



International IDEA

Annual Review 2021



www.idea.int/2021-annual-review

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Message from the Secretary-General

In 2021, the Covid-19 pandemic continued to put a strain on democracy across the globe. While the world witnessed democratic setbacks in both new and old democracies, democracy also showed its resilience through increased civic activism and the expansion of democratic innovations.



In the past year, International IDEA's work on the ground continued to make a difference. In the Gambia, we organized participatory political dialogues to support political parties, civil society and media to develop and implement a Presidential Code of Conduct, contributing to a peaceful presidential election. In , International IDEA developed the expertise of civil society in social media monitoring. In Chile, Malaysia and Bhutan, we supported parliaments to integrate a gender equality perspective in their legislative work.

International IDEA also intensified its efforts to respond to the manifold threats to democracy, even in the most difficult circumstances. After the military coup in Myanmar, International IDEA mobilized its global network of experts to continue supporting the democratic actors who are working tirelessly on the future restoration of democracy in Myanmar.

The reform processes of our regional and country programmes were complemented by our high-quality, evidence-based knowledge products. We launched the third iteration of our flagship publication, [the Global State of Democracy Report 2021](#), which sparked record-breaking levels of interest around the world, with its key message of 'growing authoritarianism' covered by more than 1,000 media outlets and mentioned directly by US President Joe Biden in his opening remarks at the 2021 Summit for Democracy.

To support the Summit, International IDEA initiated the Global Democracy Coalition, a network of nearly 50 democracy organizations that held more than 40 sessions on topical issues connected to democracy on the margins of the Summit. International IDEA also strengthened its partnership with the European Union through a project that will support the implementation of the democracy commitments made at the Summit, and welcomed Estonia as International IDEA's 34th Member State.

In this Outcome Report, these and a series of other stories cast light on how International IDEA has enabled democracy defenders around the world to protect and strengthen democracy. These stories are also a small testament to our continuous pledge to support and advance democracy throughout the 'Year of Action' for democracy in 2022 and beyond.

Kevin Casas-Zamora

Secretary-General

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Casas-Zamora'.



Letter from the Chair of the Council of Member States

Australia was proud to chair the Council of Member States of International IDEA in 2021.

As a founding member of International IDEA, in 1995, we continue to value the critical work International IDEA undertakes to strengthen democratic institutions worldwide, including in our own Indo-Pacific region. International IDEA has a distinctive role to play in advancing democratic norms, grounded in its diverse cross-regional membership, global presence and world-leading experts.



We congratulate International IDEA on its successes in 2021. Its voice was influential at a vital time. We commend the important and often courageous work of International IDEA staff in the field. International IDEA's Global State of Democracy Report plays a crucial role in upholding democratic principles by shining a light on the performance of governments.

Australia is concerned by the erosion of democratic rights and principles seen around the world in recent years. It is clear that democracy is a defining foreign policy issue of our time. It is at times of crisis that democracies are able to show their true strength, with openness, accountability and respect for the human rights of individuals.

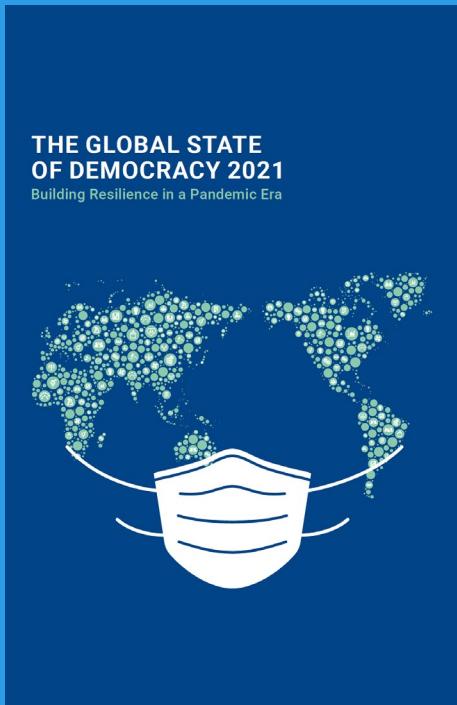
Australia remains committed to working with International IDEA and its Member States and we wish the incoming Chair of the Council, Canada, all the best in 2022.

Bernard Philip

Australian Ambassador to Sweden



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bernard Philip".



Our impact

Our flagship Global State of Democracy Report clearly illuminated the challenges to democracy that arose as governments across the world reacted to the Covid-19 pandemic. But it was a mixed picture.

On the one hand, there was a further global slide towards authoritarianism. Non-democratic regimes became even more brazen in their repression, while many democratic governments adopted restrictions on free speech and movement, weakening the rule of law.



The Global State of Democracy Report 2021: The growth in authoritarianism

What we did: We developed and launched the Global State of Democracy (GSoD) Report for 2021.

What we achieved: Policymakers used the GSoD report to promote democracy and to influence policies, strategies and programmes. Media used it to inform the public about the state of democracy and to hold decision makers to account.

Impact area:

Democracy Assessment

Boundary partners:

Policymakers

Our flagship Global State of Democracy Report clearly illuminated the challenges to democracy that arose as governments across the world reacted to the Covid-19 pandemic. But it was a mixed picture.

On the one hand, there was a further global slide towards authoritarianism. Non-democratic regimes became even more brazen in their repression, while many democratic governments adopted restrictions on free speech and movement, weakening the rule of law.

By contrast, however, there were clear signs of democracy's resilience. Pro-democracy movements braved repression around the world, and global social movements for tackling climate change and fighting racial inequalities emerged. More than three-quarters of all countries experienced protests during the pandemic.

The Report garnered huge media interest around the world, with its key message of 'growing authoritarianism' and was cited by [US President Joe Biden in his address to open the Summit for Democracy from the White House](#).

The successful launch cemented the Report's reputation—along with International IDEA's—as an authoritative source on democracy worldwide. The message was picked up by foundations, diplomatic missions, international organizations and several ministries of foreign affairs.

- Policymakers in Germany, Sweden and the United States used its analysis, recommendations and data to develop and implement strategies to defend democracy.

- Members of the European Parliament showed their interest in and support for the Report.
- More than 1,000 media outlets in more than 100 countries ran with the ‘growing authoritarianism’ theme, including The New York Times, The Guardian, South China Morning Post and The Hindu.
- International IDEA staff have been interviewed on television channels from the BBC to CNN, Spanish national television to Sweden’s TV4.

The Global State of Democracy Report gathers analysis and data from 165 countries all over the world based on five attributes of democracy: Representative Government, Fundamental Rights, Checks on Government, Impartial Administration and Participatory Engagement. It provides stakeholders, including policymakers and civil society representatives, with an in-depth assessment of the global democracy landscape, with the aim of influencing and informing policy interventions.

As the pandemic continued to necessitate remote working, International IDEA delivered online presentations and training sessions to increase knowledge and capacity to support democracy and human rights for our network of universities, research centres and International IDEA’s Member States.

More than 1,500 young diplomats have directly or indirectly benefited from the Global State of Democracy programme and expressed satisfaction with the online training.



Swedish Minister for Foreign Affairs Ann Linde participated and delivered a speech at the 2021 GSoD launch in Stockholm on 25 November 2021. Photo credit: Malin Huusmann

‘IDEA provides first grade analyses on the global state of democracy, elections, political parties, gender and much more, and we highly value your expertise. IDEA’s important role as a convener and platform to discuss democracy is becoming increasingly clear . . . We also value IDEA’s important contribution ahead of the upcoming Summit for Democracy in December. Actors like IDEA are crucial in our joint endeavour to protect and defend, but also to promote democracy as the one form of government that can ensure equality, inclusion and sustainable development.’

— Ms Ann Linde, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Sweden, November 2021

Watch:

[US President Joe Biden’s speech during the Summit for Democracy, 2021](#)



Climate Change and Democracy: Building momentum for innovative ways to address climate change

What we did: We launched a new work theme on Climate Change and Democracy.

What we achieved: In support of ongoing dialogues, we produced a discussion paper and convened an expert discussion that addressed the most critical issues.

Impact area:

Democracy Assessment

Climate change is the defining issue of our time, impacting on democratic governance through its effects on food security, conflicts, water scarcity, migration and natural disasters.

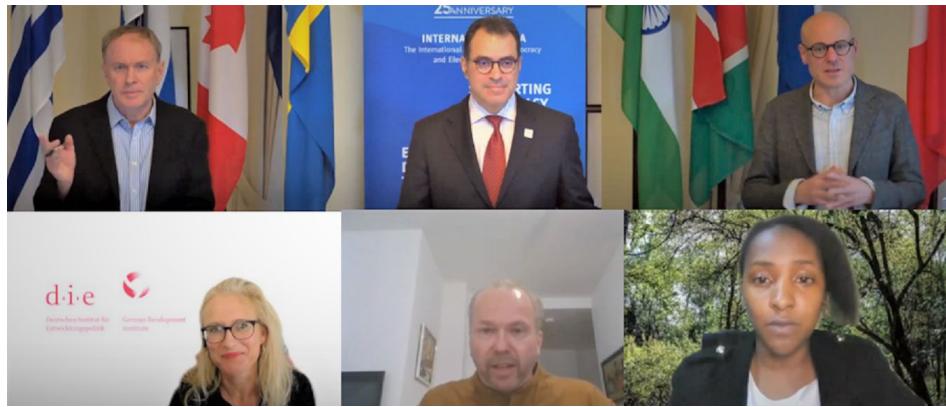
Responding to this, ahead of last year's COP 26 conference in Scotland, International IDEA launched a workstream on [democracy and climate change](#), initiating it as we marked our [25th anniversary](#).

The workstream was developed based on the understanding that democracies need to formulate and implement effective responses to climate change to deliver for current and future generations.

Events included: the European Union-financed [INTER PARES](#) project held a [global virtual conference](#)—Catalysing Parliamentary Action to Fight Climate Change—on 11–12 May 2021. It followed up on 6 October with a [satellite event](#) at the World Forum for Democracy, entitled Parliaments, Climate Change and Intergenerational Justice.

International IDEA convened an expert discussion on [Constitutionalizing Institutions for a Safer Environment](#) on 16 September, focused on the role of constitutions in ensuring effective environmental protection and sustainable governance.

On 26 October, International IDEA [launched](#) a discussion paper, [Democracy and the Challenge of Climate Change](#). It analyses the opportunities and challenges for democracy in this changing world, while presenting proposals for how democracies can build on their strengths to tackle climate change.



From left: Mr Alistair Scrutton, Dr Kevin Casas-Zamora, Dr Daniel Lindvall, Dr Julia Leininger, Mr Jan Wahlberg, Ms Elizabeth Wathuti.

'We are in the same storm, but we are not in the same boat. The same storm in this case is the climate crisis, and different boats that we have nations with the least capacity and resources to adapt despite having contributed the least to the climate crisis.'—Elizabeth Wathuti, Founder of Green Generation Initiative and sustainability analyst at Sustainable Square

'Climate cannot be the icing on the cake of policy. Rather, it needs to be baked into the very recipe for the future and the present. Legislators have such a wide range of tools to promote inclusive, sustainable development that successfully tackles the climate crisis.'—Helena Marschall, Climate Activist, Fridays for Future

'When the world needs action on the ground, it looks to its parliaments. You give these issues the oxygen they need. With your careful scrutiny, you identify problems before they happen, and you find the policies that make a difference to citizens' lives.'—Virginijus Sinkevičius, European Commissioner for the Environment, Oceans and Fisheries

'The trend towards including environmental rights and responsibilities in constitutions is an encouraging and necessary step towards achieving a just and sustainable future for everyone.'—Dr David R. Boyd, UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment

Knowledge resources:

[Democracy and the Challenge of Climate Change Discussion Paper](#)

Events:

- [Constitutionalizing Institutions for a Safer Environment webinar agenda, 16 September 2021](#)
- [Global Virtual Conference on Catalysing Parliamentary Action to Fight Climate Change agenda, 11–12 May 2021](#)

- [Launch of International IDEA's Discussion Paper "Democracy & the Challenges of Climate Change"](#)
- [Global Virtual Conference, Catalysing Parliamentary Action to Fight Climate Change, 11 May 2021](#)
- [Constitutionalizing Institutions for a Safer Environment webinar, 16 September 2021](#)
- [Satellite Event of World Forum for Democracy, Parliaments, Climate Change, and Intergenerational Justice, co-organized by INTER PARES, International IDEA and Council of Europe, 6 October 2021, exploring the question of parliaments, climate change and intergenerational justice from diverse perspectives](#)



Democracy for Diplomats: Connecting Member State diplomats with democracy experts

What we did: We created a Democracy for Diplomats virtual training programme.

What we achieved: We reached out to and connected diplomats with each other and support them in accessing data and analysis on democracy, and to inspire them to utilize it in their continued careers.

Who we did it with: Member States.

Impact area:

Democracy Assessment

In partnership with diplomatic academies in six of its Member States, International IDEA rolled out the Democracy for Diplomats virtual training programme. It reached more than 300 diplomats from Chile, [Indonesia](#), Mongolia, Namibia, [Tunisia](#) and Sweden.

The training programme connected senior and junior diplomats with International IDEA's regional and global democracy experts to discuss the roles diplomats have in monitoring and strengthening democracy and democratic norms throughout their careers.

Each training session was tailored to the demands of each Member State, with many sessions including in-depth presentations and discussions about the regional state of democracy, how to use the [Global State of Democracy Indices](#) to monitor democratic developments, how [elections](#) relate to a diplomat's role and responsibilities, and why democracy is not complete without the [inclusion](#) of marginalized groups.

For International IDEA, the training offers a unique opportunity to engage with diplomats and support them in accessing data and analysis on democracy, and to inspire them to utilize it in their continued careers.

