferred candidates are elected. Parallel voting combines a winner-take-all system with party-list proportional representation. In Mongolia, the new system retained block vote for its majoritarian component and introduced List Proportional Representation (List PR) system for its proportional representation component.

The new electoral system was put to the test when parliamentary elections were held on 28 June 2024, continuing a consistent tradition of democratic elections since 1990, as evidenced by International IDEA's [Voter Turnout Database](#). **The introduction of the List PR component was instrumental in driving a positive change in gender representation in Parliament. A significant achievement in the 2024 elections was the election of 32 women to the Great Hural, accounting for 25.4 per cent of the Members of Parliament.** This marks a substantial improvement surpassing Asia's regional average of 21.4 per cent (IPU Parline, August 2024) and approaches the global average of 26.9 per cent.

Overall, the 2024 election results aligned with expectations based on International IDEA's electoral system simulations. While the new parallel system allowed for greater representation of smaller parties, the two largest parties maintained dominance, especially in the majoritarian seats. The design choice to adopt fewer, larger majoritarian districts likely contributed to this outcome, as anticipated.

Increasing awareness of the impact of natural hazards on elections

Funding

Enabled by and implemented with core funding.

By strengthening interaction with disaster risk reduction and climate change professionals, International IDEA has increased awareness of the impact of natural hazards on electoral processes.

In 2024, International IDEA's Electoral Processes team has been actively engaged in research and advocacy to raise awareness of the increasing threats posed by natural hazards—particularly climate-related events such as floods, heatwaves, hurricanes, and wildfires—on electoral processes. The team's efforts have focused on integrating this issue into the agendas of the climate change and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) communities.

International IDEA's approach has been both strategic and opportunistic, leveraging its expanding evidence base, showcased prominently on the continuously updated 'Impact of Natural Hazards and Elections' project page, which began in 2022. The page includes global analysis, an interactive dashboard, case studies and podcasts on the topic.

A key outcome in this work has been strengthened interaction and cooperation with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), which has resulted in International IDEA publishing knowledge resources and a blog on UNDRR's news portal, PreventionWeb, which attracts 210,000 visitors each month.

Another example on how International IDEA's relationships with DRR communities is that the Institute was approached by the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) and Climate Central to provide expertise and feedback on a publication examining the impact of climate change on elections. As a result, International IDEA was referenced in two major publications: CFR's Foreign Affairs article, 'How Climate Change Threatens Democracy' (2024), and Climate Central's report, 'Disenfranchised by Climate Change' (2024).

On 12 November 2024, International IDEA engaged in a broader social media advocacy campaign which included a press release, social media post and infographics that highlighted the impact of extreme weather on electoral processes and the need for electoral reform. In one of the comments to the campaign Colm Lehane, from Refresh Global, wrote: 'The climate crisis is starting to impact everything, including democracy itself. Thanks to International IDEA for this invaluable insight'.

A key outcome in this work has been strengthened interaction and cooperation with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Advancing global norms for electoral assistance

Funding

Enabled by and implemented with core funding.

In November 2024, International IDEA supported OECD's Development Assistance Committee's Governance Network to discuss updating the principles and practices of electoral assistance.

The Network's discussions built on three publications: Model Commitments for Genuine and Credible Elections, the Global Network for Securing Electoral Integrity (GNSEI) principles on EMB independence and electoral reform, and insights of International IDEA's report for the Swedish Expert Group for Aid Studies (EBA), which highlights the need for context-aware, flexible, and people-centred approaches in electoral support.

The initiative seeks to ensure that electoral assistance is responsive to the complexities of modern elections, such as the rise of voting outside traditional polling stations, the role of new technologies, disinformation, and the risks of legitimising unsustainable electoral processes. Through the strategic collaboration, International IDEA aims to establish and mainstream revitalised principles that enhance resilience, promote democratic integrity, and address the nuanced risks facing elections today.

Sweden has partnered with the Institute in this endeavour and is a champion of the global norms, raising the importance of updated electoral assistance principles, aligning with Sweden's prioritisation of electoral integrity in its foreign policy and development agenda. **Other donors also actively supported the discussions at OECD, underlining the need for innovative and globally relevant guidelines.**

By fostering collaboration across agencies and regions, and leveraging strategic platforms, the updated principles will provide the foundation for more resilient, equitable, and effective electoral assistance worldwide.

Rallying global support for a UN Resolution on political finance transparency

Funding

Enabled by and implemented with core funding.

Since 2019, International IDEA has been utilizing its convening power and analysis to rally global support for a UN resolution on political finance transparency. In 2024 the advocacy initiative was gaining traction as others were joining.

At the 21st International Anti-Corruption Conference (IACC) in Vilnius, Lithuania, in June 2024, International IDEA convened a panel discussion on political finance transparency, underscoring its long-standing advocacy for transparent political financing as a key to combating corruption and strengthening democracy. The panel was part of International IDEA's broader effort to engage in high-level global forums such as the SDG 16 Conference (2023), the Open Government Partnership (OGP) Summit (2023), the 20th IACC (2022), and the UN General Assembly Special Session against Corruption (2021).

A major objective of this multi-year advocacy initiative is to secure the adoption of a UN resolution on political finance transparency at the Conference of the States Parties (COSP) to the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), which takes place every two years. **Alongside key partners such as Transparency International and the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), International IDEA has been building momentum to rally global support for this landmark resolution at the upcoming COSP.** If adopted, the resolution would represent a significant commitment by UN member states to enforce transparent and accountable political financing, a key measure in reducing corruption.

Since discussions among the political finance community of practice began in 2019, this advocacy initiative has steadily gained traction. **The 2024 IACC panel discussion served as a pivotal moment in this journey, where the Norwegian State Minister supported the push for the UN resolution, marking a crucial step in securing support from pro-reform nations.** Such endorsement is an outcome of years of groundwork laid by International IDEA and its partners through expert group participation, global dialogues and strategic partnerships.

As International IDEA and its partners continue to galvanize support from key stakeholders, there is growing momentum towards potentially securing the necessary international commitment to table the resolution at the COSP in Doha 2025, a critical step in the global fight against corruption in political finance.

Advancing Member State dialogue, learning and cooperation

Funding

Enabled by and implemented with core funding

In 2024, International IDEA launched and consolidated a programme of thematic dialogues with and among Member States. These dialogues enabled mutual learning on key issues related to democracy and strengthened Members States' cooperation in this area.

The thematic dialogues included two series.

In partnership with International IDEA, the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) initiated a series of virtual seminars for electoral practitioners: the Canberra Series on Electoral Integrity. Positive results from these dialogues led the Swedish Election Authority and the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs to join the partnership and convene a second season of seminars on this common agenda. These exchanges aim to forge sustainable cooperation between technical and political actors and communities, and between national and global stakeholders.

International IDEA partnered with Luxembourg, the 2024 Chair of the Institute's Council of Member States, to develop a series of Democracy Exchanges on Gender. These meetings were dedicated to SDG 5.5 on women's political participation and to gender aspects of policy debates on digitalization and climate change. **The series strengthened international cooperation on promoting gender equality in politics as they enabled stakeholders to share good practices, identify critical drivers of effective policies, propose areas for collective action.**

ELECTORAL MANAGEMENT BODIES RESPOND TO COMPLEXITIES AND RISKS TO EFFECTIVELY IMPLEMENT THE ELECTORAL CYCLE APPROACH

Protecting elections in times of uncertainty

Funding

Enabled by core funding and implemented with restricted funding by Canada.

The Protecting Elections Project has assisted several countries to adopt a structured methodology to identify and mitigate electoral risks.

Since January 2023, with funding from the Government of Canada, International IDEA has been implementing the Protecting Elections Project. This initiative aims to develop an integrated framework for protecting elections, a global public good resource that will equip EMBs and other electoral stakeholders with state-of-the-art tools for electoral risk management, resilience-building, and crisis management. International IDEA has so far accumulated feedback from partner EMBs that testify how participation in the project inspired changes of practices, demonstrating the framework's global relevance.

Mauritius was the first country to join the project in November 2023. Since then, International IDEA has been instrumental in fostering a shift in how the Office of the Election Commissioner (OEC) addresses electoral challenges. **A key milestone was the OEC's adoption of a formal risk management policy. This new approach has provided the OEC with a structured methodology to identify and mitigate electoral risks, marking a pivotal shift in the country's election management.**

A key milestone was the OEC's adoption of a formal risk management policy.

Another pivotal moment was inspired by a workshop, where, for the first time, all key state actors, including agencies that do not typically collaborate directly on electoral issues—were brought together. **Leveraging its convening power, International IDEA, with support of the OEC, created a unique forum that fostered a new level of inter-agency collaboration. This format is now set to become a permanent feature of Mauritius's electoral practices.** In addition, the project has both inspired and enabled electoral stakeholders in Mauritius to think beyond risk management by incorporating resilience-building and crisis management into their strategies, underscoring a holistic approach to protecting elections.

In a partnership with Finland International IDEA expects to learn from the wealth of good practices of the Ministry of Justice, which also serves as the EMB. In addition to providing constructive feedback on International IDEA's knowledge resources, **the Finnish EMB expressed interest in adopting some resources to strengthen its own management and collaborative processes.**

This integrated model is also being embraced by other countries who approached International IDEA for support in adopting and strengthening their risk management efforts: **EMBs in Ethiopia, Malawi, Cameroon, and Zambia are actively exploring ways to integrate the Institute's comprehensive approach into their electoral frameworks.**

Developing Ukraine's capacity to manage electoral risks

Funding

Enabled by core funding and implemented with earmarked core funding from Sweden and Liechtenstein.

Over the last several years, International IDEA has gradually strengthened its collaboration with the Central Election Commission (CEC) of Ukraine. Through this partnership the CEC has developed its practices to manage electoral risks more effectively.

In the context of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, preparing for risks in electoral processes is key for Ukraine's longer-term stability. In April 2024 International IDEA hosted the 'Protecting Elections in Ukraine: Capacity Development Workshop' in Stockholm for ten members of the CEC. The workshop was one in a series of the Institute's capacity development activities with the CEC and focused on strengthening knowledge in risk management, resilience-building, and crisis communication to protect electoral integrity. Participants gained a deeper understanding of why protecting elections is critical to democratic governance and how to implement risk and crisis management methods effectively. Feedback indicated significant improvements in their awareness and willingness to collaborate with other stakeholders.

