

## **Workshop I: Strengthening governance institutions and systems**

**(International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance -IDEA, and UNDP Human Development Report Office)**

Reinforcing democracy, in all its manifestations, as well as governance institutions – political, judicial and economic – is essential to formulate people-centred policies and programmes, ensure the rule of law, involve citizens in the development process, and monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of government actions.

Recognizing that democratic institutions provide a framework for representation, accountability, checks and balances, as well as citizen participation, this workshop will discuss how to improve democratic governance in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. It will explore what capacities States need to develop in order to meet the demands of globalization and how to strengthen governance institutions, including electoral management bodies, parliaments and judicial systems. To this effect, the workshop will review experiences, innovative practices and reforms in the aforementioned areas, and will analyse how such institutional reforms can promote greater participation and empower citizens.