



European Commission United Nations Development Programme International IDEA

***Joint Training on
Effective Electoral Assistance***

DAY 2

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Domestic Observation

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Domestic Observation/Background

- ✓ Increasingly important since 1990
- ✓ Can be single groups or coalitions
- ✓ Can put their lives on the line
- ✓ Can focus on whole election process or elements of election process
- ✓ Generally built around large scale mobilisation of volunteers
- ✓ May also be involved in civic and voter education
- ✓ Increasingly receiving significant attention by media, domestic stakeholders and international community



Domestic Observation/Strengths

- ✓ Often mobilise thousands of observers and have very large coverage of polling stations
- ✓ Day to day knowledge of the political, electoral and cultural situations
- ✓ Knowledge of local languages
- ✓ Can observe on a permanent or long term basis
- ✓ Can have greater legitimacy than international observers
- ✓ Can be at the cutting edge of election observation
- ✓ Can play a role in advocating improvement to the framework and conditions for elections



Domestic Observation/Weaknesses

- ✓ Observers can be poorly trained and not very attentive
- ✓ Knowledge and application of methodology and standards can be poor
- ✓ Reporting can be unfocused and lacking rigour
- ✓ Can struggle to be seen as independent
- ✓ Can struggle to get significant attention, particularly if international observers are present



Domestic Observation/Key Challenges

- ✓ Long term aim should be to replace international observation
- ✓ Improve training of observers and increase networking among observer groups
- ✓ Improve knowledge of and use of methodology and standards
- ✓ Improve reporting, particularly preliminary statements
- ✓ Increase capacity to advocate for improvement to election conditions and follow-up on recommendations
- ✓ Make greater use of technology such as SMS
- ✓ Increase liaison between international and domestic observers