



European Commission United Nations Development Programme International IDEA

***Joint Training on
Effective Electoral Assistance***

DAY 1

Brussels, 22-26 October 2007



UN/UNDP Lessons Learned and Best Practices

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Presentation Overview

UNDP Historical Background on the field of EA



Results of Periodic Lessons Learning Exercises



UNDP Activities and Regional Statistics



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.



10-Year Review of UNDP Electoral Assistance (1990-2000)

Why?

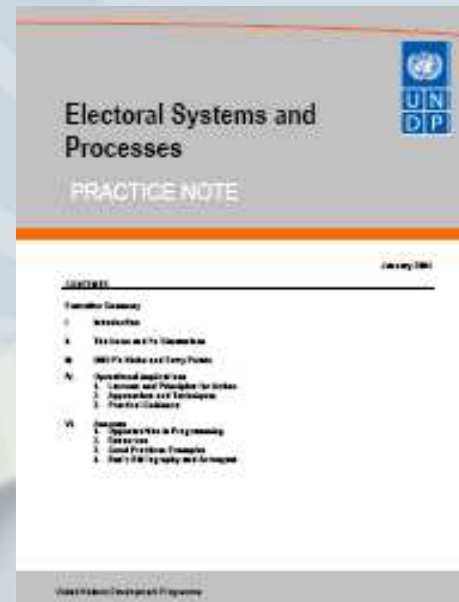
To distill lessons/recommendations for:

- UNDP country offices**
- UNDP and UN policy bodies**
- UNDP corporate policy on electoral assistance**
- Broader governance programming agenda**
- Institutional memory**



10-Year Review Findings

- Approach of UNDP
- Gov / Poverty agendas
- Civic / Voter education
- Donor coordination
- Resource mobilization
- Logistical support to international observers
- Lead time
- Information-sharing and evaluation





Global Practice Mtg Manila 2004

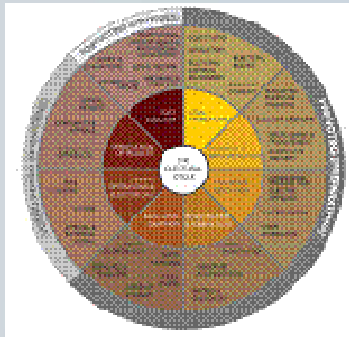
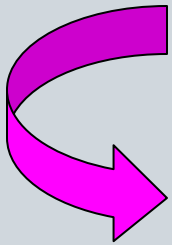
UNDP needs...

- To bridge the gap b/n 'election' and 'electoral' – in policy, design and implementation
- Guidance on working with political parties
- An implementation guide – what UNDP does, how... substance but + resources, coordination
- To leverage partnerships

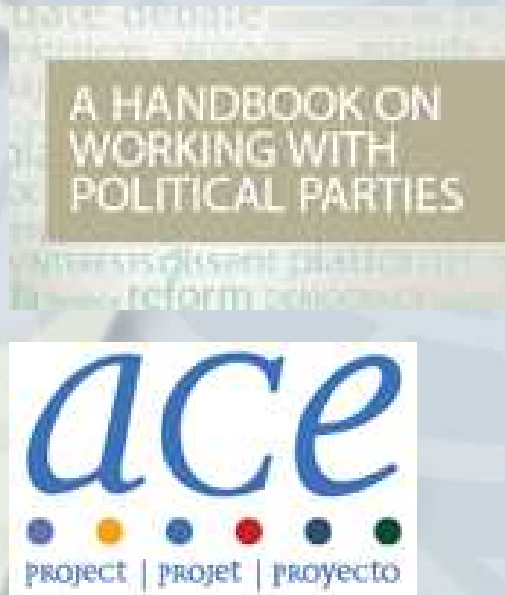




Practice Meeting Results



- Electoral Cycle Approach**
- Political Parties Handbook**
- Implementation Guide**
- Global Tools – ACE, BRIDGE**





Findings of UNDP Elections e-Survey (2006)

