



European Commission
United Nations Development Programme
International IDEA

Electoral Cycle Overview

An approach to sustainability

Barcelona, 20-24 June 2011

Organized within:



With the support of:



Partners:



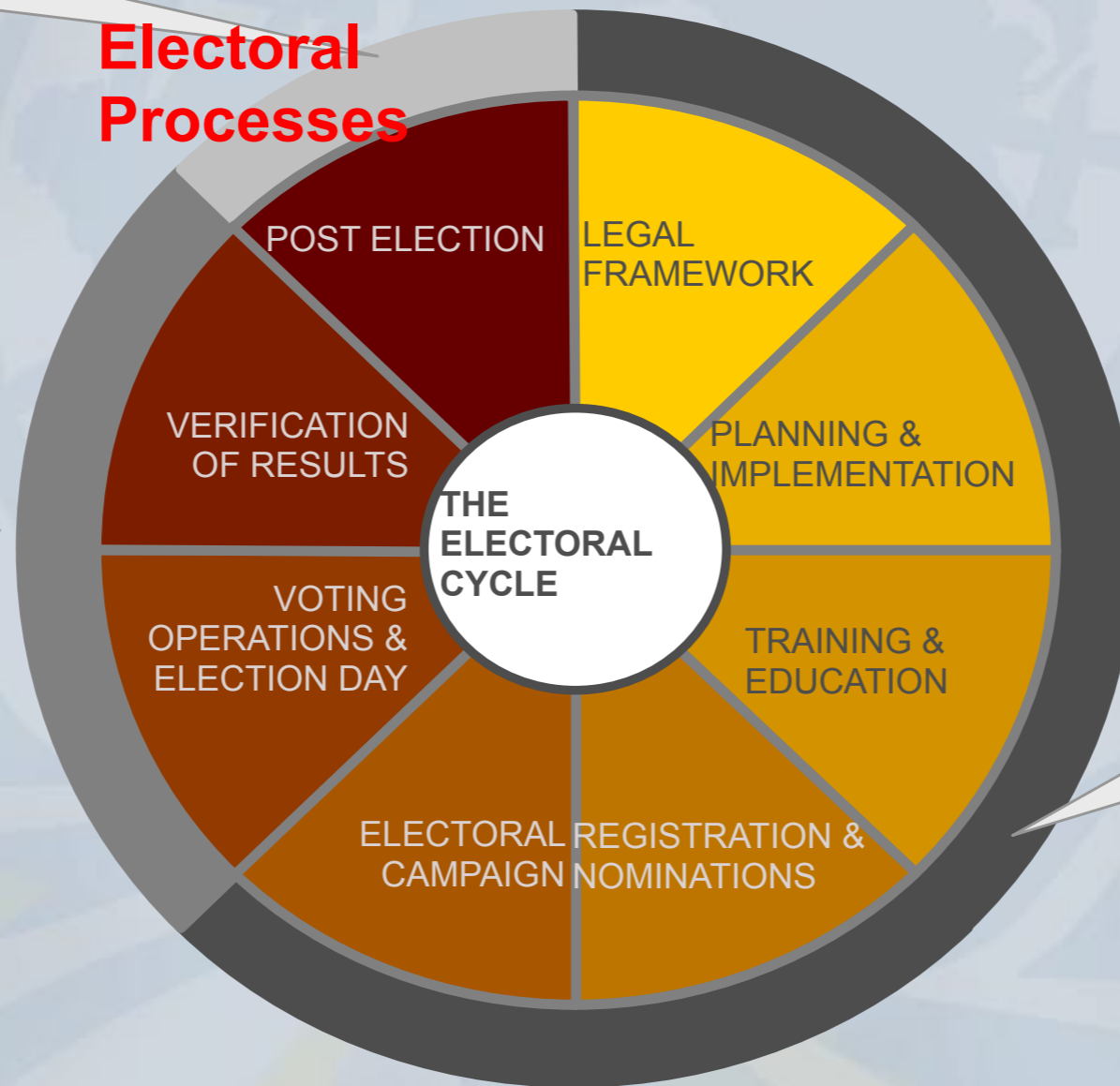


The electoral cycle

three main segments

post-election period (strategy)

