



European Commission United Nations Development Programme International IDEA

Joint Training on Effective Electoral Assistance

UN Framework for electoral assistance

Maputo, 23-27 June 2008

Electoral Assistance Division (EAD)

Presentation

1- UN Mandate and Procedures

2- New Trends

3- Electoral Assistance Responses



1. Mandate and procedures

The UN Focal Point for Electoral Assistance Activities in the UN system is the **USG for Political Affairs**.

The Focal Point for Electoral Assistance Activities was mandated by the **GA resolution 46/137** (March 1992)

The Focal Point for Electoral Assistance Activities should, among other tasks, ensure **consistency** in the provision of UN electoral assistance.



Electoral Assistance Division

The Electoral Assistance Division (EAD) supports the Focal Point to fulfill his mandate in all areas covered by GA resolution 46/137:

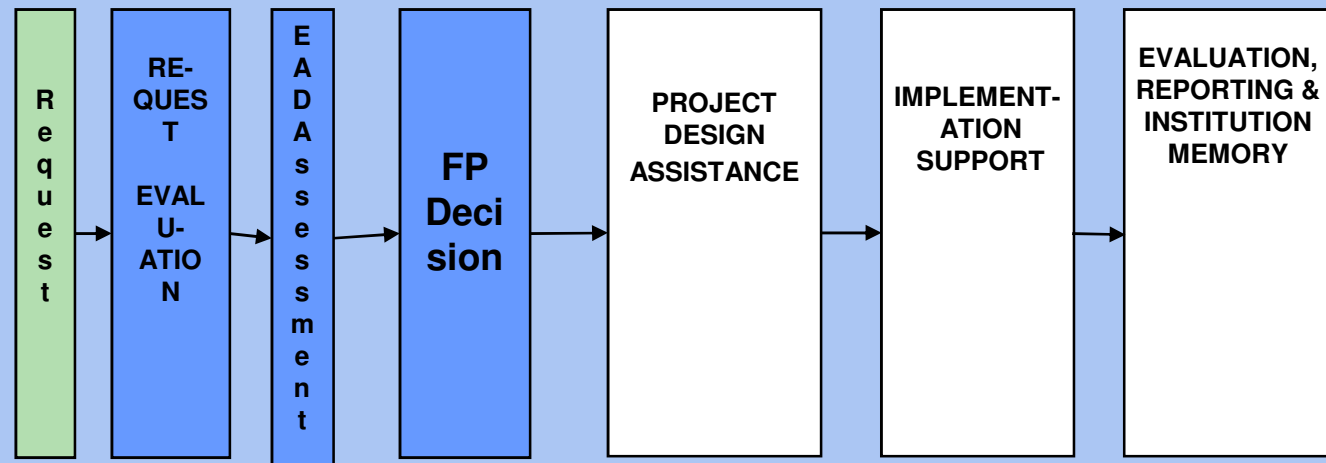
- Review requests for electoral assistance and ensure consistency
- Maintain a roster of electoral experts
- Identify and maintain UN electoral standards
- Serve as the institutional memory of the UN in the electoral field
- Maintain contact with other regional and intergovernmental organizations



Procedures

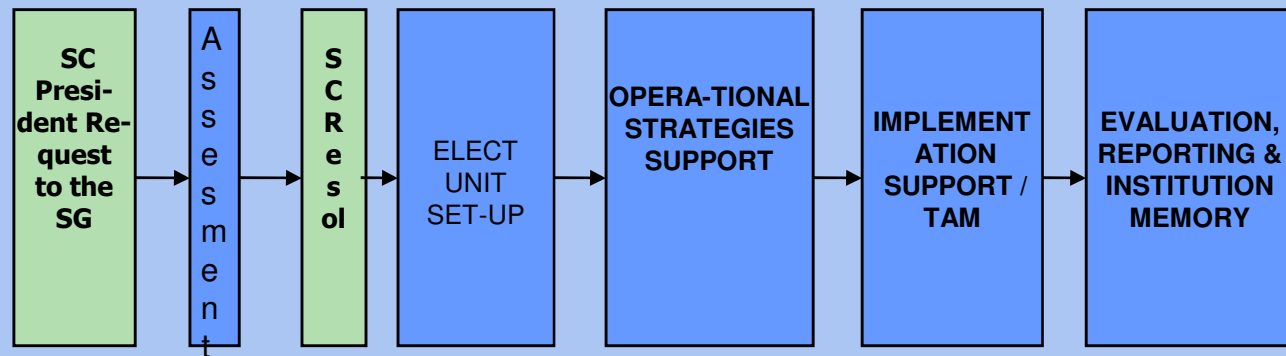
1. Request by Member State

(1) Standard procedure



2. UN Mission

(2) Post-conflict settings



UN System

(1)
Standard
technical assistance
- Provided by UNDP



- Major implementing partner
- Offers technical advice and assistance to electoral authorities (see DPA-UNDP Note of guidance on electoral assistance)
- Manages some 40-50 field-based projects per year
- Focus on long-term capacity-building approach
- Supports coordination among donors and national and international actors at the country level