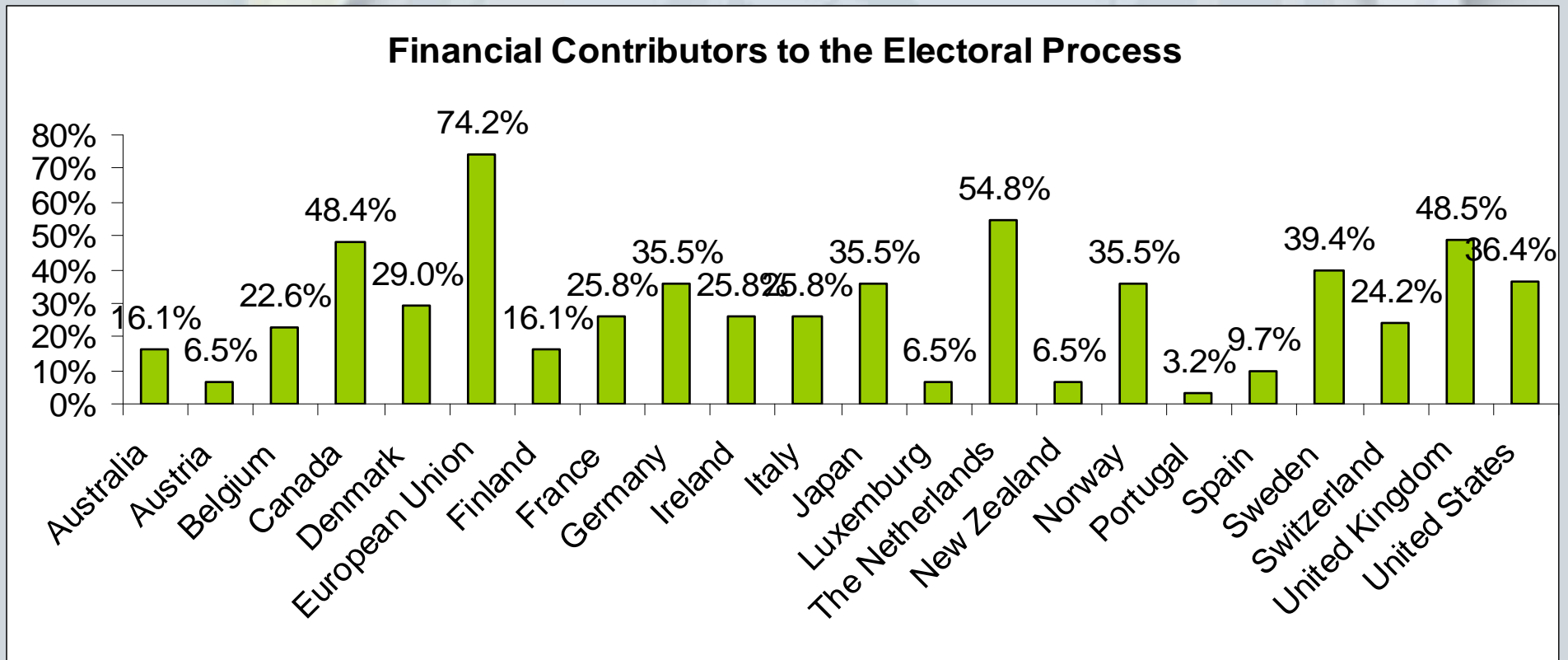
Challenges to Effective Electoral Assistance:

- Timing constraints**
- Delays in disbursement of funds and allocations**
- Financial management challenges**
- National capacity challenges greater than anticipated**
- Difficulties in engaging with national counterparts**
- Voter registration: disputes, security and infrastructure**
- Political party support**
- Procurement technical specifications**



Findings of UNDP Elections e-Survey (2006)

“Who were the financial contributors to the UNDP election project?” Respondents listed 21 countries and the European Union (%s reflect frequency of citation)

