



European Commission United Nations Development Programme International IDEA

In collaboration with

**International Organization for Migration
Canadian International Development Agency
Organization of American States**

Effective Electoral Assistance: History and Focus

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Presentation

Why Electoral Assistance

Effective Electoral Assistance

Electoral Cycle Approach

UN Assistance Past and Present

Volume, Types, Trends

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Elections: a fundamental element of democratic governance



more countries than ever before are working to build or to strengthen democratic governance

electoral support is receiving increasing attention within democratic governance

a sharp increase worldwide in the number of elections of a pluralistic nature

only a few states in the world do not conduct elections

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Elections: a fundamental element of democratic governance



and more ...

an inadequate electoral framework

partisan administration of the electoral process

restrictions in political freedoms and participation

not all elections provide people with real opportunities to choose their representatives freely

an unequal access to the media

electoral violence and political intimidation

electoral fraud and violations

inadequate or untimely funding of elections

lack of professionalism in administration of elections



Why Electoral Assistance?



THE KNOWLEDGE GAP

some countries were largely **unprepared** to go through **major democratic transitions** that featured **crucial elections**

electoral practitioners had virtually no **access** to **comparative knowledge, best practices** and **lessons learned** in the field of elections

electoral institutions did not always possess the **necessary experience and knowledge** to **deliver** and **guarantee** credible elections

there was **no coherent electoral administration methodology**, the field lacked **common standards**



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electoral management
bodies **confront** a new
set of **challenges...**

creating
transparent and
sustainable
electoral **systems**
and **processes**

reversing
situations of
professional
stagnation

Why Electoral Assistance?

CREDIBILITY GAP



building the **trust** of
the various
stakeholders in the
electoral process

addressing problems
of **lack of retention**
of **institutional**
memory

solving **political**,
financial and **logistical**
constraints
undermining **their**
work and the
credibility of elections



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Why Electoral Assistance?

CREDIBILITY GAP

loss of
credibility and
mistrust in the
electoral
process

voters'
apathy and
low turnout

electoral **disputes**,
electoral **violence**
or **civil strife**

an **elected**
government
that lacks of
the **required**
legitimacy



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Definitions

- ☐ **What is Electoral Assistance?**
- ☐ **Why “Effective Electoral Assistance”?**

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Definitions

- ☐ 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, harmonisation, 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.



