



**European Commission  
United Nations Development Programme  
International IDEA**

*In collaboration with*

**International Organization for Migration  
Canadian International Development Agency  
Organization of American States**

***Joint Workshop on Effective Electoral Assistance***

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***Post Electoral Period and Sustainability of Electoral Assistance***

***Accra, Ghana, 29 June – 3 July 2009***

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# Presentation

**Post Electoral Period and Electoral Cycle Approach**

**Challenges and New Approach**

**Meaning of Sustainability**

**Support to Event VS Electoral Cycle Approach**

**Activities**

**Inhibitors and Possibilities**

**Pillars of Sustainability**

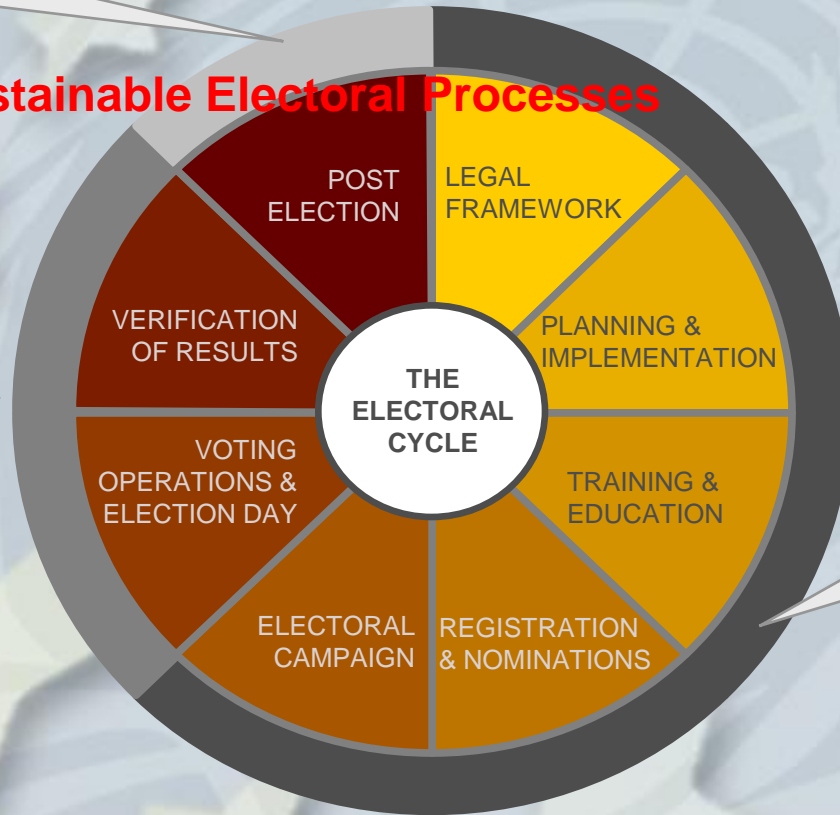
**Way Forward**



# The electoral cycle

three main segments

## Sustainable Electoral Processes



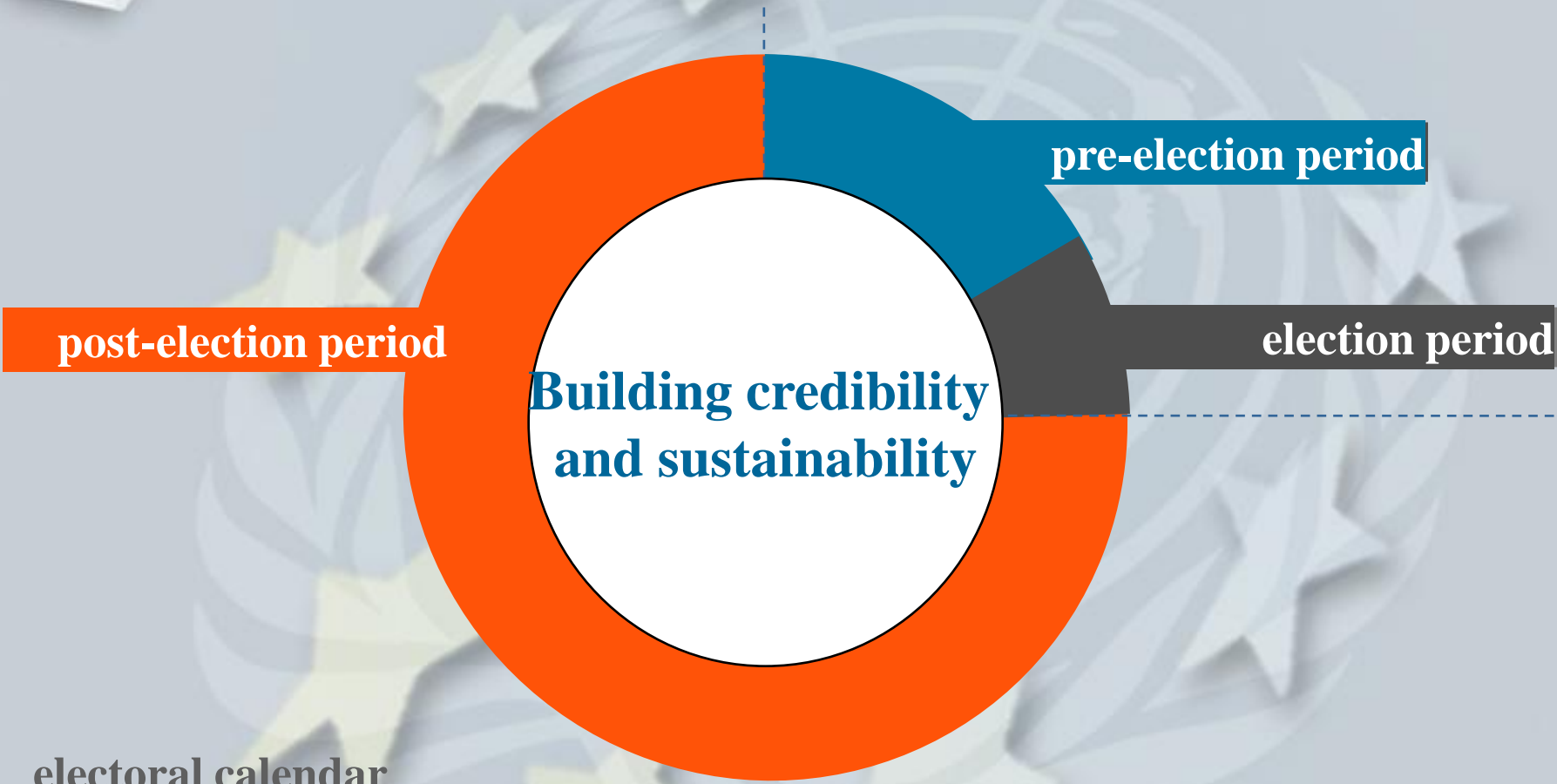
post-election period (strategy)

Electoral Period (operations)

Pre-electoral period (preparations)



