



# International IDEA's State of Democracy Assessment Framework

## Do you want to find out how democratic your country is?

The State of Democracy (SoD) assessment framework enables citizens to undertake assessments of their own democracies in order to define home-grown reform agendas and inform home-grown policy initiatives. The assessment framework is available in Arabic, English, French, and Spanish at [www.idea.int/sod/framework](http://www.idea.int/sod/framework).

- **It is founded** on two basic democratic principles of **popular control** and **political equality**.
- **It is flexible** and can be used as a whole, in part, or targeted at specific thematic priority areas.
- **It is universally applicable** and can be applied in any democracy, regardless of its level of development.
- **It is responsive** in bringing to bare challenges such as inequalities and differences in society.

## ABOUT THE FRAMEWORK

The framework is organized around four pillars:

- 1 Citizenship, law, and rights**  
Focuses on citizenship, rights of the citizen and the extent to which the state guarantees equal rights to all.
- 2 Representative and accountable government**  
Examines the effectiveness of democratic institutions and processes and how responsive they are to all sections of society.
- 3 Civil society and popular participation**  
Analyses at the extent to which the citizenry is active, and the extent of decentralization.
- 4 Democracy beyond the state**  
Examines if policy is supportive of democracy abroad and the extent to which the country is in control of its internal policy and accountable to its citizens rather than to external powers.

## HOW TO USE IT

- STEP 1 Initial decisions and agenda setting**
  - Define purpose, benchmarks and comparators
  - Decide on content, priorities, time-frame and resources
  - Select multi-stakeholder and multi-disciplinary core team and consultative team
  - Compile the range of data sources to be used
  - Plan consultation with a variety of stakeholders
  - Decide on a publication and dissemination strategy
- STEP 2 Data collection, analysis and organization**
  - Construct a bibliography
  - Collect, identify and sort data
  - Arrange and prioritize issues that emerge
  - Confirm answers to search questions
  - Write a draft assessment report
- STEP 3 National workshop**
  - Invite all key stakeholder, ensuring a gender balance and participation of marginalized groups
  - Link the findings to a reform agenda
- STEP 4 Publication, dissemination, and push for reform**
  - Disseminate results to target audiences
  - Provide input to reform proposals
- STEP 5 Evaluation and next steps**
  - Evaluate and assess the assessment process, outputs and outcomes
  - Decide on whether to institutionalize the assessment or not
  - Follow-up activities