

» Democracy in the making «

IN THIS ISSUE

FROM THE SECRETARY

GENERAL

Editorial by Secretary-General
Karen Fogg 2

FOCUS

Women in the Political Process.... 3-4

OPINION

Women in Arab Politics,
Dr. Azza Karam 5

FROM THE FIELD

Electoral Rights for the Disabled,
Local Democracy Workshops in
Southern Africa 6-7

IN ACTION

Arab World, Democracy Assessment
Seminars, Burma Workshops, Elec-
toral Training in Mozambique 8-9

IDEA CALENDAR 10

UPCOMING PUBLICATIONS... 11

OFF THE PRESS 12

WOMEN IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS



Women migrant workers demonstrate in Jakarta, Indonesia. New language editions of the IDEA Handbook *Women in Parliament* include Bahasa Indonesia.

Photo: EPA / Pressens Bild

Women and men have equal rights to vote and stand for election in most countries. So why do women remain underrepresented in politics? Through its 'Gender and Political Participation Project', International IDEA remains committed to identifying obstacles to women's representation and to develop mechanisms for change.



As IDEA's new Secretary-General, I am very pleased that my first column for the Newsletter comes in an issue in which 'gender' is a major theme. The political participation of women is an important litmus test of the quality of our democracies. Their registration and participation as voters, their involvement in political parties and selection as candidates for election, their success in elections and access to public office – at all stages there are obstacles to equality to be overcome. Of course there are many good intentions expressed, but turning these into practice requires much sustained political will as well as a good grasp of the techniques that may set and achieve targets.

Ensuring that women get access to political power is part of the challenge to ensure that democracy is an affair of the people, all the people, and not only the preserve of the elite. The same reasoning applies to ethnic and religious groups, to people in rural areas, to the very poor, to all those who are so frequently excluded from the world of politics. All should have a voice, a voice that can be heard. Disabled people are included in this concern. They have a clear voice, as shown at the recent IDEA-IFES-SIDA conference in Sigtuna, as reported in this Newsletter.

New democracies have to be particularly careful to listen to all voices, to ensure that different grievances and interests can be articulated and successfully mediated through the political system. IDEA is there to help in this task. Making democracy 'inclusive' is conflict prevention at work. This has been and will continue to be a starting point for the work of IDEA. Election systems can for instance be designed to help. Voter registration can be made more efficient. Many can help build trust in the electoral process. Political parties have perhaps the greatest responsibility to show they can listen to different voices and include them in their structures and policies. Starting with women?

IDEA's "Women in Parliament" handbook, originally published in 1998, has been a singular success across all continents, bringing IDEA into contact with many new groups of people, including several eminent women parliamentarians. Our thanks go to our staff member Julie Ballington for her tireless efforts in this context. The updated and adapted versions of the handbook for Latin America, Francophone Africa, and Indonesia will enable IDEA with its many partners in these regions to take the debate further to the grass roots.

Effective dissemination of IDEA products is essential. It will dominate our thinking and planning for the future. We need to strengthen links with our members, build more substantial cooperation with a range of partner bodies at nation regional and international level, re-think our communications and information strategy. We will be reviewing the future of this Newsletter in that context. Your views as readers are particularly welcome.

Karen Fogg

SECRETARY-GENERAL, *International IDEA*

Parity in Question: Women in the Political Process

In 1965 women constituted 8.1 per cent of members of parliament globally. By 2002 this figure had increased to 14.3 per cent – minimal progress by any count. Four decades on, the ideal of gender parity in politics remains just that: an ideal that is still a long way removed from reality.

The equal participation of women and men in public life is one of the fundamental tenets of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1979. Today, more than 20 years after the signing of the Convention, and with 165 ratifications by States, women in all parts of the world continue to be under-represented in politics.

Despite the achievements on the legal fronts at both international and national levels, however, unequal gender participation in politics is evident in the predominance of men as parliamentarians, cabinet ministers and heads of government.

EQUAL ACCESS TO POLITICS?

Globally, women constitute 14.3 per cent of parliamentarians, although there are significant regional variations. The Nordic countries average nearly 40 per cent representation of women in their legislative bodies – Sweden has the highest proportion of women parliamentarians in the world with 45 per cent, closely followed by Denmark, Finland and Norway.

At the other end of the spectrum are the Arab countries where a mere 4.6 per cent of legislators are women. Latin America, Asia and Africa are no exception to the global trend. With an average of 12–15 per cent

representation of women in lower chambers, these regions reveal the fact that women's inclusion and full participation in the public sphere constitutes a major democratic and development challenge.

Women and men have equal rights to vote and stand for election in most countries. Why then do women remain underrepresented in decision-making bodies? *The Women in Parliament: Beyond Numbers* Handbook, recently published by International IDEA in three different regional editions

“Women’s participation in politics will only be truly valued when there is a shift in traditional perceptions of power.”

targeting Francophone Africa, Asia and Latin America (*see box*), identifies several obstacles that affect women's chances of election. Chief among them are cultural traditions and the dominant patriarchal ideology.

