European Commission
United Nations Development Programme
International IDEA

Management of Electoral Results

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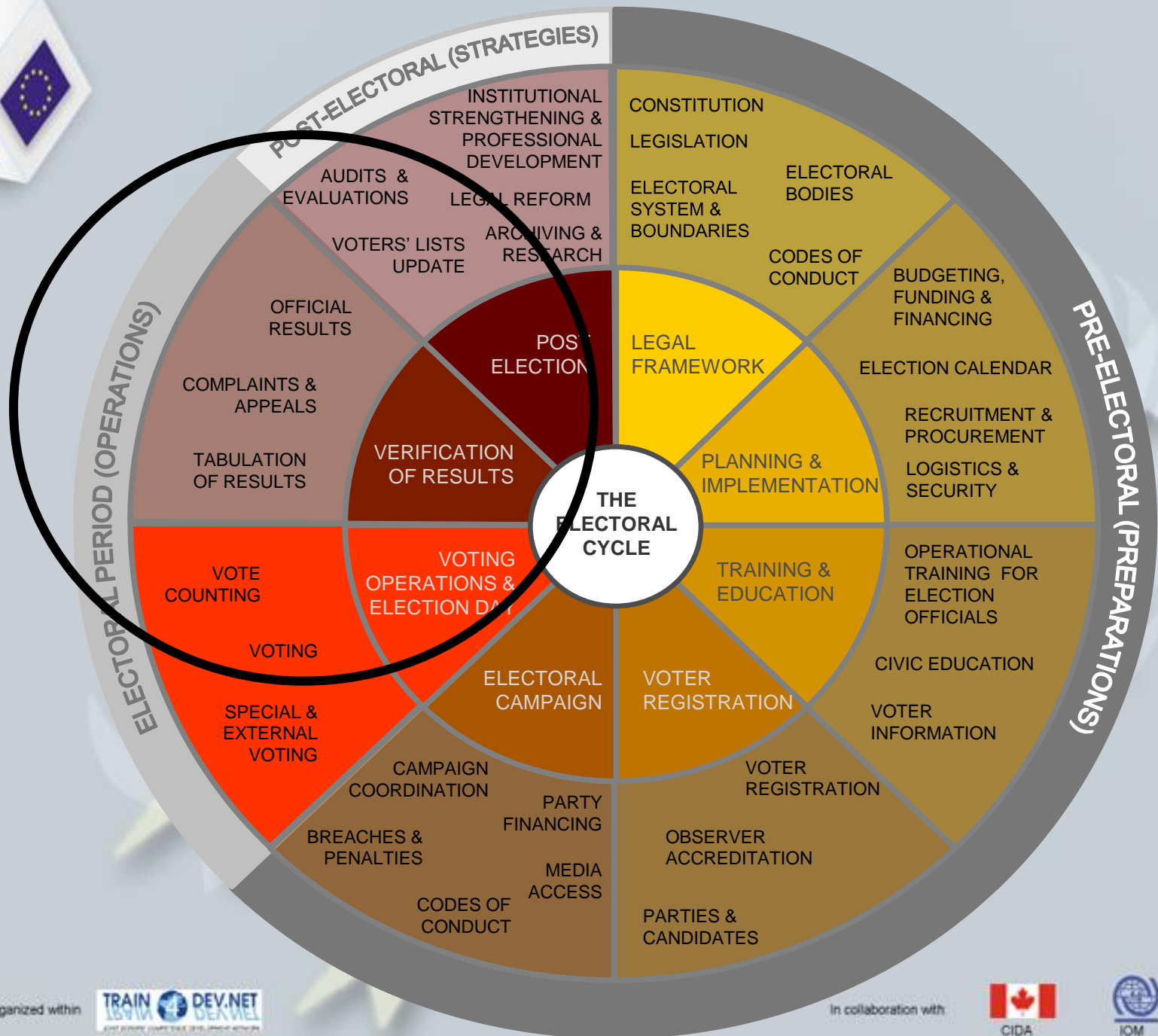
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Joint Training on Effective Electoral Assistance
Brussels, 1-5 December 2008

