



Conflict Management Panels (CMP).

EISA Model

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Introduction.

-EISA has set up a prevention and management mechanism inspired by African social and cultural practices, which nevertheless adheres to the regulatory and legal framework, for the organisation of elections.

-The classic mechanisms (courts and tribunals) would be too elitist and rigid, and would therefore have limited scope, unless alternative mechanisms.

-The **EISA MODEL** is one of the responses. The panels or units for the mediation in electoral conflicts are a model for electoral conflict management involving local communities

I. OBJECTIVES OF THE CMP

The panels for the mediation of electoral conflicts intend:

- to look into the nature and origin of virtual or actual electoral conflicts;
- to build the capacity of the IEC to ensure free and transparent elections in a peaceful environment;
- to encourage high voter participation by establishing a friendly atmosphere;
- to resolve conflicts through mediation, facilitation and arbitration;

- to function as an early warning mechanism for potential conflicts for the benefit of the IEC and electoral stakeholders;
- to involve the populations of all social strata in the effort to bring about peace and resolve conflicts;
- to compile statistics and databases on the type and nature of conflicts, on “conflictogene” agents, on zones prone to the recurrence of conflict;
- to bear in mind that elections must after all be a healthy competition and a reconciliation and to fully inform the populations of the need to avoid risks of violence.

II. HOW DOES IT WORK?

1 : Training material

-The training manuals use illustrations, anecdotes, tales and stories of the country, so that the mediators who are trained become familiar with the techniques described.

-The training manuals focuses on the knowledge of the electoral practice and the electoral legal framework of the country.

2 : Consultative meetings and constitution of panels

A mediation panel could for instance include:

- a representative from the main ethnic groups of a locality;
- a women's representative;
- a youth representative;
- a traditional leader;
- a religious leader;
- a representative of NGOs for human rights;
- a trade union representative;
- a representative of employers;
- etc.

3 : Training of mediators

- *Train the Trainers*
- Training of mediators
- Deployment

III. METHODOLOGY.

3.1. Reports.

-“Reports” refer to linguistic modes of transmitting activity results. But this does not mean that it necessarily involves written documents. As mediators come from all social strata and may not be able to read or write, reports may be verbal accounts or telephone discussions. Modern means of communication may also be added (SMS, E-mail, fax, radio, etc.).

3.2. Approach

The EISA MODEL is an active model, which is why mediators are not restricted to the role of observing conflicts during the electoral period, but are also **proactive** in preventing these conflicts.

3.3. Principles

The principle of our methodology is therefore to speak to one another, to arrive at agreements and to understand one another through mediation, arbitration and facilitation. The model does not claim to replace the legal system and to dispense justice; its principle is to encourage litigants to proceed peacefully to the courts and if possible to eliminate misunderstandings before going to court if necessary.

3.4 Volunteering

3.5. Relations with the Political Parties

3.6. The role of the IEC

IV. SUSTAINABILITY

Mediation activity on the whole, in addition to all the implications detailed in the chapters above, also enables populations to take charge of their destiny and to avoid risks of violence and political manipulations.

But beyond the elections, as it has been proved, the skill that mediators acquire in managing electoral conflicts in a deleterious, risky and effervescent atmosphere gives them the ability to intervene in everyday social conflicts: land disputes, conflicts between communities, domestic quarrels, etc.



Conclusion