In the Bahasa Indonesian version of the IDEA Handbook Wan Azizah, President of the National Justice Party and Member of Parliament in Malaysia explains that numerous

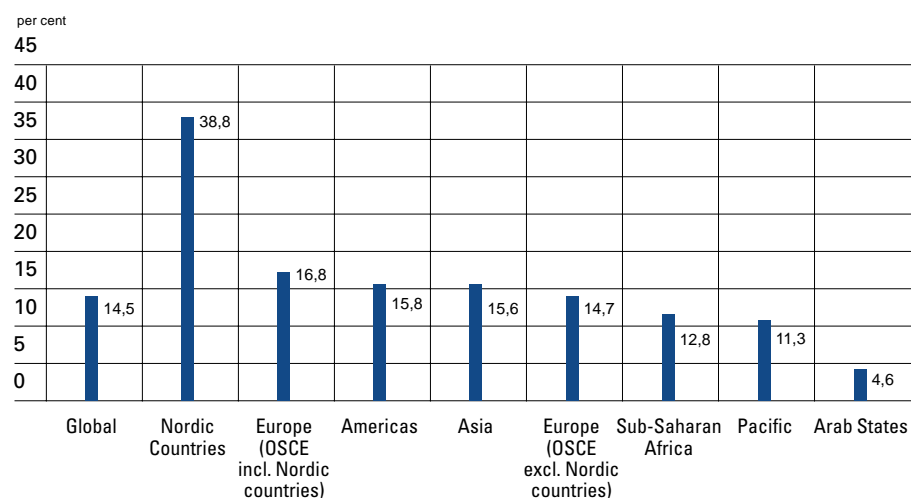
challenges confront women entering politics. “Among them are lack of party and family support and the ‘masculine model’ of political life. Many feel that Malaysian society is still male dominated, and some men feel threatened by the idea of women holding senior posts. In the political sphere this is compounded by the high premium placed on political power, which makes some men even less willing to share it with women.”

Other obstacles to women's participation include the dual burden of balancing family

responsibilities with a political career, insufficient financial resources to win a party nomination or launch a successful electoral campaign, illiteracy and male dominated norms and structures in parliament. Insufficient media support and lack of coordination among women's groups, networks and MPs can further compound the problem. And the nature of the political party system and the way in which political parties promote – or more often than not fail to promote – women's candidacies for election are important additional factors.

WOMEN IN LOWER HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

(Source: IPU February 2002)



MECHANISMS FOR CHANGE

In 1995 the Beijing Platform for Action identified ‘inequality between men and women in the sharing of power and decision-making at all levels’ and ‘insufficient mechanisms at all levels to promote the advancement of women’, as two areas of concern where action is critical for the advancement of women. In the electoral process, different mechanisms may be employed to increase the representation of women including electoral system choice and the use of electoral quotas.

ELECTORAL SYSTEM

As highlighted in the different language





versions of the IDEA Handbook, electoral systems can have a direct bearing on the number of women elected to parliament. The 10 countries with the highest representation of women globally all use some form of list proportional representation (PR), and this system is widely believed to be most beneficial for electing women. In order to appeal to a wide electorate parties may ‘balance’ their party tickets to ensure representation of interest groups in society, including women.

This is in contrast to constituency systems, where parties are often under pressure to field ‘popular and competent’ (for which read ‘male’) candidates. However, the potential of the list PR system is dependent upon political parties fielding large numbers of women in winnable positions on the lists. Overall, the absence of party support for women candidates remains one of the most influential obstacles to their election.

As Nestorine Compaoré, a lecturer and consultant in social development at the University of Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso notes in the Francophone edition of the Handbook, “While the proportional list system facilitates the promotion of women, its effects are not really felt unless the political parties have made the decision to promote women and place the women on their lists in positions such that they have a chance of

getting elected. Few parties nominate women, and they are generally placed at the bottom of the lists.”

QUOTAS

Various direct measures have been used to increase the representation of women in legislatures around the world. Affirmative action or quotas are one mechanism through which the numbers of women in parliament may be increased significantly, the aim being to ensure that women constitute a critical mass of 30 or 40 per cent in parliaments or decision-making bodies.

In the IDEA Handbook quotas are broadly classified into two groups: *legislative and party political*. In Latin America constitutional or legislative quotas are particularly common. During the 1990s 11 regional countries introduced established a minimum level of 20–40 per cent for women’s participation as candidates in legislative elections. Alternatively, political parties may establish informal party quotas where a minimum percentage of candidates forwarded for election must be women.

Have quotas helped more women get elected? This is an area where International IDEA has initiated a project on the sharing of comparative experiences, with a view to gauging how quotas have actually worked in practice. In many countries the use of

temporary special measures has been advocated in one form or another and in some instances translated into legislation – yet women remain woefully underrepresented in politics. For example, while quotas in Latin American countries have boosted women’s representation by an average of 8 per cent, the effects have varied significantly between countries.

In this context Jacqueline Peschard, Electoral Adviser to the General Council of the Mexican Federal Electoral Institute, notes that “The establishment of a certain percentage does not necessarily mean that women’s candidatures have a true possibility of being translated into a similar proportion of seats in the Congress. In fact, experience shows that parties may obey the legislation without following its spirit, and place women candidates at the end of the lists or in the replacement positions, where their chances of being elected are reduced to a minimum.”

In other instances, quotas have been extremely successful in fast tracking women to positions of political power. In South Africa, for example, the adoption of an informal party quota by the African National Congress in the first democratic elections held in 1994 resulted in a jump in the representation of women from 2.7 to 27 per cent. But in both successful and unsuccessful instances of the implementation of quotas, it is evident that political parties hold the balance of power.

BEYOND NUMBERS

The issues and examples above are highlighted in the new language versions of the *Women in Parliament: Beyond Numbers* Handbook. The Handbook is intended to serve as a tool that outlines practical ways and means by which women can seek to increase their political representation, and identifies the specific needs of women parliamentarians as well as strategies for increasing their effectiveness in parliament. The Handbook does not attempt to offer ‘one size fits all’ solutions to the difficulties women face in public life, but rather presents information on various methods that have been used to increase their political role and influence in different regions and contexts.

WOMEN IN PARLIAMENT: BEYOND NUMBERS

During 2002 International IDEA has produced French, Spanish and Bahasa Indonesia language versions of the *Women in Parliament: Beyond Numbers* Handbook. Different country case studies have been included in each version.