Sustainable Electoral Processes



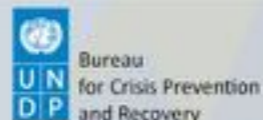
Electoral Period (operations)

Pre-electoral period (preparations)

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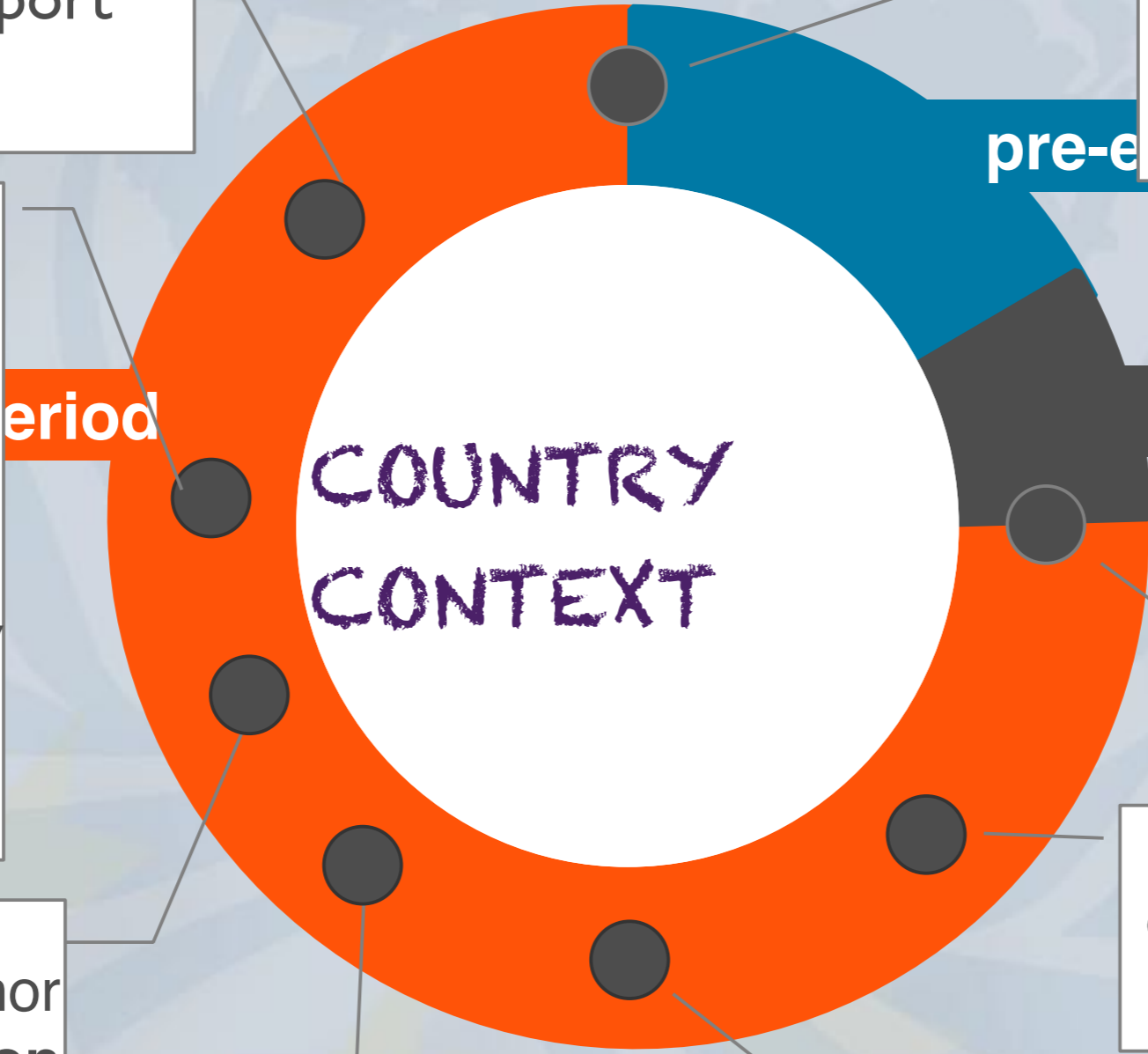


Possibilities of the post-election period

define long-term **sustainable** support programmes

adopt and **apply** lessons and recommendations

structural **reforms**, institutional strengthening and long-term capacity development



real beginning of a new cycle

there is no immediate operational and political **pressure**

donor **coordination**

evaluate **lessons learned** and recommendations

opportunity for **review**, strategic thinking, planning and action



What do we mean by sustainability?

