



European Commission United Nations Development Programme International IDEA

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

DAY 3

Brussels, 22-26 October 2007



Embracing Appropriate Technology

Fabio Bargiacchi
Senior Electoral Assistance Specialist
UNDP Brussels

Joint Training on
Effective Electoral Assistance
Day 3



Presentation

Learning Outcomes

Methodology

Key Points

Definitions

Should and Should NOT

Areas of Implementation

EC-UNDP Focus and Activities

Best Practises and the Future



Learning Outcomes

- Appreciate the appropriate use of technological innovation in electoral operations**
- Become familiar with voter registration exercises and related challenges**
- Understand possible synergies with other exercises**
- Become familiar with biometric voter registration and electronic voting machines**



Methodology

- Overview and Introduction on technology, voter registration and electronic voting**
- Presentation and practical demonstrations from the EMBs of DRC, Zambia, South Africa, Brazil and India**
- Three Discussions Time**
- Evaluations**
- Working Group on Technological Innovation and Election tomorrow**



Key Point

While the principles of elections largely remain the same

**Information
Communication
Technology**

has the past 25 years dramatically changed the operational methodology for elections, driven by rising demands on EMBs.



Appropriate Technology

- ❑ Continuous and increasingly fast developments in ICTs applications available for electoral purposes**
- ❑ EC/UNDP are receiving many request for support to census, civil and voter registration.**
- ❑ Factor to be reckoned with by all EMBs, donors, practioners and electoral assistance providers**
- ❑ ICTs has already dramatically changed the way elections are conducted**
- ❑ Unrealistic not to accept that this process will go on and affect more and more emerging democracies, like Mozambique and even countries just exiting long-drawn conflicts, like DRC**



Effective Electoral Assistance Focus

- Quality and appropriateness of the methodological, operational and technological choices to be adopted for implementation on an electoral cycle**
- Perceived not any longer as isolated event but as a process.**
- Past imperfections and limited results should be seen as an additional motive to support electoral processes investing more in the institutions that administer the elections in a good governance perspective**
- Importance of international/domestic observation missions, evaluations, post election seminar and peer review mechanisms.**
- Importance of the synergies between election observation and electoral assistance**



Definitions

- ❑ **Electoral Assistance is the Legal, technical and logistic support provided to electoral laws, processes and institutions.**
- ❑ **By “Effective Electoral Assistance” we mean all the initiatives and activities that are intended to improve the quality and impact of electoral assistance to partner country electoral institutions**
- ❑ **Part of the wider democratic development of the partner country, in accordance with the five key principles of “ownership, alignment, harmonisation, managing for results, and mutual accountability” that inform the 2005 Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness.**
- ❑ **Management of all the complex set of interactions among Government, EMBs, International Organizations, Political Parties, CSOs, Services Providers and Media**



Definitions

Any effort to make electoral assistance more effective must tackle the issue of the increasing use of technology in the electoral process.







Areas of Implementation

Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

- Boundary delimitation
- Operational planning
- Public information
- Results analysis by public & contestants
- Integration with other institutions



Areas of Implementation Regulation of Parties and Candidates

- Registration of parties
- Campaign finance controls and information
- Candidate nomination and verification
 - Better and more precise ballots
- Voter education about contestants



Areas of Implementation

Public Outreach



HOME CONTACT US MEDIA RELEASES SPECIAL REPORTS FAQs LINKS SITE MAP اللغة العربية

لجنة الانتخابات المركزية - فلسطين
CENTRAL ELECTIONS COMMISSION - PALESTINE

- ▶ ABOUT THE CEC
- ▶ COMMISSION SESSIONS
- ▶ LEGISLATION
- ▶ ELECTORAL SYSTEM
- ▶ ELECTORAL PROCESS
- ▶ ELECTION OBSERVATION
- ▶ RESULTS & STATISTICS
- ▶ CAMPAIGN FINANCES
- ▶ ELECTIONS UNDER OCCUPATION
- ▶ PUBLICATIONS
- ▶ MULTIMEDIA PRESENTATIONS

Local Elections

The CEC participates in the ICT exhibition (ExpoTech 2006)

The CEC participates in Palestine Information and technology exhibition (Expo Tech 2006) during the period of 6-8th of November, 2006 at Al-Birah Municipality Halls.