To further strengthen its electoral risk management procedure, the CEC in collaboration with International IDEA conducted a comprehensive self-assessment of its capacity to safeguard elections. **The assessment, combined with ongoing advisory support, is helping the CEC to refine and improve its electoral risk information and action management system.**

These efforts are directly contributing to the partnership's primary aim of strengthening Ukraine's democratic resilience by ensuring the integrity and protection of electoral processes. The feedback from the workshops demonstrates a growing commitment to improved practices, and the Electoral Risk Management system will provide a tangible tool to manage electoral threats effectively, which is essential in the context of maintaining democratic stability amidst Russia's war on Ukraine.

Reinforcing Moldova's resilience against electoral interference

Funding

Enabled by core funding and implemented with restricted funding from Sweden.

By embedding new monitoring practices and strengthening voter engagement, International IDEA enhanced Moldova's Central Election Commission's (CEC) expertise in online campaign oversight and bolstered resilience against electoral interference.

Moldova's electoral landscape has long been marred by disinformation and manipulative campaigning, with malign domestic and foreign actors seeking to undermine electoral integrity and voter trust in free and fair elections. A persistent challenge has been undisclosed campaign financing supporting anti-democratic and anti-EU actors.

The 2024 presidential election and EU referendum escalated the risks of disinformation and manipulative information operations. These concerns were reinforced by the recognition that digital platforms routinely fail to comply with the country's electoral and political campaign regulations, making oversight even more difficult for regulatory bodies.

In response, International IDEA, with support from Sweden, partnered with the CEC to enhance online campaign oversight through hands-on monitoring of campaign activities and finances. The initiative also strengthened the CEC's capacity to provide voter information tools, particularly targeting out-of-country voters.

Through training and collaboration with International IDEA, a new online monitoring approach was piloted. Weekly reports identified illicit campaign expenditures and inauthentic accounts, exposing third-party spending. While 76 per cent of inauthentic accounts detected on Meta were removed, much of the harmful content had already reached millions. Telegram and TikTok remained highly vulnerable to manipulation due to a lack of transparency and weak content moderation.

The project fundamentally shifted the CEC's approach to digital campaign oversight, strengthening its ability to detect and respond to online threats and shaping plans for regulatory reforms on online campaign oversight. A key result was the CEC's commitment to leveraging evidence from social media monitoring to cooperate with other state actors in countering disinformation and illicit financing. **The initiative catalyzed a long-term commitment within the CEC to institutionalize social media monitoring as a core electoral oversight practice, marking a significant behavioural shift in how the CEC navigates the digital landscape.**

The project fundamentally shifted the CEC's approach to digital campaign oversight, strengthening its ability to detect and respond to online threats and shaping plans for regulatory reforms on online campaign oversight.

The project also transformed the CEC's engagement with Moldova's out-of-country voters. International IDEA supported the CEC's digital voter education campaign, introducing an automated chatbot and an online platform for real-time voting information. These innovations enhanced voter accessibility, generating over five million online impressions and increasing diaspora voter participation.

Supporting the Albanian Election Commission to prepare for Out-of-Country Voting

Funding

Enabled with financial support from the Government of Finland and co-implemented by IDEA and the Rule of Law Centre in Finland.

In the 2025 parliamentary elections Albania will introduce postal voting as a pilot initiative for Albanian citizens living abroad. International IDEA and the Rule of Law Centre of Finland supported the Albanian Central Election Commission (CEC) to prepare.

In recent years, the Albanian CEC has regularly engaged with the European Cooperation Network on Elections (ECNE), which is committed to ensure resilient electoral processes among Member States. International IDEA has supported the CEC in taking a more proactive role to strengthen inter-agency cooperation based on the ECNE model, as tested collaboration between government bodies is considered the best way to respond to risks during elections.

Building on this foundation, the Institute and the Rule of Law Centre of Finland organised a Tabletop Exercise with various CEC departments and the Information and Data Protection Commissioner's Office. The exercise focused on the key digital components of out of country voting, such as voter registration online and personal data protection. Moreover, it included a review of the inter-institutional communication strategy and the CEC's communication strategy with the public.

International IDEA and the Rule of Law Centre of Finland contributed to increasing the staff's capacities to assess risks and prepare to respond effectively if risks occur. Among the recommendations voiced by International IDEA and the Rule of Law Centre of Finland experts is the need to update the communication plan that establishes standardised interagency communication requirements and setting up a crisis management plan for any potential risk that can occur.

This exercise brought attention to the realm of hybrid and cybersecurity threats and the importance of standard operational procedures to address incidents.

This exercise brought attention to the realm of hybrid and cybersecurity threats and the importance of standard operational procedures to address incidents. It also boosted the CEC staff's awareness on these types of threats and increased their confidence to undertake proper actions in future. By addressing these vulnerabilities, Albania's electoral process can become more

secure, resilient, and transparent, ensuring greater legitimacy among voters—both at home and abroad.

Building partnerships with electoral stakeholders in Latin America

Funding

Enabled by and implemented with core funding.

During the global electoral super cycle in 2024, six presidential elections were held in Latin America. One of the most salient electoral processes occurred in Mexico, where International IDEA contributed to the design and implementation of a more effective electoral process.

As expressed by Mexican authorities, International IDEA's expertise and capacity to contribute to key democratic processes is highly appreciated and valued. This positive assessment has led to regular consultations and exchanges between electoral stakeholders in Mexico and International IDEA, as well as the participation of International IDEA's Secretary-General in the electoral observation mission in May 2024.

Over the course of this initiative a team of experts directed by International IDEA's Regional Director for Latin American and the Caribbean, participated in three missions to Mexico to assess the norms, policies and practices implemented by the Instituto Nacional Electoral (INE) during the electoral cycle. The team produced a final report identifying strengths and opportunities for improvements on two key matters: digitalization and gender. The report was shared at public events with other international organizations and civil society actors, all looking to bolster electoral processes and democratic institutions in Mexico.

Electoral authorities in Mexico, including the president of INE, Guadalupe Taddei Zavala, and the president of the Electoral Tribunal of Mexico, Mónica Aralí Soto Fregoso, acknowledged that **the support these institutions receive from International IDEA has been instrumental in the design and implementation of a stronger and more effective electoral process, as well as more robust legislation on key issues such as gender and digitalization.** These improvements have enabled better conditions for citizens to elect and be elected to public office.

International IDEA's regional programme in Latin America prioritizes the provision of multifaceted support, maintaining and strengthening partnerships with a broad spectrum of stakeholders. This has proven to be effective, as **the approach facilitates regional collaboration and exchange of experiences among EMBs, parliaments, and others**, reaffirming the relevance of multilateral organizations in the democracy support ecosystem. **Besides the engagement in Mexico, this approach has resulted in cooperation on electoral processes in Costa Rica, Uruguay, Panama, and Peru.**

CIVIL SOCIETY PROMOTES PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN ELECTORAL PROCESSES AND DEMAND ACCOUNTABILITY FROM POLICYMAKERS AND ELECTORAL MANAGEMENT BODIES

Defending electoral integrity in Mozambique's 2024 elections

Funding

Enabled by core funding and implemented with restricted funding from the European Union.

The 2024 elections in Mozambique were widely perceived as fraudulent and electoral institutions seen as biased. In this context, Mais Integridade, a citizen observation consortium supported by International IDEA, offered a counterbalance to compromised official sources of information and exposed flaws in the electoral process.

Mozambique held its seventh general elections on 9 October 2024. *Mais Integridade*, a citizen observation consortium comprised by seven civil society organizations contributed significantly to identifying and reporting serious electoral fraud and misconduct, including ballot box stuffing, multiple voting, ballot paper invalidation, and manipulation of results aggregation at polling station and district tabulation levels. Electoral results were also seen as problematic by international electoral actors including the European Union, the Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP), and the International Republican Institute (IRI).

International IDEA, which contributed to the establishment of *Mais Integridade* ahead of the 2023 municipal elections, contributed to the consortium's capacity to report electoral malpractices and misconduct, through financial and technical assistance. As a result, *Mais Integridade* could provide solid evidence for its statements about electoral fraud, based on information from its network of 1,990 observers, covering 34 per cent of polling stations.

Despite this criticism, Mozambique's National Elections Commission (CNE) gave the ruling FRELIMO party 78 per cent of parliamentary seats and 70.7 per cent of the vote to its presidential candidate, Daniel Chapo. Two months later, the Constitutional Council (CC) reduced Chapo's result to 65.2 per cent and around 10 per cent of the legislative vote was moved from Frelimo to the opposition. However, the CC never explained their calculations, nor was action taken against those responsible for the fraudulent results announced by the CNE. These events triggered widespread and violent post-electoral protests. A violent crackdown of protests by the police left at least 300 dead, hundreds wounded and more than 4,000 arrested.

During the validation process of the 2023 municipal elections, *Mais Integridade* presented the CC with Parallel Vote Tabulation (PVT) results for certain

municipalities. In response, the CC rejected the documents considering them insufficient as evidence. In the context of the 2024 General elections validation process, the same Council formally requested *Mais Integridade* to provide copies of the minutes and public notices in its possession, as part of the validation process. *Mais Integridade* refused, arguing that the Consortium's cooperation could be used to legitimize fraudulent results.

The CC's request marked a change in their perception of *Mais Integridade*'s relevance in electoral processes. **While in the past, the results produced by domestic electoral observation were seen with skepticism, in 2024, *Mais Integridade* findings were considered a credible source for the validation process. This recognition highlights the increasing legitimacy of domestic election observation and its role in promoting electoral integrity.**

Strengthening electoral integrity in Paraguay

Funding

Enabled by core funding and implemented with restricted funding from the German Federal Foreign Office (FFO).

In Paraguay, International IDEA has supported civil society actors to join forces to protect electoral transparency.

To address challenges of escalating disinformation during electoral processes, International IDEA and FFO launched an ambitious [project](#) across six countries, including Paraguay. The initiative focuses on protecting electoral integrity by building the capacity of national electoral stakeholders to identify, counter, and learn from malign influences in the information environment around elections. By mapping such threats, devising robust strategies, and creating roadmaps for implementation, the project aims to enable local actors to safeguard democratic processes while building public trust.

