



European Commission United Nations Development Programme International IDEA

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

DAY 3

Brussels, 22-26 October 2007



Electronic Voting Systems

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Introduction to Electronic Voting

- ❑ **Two main categories of e-voting**
- ❑ **E-voting in controlled environments (EVM or DRE voting)**
- ❑ **E-voting in uncontrolled environments (internet voting, PDA or mobile telephone voting)**



E-voting in uncontrolled environments

- Internet voting is being piloted in more than 30 established democracies**
- Estonia, October 2005, first country-wide elections with the possibility to vote through internet**
- Tests on Internet voting have not given yet a definite answer on how to ensure the secrecy of the vote and eliminate the potential coercion exerted on remote voters**
- Internet voting will soon be available for countries which enjoy a deep trust in their respective EMB and have a relatively conflict-free society, where the secrecy issue has a more limited weight than in other younger democracies, where the trust in the institutions and in the EMB might not be a given.**



E-voting in controlled environments

- More than half billion voters in the world already use this form of voting in two of the most populous world democracies (India and Brazil)**
- Does not present the same range of advantages normally attributed to uncontrolled internet e-voting (better turnout, enable voters' mobility, facilitate disadvantaged categories)**
- It does not endanger the fundamental requisite of the secrecy of the vote**
- It does offer some important answers on the issue of transparency through a development of various forms of auditing mechanisms. Possibility to introduce Voter Verified Audit Trails (VVATs)**
- Increase in requests by EU partner countries**



Indian Voting Machines





Brazilian Voting Machines





US voting machines 1





US voting machines 2





The Venezuelan voting machines

- **Touch Screen to support multiple electoral races**
- **Printer Attached to produce VVAT**
- **Two memories available**







The Venezuela Paradox

- The extreme sophistication and high reliability of the voting system does not make up for the lack of trust in the EMB among several stakeholders**
- The huge investment in technology has not been yet matched by a similar effort in capacity building and voter information**
- The higher the distrust in the EMB, the higher the need for transparency and security measures**



Main consideration in favour of e-voting

- Longer-term cost reduction**
- Speed and accuracy of the results**
- Potential turn-out increase**
- Fraud prevention**



Main consideration against e-voting

- Lack of transparency**
- Increased training and voter information needs**
- Vendor “dictatorship”**
- Increased potential for central manipulation**



Issues for Discussion

- There is an inverse relationship between the degree of sophistication and security measures applied to EVM and degree of trust enjoyed by the EMB**
- The key role played by independent auditing procedures**
- What role observation can play in electoral processes using e-voting in controlled environment?**
- E-voting in controlled environment with touch-screen machines producing VVAT appears to be the most reliable and transparent way forward for e-voting in developing countries. It will not be the cheapest option.**