



European Commission
United Nations Development Programme
Joint Task Force on Electoral Assistance



EC-UNDP-IDEA Thematic Workshop on Elections, Violence and Conflict Prevention

UNDP Electoral Assistance Strategic Framework

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UN electoral assistance has three primary goals

- to assist Member States in their efforts to hold credible and legitimate elections in accordance with their electoral commitments in international and regional legal and political instruments;
- to contribute to building, in the recipient country, a sustainable institutional capacity to organise democratic elections that are genuine and periodic and have the full confidence of the contending parties and the electorate; and
- to reduce the potential for election-related violence.



UN strategic framework

- ❑ **Since 1992, the UN DPA EAD has supported the USG for Political Affairs, the designated UN focal point for electoral assistance activities.**
- ❑ **The 2009 bi-annual Report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly on the UN's electoral assistance work stated that the UN engaged in electoral assistance work in 52 countries from August 2007-August 2009, either via the work of UN DPKO missions/DPA missions deployed as a result of Security Council or GA resolutions, or via UNDP country offices.**



UN strategic framework

- ✓ A member state receives electoral assistance either as a result of a resolution of the SC/GA mandating electoral assistance, or via a request from a recognised national authority to the UN for assistance. All requests should be directed to the Focal Point. EAD handles all requests and advises the focal point, following an investigation, as to whether UN electoral assistance can improve the process.



UN strategic framework

- ✓ **EAD will conduct its needs assessment missions and make a recommendation to the focal point either for or against UN electoral assistance, which, if decided upon, is often formulated and implemented by UNDP. The majority of the UN's electoral assistance missions are implemented via UNDP. The Note of Guidance, signed by the DPA and UNDP in 2001, and reviewed in 2010, provides an overview over roles and responsibilities of the different UN institutions — with particular reference to the UN focal point, EAD and UNDP — as well as procedures for UN involvement in electoral assistance.**



EC-UNDP partnership in electoral assistance

- ✓ **The EU and UN are united by the core values laid out in the 1945 Charter of the United Nations and the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights. EU Member States and the EC are the largest contributors to the UN system. A total of €1.3 billion (US\$1.84 billion) was channelled by the EC to the UN in 2006.**
- ✓ **As of May 2011, the EC and UNDP are in partnership in over 20 electoral assistance projects worldwide. Milestones in the partnership include the FAFA (2003), the EC-UNDP Strategic Partnership Agreement (2004) and the EC-UNDP Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of Electoral Assistance Programmes and Projects (2006, revised in 2008).**



EC-UNDP partnership in electoral assistance

- ✓ **The establishment of the Joint Task Force aimed to increase the overall efficiency and adherence of the projects to the common EC-UNDP strategic approach. The focus of the JTF is to provide identification, formulation and implementation support for joint EC-UNDP projects on electoral assistance whenever needed and requested by EU delegations and/or UNDP country offices. The lessons learned are consolidated and codified so that they can effectively feed into the implementation of new electoral assistance projects, the various joint EC-UNDP training exercises and the ACE Electoral Knowledge Network.**



EC-UNDP Partnership in electoral assistance

- ✓ A 2007 EC evaluation assessment of the EC's external cooperation with the UN family from 1999-2006 highlighted the Op Guidelines as an example of best practice. In cases where the EC wished to intervene in areas in which the UN had the leading expertise developed over time in accordance with the objectives assigned to it by the international community, the evaluation noted that the Commission had benefited from that leading UN expertise.



The projects usually provide support in one or more of the following areas

- ✓ • **electoral laws and regulation reform**
- ✓ • **electoral system design/redesign**
- ✓ • **electoral administration and planning**
- ✓ • **electoral budgeting**
- ✓ • **voter registration**
- ✓ • **constituency delimitation**
- ✓ • **professional development of the election management bodies**
- ✓ • **training of election officials**
- ✓ • **civic and voter education**
- ✓ • **inclusive participation (with a focus on greater participation by women and other underrepresented groups)**
- ✓ • **public outreach**



The projects usually provide support in one or more of the following areas

- ✓ • **working with political parties**
- ✓ • **electoral dispute resolution**
- ✓ • **training of judiciary on electoral justice**
- ✓ • **training of security forces on electoral security**
- ✓ • **domestic observation**
- ✓ • **election logistics and operations**
- ✓ • **procurement of election materials**
- ✓ • **electoral security**
- ✓ • **media training/monitoring**
- ✓ **capacity-building of civil society organisations.**



Effective electoral assistance

- ✓ **Electoral Assistance** = support (legal, technical, logistic, etc.) provided to electoral laws, processes and institutions.
- ✓ **Effective Electoral Assistance** = initiatives and activities to improve the quality and impact of electoral assistance to partner country electoral institutions and processes.
- ✓ EEA is part of the wider democratic development of the partner country, in accordance with the five key principles of ownership, alignment, harmonization, managing for results and mutual accountability that inform the **2005 Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness**.
- ✓ EEA implies the management of a **complex set of interactions** among Government, EMBs, International Organizations, Political Parties, CSOs, Services Providers and Media...the electoral cycle approach.



Project formulation also needs to address

- ❑ **Sustainability and cost-effectiveness:** A number of important points regarding costs and sustainability should be addressed, including i) implications for programming of current and future fiscal and human resource capabilities; and ii) to the extent possible, long-term targets for the full implementation capacity of the project or constituent elements.
- ❑ **Risk mitigation strategy:** This should outline steps that could be taken to mitigate or remove any risks that have been identified should the UN providing electoral assistance.
- ❑ **Potential for election-related violence:** This should cover electoral assistance or political interventions that could be implemented to reduce or mitigate the potential for election-related violence.