‘Election’ Assistance

VS

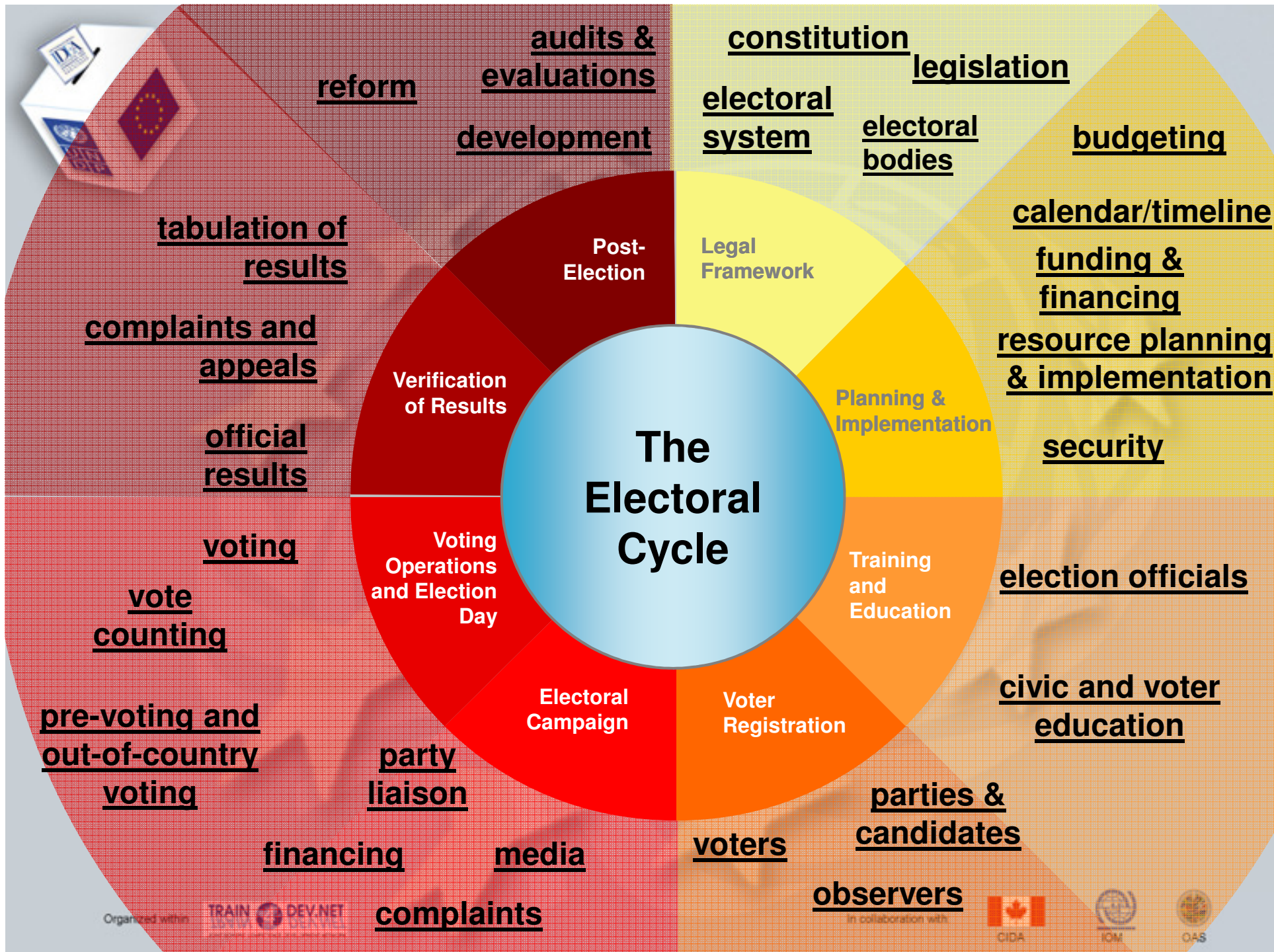
‘Electoral’ Assistance

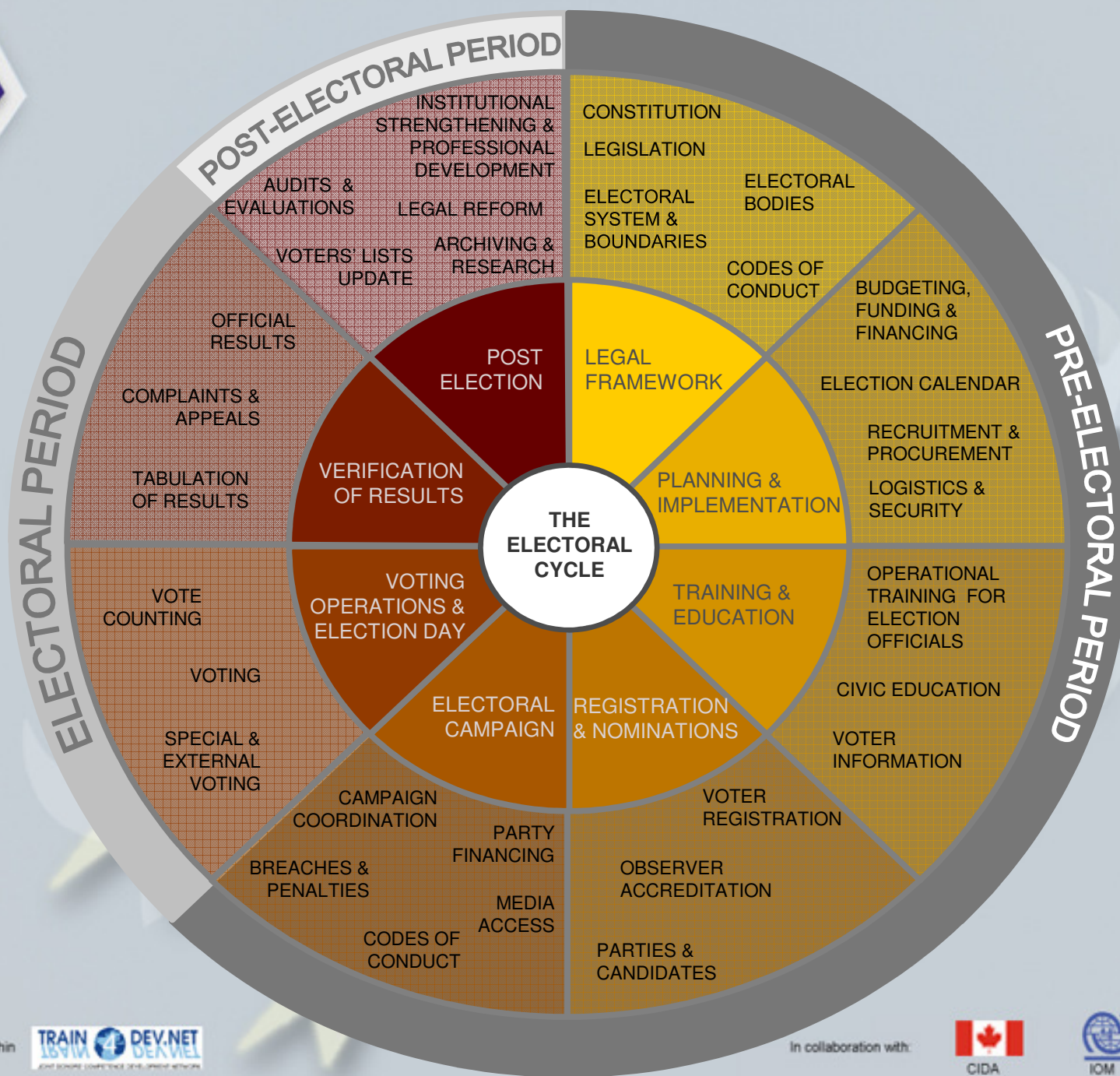