'The correlation between democratic processes and the Covid-19 pandemic helped me deepen my overall understanding of democracy and made me rethink my definition of democracy.'—Participant in a Democracy for Diplomats training session held in 2021

'I leave this training with a deepened appreciation for democracy and its key role in bringing about a better future, taking into account the diverse voices and needs in each society.'—

Participant in a Democracy for Diplomats training session held in 2021

'Diplomats can play a key role to craft narrative for democracy to counter the mirages proclaimed by authoritarian regimes. I hope that you will come to see International IDEA as a go-to partner whenever you require objective, evidence-based analysis, information and data on the state of global, regional and country-level democracy issues.'—Dr Kevin Casas-Zamora,

Secretary-General of International IDEA



From left: H.E. Mr Kamapradipta Isnomo, Ambassador of Indonesia to Sweden; Dr Yayan Mulyana, Head of the Centre for Education and Training at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia.



Democracy Forum: Convening the #GlobalDemocracyCoalition to reinvigorate the conversation for the Summit for Democracy

What we did: We brought together 47 democracy organizations for a multi-stakeholder [Global Democracy Coalition](#).

What we achieved: The coalition strengthened cooperation between a diverse set of actors and resulted in a strong joint message from a diverse range of organizations bringing their collective experiences and recommendations to the US-sponsored Democracy Summits of 2021 and 2022.

Who we did it with: Forty-seven democracy organizations.

Impact area:

Democracy Assessment

With the goal of strengthening relationships and coordination among democratic actors, such as activists, politicians and academics, International IDEA brought together 47 democracy organizations for a multi-stakeholder [Global Democracy Coalition](#). Over the course of 24 hours on 7 December 2021, the group gathered in a vibrant online forum of [41 webinars](#) to gather thoughts on democracy and produce a [report of recommendations](#) for the Summit for Democracy held on 9–10 December 2021.

The Global Democracy Coalition Forum provided a platform for voices, actors and issues that may not be part of the official Summit. The discussion focused on the challenges and opportunities for democracy in different contexts, and on innovative solutions to address these.

The issues included election integrity, electoral assistance, gender and democracy, disinformation, malign finance, and youth and democracy. Also on the agenda were the state of democracy globally, and in Asia, Africa and the United States, as well as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, democratic backsliding and rising authoritarianism, democratic leadership, civic education, the role of media, freedom of speech, transnational repression, and development and democracy.

[Recommendations](#) were handed over to Democracy Summit organizers and participants ahead of the official gathering of heads of state. This collective effort—put together swiftly after the date of the Summit had been announced—would not have been possible without the

commitment and tireless efforts of all the partner organizations and participants involved.

The International IDEA-led platform amplifies the voices of individual organizations and allows for dialogue and the sharing of democratic good practices across regions, themes and sectors. It also enables individual organizations to have greater impact as part of a collective effort to advance and protect democracy.

Just as democracies need to come together to protect and strengthen democracy from internal and external challenges, so too do organizations and actors working on democracy across sectors and regions.

The Global Democracy Coalition proves that this is possible. It will continue to collaborate throughout 2022 ahead of the second Summit for Democracy.

'International IDEA plays a key role in strengthening democracy through partnership, analysis and action . . . This Forum comes at a very relevant time. For more than a decade, the challenges facing democracies have been growing.'—The Honourable Mélanie Joly, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada

'Civil society can play an invaluable role, not only in monitoring the implementation of government commitments and holding us accountable, but also in advocating for new commitments for the second Summit. This impressive gathering shows me the energy is there to continue our partnership in the Year of Action.'—Uzra Zeya, Under-Secretary for Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights, US Department of State



Democracy statement: Member States **#JoinForces4Democracy**

What we did: Twenty-nine International IDEA Member States released a joint statement to convey their shared commitments to strengthen democracy and democratic governance.

What we achieved: We strengthened cooperation between the 29 countries to promote democracy.

Who we did it with: Member States.

Impact area:

Democracy Assessment

Ahead of the US Summit for Democracy on 9–10 December, 29 International IDEA Member States released the following joint Democracy Statement to convey their shared commitments to strengthen democracy and democratic governance:

Now, more than ever, democracy needs a robust democratic governance agenda at the center of foreign and development policies. It is particularly urgent to lend support to governments in highly vulnerable countries and especially those at risk of being destabilized by the pandemic and other global challenges.

This is an endeavor which summons us all. As a group of democratic nations, we reiterate our commitment to join forces and advance democracy in our own countries and globally. We stand ready to support International IDEA's efforts to work with democratic actors—including parliaments, electoral authorities, political parties, independent media, and civil society groups—around the world. We invite others to join us in this cause. The message garnered extensive media attention and was circulated widely by Member States online through the #JoinForces4Democracy campaign on social media.

The Member States' Democracy Statement is a foundation for the coming Year of Action on Democracy, which will culminate with the Summit for Democracy in December 2022.

'This is about more than safeguarding abstract principles or winning geopolitical battles—it is about protecting the dignity of human beings, which democracy does better than any other political arrangement. Concerted, global actions by national and multilateral actors are needed more than ever.'—Kevin Casas-Zamora, Secretary-General of International IDEA



Supporting the European Union in strengthening their approach to democracy

What we did: We prepared European governmental and non-governmental policy advisors and policy influencers for the US-led Summit for Democracy.

What we achieved: We strengthened relationships and coordination between the various policy groups, facilitated access to data through a Resources Portal and systematically documented the views and priorities of 77 civil society organizations (CSOs) and other stakeholders in a Summit Briefing Note. The Briefing Note provided key data on democratic trends around the priority topics of the Summit and recommendations on inclusive participation in the Summit.

Who we did it with: The European Partnership for Democracy, Carnegie Europe and Reporters Without Borders.

Impact area:

Democracy Assessment

Donor:

European Union

Grant/project name:

Supporting Team Europe Democracy—
Strengthening democracy evidence and
communication around the Summit for
Democracy

Award period:

15 October 2021 to 31 December 2022

Boundary partners:

Governmental and non-governmental policy
advisors and policy influencers

Democracy is a founding value of the European Union, which, when its member states' grants are counted too, is the biggest donor to democracy-related projects.

With this as background, the EU launched its Team Europe Democracy initiative in November 2021, with the support of International IDEA. It is focused on strengthening democracy data and achieving better coordination of views and actions among civil society and other stakeholders in view of the Summit for Democracy on 9–10 December 2021 and its follow-up actions.

The EU-funded project includes the development of a Democracy Monitor by International IDEA to track democracy and human rights indicators in the pandemic and post-pandemic era. Several initiatives were implemented by International IDEA to strengthen communication around the Summit:

- We convened a group of civil society, EU member states and EU representatives in October 2021 to discuss options for Summit deliverables and commitments. The

purpose was to strengthen relationships and coordination between these actors to inform participants on Summit preparations, to discuss model commitments for the Summit, and to hear about the views and initiatives of various stakeholder.

- International IDEA gathered and systematized the views and priorities of 77 CSOs and other stakeholders and presented these in a Briefing Note at the Summit. The Briefing Note served as a coordinated civil society intervention, providing key data on democratic trends around the priority topics of the Summit.
- We launched a [**Summit Resources Portal**](#), where people can find relevant information on the Summit, Summit commitments and Summit side events organized by the various stakeholders. The Portal also provides links to democracy data and democracy publications.
- To facilitate reporting back on Summit commitments at the end of the 2022 Year of Action, International IDEA started tracking Summit commitments on the Portal and will involve and coordinate civil society in discussions around the monitoring of commitments in 2022.

The further roll-out of the project in 2022 will prove crucial to the long-term sustainability of our endeavours to assess the performance of democracy globally.



Strengthening Moldova's civic capacity for monitoring the integrity of electoral campaigning in social media

What we did: We supported civil society media watchdogs (MediaPoint Moldova) in implementing social media monitoring of the 2021 parliamentary elections.

What we achieved: We developed the expertise of local media and election watchdogs in social media monitoring and produced evidence of increasing levels of election campaigning on social media. The experience will enable the group to continue monitoring future election campaigns in social and other online media and advocate for more transparent campaigning practices and more effective national regulation of election campaigning.

Who we did it with: Moldovan media watchdog MediaPoint and media monitoring experts from Slovak non-governmental organization (NGO) Memo 98.

Impact area:

Political Participation and Representation

Donor:

Core

Boundary partners:

Public interest groups, political parties and oversight institutions

In the run-up to the July 2021 parliamentary elections in Moldova, International IDEA supported Moldovan civic watchdogs to monitor the electoral campaign on social media networks. As the use of social media networks in the country, and particularly the political and election campaigning on these networks, continues to grow, the risk this carries for electoral integrity and democratic politics is growing too. Monitoring and oversight of electoral campaigns on social media networks are complex and difficult undertakings, with often insufficient mandates and capacities among both the state and civil society oversight bodies.

The monitoring supported by International IDEA aimed to shed more light on how electoral contestants used social media networks and their diverse tools, and what risks and threats for electoral integrity this entails. The monitoring focused on the social media accounts of 23 parties and blocs and 17 political leaders—on Facebook, Instagram, Odnoklassniki, Telegram and YouTube. In addition, the monitoring followed and dissected key sentiments on 152 public groups and channels on Facebook, Odnoklassniki and Telegram.

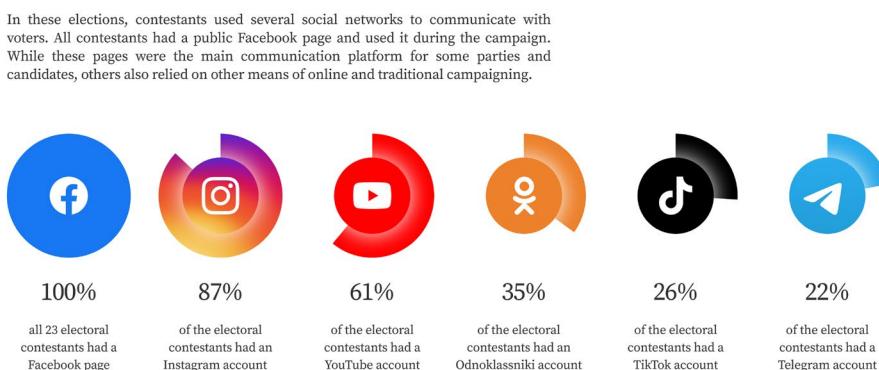
The monitoring documented an increasing trend of electoral campaigning on social media networks and served to highlight the dangers that unregulated online campaigning poses to

electoral integrity. The monitoring identified several cases of disinformation and dissemination of manipulative content through anonymous public groups and channels. In particular, Odnoklassniki and Telegram proved to be places where spreading false information and hate speech was relatively easy, given a lack of self-monitoring by these platforms and by the relevant state authorities. Furthermore, it demonstrated the current lack of transparency in political advertising, given that only limited and insufficient information is currently made available by platforms about those who commission such content and pay for it.

Based on the [findings](#) of the monitoring, the report puts forward recommendations for state authorities, online platform and service providers, and public interest groups. To improve the integrity of online electoral campaigns and enhance public resilience to disinformation, the existing campaign regulations should be reviewed and adjusted to reflect emerging forms of online social networking. Most importantly, the report recommends that national authorities, online platforms and civic observers engage in a dialogue to find ways to improve the transparency of online political advertisements, and to develop mechanisms for the timely detection and sanctioning of violations of election campaign rules in the online sphere.

The presence of electoral contestants on social media

Moldova Early Parliamentary Elections July 2021
Monitoring of Social Media - Preliminary Findings





Indigenous Peoples unite, advocate for rights in the Philippines

What we did: We supported efforts to engage with representative institutions in a democratic and effective way to improve public policy and practice for indigenous peoples in the Philippines.

What we achieved: We developed the capacity of Indigenous Peoples' groups in the Philippines to advocate for their rights.

Who we did it with: Institute for Autonomy and Governance (IAG), Philippines' Bangsamoro Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) and Cordillera Administrative Region.

Impact area:

Political Participation and Representation

Project:

Indigenous Peoples Champions:
Advancing Indigenous Peoples' Rights in the
Philippines

Donor:

European Union

Award period:

January 2021 to December 2023

Boundary partners:

Civil society organizations

Forty people from 15 indigenous groups in the Philippines charted new paths for achieving rights through an International IDEA training programme, the Indigenous Peoples' Rights in Constitutions Assessment Tool.

The training prepared participants from the Philippines' Bangsamoro Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao and from the Cordillera Administrative Region to assess and utilize the Philippines Constitution and other national and local legal frameworks to advocate for Indigenous Peoples' rights.

From discussions on key concepts of indigenous rights, constitutional implementation and conflict mitigation, the participants were empowered to become constitutional advocates. The training also included strengthening relationships between participants through dialogues with local experts on key issues concerning the rights of Indigenous Peoples, underlining that there are shared histories and experiences despite tribal differences.

During the workshops the participants fleshed out joint regional and national advocacy campaigns, aimed at influencing policy reforms and draft laws. Through these campaigns, Bangsamoro participants aimed to pursue recognition for its indigenous political structure,

including the preservation of indigenous education, knowledge systems and practices, and cultural heritage. The Cordillera-based participants decided to focus on preserving cultural integrity and on issues surrounding ancestral land, good governance and the involvement of youth.



Workshop on Indigenous Peoples' Rights in Constitutions Assessment Tool for BARMM Indigenous Peoples' Champions, held on 23–28 August 2021 in Cotabato City. Screenshot credit: Nyla Prieto/International IDEA.



Workshop on Indigenous Peoples' Rights in Constitutions Assessment Tool for Cordillera Indigenous Peoples' Champions on 11–15 October 2021 in Baguio City. Photo credit: Institute for Autonomy and Governance (IAG).



Uncovering the truth: International IDEA provides expert constitutional analysis of Myanmar

What we did: We produced a detailed constitutional analysis.

What we achieved: Pro-democracy stakeholder groups in Myanmar improved relationships and increased knowledge and skills to make more informed choices regarding constitutional design and process.

Who we did it with: The analysis was prepared through our in-house capacity, drawing on the expertise of our worldwide network of constitutional lawyers.

