

# **Joint EC-UNDP Thematic Workshop on Sustainability in Electoral Administration: Adequate Resourcing for Credible Elections**

# **Securing Independence and Impartiality of Election Bodies**

**National Election Commission, Republic of Korea**

# Contents

## **I . Support for the Settlement of Democratic Institutions in Emerging Democracies**

## **II . Independence and Impartiality of Election Commission and Democracy**

1. Case study : Korea's Experience of democratization
2. Types of Election Management Bodies and Democracy

## **III . Future Plan for Systematic Support for Emerging Democracies : Establishment of the Association of the World Election Bodies (A-WEB)**

# **I. Support for the Settlement of Democratic Institution in Emerging Democracies**

# Support for the Settlement of Democratic Institutions in Emerging Democracies

## Settlement of Democracy in Emerging Democracies

First-priority : Establishing Procedural Democracy

➡ Free and Fair Elections

## Guarantee Independence & Impartiality of Election Bodies

Institutional Mechanism for the implementation of 'free and fair election'

It means independence from ruling party and government.

➡ Independent functions in terms of organization, tasks, human resources, budget allocation etc.

# Support for the Settlement of Democratic Institutions in Emerging Democracies

## History of Support for Emerging Democracies

### Support for Political/Legal Systems

- ▶ Nepal (2010-2011)
  - Draft Political Parties Act
  - Draft Election Commission Act
  - Advice for revised Election Act
- ▶ Mongolia (2012)
  - Advice on the revised Election Act

### Dispatch of Election Officials

- 2011 : Mongolia, Nepal
- 2012 : The Philippines

**National  
Election  
Commission  
Korea**

### Training of Foreign Election Officials

- 25 times  
(in total 317 from 41 countries)
- Electoral & Public Officials in  
Asia, Africa and Latin America

### Donation of Election-related machines, equipment and facilities

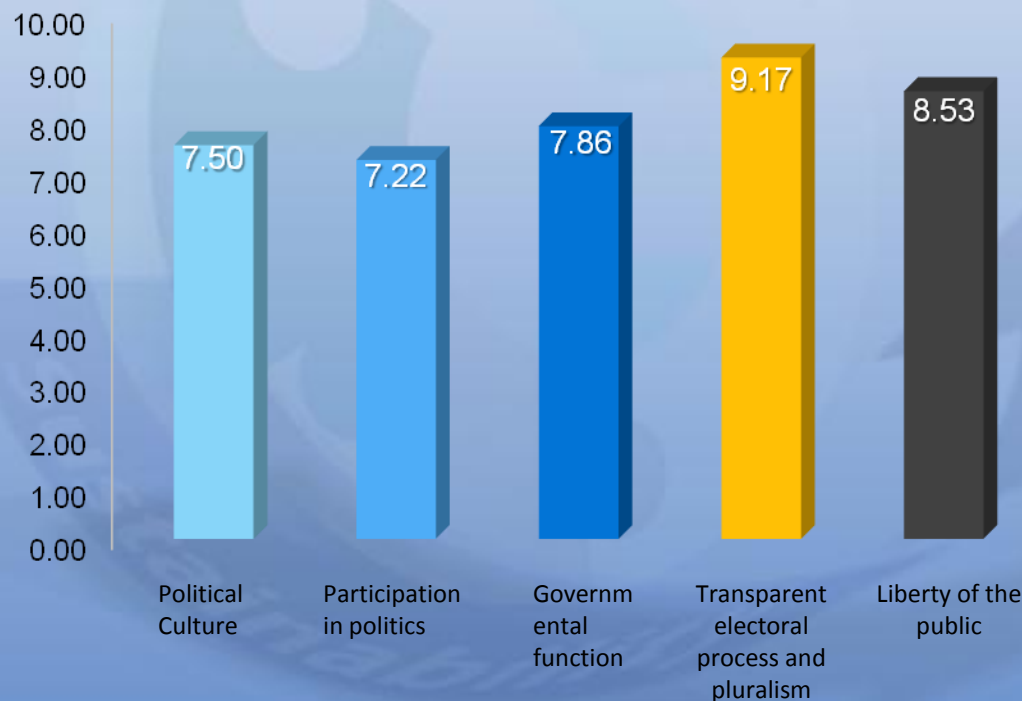
- 6,945 items supplied to 10 countries

## **II. Independence & Impartiality of EMBs and Democracy**

- 1. Korea's Experience of Democratization**
2. Types of Election Management Bodies and Democracy