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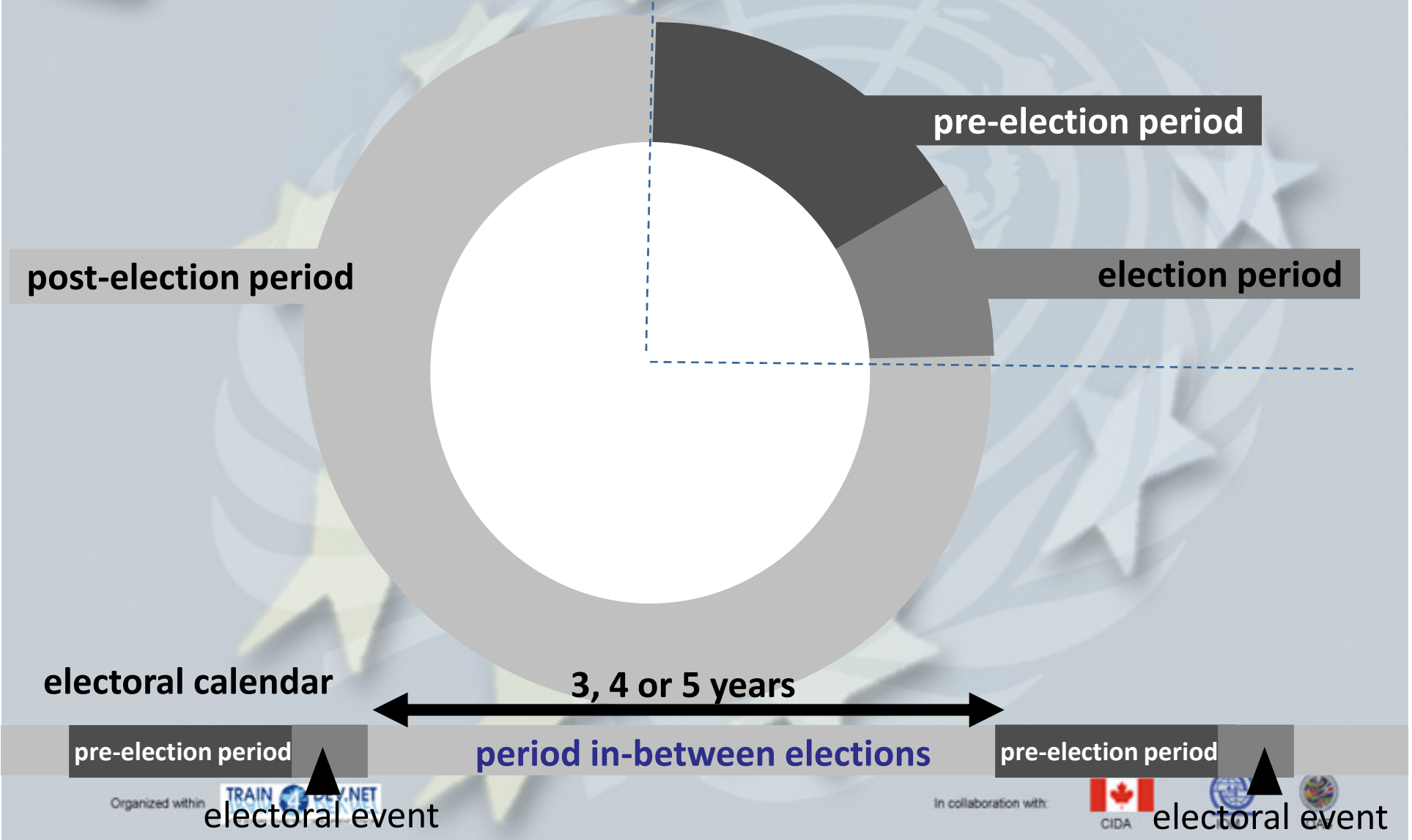
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Inter-election Period