The Handbook identifies the obstacles that women face being elected to legislatures, and provides some suggestions and options for overcoming them. In particular it:

- Outlines the obstacles women face when entering parliament, and identifies some strategies that may be used to overcome them
- Examines the ways in which women’s chances of getting nominated and elected may be increased, including the use of different electoral systems
- Details the use and experience of different types of quotas systems as a means of increasing the political representation of women
- Looks beyond numbers to examine how women may affect change while working through parliamentary structures.

To find out more about International IDEA’s Gender Project and regional versions of *Women in Parliament: Beyond Numbers* go to: www.idea.int/gender

Women in Arab Politics: Looking Beyond Numbers

There is a saying in the Arab world to the effect that '[even] the shadow of a man is preferable to no man at all'. Although it may sound cynical, it is also probably true to say that this maxim may apply to the manner broader social and political process in the Arab region. In other words, the 'illusion of democracy is better than no democracy at all', or, alternatively, 'the inadequate representation of women in politics is better than no representation at all'.

Dr. Azza Karam

Morocco is the first Arab country to implement new women-only national electoral lists. Its last chamber had only two women Members of Parliament – a situation that compares rather favorably with other countries such as Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and Libya, where no women are visible in the legislative structures. In fact, according to Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) figures, globally speaking the Arab world currently has the lowest regional level of parliamentary representation of women – 5.7 per cent for both houses.

Scholars and political analysts offer many reasons for the relatively low level of women's representation, arguing primarily that socio-cultural factors contribute to this situation. The gist of several such interpretations is that Islamic culture, so dominant in the Arab world – despite the plurality of religious representation – is patriarchal and thus limits women to the private sphere.

As a result, the argument runs, women find it difficult to garner the necessary support and mobilize the resources they need to

tional, cultural and economic borders. And yet, the anomaly of the Arab context is highlighted by two specific features:

- Compared to some industrialized, developed and well-established democracies, women in the Arab world are better represented in the higher levels of academia – for example, there are more women professors in universities – and benefit from more egalitarian wage laws.
- Compared to their relatively more democratic Arab neighbors, the most autocratic and authoritarian countries in the Arab peninsula (for example Iraq and Syria) and North Africa (Algeria and Sudan) also have the highest number of women in their legislative assemblies.

These realities render problematic the common assumption that an active or long-standing democracy automatically translates into higher participation of women in the political landscape, and that this in turn means that women are able to acquire more social and economic rights, and enhance

“ Especially for women, the opportunity to participate does not guarantee the outcome ”

enter into the political arena. And even once they make it into these institutions, the battle to effect a change in the largely male-dominated culture of governance can leave many citizens – including some of the women themselves – wondering as to the purpose of the ordeal, and its real impact.

MIXED PICTURE

While this is true it is nevertheless important to realize – as the IDEA Handbook *Women in Parliament* illustrates – that these challenges are common across many na-

their role and status. This is not to say that democracy is not a good thing, merely to underline the fact that the opportunity to participate does not guarantee the outcomes – especially not for women. And what these realities further do is to beg the question, posed by many political analysts and civil society activists, of the specific kind of democracy being advocated.

Effectively, there is a need to rearticulate – as many Arab women have been urging for some time – and redefine what constitutes

'politics' and/or a 'political space', as well as expand the notion of 'political participation' to include many other spheres of life. Indeed, such a redefinition may well lead to a totally different way of understanding not only democracy, but also the capacity of Arab (and other) women to redefine political agendas and impact on local, regional and global processes.

NEW FRAMEWORK

Yet, we remain saddled with the traditional interpretation of democracy, which stresses the occurrence of free and fair elections as the key to gauging its effectiveness. Few institutions have ventured into the terrain of evaluating the gender-efficacy of democracies and few criteria have been developed to undertake such a venture. Indeed, while it is vital to have sex-segregated data on the number of women in legislative assemblies – such information is priceless in our attempts to understand both the dynamics of the relationship between gender and political participation and the mechanisms for having women elected or represented in these structures – it is not in itself sufficient for appreciating or advancing the democratic process.

The Arab world is an excellent example of a context where merely looking at the number of women in parliaments, or urging for quotas, will not be an adequate gauge of the state of democracy – or a guarantor of gender equality. What is required is an intersectional gender index that redefines political participation to include the numbers and efficacy of women in life's various spheres – schools, universities and the education sector, the medical and engineering professions, the business sphere, informal markets, the health sector, NGO's, trade unions, professional syndicates and other levels of government, to name but a few. Such an index would be a useful tool for both men and women in other countries and could assist us in tackling the challenges of globalization – and possibly highlighting some of its benefits.

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Launch of Disability Electoral Rights Bill

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that ‘all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights’ and that ‘everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives’. Further, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights stipulates that these rights are guaranteed to all citizens.

These sentiments form the basis of democratic societies all over the world. However worldwide there are large numbers of citizens who do not share in these basic rights. Discrimination, ignorance, poverty and neglect result in the widespread political and electoral disenfranchisement of citizens with physical, sensory, intellectual and psychiatric disabilities.

Disability rights experts and activists, senior election administration officials and international parliamentarians from more than 24 countries met in Sigtuna, Sweden on 14–17th September to draft a global ‘Bill of Electoral Rights for People with Disabilities’ – the outcome of a first ever effort to bring together concerned parties as equal partners to develop a global initiative in this field.

Meeting participants, who included Bengt Lindqvist, UN Special Rapporteur on Disability, senior election administration officials from Canada, Ghana, Indonesia, Lesotho and Jamaica and MP’s from South Africa, Sri Lanka and Namibia, also observed disabled access to elections in Sweden in visits

a secret vote; full physical accessibility of polling stations; and full and equal electoral rights for people with mental disabilities. It also outlines the responsibilities of states for ensuring these rights.