# Post-electoral period



electoral calendar

~ 3 years

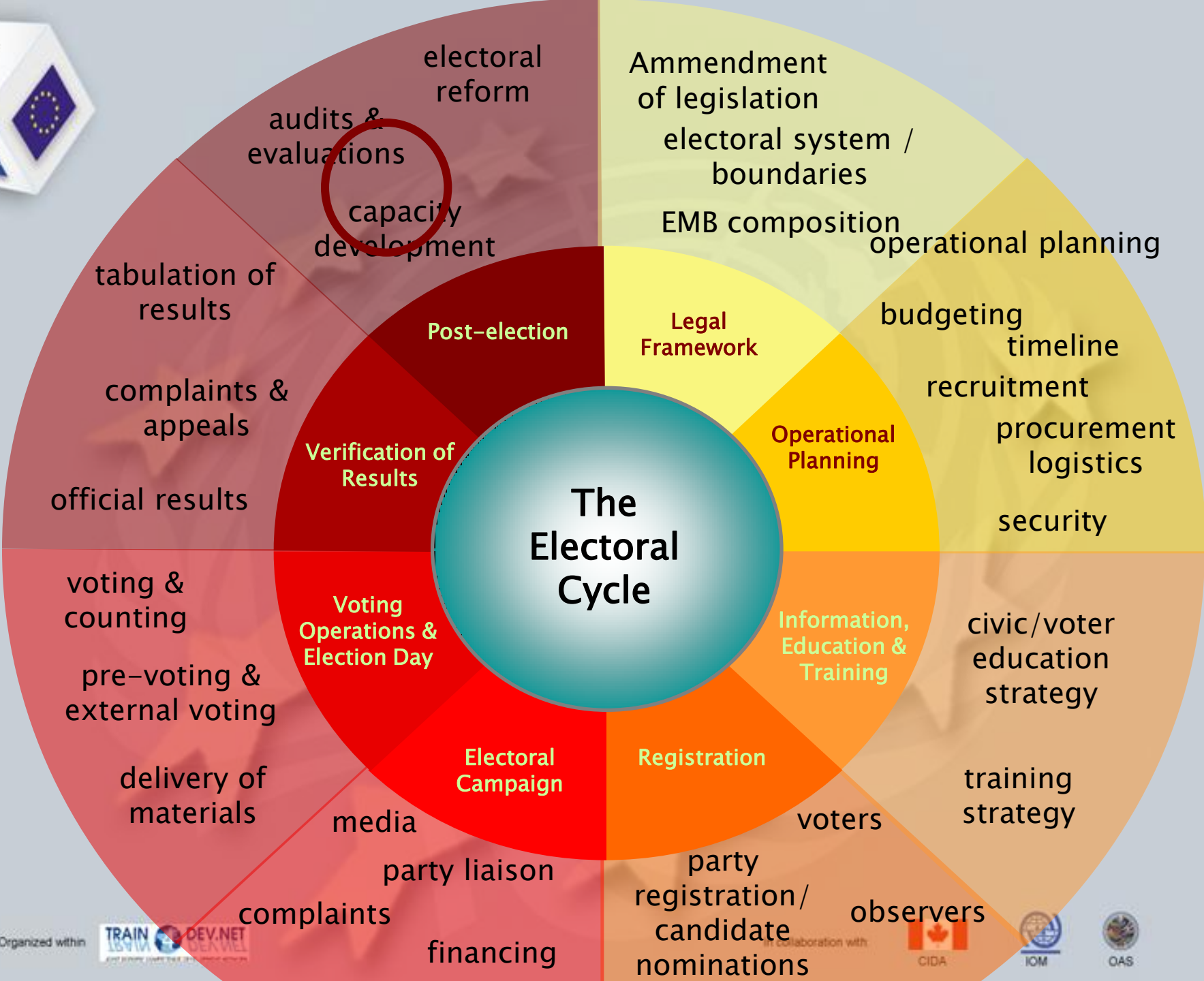


Organized with **TRAIN** **EUROPEAN NETWORK** **electoral event**

In collaboration with **CIDA** **UN** **OAS** **electoral event**



# The Electoral Cycle





# Challenges New Approach

Some new internationally assisted election systems are building local capacity and electability and processes sustainable cost-effective and exploitation isn't too big difficult for a national EMB to continue/meet.

Unfortunately this is a consequence of the event-driven support, focusing primarily on election day.





# What do we mean by sustainability?

Sustainability refers to electoral policies and practices which are:

1. cost-effective and realistic; and
2. meet the needs of stakeholders both now and in the future

**Sustainability aims to minimize reliance on external inputs and resources**



# *Sustainability*



**One of the central goals is to make international electoral assistance redundant by building locally owned capacity and by making EMBs and electoral processes and practices sustainable in the long run**

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# Support to electoral event

*what could the consequences be if no follow-up assistance is provided during the post-election period?*