sustainable electoral support





Electoral Cycle Approach

Is...

- ☐ Focused on the long term
- ☐ About developing capacities
- ☐ A way to engage with a wide variety of stakeholders
- ☐ A way to promote more exchanges, networking and south-south cooperation

Is *not*...

- ☐ A replacement of elections or indication that election events are unimportant
- ☐ A means to provide quick support before an election
- ☐ An excuse to provide indefinite support to electoral processes

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Q: When did the UN first get involved in elections?

A: From the late 1940s through the 1970s, the UN was involved in observation/verification of elections. Rise in technical assistance began in the early 1990s.

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UN Electoral Assistance Today



**2005-2008 UNDP Expenditures in
Democratic Governance=US\$5 billion**

Electoral Systems and Processes=18% of this (1/5)

In 2007, shift: ½ of countries working on cycle approach

# of countries/regional programmes by region	2005	2006	2007	2008
Africa	17	17	14	13
Arab States	5	3	3	5
Asia/Pacific	8	8	7	7
Europe/CIS	3	2	2	2
LAC/Caribbean	5	5	5	3
Total	38	35	31	30

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Contexts of Electoral Assistance



Peacekeeping:

- DRC
- Haiti
- Sudan

Other Transition:

- Bhutan
- Maldives
- Turkmenistan

Peacebuilding:

- Iraq
- Nepal
- Sierra Leone

Development:

- Macedonia
- Indonesia
- Tanzania

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Trends in Types of Assistance



Traditional areas:

- Electoral administration
- Civic and voter education
- Support to international and domestic observers
- Mobilization and coordination of resources/partnerships for electoral support

Newer areas:

- Electoral reform, sustainable electoral processes
- Working with political parties
- Reduction of election-related violence and electoral dispute resolution
- Media and elections

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Thank you!

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