European Commission
United Nations Development Programme
International IDEA

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Joint Training on
Effective Electoral Assistance
EU Election Observation Missions: context, planning, implementation

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Preliminary Remarks on Terminology

• Electoral Supervision: Supervision can be defined as direct involvement in establishing the mechanisms of the election such as the date, the issuing of regulations, wording of the ballot, monitoring polling stations, counting the ballots, and assisting in the resolution of disputes.

• Election Observation: Election observation consists of systematic collection of information on an electoral process by direct observation on the basis of established methodologies, often analyzing both qualitative and quantitative data. Observers do not participate in the electoral process.

• Expert Monitoring: provide an independent assessment of the overall political and technical conduct of elections. The assessment is for an internal purpose.
2000 Communication

(Reference: COM(2000) 191 final)

• A “milestone” in the development of EU EOMs.

• Strategy is based on:
  - Strategic approach to programming
  - Coherence with Human Rights and Democracy initiatives
  - Standard methodology
  - Long-term, comprehensive election observation
  - Independence of EU EOM to assessment election
Organising EU EOMs

- Programming
- Exploratory Mission
- Decision
- Contracting I.P/ / Selection
- « Core Team » Deployment
- Observers (LTOs, STOs) Deployment
- E-Day + PRELIMINARY STATEMENT
- FINAL REPORT
- Closure
Programming

• Election calendar

• Identification of “priority” and “to be followed” countries – How? How Many? How Much?

➢ Consistency with EU democratisation and crisis management initiatives; increasing peace building component

➢ Geographical balance
Institutional Setting of Programming

• Intra-Commission consultation: RELEX, DEV, AIDCO – Delegations

• Inter-institutional Dialogue:
  – Consultation with Council Policy Unit
  – Consultation with Member States in all relevant Council Working Groups (COHOM, COASI, COAFR, COLAT, etc.)
Exploratory Mission

• Composition: COM officials (3) + experts contracted (3) + MS secondments (2 max)

⇒ REPORT

• Advisable: Genuine elections?
• Useful: Added value of EU EOM?
• Feasible: Modalities for EU EOM + Logistics/security? Implementing Partner?

• Findings sent to Member States and European Parliament ECG
Decision to deploy EOM

- Decision made by Commissioner for External Relations and Neighbourhood Policy (Ms. Benita Ferrero-Waldner)

- Following Exploratory Missions to a number of countries, a decision has been taken not to deploy an EOM – e.g. Colombia, Papua New Guinea and Egypt

- Reply to Invitation

- Memorandum of Understanding signed with country where election will be observed
Pre Election Phase: EU EOM Composition

- Commissioner nominates Chief Observer, usually MEP
- Implementing Partner contracted
- Core team members identified and contracted by the Commission based on a call for candidates on the internet
- LTOs and STOs proposed by Member States and selected by Commission based on standardised procedures through roster

Chart 1

Deployment of EU EOMs (2004-2008) (by year)

2004 (4) 2005 (10) 2006 (13) 2007 (9) 2008 (10) 2009 (2)

* to be deployed

Indonesia (Aceh) Venezuela Nicaragua Mauritania
Ethiopia Lebanon Afghanistan Guinea Bissau Burundi Liberia
Sri Lanka Malawi Mozambique Indonesia

Kenya Togo Ecuador Angola Rwanda
Bangladesh Ghana Guinea Bissau Ecuador

Cambodia Nepal El Salvador

Malawi * Lebanon *

Promoting Credible Elections and Democratic Governance in Africa
EUEOM today

Chart 2

Deployment of EU EOMs (2004-2008) (by region/country)

- Zambia
- Uganda
- Togo
- Sierra Leone
- Rwanda
- Nigeria
- Mozambique
- Mauritania (2)
- Malawi (2)
- Liberia
- Kenya
- Guinea Bissau (2)
- Ghana
- Ethiopia
- DR Congo (2)
- Palestine (2)
- Lebanon (1*)