THE ELECTORAL CYCLE

PRE-ELECTORAL (PREPARATIONS)
- CONSTITUTION
- LEGISLATION
- ELECTORAL SYSTEM & BOUNDARIES
- ELECTORAL BODIES
- CODES OF CONDUCT
- BUDGETING, FUNDING & FINANCING
- ELECTION CALENDAR
- RECRUITMENT & PROCUREMENT
- LOGISTICS & SECURITY
- OPERATIONAL TRAINING FOR ELECTION OFFICIALS
- CIVIC EDUCATION
- VOTER INFORMATION
- VOTER REGISTRATION
- OBSERVER ACCREDITATION
- PARTIES & CANDIDATES

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

PLANNING & IMPLEMENTATION

TRAINING & EDUCATION

VOTER REGISTRATION

ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN
- CAMPAIGN COORDINATION
- PARTY FINANCING
- MEDIA ACCESS
- CODES OF CONDUCT
- BREACHES & PENALTIES

ELECTORAL PERIOD (OPERATIONS)
- VOTE COUNTING
- VOTING
- SPECIAL & EXTERNAL VOTING
- VOTING OPERATIONS & ELECTION DAY
- TABULATION OF RESULTS
- COMPLAINTS & APPEALS
- OFFICIAL RESULTS
- VERIFICATION OF RESULTS

POST ELECTION

POST-ELECTORAL (STRATEGIES)
- VOTERS' LISTS UPDATE
- AUDITS & EVALUATIONS
- INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
- LEGAL REFORM
- ARCHIVING & RESEARCH

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- **It spans from the counting and announcement of results at the polling station level to the final allocation of the seats announced by the designated authority**

- **In the middle, a number of other delicate and often controversial steps that require transparency, expediency and effectiveness.**