# Independence and Impartiality of EMBs– Korea

Democracy Index : 8.06



<Source : ' 2011 Democracy Index', Economist >

Assessment on Korea

'Full Democracy'

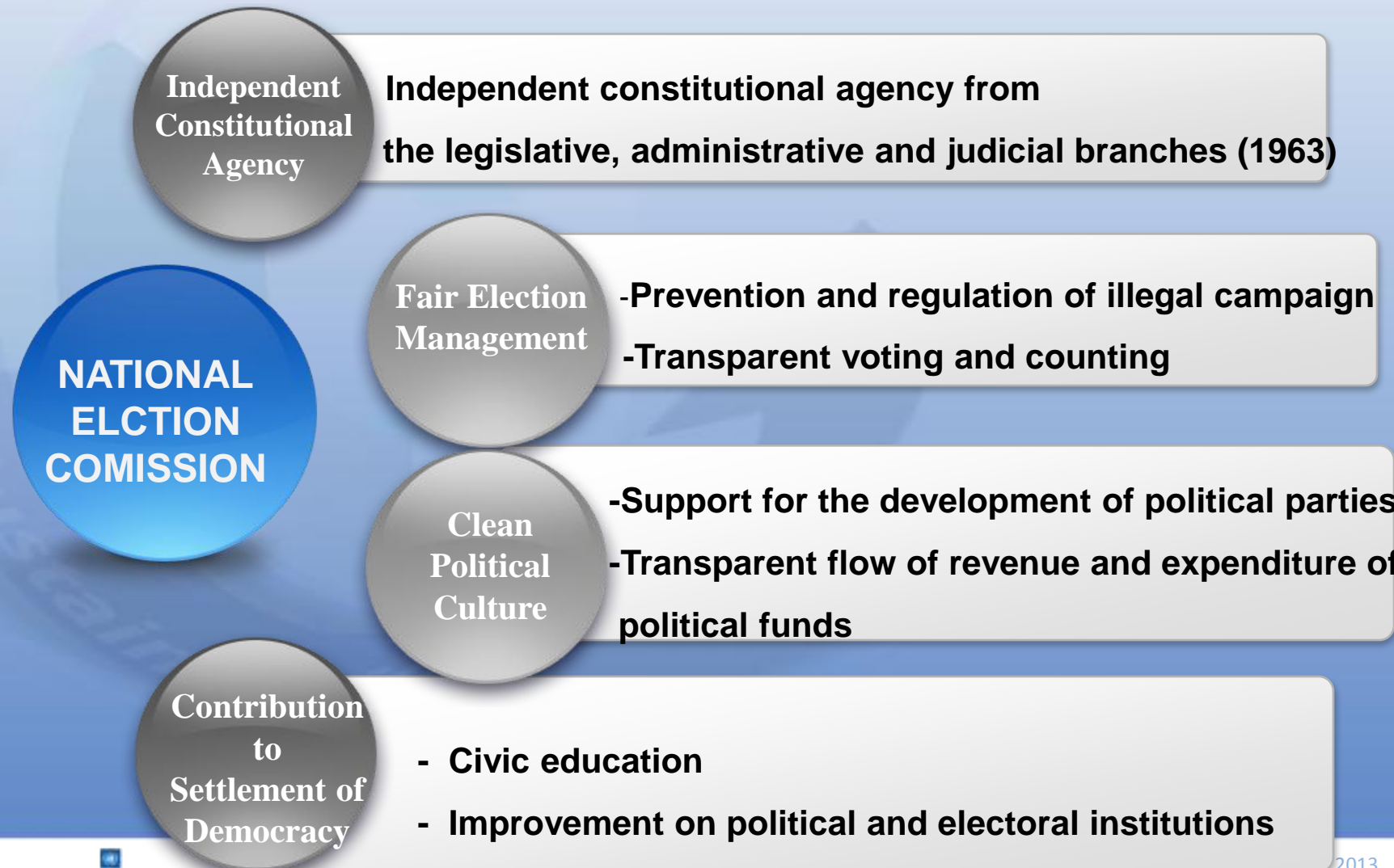
'Ranked No 22'

High evaluation for 'Electoral Process and Pluralism'

