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## Highlights

### • **Are Quotas Effective?**

Eritrea, Kenya, Morocco, Namibia, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda all have legislation reserving seats for women in Parliament or in local government, but how much do their experiences prove that the use of quotas ensures effective participation of women? IDEA co-hosted a workshop in Pretoria, South Africa, on 11-12 November 2003, on 'The Implementation of Quotas: African Experiences'. Key issues examined included: what types of quotas are used in the region; when, where and how have quotas worked; what are the challenges concerning implementation and enforcement; and what controversies and consequences have resulted from the application of quotas. Similar workshops have been held in Asia and Latin America, and country case studies from these meetings are available at [www.quotaproject.org](http://www.quotaproject.org). IDEA will publish a series of reports based on the debate and the case studies presented in the different regional workshops. The first report, *The Implementation of Quotas: Asian Experiences*, is now available in print and on the IDEA website ([http://www.idea.int/publications/quotas/Asia\\_Report.pdf](http://www.idea.int/publications/quotas/Asia_Report.pdf)).

Read more ([http://www.idea.int/whatsnew/quotas\\_2003.htm](http://www.idea.int/whatsnew/quotas_2003.htm))

### • **Whither Georgia?**

A series of television debates were initiated in Georgia in October 2003 based on the IDEA publication *Building Democracy in Georgia* (<http://www.idea.int/southcaucasus/papers.htm>), and covering themes such as Electoral Processes, Constitutional Reform and Democratic Development. The debates were broadcast in October and November 2003, before and after the recent contested elections in the county, on Imedi television - a private network with wide coverage in Georgia. Also, following up on the same publication, IDEA has continued its support for public discussions in the country. In partnership with the Georgian Foundation for Strategic and International Studies, two public debates on dialogue and democracy building were held on 17 and 28 November 2003. IDEA also organized a regional workshop in Tbilisi on 8-9 December 2003 on issues raised by its publication on *Democracy at the Local Level: A Guide for the South Caucasus* ([http://www.idea.int/publications/democracy\\_at\\_local\\_level/DLL\\_in\\_SC](http://www.idea.int/publications/democracy_at_local_level/DLL_in_SC)).

Read more ([http://www.idea.int/southcaucasus/pr\\_20031127.htm](http://www.idea.int/southcaucasus/pr_20031127.htm))

## Other News

### • **Paying for Parties in West Africa**

Funding of political parties and campaign finance, internal democracy, increased participation of women and electoral reform were some of the main issues raised at an IDEA roundtable meeting on 13 November 2003 in Abuja with the political parties that participated in the 2003 elections in Nigeria. Concern was focussed on the role of money in politics, the fragile funding base of most parties and the considerable cost of accessing the media. The parties expressed their interest in working on a funding formula that balances party viability, transparency and accountability, democratic control by members, independence and inclusive participation. It was agreed that IDEA and the political parties would collaborate in studying the funding of political parties and election campaigns in Nigeria, using as a starting point the new IDEA handbook on political party funding.

Read more ([http://www.idea.int/thematic\\_b.htm](http://www.idea.int/thematic_b.htm))

- **Political Party Foundations Mobilized ...**

IDEA met in The Hague with representatives from leading political party foundations in IDEA member states (Germany, Netherlands, Norway, Spain and Sweden) as well as the Washington DC-based National Democratic Institute (NDI) to discuss the strengthening of political parties, which will be a prominent part of IDEA's work programme in 2004-06. The workshop held on 3-4 November, was hosted by the Institute for Multiparty Democracy (IMD). IDEA is seeking a broad framework of cooperation with bodies that have experience of political party capacity building, as well as with political parties and politicians.

Read more ([http://www.idea.int/thematic\\_b.htm](http://www.idea.int/thematic_b.htm))

- **Why Vote?**

A new Voter Turnout Expert Group, recently set up by IDEA, came together for a first meeting in Stockholm on 20-21 November 2003 to discuss declining voter turnout levels - the figures, the causes and what can be done about it. IDEA began collecting statistics on voter turnout rates in 1996. Three Global Reports on Voter Turnout have been published since then, and a Voter Turnout Database has been established and updated continuously since 1999. Information includes voter turnout figures since 1945, making it possible to analyze electoral participation trends over time and in different regions.

Read more (<http://www.idea.int/vt/index.cfm>)

### ...Did You Know?

- Guido Galli from IDEA gave a presentation on the current state of human rights in Afghanistan at a conference organized by the Swedish Committee for Afghanistan (SCA) in the Swedish Parliament in Stockholm on 20-21 November. Since October 2003, IDEA has been contributing to capacity-building for the Afghan Interim Electoral Commission. Read more ([http://www.idea.int/whatsnew/Afghanistan\\_2003.htm](http://www.idea.int/whatsnew/Afghanistan_2003.htm))

- The demand by Burmese groups for democracy and conflict-related literature in the Burmese language led IDEA to publish, in cooperation with the Burma Fund, a Burmese language version of its handbook on Deep-Rooted Conflict: Options for Negotiators ([http://www.idea.int/publications/democracy\\_and\\_deep\\_rooted\\_conflict/home.htm](http://www.idea.int/publications/democracy_and_deep_rooted_conflict/home.htm)), to be launched in Thailand in early 2004. It is hoped that the publication will stimulate discussion on national conventions, the strategic use of cease-fire agreements, third-party mediation and the politics of negotiations.

### New Staff at IDEA ...

- **Mr Guido Galli** (Italy) joined IDEA as Programme Officer with the Democracy, Dialogue and Conflict Management Programme. Prior to joining IDEA, he worked with the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA). Previously, he worked in Guatemala with the United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala (MINUGUA).

- **Mr Abdalla A. Hamdok** (Canada/Sudan) joined IDEA as Director of the Africa Programme, to be based in Pretoria, South Africa. Most recently, he was Chief Governance Expert and Coordinator of the Africa Governance Project, Development Management Division, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Before that he was based in Abidjan, working as the Principal Policy Economist with the African Development Bank.

- **Mr Joram Rukambe** (Namibia) is a new Senior Programme Officer with IDEA's election team. He comes to IDEA from Namibia, where he was working as Director of Elections and Chief Executive Officer for the Electoral Commission of Namibia. Previously, he was a Consultant for the Electoral Commission of Zambia.