Electoral Cycle Overview
An approach to sustainability

Barcelona, 20-24 June 2011
The electoral cycle
three main segments

Post-election period (strategy)

Electoral Period (operations)

Sustainable Electoral Processes

Pre-electoral period (preparations)
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

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>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Institution strengthening &amp; capacity development programmes</td>
<td>Updating voters’ register</td>
<td>Upgrade 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 ensure continuity of assistance during the post-election period, rather than reacting to each electoral event as it occurs.

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.
Challenge of Inhibitors

- pre-election period
- election period
- post-election period

- political disinterest
- lack of donor appeal
- lack of resources
- lack of motivation
- post-election fatigue
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
Bangladesh
Facilitators: Jeff Fischer, Najia Hashemee and Simon Finley
Presentation and discussion on security management of the xXx elections.

Tunisia
Facilitators: Dominika Sikorska and Vincent Da Cruz (*French speaking*)
Group work examining the 2011 Tunisian elections including risk analysis and identifying aspects of electoral preparations that require further attention.

Afghanistan
Facilitators: Harald Jepsen and Richard Atwood
With Abdullah Ahmadzai and Carlos Valenzuela. Discussion on the 2009-10 electoral cycle.