The Bill is intended to act as a practical advocacy tool for disability organizations and others working both nationally and internationally to improve access to the electoral process for people with disabilities.

“This initiative is the first ever comprehensive gathering of disability, electoral and intergovernmental organizations to address the fact that a substantial proportion of citizens in every country – usually estimated at around 10 per cent – have not had their rights to participate in the electoral process respected”, says Bengt Lindqvist.

“The fact that the United Nations has recently recognized disability as a human rights concern makes this initiative extremely timely. The outcomes of this meeting will also support the process of developing a disability dimension to the UN’s human rights monitoring process.”

problems with infrastructure, in particular inadequate physical access to polling stations, as a key factor limiting disabled people’s ability to participate in elections. But as International IDEA elections expert Kate Sullivan notes, problems of physical access remain equally a challenge in established democracies. And in this context, countries such as Sweden and Canada are leading the way in ensuring that polling stations are made fully accessible to people with disabilities.

Since the Sigtuna workshop, the issues raised have remained in the public eye through the efforts of workshop participants. Activities to date have included:

- Since the Sigtuna workshop at the recent municipal elections in Kosovo, held under the auspices of the OSCE on 27 October, blind voters were able to take part in a trial of a ballot template that allows them to cast their vote without assistance and in secret, just like other voters.
- IDEA supported a two-day workshop in Jakarta in October where the Indonesian Committee for Disabled Access to the 2004 elections began to develop strategies for inclusion and participation at Indonesia’s next round of national elections.

“ Access to the electoral process is an issue in both established and developing democracies ”

to polling stations in and around Stockholm on national election day (September 15th). The Sigtuna meeting was co-organized by International IDEA and the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), and sponsored by the Swedish International Development Co-operation Agency (Sida).

DEFINING RIGHTS

The new Bill of Rights defines and promotes the fundamental rights of people with disabilities in relation to all aspects of the electoral process, in particular: the right to

GLOBAL CHALLENGE

Access to the electoral process for people with disabilities is an issue in both established and developing democracies. In many new democracies election observers cite

The full text of the ‘Bill of Electoral Rights for People with Disabilities’ and further information on the Sigtuna meeting is available at www.idea.int and www.ifes.org. For further information on electoral access for people with disabilities visit: www.electionaccess.org



Photo: Michael Cooke, AEC

Participants at the Disability Rights Conference in Sigtuna, Sweden with the signed Bill of Rights

Local Democracy Workshops for Southern African Mayors

As an inaugural event in a series of local democracy workshops, International IDEA co-organized a two-day workshop entitled 'Leadership for Local Democracy in Southern Africa' in Cape Town, South Africa on August 18-20, 2002. The event was also co-hosted by the African Union of Local Authorities (AULA) and explored the practices and challenges of public participation in the local governance of Southern Africa.

Participating in this workshop were mayors and other official representatives such as directors of regional municipal associations from 22 Southern African cities. Among the 37 participants, including the project team of 5 international IDEA representatives, was Dr. Timothy D. Sisk, editor of the International IDEA publication *Democracy at the Local Level – The International IDEA Handbook on Participation, Representation, Conflict Management and Governance*.

BACKGROUND SURVEY

To identify problems and challenges and to glean information on lessons learned, a pre-workshop survey was conducted that revealed the most pressing problems in the development of local democratic governance in Southern Africa. In this assessment approach, mayors and directors of municipal associations of 37 Southern African cities were polled and the responses from the survey were compiled into a report that, together with the International IDEA Handbook *Democracy at the Local Level* constituted a solid foundation for the workshop agenda.

The survey identified several matters of major concern that highlighted the serious economic, environmental, social and political challenges that constrain the development of local democracy in Southern Africa. These challenges are all in the context of rapid urbanization, sub-standard standard of living, unemployment, high illiteracy, crop failure and poor health conditions including diseases such as AIDS.

WORKSHOP TOPICS

The most important finding of the workshop is that democratic participation will be essential to addressing the various urgent challenges facing local and urban societies in Southern Africa. The most significant conclusion of the workshop is how stressed most of the urban environments in southern

Africa really are and that the challenges mayors in Southern Africa are grappling with are serious and complex. As some cities are growing at a rate of 10–15% a year, there is a serious strain on basic infrastructures that has proven destabilizing for local populations.

Active participation by the community will be required to meet these pressing social and economic conditions. Cities and municipalities will need to devise innovative plans for democratic participation to adequately deliver services, meet basic social security needs and provide opportunities for employment or entrepreneurial growth.

URBAN CHALLENGES

Participants at the workshop concluded that in addition to service delivery and electoral processes, the linking of democracy to conflict management will also remain important in the years to come. Tension between long-term urban residents of Southern African cities and newcomers from rural areas or immigrants and refugees from neighboring countries is the most common reason for urban violence and anarchy. As populations dramatically rise, social and economic conditions worsen and conflicts escalate as a result from unemployment, cramped living conditions and food shortages. Because of this, local authorities are often targeted as dysfunctional governmental entities. The workshop discussed integration of marginalized groups and the improvement of civil protection and safety as well as conflict mediation at the local level to produce specific suggestions of ways to manage cities that can reduce conflict and enhance resident satisfaction.

Even though most Southern African nations now have well designed constitutions and institutions for local democratic governance there is an urgent need to improve the linkages between the acute challenges of

urban societies and the practice of local democracy in the region. The workshop generated many innovative approaches to promote greater civil society involvement in urban governance such as community budgeting and the forming of neighborhood-level crosscutting committees. The workshop also helped identify some of the advantages and disadvantages of subcontracting government functions to NGO's and partnerships with the private sector.