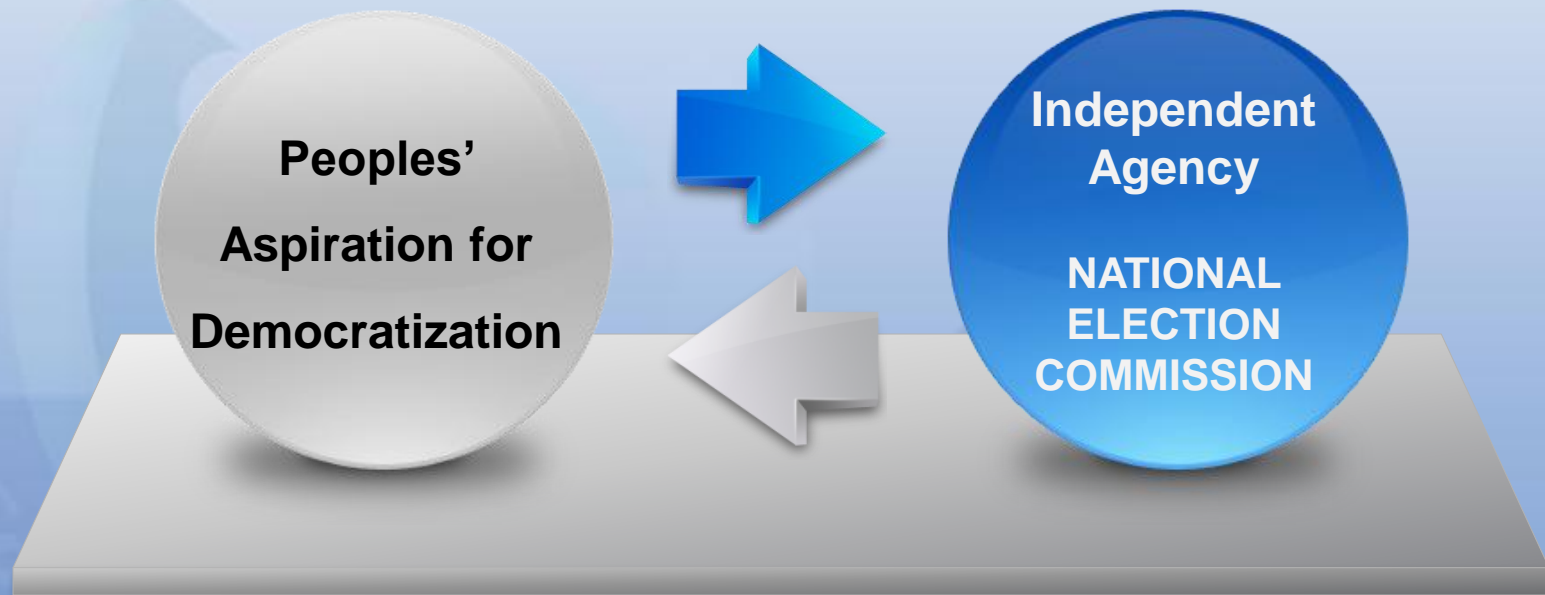
Important role of National Election Commission as an independent constitutional agency



# Independence and Impartiality of EMBs – Korea



# Independence and Impartiality of EMBs – Korea



Driving Force for Implementation of Full Democracy :

- Need of Korean people for democratization
- Function and role of independent National Election Commission

# Independence and Impartiality of EMBs– Types of EMBs & Democracy

## Types of EMBs In Each Country

### Governmental

- Norway, Denmark, Sweden, New Zealand, Switzerland, Finland, Luxembourg, Ireland, Austria, Germany, Czech Republic, UK, USA, Belgium

