

REINFORCING CREDIBILITY AND ACCEPTANCE OF ELECTORAL PROCESSES

The Role of Electoral Stakeholders and Electoral Administrations


DEFINING THE CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK: WHAT DO WE UNDERSTAND BY CREDIBILITY OF ELECTORAL PROCESSES?

This session sets the ground to the concept of credibility: credibility, trust, acceptance, transparency and inclusiveness

Speaker: Rafael Lopez-Pintor

Credibility is related to sustainability of electoral processes and administration.

In fact, it is the essence of political sustainability – when electoral procedures and results are accepted by all relevant stakeholders, mainly by electoral competitors and the electorate at large, but also by the international community.



Credibility of elections conveys to a large extent the opposite meaning to credibility of political leadership, mainly charismatic leadership

Elections constitute a public service of a recurrent nature.

They will only become legitimate after being credible, which mainly depends on effective delivery over time, their final results becoming accepted

Still on the public service nature of elections, credibility is the opposite of belief.

Belief or faith is accepting something which cannot be seen. Credibility relies on what is visible; on something which can be observed by anybody; which can be empirically described or demonstrated

Trust is founded on credibility.

We trust someone when we can anticipate his or her behavior as acceptable, rather than intolerable to us.


Administrators of an EMB and other stakeholders look credible precisely because we trust them and accept their decision about WHO GOVERNS.

Transparency is their vest.

Transparency exists when we can watch what happens within the electoral fields -the EMB and related institutions- and an assessment can be made about their efforts at technical efficiency and political inclusiveness.

Inclusiveness - must be associated to credibility as it helps to understand the long way towards universal suffrage!

Inclusiveness today is the effort to equate the size of the “body politic” with the entire adult society; taking into consideration not only the central segments of society but moving into its periphery of vulnerable populations.



The entire adult society should be the demos of democracy, both legally and actually in order to be better able to deliver credible elections