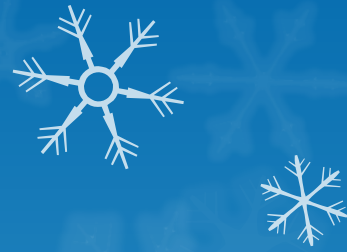


# UN electoral assistance policy framework

Eamon O Mordha

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# Report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly

- Strengthening the role of the United Nations in enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections and the promotion of democratization
- Activities of UN in providing assistance
- Over 50 countries (104 Member States and 4 territories)
- Observations and priorities
- August 2013

# UN system

“In peacekeeping or post-conflict environments, electoral assistance is generally provided through components of field missions under the aegis of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations or the Department of Political Affairs. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) usually plays a supporting role to electoral assistance mandates undertaken by field missions. UNDP is the organisation’s major implementing body for support to electoral laws, processes and institutions outside the peacekeeping or post-conflict context.

A number of other United Nations departments, agencies, funds and programmes are also involved in the provision of electoral assistance, including the Department of Field Support, the United Nations Democracy Fund, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Volunteers programme, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), and the United Nations Office for Project Services.

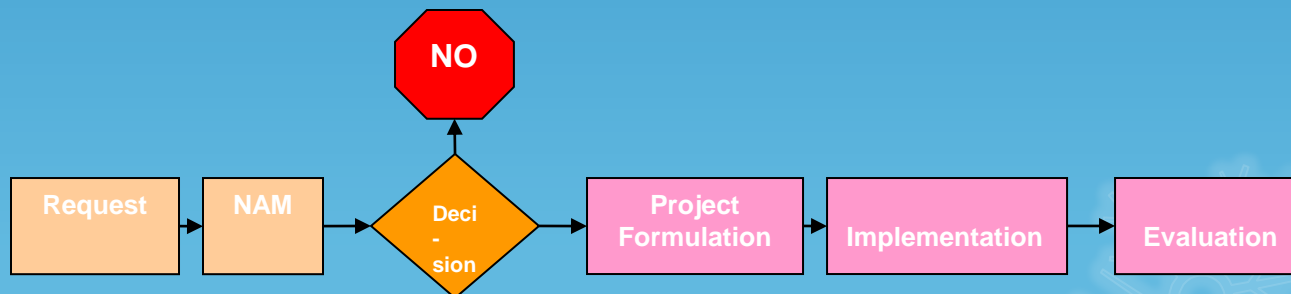
# UN Focal Point for electoral assistance activities

- GA resolution 46/1367 (1992) designated senior official, USG for Political Affairs, as Focal Point for Electoral Assistance Activities.
- Various resolutions have defined the role to:
  - - ensure system-wide coordination, coherence, consistency
  - - channel requests to the appropriate office or program
  - - develop and disseminate UN electoral policies
  - - develop mechanisms for cooperation/strengthen collaboration
  - - maintain contact with regional/intergovernmental organizations
  - - maintain the UN roster of international electoral experts
  - - maintain institutional memory

Assisted by the Electoral Assistance Division of DPA

# Process of Providing Assistance

- Request by Member State (or mandate)
- Needs Assessment Mission
- Decision of the Focal Point
- Project Formulation Mission (mission and electoral component planning)
- Implementation: backstopping and policy guidance
- Evaluation and reporting



# Principles of UN assistance

- Pre-electoral conditions
- Appropriateness
- Necessity
- Potential impact
- No one size fits all
- National ownership
- Cost effectiveness and sustainability
- Political inclusiveness – women, minorities and other underrepresented groups
- Independence and impartiality



# Types of electoral assistance

- Organization and conduct
- Political support and expert panels
- Expert monitoring (Bangladesh, Mauritania)
- Certification/verification (Cote d'Ivoire, Timor-Leste)
- Technical assistance
- Observation
- Coordination of observers



# United Nations Electoral Policy

- Developed by EAD
- Negotiated and agreed with all UN partners
- Wide dissemination
- Sets UN policy on issues and how UN advisers should provide advice
- Tool for the provision of coherent, consistent, effective and better advice
- Existing and future



# Additional measure to ensure coordination, consistency and improve UN electoral assistance

- Single roster of electoral experts
- Institutional memory
- Operational review
- Coordination mechanisms
- Clarity on roles and responsibilities within the system