Mayors and municipal representatives expressed concerns regarding the lack of material and moral support from national governments. Many cities in the region face particular challenges because they are governed by representatives of the opposition. One of the consequences of this is that international donors that work only through the ministries of central governments may neglect municipal governments and thereby indirectly fail to support democratic development at the local level. The detachment of decentralized governmental entities also negatively influences voter turnout at local elections as these are often not organized in conjunction with national elections.

REGIONAL NETWORK

In using a non-prescriptive approach, the workshop contributed to strengthening already existing local governance networks and to stimulate the development of a peer review assessment instrument to help ensure the quality of local governance. International IDEA Programme Manager Dr. Patrick Molutsi comments; "We organized this workshop not to teach the participants how to govern and manage their cities – although we hope that information presented to them will prove helpful in addressing the challenges they face. Our major goal was to provide a venue for mayors and representatives to voice their concerns, share their innovations, and provoke some thoughts on the preferable ways to make Southern African

continued on page 9 ➔

IDEA Arab World Programme

A FUNDING AGREEMENT worth 412.000 euro was signed by the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany in Sweden, Dr. Bernd von Waldow and International IDEA Secretary-General Ms. Karen Fogg on October 1, 2002.

The funding is allocated to the implementation of a programme designed to promote dialogue for democratic development in Egypt, Jordan and Yemen. Dialogue will cover topics such as liberalization of regulatory frameworks for the formation and functioning of political parties, the role of women in politics and political parties, judicial independence and debate about electoral systems design. The design of the Arab World Programme is built on the International IDEA report *Democracy in the Arab World – Challenges, Achievements, Prospects* published in 2000. German sponsorship of this programme will facilitate a deepening of the discussion and setting a pace for democratic reforms in the programme countries.

Although not yet a member state of International IDEA, Germany has during the last year provided significant support and cooperation in democratization activities organized by the Institute in Asia and Africa. Through this funding agreement Germany is increasing its commitment to the objectives of International IDEA and enabling the continuation and expansion of work already commenced in the Arab World region. ■



Dr. Bernd von Waldow and International IDEA Secretary-General Ms. Karen Fogg on October 1, 2002.

Regional Democracy Assessment Seminars

DURING THE LAST QUARTER of 2002 International IDEA has co-organized three seminars on 'Democracy Quality Assessment', presenting methods and indicators for analyzing democratization progress. The events took place in three different continents with a regional dimension incorporated into those seminars held in Asia and Africa.

The first in the series of seminars entitled 'Assessing the Quality of Democracy', organized in cooperation with the Oslo University (Local Politics and Democratization Programme at the Centre for Development and the Environment) and UNDP, was held in Oslo on 21–22 October. The seminar explored indicators and methods for analyzing the progress of democratization processes.

On 18–19 November a seminar was held at the University of Dhaka, Bangladesh entitled 'Democracy Assessment and Indicators: the South Asia Context.' Representatives from International IDEA presented a democracy assessment study of Bangladesh and the main focus of the Dhaka seminar was to examine the relevance of democracy assessment indicators in the capturing of democratic trends and challenges in the South Asian countries.

The Dhaka seminar was followed by a workshop in Marakesh, Morocco on 10–11 December. The workshop entitled "Strengthening Governance Institutions" was part of the Fourth Global Forum on Reinventing Governance, organized by United Nations Department for Social and Economic Affairs (UN DESA). International IDEA was the host of one out of eight topical workshops together with the UNDP Human Development Report Office in Morocco.

Conclusive findings from, and ideas discussed in these three events will be presented by International IDEA during the UN conference on 'New and Restored Democracies' in Mongolia in March 2003. ■

Launch of Election Website

THE INTERNATIONAL IDEA PROJECT for Electoral Process Information Collection (EPIC) in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the International Foundation for Election Systems (IFES) launched a public website (www.epicproject.org) at the Association of Central and Eastern European Election Officials (ACEEEOs)'s Annual Conference in Moscow, 26–28 September.

The EPIC site offers reliable, consistent and comparative data on electoral systems, laws management and administration, which can be viewed either by country or comparatively by topic. The site which contains information covering 30 countries was launched in June 2002. ■

Activities in Latin America

THE LATIN AMERICA PROGRAMME of International IDEA will take part in a number of events and conferences throughout the continent during the last quarter of 2002.

On 24–27 September International IDEA co-organized a Democracy Forum in Lima, Peru entitled 'State, Society and Democracy in the Americas: One year anniversary of the Inter-American Democratic Charter'. The Forum gathered state officials, NGO representatives, intergovernmental organizations, political and society leaders, academia and the general public to evaluate the state of democracy in Latin America and to commemorate the 1st anniversary of the Inter-American Charter. International IDEA was responsible for five workshops dealing with topics such as Democratic Participation, Foreign Aid, Women in Politics and Financing of Political Parties.

On 3–4 October in San José, Costa Rica, during the Inter-American Forum on Political Parties, International IDEA and the Organization of American States (OAS) organized a workshop entitled 'Comparative Analysis of Political Party and Campaign Financing'. The workshop addressed the

funding of political campaigns and political parties in Latin America, the objective being to establish theoretical and methodological guidelines for International IDEA and the OAS to carry out a joint comparative research project on political funding in the Americas. 15 experts from different countries throughout the region gathered to participate in the workshop.

During the week of 12–14 November, International IDEA together with the Programa Participación y Democracia (Participation and Democracy Program) and the Programa Valores Democráticos y Gerencia Política (Democratic Values and Political Management Program) of the Unit for the Promotion of Democracy of the OAS, held a ‘Week on the Promotion of Women in Politics’ in Guatemala. The week included a series of activities designed to address the gender debate in the political sphere of Guatemala as well as the Latin American situation with respect to women’s participation in parliament.