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?

**learning from evaluation,
observer recommendations**

**needs assessment,
technical evaluation
and audits**

**development partner
coordination**

**institution strengthening
& capacity development
programmes**

**updating voters' register
archiving materials,
documenting processes**

**upgrade or re-
use
technology**

**dialogue and
stakeholder
consultation**

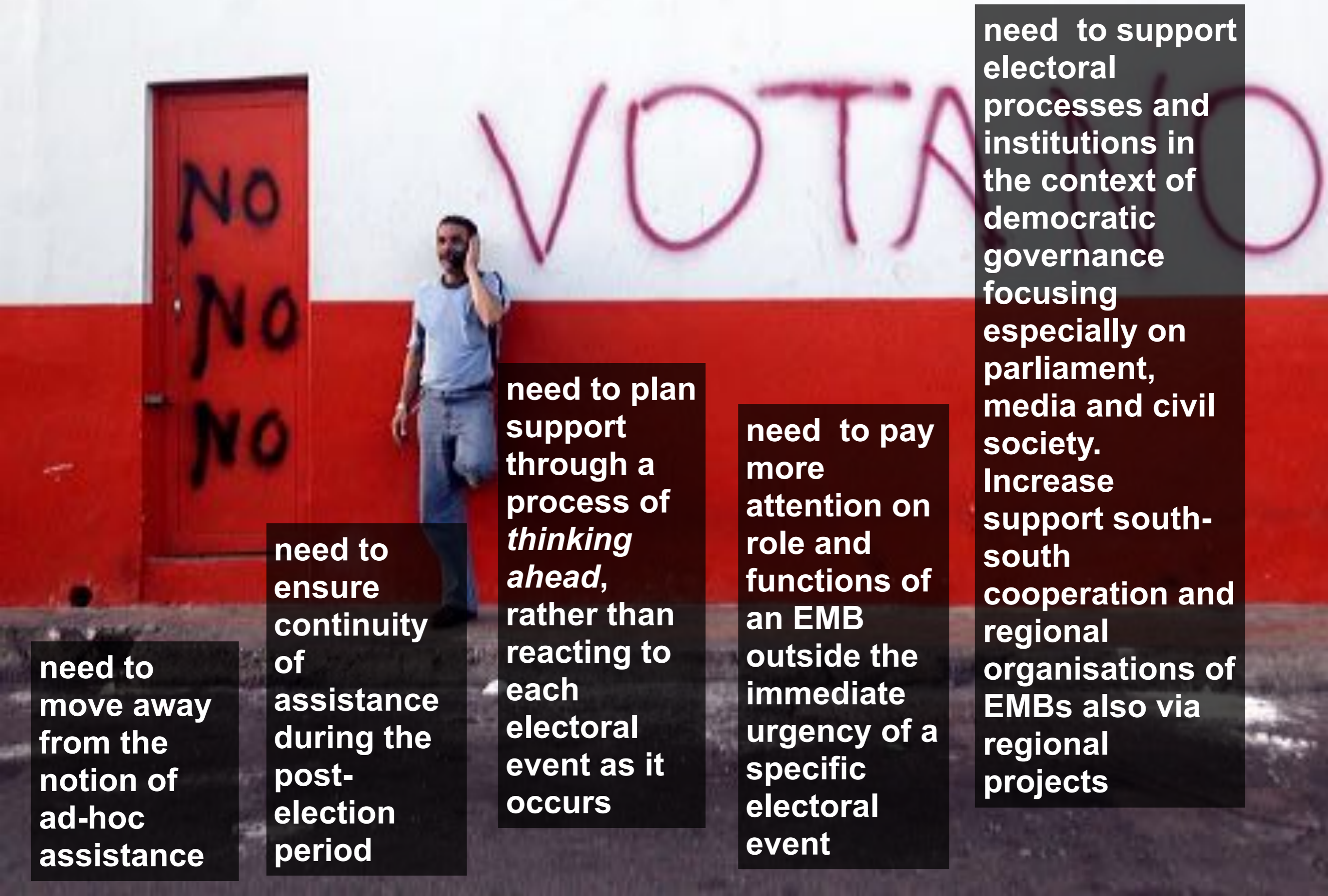
**parliamentary support,
legal reform**

**civic
education
programmes**

peer review

**regional networks, peer support,
exchange programs**

the post-election period offers the **opportunity** to provide sustainable support that lasts throughout the electoral cycle **an easy choice**