## PERIOD “IN BETWEEN ELECTIONS”

loss of capacity and know-how

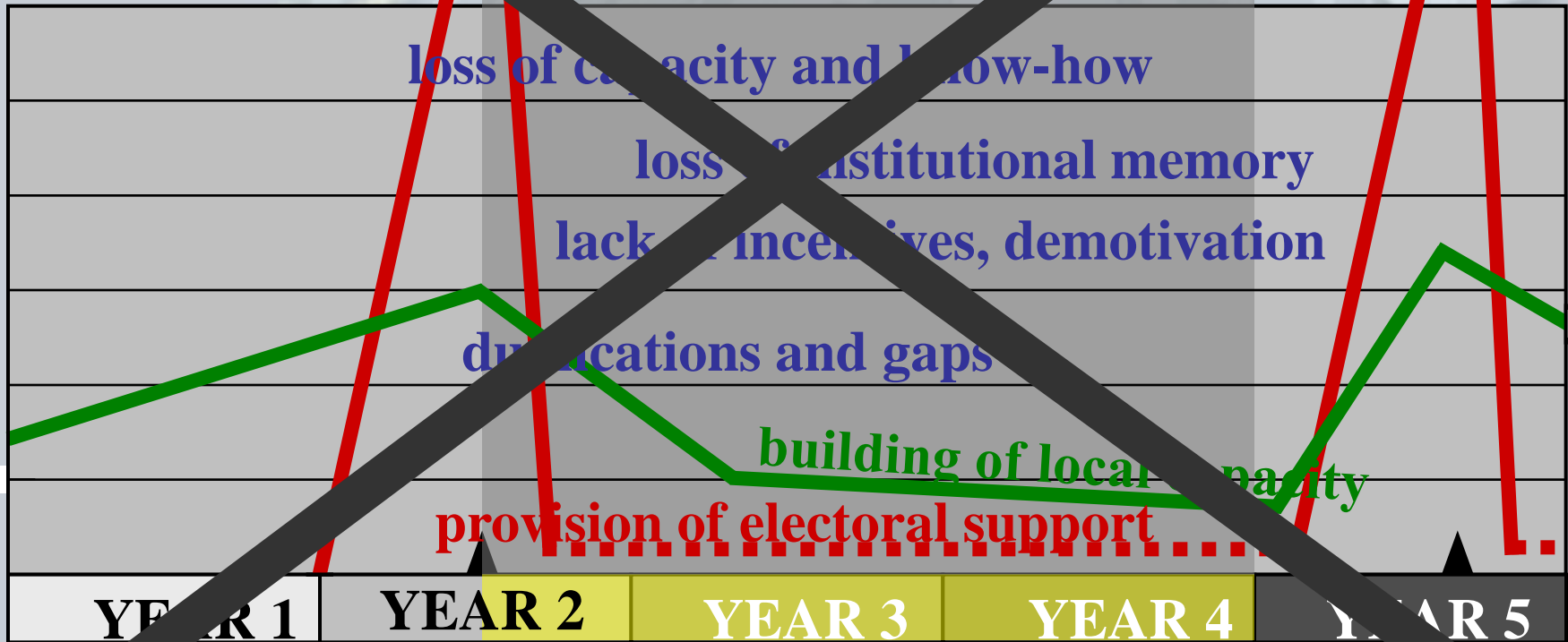
loss of institutional memory

lack of incentives, demotivation

duplications and gaps

building of local capacity

provision of electoral support



elections

elections



# what actions can be taken in the period between elections?

**learning from evaluation,  
observer recommendations**

**needs assessment,  
technical evaluation  
and audits**