The activities of the week also aimed at encouraging the debate on the relevance and effectiveness of affirmative action for the inclusion of women in the political arena. The new Latin American version of the International IDEA Handbook *Women in Parliament: Beyond Numbers (Mujeres en el Parlamento. Más allá de los números)* was also presented. ■

Electoral Training in Mozambique

THE SOUTHERN AFRICA PROJECT of International IDEA has, during the last quarter of 2002, been running a pilot series of electoral administrators training courses for the Electoral Administration Technical Secretariat (STAE) in Mozambique.

The two-week pilot courses have been held in each region of Mozambique: Nampula in the North, Chimoio in the Centre and Maputo in the South. Participants were drawn from all levels of permanent staff of the provincial STAES and the objective of the training was to enhance professionalism and build capacity within the electoral administration.

The electoral training courses in Mozambique was based on the Building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Elections Project (BRIDGE), a comprehensive curriculum of materials designed for the training of electoral administrators. The development of the BRIDGE curriculum was a joint project between International IDEA, the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) and the Electoral Assistance Division of the United Nations (UNEAD).

The methodology of the BRIDGE electoral training courses is to use an activities-based participatory teaching style with the aim of enhancing the sustainability of electoral processes by developing the capacity of a trained corps of professionals.

The pilot series of BRIDGE training courses was the first stage of an ongoing project to support capacity building for electoral management in Mozambique in preparation for the local elections planned for mid 2003 and national general elections due in December 2004. ■

Democratic Transition in Burma

TWO WORKSHOPS entitled ‘The Role of State Constitutions in the Protection of Nationality and Minority Rights under Federalism – Dialogues in Support of a Democratic Transition in Burma’ have been organized by International IDEA and the Burmese National Reconciliation Program (NRP). The workshops were held in Delhi, India on 3–4 November and in Chiang Mai, Thailand on 4–5 November as part of International IDEA’s commitment to support a democratic transition in Burma.

The workshops that included brainstorming to develop options for supporting the transition was centered around NRP’s efforts to promote respect for the rights of ethnic nationalities of Burma. Themes of discussions included the rationale for federalism and the possible structure of a federal state in terms of boundary delimitations; conceptualization of state constitutions; distribution of power and governmental administration. Participants included members of the State Constitution Drafting Committees of

continued from page 7

cities safe, prosperous and enjoyable places to live in.”

The full report and survey of the workshop is available from the IDEA website www.idea.int/DLL/Docs_and_Reports/Final_Report_Cape_Town_Workshop.doc

‘Leadership for Local Democracy’ is a series of advanced workshops for policy makers and practitioners around the world on the design and practice of local democracy. The workshops gather local democracy leaders together to share lessons learned on the challenges of contemporary governance and ways in which democracy can be enhanced to deliver social services, manage social conflicts, and support elections and public decision-making.

A primary focus of the Democracy at the Local Level Project is to make the content of the IDEA Handbook widely available to local democratic actors in the field.

To that end, the project will work together with several key partner organizations on developing an education and training programmes to enhance local democracy. It will include the development of applied curriculum materials in local democracy in close co-operation with the International Union of Local Authorities (IULA), the UN, and other international organizations.

For further information, contact:
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Ethnic Parties. The workshops also drew on the federal experiences of Nigeria, Australia and India.

In the studying the experiences of these countries, participants were able to glean practical, relevant conclusions that will be beneficial in the development of their own strategies. The workshop discussions will form the basis of a report to be disseminated among the Burmese and international community committed to securing a political transition based on democratic principles, justice and equity. ■

CALENDAR

There are several posts becoming available at IDEA in the next few months which will be advertised on the IDEA website: www.idea.int as from mid January 2003

Please check International IDEA's website: www.idea.int for more upcoming events

4:TH QUARTER 2002

DATE:

October-December

EVENT: Ongoing Workshops on Political Party Law and Party Financing

VENUE: Lima – Peru.

ORGANIZERS: Transparencia – Constitutional Commission of Congress -Working Committee on Political Parties- International IDEA

CONTACT: Myriam Mendez-Montalvo, Senior Programme Officer, International IDEA

DATE:

October-December

EVENT: Ongoing workshops and seminars on the importance of reconciliation and confidence-building following the political violence experienced in Peru from 1980-2000.

VENUE: Huancayo, Huanuco, Tarapoto, Arequipa, Ayacucho and Lima – Peru.

ORGANIZERS: Transparencia – Congressional Commission on Constitutional Reform, International IDEA

CONTACT: Myriam Mendez-Montalvo, Senior Programme Officer, International IDEA

OCTOBER 2002

DATE: *2 October*

EVENT: Provincial Workshop: 'Strengthening Women's Political Participation'

VENUE: Medan, Sumatra, Indonesia

ORGANIZERS: International IDEA

CONTACT: Cecilia Bylesjö, Project Consultant, International IDEA

DATE: *3-4 October*

EVENT: Workshop on Political Party Funding

VENUE: San José, Costa Rica

ORGANIZERS: International IDEA, OAS

CONTACT: Daniel Zovatto, Senior Executive, International IDEA

DATE: *7-8 October*

EVENT: Book Launch: Democracies in Development: Politics and Reform in Latin America

VENUE: Washington D.C, USA

ORGANIZERS: International IDEA, Inter-American Development Bank / Inter-American Dialogue

CONTACT: Daniel Zovatto, Senior Executive, International IDEA

DATE: *21-22 October*

EVENT: Seminar: 'Assessing the Quality of Democracy'

VENUE: Oslo, Norway

ORGANIZERS: International IDEA, UNDP, Oslo University (Local Politics and Democratization Programme at the Centre for Development and the Environment)

CONTACT: Martin Ängeby, Assistant Programme Officer, International IDEA

DATE:

21 October - 1 November

EVENT: Pilot series of BRIDGE training courses for electoral administration representatives of Mozambique

VENUE: Nampula, Mozambique

ORGANIZERS: International IDEA and the Electoral Administration Technical Secretariat of Mozambique (STAE).