In Paraguay, the initiative led to the creation of Red Paraguaya para la Integridad Electoral (REDPAR), a collaborative network of CSOs, media outlets, and other electoral stakeholders dedicated to promoting electoral transparency. With support from International IDEA REDPAR was established after a series of workshops, each of which laid essential groundwork for the network's creation. However, as REDPAR gained influence, it found itself in the crosshairs of public scrutiny, raising questions from public figures who accused it of partisanship and undue influence. The sudden wave of tension highlighted both the power, and the risks associated with working in the public arena, as the network's efforts to promote transparency in elections made it a target.

Faced with growing challenges, REDPAR's members quickly mobilized to coordinate their responses, leveraging the collaborative practices established during the workshops. A WhatsApp group, initially used for logistical coordination, became a lifeline for solidarity and swift information exchange.

In Paraguay, the initiative led to the creation of Red Paraguaya para la Integridad Electoral, a collaborative network of CSOs, media outlets, and other electoral stakeholders dedicated to promoting electoral transparency.

REDPAR members used the channel to share updates, support each other, and outline strategies to manage public perception and counter criticisms.

The experience was a strong reminder of the double-edged nature of impact: as REDPAR grew stronger and more visible, so did the challenges it faced. Yet, the relationships and coordination mechanisms fostered by International IDEA's project proved invaluable, enabling REDPAR to navigate the situation with resilience and solidarity. Their swift, collective response not only weathered the immediate storm but also strengthened the bonds between core group members, laying a foundation for future collaboration and resilience.

Advocating for political inclusion of marginalized groups in Nepal

Funding

Enabled by core funding and implemented with restricted funding from the European Union.

A consortium of CSOs in Nepal, supported by International IDEA, established a civil society platform to advocate for an electoral system that better enables women, the historically marginalized Dalits, and youth to take on political roles.

In 2015, Nepal adopted a new constitution, which aims to address long-standing issues regarding discrimination and exclusion based on class, caste, religion, language, and gender. However, even though the constitution includes provisions for proportional political representation of women and historically disadvantaged communities, the post 2015 era has demonstrated how gaps in laws can be exploited by political parties to the detriment of women and disadvantaged candidates' political participation.

It is against this backdrop that the EU funds International IDEA to develop the capacity of local CSOs to advocate for an electoral system that better enables women, Dalits, and youth to take on political roles. The project aims to equip grassroot organizations with a strong evidence-based and collective understanding of gender, inclusion, and ways to challenge discriminatory practice as a foundation for advocacy aimed at reforming the formal rules of the electoral system.

CSOs are receiving mentoring and financial support through subgrants from the project and have started to develop innovative tools for political engagement.

In the first phase of the project International IDEA identified and contracted three local CSOs as consortium partners, which functions as the platform to work on women, Dalit and youth rights. **These CSOs are receiving mentoring and financial support through subgrants from the project and have started to develop innovative tools for political engagement.** Moreover, they have facilitated the establishment of a CSO platform which has enabled a wider group of Nepalese CSOs to work towards the same advocacy goals. **During 2024, the establishment of the platform improved cooperation between the organizations, as a smaller action group started to develop joint advocacy plans.**

The advocacy partners are in the process of formulating recommendations based on evidence gathered via a thorough analysis of the draft electoral law. The next step is to use the CSO platform to advocate for changes of the law, with the aim of influencing the electoral stakeholders who are in key positions to shape the draft law.

Addressing electoral risks and political inequalities in Panama

Funding

Enabled by core funding and implemented with restricted funding from the European Union and from the Electoral Tribunal of Panama.

International IDEA supported the Electoral Tribunal of Panama to improve collaboration with civil society.

After five years of close cooperation International IDEA accompanied the Electoral Tribunal of Panama to strengthen electoral integrity in the 2024 elections. **Among other things the Institute contributed to involving youth in the electoral process, by working with the Panamanian Debate Association, a group coordinated by youth leaders, in organizing a presidential debate.** This initiative, as well as other activities with youth, is likely to have contributed to a 75.5 per cent voter turnout of young people. In total, the national election had a voter turnout of 77 per cent, which was the highest since the 1994 elections.

Moreover, International IDEA supported the Electoral Tribunal to address the risk of electoral disinformation. These efforts included the development of new communication tools, such as the information verifier *Verificado Contigo*, which is a tool based on artificial intelligence for WhatsApp. **According to data from the Tribunal itself, this and other initiatives reduced the spread of false electoral information by 89 per cent, as compared to the 2019 elections.**

The election resulted in a significant change of the National Assembly; with 20 out of 71 deputies elected being independents. Unfortunately, only 15 women (21 per cent) secured a seat, which is a drop of one percentage point from the previous period. The political underrepresentation of women represents both a significant challenge and an opportunity to continue advocating for political mechanisms to strengthen women's political representation in elected positions. One of International IDEA's approaches has been to work with legislators, civil society, academics and other key stakeholders to advance a bill to confront digital sexual violence. **Unfortunately, the bill was vetoed by the president, but it nonetheless increased public awareness and opened a national debate on the need to promote laws that not only address structural gender inequalities in society but also promote and facilitate access to elected positions for women.**

According to data from the Tribunal itself, this and other initiatives reduced the spread of false electoral information by 89 per cent, as compared to the 2019 elections.

OUTCOMES FROM THE POLITICAL PARTICIPATION AND REPRESENTATION WORKSTREAM



By cooperating with *political parties, national and subnational parliaments, public administration, public interest groups and oversight agencies* as an interconnected ecosystem, where shifts in one actor affect the others, International IDEA aims to inspire and support these actors to adopt behaviours, relationships and practices that are conducive to political participation and representation. The Institute does this by providing non-prescriptive comparative knowledge and options, and by facilitating processes that help stakeholders to explore and adopt solutions that suit their contexts. The theory of change underpinning the approach is that:

- **if political parties** increase their knowledge and skills, and apply these competencies to mobilize all citizens effectively without discrimination, aggregate their interests into political programmes, recruit political leaders to contest elections, and organize governments and parliaments effectively, the party system becomes more inclusive, responsive and accountable to all citizens; and

- **if national and subnational parliaments** increase their knowledge and skills, and apply these competencies to exercise their legislative, oversight and representation functions effectively, they become more effective, accountable and transparent as well as more responsive, inclusive and participatory; and
- **if public administration** increases their knowledge and skills, and apply these competencies to become more responsive to constituents, use increased knowledge to make evidence-based policy decisions, and explain their decision-making processes to their constituents, government will become more effective, accountable and transparent as well as more responsive, inclusive and participatory; and
- **if oversight agencies** increase their knowledge and skills, and apply these competencies to monitor, prevent and mitigate threats to democracy and threats posed by both illegal and illicit money in politics, by carrying out investigations, applying sanctions when needed and proposing legal reforms to hold political decision makers to account, political institutions become more effective, accountable and transparent; and
- **if civil society organizations** increase their knowledge and skills, and apply these competencies to engage with representative institutions in a democratic and effective way and to hold political decision makers to account, political institutions become more effective, accountable and transparent, and public policy and practice become more responsive to the needs of all citizens, **then** ...

... the political ecosystem is in balance; political institutions will be effective, accountable and transparent (SDG 16.6); decision making by legislators and government will be responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative (SDG 16.7); all citizens will be politically included, regardless of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status (SDG 10.2); and women will be politically included and have equal opportunities for political leadership (SDG 5.5). In such a political ecosystem, the legitimacy of the political institutions would be strengthened, which would reduce tensions and conflicts in society.⁶

This chapter focuses on reporting results among the five boundary partners that International IDEA is targeting in political participation and representation. As these changes are complex, the chapter presents qualitative outcome narratives, where a description is provided of how International IDEA has influenced each of these boundary partners' relationships, behaviours and practices. These narratives do not account for all International IDEA's activities and results in the area of political participation and representation but are representative examples of what the Institute does and achieves. Hence, the stories should be regarded as qualitative indicators of International IDEA's results.

⁶ This theory of change is illustrated in Annex 2.

POLITICAL PARTIES CONTRIBUTE TO A PARTY SYSTEM THAT IS INCLUSIVE, RESPONSIVE AND ACCOUNTABLE TO ALL CITIZENS

Advancing ethical campaigning for the 2024 European Parliament elections

Funding

Enabled by and implemented with core funding.

International IDEA helped advance transparent and ethical campaigning for the 2024 European Parliament elections through a Code of Conduct, signed by all ten European political parties.

International IDEA's engagement with the European Commission in 2023 led to a recommendation in the EU Defence of Democracy Package for ethical online campaigning behaviour ahead of the 2024 elections. **The advocacy effort set the stage for a transformative process that brought together European political parties in a joint effort to strengthen European electoral integrity.**

Building on this, the Institute presented their experiences with the 2021 Dutch Code of Conduct on Transparency of Online Political Advertising, at a meeting with Commission Vice-President Věra Jourová and leaders from ten European political parties. This led to International IDEA being tasked with facilitating a Code of Conduct for the 2024 European Parliament elections.

The result was a document in which all ten European political parties made 14 commitments for transparent and fair campaigning, especially in the online sphere.

The drafting and negotiation process, led by International IDEA, involved all ten European political parties. These deliberations were not just about setting rules for the election campaigns but about fostering a shared commitment to uphold the ethical standards that underpin democratic processes. **The result was a document in which all ten European political parties made 14 commitments for transparent and fair campaigning, especially in the online sphere.** These commitments focused on fair and transparent campaigning, ethical use of technology, combating misinformation, enhancing cybersecurity, and promoting independent monitoring.

The signing of the Code of Conduct on 9 April 2024 in a ceremony hosted by Vice-President Jourová marked a milestone for enhancing accountability in the European Parliament elections. Various media and monitoring organizations reported on the code. The Code of Conduct was lauded as a comprehensive checklist for political parties, candidates, media, and citizens, aimed at ensuring ethical campaigning practices.

To increase public awareness, the team presented the Code of Conduct to all 27 European electoral commissions, to the European Commission, to EU member state representatives, the Danish Parliament, the OSCE Office for

Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE-ODIHR), and the Victorian Electoral Commission, in Australia. **Political parties have embraced these ethical guidelines, demonstrating a commitment to transparency and accountability that is poised to reshape electoral practices.** The collaborative efforts and the subsequent signing of the Code of Conduct contributed to fostering citizen trust in the electoral process and can serve as a precedent for future democratic processes across Europe.

