European Commission
United Nations Development Programme
International IDEA

In collaboration with

International Organization for Migration
Canadian International Development Agency
Organization of American States

Joint Training on Effective Electoral Assistance

PROCUREMENT OF BIOMETRIC VOTER REGISTRATION
DRC, Togo, Conakry

Accra, 3 July 2009
Specific aspects of biometrics

DRC

Togo

Guinea-Conakry

Issues for discussion
Specific aspects of biometrics

- Multiple interdependent components (equipment, software, training, maintenance, logistics, etc).
- Interoperability between diverse providers and management of outsourced activities.
- Constraints on operational planning of electoral activities.
- Mistrust of political parties and civil society organisations.
- Sustainability (total cost of acquisition, reusability, managing expectations, etc).
Set the baseline for this kind of procurement.
- Externalising the procurement process
- Conducting pilot testing
- Optimal procurement by staging registration activities to reduce equipment requirements

Demonstrated the operational and technical feasibility on large scale.
- Uncovered logistical aspects
- Appeared to be a locked market for a specific vendor!
- Demonstrated reusability of digital registration kits.
- Ownership of the equipment to enable dual use.
- Limits of direct contracting by Governments lacking expertise in the domain.
- Lifecycle and life expectancy of digital registration kits.
- Refurbishment of digital registration kits requires proven methodologies and techniques.
- Many high tech features remain useless such as barcodes in the absence of barcode readers.
Guinea-Conakry

- Influence of the domestic political situation.
- Preliminary consultation with procurement office to facilitate the design of technical specifications.
- Absence of the EMB during the development of terms of reference (possible implications in the future).
Issues for discussion

- Sustainability.
- Threat to freedom (large database of nationals being shipped abroad).
- How to learn from our failures (sharing failed experiences).
- Cost estimation techniques to avoid cost overruns.