



# Group Discussions





# DEFINITION OF AN EMB

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**An EMB is an organization or body which has the sole purpose of, and is legally responsible for, managing **some or all** of the elements that are ***essential*** for the conduct of elections.**



# QUESTION 1

- **Should all electoral tasks/elements be concentrated to the EMB or should some tasks be allocated to supporting institutions? If yes, which and why?**
- **What are the advantages/disadvantages of distributing electoral tasks to institutions other than the EMB?**



# **Some elements/functions that need to be undertaken**

- Accreditation and regulation of the conduct of election observers
- Voter and civic education and information
- Determining who is eligible to vote
- Receiving and validating the nominations of electoral participants
- Regulating the conduct of the media during elections
- Conducting polling
- Regulating opinion polls
- Announcement and certification of election results
- Counting the votes
- Regulation of party finance
- Boundary delimitation
- Tabulating the votes
- Regulating the conduct of political parties and candidates
- Voter registration
- Registration of political parties and candidates
- Electoral dispute resolution (adjudication of electoral disputes)



An **EMB** has...

The Board of Commissioners

The Secretariat



# ELECTORAL MANAGEMENT STRUCTURES

**Independent  
Model  
EMBs**

**Mixed  
Model  
EMBs**

**Governmental  
Model  
EMBs**

Policy making  
component

Electoral  
implementation  
component

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# QUESTION 2

**What are some advantages and disadvantages of the Independent Model of EMBs?**





# Independence

## **(1) Structural independence:**

It is a formal independence that can only be found in the constitution or the electoral law.

## **(2) 'Fearless independence/behavioural independence':**

Normative independence of decision and action that is expected of all models of EMBs in that they do not bend to governmental, political or other partisan influences on their decisions.

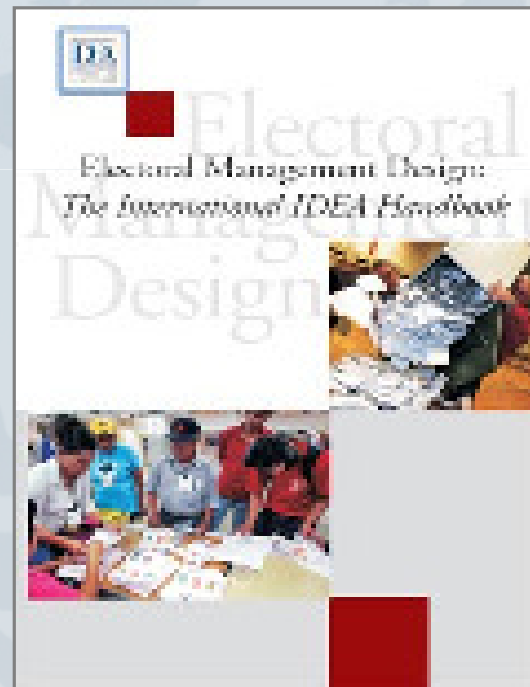


# QUESTION 3

**What factors promote/affect independence of decision and action and influence EMB behaviour? Meaning, what is required for an EMB to be *truly* independent?**



# Use the tool...





# QUESTIONS

## QUESTION1

- Should all electoral tasks/elements be concentrated to the EMB or should some tasks be allocated to supporting institutions? If yes, which and why?
- What are the advantages/disadvantages of distributing electoral tasks to institutions other than the EMB?

## QUESTION 2

- What are some advantages and disadvantages of the Independent Model of EMBs?

## QUESTION 3

- What factors promote/affect independence of decision and action and influence EMB behaviour? Meaning, what is required for an EMB to be *truly* independent?



# Task and functions of an EMB

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## Essential elements or core functions include:

- determining who is eligible to vote
- receiving and validating the nominations of electoral participants
- conducting polling
- counting the votes
- tabulating the votes