### Governmental + Independent

- Iceland, Holland, Spain, Japan

### Independent

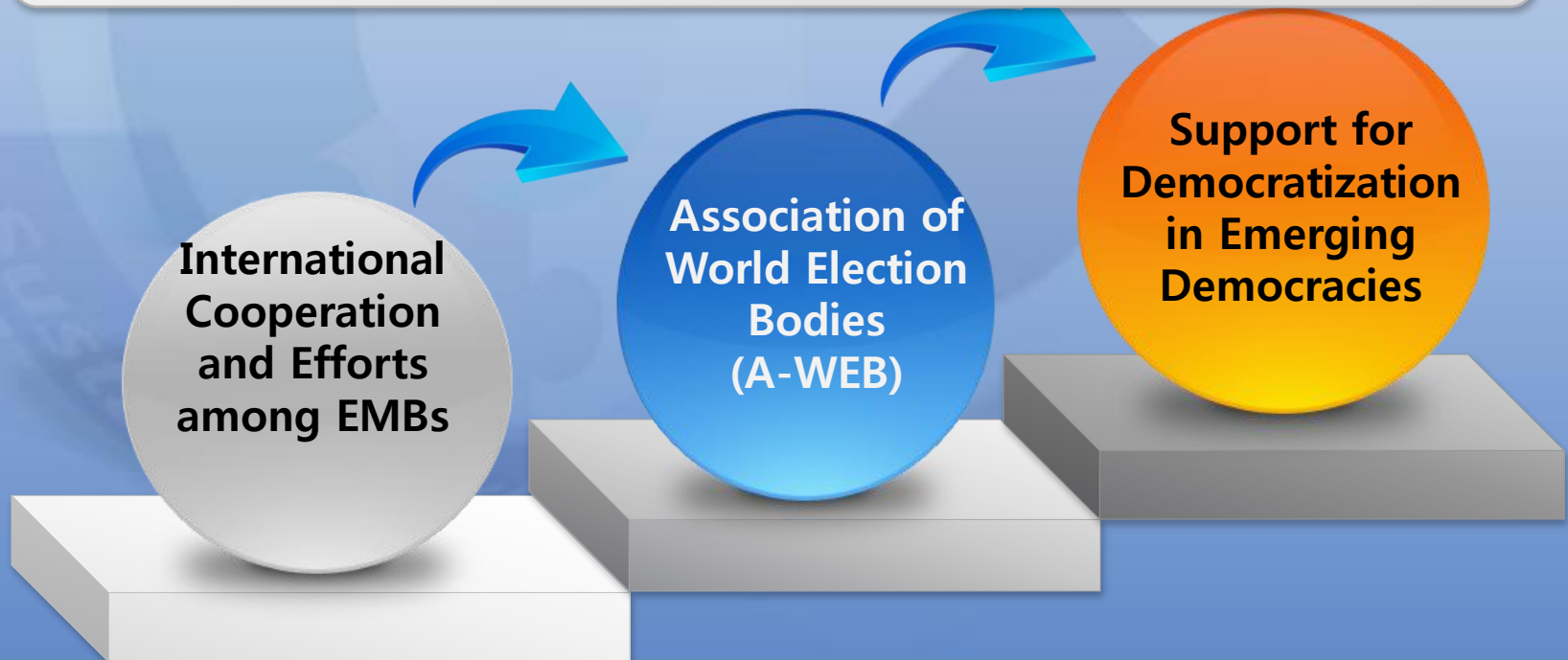
- Australia, Canada, Malta, **Uruguay,**  
**Costa Rica, Republic of Korea, Mauritius**

### **III. Future Plans for Systematic Support for Emerging Democracies : Launch of Association of World Election Bodies**

# Future Plans for Democratic Support for Emerging Democracies

## Establishment of the Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB)

- For the enhancement and development of democracy across the world, it is important for EMBs to cooperate and make global efforts.
- It is necessary for all the EMBs worldwide to make a global initiative beyond borders and continents .



# Future Plans for Democratic Support for Emerging Democracies

Providing Support for Democracy  
in Emerging Democracies

: Reinforcement of Capacity of EMBs

Support in improving  
political / legal Systems

Financial support including  
supply of election equipment

**Establishment of  
A-WEB**

Gaining trust in election results  
by sending a delegation of  
election observers

Advice on the composition and  
management of EMBs and  
advanced election management  
methodologies

Training & Education on  
Electoral Officials

# Future Plans for Democratic Support for Emerging Democracies



## Consequences of Proposal for Launch of A-WEB

- **Consensus on the need for launch of the A-WEB** : all the participants
- **1<sup>st</sup> Working Group Meeting (Korea)**
  - In May 2012 in Seoul
  - Agreed on A-WEB Vision & Mission
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Working Group Meeting (Bosnia & Herzegovina)**
  - In September 2012 in Sarajevo
  - Agreed on A-WEB Role, Membership, Organization and Finance

# Future Plans for Democratic Support for Emerging Democracies

3<sup>rd</sup>  
Working  
Group  
Meeting

Mar. 26 – 29, 2013

Jeju



Establish the A-WEB Charter  
· to be attended by approx.  
20 representatives of 11  
countries / organizations

Global  
Electoral  
Organization  
Conference

Oct.13. – 18, 2013

Seoul



Pass a resolution for the  
launch of the A-WEB

The A-WEB  
Inaugural  
Assembly

Oct. 17, 2013

Seoul



· Adopt the A-WEB Charter  
· Elect Chair, Vice Chair &  
Executive Board Members  
· Determine the location of  
the Secretariat



# CONCLUSION

**Democracy is still in the process of constant development.**

**While more mature democracy is expected, democracy may regress whenever a political / economic threat exists.**

**For the settlement & advancement of democracy**

- Realization of free and fair election**
- Guarantee of independence and impartiality of EMBs**

# Thank You