

European Commission United Nations Development Programme International IDEA

Joint Training on Effective Electoral Assistance

Aleida Ferreyra

Assistance to Political Parties Brussels, 1-5 December 2008











Presentation

□What role do parties play in a democracy?

UWhy should we care about them?

□How is UNDP providing support?









What comes to mind when you hear the term 'political parties'?

- -Actors in *processes* elections, policy formation, opposition - Democratic governance institutions parliamentary and executive representatives
- Image and functioning
 - Self-interested
 - Discredited
 - Unrepresentative and undemocratic
 - Captured by elites
 - Not issue based









What is the role of political parties in a democracy?

Aggregate interests
Structure the vote
Integrate and mobilize the public
Foster future political leaders
Organize government
Influence or form public policy











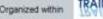
Why are Parties Important?

Critical governance and electoral actors

□ Have been left out of DG assistance

□Traditional assistance of limited utility – why much is 'bouncing off' parties

□Can be facilitators or spoilers of democratic gains













Value added?

What do assistance providers bring? Electoral Cycle entry points:

- Role in Institutions: EMBs, Parliaments, **Government**, Political Party Commissions
- Role in **Processes**: Legal framework, voter+party/candidate registration, voter sensitization, campaign, pollwatching, electoral disputes, accepting results, conflict management
- Functioning and Image: Codes of conduct, relations with media, internal rules and regulations, nomination procedures, financing of parties











Lessons Learned thus far: Do's and Don'ts

DO DON'T -Be aware -Give funding directly -Be non-partisan -Be transparent and clear - Favor parties over each other -Be inclusive -Be equitable -Know your capacity **BUT WHAT ABOUT?** -Use HD/MDG agendas -Parties and violence? -Focus on dialogue -Parties that prohibit women? -Think about the cycle -Balancing democratic ideals -When in doubt seek help with reinforcing status quo?





In collaboration with











IOM