## EMB or other institutions:

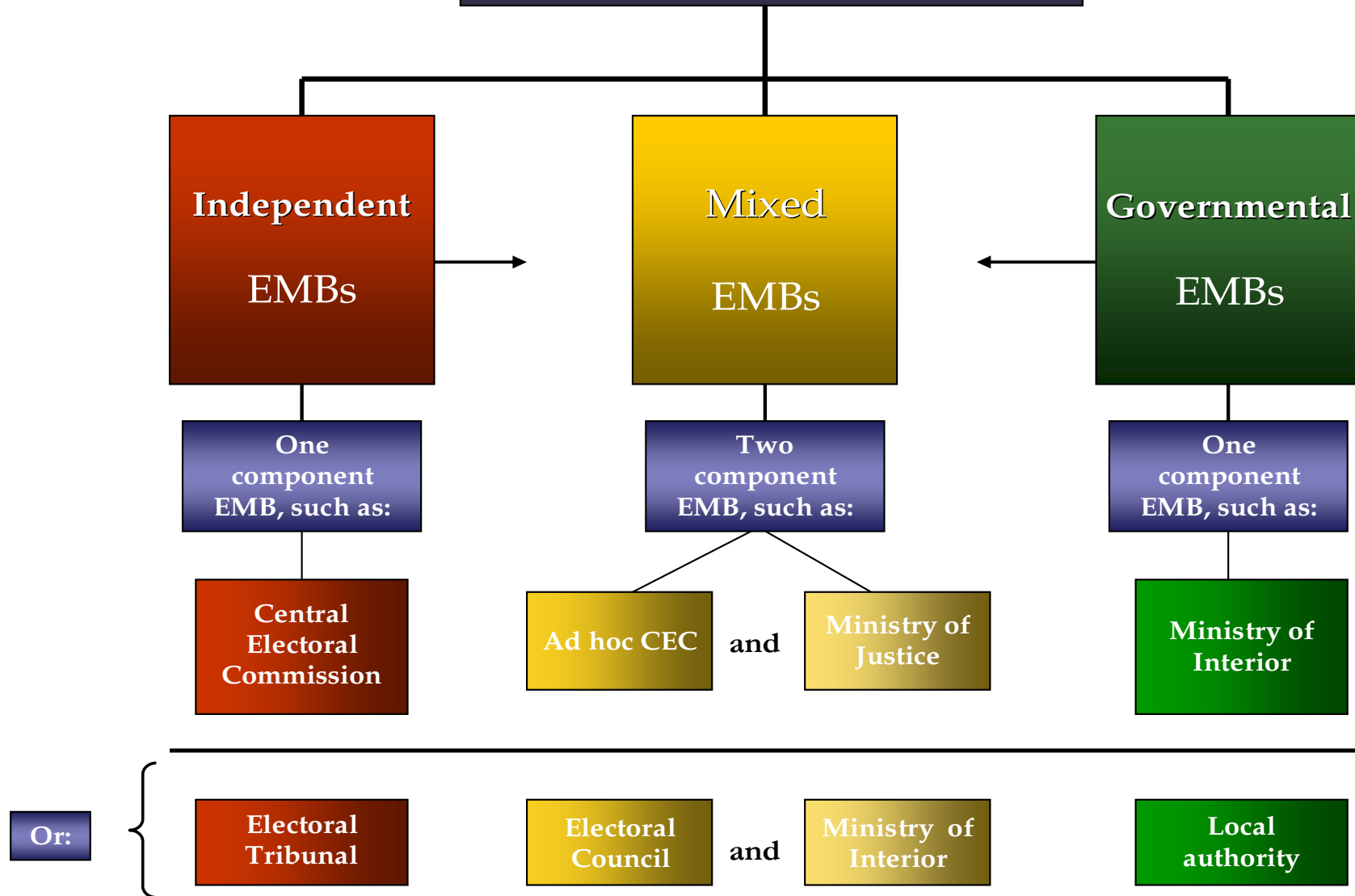
- boundary delimitation
- voter registration
- the registration and funding of political parties
- electoral dispute resolution
- voter and civic education and information



# **Other Functions and Responsibilities**

- regulating the conduct of political parties and candidates;**
- regulating the conduct of the media during elections;**
- regulating opinion polls;**
- the accreditation and regulation of the conduct of election observers;**
- the announcement and certification of election results;**
- the adjudication of electoral disputes;**
- advising the government and legislature on electoral reform issues; or**
- participating in international electoral assistance services.**

# The Three EMB Models



CEC= Central Election Commission

# Electoral Management Models of the World



International IDEA  
Strömsborg  
S-103 34 Stockholm  
Sweden  
Phone: +46 8 698 37 00  
Fax: +46 8 20 24 22  
E-mail: [info@idea.int](mailto:info@idea.int)  
Website: <http://www.idea.int>



# Advantages of Independent Model

- Provides a conducive environment for the development of electoral corporate identity and staff professionalism
- Is less likely to be subject to restrictions on who can be involved in electoral management: may be able to draw on outside talent
- Concentration on electoral business may result in better planning and more cohesive institutionalization of election tasks
- Is in control of its own funding and implementation of electoral activities. Electoral administration tends to be under unified control even if different service providers are used
- Electoral legitimacy is enhanced as the EMB is perceived to be impartial and not subject to political control



# Disadvantages of Independent Model

- May be isolated from political and electoral framework decision makers
- May not have sufficient political influence to acquire sufficient or timely funding
- Member turnover may reduce corporate experience and institutional memory
- May not have the skills or experience to deal with bureaucratic and corporate environments
- May be higher-cost, as institutional independence makes it difficult to co-opt low-cost or no-cost governmental structures to assist in electoral implementation



## Factors that can of decis and influ

- **legal framework that en**
- **range of powers**
- **composition of EMBs\***

### **When is full-time appropriate?**

- workloads may be high throughout the electoral cycle
- recurring electoral activities
- ongoing voter education and information
- continuous voter registration
- continuing electoral law reforms

- Multiparty vs. expert based EMBs

### **Appointment procedures\***

#### **Division of EMB appointment powers between the executive and the legislature**

- Head of state nominates candidates to the legislature for confirmation
- The President nominates candidates, the legislature shortlists, the President appoints
- Legislature shortlists candidates for the president, the president chooses some of them and submits back to the legislature for approval



# Factors that can promote independence of decision and action and influence EMB behaviour

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- legal framework that embeds EMB independence
- range of powers
- composition of EMBs\*
- appointment mechanisms and recruitment procedures\*
- conditions of service and security of tenure for EMB members
- oversight and accountability framework
- decision-making processes
- level of transparency
- cultural environment and political and social expectations
- the commitment of EMB members to independent decision making
- whether the EMB has a legal personality and is able to sue and be sued



## **COMPOSITION OF EMBs**

- Multiparty vs. expert based EMBs
- Status of EMB members
- How many EMB members?
- Qualifications and term of office
- Full-time vs. part-time membership

## **When is full-time appropriate?**

- workloads may be high throughout the electoral cycle
- recurring electoral activities
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- continuing electoral law reforms



## **Appointment mechanisms and recruitment procedures**

- Selection, nomination, appointment
- Open advertisement and screening mechanisms
- Unilateral appointment
- Consultative appointment

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THANK YOU