- **Aggregation of the results at various intermediate levels**

- **National aggregation and the announcement of preliminary results by the EMB**
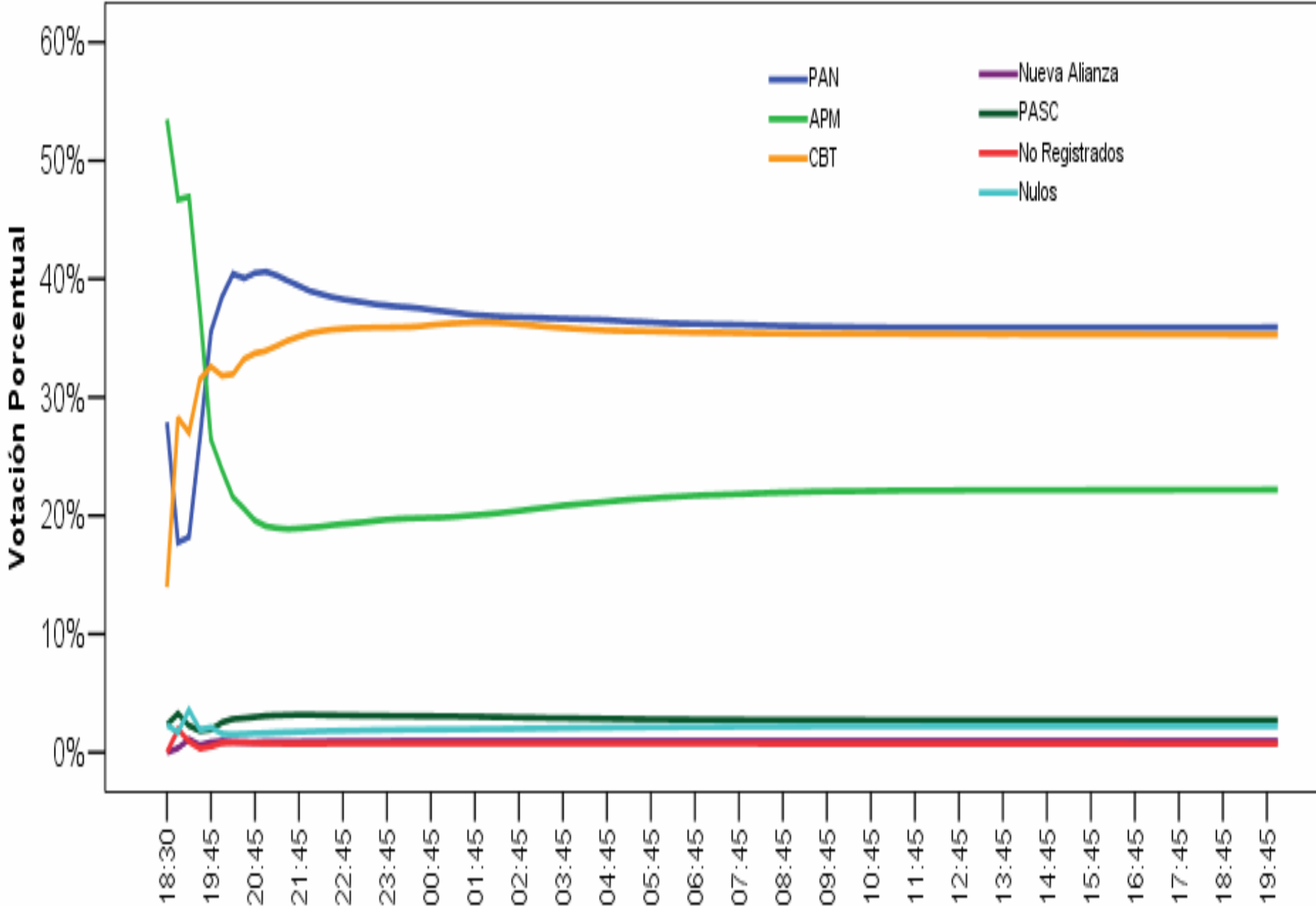
- **Final announcement of results by EMB or other delegated authority**

- **The credibility of the entire electoral event might depend on how these activities are dealt with**

- **Even without any political interference or bias, a poorly managed result verification exercise will create undue suspicions and can impact negatively the elections**

- **In post-conflict cases, the managing of results represents often the most sensitive stage, especially if there is no time to ensure proper transparency of all the steps**

- **The key challenge – balance accuracy with speed, and transparency**

- Fraud and manipulation of result tabulation

- Poor technical management (e.g. technology failure; data capturing; admin errors)

- Lack of understanding of electoral system and results aggregation system

- Unrealistic expectations from all stakeholders (incl EMB) esp. with introduction of new technology PROOF of development

- Biased, unclear or inadequate complaints and appeals procedures

- Kenya – A not so strong and functional EMB, with very limited control on local branches and on the hiring of polling staff

- "Grossly defective data collation, transmission and tallying" and "….lack of adequate staff selection and training, public relations and dispute resolution" (*IREC Final Report*)

- UNDP Project offered assistance for the results management centre, declined by the ECK

- **Legal, regulatory and procedural framework**

- **Procurement and security issues**

- **Software design and management**

- **Internal and external testing and verification**

- **Responsiveness to complaints and concerns**

- **Embedding transparency whilst maintaining confidentiality**

- **Serves the purpose of highlighting the overall efforts made by the EMB to organize the elections**

- **It obliges the EMB to adopt adequate transparency measures to show the national aggregation**

- **Data-entry of polling station results at the district level and immediate transmission to a national processing centre**

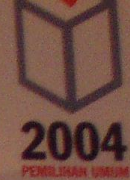- **National aggregation in full sight of observers, political parties and media**

- **Education of all stakeholders to de-mystify the results compilation process**

- **Parallel Vote Tabulation**

- **Sample-Based Quick count**

- **Exit Polls**