Supporting networking and advocacy for gender equality in politics

Funding

Enabled by core funding and implemented with restricted funding from the European Union.

The International Knowledge Network of Women in Politics (iKNOW Politics) is a leading virtual platform managed by International IDEA, which fosters networking, knowledge exchange, capacity development, and advocacy for gender equality in politics.

iKNOW Politics is a multi-partner platform established by International IDEA, UN Women, IPU, and UNDP. The platform is managed by the Institute and serves as a hub for resources, news, and events in Arabic, English, French, and Spanish, fostering knowledge exchange, networking, and capacity development for women in politics. In 2024, the platform recorded 450,000 visits, generating close to 710,000 page views with users from all 226 countries and territories. Moreover, the platform reached nearly 210,000 users across Facebook, Instagram, X, and YouTube.

Through its diverse content, dynamic events and growing community, these data illustrate that iKNOW Politics has become a leading force in fostering networking, knowledge exchange, capacity development, and advocacy for gender equality in politics.

In addition to regularly updated news on women in politics, the platform features interviews. In 2024, Khurelbaatar Bulgantuya, Deputy Speaker of Mongolia's parliament, was interviewed about the barriers encountered by women politicians, such as online harassment and limited financial support. In another interview Chikas Kumle, a Nigerian politician who serves as the Executive Director of the Women Development Monitoring, highlighted that key barriers such as violence, godfatherism, and media bias hinder women's political participation and representation.

iKNOW Politics also hosted an e-Discussion on the opportunities and challenges for women in politics in the digital age, complemented by four chats on X in four languages. These events featured distinguished guests from civil society organizations, human rights activists, and experts in the field of

Through its diverse content, dynamic events and growing community, iKNOW Politics has become a leading force in fostering networking, knowledge exchange, capacity development and advocacy for gender equality in politics.

technology facilitated gender-based violence. The platform also launched the [HerStory](#) initiative, featuring [13 social media posts](#) that highlighted influential women in politics over the past century.

Towards reduced intra-party conflicts in Sierra Leone

Funding

Enabled by core funding and implemented with restricted funding from the European Union.

International IDEA supports political parties in Sierra Leone to change practices to deal with intra-party conflicts.

Intra-party conflicts are a constant feature of Sierra Leonean politics, partly due to its winner takes all electoral system and ethno-regional nature. In response to these challenges International IDEA partnered with the Political Parties Registration Commission (PPRC), with an aim to strengthen its dispute resolution mandate through the development and implementation of a dispute resolution guide. Following consultation with political parties, a training manual was developed jointly by International IDEA's country programme team and the PPRC. This was followed by training-of-trainers conducted by the Institute, which was attended by over a thousand participants from all political parties.

'Due to our work with International IDEA, not only were the 2023 elections the most peaceful in recent memory, but intra-party conflicts have declined.'

Stakeholders and members of political parties have recounted the usefulness of the guide to intra and inter-party dispute resolution and overall peaceful engagement within political parties. **In the words of Olushogo David, the Executive Secretary of the PPRC: 'Due to our work with International IDEA, not only were the 2023 elections the most peaceful in recent memory, but intra-party conflicts have declined.'** In a follow-up conversation with the political parties in October 2024, **nine out of 16 political parties had set up or enhanced dispute resolution mechanisms within their parties, while others are in the process of doing same.**

Parties such as the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), National Grand Coalition (NGC), Citizens Democratic Party (CDP), the ruling Sierra Leone People's Democratic Party (SLPP) recounted the benefit of the guide to their parties.

The chairman of the NDA, Sheriff Barrie, noted: 'Since the last training my party has formed a structure which is handling dispute resolution within our party, and the setting up of this committee had prompted the various factions to suspend the legal proceedings in court since 2012 to resolve their difference in house. This would not have been possible without International IDEA's intervention and that of the PPRC'. The Secretary General of the People's Democratic Party (PDP), Abu Bakarr Bangura, said: 'Prior to this intervention, our first instinct whenever there is a significant dispute within our membership

on certain issues is to litigate in court, and in hindsight we now know that that is a very damaging thing to do. Going forward, our first instinct whenever there is a dispute is to seek to resolve it.'

Empowering African women in politics

Funding

Enabled by core funding and implemented with restricted funding from Sida.

The WPP Academy strengthens relationships between women in politics and provides participants with renewed confidence and concrete strategies to pursue their political goals.

One of the key features of the Women's Political Participation (WPP) programme, which is led by International IDEA, is the WPP Academy. The Academy provides capacity development for female politicians and women who aspire to political positions. Beyond training there are opportunities for mentorship by inspiring role models and a coaching platform, formed through the creation of a WhatsApp group of academy participants and experienced politicians who offer guidance and support. **The social connections formed during the Academy extend beyond the training, creating a community of women committed to supporting one another in their political journeys.**

An example of how the WPP Academy can inspire and support women's political participation is found in Kenya, where the Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE) has trained 32 female delegates from across Kenya. The aim was to address barriers that women faced in pursuing political careers. At the onset of the training, several participants expressed disillusionment, having lost in the previous elections. Notably, most of the young female politicians expressed concerns about inadequate financial resources, networks, and confidence to further their political ambitions. **At the end of the academy sessions, the participants expressed renewed confidence and concrete strategies to pursue their political goals.**

For example, Ms. Ashura Michael – a young woman with hearing and speech impairments – was an aspirant for the Nairobi County Senator in 2022. She faced significant challenges due to her disability, as she could not afford sign language interpreters. She was also disillusioned with her political party which dropped her name from the party list. Ashura's experience during the WPP Academy was transformative. She found the sessions on mainstreaming gender and disability in politics particularly helpful, as they provided her with strategies to overcome communication challenges as well as other barriers she faced. **Armed with newfound confidence and determined to apply the lessons learned during the academy, Ashura is set to give another shot for a political position in 2027, determined to apply the lessons she learned during the academy.**

The social connections formed during the Academy created a community of women committed to supporting one another in their political journeys.

PARLIAMENTS EXERCISE THEIR LEGISLATIVE, OVERSIGHT AND REPRESENTATION FUNCTIONS TO BECOME TRANSPARENT, INCLUSIVE, RESPONSIVE AND ACCOUNTABLE TO ALL CITIZENS

Opening doors for cooperation between EU parliaments and the Parliament in Uzbekistan

Funding

Enabled by core funding and implemented with restricted funding from the European Union.

International IDEA implements the EU funded Inter Pares programme, which is based on demand-driven, peer-to-peer partnerships between parliaments. In Uzbekistan the programme has enabled a fruitful partnership on parliamentary practices.

Being in the bottom quartile of countries in terms of GSoD democracy indicators, Uzbekistan faces challenges common to other post-Soviet states: the absence of democratic traditions, domination of an executive government, and a weak parliament with little independent initiative. A scoping mission by International IDEA to Uzbekistan in 2022 and a launching event in Tashkent in May 2023, created opportunities for change. The Parliament was initially cautious to share candid feedback and engage in the formal needs assessment exercise with which Inter Pares partnerships normally begin. Despite these challenges and initial delays in launching the partnership, International IDEA has managed to build trust with the Parliament and engage its representatives.

Through the comprehensive groundwork of confidence building carried out by International IDEA, the Parliament has opened its doors to engage with their European parliamentary colleagues.

What has triggered the change? Before Inter Pares, the Parliament of Uzbekistan had been minimally engaged with international development partners. **Through the comprehensive groundwork of confidence building carried out by International IDEA, the Parliament has opened its doors to engage with their European parliamentary colleagues**, and discuss a wide variety of topics, from the budget cycle and gender-sensitive parliaments to youth participation, integrated law-making systems, AI and cyber security.

The exchanges between Uzbek and EU colleagues were not kept to a strict format of high-level meetings, which has been a typical format of Uzbekistan international engagement, but was rather characterized by informal and open engagement based on Inter Pares' peer-to-peer approach. The Uzbekistan participants have benefited not only from learning about the EU experiences but have also been able to showcase their own good practices in several areas, such as youth parliaments and digitalization of parliamentary business processes.

Utilizing evaluation of public policies as a catalyst for change in Côte d'Ivoire

Funding

Enabled by core funding and implemented with restricted funding from the European Union.

International IDEA implements the EU funded Inter Pares programme, which is based on demand-driven, peer-to-peer partnerships between parliaments. In Côte d'Ivoire, the programme has supported the Parliament to embark on a transformative journey focused on improving evaluation of public policies.

Since 2021, the Parliament in Côte d'Ivoire has been partnering with Inter Pares to develop practical tools and practices for its evaluation work. This partnership followed the establishment of the Parliamentary Commission for the Evaluation of Public Policies (CEPP) at the National Assembly in 2018. From there, **the Parliament has embarked on a transformative journey focused on the Evaluation of Public Policies (EPP), which has resulted in the implementation of evaluative practices and procedures.**

More specifically, with support from International IDEA, the National Assembly co-developed an EPP guide endorsed by both chambers of Parliament. It completed one evaluation on the age limit for imported cars, providing recommendations to the government, and is preparing for a second evaluation on illegal gold mining. The Senate established a standing committee in 2024 and is preparing its first evaluation mission. Ultimately, both Ivorian chambers have worked together to strengthen institutional capacities in EPP and leverage the National Assembly's in-house expertise. **These practices have begun to take root, fostering a spirit of multiparty effort and bicameral collaboration.**

The transformation has resulted from a series of activities facilitated by International IDEA, which have fostered learning and action-oriented change. Key efforts included sharing experiences with EU parliaments, notably the French National Assembly and Senate. This led to workshops and the development of a practical evaluation guide, leveraging peer expertise, followed by roundtable discussions featuring case studies.

Changes in Côte d'Ivoire are advancing by involving key actors, including administrative staff directly involved in evaluation activities and presidents of the relevant committees. Progress is based on the shared perception that EPP can improve public function. As M. Koffi Kra Paulin, the President of the CEPP, stated: 'Evaluation is not a mere commission of inquiry. Evaluation serves, among other things, to rationalise public action. It constitutes a lever for development.'

Practices have begun to take root, fostering a spirit of multiparty effort and bicameral collaboration.