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

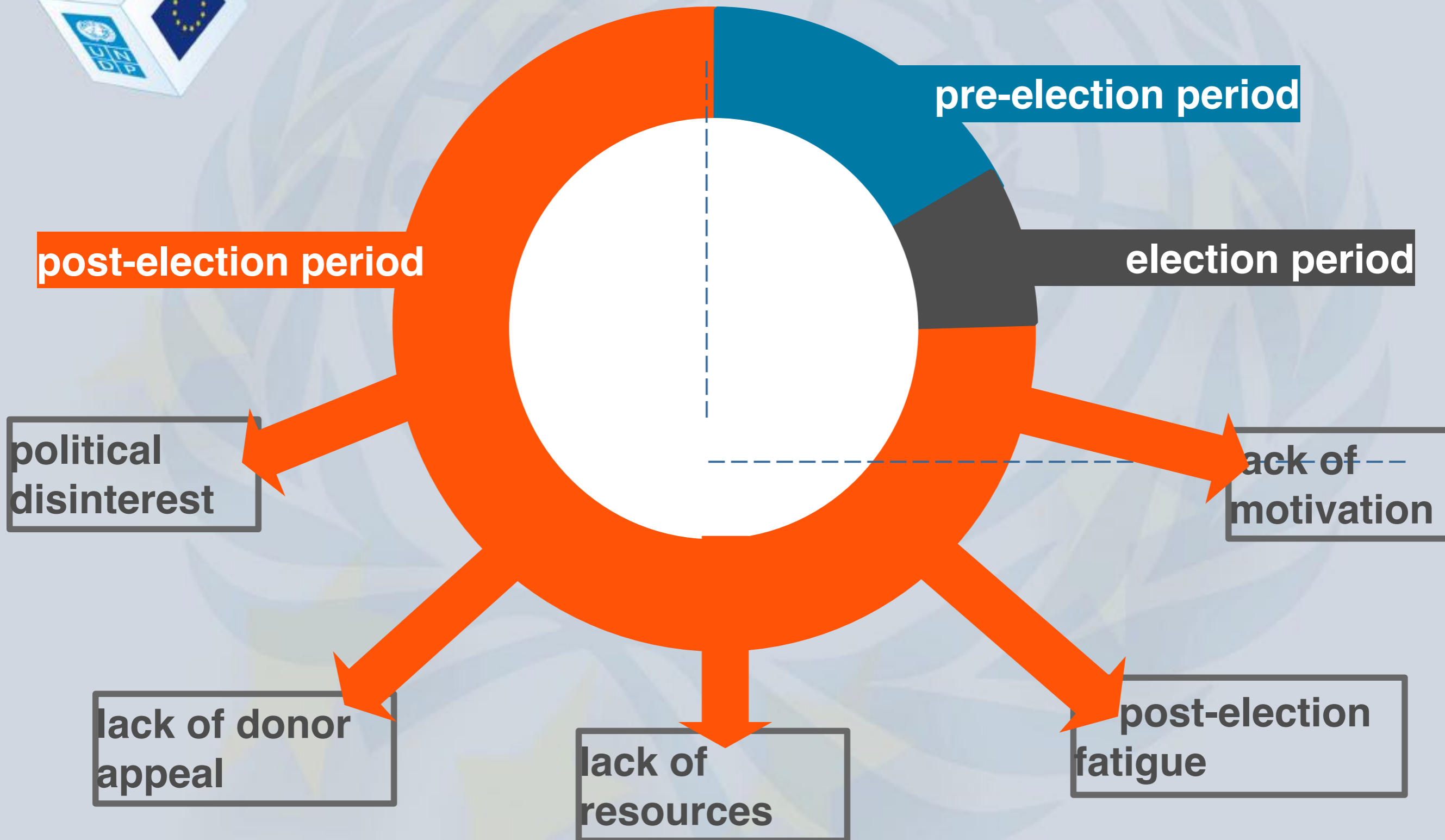
need to pay more attention on role and functions of an EMB outside the immediate urgency of a specific electoral event