**development partner  
coordination**

**institution strengthening  
& capacity development  
programmes**

**updating voters' register  
archiving materials,  
documenting processes**

**upgrade or  
re-use  
technology**

**dialogue and  
stakeholder  
consultation**

**parliamentary support,  
legal reform**

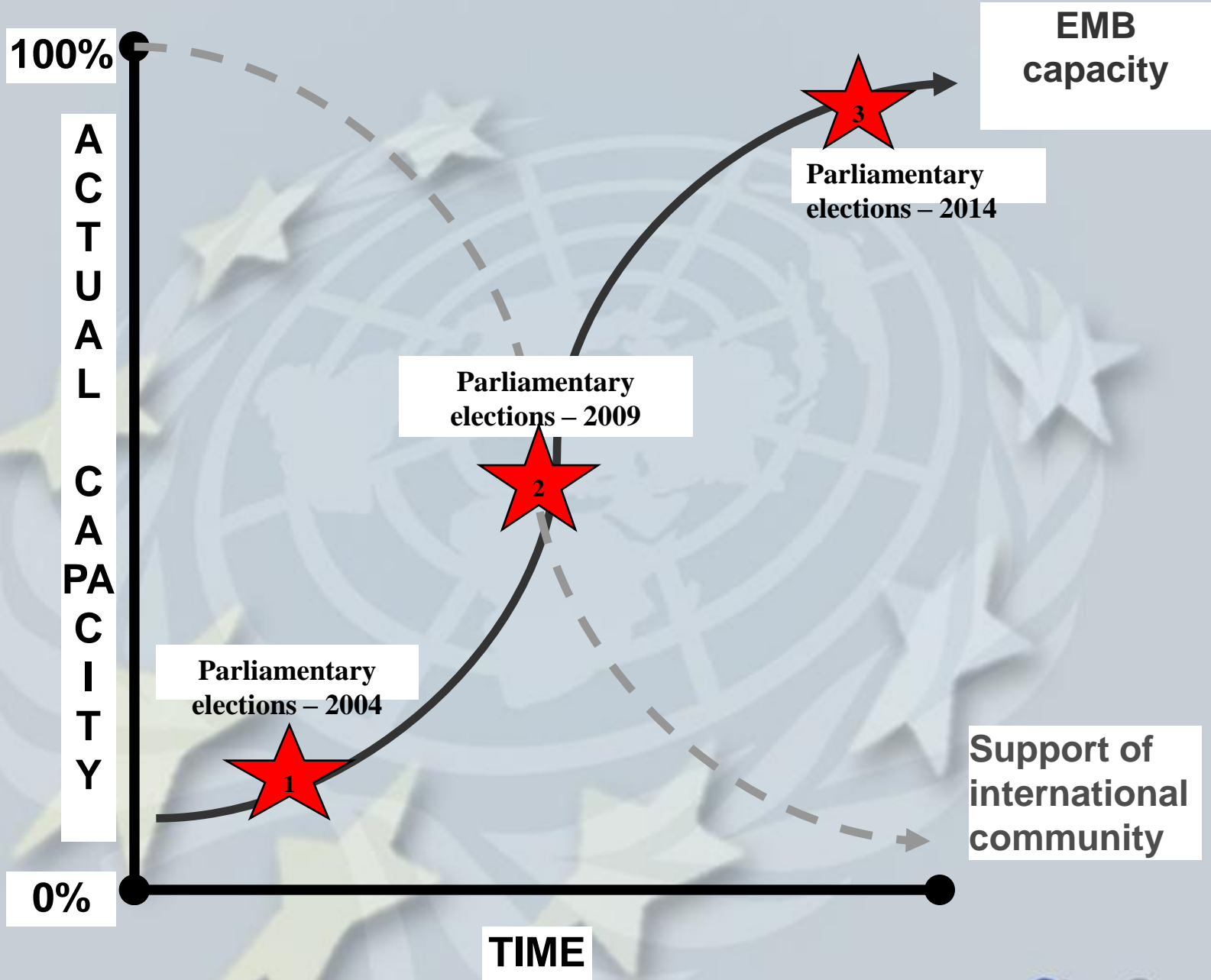
**civic  
education  
programmes**

**peer review**

**regional networks, peer support,  
exchange programs**