(2)
Post-conflict settings
- Supported by
DPKO, DPA and
UNDP



- In the last biennium: ten cases of assistance have been provided in post-conflict situations through peacekeeping or special political missions
- Support is provided on the basis of a Security Council or General Assembly mandate.
- Examples: Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Timor-Leste, Haiti, Côte d'Ivoire, Iraq, Afghanistan, Nepal, Sudan

Other UN Partners: UNV, UNOPS, IOM, UNDEF, OHCHR, UNDESA



Electoral Assessment

- The Member State request for electoral assistance should be sent by the authority entitled to speak on behalf of the state at international level
- Needs Assessment provides the Focal Point with a technical and political assessment of the electoral environment for its decision on respectively the feasibility and adequacy for the UN to provide electoral assistance.
- Assessments are increasingly completed jointly with UNDP. An executive summary and a list of recommendations can be shared with the electoral authorities and the donors.
- Related to assessment, an ongoing dialogue between UNDP and EAD is essential to:
 - identify the necessity and the appropriate moment for the assessment
 - address and prevent political crisis as early as possible



2. New Trends

The 2007 SG Report identified changes related to Member States requests:

- Demand for electoral assistance continues to be high, and initial scepticism that such assistance might encroach on national sovereignty has gradually diminished.
- Requests to organize or observe elections have decreased substantially; technical advice and assistance to electoral authorities and other institutions is the norm.
- The complexity of requests is increasing:
 - technological innovations
 - local elections, which can be technically and politically more complex, and more costly, than national elections.

Secretary-General (SG) Report on “Strengthening the role of the United Nations In enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections and the promotion of democratization” (A/62/293) to the General Assembly

New Trends

The SG report also noted on the response given to request for electoral assistance that:

- There is an increasing realization that building capacity to organize credible elections may require assistance over a sustained period.
- Most UN assistance entails technical advice and capacity-building during an electoral period and within a longer-term development framework.
- The UN now rarely observes elections whereas, in contrast, regional organizations tend to be increasing their activities in this area.
- Too often, the technical successes of elections are overshadowed by political discord or violence and non-acceptance of the results.

In addition very few countries are starting an electoral process for the first time.



3. Electoral Assistance Responses

GA Resolution 2007

The General Assembly Resolution (A/RES/62/150) highlights a number of elements guiding the UN activities in the electoral assistance field including:

- A request that the UN electoral assistance be provided throughout the entire electoral cycle
- An appreciation of efforts to enhance cooperation with international, governmental and non-governmental organizations
- An appreciation of comprehensive coordination, under the UN focal point for electoral assistance (the USG for political Affairs), between EAD, UNDP, DPKO and DFS and encourages further engagement of OHCHR.

General Assembly (GA) Resolution on “Strengthening the role of the United Nations in enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections and the promotion of democratization”, 2007

Responses to New Trends

- Technical assistance as a norm and sustainable approach
- Observation, Monitoring and Certification only on SC/GA mandate
- Conflict Management
- Improvement of EAD Roster
- Other UN electoral support activities



Technical Assistance

UN electoral support principally involves the provision of technical assistance to electoral processes, mainly through either a UNDP assistance programme or a UN peace operations mission

- Technical assistance includes capacity-building for the Electoral Management body and other relevant stakeholders of the electoral process in the following areas:
 - electoral and legal framework
 - Establishment of electoral management body and capacity development
 - voter registration / candidates registration
 - voter education / information campaign / media support
 - polling and counting, results, complaints and appeals