Impact area:

Constitution-Building Programme

Award period:

2018 to 2022

Project name:

MyConstitution

Boundary partners:

Legitimate interim governance institutions, political parties, members of parliament, ethnic armed groups, media, academia and civil society organizations (CSOs)

Donor:

Finland, Luxembourg, Norway and Sweden

For International IDEA's programme in Myanmar, 2021 has been a year of utmost challenge and transformation. At the same time, it has brought unexpected opportunities, and the possibility of new perspectives on a more genuine, inclusive and ultimately peaceful democratic future. Some of these opportunities build on the outcomes International IDEA contributed to before the coup.

International IDEA began to support Burmese democracy activists in exile as early as the late 1990s and had maintained support from outside for over a decade before setting up a presence in Yangon in 2012, and Nay Pyi Taw, in what was to become one of International IDEA's largest field presences worldwide, with a programme covering electoral assistance, parliamentary reform, civil society support and constitution-building.

Representing one of the biggest democratic setbacks in 2021 worldwide, the coup carried out by the military on 1 February 2021 cast Myanmar into a period of uncertainty and suffering. International IDEA immediately condemned the coup as unconstitutional and strongly demanded the restoration of democratic representative rule and respect for the democratic will of the people, as expressed in the November 2020 elections.

Quickly mobilizing its global network of experts in an effort to clarify the situation and provide accurate information to international decision makers, International IDEA prepared a detailed constitutional analysis of the faulty narrative of the coup-makers, unmasking the takeover for what it was—a fundamentally flawed and illegitimate usurpation of power.

International IDEA firmly believes that the society-wide democratic resistance movement, which is determined to rebuild the country as a federal democracy founded on basic human rights, has the chance to seize this moment and overcome many of the long-standing obstacles that had hampered genuine democratic progress during the past decade. Having established excellent relationships and trust with parliamentarians across the democratic spectrum, civil servants, ethnic organizations and other civil society groups, think tanks and analysts, International IDEA has continued to support these actors to work together towards reinstating democracy in Myanmar.

For example, the programme provided technical support to the different pro-democracy stakeholder groups who are directly involved in ongoing interim constitutional negotiations (i.e. interim governance actors, such as the Committee Representing the Union Parliament (CRPH), the National Unity Government (NUG) and the National Unity Consultative Council (NUCC), ethnic armed organizations (EAOs), civil society organizations) on constitution-building issues that are at stake in the current and evolving situation in Myanmar.

Boundary partners demonstrated increased conceptual clarity on constitutional issues following technical support from MyConstitution, and reported that they use the acquired knowledge when defining their constitutional proposals and during constitutional negotiations. International IDEA's responsiveness, as well as its non-prescriptive approach and ability to maintain confidentiality, has fostered trust from emerging pro-democracy actors.

Recognizing the specific challenges of designing and conducting a constitutional transition in the current context, different pro-democracy stakeholders have increasingly requested technical assistance as they engaged in discussions to shape Myanmar's democratic and federal transition.

The programme is seen as a credible, neutral and trusted assistance provider by the interim governance institutions and wider set of pro-democracy stakeholders engaged in the struggle to restore democracy in Myanmar.



International IDEA Secretary-General Kevin Casas-Zamora with Lian Sakhong, Minister of Federal Union Affairs of the National Unity Government of Myanmar, during a visit to International IDEA headquarters in October 2021



Helping citizens in Fiji hold decision makers to account

What we did: We developed the capacity of public interest groups in Fiji to engage with government on policy.

What we achieved: Representative institutions learned to engage in a democratic and effective way to improve public policy and practice, and to hold political decision makers to account.

Who we did it with: The European Union, Citizens' Constitutional Forum, Pacific Centre for Peacebuilding, Dialogue Fiji and Media Watch Group.

Impact area:

Political Participation and Representation

Donor:

European Union

Award period:

2018 to 2022

Boundary partners:

Public interest groups, electoral management bodies

International IDEA implemented an EU-funded capacity development project with civil society groups in Fiji during the years 2018 to 2020, with a goal of enhancing their relations with state institutions and building community-based interactions on political accountability.

The project was evaluated in 2021. Four Fijian civil society groups were involved: the Citizens' Constitutional Forum, the Pacific Centre for Peacebuilding, Dialogue Fiji and the Media Watch Group. The project included two national public forums, four meetings between citizens and members of parliament, six local-level community-based dialogues, and three local-level social accountability workshops.

The evaluation team found that workshops opened opportunities for citizens to put forward complaints and queries on government services. One of the interviewees in the evaluation noted that there had been no direct interaction between citizens and governmental decision makers in Fiji prior to this; another said that it provided a unique space for citizens to express concerns.

Government officials acted on some of the complaints raised in the discussions and this contributed to improvements in the lives of ordinary citizens. For example, participants in Nausori argued that the region had been neglected, resulting in deteriorated road conditions and public spaces, garbage collection delays, and lack of enforcement of environmental regulations. After

the meeting, the authorities agreed to meet and improvements were forthcoming.

Some meetings stimulated citizens to organize themselves. A Community Development Committee was established in Nadi to identify needs in the community and consult with relevant authorities on how to address these challenges.



Better equipped to restore democracy in Myanmar

What we did: We provided capacity development for political parties, electoral management bodies (EMBs) and civil society organizations (CSOs) in Myanmar.

What we achieved: Prior to the February 2021 coup, political parties, EMBS and CSOs in Myanmar improved their procedures for carrying out their work in a more democratic and effective way.

Who we did it with: Union Election Commission and partners: Danish Institute for Parties and Democracy (DIPD), Democracy Reporting International (DRI) and the Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD)/Demo Finland, Scholar Institute, Paññā Institute and BadeDha Moe CSO.

Impact area:

Electoral Processes

Donor:

European Union

Project name:

Support to Electoral Processes and Democracy (STEP Democracy)

Award period:

1 August 2018 to 31 July 2021

Boundary partners:

Political parties, EMBS and CSOs

Myanmar's democratic ambitions were halted on 1 February last year by a military coup that overturned the November 2020 general election, which had seen more than 70 per cent of voters going to the polls.

Election observers had found that voters were largely able to freely express their will at the polls. Although hundreds of thousands of voters were excluded by conflict or discriminatory practices, there can be no doubt about the legitimacy of the outcome and the democratic choice of the people of Myanmar.

The coup put an end to this, and to the European Union-funded Support to Electoral Processes and Democracy (STEP Democracy) programme being conducted by International IDEA and other implementing partners. The programme had been gaining traction, creating sustainable networks of key democratic actors, such as the Union Election Commission (UEC), CSOs and political parties.

It was transferring knowledge of democratic values to citizens and voters—all of which will support Myanmar’s legitimate democratic actors and the future restoration of democracy in the country.

The programme enabled the creation of the Myanmar Fellowship network of young voters, which held online talk shows to increase voter awareness and knowledge of voting procedures ahead of the 2020 general election. The UEC prioritized inclusive voter education, producing and distributing 73,500 UEC booklets and 315,000 pamphlets with key information on voting and election procedures, including encouraging people with disabilities to vote.

Through capacity development activities in support of political parties, the programme also successfully increased women politicians’ capacities to advocate for their inclusion in political party structures, to define policies and strengthen their campaign management skills. These efforts have contributed to nine out of 20 supported parties increasing the number of nominated women candidates in 2020. Overall, 20 out of 37 political parties supported by the programme established quotas for women. In the 2020 general elections, there were 106 more women candidates than in 2015. Myanmar saw a positive increase from 150 women (13 per cent) elected in 2015 to 194 women (17 per cent) elected in 2020.





Working with Pathfinders for more inclusive political finance reform

What we did: We worked with Pathfinders to identify practical and politically viable policy solutions to meet the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on equitable and inclusive societies.

What we achieved: We contributed to placing democracy on the public agenda by advancing the global debate on inclusion and the targets within and around SDG 16, which relates to peace, justice and strong institutions.

Who we did it with: Pathfinders.

Impact area:

Electoral Processes

Award period:

5 March 2021 to 30 April 2021

Donor:

International IDEA and New York University

Boundary partners:

Policy influencers

Project name:

Money in Politics—Global and Study on
Inclusion and Political Finance

Throughout 2021, International IDEA collaborated with Pathfinders to identify practical and politically viable policy solutions to meet the targets on equitable and inclusive societies in United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 16 (SDG 16), which targets peace, justice and strong institutions.

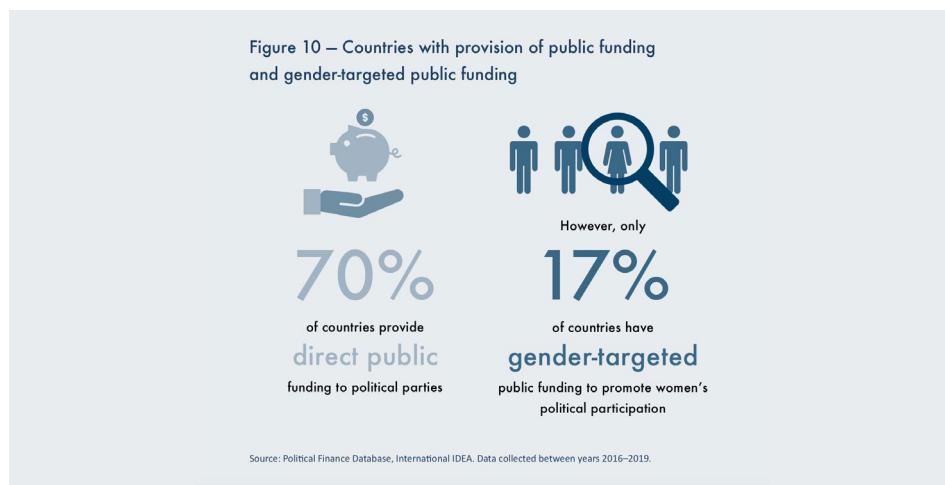
We have worked with Pathfinders—an alliance of 39 UN member states, international organizations, global partnerships, civil society groups and the private sector—for several years, providing them with expert input for their agenda.

In particular, Pathfinders launched their flagship report From Rhetoric to Action: Delivering Equality & Inclusion on the margins of the UN General Assembly on 23 September 2021. This report is the culmination of research and mobilization undertaken by a unique partnership of 10 countries, the UN, the World Bank, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), International IDEA, Open Government Partnership, Oxfam and CIVICUS, along with numerous partners and international experts.

Findings from International IDEA's background paper Reforming Political Finance for More Diversity in Political Office (published in May 2021) were featured throughout the report and informed some of its key recommendations.

The report shines a spotlight on the damaging, widespread effects of inequality and exclusion and highlights the actions needed from governments, international institutions and civil society to tackle the problem. To promote equality and inclusion, the report serves as a practical handbook for policymakers and influencers, as a source of possibility for the public, and as a call to all political leaders to act.

The report inspired various actors to advance global debate on inclusion and SDG 16. For example, the report was featured by several global news outlets, including The Guardian and AFP. It also prompted the Netherlands to issue a statement on behalf of Pathfinders at the UN Security Council's Open Debate on Maintaining international peace and security: exclusion, inequality and conflict on 9 November 2021.



'What this report shows above all is that practical policy-based solutions will be vital stepping stones for countries as they navigate a post pandemic world. From political instability to climate collapse, we don't have to look very far to see that the risks of inaction are now far too great.'—Ian Goldin, professor of globalization and development at the University of Oxford (news article)



Renewing the principles and practice of electoral assistance

What we did: We conducted a thorough consultation of the electoral assistance community to identify critical areas for reform of electoral assistance. The resulting report, Supporting Elections Effectively: Principles and Practice of Electoral Assistance, maps existing principles and insights on electoral assistance weak spots through a series of questions.

What we achieved: The comprehensive consultations with electoral assistance practitioners and other electoral stakeholders from across the globe generated cross-agency conversations which have stimulated reflection and learning in the electoral assistance community.

Who we did it with: Expertgruppen för biståndsanalys (Expert Group for Aid Studies (EBA)) and electoral assistance practitioners and other electoral stakeholders from across the globe.

Impact area:

Electoral Processes

Award period:

1 July 2020 to 30 September 2021

Donor:

EBA

Boundary partners:

Electoral assistance practitioners

Project name:

Study on the Long-Term Effectiveness of
Electoral Assistance Approaches

Electoral assistance straddles international development and foreign policy to strengthen democratic institutions and support political participation. The international community has supported election day operations and electoral cycle infrastructure in transitions from colonialism to independence, war to peace, and authoritarianism to democracy.

With shifting challenges to democracy, in particular the deliberate undermining of electoral processes and institutions, the principles and practices of electoral assistance are not keeping pace. Unexpected events—such as the pandemic, cybersecurity breaches and extreme weather events—have further strained the capacity of electoral authorities.

A recent study provides a platform for renewing electoral assistance mechanisms and modalities. Under the Swedish Expertgruppen för biståndsanalys (Expert Group for Aid Studies (EBA)) commission, the electoral processes team at International IDEA conducted a thorough

consultation of the electoral assistance community to identify critical areas for reform. The resulting report, [Supporting Elections Effectively: Principles and Practice of Electoral Assistance](#), maps existing principles and insights on electoral assistance weak spots through a series of questions. When is electoral assistance effective? What are the main obstacles for electoral assistance to achieve successful and sustainable results? What modalities or approaches to providing electoral assistance would better support the attainment of democracy goals?

The key recommendations from the study are to:

- revitalize international arenas for knowledge exchange and rapid response, and renew and revise internationally agreed electoral assistance principles to guide this work;
- invest in regional initiatives as better positioned for longer-term impact; and
- revisit electoral assistance for agility and local ownership.

The comprehensive consultations, including four working streams with electoral assistance practitioners and other electoral stakeholders from across the globe, as well as regional consultations in five global regions, have already generated cross-agency conversations which have stimulated reflection and learning in the electoral assistance community. The learnings coming from these conversations are analysed, summarized and documented in the report, which is aimed at influencing how electoral assistance is implemented going forward.