In summary, **the EPP initiative has infused technical and fact-based evidence into the Parliament's oversight function, helping to bridge political divides. It has also connected Members of Parliament and staff, empowering them and bridging hierarchical gaps in developing specific EPP tasks.**

Building international support for Myanmar's elected parliament

Funding

Enabled by core funding and implemented with restricted funding from Luxembourg, Norway, and Finland.

With the support of International IDEA's Building Federal Democracy in Myanmar programme, Myanmar's elected Members of Parliament have been able to conduct outreach, advocacy, and network with IPU.

Myanmar's legitimate interim parliament, the Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (CRPH) was formed in 2021 after the coup d'état. Its democratically elected MPs peer to peer exchanges and outreach activities allow them to raise awareness of the post-coup situation in Myanmar in multi-lateral and regional fora.

The relationship between the CRPH and IPU began in June 2022 when the programme initiated the participation of the CRPH Chairperson and the acting Speaker of the Myanmar Parliament to attend the UN General Assembly annual meeting with IPU, in New York. The meeting provided an opportunity for exchanges on Myanmar and good practices among parliaments.

Since then, the programme has supported the participation of CRPH Delegations at a number of IPU Annual Assemblies, including in Bahrain and Angola in 2023. In March 2024, the CRPH delegation attended the 148th IPU meeting in Geneva, which focused on how parliamentary diplomacy can build bridges for peace and understanding. CRPH delegates participated in the Forum of Women Parliamentarians, and held bilateral meetings with delegates from Germany, Canada, Portugal, Uganda and Malaysia.

At the 149th IPU session in Geneva in October, bilateral meetings were held with Belgium, Ghana, Denmark, and the IPU President, under the theme 'Harnessing science, technology and innovation for a more peaceful and sustainable future'. CRPH MPs engaged in different thematic sessions and addressed the delegates on the theme of the conference, with Finland and Thailand raising the situation in Myanmar at plenary sessions, following meetings with CRPH MPs. Subsequently, the IPU Governing Council decided to continue to engage with the CRPH as the IPU's main interlocutor on Myanmar, paving the way for continued support.

The CRPH's sustained engagement with the IPU has led to greater international recognition of Myanmar's interim parliament, strengthened bilateral relationships and fostered an alliance to advocate for a restoration of Myanmar's democracy and a future federal democratic union.

Supporting informed discussions of laws in Chile

Funding

Enabled by core funding and implemented with restricted funding from the European Union.

Cooperation between EU parliaments and the Chilean congress strengthens as International IDEA facilitates peer learning and discussions on legislative processes.

Since 2023, International IDEA has implemented a parliamentary support project in Chile with the aim of reinforcing effective legislative processes at the Parliament. In 2023 and 2024 two exchange missions were undertaken: one by the Senate on energy, and another by the House on technology. These missions included collaboration with representatives of the European Parliament and parliamentarians from France, Spain and Italy, and other institutions such as the European Agency for Energy and the Italian Agency for Artificial Intelligence.

The project has contributed to informed discussions of laws that directly impact the lives of millions of Chilean citizens, including but not limited to legislation on electricity rates and gender issues. It has also provided a platform to strengthen the EU Delegation's relationships with political actors in Chile, opening the possibility for dialogue on broader development and commercial cooperation.

Claudia Fuenzalida, Head of the Senate's Planning and Management Control Unit and in charge of gender issues at the Chilean Senate, has acknowledged the relevance of the support provided and said that 'it turned out to be a very enriching space for reflection and conversation between Chilean and European Senators' as 'it provided us with concrete examples of mechanisms to increase women's political participation, emphasizing the importance of representation.'

The CRPH's sustained engagement with the IPU has led to greater international recognition of Myanmar's interim parliament, strengthened bilateral relationships and fostered an alliance to advocate for a restoration of Myanmar's democracy.

The project has contributed to informed discussions of laws that directly impact the lives of millions of Chilean citizens, including but not limited to legislation on electricity rates and gender issues.

The Parliament in Uruguay takes global leadership on artificial intelligence governance

Funding

Enabled by core funding and implemented with restricted funding from the European Union.

The summit resulted in a groundbreaking resolution calling for the development of a global AI governance framework.

With support from International IDEA the Uruguayan Parliament takes global leadership in legislative innovation on artificial intelligence governance.

With funding from the European Union International IDEA has initiated cooperation with the Parliament in Uruguay. One of the most outstanding achievements of this initiative was the successful organization of the second World Summit on Futures, where more than 300 parliamentarians from 70 countries gathered in Montevideo. For the first time in its history, Uruguay hosted such a high-level global dialogue, bringing together legislators, academics, and private sector representatives to discuss AI governance. **The summit resulted in a groundbreaking resolution calling for the development of a global AI governance framework** and the use of tools to address political, economic, technological, social, and environmental global challenges. This resolution later served as a key input for the United Nations' first Futures Summit.

With funding from the project International IDEA has also provided support **for the enhancement and visibility of Parliament's citizen participation platform (PROPACI), allowing more inclusive and transparent governance.** The initiative introduced an innovative training and awareness programme focused on young people's political participation, fostering a new generation of engaged citizens. Through participatory approaches, young Uruguayans gained insights into the legislative process and the importance of their engagement on issues that are shaping their future, such as gender equality, green transition and digital transformation.

OVERSIGHT AGENCIES MONITOR, PREVENT AND MITIGATE THE THREATS POSED BY ILLEGAL AND ILLICIT MONEY IN POLITICS

Building partnerships for reforming Fiji's political finance systems

Funding

Enabled by and implemented with core funding.

International IDEA has been involved in advocacy for political finance reforms in Fiji since 2021. In 2024 these efforts gained traction as the Fijian Election Office invited the Institute and other stakeholders to work on strengthening the integrity of Fiji's political finance systems.

Three years ago, International IDEA published the report [Political Finance Assessment of Fiji](#), which provides an in-depth analysis of the functioning of Fiji's political finance regime as well as a set of actionable recommendations. The report sparked significant debate and reaction, including an initial backlash from the Fijian Elections Office. Despite the initial challenges, International IDEA stood by the key findings and analysis and continued to use the report as a cornerstone for advocacy efforts in the realm of political finance.

Since then, Fiji has undergone significant political reforms and become more open to discuss issues of money in politics. The report has become a key resource in these discussions, providing insights that contributed to conversations on the importance of transparency and accountability in Fiji's political system.

In October 2024, International IDEA was invited to co-facilitate a two-day workshop on political finance, in collaboration with the Fijian Elections Office. This invitation marks a major shift in the willingness of the Fijian Elections Office to engage with International IDEA on advancing political finance reforms. **The dialogue and partnership established during this workshop demonstrate the mutual recognition and commitment to strengthen the integrity of Fiji's political finance systems.**

Subsequently, both the Attorney General and the Minister for Justice, responsible for electoral matters, has expressed their appreciation of International IDEA's contribution to the enhancement of Fiji's democratic development. .

The work they produced was significant and has added great value to the work we are undertaking on electoral reform. It is expected that in the first quarter of this year, it might be possible to go to Parliament with amendment legislation. The IDEA team was highly committed and produced a very useful

'The work International IDEA produced was significant and has added great value to the work we are undertaking on electoral reform. ...'

report against very tight deadline. It will inform the work of the team which is currently undertaking review of Fiji's electoral laws.

One of the main lessons learned through this process has been the crucial importance of evidence-based, objective analysis in International IDEA's knowledge products. This approach allowed the Institute to stand by the Fiji report and advocate for its recommendations even in the face of criticism. Finally, this experience highlighted that meaningful political change often takes time, requiring sustained advocacy, engagement, and patience.

Intensifying the fight against corruption in Nigeria

Funding

Enabled by core funding and implemented with restricted funding from the European Union.

International IDEA's RoLAC programme has supported Nigerian anti-corruption agencies to enhance cooperation and establish more effective practices.

In November 2023 International IDEA signed an agreement with the EU to manage RoLAC II in Nigeria. The overall goal of the programme is to contribute to the consolidation of the rule of law and anti-corruption reforms in Nigeria.

The two key agencies in the anti-corruption struggle in Nigeria have been extensively assisted by the RoLAC programme and have risen to the challenges that have been posed by the programme. For example, **the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) has recognised the growing importance of cyber-crime and with support from RoLAC organized a National Cyber-Crime summit in October 2024 and promoted the establishment of an emergency cyber-crime response unit** as a joint agency initiative. The joint-agency working represents a significant step forward given past organisational 'turf wars'. **The establishment of an EFCC forensic lab and work with EFCC staff members to get forensics certification and open-source intelligence training represents a further significant change.**

RoLAC has established a strong dialogue between the NBA and the EFCC on an ongoing basis which has the possibility to resolve this long running difficulty in the anti-corruption struggle.

However, perhaps the most significant outcome has been the work with the Special Control Unit on Money Laundering (SCUML), which is the sub-unit of the EFCC that investigates and regulates designated non-financial institutions and designated business professionals. A fully operational SCUML is an important part of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) requirements for Nigeria and there has been continual conflict between SCUML and the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) since its inception. **RoLAC has established a strong dialogue between the NBA and the EFCC on an ongoing basis which has the possibility to resolve this long running difficulty in the anti-corruption struggle.**

Moreover, in the past RoLAC had encouraged the development of a strategy for the Independent Corrupt Practices (and other related offences) Commission (ICPC), which proved successful. The acceptance of the need for a strategy with milestones and monitoring and evaluation represents a significant step forward for the agency. Alongside this, **the general acceptance of the idea of Anti-Corruption Technical Units (ACTUs) across ministries, departments, and agencies, represent a significant change in ICPC practices** and their role in the anti-corruption agencies' architecture and the struggle against corruption.

Strengthening political finance oversight in Kosovo

Funding

Enabled with financial support from the Government of Finland and co-implemented by IDEA and the Rule of Law Centre in Finland.

With support from International IDEA and the Rule of Law Centre of Finland, Kosovo's Central Election Commission's Office for Registration, Certification, and Financial Control of Political Entities takes significant steps to ensure transparency and accountability in Kosovo's political finance landscape.

During 2024, International IDEA and the Rule of Law Centre of Finland supported Kosovo's Central Election Commission's Office for Registration, Certification, and Financial Control of Political Entities (the Office) with expertise, institutional capacity development, and peer to peer exchange visit. The support provided by the Institute's and Finnish experts equipped the Office staff with international best practices on political finance regulation, oversight mechanisms, and compliance strategies.

