ELECTORAL ASSISTANCE AND WIDER DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE SUPPORT

Linkages between support for democratic governance and electoral processes
ON DEMOCRACY:
• It is an “Unfinished Journey” as John Dunn says
• It is not an event, but uneven and non-linear process
• It requires consolidation, deepening and maturation of institutions, political arrangements and practices
• Likelihood of stagnation or reversal – without close monitoring, watchfulness, etc
Setting the Context

ELECTIONS AND THE ELECTORAL PROCESSES

• Elections are inadequate for democracy: they can occur without democracy, but democracy is impossible without elections
• Elections fulfill key democratic requirement for participation and popular selection of rulers
• Elections are episodic – periodic events – but electoral processes are continuous, unbroken chain of events leading to elections
• Just like democracy, electoral process is “unfinished journey” that requires consolidation, deepening and maturation.
Elections and Electoral Processes – continued

• Elections – the most challenging episodes in the democratic journey, even in advanced democracies; challenges are acute in emerging democracies: “weak state” theories, factional (ethnic) politics, politics of exclusion, etc

• Badly managed or disputed elections lead to post-election conflicts and at times civil wars.
Interactions between Electoral Processes and Democratic Governance support

- Nexus between elections and democratic governance: “good” elections facilitate peaceful and sturdier democratic journey; “bad” elections stagnate or reverse the journey
- Democratic governance and good elections are mutually inclusive; one should not be advanced without the other
Electoral Assistance and Emerging Democracies

Tentative Categorizations of Emerging Democracies: Avoiding “one size fits all”

• Build/Rebuild (transitional) : post-authoritarian, post conflict, e.g., Guinea-Conakry, Liberia, CI

• Consolidating: Weak institutions, bad elections, e.g., Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Kenya

• Deepening: successful multiple elections, general credibility, e.g., Ghana, Tanzania, Botswana, South Africa
Electoral Assistance and Democratic Governance Support

KEY ISSUE: How to link EA to Wider DGS

• Assessment (NAM) should take into account the prevailing “democratic context” and apply the EA appropriately

• Redefine EA in broader terms, within the context of a country’s democratic development framework

• EA should extend beyond EMBs to include other stakeholders, CSOs, political parties, legislature

• EA should not be episodic but aligned with the democratic “journey”
Electoral Assistance and Democratic Governance Support - continued

KEY ROLE FOR UNDP COUNTRY OFFICE

• CO – initiate formalized framework for building, consolidating, deepening democracy
• Framework as Comprehensive Package for both advancing democracy and DGS
• DGS – not limited to EA (EC/UNDPA/UNDP)
• Pool “Basket” Funding – DPs, UNPBF, UNDTTF
• Accentuate Local Ownership
EXAMPLE:
Deepening Democracy in Tanzania

A 5-year multi-donor “basket” ($12m) support for deepening democracy focuses on:

• Accountable Governance (Parliament and political parties)
• Electoral Management Bodies, Electoral System and Electoral Processes
• Institutionalized Civic Education
• Civil Society and the Media
• The APRM process

DDTP basis for NAM for 2010 elections; EA designed to advance democratic governance
CONCLUSIONS

• The concept of EA should be broadened beyond EMBs
• Avoid episodic EA; link to the long-term goal to achieve democratic governance
• EA and DGS should be designed in accordance with existing democratic context
• A comprehensive framework for advancing democratic governance is essential (TZ example)
• Pooled Funding could be better mechanism