The Chair of the EBA Committee, Helena Lindholm, Professor of Global Studies at the University of Gothenburg, points to the methodology as the report's strength, in that it is 'uniquely based on practitioners' experiences'.

Staffan Smedby, Head of Unit, Democracy and Human Rights at Sida, spoke of the 'timeliness and relevance' of the report and his willingness for Sweden to play an active role in facilitating the recommendations.

Thomas Carothers, the Senior Vice-President for Studies at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, while calling it an outstanding report, sounded a note of concern: 'What I learned is one very central thing which is the electoral assistance community is having a very hard time getting to grips with how much the world has changed. I feel the report is taking us down the road, but it is striking to me that we are on this road only now.'

'This is highly interesting, and I learned a lot from reading it, that is the short answer. To me it comes as a very timely and relevant report.'—Staffan Smedby, Head of Unit, Democracy and Human Rights Unit, Sida

'I learned a lot from the report, it is an outstanding report, I haven't seen such a serious and really well researched topic before. What I learned is one very central thing which is the electoral assistance community is having a very hard time coming to grips with how much the world has changed. I feel the report is taking us down the road, it is striking to me that we are on this road now.'—Thomas Carothers, Harvey V. Fineberg Chair for Democracy Studies and Senior Vice-President for Studies, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

'This report is unique in many ways and one way in which it's unique is that it's based on practitioners' experiences.'—Helena Lindholm, Professor of Global Studies, Peace and Development and EBA Chair

Relevant link:

[EBA on Twitter](#)

Webinar link:

[Election Assistance in Times of Democratic Backlash webinar, 26 November 2021](#)



Photo: National Election Commission of South Korea

Elections and Covid-19—Building resilience in electoral administration

What we did: To support countries to make informed decisions on the preparation for elections, we made available a series of knowledge products to support electoral practitioners as they navigate complex decisions, Covid-19 health risks and adverse conditions for holding elections.

What we achieved: National authorities, such as the [Election Commission of South Africa](#), the [Center for Continuous Electoral Training](#) in Moldova and the [African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights](#), have used the material to develop guiding documents for their constituencies. Our analysis on Covid-19 and elections has also been cited by more than 130 national and international news outlets and inspired United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to request International IDEA to support election management bodies in Timor-Leste.

Impact area:

Democratic Assessments

Funding:

Core

Boundary partners:

Electoral management bodies and electoral assistance practitioners

Rather than postponing elections due to Covid-19, 2021 saw 'expedited learning, experimentation, dialogue and reform' that allowed most countries to hold national and subnational elections.

To support countries to make informed decisions on the preparation for elections, International IDEA made available a series of resources to support electoral practitioners as they navigate complex decisions, Covid-19 health risks and adverse conditions for holding elections. This included: a [multimedia report](#), which has attracted more than 150,000 visits from 168 countries; state-of-the-art [articles](#) and [reports](#) on, for example, campaign limitations, disinformation, special voting arrangements, voter turnout and election observation, as well as 20 International IDEA and [Electoral Integrity Project](#) case studies on how countries such as Brazil, Canada, Ghana, India, Israel and Portugal have held elections under Covid-19 conditions.

National authorities such as the [Election Commission of South Africa](#) and the [Center for Continuous Electoral Training](#) in Moldova, as well as regional and global organizations such as the [African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights](#), have used the International IDEA research material to develop guiding documents for their constituencies. International IDEA's analysis on elections and Covid-19 has also been cited by more than 130 national and international news

outlets, including [The Christian Science Monitor](#), Foreign Policy, The New York Times and Reuters.

Moreover, staff from International IDEA have been able to contribute to numerous online events on the topic organized by boundary partners based in, for example, Botswana, India, the Netherlands, the Philippines, Portugal and Thailand.

In 2021, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) requested that International IDEA (Asia-Pacific Programme) [support](#) election management bodies in Timor-Leste ahead of a series of elections at the national and municipal level in 2022 to 2024. The UNDP request was based on the information and knowledge that International IDEA has published on the topic.

'We find it important that IDEA et al provide insights on elections during pandemic. Thank you for that.'—Heini Huotarinen, Ministerial Advisor, Department for Democracy and Public Law, Ministry of Justice of Finland

*'And I have to say, **that the amount of papers, case studies and events on the theme of covid produced by IDEA is fantastic!** What we have found so far, with your kind help, will be enough for now.'*—Kristina Lemon, Investigation Secretary (Utredningssekreterare), Sweden

*'According to International IDEA, **an authoritative voice on global elections**, at least 80 countries and territories held national or subnational elections between 21 February and 1 November. Elections were postponed in 73 countries or territories in the same period, but in at least 39 of these cases postponed elections have now been held.'*—Sir John Holmes (Chair of UK Election Commission), [Learning from the impact of Covid-19 on international elections](#), 6 November 2020

'The international institutions of excellence such as A-WEB, IFES and International IDEA etc have played a pioneering role in closely monitoring the electoral calendar, the electoral processes and much more.'—Election Commission of India and India A-WEB Center, [Electoral International experiences of conducting elections in 2020 during Covid-19](#) (2020, p. 163)



**INTERNATIONAL IDEA
INSTITUTE FOR DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS AND DEVELOPMENT
25 ANNIVERSARY**

Featured Cases of Risk Mitigation Measures during COVID-19 - GLOBAL

Select Country

PANDEMIC COVID-19 ELECTIONS

Country	Election Type	Date of Election	Case Studies	Reference
Albania	Parliamentary Elections	2021-04-25	<p>Parliamentary elections were scheduled and held in Albania on 25 April 2021. The electoral campaign was conducted via social media, public meetings and door-to-door canvassing. All campaign contestants were supposed to wear a mask and keep distance from others while the limit on number of participants at public gatherings was 10 people in closed and open spaces.</p> <p>On election day, in accordance with the Electoral Code, voters could only vote in-person in one of 5,199 polling stations. People were not able to vote by mail and mobile ballot box was not provided. Special voting centers could only be organized for those in prisons, pre-trial detention centers and hospitals. Voters who were infected by Covid-19 or in self-isolation were forced to adhere to the rules of isolation and stay at home due to lack of safety infrastructure in place, resulting in disenfranchisement. The Ministry of Health estimated the approximate number of persons infected with COVID-19 on election day to be around 10,000.</p>	List of References

International IDEA, Featured Cases of Risk Mitigation Measures during Covid-19—Global, which includes more than 120 country briefs.



Covid-19 Global Monitor data features in regional, national plans and policies

What we did: We provided up-to-date data and analyses on country profiles and trends across regions.

What we achieved: Our Global Monitor data was referenced in several organizations' publications, dialogues and debates on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on democracy.

Impact area:

Democratic Assessments

Donor:

European Union

Project:

Global Monitor of COVID-19's Impact on Democracy and Human Rights

Award period:

June 2020 to February 2022 | March 2022 to December 2023

Boundary partners:

International, regional and country-level civil society actors

International IDEA's [Global Monitor of COVID-19's Impact on Democracy and Human Rights](#) was launched in July 2020, with high-level presence and support from the European Union and the European Parliament. The Monitor is a 'one-stop shop' online monitoring tool of the democracy and human rights implications of measures adopted by governments to curb the Covid-19 pandemic.

This digital platform is updated every two weeks and includes the 165 countries covered by the Global State of Democracy Indices, aggregating up-to-date information to offer individual country profiles, with links and data of events and [trends across regions](#). The Global Monitor supports governments and various civil society actors to engage in evidence-based discussions and debates on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on democracy.

The Global Monitor's data was used in the drafting of [Estonia's Open Government Partnership Action Plan 2018-2020](#). The Global Monitor data has also been featured in reports and publications by [UN Women, the Knowledge, evidence and learning for development programme \(K4D\)](#), the Peace Research Institute Frankfurt (PRIF), V-Dem's study on democracy and effectiveness in addressing epidemics, as well as in a book titled Social Rights in the Pandemic Period by Turkish professor Dr Muharrem Kılıç at the Ankara Yıldırım Beyazıt University.

Furthermore, data from the Global Monitor was quoted during the [High-Level Political Segment of 46th United Nations Human Rights Council](#) and was also mentioned in the European Parliament resolution 2020/2208 (INI) of 20 January 2021 on [Human rights and democracy in the world and the European Union's policy on the matter – annual report 2019](#).

UN Women published a new policy brief with evidence of the different ways in which women's rights organizations have been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic: [COVID-19 and women's rights organizations: Bridging response gaps and demanding a more just future](#).

The report highlights the predicament that many of them face: experiencing increased relevance and demand at the same time as facing civic closure, restrictive work conditions and diminishing funding. The analysis features Global Monitor's data on developments and violations of Freedom of Association and Assembly, Freedom of Movement, and Media Integrity.



Supporting Chile's Constitutional Convention in the process of constitutional negotiations

What we did: Through advisory services and communication products, we supported constitution-makers in Chile.

What we achieved: Constitution-makers learned how to make informed choices regarding constitutional design and process.

Who we did it with: Building on years of working with our constitution experts, the trust led Chile to work with International IDEA once again to help redesign a stronger, more inclusive constitution in Chile.

Impact area:

Constitution-Building Processes

Donor:

Core

Project:

Country-level assistance

Boundary partners:

International, regional and country-level civil society actors

After the October 2019 popular protests in Chile, in response to the increased price of metro tickets in Santiago de Chile, President Piñera engaged the opposition in negotiations that resulted in an agreement for social peace and the drafting of a new constitution. Demands for a new constitution that would replace the 1980 Constitution, drafted and promulgated by General Pinochet, were long-standing.

In line with the political agreement, the 1980 Constitution was amended to provide for a process for wholesale constitutional reform. On 25 October 2020, a referendum was organized in which Chileans supported—in a landslide—the proposal for a new constitution to be drafted by a fully elected constitution-making body. On 15 and 16 May 2021, elections were held for a 155-member gender-equal Constitutional Convention. On 7 July 2021, the Constitutional Convention was officially established.

Chile's constitution-building process, which is planned to last no longer than 12 months, is of critical importance for Chile itself, but also further afield as it could inspire others in the Latin American region and globally, not least because of the equal participation of women and a stronger representation of indigenous peoples than ever before. International IDEA's engagement in Chile started in 2015, when the Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean

became the only foreign member of a Presidential Advisory Council working against conflicts of interest, influence peddling and corruption in Chile, and opening the door for International IDEA's Constitution-Building Programme to assist the government in planning a public participation process that was to lead to broader constitutional reform.

International IDEA's engagement with Chilean boundary partners led to increased cooperation, particularly as the Chilean actors learned that International IDEA can provide valuable advice and comparative knowledge. As an indication of the strength of the relationship, the group of government advisors that International IDEA worked with from 2015 to 2018 called International IDEA back after the 2019 demonstrations to assist throughout the new constitution-building process, to give Chilean constitution-makers and civil society the comparative knowledge the organization had provided in the past, and to develop new comparative knowledge that would respond to Chile's particular context.

As a result of this continuous engagement, International IDEA is now one of only very few international organizations that have a [formal cooperation agreement](#) with Chile's Constitutional Convention. This cooperation agreement is already allowing International IDEA to reach out to the Convention's representatives and their advisers, and share its knowledge resources and expertise on issues relevant to the representatives in their negotiations.

Through our support and advisory services, we aim to inspire and support constitution-makers and the general community in Chile to learn more about why and how marginalized groups need to be involved in the constitution-building and increase their skills in designing a participatory constitution-building process.



From left: Sergio Bitar (Board of Advisers, 2015–2021, International IDEA), Elisa Loncon (President of the Constitutional Convention), Jaime Bassa (Vice President of the Constitutional Convention), María Jaraquemada (Programme Officer, International IDEA), and Renata Retamal (Consultant and Assistant, International IDEA).



Promoting gender equality in Somalia's National Independent Electoral Commission

What we did: We assisted Somalia's electoral management body (EMB), the National Independent Electoral Commission, to develop a gender strategy.

What we achieved: Clear, realistic and time-bound gender equality objectives were laid out in the areas of leadership, strategic guidance and accountability.

Who we did it with: The National Independent Electoral Commission of the Federal Republic of Somalia, and Folke Bernadotte Academy, the Swedish Agency for Peace, Security and Development.

Impact area:

Political Participation and Representation

Donor:

Folke Bernadotte Academy

Award period:

2020 to 2021

Project name:

Gender Equality Strategy for the National Independent Electoral Commission of the Federal Republic of Somalia

Boundary partners:

EMBs

At the behest of the Folke Bernadotte Academy, the Swedish agency for peace, security and development, International IDEA conducted a gender assessment and developed a gender equality strategy for the National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC) of the Federal Republic of Somalia.

We conducted an initial assessment of commitments, mechanisms, processes, resources and capacities for gender mainstreaming within the NIEC, using a three-pronged approach:

- reviewing existing policies and mechanisms for gender mainstreaming within the electoral management body;
- reviewing the architecture, resources and capacities available for the implementation of gender equality commitments, including the personnel and other resources available; and
- reviewing whether programmes and or mandates had been planned, implemented and evaluated with a gender perspective.

The assessment highlighted gaps and opportunities for promoting gender equality internally and externally, laying the ground for changing practices. Clear, realistic and time-bound gender equality objectives were laid out in the areas of leadership, strategic guidance and accountability.

The overall aim of the strategy was to promote gender equality and women's participation through targeted actions and gender mainstreaming of the NIEC's operations.

While the NIEC is stepping up to the challenge in its national mandate, it is acknowledged that the eradication of all forms of discrimination and achieving gender equality must be a national priority agenda. The NIEC, meanwhile, is the first national entity in Somalia to have a gender equality strategy.

'This Strategy is a key milestone in the institutionalization of the NIEC's efforts to promote gender equality and inclusive participation and representation in all electoral processes in Somalia.'—Halima Ismail, Chairperson, National Independent Electoral Commission



Somali women leaders and members of civil society attend a meeting in Mogadishu on June 19, 2016 during which they have agreed on an election model that will see the women secure 30% representation, across all levels of leadership in the forthcoming elections. AMISOM Photo / Ilyas Ahmed

Coordinating regional support, encouraging sanctions following Nicaragua's democratic breakdown

What we did: We carried out a regional campaign aimed at increasing regional awareness about Nicaragua's democratic breakdown.