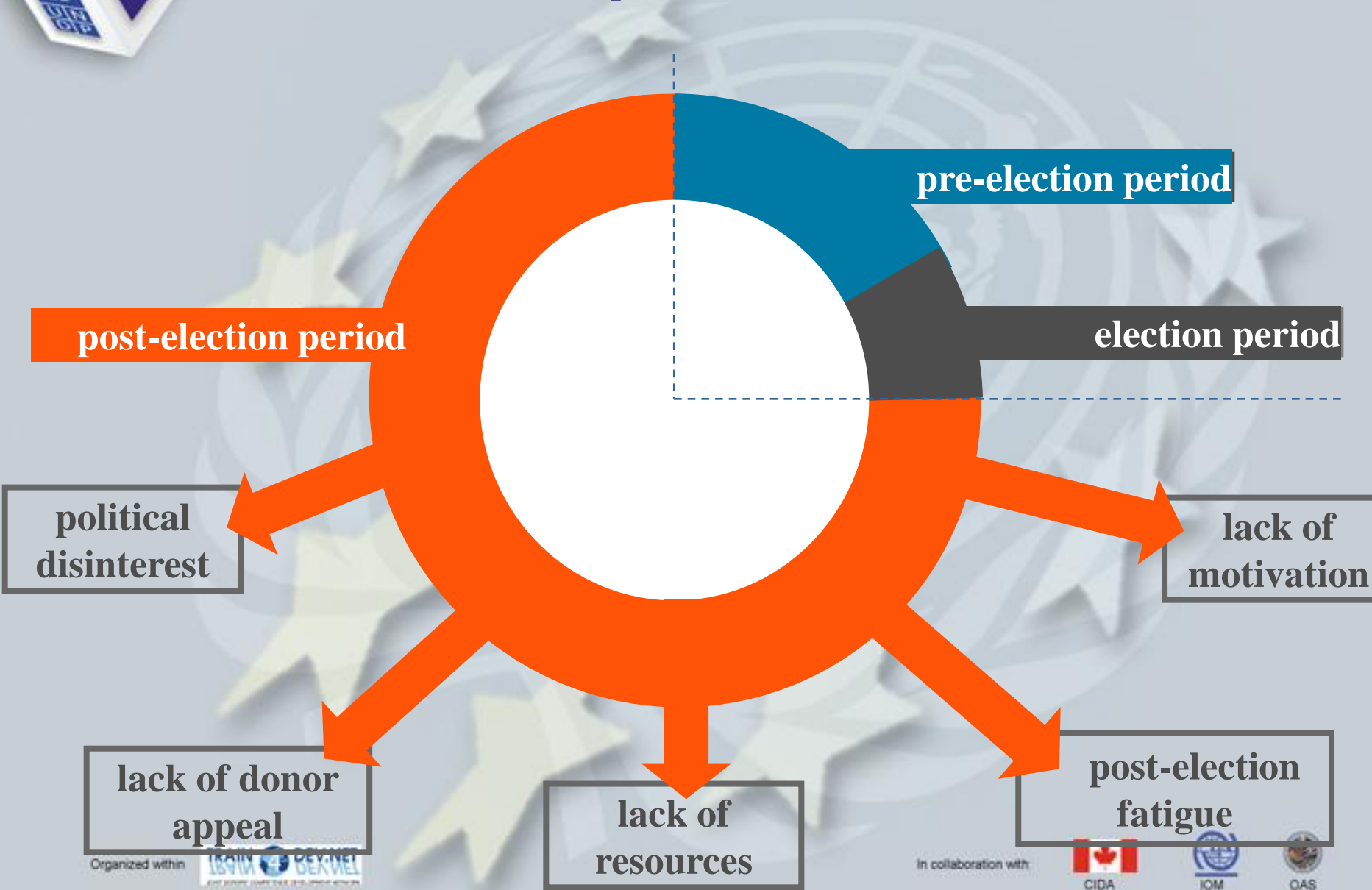
**elections**

**elections**

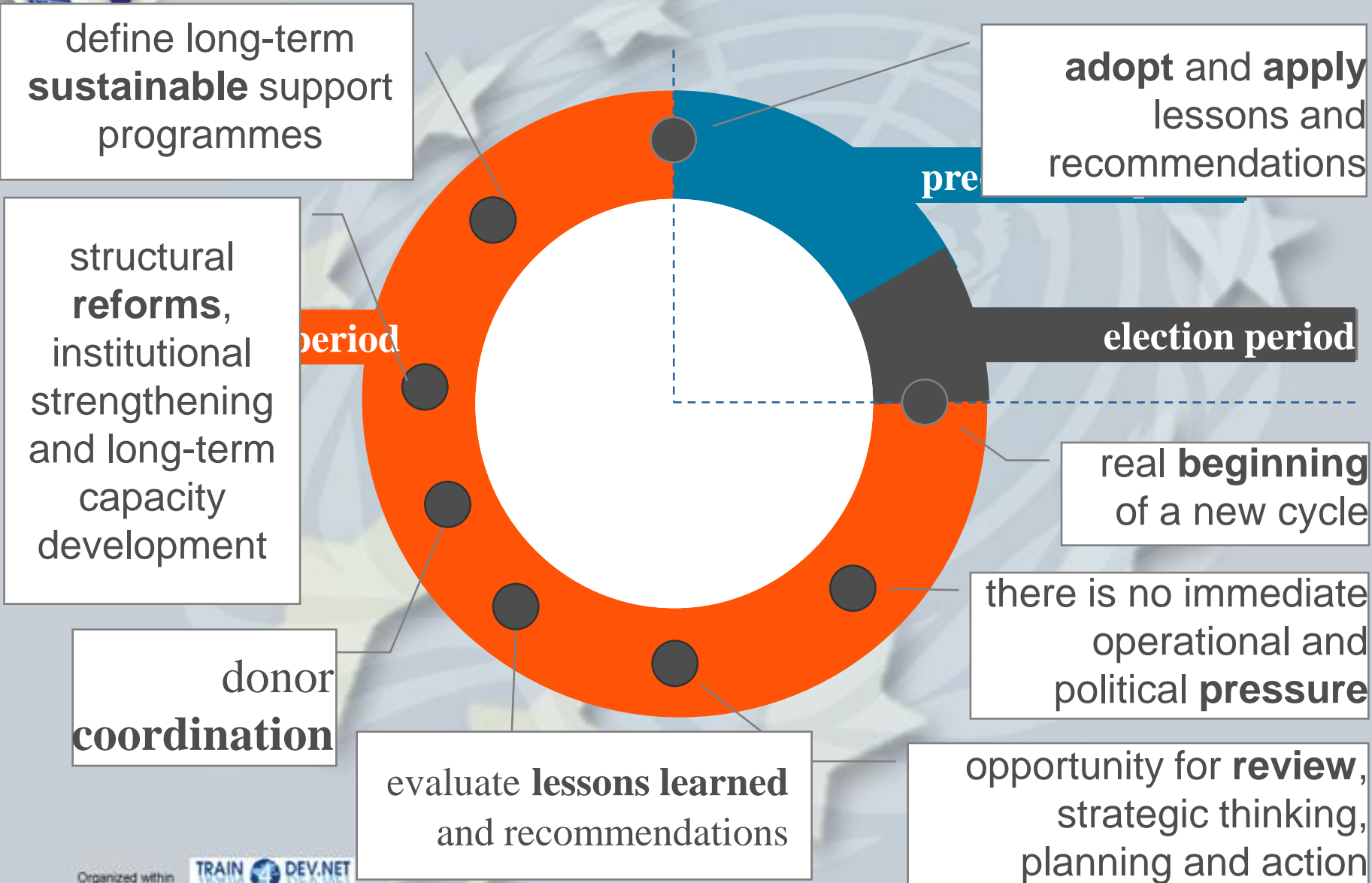




# Inhibitors for the post-election period



# Possibilities of the post-election period

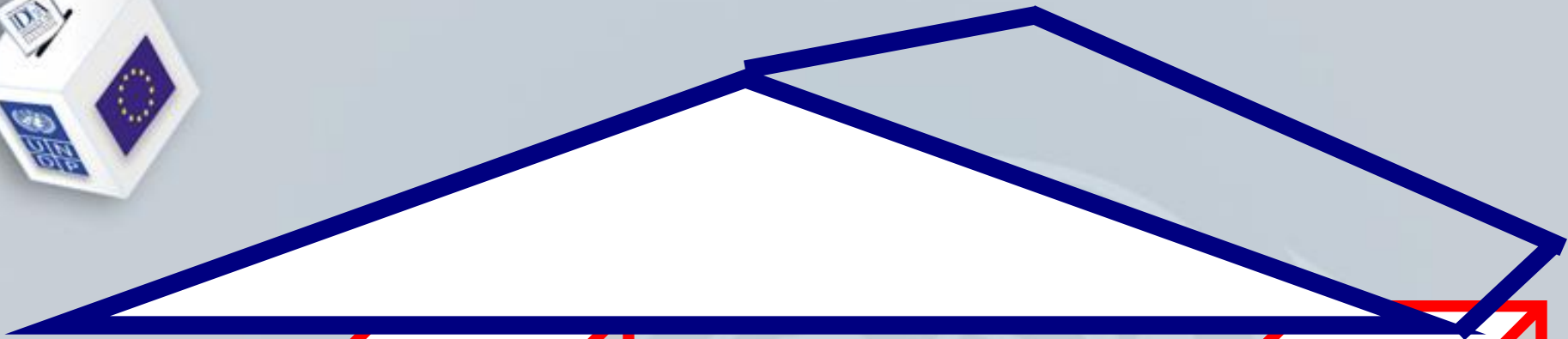




***Institutional  
sustainability***

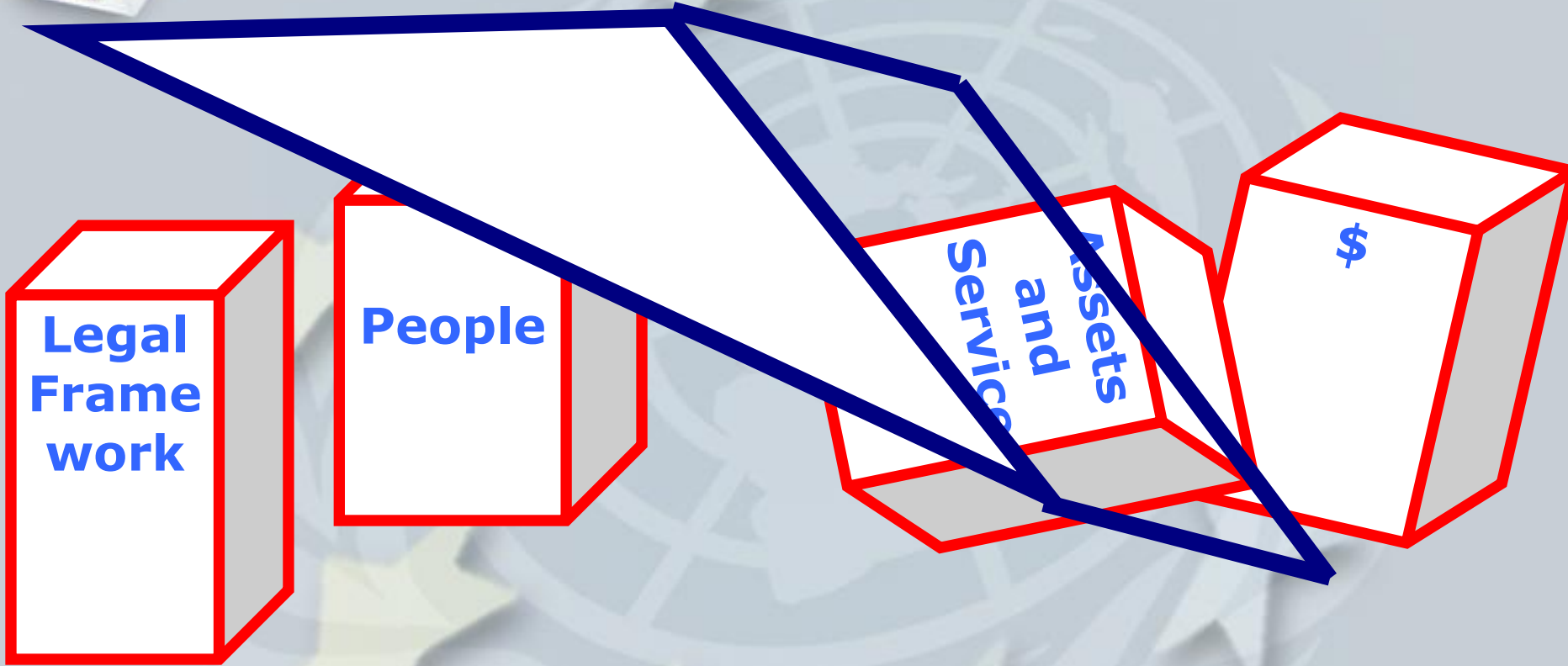
***Financial  
sustainability***

***Human resource  
sustainability***



The institution and the electoral processes should be able to survive political, social and monetary pressures.....

# Pillars of Sustainability



**...and not be built like a house of cards**

**the post-election period offers the opportunity to provide sustainable support that lasts throughout the electoral cycle**

***an easy choice..***

**need to move away from the notion of ad-hoc assistance**

**need to ensure continuity of assistance during the post-election period**

**need to plan support through a process of *thinking ahead*, rather than reacting to each electoral event as it occurs**

**need to pay more attention on role and functions of an EMB outside the immediate urgency of a specific electoral event**

**need to support electoral processes and institutions in the context of democratic governance focusing especially on parliament, media and civil society. Increase, support south-south cooperation and regional organizations of EMBs also via regional projects**

