“Is a code of conduct (CoC) sufficient to ensure that political parties and candidates abide to an electoral contest?”

NO. It depends on how it is...

- produced before the elections.
- used during the elections.
- used to engage throughout the electoral cycle.
Electoral processes:

- System level: structure, legal, formal, playing field & their rules.

Political party support (NIMD):

- Behavior level: culture, moral, informal, individuals & their ... conduct.
EXPANDING THE MANDATE: SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITY
More ‘people-work’

• From “Free & Fair” to ”Genuine & Credible”.

• An expansion of mandate: from Structure to Culture.

• Recalibrate Impartiality & Neutrality: from ‘equal distance’ and ‘non-engagement’ to engagement.

• 3 examples of PP Relations management: TRUST
  – Codes of Conduct
  – Expectation management
  – Programmatic parties
PROCESS:

- **Co-created** with parties (don’t offer a international community pre-made standard) as such **locally owned** by parties.
- Part of a CoC for **all stakeholders** (not only parties).

CONTENT:

- One role of a CoC is to refer to **law** (reminder, checklist) and generally refer to **universal principals and ideas**.
- But think of **incentives**: explain what benefit CoC’s have for parties. So allow **negotiation**. Agree on **practical** arrangements.

ENFORCEMENT?:

- Stimulate self- or co-owned **monitoring** and even real-life **resolution** mechanisms.
- **NO legal penalty. CoC ≠ LAW. It’s a Moral instrument.**
Signing of Memorandum of Understanding
for the inter-party organization for dialogue in Uganda
MANAGING UNREALISTIC (OPPOSITIONAL) EXPECTATIONS: ‘YOU WON’T WIN 100%.’

BEFORE ELECTIONS:
• Briefing (neutral, factual) on system, votes per seats, citizens per region, etc. to hint to strategizing campaign objectives.

DURING ELECTIONS:
• Regular briefing, agreement on announcement procedures.

POST-ELECTION:
• Healing wounds sessions: shared analyses + room to vent frustration + self- & peer-evaluation.

(Obviously difficult in too-close-to-call situations)
• How genuine & credible are elections when...

  - there is no difference between parties (no choice for voters)?
  - based on positions & platforms (programmatic parties)?

• Use EMB voter education mandate to stimulate and support parties to present themselves more programmatically.

• (Which in turn is a strategy for less personalized and less violent politics).
3 EXAMPLES: PROGRAMMATIC COMPARISON: VOTER INFORMATION

3. Programmatic parties (Ecuador, Bolivia, Malawi, Georgia, Peru)
• Start long before elections, work throughout the electoral cycle

• Interparty Dialogue platforms
  – by iNGO’s (like NIMD)
  – locals CSO’s or NGO’s
  – Parties-founded and owned Centres for Multiparty Democracy (CMD’s)
  – EMB
  – forum of Registrar for Political Parties
  – Parliamentary arrangement
  – Other

IMPLEMENTING BODY
EMB or other entity?
Thank you

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