Neighbourhood Policy Countries

- Africa
- Asia
- Americas
- Pacific
- Middle East

* to be deployed 2009
Deployment Timing

Implementing Partner

Core Team

LTOs

STOs

LSTOs

E-DAY

-8 -7 -6 -5 -4 -3 -2 -1 +1 +2 +3 +4 +5 +6 +7 +8
EU EOM External Environment

Member States; some third countries

EU Embassies (HoMs)

Domestic observers

Other international observers

E COMMISSION
EuropeAid
DG Ex Relations
Geographical Services

European Parliament

EC Delegation

Media

Local authorities

Implementing Partner

EUOM EOM

Local EU STO

EP Delegations

Independence of EU EOM
EU EOM Mission Structure:

Chief Observer

Core Team:
- Deputy Chief Observer
- Election Expert
- Legal Expert
- Media Expert
- Press Officer
- LTO Coordinator
- Operations Expert
- Security Expert

Implementing Partner; Local Staff

Media Monitoring Team

Long Term Observers (LTOs)

Short Term Observers (STOs)
including LSTOs and MEPs
IMPLEMENTING PARTNER

• Team
  – Task Managers
  – IT Specialist
  – Accountant
  – Staff

• Tasks
  – Contracting CT, Observers
  – Offices, Accommodation
  – Travels
  – Briefings
  – Office Equipments
  – Communication Equipments
  – Transports (4x4, cars, …)
  – Observers Kits
  – Security
  – Visibility
  – Reporting
OBSERVERS

- Volunteers
- Requested by Commission Services
- Proposed by Member States Focal Points (Dpt Foreign Affairs)
- Selected by Commission services via Roster
- Long Term Observers (LTOs) +/- 2 months
- Short Term Observers (STOs) +/- 10 days
- Local STOs: 1 day
- Note: LSTOs
- Note: EP Delegation Observers
Long Term Observer (LTO)

Main Tasks:
- Contacts with Local Actors
- Prepare local Deployment Plan
- Report (weekly) on pre-election background
- E-day: Observe, coordinate STOs, report
- Report on post-election background
- Evaluation of STOs

Duties
- EU Code of Conduct
- Follow CT guidelines

Equipment
- Laptop, communication, personnel kits, visibility...

Insurance
- Medical expenses
- Accident/Death
- Evacuation
Short Term Observer

- **Main Task**: Report on E-Day (10 to 15 polling stations)
- **Duties**: EU Code of Conduct
  Security Measures
- **Duration**: +/- 10 days
- **Equipment**: IT – Communication – Visibility – Medical Kit – Info Kit
- **Insurance**: Medical Expenses
  Accidents/Death
  Repatriation
Selection Procedures

• Announcement to MS via Roster:
  – Country, election, deployment dates
  – LTOs and STOs numbers requested per country – priority ranking
  – Profile
    • Language
    • Experience
    • Training
    • Specific conditions

• Selection Committee (AIDCO, RELEX, DEV)
  – CV analysis
  – Balance between nationalities, gender, experience, age,…

• Results publication via Roster
  – Selected
  – Reserve List
  – Non selected

• Information to Implementing Partner
Mission output

• 1-3 days after election: EU EOM Preliminary Statement
• Possibly followed up by EU Member States / Presidency Declaration
• 1-2 months after final results: a comprehensive EU EOM Final Report, which is presented to the authorities during RETURN MISSION
Final Report

- Usually issued approximately one to two months after an election (return mission)

- Includes detailed comment on all aspects of the electoral process and recommendations to improve the process

- Increasingly important document in terms of follow-up
Press - Commission expectations

• Election Observation Missions are one of our most effective instruments in supporting democratic processes.

• Commissioner Ferrero-Waldner has made election observation one of her priorities as Commissioner.

• She personally selects chief observers and follows closely the mission's work and results.
Brussels level

- **What do we do in Brussels?**
  - Press release announcing the mission. When core team is deployed. Draft needs to be received at least 3 working days before publication date.
  - Coordination with other observers, UN agencies etc
  - Regular contacts between Commissioner and CO, prior, during and after mission
  - Statement by Commissioner Ferrero-Waldner - and Michel, depending on the country - after official election results are made public.
- Mission follow up: return mission and assistance programming; lessons learned seminars etc