What we achieved: This action helped to coordinate policy influencers to put democracy on the public agenda and influence the Organization of American States to reject Nicaragua's election results and sanction President Daniel Ortega and his government.

Who we did it with: Forty-nine former ministers of foreign affairs from more than 12 Latin American countries.

Impact area:

Political Participation and Representation

Boundary partners:

Policy influencers

Donor:

Core

The November 2021 presidential and parliamentary elections in Nicaragua were widely condemned as a sham by outside observers, at least in part because of the pre-vote imprisonment of major presidential candidates.

The Latin America and the Caribbean Office of International IDEA carried out a regional campaign aimed at increasing regional awareness about Nicaragua's democratic breakdown. The campaign has had two main objectives. First, it was designed to create regional awareness of the levels of corruption, lack of rule of law, and uncompetitive conditions under which the elections took place. Second, it aimed at influencing regional democracy-related organizations, such as the Organization of American States (OAS), to sanction the government of Daniel Ortega by applying the Inter-American Democratic Charter, as well as appealing to the regional community to act against this threat to regional democracy.

Ahead of the election, we issued a report—[Un Plan Doloso para acabar la Democracia](#)—on the irregularities and flaws of the pre-existing democratic conditions under which the electoral process took place. International IDEA also sponsored a virtual event under the overall theme of the Renewal of Commitments to Strengthen and Advance Democracy in the Region: The Case of Nicaragua, which included statements by the Foreign Minister of Colombia, Martha Lucia Ramirez; Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Chile, Andrés Allamand, and closing remarks by

Ambassador Guillermo Fernández de Soto, Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations.

The online conversation also included commentaries from José Miguel Vivanco, Director for the Americas at Human Rights Watch, and Carlos F. Chamorro, Director at “El Confidencial” in Nicaragua. This event was held on the margins of the 76th Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

We also disseminated a declaration about Nicaragua (Let’s keep Ortega from consolidating his dictatorship) signed by four former presidents of the region—Laura Chinchilla (Costa Rica), Ricardo Lagos (Chile), Fernando Henrique Cardoso (Brazil), Juan Manuel Santos (Colombia)—together with International IDEA Secretary-General Kevin Casas-Zamora. Both documents—the report and the declaration—were broadly disseminated and inspired and supported various actors to discuss and debate democracy in Nicaragua in social media.

Post-election, International IDEA published and disseminated a [letter signed by 49 former ministers of foreign affairs](#) from more than 12 Latin American countries condemning the undemocratic results. They called on the OAS to implement sanctions on Ortega and his government. This action helped to coordinate policy influencers to put democracy on the public agenda and their campaign contributed to the [OAS rejection of Ortega’s re-election](#).

¹ [Creative Commons Stemlokaal provinciale verkiezingen 2015](#) by [Sebastiaan ter Burg](#) can be used reused under the [CC BY-SA 2.0 license](#).



Embracing e-recapitulation technology for Indonesian elections

What we did: Actively encouraged inclusivity and accountability in Indonesian elections via engagement with policymakers and practitioners.

What we achieved: Based on evidence provided by International IDEA, electoral policymakers in Indonesia started to prepare e-voting options with ample time for planning and testing.

Who we did it with: The Network for Democracy and Electoral Integrity (Netgrit).

Impact area:

Electoral Processes

Boundary partners:

Electoral policymakers

Funding:

Unrestricted, Core

Indonesian elections have, for the last two decades, been marred by the manipulation of results by election officials, political parties and candidates. Much of this stems from the manual nature of tallying votes. Among the procedures being discussed to stop such vote corruption are electronic voting in general and e-recapitulation systems—essentially electronically rechecking the tallying at all levels—in particular.

International IDEA organized a webinar on 1 September 2021, with the Network for Democracy and Electoral Integrity (Netgrit). It was attended by Ahmad Doli Kurnia Tandjung, chair of the parliamentary committee responsible for elections in Indonesia. Tandjung said that he saw more value in investing in e-recapitulation technology than in simple electronic voting, which has been used in regional elections since December 2020 without eliminating the fraud problem.

Part of the 2020 failure was lack of preparation and insufficient testing and training. Tandjung agreed with the webinar sponsors' view that preparations for an e-recapitulation system must be made with ample time for planning and testing. He also agreed that Indonesia's existing legal framework for elections should be abandoned rather than amended and that study was needed on the best options for Indonesia. A new legal framework can be adjusted accordingly—for example, to allow result tally forms to be redesigned.

Knowledge resources:

- [Introducing Electronic Voting Policy Paper \(English\)](#)
- [Introducing Electronic Voting Policy Paper \(Bahasa Indonesia\)](#)
- [Adoption of Voting Technology: A Guide for Electoral Stakeholders in Indonesia \(English\)](#)
- [Adoption of Voting Technology: A Guide for Electoral Stakeholders in Indonesia \(Bahasa Indonesia\)](#)

Relevant links:

- [Rethinking the Use of Electronic Vote Recapitulation in Indonesia's Future Elections webinar, 1 September 2021](#)



Gabu, Guinea-Bissau - April 13, 2014: Polling station, ballot boxes and international election observer in rural Guinea-Bissau during general elections in 2014.

Briefing the African Union's Peace and Security Council on election processes and trends

What we did: We developed and presented a report on elections in Africa to the Peace and Security Council of the African Union.

What we achieved: Enhanced the Peace and Security Council's support for practices which foster inclusivity and accountability in electoral processes through shared experiences, lessons learned and best practices in elections, democracy and good governance.

Who we did it with: United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO); the African Union's Peace and Security Council; the African Union's Department of Political Affairs.

Impact area:

Electoral Processes

Boundary partners:

Regional organizations

Donor:

Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (UKFCDO)

Despite months of delay related to the Covid-19 pandemic and the African Union's (AU) internal agenda issues, International IDEA succeeded in convening a meeting on 23 September 2021 to brief the AU's Peace and Security Council on elections conducted in Africa between January and July 2021.

The briefing report, drafted by an International IDEA-seconded expert and collaboratively reviewed, was presented by the AU Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security to over 100 participants. They included Peace and Security Council members, representatives of AU member states and AU staff.

The report was well received and praised for its objectivity. Following the briefing and based on its recommendations, the Council issued a [communiqué](#) saying that it would now integrate preventive diplomacy missions in high-stake elections. It also condemned the upsurge of unconstitutional changes of government in Africa through military takeovers. The Peace and Security Council further mandated the AU Commission to convene an appraisal symposium to consider appropriate actions to address the political conditions that lead to unconstitutional changes of governments in Africa.



Speaker at "Her Participation, Her Future" Workshop in 202. Photo: Arab Network for Women in Elections / Facebook page

Tackling election barriers to Arab women's political participation

What we did: We supported the Arab Network for Women in Elections with a series of workshops held in hybrid face-to-face and virtual mode between August and October 2021.

What we achieved: At least in part because of the workshops, in December the Network launched a regional campaign to promote women's participation with the aim of fostering inclusivity in electoral processes.

Who we did it with: The Arab Network for Women in Elections, the Arab Organization for Electoral Management Bodies, UNDP-Arab States Regional Electoral Assistance Project.

Impact area:
Electoral Processes

Award period:
2021

Donor:
Core

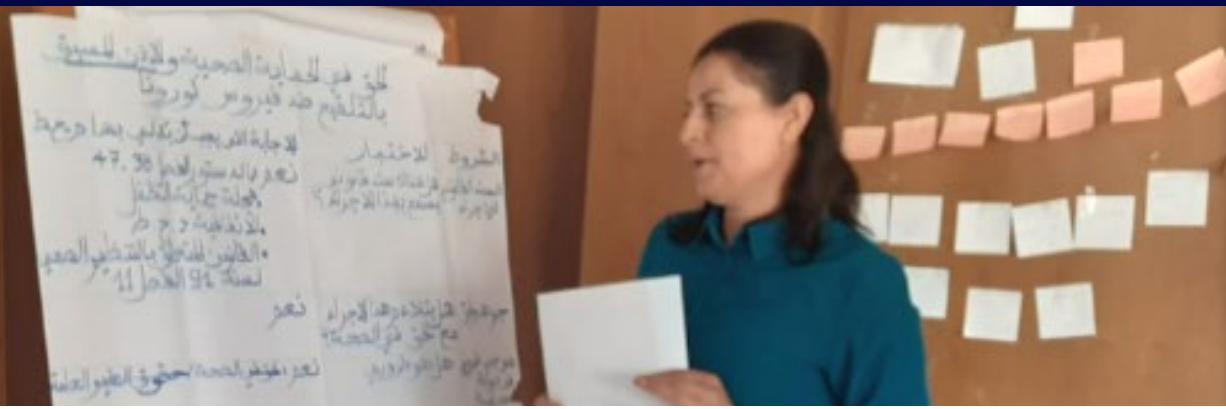
Boundary partners:
Arab Electoral Management Bodies Network
and Arab Gender Network

The extension of the right to vote to women in Arab countries has increased their participation, leading to some 42 per cent of voters in the region being women. On the other hand, the number of women candidates did not exceed 29 per cent of the total number of candidates. In Arab parliaments, despite the remarkable improvement in women's representation from 6 per cent in 2004 to 18.2 per cent in 2022, it remains below the world average of 26 per cent.

To this end, International IDEA has made women's participation one of its main axes in improving the inclusiveness of electoral processes in the Arab region by adopting a regional and national, multi-actor and diversified strategy.

Most recently, a series of workshops, held in hybrid face-to-face and virtual mode between August and October 2021, resulted in a regional campaign, launched in Amman on 21 December, under the title Her Participation, Our Future. Twelve Arab election management bodies (EMBs) took part in the events, as well as civil society groups and regional organizations. New means of information-sharing and awareness-raising have been adopted to combat discriminatory attitudes towards women in the Arab region on family voting, violence and limitations on the right to candidacy. To this end, a play, a traditional dance, and the testimonies of Arab women were broadcast at the [Media Centre of the Independent Election Commission](#) in Jordan.

Combating this exclusion will be the main target of the campaign, which will last one year and will be duplicated at the national level, especially during the electoral processes of Network members Jordan, Libya, [Palestine](#) and Tunisia.



Article 49 of the Tunisian Constitution: A fighting tool for child protection delegates

What we did: We completed a training series on Article 49 in the Tunisian Constitution for the national network of child protection delegates, family judges and judges specializing in child law in Tunisia.

What we achieved: We supported constitutional implementers in interpreting and operating constitutional provisions in Article 49 of the Constitution in a manner that respects human rights by strengthening the collaboration between institutions involved in the protection of children's rights in Tunisia.

Who we did it with: Germany's Federal Foreign Office, the national network of child protection delegates, family judges and judges specializing in child law in Tunisia.

Impact area:	Award period:
Constitution-Building Processes	2020 to 2022
Project name:	Boundary partners:
Article 49	Judges and decision makers of public
Donor:	institutions
Federal Foreign Office in the German Ministry	
of Foreign Affairs	

International IDEA has run a two-year project in Tunisia, funded by Germany's Federal Foreign Office, dedicated to promoting a deeper awareness of how the 2014 Constitution, in general, and Article 49, in particular, has changed the framework for the protection of fundamental rights. Among the beneficiaries of the project are child protection delegates. The national network of child protection delegates is the most prominent mechanism in the field of the social protection of children in Tunisia.

The training results exceeded expectations. According to the delegates, it was the first training that went beyond the beaten track to equip them with the means, methodology and reasoning appropriate to the performance of their duties.

One of the participants, a young female delegate, even wrote a poem to thank International IDEA for the relevance of the project:

*Stand up in respect of Article 49, for the article is almost a way out of every shortcoming
What harm would all delegates take if they took it as a reference in every measure and a
clear measure of any violation or change?*

*Would you contribute to him in talking about him more expressively and made him at home
a famous celebrity?*

*Without you, we would not have had this knowledge.
All our thanks and recognition go to you dear experts.*

At the end of this training series, International IDEA decided to act on a recommendation by the delegates to train family judges and judges specializing in child law. Such trainings were undertaken in November and the feedback from participants is that the series of trainings has strengthened the collaboration between institutions involved in the protection of children's rights. It has done so by equipping the institutions with a joint framework for action regarding vulnerable children, guided by Article 49.

Ensuring a consistent understanding of the provisions of Article 49 of the Constitution and entrenching the application of the principle of proportionality by the various actors in child protection has become a main objective of the project.



Training with the child protection delegates, 9–10 November 2021.



A moot court to empower young law students in Tunisia

What we did: We organized a moot court competition that centred around Article 49 of the Tunisian Constitution.

What we achieved: We brought the issue of Tunisian rights and freedoms under the 2014 Constitution to law students, outlining the limitations caused by the lack of a Supreme Court.

Who we did it with: Germany's Federal Foreign Office, law faculties, students and leading practitioners of law from across Tunisia.

Project name:

Supporting the Application of Article 49 and Proportionality in Tunisia

Donor:

Federal Foreign Office in the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Core

In March 2021, under the project entitled 'Working for a new era in protection of fundamental rights in Tunisia', International IDEA organized a moot court competition that centred around Article 49 of the Tunisian Constitution.

The activity was the first of its kind, bringing together law faculties, students and leading practitioners from across the country to engage on legal issues that included the application of the principle of proportionality.

At the moot court, students had to plead in front of a jury made up of judges, lawyers, members of parliament and law professors. The 12 jury members hypothetically represented the Constitutional Court, and the former Minister of Justice Thouraya Jeribi chaired the event.

Women comprised more than 50 per cent of the candidates and the jury.

The success of the moot court exceeded all expectations and provided an opportunity to discover the intellectual capacities and skills of Tunisian law students, especially those from the regions.