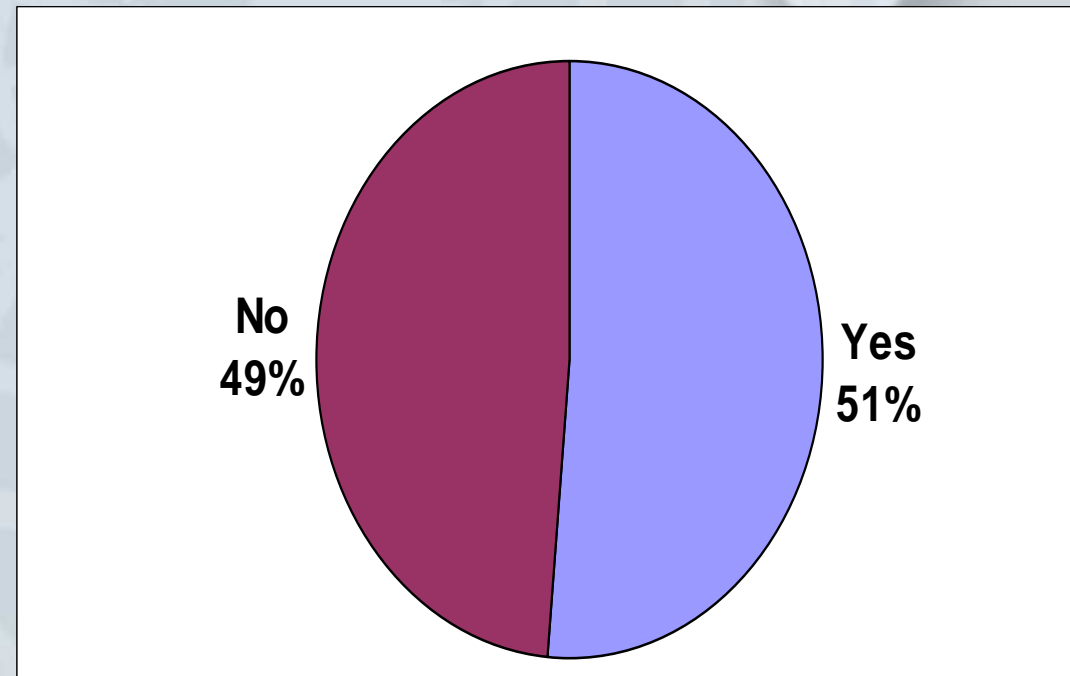


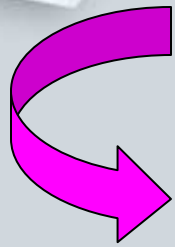


Findings of UNDP Elections e-Survey (2006)

Q: Do you feel you had sufficient training for the electoral support tasks you performed?

A: Almost half said no.





Actions to address survey

Joint EC-UNDP Training

- Capacity development of UNDP and EC staff**
- Partnership building**
- E-learning development**

Implementation Guide (2007)

- Audience is the non-expert practitioner**
- Combines findings from 10-year retrospective, Manila, recent e-survey and some evaluations, advisory missions**
- Some introduction to the "what", more on the "how"**



Factors Affecting Scope and Type of Assistance

- **Type of election**
 - national (presidential, parliamentary) or sub-national (local)
- **Environment in which the election takes place**
 - post-conflict, transition, third or fourth post-transition/post-independence election
- **Other prevailing conditions**
 - Size of electorate, health of the national economy and national funding available for elections, state of voter register and electoral institutions, physical constraints, etc.
- **Level of support of political actors for democratic processes per se**



UNDP Electoral Assistance Trends

2004-2006 Exp. in Democratic Governance=US\$3.8bil
Electoral Systems and Processes=21% of this

# of countries/regional programmes by region	2004	2005	2006
Africa	20	17	17
Arab States	7	5	3
Asia/Pacific	4	8	7
Europe/CIS	2	3	2
Latin America/Caribbean	8	5	5
Total	41	38	35



Major Types of Assistance

Traditional areas:

- **Electoral reform, administration, sustainable electoral processes**
- **Civic and voter education, inclusive participation**
- **Support to international and domestic observers**
- **Mobilization and coordination of resources/partnerships for electoral support**

Newer areas:

- **Working with political parties**
- **Reduction of election-related violence and electoral dispute resolution**
- **Media and elections**



Thank you!