Information for:

- ▶▶ Voters
- ▶▶ Parties & Candidates
- ▶▶ Media
- ▶▶ Election Observers

MAPS & STATISTICS



Areas of Implementation Public Outreach

- Web sites
- Mass emailing
- Mass SMS
- Call Centers of EMBs
- Better TV spots through animation



Areas of Implementation Results Aggregation

- Results are data entered manually, or through OMR, locally and then electronically transferred and tabulated centrally
- Faster, more precise & more auditable results
- Cost effective modernisation



Areas of Implementation

Internal Administration

- Organisational modernisation
- Budget/finance, human resource systems
- Procurement, inventory, transport
- Internal communication
 - Distributed email
 - Secure intranets
- Customisation & training, training, training



“Should”

Technology should be:

- implemented in time before an electoral event
- legally supported
- operationally appropriate
- cost effective
- transparent and add to integrity
- sustainable



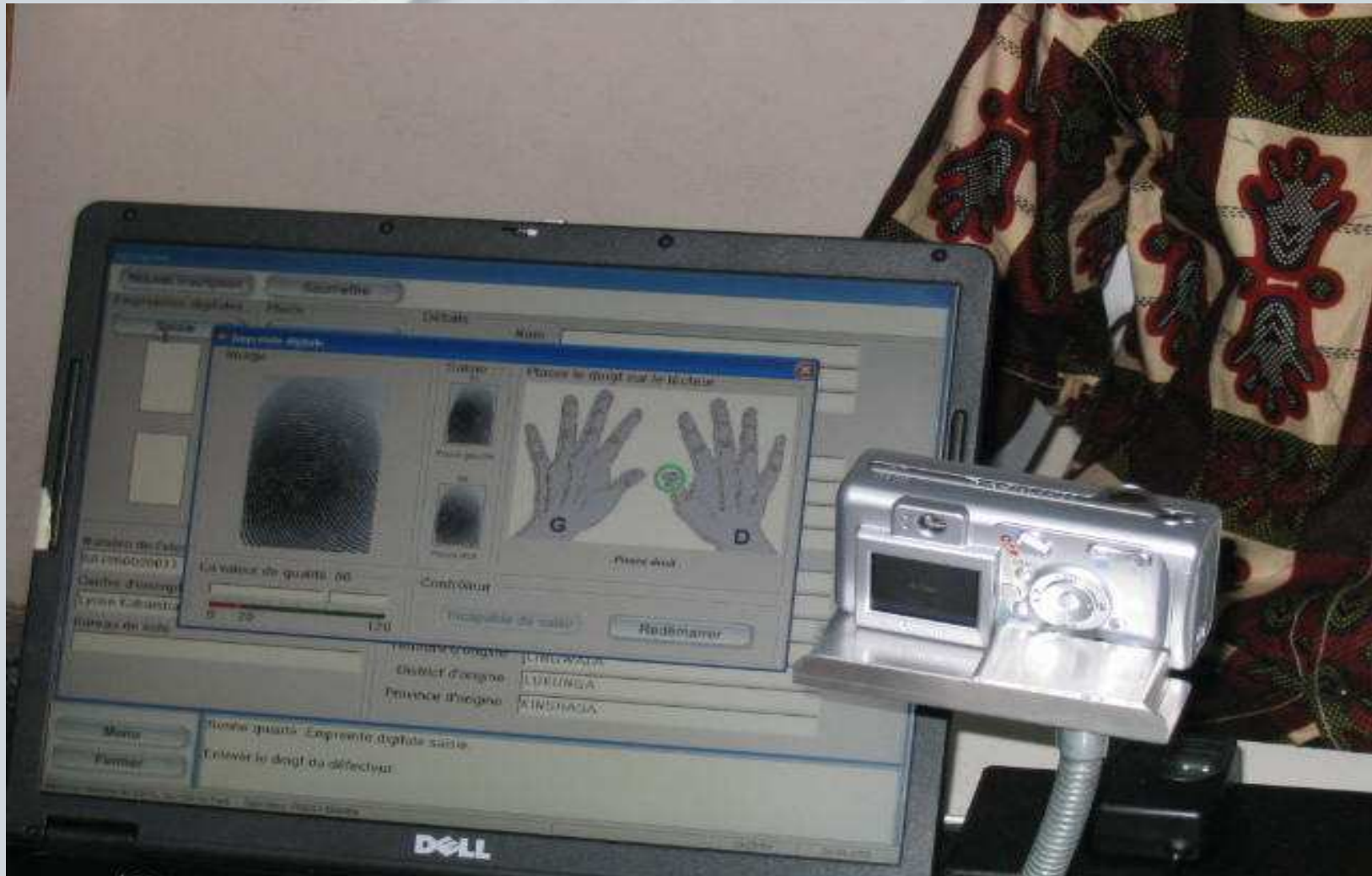
“Not”

Technology should NOT be:

- driven by vendor or donor interests
- considered a proof of “development”
- suppress more important needs