The big surprise of the competition was the team from Kairouan, who, despite having the weakest marks in the written exams, were able to win the third prize thanks to the individual and collective oral performances.

Overall, the court competition allowed team members to deepen their knowledge of the limitations on rights and freedoms, and initiate this in the real world.

The competition also resuscitated the legal debate about the Constitutional Court in Tunisia and the question of a limitation on rights and freedoms in the absence of a Supreme Court.





Kenya's counties seek to reverse low-level public participation in decision-making

What we did: We organized consultative meetings with elected members of county assemblies, senior officers from the county executive, ward and subcounty-level administrators, officers representing the County Senator's office, and political and civic actors.

What we achieved: The Uasin Gishu and Kakamega county governments committed to improve their practices and decision-making processes to be more transparent, inclusive, responsive and accountable to all citizens, by reviewing their public participation strategies and their legal frameworks.

Who we did it with: The Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Centre for Multiparty Democracy in Kenya (CMD-Kenya), county assemblies and county executive governments.

Impact area:

Political Participation and Representation

Project name:

Supporting Accountable Democratic Governance and Active Citizenry in Kenya

Award period:

27 months

Donor:

Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Boundary partners:

CMD-Kenya and Office of the Registrar of Political Parties (ORPP)

Consultative meetings were organized by the Centre for Multiparty Democracy in Kenya (CMD-Kenya) with support from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs through International IDEA. The meetings were part of a two-year project seeking to strengthen accountable democratic governance and active citizenry in Kenya.

The meetings were attended by 25 elected members of county assemblies, 12 senior officers from the county executive, 40 ward and subcounty-level administrators, four officers representing the County Senator's office, and 30 political and civic actors.

Participants emphasized the need to reduce elite interests and influence in public policy priorities of the county governments.

The 2010 Constitution puts citizens at the centre of governance, by requiring public participation and citizen engagement in all aspects of governance. However, effective public participation

continues to be a challenge as the process undertaken by county executives and legislatures remains largely a formality with the County Senator's office, which plays a critical role in oversight of devolved functions, often sidelined due to parochial politics.

The lack of coordination between the legislature and executive on the one hand, and the political rivalries between governors and senators on the other, has led to disinterest by the public in local governance issues.

Participants observed that the consultative meetings were a first of a kind in bringing together the policymakers, implementers and beneficiaries for a holistic conversation on public participation and civic engagement.

After attending the meetings, the Uasin Gishu and Kakamega county governments committed to improve their practices and decision-making to be more transparent, inclusive, responsive and accountable to all citizens. They are to review their public participation strategies and their legal frameworks.



Deputy Speaker Honorable Soita, Kakamega County discussed the need to review their public participation strategies and legal framework to ensure meaningful levels of public involvement and civic engagement in decision-making processes. The meeting was held on 28 January 2021.



Media as a means of enhancing the integrity of elections in the MENA region

What we did: In Morocco, we organized working sessions on the role of media in awareness and information. In Libya, we conducted Building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Elections (BRIDGE) training for journalists, the High National Elections Commission (HNEC) and the Central Committee for Municipal Council Elections (CCME).

What we achieved: We (1) inspired Morocco Hit Radio to show more interest in public affairs and dedicate a part of its schedule to the coverage of the parliamentary elections in 2021; and (2) supported journalists and Libyan election management bodies to building a relationship based on trust and openness. Subsequently, the High National Elections Commission (HNEC) organized its first Conference for Media and Elections.

Who we did it with: Media in Libya and Morocco, and representatives from the High National Elections Commission (HNEC) and the Central Committee for Municipal Council Elections (CCMCE) in Libya.

Impact area:

Electoral Processes

Boundary partners:

Electoral management bodies

Donor:

Core

Throughout 2021, International IDEA workshops across the Middle East and North Africa region helped journalists to be more aware of the impact of media coverage on elections.

Morocco

As part of a project on raising awareness about youth participation in the 2021 elections in Morocco, International IDEA supported the Free Generation Foundation and Hit Radio Media in hosting two working sessions for the benefit of journalists and community managers who will implement the project. The two working sessions were organized online on 19 and 20 April 2021.

The first working session was on the role of media in providing awareness and information. The second focused on the misinformation youth experienced via social media. Known mostly as a music radio station, Hit Radio began to show more interest in public affairs. After the two workshops, it dedicated a part of its schedule to the coverage of the parliamentary elections in Morocco, which were held in September 2021.

Libya

International IDEA and the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) Libya organized a BRIDGE workshop on media and elections from 6 to 8 April 2021 in Tunis. The workshop focused on university journalism professors, male and female journalists, and representatives from the High National Elections Commission (HNEC) and the Central Committee for Municipal Council Elections (CCMCE).

International IDEA invited the Independent High Authority for Audiovisual Communication from neighbouring Tunisia to present its experience in monitoring the media during the electoral processes organized from 2014 to 2019.

This workshop contributed to bridging the gaps between journalists and Libyan election management bodies, a step towards building a relationship based on trust and openness between the stakeholders.

Subsequently, the HNEC organized the First Conference for Media and Elections, and in November launched the Libya Decides initiative, consisting of a series of debates between presidential candidates—a first in the history of the country—to be broadcast on many TV channels.



ورشة عمل الحملة



Supporting election bodies in preventing political violence against Arab women

What we did: Together with the Arab Network for Women in Elections, we worked with election management bodies in Libya, Palestine and Tunisia to draft the first code of conduct to prevent violence against women during parliamentary elections.

What we achieved: The Central Elections Commission in Palestine launched a Code of Conduct to prevent violence against women in politics; it was endorsed and signed by political parties. The Independent High Authority for Elections in Tunisia developed its first charter on the same subject.

Who we did it with: The Arab Network for Women in Elections, the Central Elections Commission in Palestine, the Independent High Authority for Elections in Tunisia and the High National Elections Commission in Libya.

Impact area:

Electoral Processes

Donor:

Core

Boundary partners:

Electoral management bodies

Political violence against women is one of the most striking yet most denied scourges in the Arab region. Some 79.6 per cent of women parliamentarians have experienced multiple types of violence, according to a survey by the Arab Women Parliamentarians Network for Equality—Pioneers in the Arab World. The survey encompassed included 216 Arab women parliamentarians. Women are subject to violence as voters and candidates. With the absence of institutional and legal mechanisms, official election management bodies (EMBs) are often unable to deal with the issue.

International IDEA supported the Arab Network for Women in Elections in encouraging election bodies to fulfil their responsibilities to prevent violence against women during elections.

Libya

International IDEA is conducting similar work with the [High National Elections Commission](#) in Libya, although elections in that country have been continually delayed by civil war and competing governments.

International IDEA organized, in partnership with the Arab Network for Women in Elections, a regional workshop to present the various codes of conduct and documents that it supported in the prevention of violence against women during the elections in October 2021.

Palestine

We provided support for the Central Elections Commission in Palestine ahead of scheduled parliamentary elections in drafting the first code of conduct to prevent election-related violence against women. Although the elections were postponed, the Commission adapted the draft for use in the regional elections of December 2021. In October, the Code was launched at an [official ceremony](#) during which political parties endorsed and signed it.

Tunisia

We supported the Independent High Authority for Elections in Tunisia in developing its first charter on violence against women in politics.



President of Kenya petitioned to implement a two-thirds representation gender principle

What we did: African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET), a civil society group supported by International IDEA, mobilized women's rights organizations from the East African Community to petition the East African Legislative Assembly to push the President of Kenya to implement the pending two-thirds gender rule for political representation.

What we achieved: Public interest groups in East Africa engaged with representative institutions in a democratic and effective way to improve public policy and practice, and to hold political decision makers to account. In response to the petition, the Speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly, Martin Ngoga, affirmed the Assembly's commitment in ensuring partner states adhere to signed treaties.

Who we did it with: The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), FEMNET, Crawn Trust, and women's rights organizations from the East African Community.

Impact area:

Political Participation and Representation

Boundary partners:

Civil society organizations, parliament

Donor:

Swedish International Development

Cooperation Agency (Sida)

The idea of the two-thirds gender rule in Kenya came to life with the new Constitution of 2010. According to the rule, neither the national assembly nor the senate should have a composition of more than two-thirds of their members from one gender. This rule applies to all elective bodies as stipulated by the Kenyan Constitution. However, 11 years after the promulgation of a new constitution, the Government of Kenya is yet to pass and implement a bill on affirmative action that will see at least two-thirds gender representation in key decision-making spheres. Despite the various court orders garnered by women's rights organizations in Kenya, the law is yet to take effect.

In the spirit of Pan-Africanism and holding African governments accountable on gender equality commitments, FEMNET, a civil society group supported by International IDEA, mobilized women's rights organizations from the East African Community and petitioned the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) to push Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta to implement the pending two-thirds gender rule.

The EALA Speaker, Martin Ngoga, affirmed the Assembly's commitment to ensuring that partner states adhere to the signed treaties, saying: 'No country prospers without women's participation. Gender equality is fundamental to the realization of human rights and key to effective and sustainable development outcomes.'

FEMNET and the women's rights organizations will work closely with the EALA women caucus to ensure that women's inclusion in political participation is enhanced by capacity development, awareness creation and advanced responsiveness through gender sensitive legislation and implementation.

The partners will see that the petition is processed, and that Kenya's President is [held accountable](#) in fully implementing the Constitution.



Daisy Amdany of CAWN Trust and Rachel Kagoya of FEMNET presenting the petition to EALA Speaker Hon. Martin Ngoga in Arusha on 19 November 2021.



Unwelcome no longer: Female local government representatives in Nepal lead with knowledge

What we did: We developed the capacity of local government representatives in Nepal.

What we achieved: Elected local government representatives learned to adopt deliberative decision-making processes that lead to transparency, inclusivity and accountability for all citizens. Women representatives were a major beneficiary.

Who we did it with: The Coherence Programme was undertaken with support from the Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration of Nepal and the United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO).

Impact area:

Political Participation and Representation

Project:

To support emerging democratic governance and the effectiveness of Nepal's Provincial and Local Governance Support Programme

Donor:

UK's FCDO

Award period:

17 March 2020 to 28 February 2022

Boundary partners:

Subnational governments

With a relatively new federal constitution (2015) that devolves many responsibilities to provinces and municipalities, Nepal's local elected representatives are keen to take on best-practice methods of governance.

This is particularly the case among groups that have in the past been excluded or ignored, notably women.

'You should've come earlier!' was a comment frequently made by local government representatives to the mentors of International IDEA's two-year Nepal Coherence Programme, designed to support deliberative practices in political decision-making through an inclusive, reasoned and collective process.

Women representatives and members of other historically excluded and marginalized groups—some elected through quota systems—were among the main beneficiaries of the programme, which comprised various formal and informal training sessions geared towards building the capacity to govern effectively.

Often viewed as somehow less important than other representatives, marginalized groups were at the heart of the training, which took place in 10 rural municipalities. Diverse methods were undertaken to reach the core audience.

Mentors, for example, sometimes visited representatives' houses to create a safe space for them to vent their frustrations and challenges. Women in particular have been excluded from Nepal's otherwise growing democracy, not invited to regular municipal meetings, ignored, or even humiliated for their supposed 'lack of capacity'.

The 'home visit' worked well for Pima Magar, an executive member of Rapti Rural Municipality. 'I've shared with you those things I hadn't dared share with my husband,' she said.

This was an example of how International IDEA's Coherence Programme has gone beyond conventional 'one-size-fits-all' training, defining its goal in terms of building governing capacity in a meaningful way, to make better public decisions through political deliberation.

The mentors tailor complex information on local governance according to the varying levels of understanding of the representatives themselves, using [resource materials](#) and [videos](#). For female representatives, the programme appears to be bearing fruit.

'They've started informing us about the meetings in advance nowadays, thanks to the mentors helping us understand our right,' said Sushila B. K., a ward member in Bhagawatimai Rural Municipality from a previously excluded Dalit community. She went further: 'I used to sign the minutes later even if I wasn't called in the meetings. Now I tell them I will sign the minutes only if I get to participate in them.'

The Coherence Programme plans to document all these diverse and extensive learnings and integrate them into Nepal's Provincial and Local Governance Support Programme, which is mandated to provide capacity-strengthening support to all 753 local governments of Nepal.



Coherence Mentors guiding the Local Government Representatives of Shiwalaya Rural Municipality (Karnali Province) on strategies to better participate in their ward meetings.



Building a violence-free political citizenship for women in Paraguay

What we did: We organized political dialogues on violence against women in politics with strategic actors in Paraguay.

What we achieved: We supported the process of protecting women in politics in Paraguay by assisting public interest groups to engage with representative institutions in a democratic and effective way. Members of parliament have also been supported in exercising their legislative and representation functions more effectively.

Who we did it with: Equity and Gender Commission of the Senate, The Inter-American Commission of Women (La Comisión Interamericana de Mujeres in Spanish) of the Organization of American States (OAS), Democratic Parity Group (civil society).

Impact area:

Political Participation and Representation

Project:

Consolidation of Paraguayan Democracy II,
2019–2023

Donor:

European Union

Boundary partners:

Public interest groups and members of parliament

The banner held by Paraguayan protesters said it all: ‘Political Violence is Real. Women Politicians Deserve Equal Respect’.

Defamation, threats, physical aggression and even assassination attempts are part of Paraguay’s political life, significantly focused on women candidates. The 2021 municipal elections were no exception.

International IDEA worked during the year to combat such violence by engaging with politicians, civil society groups and strategic international actors to get the issue high on the public agenda. A key element of this was the technical assistance provided for a bill—presented to parliament on 22 April 2021 by seven of Paraguay’s eight female senators—to prevent, punish and eradicate gender-based violence against women in politics’.

The bill was approved in general by the Senate on 29 July but is yet to be fully passed into law. International IDEA carried out a broad programme of publicity and engagement to support the bill, including with the Electoral Mission of OAS, which included the topic in its mission report,

expressed its concern about political violence, and recommended approval of the legislation. The debate over political violence against women spread throughout the year, garnering visible support among women in politics and civil society organizations in both the capital and the countryside.