CONTACT: Margot Gould, Assistant Project Officer, International IDEA

NOVEMBER 2002

DATE: *3-4 November*

EVENT: Workshop: 'The Role of State Constitutions in the Pro-

tection of Nationality and Minority Rights under Federalism – Dialogues in Support of a Democratic Transition in Burma'

VENUE: Delhi, India

ORGANIZERS: International IDEA and the Burmese National Reconciliation Program (NRP)

CONTACT: Leena Rikkilä, Junior Professional Officer, International IDEA

DATE: *4-5 November*

EVENT: Workshop: 'The Role of State Constitutions in the Protection of Nationality and Minority Rights under Federalism – Dialogues in Support of a Democratic Transition in Burma'

VENUE: Chiang Mai, Thailand

ORGANIZERS: International IDEA and the Burmese National Reconciliation Program (NRP)

CONTACT: Leena Rikkilä, Junior Professional Officer, International IDEA

DATE: *14 November*

EVENT: Launch Presentation of the Spanish language version of the IDEA Handbook Women in Parliament – Beyond Numbers during the 'Week on the Promotion of Women in Politics'

VENUE: Guatemala

ORGANIZERS: OAS and PPD (Democracy and Participation Program), International IDEA

CONTACT: Myriam Mendez-Montalvo, Senior Programme Officer, International IDEA

DATE: *11-22 November*

EVENT: Pilot series of BRIDGE training courses for electoral administration representatives of Mozambique

VENUE: Chimoio, Mozambique

ORGANIZERS: International IDEA and the Electoral Administration Technical Secretariat of

Mozambique (STAE).

CONTACT: Margot Gould, Assistant Project Officer, International IDEA

DATE: *13-17 November*

EVENT: IV Latin American Seminar on Electoral Law

VENUE: Mexico

ORGANIZERS: Electoral Tribunal of the Federal Judiciary Branch (Mexico), International IDEA

CONTACT: Daniel Zovatto, Senior Executive, International IDEA

DATE: *18 November*

EVENT: Seminar: 'The Challenges of Financial Transparency in Democracy'

VENUE: San José, Costa Rica

ORGANIZERS: International IDEA, FUNPADEM

CONTACT: Daniel Zovatto, Senior Executive, International IDEA

DATE: *18-19 November*

EVENT: Seminar: 'Democracy Assessment and Indicators: the South Asia Context'

VENUE: Dhaka, Bangladesh

ORGANIZERS: International IDEA, University of Dhaka (Department of Peace and Conflict Studies)

CONTACT: Leena Rikkilä, Junior Professional Officer, International IDEA

DATE: *20-22 November*

EVENT: Seminar: 'Civil Society Experiences with Political Party Funding Oversight'

VENUE: Buenos Aires, Argentina

ORGANIZERS: International IDEA, Transparency International/Latin America Poder Ciudadano

CONTACT: Daniel Zovatto, Senior Executive, International IDEA

DATE: 26-28 November

EVENT: BRIDGE Project expert advisory group meeting – 'Developing a Curriculum for Election Administrators'

VENUE: Stockholm, Sweden

ORGANIZERS: International IDEA

CONTACT: Therese Laanela, Senior Programme Officer, International IDEA

DECEMBER 2002

DATE: 4-6 December

EVENT: Second Meeting of the Inter-American Forum on Political Parties; sessions concerning OAS/IDEA comparative analysis of political party and campaign financing

VENUE: Vancouver, Canada

ORGANIZERS: International IDEA, OAS

CONTACT: Daniel Zovatto, Senior Executive, International IDEA

DATE: 4-6 December

EVENT: Launch Presentation of the IDEA Handbook Women in Parliament – Beyond Numbers during the 'Second Meeting of the Inter-American Forum on Political Parties'

VENUE: Vancouver, Canada

ORGANIZERS: International IDEA

CONTACT: Myriam Mendez-Montalvo, Senior Programme Officer, International IDEA

DATE: 2-13 December

EVENT: BRIDGE Project (Developing a Curriculum for Election Administrators) - 'Train the Facilitators' course

VENUE: Stockholm, Sweden

ORGANIZERS: International IDEA

CONTACT: Therese Laanela, Senior Programme Officer, International IDEA

DATE: 2-13 December

EVENT: Pilot series of BRIDGE training courses for electoral administration representatives of Mozambique

VENUE: Maputo, Mozambique

ORGANIZERS: International IDEA and the Electoral Administration Technical Secretariat of Mozambique (STAE).

CONTACT: Margot Gould, Assistant Project Manager, International IDEA

DATE: 10-11 December

EVENT: International IDEA Board and Council meetings

VENUE: Oslo, Norway

ORGANIZERS: International IDEA

CONTACT: Katarina Jörgensen, Assistant to the Secretary-General, International IDEA

DATE: 10-11 December

EVENT: Workshop: 'Strengthening Governance Institutions' hosted by International IDEA and UNDP Human Development Report Office at the Fourth Global Forum on Reinventing Governance, organized by United Nations Department for Social and Economic Affairs (UN DESA)

VENUE: Marakesh, Morocco

ORGANIZERS: UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)

CONTACT: Martin Ängeby, Assistant Programme Officer, International IDEA

DATE: 10-13 December

EVENT: A regional workshop to finalize regional co-operation programmes for the South Caucasus in 2003.