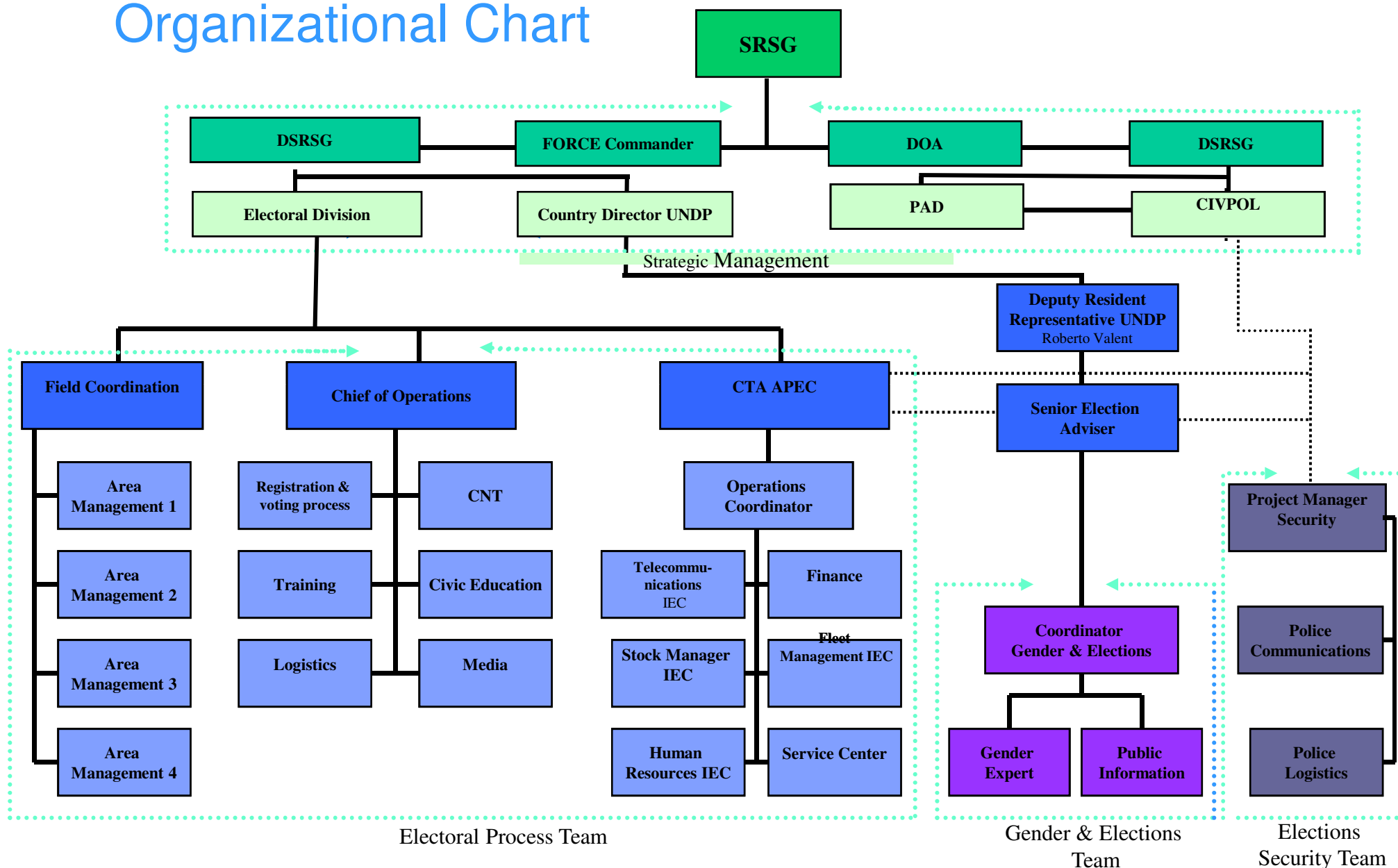


Sustainable Approach

- Process-oriented and Electoral cycle approach
- Integrated Missions:
 - The concept of integrated missions involves the country team in the provision of electoral assistance. UNDP continues to provide electoral support once the mission leaves and ensure an institutional memory.
 - The two major examples of integrated missions are DRC and Afghanistan
 - Discussions are currently being held within the UN system to specify the concept of integration and to assess its implementation modalities.
 - Organizational Chart DRC below



UN Integrated Electoral Assistance Organizational Chart



Observation, Certification and Monitoring

- The UN has generally maintained the practice of not observing elections to which it is providing technical assistance, so as not to be in the position of evaluating its own efforts.
- UN observation is only conducted in specific cases and is always based on a UN General Assembly or Security Council mandate.
- Certification activities vary widely in the contexts and mandates. Recent examples are Timor-Leste and Cote D'Ivoire. Monitoring has been experienced in Nepal.
- In consideration of continued potential interest among Member States for UN certification, EAD is currently preparing clear policy guidelines for UN involvement.

Conflict Management

- **Mediation:** Further to the deterioration of events in Kenya following the December presidential elections, EAD provided the mediation efforts of Mr. Annan with technical advice and options.
Examples of technical issues discussed:
 - Is a recount technically feasible?
 - Criteria covering the establishment of Electoral Commissions
- Acceptance of results
- Use of the Trust Fund for electoral assistance and experts with very specific profile can be provided by EAD Roster



Roster

- Improvement of the Roster (Computerization, use of Nucleus of data and Galaxy application, clarification of procedures)
- Primary source of expertise for staffing electoral missions carried out by DPA, DPKO and UNDP. From 2005 to 2007, over 600 elections experts from more than 35 countries were staffed electoral missions or projects.
- Among approximately 1,200 individuals, experts can be identified quickly.
- Efforts continue to increase the roster's gender balance, geographical representation and language capabilities.



Other UN Electoral Support Activities

In addition the following activities are implemented by UNDP

- Coordination of observers
- Management of basket funds
- Procurement of election materials and logistics support

ACE and BRIDGE Projects are also supported by the UN system





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