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

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

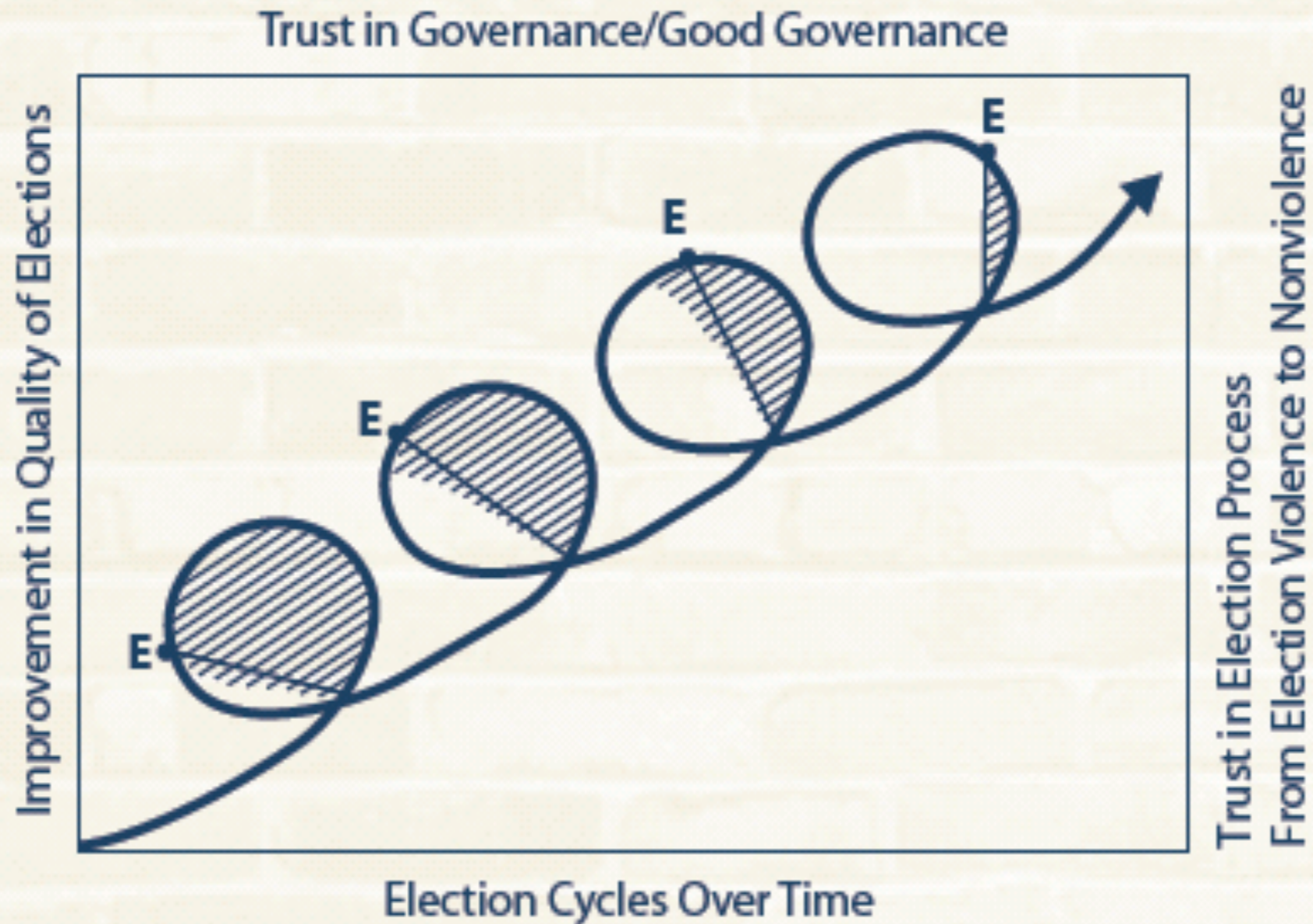


Challenge of Inhibitors




BOX 7

ILLUSTRATION: CONFLICT PREVENTION OVER SUCCESSIVE ELECTORAL CYCLES



• E Election Date

 Crisis Management

 Proactive Elections Programming



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.