



Highlights:

- **Democracy in the Arab World: Election focus for IDEA's project**
- **Post mortem on the Nigeria 2003 elections**

September/October 2003

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• **Democracy in the Arab World: Election focus for IDEA's project**

Two regional seminars on "Democracy and Elections" were organized by International IDEA in Amman, Jordan, 28-30 July and Cairo, Egypt 2-4 August in the context of IDEA's work in the Arab world, sponsored by Germany. IDEA's local partner was the Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND), with assistance provided in Jordan by the Regional Human Security Center (RHSC) of the Jordan Institute of Diplomacy (JID) and in Egypt by the Public Administration Research and Consultation Center (PARC) of Cairo University. The Jordan seminar dealt with issues such as the introduction of quotas for women in the parliamentary elections, an issue that was high on the agenda in the aftermath of the recent parliamentary elections where a quota for women had been applied for the first time. In Egypt, a broader regional discussion was held on civil society monitoring of electoral processes; funding of political parties; the role of media in elections; the situation of minorities in elections; and the position of Islamists towards elections. The purpose of the workshops was to broaden the debate on democracy and elections, while at the same time allowing IDEA to plan its future thematic programmes in the region. The full seminar proceedings will be published before the end of the year and some of the discussion papers of broad relevance will be issued as occasional papers.

Read more (http://www.idea.int/newsletters/sep.2003/Arab_world_1.htm)

• **Post mortem on the Nigeria 2003 elections**

As part of its programme of support for democratic reform in Nigeria, IDEA organized a national conference on 23-25 July to reflect on democratic reform and improvements in electoral processes, in the light of the country's recent elections. The aim was to provide a forum in which a range of "stakeholders" - politicians, academics, NGOs, election officials etc - could review experience and formulate recommendations on all aspects of the election from the pre-election period (the electoral law, registration, voter education etc), through the election day itself (counting and collating results, security, observers etc) to the post election period (announcements, dispute resolution, media and party behaviour etc). The conference worked first in groups, then in plenary, sifting and prioritising realistic proposals for action in the next two year period. A series of specific recommendations were made, including:

- Review of the legal framework, structure and funding of INEC (the national election commission) to enhance its independence and effectiveness
- Removal of obstacles for election observers and monitors
- Introduction of a gender quota for party candidates and officials, to be negotiated first with political parties and in due course enshrined in law
- Review of party funding and preparation, through cooperation between civil society, political parties and INEC, of a code of conduct for political parties during election campaigns in the hope to instill a new political morality
- Reform of the security services and an end to impunity through training, code of conduct, civil society monitoring etc

There were also calls for improved civic education, greater decentralization, more "inclusiveness" in the electoral process, as well as a review of the "first past the post" electoral system.

Other News

• **Parties and elections in Latin America ...**

Political-party funding in Latin America

IDEA and the Organization of American States (OAS) held a workshop on political-party funding in San José, Costa Rica, on 13-21 August. An extended discussion took place with specialists from Latin America, the Caribbean, Canada and the United States on private and public funding instruments, the different levels of access to the media among political parties, disclosure and enforcement mechanisms, and gender and party funding. These issues will be covered in IDEA's forthcoming publication *Funding of Political Parties*. Attending the workshop were several distinguished academic specialists, including Herbert Alexander, Humberto de la Calle, Delia Ferreira, Juan Rial, Selwyn Ryan, Félix Ulloa and Laura Velásquez.

Parties and elections: the case of Costa Rica

At the request of the Supreme Elections Tribunal of Costa Rica and the Costa Rican Bar Association, IDEA organized an open forum in San José on 4 August to examine constitutional electoral law from a comparative perspective, with an emphasis on Costa Rica. Those participating in the forum - entitled "El financiamiento de los gastos de los partidos políticos" (Funding the expenditures of political parties) - included the President of the Supreme Elections Tribunal of Costa Rica, Dr. Oscar Fonseca, the President of the Costa Rican Bar Association, Dr. Manuel Amador, and political scientist Roberto Gallardo, along with more than 200 individuals involved in law-related and electoral activities in the country.

