

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.

The Current State of Democracy and Governance: Prospects for Reform and Capacity Development

This first session will be led by the UNDP Human Development Office and will give a general overview of the state of democracy and governance around the world. The session will analyse issues relating to free and fair elections, accountable governance, monitoring progress and donors and multilateral efforts in promoting democracy and good governance. The presentation will be based on the UNDP Human Development Report 2002.

Methodologies and Techniques for Promoting Sustainable Democracy and Good Governance

The second session will focus on challenges, experiences and strategies for sustainable democratic governance in 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.

Applying Assessment Tools in Practice: Cases from Bangladesh and Other Countries

The presentations will be supplemented with empirical case studies of comprehensive assessments and findings of case studies of assessment from Bangladesh and a number of countries in which Rights and Democracy (Canada) has been working to support democracy and good governance. These will illustrate the utility of the assessment tools in identifying institutional needs helping to strengthen capacity development 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.

Proposed Program and Speakers

Tuesday 10th December 2002

1430 – 1445

Introduction and Context: Consolidating Democracy and Good Governance: Tools for Monitoring and Strengthening

Speaker: Patrick Molutsi, Director of Programmes, International IDEA

1445 – 1600

The State of Democracy and Governance: Challenges and Prospects by Sakiko Fukuda-Parr of the Human Development Report Office of the UNDP based on *Democracy in a Fragmented World HDR 2002*

Questions and Discussions;

1600 – 1630

Tea and coffee break

1630 – 1800 **Analytical and Monitoring Tools:** *“An Assessment Framework for Democracy by David Beetham (UK), and James Nxumalo (ECA)*
“Applying Assessment and Indicators as a Tool for Regional Governance Reforms”

Followed by Q&A and discussion

Wednesday 11 December 2002:

0830 – 1030 **Applying Tools to Address Challenges:** *A Human rights-based strategy for strengthening democratic institutions and civil society in a globalising world* by Nancy Thede, Rights and Democracy, Montreal, Canada; *Case Study – Assessing Democracy in Bangladesh*, Professor Dalem Ch. Barman, Dhaka University, Bangladesh

1030 – 1045 Tea/Coffee Break

1045 – 1230 **Trends, Progress and Players on Democracy Assessments and Indicators:** *A presentation and discussion of a document on indicators for measuring democratic development that will be presented at the Conference of New and Resored Democracies in March 2003*
Discussion introduced and moderated by Patrick Molutsi, Director of Programmes, International IDEA

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