Capacity development through the various activities was of an interactive nature and centred around real-life scenarios, strengthening problem-solving skills and institutional collaboration. Through a study visit to peers in Finland in combination with continuous advisory services, the Office staff members had the opportunity to increase their capacities in key areas such as financial disclosure requirements, campaign expenditure regulations, and the management of private and public funding. Drawing on Finland's robust political finance oversight model, experts from the Finnish National Audit Office and Ministry of Justice shared best practices and practical tools for monitoring financial flows and enforcing compliance.

This work inspired and supported the Office to:

- **Strengthen their institutional capacity**, as participants gained deeper insights into global standards and best practices, improving their ability to oversee and regulate political finance;

- **Improve interagency coordination**, as events fostered dialogue between oversight bodies, political parties, and other stakeholders, promoting a culture of compliance and transparency;
- **Develop strategies for effective enforcement**, as experiential learning exercises allowed participants to navigate common regulatory challenges and;
- **Increase awareness of emerging trends**, as the training addressed the growing influence of digital campaigns and online fundraising, preparing oversight bodies for future challenges.

Participants expressed strong commitment to applying their newly acquired knowledge and skills in their daily work. To sustain this progress, further tailored training and practical support will be essential, particularly in implementing digital reporting tools and refining legislative frameworks.

CIVIL SOCIETY ENGAGE WITH REPRESENTATIVE INSTITUTIONS IN AN INCLUSIVE AND EFFECTIVE WAY TO IMPROVE PUBLIC POLICY AND PRACTICE, AND TO HOLD POLITICAL DECISION MAKERS TO ACCOUNT

Improving accountability and transparency among CSOs

Funding

Enabled by core funding and implemented in various restricted projects.

By assessing and strengthening local CSOs' organizational capacity International IDEA develop their ability to administer and implement activities more effectively and thus create sustainable outcomes in their respective areas of work.

In restricted projects it is common that International IDEA sub-grants funds to local CSOs. In such cases, the Institute assesses the CSO partners' administrative and programmatic capacity to implement and administer agreed activities. Such capacity assessments include a review of the organization's management and organizational capacity, financial management capacity, programme management capacity, and human resources capacity.

After a capacity assessment, International IDEA and the partner agree on a plan for enhancing its capacity in areas where the assessment has revealed room for improvement. The purpose of improving the partners organizational capacities is both to minimize risks of failure to comply with a donor's requirements, and to develop the partners' ability to administer and implement

activities effectively. These efforts support CSOs to achieve their objectives and attract donor funding.

An illustrative example of this work is found in Nigeria, where International IDEA's RoLAC programme has supported local CSOs to enhance monitoring and evaluation capacities, improve financial and procurement management, and a focus on inclusivity. **For example, the Centre for Transparency Advocacy (CTA) has embraced the principles of IDEA's Learning-Based Management approach. They have learned to harvest outcomes systematically and integrate continuous learning into their operations, leveraging insights from the results they document.** On financial management, CTA has implemented several improvements. They have adopted the use of a monthly procurement plan, a practice they did not have previously. To enhance efficiency and transparency, they have also created a designated email address for procurement-related submissions and gained better knowledge of requisition processes and documentation.

Another example is the Centre for Socio-Legal Studies (CSLS), which has increased their focus on inclusivity and strengthened their commitment to diversity. Another significant shift for CSLS has been their approach to 'storytelling' to communicate outcomes. Previously, the organization did not prioritize documenting results. However, they have now begun capturing and sharing outcome stories as part of their reporting processes. This development has helped them demonstrate the tangible outcomes of their work to stakeholders and donors.

The Centre for Transparency Advocacy has learned to harvest outcomes systematically and integrate continuous learning into their operations, leveraging insights from the results they document.

Building global partnerships to enhance women's political participation

Funding

Enabled by core funding and implemented with restricted funding from the European Union.

International IDEA partners with UN Women, IPU, and United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) to promote women's political participation.

The Women and Youth in Democracy Initiative (WYDE) is anchored in the European Union's third Gender Action Plan (GAP III) and is implemented by International IDEA, UN Women, IPU, and UCLG through a programme titled 'Advancing Women's Political Participation and Decision-Making through Social Norms Change, Networking and Global Advocacy'. The programme places emphasis on changing social norms and shifting cultural attitudes that portray women's roles in communities and society as incompatible with political power; and put specific focus on building critical skills of young women and engage men and boys, office holders, and the media as allies for gender equality and women and youth empowerment.

These meetings strengthened cooperation between young people to address the discriminatory gender perceptions and strengthening women and youth capacities to exercise their political agency.

The first activities were successfully conducted in November 2024 when International IDEA, in cooperation with UN Women convened two regional dialogues for Eastern and Southern Africa. The aim of the dialogues was to enhance women and youth participation and representation in leadership and decision-making. **These meetings strengthened cooperation between young people and women from 16 African countries to address the discriminatory gender perceptions and strengthening women and youth capacities to exercise their political agency.**

Participants gave testimony to being inspired by meetings. For example, Thembisile Mahuwa, representing Young Women of Africa, South Africa, wrote: 'The exchange of ideas and strategies was incredibly enriching, and I left with a renewed sense of purpose and inspiration. I am committed to empowering more women as I was empowered during this dialogue.'

Building a global coalition to promote and defend democracy

Funding

Implemented with core funding and restricted funding from the Bosch Foundation and the Ford Foundation.

Since the first Summit for Democracy in 2021, International IDEA convenes the Global Democracy Coalition (GDC) with more than 140 partners in the global #democracy community. The GDC's extensive network of partners has strengthened advocacy efforts and created a unified global call to action for democracy.

Democracy is under threat in many parts of the world, but the GDC organizations, led by International IDEA, work together to defend and protect democracy. An example of this is the Global Democracy Coalition's #ThankYouDemocracy campaign which has highlighted why and how **democracy** matters, and how it enables more sustainable, prosperous and inclusive societies everywhere. The campaign provides positive narratives about democracy, backed by evidence and data. The campaign has engaged democracy advocates worldwide, grassroots champions and global leaders, such as Stefan Löfven, Jose Luis R. Zapatero, Carlos Alvarado, Moussa Mara, Tsakhia Elbegdorj, Jigme Yoser Thinley, Eduardo Frei, Leonel Fernández, and Hanna Suchocka. **It has brought together partners from all regions of the world, empowering them to showcase democracy's benefits through a series of positive outcome stories, podcasts, social media engagement, and targeted advocacy efforts.** By hosting the GDC, International IDEA plays a pivotal role in bringing these voices together and amplifying the campaign's impact.

With the endorsements of global leaders, the GDC partners have created a powerful narrative of democracy's positive influence worldwide. Additionally, the campaign inspired the launch of the Thank You Democracy podcast series,

which has seen over 3,000 impressions for the first four episodes, expanding the reach of the campaign's message to new and engaged audiences.

One of the campaign's most impactful stories emerged from the Philippines, where Joanne Ascencion Valdez, a Council Member at Candon City, Ilocos Sur, incorporated the #ThankYouDemocracy hashtag and campaign materials into leadership training sessions in her province. Joanne and her team have used the campaign to illustrate the value of democracy to young leaders, providing them with a tangible understanding of democratic principles and how they foster community empowerment. **Inspired by the campaign's impact, Joanne has expressed her desire to deepen collaboration with the GDC, aiming to broaden efforts to further engage young leaders across the Asia and Pacific region in the values of democracy and civic participation.**

A call to defend democracy

Funding

Enabled by and implemented with core funding.

In the run-up to the European Parliamentary elections in June 2024, International IDEA spearheaded a public statement titled 'Call to Defend Democracy: 10 Priorities for the Next European Commission.' The statement garnered the endorsement of over 350 prominent organizations and personalities, underscoring the urgent need to uphold democratic values within and beyond European borders.

The statement underscored the imperative for the forthcoming EU leadership to prioritize democratic values amid rising authoritarianism. It highlighted ten priorities, urging the EU to fortify its internal democratic structures, enhance the rule of law, and ensure that new digital technologies safeguard human rights.

Externally, the statement called on the EU to place democracy at the heart of its security, migration, energy, and trade agendas by integrating democracy into trade and investment, safeguarding electoral integrity, emphasizing democracy in EU-enlargement efforts, and increasing resources for democracy and civic space programmes globally.

The initiative received widespread support from prominent figures, such as Nobel Peace Prize Laureates José Ramos-Horta of Timor-Leste, Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya of Belarus, and Muhammad Yunus of Bangladesh, along with two dozen former heads of state and leading EU officials. **This collective endorsement from influential voices signaled robust and widespread support for the EU's democracy support efforts. It showed a collective determination to prioritize and safeguard democratic values, reinforcing the EU's role as a global champion of democracy.**

It showed a collective determination to prioritize and safeguard democratic values, reinforcing the EU's role as a global champion of democracy.

As European citizens prepared to vote, the statement aimed to mobilize EU policymakers, emphasizing that democracy remains the most effective system to address societal challenges and protect the rights of all citizens, particularly minorities and vulnerable groups.

Featured by media globally, the statement reached a vast audience, spreading the critical message of defending democracy. Upon its launch, the call was shared with key decision-makers to influence their policy agenda for the EU. The team held meetings with Commissioners Jutta Urpilainen and Vice-President Vera Jourová to discuss its content and advocate for a strong EU democracy agenda.

Increasing visibility for the global democracy agenda at the UN

Funding

Enabled by and implemented with core funding.

International IDEA contributed to raise awareness about the importance of underpinning the GDC, the Pact for the Future and the Declaration on Future Generations with democratic principles.

The New York Office of the Permanent Observer for International IDEA to the UN works with member states and partner organizations in civil society and the multilateral sphere to advocate for greater visibility within UN fora for issues linked to the global democracy agenda.

In 2024, International IDEA has been a leading advocate for embedding democracy at the core of the United Nations' Pact for the Future, emphasizing the need to address democratic backsliding as a global challenge. This advocacy involved developing knowledge and analysis, reviewing successive drafts of the Pact, its Global Digital Compact (GDC), the Declaration on Future Generations, and making statements at the UN to highlight the critical role of democracy and human rights in global frameworks. These efforts culminated in a significant milestone when International IDEA's Secretary-General underscored the importance of these principles during the Summit of the Future in September 2024, in a statement at the UN General Assembly.

