Peer to peer electoral assistance:
The role of EMBs and Elections Canada’s experience

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Overview

- EMBs’ key competencies and good practices
- Peer-to-peer electoral assistance
- Elections Canada’s recent international assistance activities
The role of EMBs

- Elections: intersection between politics and public administration

- Key competencies of EMBs:
  - Preparing and delivering elections: technical electoral expertise
  - Managing relationships with political stakeholders
  - Public administration
Good practices for effective EMBs

• No single model

• EMB good practices:
  ▪ permanent body with clear legal status
  ▪ independent and impartial (may include political party representation)
  ▪ professional staff
  ▪ transparency and accountability
Existing EMBs as resources for assistance

• Repository of knowledge and experience

• Repository of tested frameworks, practices, policies, procedures and tools
EMBs: peer-to-peer assistance

Key advantages:

1. Highly specialized expertise
2. Climate of trust
3. Credibility
4. Long-term approach (*election cycle approach*)
EMBs: peer-to-peer assistance (2)

- Ways to deliver peer-to-peer assistance
  - Bilaterally
  - Multilaterally through international events
  - Multilaterally with international organisations
- Complementarity
Elections Canada’s International Activities Since 2000
Elections Canada’s approach

• Accompaniment for longer-term international electoral support:
  
  ▪ **Aim:** sustainability of democratic electoral processes
  
  ▪ **Focus:** building institutional capacity of national EMBs
  
  ▪ **Emphasis:** longer-term support, in-depth analyses, peer reviews
What we have done

1. Monitoring & Evaluation: expert assessment, long-term support to EMBs, deployment of short- and long-term observers

2. Technical assistance missions

3. Delegations to Elections Canada:
   i. Electoral authorities
   ii. Heads of State, parliamentarians, political party representatives, journalists, civil society

4. Exchanges of electoral knowledge & experience

5. Polling day visitors programs & study trips
What we have done

1. Expert assessment, long-term support to EMBs, deployment of short- and long-term observers
   - Independence
   - Peer review
   - In-depth assessment
What we have done

2. Technical assistance missions:

- pre-election assessment
- technical advice
- training, and
- provision of election materials
What we have done

3. Delegations to Elections Canada:
   i. Electoral authorities
   ii. Heads of State, parliamentarians, political party representatives, journalists, civil society

- Training tailored to visiting delegation needs:
  - The Canadian electoral system
  - Democratic governance matters
What we have done

4. Exchanges of electoral knowledge & experience

- Participation in international conferences, seminars, workshops, etc…
- Share experiences, lessons learned and best practises
What we have done

5. Polling day visitors programs & study trips

- Professional exchanges as elections are carried out
- Understanding of country contexts and challenges
Effective Collaboration

• ACE Electoral Knowledge Network
  • Partner since 1997
  • International launch of ACE II – May 2006 (Ottawa)
Conclusion: where we are going

- Strategic partnerships
- Directions for future collaboration