Areas of Implementation Voter Registration



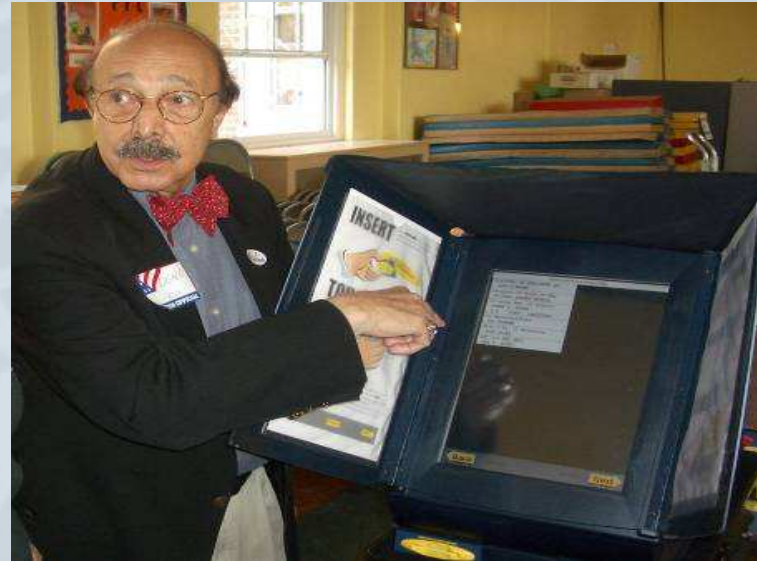


Areas of Implementation Voter Registration

- An accurate and accepted voter registry is pivotal to a credible electoral process
- Capture more data, faster and more precise
- Capture biometric data: picture & fingerprint
 - Avoid double registration
- Centralisation: detect fraud
- Planning: more effective allocation to polling locations
- Synergy with civil registry
- Risks: sustainability, manipulation, trust



Areas of Implementation Electronic Voting





Areas of Implementation Electronic Voting

Opportunities:

- Longer term cost reduction
- Results faster and more reliable
- Better access for disabled
- Mobility of voters
- Facilitate out-of-country voting
- Higher turn-out through ease of voting



Areas of Implementation Electronic Voting

- Risks:
- Sustainability
 - Training
- “Vendor dictatorship”
- Lack of trust, ease of central manipulation
 - Transparency is key



EC - UNDP Partnership



- ❑ **Challenges of the 2004 project in support of the DRC electoral processes**
- ❑ **South-South Cooperation DRC-Togo**
- ❑ **Bangladesh, Conakry, Mozambique, Nigeria**
- ❑ **Joint EC UNDP Task Force**



Challenge



What kind of technology is suitable for a particular electoral process?

□ Challenge: how to ensure a sustainable, appropriate, cost effective and transparent use of technology in post-conflict elections and in fragile or emerging democracies?

□ No fixed solution that can be applicable everywhere, but different ones for every context. General rule:

□ The level of technological upgrades suitable for a given country should always be directly related to the trust and independence enjoyed by the EMB, as this is the element that will in the end determine their acceptance by the public opinion.

□ DRC, Togo and Conakry cases on Piloting



Biometric Voter Registrations Kits: DRC, Togo, Nigeria, Conakry, Haiti, Senegal, Angola, Kosovo



- ❑ The “Automated Fingerprint Identification System” automatically checks one or many unknown fingerprints against a national database of known prints.
- ❑ The intended purpose is to prevent multiple enrolment in an election
- ❑ Long Time required for aggregation of data and double entry control in DRC, Togo, Nigeria, Haiti and Angola via AFIS
- ❑ Postponement of elections in Haiti, DRC, Angola and Togo



Best Practises



- Feasibility Studies**
- Study Tours**
- Technical Specifications drafted considering comparative experiences adapted to the country's needs**
- Software and Hardware to be adapted to the country's electoral laws and practices**
- Gradual Introduction at least 16-12 months prior to Election Day**
- Divide the country on different operational areas in view of rationalizing the resources**
- Accent on human resources, training, on site assistance from services providers**
- Cost Effectiveness and Sustainability**
- Pilot Tests, Validation Tests, Mock Registration**
- Civic Voter Education aimed at increasing all stakeholders' trust in the technology**
- Plan synergies with census, civil registry and voter registration, ID for police etc..**
- Consider to extend the length of the operations**



The Future of Electoral Technology?

- Synergies between civil and voter registration
- Digital identities with biometric identification, digital certificates
- Polling stations disappear replaced by internet voting and/or voting via mobile phone
- Individualised voter education via internet
- Direct/digital democracy
- Joint Study EC-UNDP-IDEA on Technological Innovations and Elections