

Fourth Global Forum on Reinventing Government

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS

Citizens, Businesses, and Governments: Dialogue and Partnerships for the Promotion of Democracy and Development

Workshop 1

"Strengthening governance institutions and systems"

**International IDEA
Human Development Report Office, UNDP**

Aide Memoire

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WORKSHOP ON STRENGTHENING GOVERNANCE INSTITUTIONS AND SYSTEMS HOSTED BY INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR DEMOCRACY AND ELECTORAL ASSISTANCE (IDEA), STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN

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 panel will discuss how to improve democratic governance in the 21st 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 panel 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.

Along these lines this workshop will elaborate on the following individual themes and seek to depart skills aimed at preparing States and non-state actors to make positive use of global experiences and information for identifying strategies aimed at sustainable democratic governance institutions and processes.

Methodologies and Techniques for Promoting Sustainable Democracy and Good Governance

The first session will focus on challenges, experiences and strategies for sustainable democratic governance with the context of globalisation. The presenters will introduce comprehensive democracy assessment methodologies recently developed and tested with the intention of monitoring and supporting sustainable democracy and good governance in different parts of the world. The assessment techniques will cover the rule of law, election management, accountable governance, key governance institutions including political parties, parliament, judiciary and local government institutions. The assessment methodologies will also highlight the role of non-state actors - media, private sector, civil society groups and extra-state actors such as international organisations and financial institutions; regional organisations and international non-governmental organisations as normative standard setters and supporters of democratic governance at state level.

The emphasis will be on the techniques and their usefulness to States and non-state actors in their efforts to promote democracy and good governance. The presenters will discuss at length democracy/governance assessment indicators and their role in both linking the different actors and providing the tools for monitoring and strengthening governance institutions. The speakers will combine presentations of methodologies with practical results of application in the field. Two cases of Democracy Assessment Methodology (IDEA) and Governance Indicators (Economic Commission of Africa (ECA)) have been selected for presentation. The presentations will be supplemented with empirical case studies of comprehensive assessments and findings of three case studies of assessment from Kenya and the Balkans. These will illustrate the utility of the assessment tools in identifying institutional needs helping to strengthen capacity building programmes.

The expected outcomes will be a good understanding of the different assessment methodologies, their relevance and how to apply them at country level.

Outputs and Outcomes

The later part of the morning of the second day will be devoted to discussions of strategies, conclusions and recommendations. The workshop organisers will prepare a short report on the panel relating to strategies and way forward for evaluating and strengthening democratic governance and systems. Some written materials will also be given to strategic participants at the workshop. More importantly, it is expected that the network that will be established through this workshop will be followed up and sustained through International IDEA's field activities in the different regions.