VENUE: Yerevan, Armenia

Organizers: International IDEA

CONTACT: Armineh Arakelian, Senior Programme Manager, International IDEA

Georgia's Decade of Democracy

The latest International IDEA democracy assessment report, *A Decade of Democracy – Georgia: Challenges to Sustainable Democracy*, accounts for the outcome of a nine month assessment process in Georgia within a regional perspective.

The assessment process, initiated and supported by International IDEA, is part of a wider regional cooperation programme including Armenia and Azerbaijan. The report is the result of the research, analyses and public discussions and consultations carried out by 24 experts and practitioners from the South Caucasus region.

A Decade of Democracy thoroughly analyzes the achievements as well as the shortcomings of the political evolution towards democracy in Georgia. Identified challenges include the lack of democratic participation, weak and volatile political parties; inefficient administration and a collapsed social security system, a growing shadow economy, major legislative shortcomings and violations of human rights.

The report outlines objectives for the continued advancement of democracy, these include measures to encourage the stimulation of political participation and efficient state and democratic political institutions and mechanisms, the development of political and electoral transparency and accountability, further research into the shadow economy and ways to develop a sustainable formal economy and social well being.

A Decade of Democracy will be available in Georgian and English in early 2003 and officially presented to Georgian authorities and disseminated in the country during 2003. An executive summary of the report will be available in English, Russian and Georgian through the International IDEA website (www.idea.int) from December 2002.

New Translations

- *The International IDEA Handbook of Electoral System Design* has now been translated into Arabic and French and will be available in January of 2003.
- *Democracy and Deep-Rooted Conflict: Options for Negotiators* is being translated into Burmese and will be available in January 2003.
- *Democracy at the Local Level: The International IDEA Handbook on Participation, Representation, Conflict Management and Governance* will be available in Bahasa Indonesian from January 2003.

Reconciliation after Violent Conflict

How does a newly-democratized nation constructively address the past, to move from a divided history to a shared future? How do people re-build coexistence after violence?

Currently in production, the IDEA Handbook *Reconciliation after Violent Conflict* addresses the specific challenges of demo-

cratization after violent conflict and provides an overview of democratic instruments and approaches available for promoting reconciliation in societies divided by a violent past. In the foreword South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu states: "Creating trust and understanding between former enemies is a supremely difficult challenge. It is, however, an essential one to address in the process of building a lasting peace. Examining the painful past, acknowledging it and understanding it, and above all transcending it together, is the best way to guarantee that it does not – and cannot – happen again".

The Handbook offers an array of practical tools that can be, and have been, employed in the design and implementation of 'recon-

ciliation processes' – the process of addressing the legacy of past violence and rebuilding the broken relationships it has caused. Written by experienced practitioners and experts, this Handbook reviews previous and current experiences, including issues of justice, the role of the international community, relationship-building and structures for coexistence. In addition, it offers inventories of best practice, lessons learnt, and options for those facing such challenges.

Reconciliation after Violent Conflict also contains case studies from Cambodia, Guatemala, Northern Ireland, Rwanda, South Africa and Zimbabwe. The Handbook will be published during the first quarter of 2003.

OFF THE PRESS

Guidelines for

International Electoral Standards

The latest publication in the IDEA Guidelines series, *International Electoral Standards-Guidelines for Reviewing the Legal Framework of Elections* sets out the basic legal components governing elections for the purpose of reviewing, drafting or amending electoral legislation.

The Guidelines cover a range of areas including boundary delimitation, electoral management bodies, voter registration, campaign finance and expenditure, balloting, vote counting, complaints and the role of parties and candidates. Aimed at politicians, parliamentary committees, legal drafters, academics, electoral administrators, international organizations and NGO's, these Guidelines outline the internationally recognized standards necessary for a country's legal framework to ensure democratic elections. The Guidelines aim to distill such electoral standards as a means of contributing to uniformity, reliability, consistency, accuracy as well as professionalism in elections. The Guidelines are available both in print and electronically at www.idea.int

Developing Democracies in Latin America

Launched in October 2002 *Democracies in Development: Politics and Reform in Latin America* highlights the relationship between the quality of democracy and socio-economic development in Latin America. This publication is the result of a joint regional research project by International IDEA and the Inter-American Development Bank.

The spread of democracy over the past two decades in Latin America has contributed significantly to ensuring fundamental political freedom, civil liberties and human rights. It is increasingly clear, however, that the legitimacy and efficiency of democratic governance are conditional factors in sustainable economic and social development.

As an attempt to counterbalance previous neglect of the importance of political content in the socio-economic development process, *Democracies in Development* focuses on political reform – the objectives of reform,

the expected outcome of reform and the conditions for implementation of political reform. It also identifies prevailing trends useful in gleaning lessons about the types of reforms that may or may not hold promise for strengthening democracy.

In addition to a discussion of how the quality of democratic politics affect socio-economic development, issues such as citizen support and electoral participation, the design of political party systems, the balance of power between the executive and legislature and the authority of accountability agencies are also examined with a view to identify possible mechanisms to facilitate more direct citizen participation and enhance the quality of political governance. As a base for conclusive findings, the authors provide substantial empirical data, research and strategic documentation of democratic development in 18 Latin American nations from 1978 up to the present day. *Democracies in Development* was launched at a Symposium on "Democratic and Institutional Reform in Latin America" held in Washington DC in early October. The symposium was hosted by The State, Governance and Civil Society Division of the Sustainable Development Department (SDS/SGC), Inter-American Development Bank, and International IDEA. *Democracies in Development* is available to order at the Inter-American Development Bank website (www.iadb.org)