This was manifest by the numerous support messages sent to the Senate when the bill was being debated, and by the various rallies held on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women on 25 November.

International IDEA has demonstrated strategic leadership by coordinating joint action by public interest groups, and the capacity to successfully leverage the international human rights drive with local action to promote de facto equality between men and women in politics.

Although the bill is yet to be passed into law—and the local elections in October were clearly marred by violence—the grassroots support achieved ensures that the violence issue will remain a part of the public agenda for the foreseeable future.



Women Youth sector of the Liberal Radical Party, 25N rally in Asunción.



25N rally in Encarnación.



Mongolia offers online political finance oversight solutions for political parties

What we did: We encouraged transparent political finance in Mongolia through support for a state-run online reporting system.

What we achieved: Political parties, coalitions and candidates nominated for the 2021 presidential elections were required to report that their election funds had been legally recorded, collected from real sources and spent as intended.

Who we did it with: Open Society Forum–Mongolia.

Impact area:

Political Participation and Representation

Funding:

Unrestricted

Boundary partners:

Public interest groups and members of parliament

With the support of International IDEA, Mongolia took a step forward last year towards stemming the unregulated and opaque flow of money in its political elections, which has been threatening to damage the country's progress as a democracy.

In time for the 9 June 2021 presidential election, the State Audit Office launched an online system for monitoring election donations. As a result, candidates were required to report that their financing had been legally acquired and appropriately spent.

Government officials hailed the new system as a major advance, saying it made 'election financing open and transparent to voters and the public'. International IDEA had previously warned that nebulous political financing was a serious threat in Mongolia. So, the new system—backed by the European Union-funded Level Up project implemented by International IDEA and the Open Society Forum–Mongolia—was a positive move.

But a lot remains to be done to create a truly transparent political finance system.

The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) election monitors noted that there are no requirements for interim reports and that the State Audit Office has no means to verify whether everything is being reported.

International IDEA is continuing to work with its partners in Mongolia in support of political finance reform.

Knowledge resources:

- [Digital Solutions for Political Finance Reporting and Disclosure: A Practical Guide](#)
- [Funding of Political Parties and Electoral Campaigns: A Handbook on Political Finance](#)
- [Level Up: Political Finance with Integrity project](#)

Relevant link:

[OSCE/ODIHR Special Election Assessment Mission report](#) for the June 2021 elections (see Campaign Finance section, p. 6). The State Audit Office of Mongolia, the political finance oversight body, provided an online platform and reporting template for political parties to submit their financial reports.



Ms. Bundkhorol, Director of Development Policy and Planning Department at the State Audit Office.



Advancing gender equality through law-making and oversight

What we did: We supported parliaments in Bhutan Chile and Malaysia to conduct their oversight and law-making work using a gender lens.

What we achieved: Parliaments in Bhutan Chile and Malaysia established sustainable practices for conducting their oversight and law-making work using INTER PARES's five-step model for gender-sensitive scrutiny.

Who we did it with: Local women's organizations in Bhutan (BNEW) and in Malaysia (ENGENDER), while also benefiting from the peer-to-peer expertise of parliamentary staff in European Union member state parliaments: Italian Chamber of Deputies, Irish Houses of the Oireachtas and the Spanish Congress.

Project name:

INTER PARES | Parliaments in Partnership—
EU Global Project to Strengthen the Capacity
of Parliaments

Award period:

2019 to 2022

Boundary partners:

Parliaments

Donor:

European Union

Successful parliamentary action to advance gender equality depends on an institutional culture that values and prioritizes gender in its work.

International standards and laws oblige parliamentarians to conduct their oversight and law-making work using a gender lens. But the priorities of political parties, constituents and personal interests, alongside a lack of capacity, time or skills can all get in the way of this happening.

The INTER PARES | Parliaments in Partnership project's five-step model for gender-sensitive scrutiny aims to address this. It describes how the realization of gender equality is core to the various aims of politicians across all issues, from economic prosperity to peace, and the improvement of health outcomes to safer communities.

Last year, we conducted workshops in Bhutan, Chile and Malaysia, with a high degree of support from the participants. The immediate results of the workshops were extremely promising. In Chile, the Congreso Nacional is considering creating a special unit to conduct gender impact

assessments of bills; Malaysia's lower house, the Dewan Rakyat, has seen the creation of a subcommittee to support gender scrutiny; and Bhutan's parliament has agreed a list of laws and topics to be examined from a gender perspective.

'Now that I have fully understood how to conduct gender scrutiny, I am eager to engage more on the review of gender equality issues in the parliament,' said one workshop attendee in Bhutan.

Increasing knowledge of the landscape of gender inequality

INTER PARES's activities in Malaysia resulted in increased knowledge among members of parliament and staff about the context of gender in their country. The women's committee subsequently consulted widely with gender civil society organizations to help develop its work programme. It then recommended that the government ensure that children born abroad by Malaysian mothers married to foreigners are accorded legal citizenship. The committee also formed a specific gender subcommittee.

Providing a practical gender scrutiny tool

The five-step model proved popular with members of parliament and staff. Participants in Bhutan said that the activities 'responded to the needs/challenges we encounter regarding the use of gender sensitive scrutiny and analysis'. The Hon. Speaker HE Lyonpo Wangchuk Namgyel endorsed the approach of gender-sensitive scrutiny, noting that it will 'help in our discussions at the Parliament when making crucial decisions that impact women and men differently'.

Members of parliament also agreed on a list of laws and topics which they will examine through a gender lens.

What next?

INTER PARES will support the Congreso Nacional de Chile with the creation of a dedicated technical gender unit to conduct gender impact assessments of bills, and support the Dewan Rakyat's women's committee and subcommittee to progress their workplans.

The five-step gender-sensitive scrutiny model will be published as a guide in March 2022.

The model will continue to inform the INTER PARES approach to supporting parliaments to advance gender equality through oversight and law-making.

Bhutan

94 per cent of workshop participants agreed that the learning activities could 'contribute to the effectiveness, accountability and transparency of our parliament', and 'responded to the needs/challenges we encounter regarding the use of gender-sensitive scrutiny and analysis'.

'This workshop will help in our discussions at the Parliament when making crucial decisions that impact women and men differently.'—H. E. Lyonpo Wangchuk Namgyel, Hon. Speaker of The National Assembly of Bhutan

'Now that I have fully understood how to conduct gender scrutiny, I am eager to engage more on the review of gender equality issues in the parliament.'—Workshop participant's feedback

Malaysia

- 87 per cent of respondents to the evaluation survey that said they were more willing to promote the use of gender-sensitive scrutiny and gender sensitivity of parliament as a result of the workshop.
- 94 per cent expressed feeling that they would be able to apply what they learned in their day-to-day work, and 100 per cent of respondents stated having experienced either a 'moderate' or 'substantial' knowledge increase.

Participants cited interest in hearing more case studies from other parliaments and in attending further training on the issue.

'I now have a more concrete idea about gender scrutiny and the training had also reminded me that there's always some aspects to examine a law or budget from a gender lens to make sure it's fairer.'

'The idea itself has not too much difference from what I have learned about putting in gender perspective on issues. The only and significant difference is this round it has been given a "term" and a toolkit (5 steps) to actually can be executed systematically.'

Workshop participants' feedback

Knowledge resources:

- [Bhutan Workshop on Gender Scrutiny of Legislation, Policy and Budget](#)
- [Gender-sensitive Law-making and Oversight Workshop with the Dewan Rakyat](#)
- [Workshop on gender-sensitive scrutiny with the National Congress of Chile](#)



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Truth in advertising: A Dutch code for countering false campaigning

What we did: We developed a code of conduct for online political advertising in the Netherlands.

What we achieved: We strengthened the efforts of Dutch political parties to remain inclusive, responsive and accountable to all citizens on social media and other online platforms.

Who we did it with: The Dutch Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations, and several Dutch political parties.

Project name:

Dutch Code of Conduct Transparency Online Political Advertising (official grant title: Dutch Code of Conduct Transparency Political Parties)

Donor:

Dutch Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations

Award period:

14 December 2020 to 1 February 2021

Boundary partners:

Political parties

There is nothing new about stretching the truth in politics: at least one Roman propagandist falsely blamed the Second Punic War on the Carthaginians. But modern technology has opened the door to a whole new web of potential deceit.

Faced with modern social media's particular susceptibility to the spreading of conspiracy theories and direct lies during political campaigns, the Dutch government wanted to take action to counter the proliferation of false information and harmful content during the lead-up to Dutch elections in March 2021.

Its solution was to get International IDEA to develop and negotiate a Code of Conduct, bringing together Dutch political parties and the global online platforms. In a major step, the Code was signed in February 2021 by 11 of 13 parties with seats in the then-parliament and by Facebook, Google, Snapchat and TikTok.

Transparency, privacy, safety, fairness, integrity and a level playing field in elections were at stake.

'These core values are at the basis of the Dutch democratic election progress,' the Dutch Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations said.

Although voluntary and not enforceable, the Code commits political parties to such things as refraining from having others place unattributable ads on their behalf, and eschewing unethical online behaviour—such as using fake accounts or automatic bots to manipulate voter opinions—making unfounded accusations or cyber-bullying.

For their part, the social media platforms vowed to provide transparency about where political ads came from, set up clear guidelines for placing and removing ads, and pledged to consider countering any inaccurate information on the electoral process.

International IDEA did not just come to the Code by happenstance. In 2018, we produced a primer on digital microtargeting. We also worked with the Dutch government and the European Commission in June 2020 on a webinar series on online political advertising.

Various European Union member states and other countries have taken note and expressed interest in cooperating with us in the future on the topic.



Dutch Code of Conduct - Transparency Online Political Advertisements

Sample Online Advertisements in the Netherlands Google Ad library. Visual credit: International IDEA.



From women's empowerment programme to ballot box in Tanzania

What we did: We supported a Leadership Academy for 30 Tanzanian women as part of our coordination of the regional Women in Political Participation programme.

What we achieved: The academy, organized by the African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET), empowered participants to engage politically and participate in elections.

Who we did it with: Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), FEMNET.

Impact area:

Political Participation and Representation

Boundary partners:

Political parties

Donor:

Swedish International Development
Cooperation Agency (Sida)

Rose Njilo, a 40-year-old human rights activist of Maasai origin, did not win when she ran in last year's by-election in Tanzania's Ngorongoro district. That might have been too much for a female newcomer lacking academic qualifications in a region of ingrained patriarchy, gender stereotyping and retrogressive culture.

However, the fact that she tried was testament to an International IDEA-led programme to get more women into politics.

Njilo was among the 30 successful applicants selected from across Tanzania to participate in a Leadership Academy run by African women's development group FEMNET. It was part of International IDEA's regional Women in Political Participation programme, funded by Sida.

'The academy renewed my hope to champion for my community's human rights through legislation,' Njilo said, citing the knowledge she received at the four-day intensive training programme.

The academy brought together grassroots women leaders and political aspirants to be trained and equipped to participate effectively in elections in Tanzania. For Njilo, it marked a wake-up call for her to scale up her existing human rights championship and to position herself for policy reforms in addressing the myriad of gender inequality issues affecting her community.

These include poverty, early child marriages, unequal land ownership and under-representation in decision-making spaces. The Ngorongoro Maasai are also in an ongoing struggle with the Tanzanian Government over their presence in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area.

After the workshop, Njilo registered as a candidate in the Ngorongoro by-election held on 25 October 2021.

The result of the election did not kill her spirit as the experience gave her more motivation to push for human rights in decision-making processes. A month later, she shared her political journey at the East African Community (EAC) secretariat and East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) in Arusha.

Speaking at the closing ceremony, Ugandan First Deputy Prime Minister Rebeca Kadaga applauded Njilo for her bravery and pledged to assist her enrol in and pay for college this year.

LEARN MORE about International IDEA's regional Women in Political Participation (WPP) programme and FEMNET on [our WPP website](#).



Rose Njilo receiving her Leadership Academy certificate from Tanzanian member of parliament Hon. Shally Raymond.



Amid electoral tensions, International IDEA facilitates a Code of Conduct in the Gambia

What we did: We organized participatory political dialogues and consultative processes with all political party leaders, with civil society and faith-based groups, traditional authorities and the media to develop and monitor a Presidential Code of Conduct for the presidential elections in the Gambia in 2021.

What we achieved: By recognizing and considering risks in electoral processes, political parties, civil society and media organizations developed and implemented a Code of Conduct for the presidential elections in the Gambia in 2021.

Who we did it with: The United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), Gambian political party leaders, civil society organizations; faith-based groups, traditional authorities and media organizations.

Grant/project name:

Support to Peaceful Elections in the Gambia

Donor:

UK's FCDO

Award period:

1 September 2021 to 31 March 2022

Boundary partners:

Political parties, civil society organizations, electoral management bodies

Last year was a defining one for the Gambia. Political tensions were high in a stiffly contested first presidential election after the fall of President Yahya Jammeh's dictatorial regime. Eighteen political parties and four independent candidates expressed interest in running; voters were generally distrustful and divided among ethnic lines.

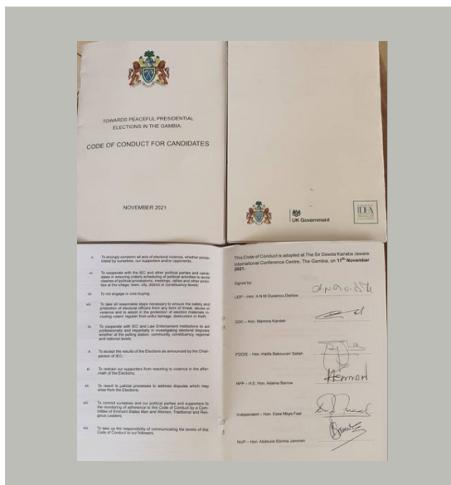
Against this backdrop, local and international actors sought to ensure that the elections were peaceful. International IDEA chose to accompany the six candidates that made it to the polls to call for peace and dissuade supporters from violence. International IDEA's project, Support to Peaceful Elections in the Gambia, called on political party leaders to 'consider risks of violence and support/implement practices which foster inclusiveness and fairness in electoral processes'.