**International IDEA's
convening power
was central to its
success.**

In its focused work on the GDC, International IDEA was able to ensure the integration of democratic safeguards, addressing issues like digital authoritarianism, disinformation, and the importance of democratic human rights principles. The Institute's convening power was central to its success, bringing together member states, civil society organizations, and global digital experts to foster dialogue and collaboration.

Beyond the GDC, International IDEA influenced the Pact for the Future. The Institute consistently framed the erosion of democracy as a systemic challenge, advocating for its recognition in the Pact and proposed strategies to counteract it. This work included analyzing and critiquing drafts of the Pact to ensure that democracy remained a foundational element and making statements at the UN to push for stronger commitments to democratic principles.

Supporting political dialogue in Peru

Funding

Enabled by core funding and implemented with restricted funding from USAID.

Multi-stakeholder dialogues in Peru have contributed to constructive discussions where diverse stakeholders have been able to deal with political tensions and conflicts to solve problems.

There are deep-rooted regional, ethnic, and socioeconomic divisions in Peru, which often reflect in political conflicts. Most recently Pedro Castillo, who won the presidency in the 2021 elections, announced the dissolution of the Peruvian Congress in what has been labelled a 'self-coup'. The Congress responded with an impeachment vote and subsequently Castillo was charged with rebellion and conspiracy. The events sparked widespread protests which exacerbated existing political tensions, highlighting the deep polarization and distrust within the political system in Peru.

In response to this crisis USAID awarded International IDEA a grant for the project *Peru Conversa*, which aims to contribute to efforts of rebuilding trust between citizens and political actors by facilitating meaningful political dialogue. The project had shown significant progress in mapping and involving political leaders, social leaders and other authorities in 16 targeted regions. Representatives from these stakeholders have subsequently formed 15 'Driving Groups', which were facilitated and coordinated by International IDEA's local partners. The Driving Groups are responsible for organizing dialogues aimed at developing strategies for improving democratic dialogue at local and regional levels.

At an internal evaluation conducted by International IDEA persons interviewed testified that **the dialogues have facilitated constructive discussions where the stakeholders have been able to deal with tensions and conflicts to try to solve problems.** As the stakeholders represent groups that do not meet often and do not trust each other this was regarded as a key achievement, enabled by dialogue methodologies where much attention is given to the art of listening to others, instead of arguing and presenting opinions.

The dialogues have facilitated constructive discussions where the stakeholders have been able to deal with tensions and conflicts to try to solve problems.

One of the respondents of the evaluation said that politicians and other leaders in the dialogues have gradually become more active and interested in engaging politically. He had also observed that rights holders used the opportunities provided by assuming 'responsible citizenship'.

In a complementary activity one of International IDEA's local partners – Capitalismo Consciente – conducted roundtables with 250 CEOs, 100 business leaders and 700 students, to involve them in discussions on how entrepreneurs and business leaders can contribute to strengthening democracy in Peru. **These private sector representatives have in many cases become active members of the Driving Groups or participated in dialogues, which has made it possible to strengthen relationships and networks between the private sector, civil society and political leaders.**

The next step in the process would have been to help the stakeholders in the dialogues to systematize the views raised in the dialogues to develop proposals and action plans for how to address the political crisis in Peru at local, regional, and national levels. These efforts would have been supported by advocacy in traditional and social media.

Empowering female journalists in Peru

Funding

Enabled by core funding and implemented with restricted funding from USAID.

Created in honor of Peruvian independence heroine Micaela Bastidas, a group of women journalists are dedicated to strengthening women's political participation in Peru.

In response to the political crisis in Peru USAID awarded International IDEA a grant for the Peru Conversa project, which aimed to contribute to efforts of rebuilding trust between citizens and political actors by facilitating meaningful political dialogue. Through the project the Institute has worked with media and opinion leaders to promote inclusive political dialogue based on reliable information. The activities under this workstream include production of digital content such as audiovisual and social media posting, media training, and dialogues on responsible journalism.

A particularly successful activity has been International IDEA's and the Gustavo Mohme Llona Foundation's training programme for seven journalists from the Micaelas, a network of female political journalists from Southern Peru. The project enabled the Micaelas to exchange ideas and knowledge with national and international colleagues and participate in training workshops on broadcasting, use of radio language in politics, podcast editing, and the role of new technologies in investigative journalism. Subsequently, **the Micaelas Network has produced 62 editions of a weekly radio programme, Voces del**

Sur, with five regional radio stations. Through the programme the Micaelas network seeks to give voice to women from different regions of southern Peru by exploring new journalistic approaches.

Transforming gender dynamics in Zimbabwe

Funding

Enabled by core funding and implemented with restricted funding from Sida.

At Bindura University in Zimbabwe, the WPP programme, which is led by International IDEA, has tackled the systemic barriers that prevent young women from assuming leadership roles. Other Universities in Zimbabwe noticed the success of the model and adopted it.

Women at Bindura University faced significant barriers, including limited leadership opportunities and sexual exploitation. Male students traditionally dominated decision-making, reinforcing a cycle that excluded women from leadership roles. Recognizing that systemic change requires women's empowerment and male-engagement, Padare, International IDEA's local partner in the WPP programme, mobilized young men on campus to challenge these norms and support women's participation in leadership. Through awareness campaigns, workshops and campus-wide engagements, male students were encouraged to reflect on their own roles in perpetuating inequality and to take a stand in support of women's leadership. **The movement rapidly gained momentum, as young men started challenging the long-standing societal and institutional norms that had previously excluded women from leadership.**

The impact of these efforts has been transformative. In a historic achievement, Christine Shambakumanja was elected as the first female President of the Bindura University student body. Her election was a powerful symbol of what can be accomplished when barriers to women's participation are dismantled. Additionally, Tatenda Muponde secured the position of Food and Accommodation Secretary, affirming that male advocacy and allyship is central in advancing gender equality.

The significance of this change went beyond Bindura University. Other Universities in Zimbabwe noticed the success of the model, and adopted it.

At the core of this transformation was Padare's strategy of engaging men in the fight for gender equality. Their advocacy helped dismantle long-standing patriarchal structures and foster a more inclusive academic environment.

The movement rapidly gained momentum, as young men started challenging the long-standing societal and institutional norms that had previously excluded women from leadership.

Annex 1: International IDEA's results framework

Table A.1. Electoral Processes

Impact objective for Electoral Processes	Impact indicators
Credible and well-run elections	GSoD sub-attribute: Credible Elections ¹ GSoD sub-attribute: Electoral participation ² GSoD indicator: Subnational elections free and fair ³ GSoD indicator: A3 Electoral process ⁴ GSoD indicator: EMB capacity ⁵
Boundary partners in the Electoral Processes workstream	Outcome objective
Electoral assistance practitioners: Organizations and individuals who provide technical assistance and capacity development on how to plan for and organize credible and well-run elections ⁶	Electoral assistance practitioners provide contextualized support informed by norms, good practices and research
Electoral policymakers: The legal entities and individuals who prepare and take decisions on the legal frameworks for electoral processes	Electoral policymakers consider complexities and risks and support practices that foster inclusivity and accountability in electoral processes
Electoral management bodies: Organizations or bodies with the sole purpose of, and legally responsible for, managing some or all of the elements essential to the conduct of elections and direct democracy instruments—such as referendums, citizens' initiatives and recall votes—if those are part of the legal framework	Electoral management bodies recognize and respond to complexities and risks, and effectively implement the Electoral Cycle Approach
Civil society (Electoral Processes): Organizations and associations that serve the public's needs in relation to electoral processes but operate outside of the governmental and corporate spheres	Civil society promotes public participation in electoral processes and demands accountability from policymakers and electoral management bodies

¹ The extent to which elections for national, representative political office are free from irregularities.

² The level of electoral participation by the adult voting age population in the most recent national election.

³ The extent to which subnational elections are free and fair.

⁴ The extent to which the electoral laws and framework are fair and implemented impartially by the relevant election management body.

⁵ The extent to which the election management body has sufficient staff and resources to administer a well-run national election.

⁶ This category of boundary partner includes organizations such as International IDEA, UNDP and the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES).

Table A.2. Constitution-Building Processes

Impact objectives for Constitution-Building Processes	Impact indicators
An inclusive constitution-building process informed by international knowledge and experience of constitutional design and processes	There are no suitable impact indicators for constitution-building <i>processes</i> . Progress is tracked with qualitative methods
The constitution is implemented under agreed constitutional frameworks and contributes to reduce tensions and conflict	GSoD sub-attribute: Personal Integrity and Security ¹ GSoD indicator: Internal conflict ²
Boundary partners in the Constitution-Building Processes workstream	Outcome objective
Advisers to constitution makers: Organizations and individuals that provide technical assistance and capacity development on implementation of constitutional reform ³	Advisers to constitution makers use International IDEA's knowledge and networks to provide high-quality advice and advance inclusive practices in constitution-building processes
Constitution makers: Usually a body that has been mandated by a government to lead a process of constitutional reform and draft a constitution; Can also refer to an informal group that develops a draft constitution for a country without an official mandate	Constitution makers apply increased knowledge and skills to make informed choices regarding constitutional design and process
Civil society (CBP): Organizations and associations that serve the public's needs in relation to constitution-building processes but operate outside of governmental and corporate spheres	Civil society holds constitution makers accountable and promotes inclusive public participation in constitution-building processes
Constitutional implementers: The various bodies in a state that are responsible for upholding and implementing constitutional reform, most notably the judiciary	Constitutional implementers promote respect for the rule of law and constitutionalism under agreed constitutional frameworks

¹ Measures the extent to which bodily integrity is respected and people are free from state and non-state political violence.

² Measures the extent of political violence in a country and its actual or potential impact on governance.

³ This category of boundary partner includes organizations such as International IDEA, UNDP, the Venice Commission and the Max Planck Foundation.

