

European Commission
United Nations Development Programme
International IDEA

Joint Training on
Effective Electoral Assistance
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Opening Speech

Androulla Kaminara
Director AIDCO E
European Commission

Governance will be at the core of EC political relations and cooperation strategies under the 10th EDF. Elections have a prominent role for democratic governance

In the past three years the EC has been reshaping its approach in the way electoral assistance is delivered (taking a leading role in the policy that consists on favouring long term support strategies, for questions of effectiveness and sustainability rather than repeated support to isolated projects aimed at specific electoral events)

In this aspect we

- produced the **EC Methodological Guide on Electoral Assistance** that served as a basis for this training. It will be presented this afternoon and will be discussed extensively throughout the training.
- signed last year the **Operational Guidelines** between UNDP and AIDCO, that led to a much stronger collaboration between EC and UNDP at headquarters level
 - conducted several joint formulation and monitoring missions with UNDP
 - provided technical support for the selection of experts and procurement of election material,
 - development of guidelines, websites.
 - joint trainings, E - Operations Quality Support – more and more involved in supporting ECD and other services in the field of electoral assistance.
- Reinforced our **collaboration also with other actors** in the area of EA, namely through our support to ACE network. Welcome our friends from UNDP, EAD, IDEA, IFES, South Africa, Mexico, Canada ...
- Organized these **joint trainings** with EC/UNDP/IDEA. Recall that we had a successful first experience one year ago in Brussels, followed by another bigger and also successful session in Tanzania and now this training/ seminar that promises to be extremely interesting.

Important to see that we're following our commitments made with the Paris Declaration in terms of enhanced donor coordination and aid effectiveness and

have now a training/seminar that brings together some of the best experts in the world not only for EC and UNDP staff but also for colleagues from Member States, National Administrations and experts

We hope that this training will allow all the participants to learn something about the strategies and the technical and implementation aspects of effective electoral assistance but it will also be the opportunity to share experiences and ensure that we can work well together when implementing joint projects.

This training will also represent an opportunity to further develop our training methodologies and will be used for a future development of a Global Training Platform on Effective Electoral Assistance (e-learning) primarily for the donor community but also for the capacity development of Regional Associations of Electoral Management Bodies, Electoral Management Bodies, Universities and Practitioners.

(Thank the CoR for the availability of the meeting room and welcome the 4 colleagues following the training. We can eventually collaborate further in the future in the area of domestic observation).

AIDCO E4 (MRQ/FT)