Through participatory political dialogues and consultative processes involving all political party leaders, civil society and faith-based groups, traditional authorities and the media, International IDEA worked with a team that facilitated development, implementation and monitoring of a Presidential Code of Conduct.

The team included Dr Mohamed Ibn Chambas, a regional leader (Former President of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and former Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS)); Chair of the Christian Council, Bishop James Allen Yaw Odico; President of the Supreme Islamic Council, Sheikh Essa Darboe; Hon. Elizabeth F. Y. Renner, former Speaker of Parliament; and Ousman Yabo, former civil society leader. The Code of Conduct was agreed on and signed by the six presidential candidates on 11 November 2021. This was the pinnacle of political mediation in the Gambia.

As competitive campaigns began, the anticipated fears of violence and turmoil heightened as some political party leaders and members exercised conduct that was geared to destroying the peace.

After the election, some presidential candidates accepted the outcome and congratulated the winner, President Adama Barrow, citizens and stakeholders for a peaceful electoral process. The Code of Conduct was seen as important in easing the tensions among the candidates and supporters, which immensely contributed to a peaceful election to remember in the Gambia.



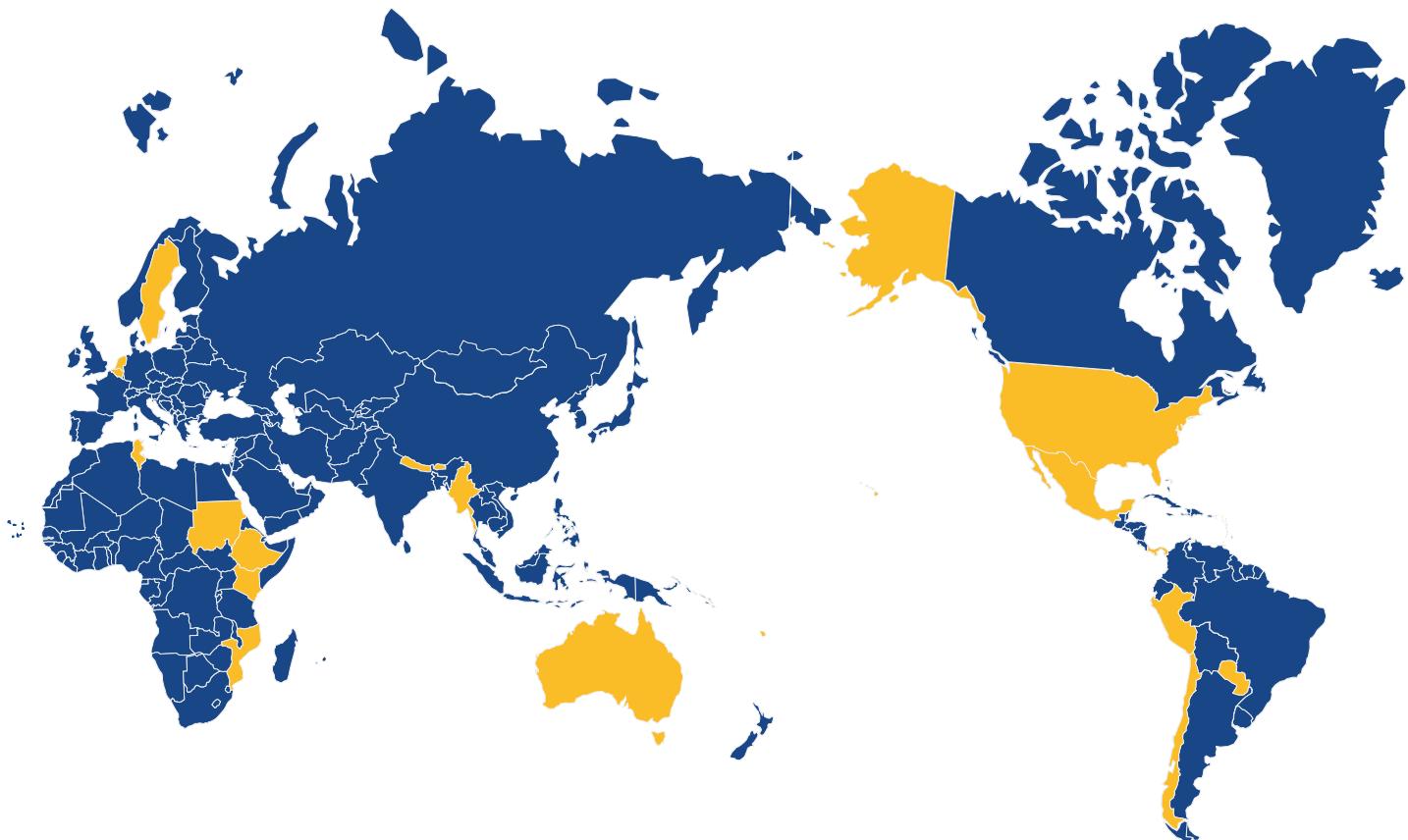
Left: The signed Code of Conduct. Right: One of the candidates, Hon. Mama Kandeh, signing the Code of Conduct.



International IDEA's Moral Guarantors, some presidential candidates and stakeholders, at the signing of the Code of Conduct, 11 November 2021.

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Tunisia
Sudan
Ethiopia

Asia & The Pacific

Bhutan
Fiji
Myanmar
Nepal
Australia

Europe

Sweden
Belgium
The Netherlands

Latin America & The Caribbean

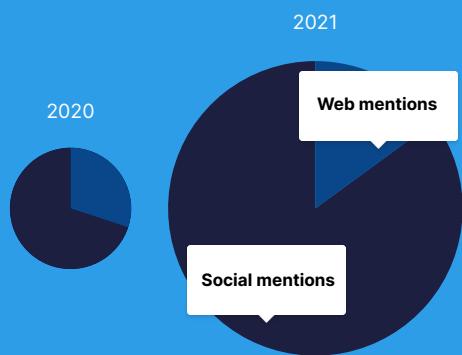
Chile
Mexico
Panama
Paraguay
Peru

North America

United States of America

Media Impact

Our expert analysis on threats to democracy-building continue to be featured in global, regional and national news outlets. The coverage of our 'Global State of Democracy 2021 Report', in particular, led thousands of people seek out our indices and reports. With the support of our partners, we continue to elevate the visibility of well-researched data online that inspires solutions and reforms to our world's most pressing issues.



+1,060%

in comparison to 2020

Source: MediaToolkit

International Media Mentions

USA	2002 Mentions (+22.95%)	
Mexico	986 Mentions (+11.30%)	
Argentina	826 Mentions (+41.08%)	
Spain	798 Mentions (+39.68%)	
Peru	492 Mentions (+24.35%)	
Brasil	361 Mentions (+17.79%)	
Australia	165 Mentions (+7.97%)	
Chile	155 Mentions (+7.46%)	
Dominican Republic	147 Mentions (+7.06%)	
India	143 Mentions (+6.86%)	
South Africa	137 Mentions (+6.56%)	
France	127 Mentions (+6.06%)	
Indonesia	119 Mentions (+5.66%)	
Portugal	114 Mentions (+5.41%)	
Panama	113 Mentions (+5.36%)	
Switzerland	109 Mentions (+5.16%)	
Nigeria	103 Mentions (+4.86%)	
Belgium	98 Mentions (+4.61%)	
Colombia	81 Mentions (+3.76%)	
Paraguay	77 Mentions (+3.56%)	
Bolivia	56 Mentions (+2.51%)	
Canada	51 Mentions (+2.25%)	
China	50 Mentions (+2.20%)	
Egypt	39 Mentions (+1.65%)	
Germany	33 Mentions (+1.35%)	
Kenya	18 Mentions (+0.60%)	
Sweden	16 Mentions (+0.50%)	
Ghana	6 Mentions (+0.00%)	

Source: MediaToolkit



Mentioned in



The
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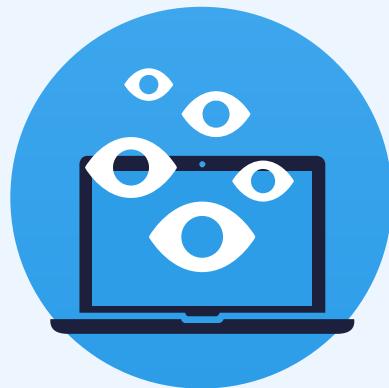
CNN

HUFFPOST

The Fiji Times

Daily Mail

International IDEA's Website Data



Over 2.000.000
websites views



Over 500.000
resource downloads

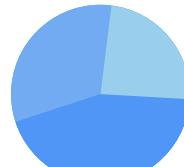
Source: Google Analytics

Social Media Outreach

New followers

New followers in 2020

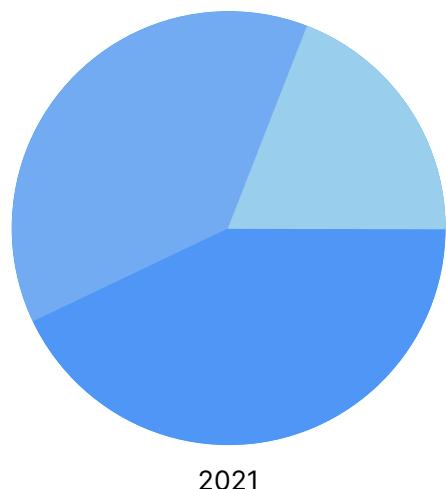
- Twitter (4,355)
- LinkedIn (3,088)
- Facebook (2,304)



2020

New followers in 2021

- Twitter (4,576)
- LinkedIn (4,009)
- Facebook (1,962)

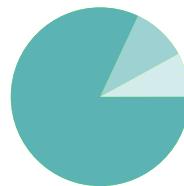


2021

Impressions

Impressions in 2020

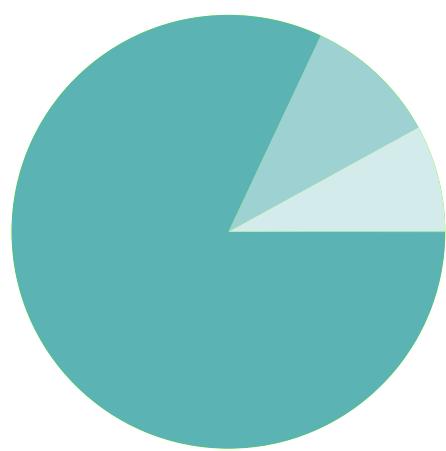
- Twitter (1,800,000)
- LinkedIn (231,865)
- Facebook (99,503)



2020

Impressions in 2021

- Twitter (1,914,400)
- LinkedIn (232,379)
- Facebook (195,516)



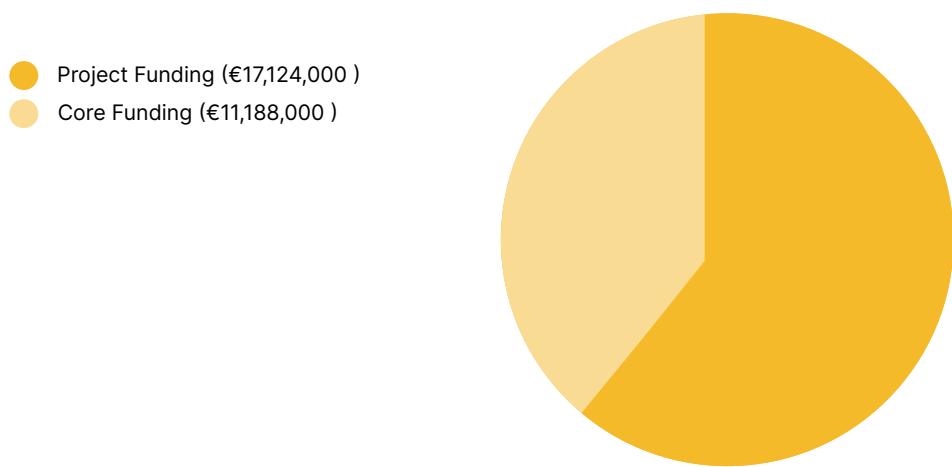
2021

Financial

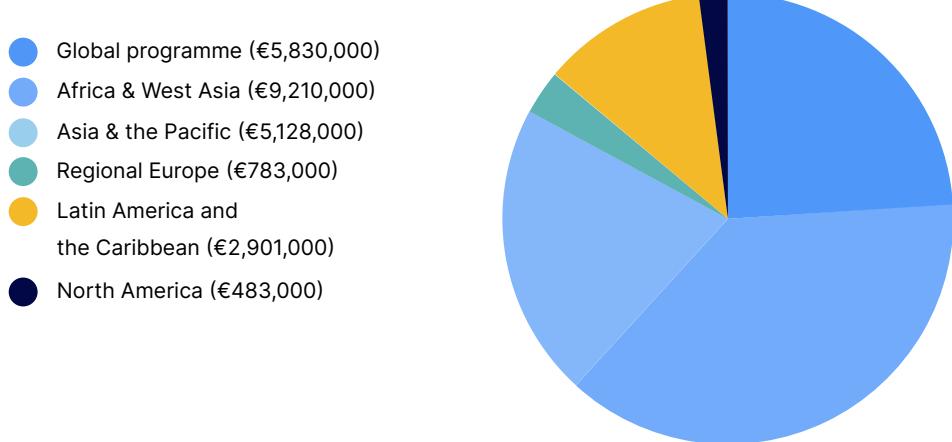
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92% of all funding to International IDEA goes directly to our programmes around the world

Total Funding 2021



Funding by Programme



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-  Chile
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-  European Union
-  Sida
-  UK FCDO
-  Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs
-  Private Foundation
-  German Federal Foreign Office
-  Panama Electoral Tribunal
-  USAID
-  Norway Ministry of Foreign Affairs
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