Table A.3. Political Participation and Representation

Impact objectives Political PR	Impact indicators
Public administration is inclusive, impartial and rigorous	GSoD indicator: Rigorous and impartial public administration ¹ GSoD sub-attribute: Predictable enforcement ² GSoD indicator: Bureaucratic quality ³
Civil society engages freely with representative institutions in a democratic and effective way	GSoD sub-attribute: Civil Society ⁴ GSoD indicator: Political empowerment ⁵ GSoD sub-component: Freedom of the press ⁶
Parliament exercises its legislative, oversight and representation functions effectively	GSoD attribute: Representation ⁷ GSoD sub-attribute: Effective parliament ⁸
Political parties and movements contribute to a party system that is inclusive, responsive and accountable to all citizens	GSoD sub-attribute: Free political parties ⁹ GSoD indicator: B1 and B2 Political pluralism and participation ¹⁰ GSoD indicator: Party system ¹¹
Oversight agencies monitor, prevent and mitigate threats posed by both illegal and illicit money in politics	GSoD indicator: Executive oversight ¹² GSoD indicator: Executive embezzlement and theft ¹³ GSoD indicator: Executive bribery and corrupt exchanges ¹⁴
Boundary partners in the political participation and representation workstream	Outcome objective
Political parties and movements: Political parties are registered, whereas political movements are more informal political groups that may or may not participate in elections ¹⁵	Political parties and movements carry out their functions in a way that contributes to a party system that is inclusive, responsive and accountable to all citizens
Civil society (political participation and representation): Organizations and associations that serve the public's needs in relation to political participation and representation but operate outside of the governmental and corporate spheres	Civil society engages with representative institutions in an inclusive and effective way to improve public policy and practice, and to hold political decision makers to account

¹ Measures the extent to which public officials are rigorous and impartial in the performance of their duties.

² Measures the extent to which the executive and public officials enforce laws in a predictable manner.

³ Measures the extent to which the bureaucracy has the strength and expertise to govern without drastic changes in policy or interruptions in government services.

⁴ Measures the extent to which citizens engage with civil society.

⁵ Measures the extent to which there are gaps between men and women in terms of political participation.

⁶ Measures the extent to which news media outlets are diverse, honest, critical of the government, free from censorship and independent.

⁷ Measures the extent to which elections for legislative and executive office are contested and inclusive.

⁸ Measures the extent to which the legislature can oversee the executive.

⁹ Measures the extent to which political parties are free to form and to campaign for political office.

¹⁰ B1 measures the extent to which people have the right to organize in different political parties or other competitive political groupings of their choice, and the extent to which the system is free of undue obstacles to the rise and fall of these competing parties or groupings. B2 measures the extent to which there is a realistic opportunity for the opposition to increase its support or gain power through elections.

¹¹ Measures the extent to which the party system is stable and socially rooted.

¹² Measures the extent to which or how likely it is that a body other than the legislature, such as a comptroller general, general prosecutor or ombudsman, would question or investigate executive branch officials if they were engaged in unconstitutional, illegal or unethical activity.

¹³ Measures the extent to which members of the executive or their agents steal, embezzle or misappropriate public funds or other state resources for personal or family use.

¹⁴ Measures the extent to which members of the executive or their agents grant favours in exchange for bribes or other material inducements.

¹⁵ Many political movements have had aims that established or broadened the rights of disadvantaged or subordinated groups, such as abolitionism, the women's suffrage movement and civil rights movements.

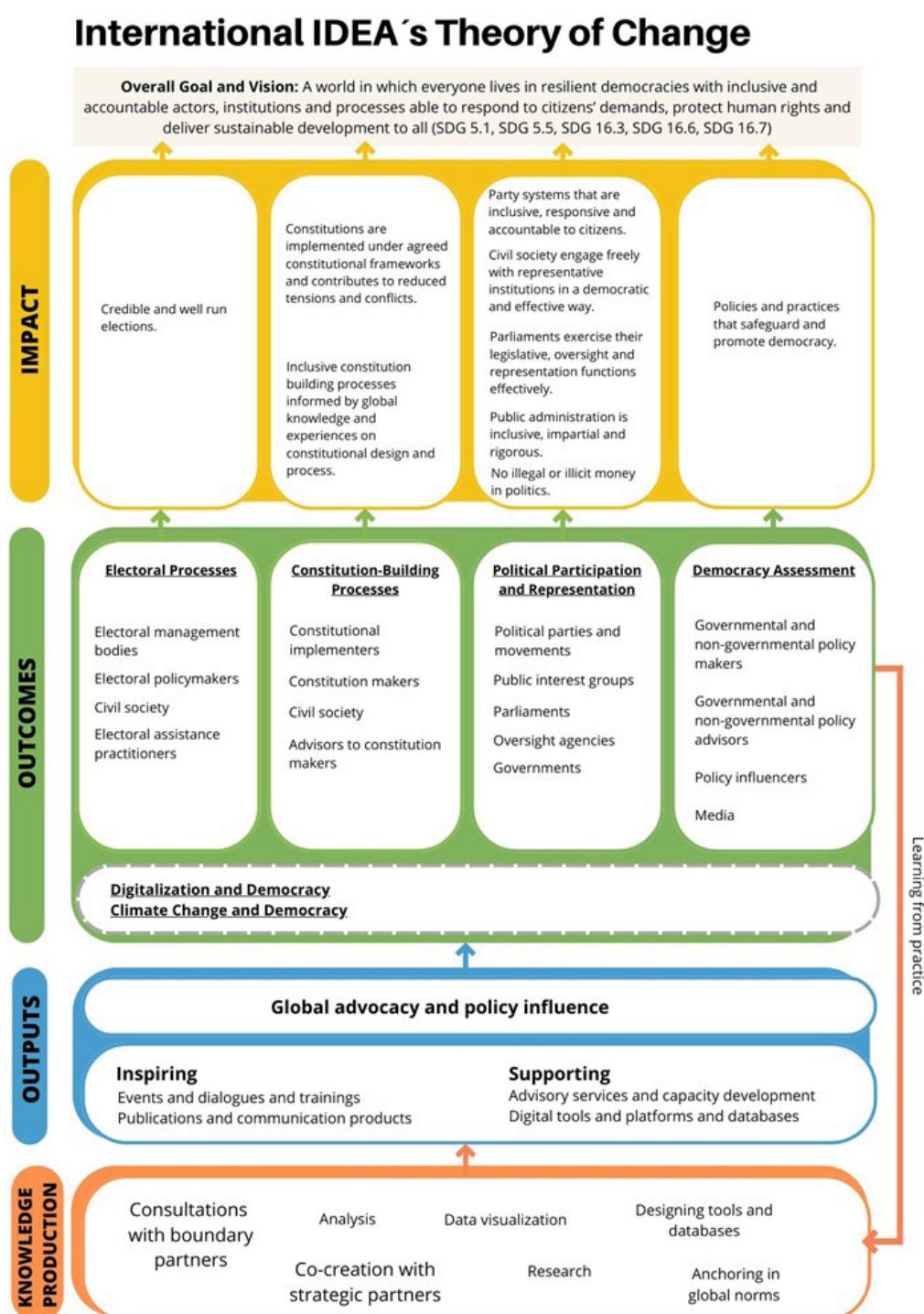
Table A.3. Political Participation and Representation (cont.)

Oversight agencies: Governmental agencies or bodies that are mandated to provide oversight of the government's legislative and/or executive branches; The most recognizable oversight agencies are ombudsmen and national audit offices	Oversight agencies monitor, prevent and mitigate threats posed by both illegal and illicit money in politics
National and subnational parliaments: The legislative branch of government	Parliaments exercise their legislative, oversight and representative functions in a way that aims to be transparent, inclusive, responsive and accountable to all citizens
Public administration: The executive branch of government	Public administration exercises practices and decision-making processes to become more transparent, inclusive, responsive and accountable to all citizens

Table A.4. Democracy Assessment

Impact Objective DA	Impact Indicators DA
Policies and practices that safeguard and promote democracy	There are no suitable impact indicators for democracy assessment. Progress must be tracked using qualitative methods
Boundary partners in the democracy assessment workstream	Outcome objective
Governmental and non-governmental policymakers: Governmental policymakers are strategic decision makers in parliament, the government and government agencies; non-governmental policymakers are strategic decision makers in civil society. This category of boundary partner includes governmental advisers to policymakers, such as parliamentary staff members and public servants, and non-governmental advisers to policymakers, such as thematic experts in civil society organization (CSOs).	Policy makers make evidence- and context-based decisions about how to promote democracy.
Policy influencers: Organizations and individuals that attempt to influence public policy through advocacy and lobbying; the most recognizable policy influencers are CSOs operating at the domestic and international levels, as well as academia.	Policy influencers design and implement effective and evidence-based advocacy campaigns and recommendations based on data and research, for promoting democracy.
Media: Traditional and non-traditional media	The media utilize evidence-based data and research to inform the public about democracy in a deeper, more nuanced, and more conceptually rigorous way, and hold decision makers to account to these standards.

Annex 2. International IDEA's Theory of Change



About International IDEA

The International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA) is an intergovernmental organization with 35 Member States founded in 1995, with a mandate to support sustainable democracy worldwide.

WHAT WE DO

We develop policy-friendly research related to elections, parliaments, constitutions, digitalization, climate change, inclusion and political representation, all under the umbrella of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. We assess the performance of democracies around the world through our unique Global State of Democracy Indices and Democracy Tracker.

We provide capacity development and expert advice to democratic actors including governments, parliaments, election officials and civil society. We develop tools and publish databases, books and primers in several languages on topics ranging from voter turnout to gender quotas.

We bring states and non-state actors together for dialogues and lesson sharing. We stand up and speak out to promote and protect democracy worldwide.

WHERE WE WORK

Our headquarters is in Stockholm, and we have regional and country offices in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, and Latin America and the Caribbean. International IDEA is a Permanent Observer to the United Nations and is accredited to European Union institutions.

OUR PUBLICATIONS AND DATABASES

We have a catalogue with more than 1,000 publications and over 25 databases on our website. Most of our publications can be downloaded free of charge.

<<https://www.idea.int>>

Does democracy assistance work? Does the work of International IDEA yield results? These are complex questions that International IDEA's Annual Outcome Report for 2024 strives to answer. It does so by presenting outcome stories where each story describes how International IDEA has inspired and supported its partners to work more effectively in collaboration with other democratic actors and citizens.

In order to reflect the breadth of International IDEA's work, each of these stories is linked to the Institute's results framework and hence reflects changes undertaken by all of the types of partners that International IDEA cooperates with in its workstreams. These stories do not account for all of International IDEA's activities and results but they are representative examples of what the Institute does and achieves. Hence the stories are to be regarded as qualitative indicators of the results of International IDEA's work. The report also includes stories with lessons learned from activities that have not led to expected results.