IDEA supports Colombian Electoral Council

At the request of the National Electoral Council (CNE), an IDEA technical mission was rapidly dispatched to Bogotá, Colombia, on 22-25 July to assist in drawing up regulations for registering candidates in the October regional elections (in accordance with a 3 August deadline set by Congress). The IDEA mission joined forces with representatives of the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights, the Center for Advisory Services and Electoral Promotion and the OAS. Work was completed in time for the CNE to approve the regulations on 25 July.

Parties and the electoral process in Mexico

In the run-up to mid-term congressional elections, IDEA was invited by the Mexican Electoral Authorities (Instituto Federal Electoral and Tribunal Electoral) to organise a series of panel sessions on 2-7 July in order to analyse and reflect on some specific issues affecting the electoral process in Mexico. These included political-party funding, the nomination of candidates and party leaders, reform of the electoral system, and electoral justice administration. A book produced by IDEA in conjunction with the Mexican Federal Electoral Institute and the Mexican Electoral Tribunal, entitled *Dinero y contienda político-electoral* (Money and the political-electoral contest: the challenge of democracy), was officially launched during the gathering.

• IDEA Secretary-General goes East

In late July and August, IDEA Secretary-General (SG) Karen Fogg visited Australia, Japan and Thailand, where she discussed potential cooperation with the governments of these three countries, as well as with aid agencies, electoral commissions, members of parliament (MPs) and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). She also met with representatives of IDEA member states. Her meetings in Japan - recently awarded observer status in IDEA - included one in the Diet with the new Committee for Aiding Democracy for Peace Building, comprising MPs and NGOs. In Tokyo, the SG met with representatives of the United Nations University. In Canberra, she held talks with Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs Alexander Downer, hopefully to prepare the ground for the establishment of stronger links with Australia as an IDEA member state. She also met with Neil Andrews, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and with several other politicians. During the trip, the SG had a number of speaking engagements, including a seminar organised by the Australian Democratic Audit, building on IDEA's State of Democracy methodology, and a public lecture organised by IDEA and the Australian Senate and the Centre for Democratic Institutions (CDI). Prefiguring the release of IDEA's *Funding of Political Parties* handbook, the SG spoke at length on the issue of political party funding - the full text is available at (http://www.idea.int/fpp/FoP_Handbook.htm). The Australian Electoral Commission, a long-time partner of IDEA's, hosted several meetings and played a key part in ensuring the success of this visit.

...Did You Know?

- A report from a workshop on "State Constitution Protecting Minority Rights under Federalism: Dialogues in Support of a Democratic Transition in Burma" is now available for download at (www.idea.int/ideas_work/31_country_burma.htm)
- A series of 12 discussion papers and an agenda for debate on "Building Democracy in Georgia" is now available for download at (www.idea.int/southcaucasus/discussion.htm)
- New case studies have been posted on the "Global Database of Quotas for Women" at (www.idea.int/quota/case_studies.cfm)

New Staff at IDEA

Andrew Ellis (UK) is the new head of the election team coordinating the programme on participation and election processes. He joins IDEA straight from Indonesia, where he most recently served as Senior Adviser to the National Democratic Institute (NDI) in Jakarta.

Terje Hagen (Norway) is the new head of human resources. He joins IDEA from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in Paris, France, where he was head of the human resources management unit and HR advisor.

Judith Large (US/UK) is joining IDEA as a senior advisor with the democracy, dialogue and conflict management programme. She has worked as an academic and as a consultant in different parts of the world with the UK Department for International Development (DFID), the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), among others.

Antonio Spinelli (Italy) is a new senior programme manager in the election team. He comes fresh from Yemen where he was working with the UNDP.

Ozias Tungwarara (Zimbabwe) has joined IDEA as a senior programme manager who will cover democracy assessment, assistance and analysis. Most recently, he was a Senior Democracy Advisor with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)/Regional Center for Southern Africa in Gaborone, Botswana.

Malcolm Turner-Kerr (Canada/UK) is IDEA's new Director for Finance and Administration. He joins IDEA from Lesotho, where he was Financial Advisor to the Lesotho Highland Dam Project for many years.