Electoral Cycle Overview
An approach to sustainability

Barcelona, 20-24 June 2011
The electoral cycle

three main segments

Sustainable Electoral Processes

Post-election period (strategy)

Pre-electoral period (preparations)

Electoral Period (operations)

THE ELECTORAL CYCLE

- Legal Framework
- Planning & Implementation
- Training & Education
- Electoral Registration & Campaign Nominations
- Voting Operations & Election Day
- Verification of Results
- Post Election
Possibilities of the post-election period

define long-term sustainable support programmes

structural reforms, institutional strengthening and long-term capacity development

donor coordination

evaluate lessons learned and recommendations

adopt and apply lessons and recommendations

real beginning of a new cycle

there is no immediate operational and political pressure

opportunity for review, strategic thinking, planning and action

COUNTRY CONTEXT
Sustainability refers to electoral policies and practices which are:

1. cost-effective and realistic; and
2. meet the needs of stakeholders both now and in the future.

What do we mean by sustainability?

Sustainability aims to reduce reliance on external inputs and resources, increasing local ownership.
## What actions between elections?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Learning from evaluation, observer recommendations</th>
<th>Needs assessment, technical evaluation and audits</th>
<th>Development partner coordination</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Institution strengthening &amp; capacity development programmes</td>
<td>Updating voters’ register</td>
<td>Upgrading or re-use technology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dialogue and stakeholder consultation</td>
<td>Parliamentary support, legal reform</td>
<td>Civic education programmes</td>
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<td>Peer review</td>
<td>Regional networks, peer support, exchange programs</td>
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the post-election period offers the opportunity to provide sustainable support that lasts throughout the electoral cycle.

need to move away from the notion of ad-hoc assistance

need to ensure continuity of assistance during the post-election period

need to plan support through a process of thinking ahead, rather than reacting to each electoral event as it occurs

need to pay more attention on role and functions of an EMB outside the immediate urgency of a specific electoral event

need to support electoral processes and institutions in the context of democratic governance focusing especially on parliament, media and civil society.

Increase support south-south cooperation and regional organisations of EMBs also via regional projects

an easy choice
Challenge of Inhibitors

- Pre-election period
  - Lack of donor appeal
  - Lack of resources
  - Political disinterest
  - Lack of motivation
  - Post-election fatigue

- Post-election period
BOX 7

ILLUSTRATION: CONFLICT PREVENTION OVER SUCCESSIVE ELECTORAL CYCLES

Trust in Governance/Good Governance

Improvement in Quality of Elections

Election Cycles Over Time

E Election Date

- Crisis Management
- Proactive Elections Programming

Trust in Election Process
From Election Violence to Nonviolence

Illustration designed by Chris Spies
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Facilitators</th>
<th>Discussion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>Jeff Fischer, Najia Hashemee and Simon Finley</td>
<td>Presentation and discussion on security management of the elections.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tunisia</td>
<td>Dominika Sikorska and Vincent Da Cruz (<em>French speaking</em>)</td>
<td>Group work examining the 2011 Tunisian elections including risk analysis and identifying aspects of electoral preparations that require further attention.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
<td>Harald Jepsen and Richard Atwood</td>
<td>Discussion on the 2009-10 electoral cycle.</td>
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