International IDEA
A record of actions

ANNUAL REPORT 2006

INTERNATIONAL
IDEA
INSTITUTE FOR
DEMOCRACY AND
ELECTORAL
ASSISTANCE

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Welcome

by International IDEA's Secretary-General Vidar Helgesen

Democracy – the idea that people have the right to exercise control over their government and that a government is legitimate only if and when it is controlled by the people – has acquired an almost unique global position, hardly matched by any other world view in modern history.

The value people attach to democracy does not automatically translate into public confidence in actual democratic institutions, actors and processes. Elections are still too often staged events with predetermined outcomes, and even well managed elections can see their credibility eroded by low voter participation or political disputes about the outcome. Political parties, so crucial for a well functioning democracy, are among the least trusted institutions in all parts of the world. Constitutions which should set the stage for participatory democratic practices are often treated as tools for rulers rather than instruments for checks and balances. The gross under-representation of women in positions of political power means that many democracies are rather non-representative. Moreover, democratic institutions are often seen as ineffective at representing citizens' demands for economic and social development.

Democracy building is not only complex, but also increasingly contested. Accusations are levelled at democracy-building efforts for being a facade behind which other foreign policy agendas are hidden. Some states are disregarding calls for democratic practices, or are openly supporting campaigns against democracy support, declaring it offensive to their own sovereignty. When such approaches are taken by states that carry global weight, it severely affects the conditions for democracy building worldwide.

These complexities and challenges for democracy building are increasingly recognized. The very basic human quest for freedom and dignity, which makes democracy so valuable, does not lead to good democratic politics simply through the power of ideas. The value of democracy can only be brought to life if attention is given to the workings of democracy. Since there are more working democracies in the world today than ever before, there are vast resources to tap into. Democracy-building policies and practices can benefit from the wealth of recent democracy-building experience in a large number of countries, not least in the global south.

These considerations underpin International IDEA's new five-year strategy, adopted by our Member States in 2006. Building on International IDEA's track record of generating and making available comparative knowledge, the strategy inspires us to make more active use of our knowledge resources to influence democracy-building policies and practices, and to support democratic reform efforts led by governments or regional organizations. Throughout 2006 our dedicated staff contributed actively to shaping the new vision and direction of the organization, while at the same time delivering on the existing commitments as presented in this report.

PHOTO: JULIE BALLINGTON, INTERNATIONAL IDEA

Strömsborg, International IDEA's headquarters in Stockholm, Sweden.

International IDEA's objectives

International IDEA is an intergovernmental organization comprised of 24 Member States dedicated to strengthening democratic institutions and processes.

International IDEA's programmes aim to:

- provide **knowledge resources** in the form of handbooks, databases and websites, training materials, and foster professional expert networks;

- **develop policy proposals** based on this knowledge as a means to provoke dialogue and debate on how best to strengthen democratic processes;

- provide **assistance to democratic reform** processes in response to national requests and in partnership with regional or other organizations.

International IDEA works with governments, UN agencies, regional organizations and others engaged in democracy building at the international, regional, national and local levels.

International IDEA offers expertise in the following areas:

- *Electoral processes:* supporting the development of credible and efficient electoral processes and assisting in building public confidence by promoting the professional management of elections and referendums.
- *Political parties:* improving assistance to political party systems, building on shared needs assessments and learning from evaluations, helping to overcome challenges to the legitimacy of political parties as well as hesitance towards political party assistance.
- *Democracy and gender:* developing comparative resources and tools on how to promote the participation and representation of women in political life.
- *Constitution building:* supporting inclusive constitution-building processes that respond to national priorities.
- *Democracy assessments:* promoting home-grown analysis as a basis for national and local definition of democratic reform agendas.

While International IDEA's activities are global in scope, in 2006 its regional priorities in Africa, Latin America and South Asia were maintained. International IDEA's new strategy envisages the development of a new programme for the Asia-Pacific region, and a new programme for the Arab region stemming from current activities in that area. International IDEA's headquarters are in Stockholm, Sweden, and it also has offices in Latin America, Africa, Asia and the South Caucasus and a representative in New York.

International IDEA digs deeper into democracy: it looks at the question of social inclusion, and whether democracy delivers results to the people.

Jan Eliasson, former Foreign Minister of Sweden

Indonesia, Central Borneo election ballot box being taken upstream by boat to Tg Lokang, a remote village.

PHOTO: CHRIS STOWERS FOR PANOS PICUTRES

A. International IDEA's areas of expertise

1. Electoral processes and assistance

Electoral processes play a central role in democracy, based on the principle that the electoral process is integral to wider political processes and not just a single technical event. More often than not, however, and particularly in post-conflict settings, the efforts of the international community have focused excessively on this kind of highly visible event, and not enough on the need to build and consolidate local capacities that will make change sustainable over time. In the field of elections it has traditionally been the case that significant means are mobilized to support the first free elections and not enough to build the capacity of national Electoral Management Bodies (EMBs) to organize elections as a regular, recurrent feature of democracy. International IDEA argues that electoral assistance needs to be reoriented towards building the capacity of national electoral administrations to run credible electoral processes. Supporting the professionalization of EMBs – including strategic planning – as a means of countering dependence on external assistance and finance, is a more sustainable and long-term investment than funding the conduct of elections alone.

With this in mind, more than 70 participants representing 32 countries gathered in Ottawa, Canada, on 2-4 May 2006 to discuss *Effective Electoral Assistance – Supporting Sustainable Electoral Processes*. The meeting resulted in a consensus on principles of sustainable electoral assistance. Building on these principles, International IDEA will develop guidelines for organizations providing or receiving electoral assistance which shift the emphasis towards a longer term sustainable developmental approach.

In this connection, one of the principal objectives will be to ensure that training methods aimed at strengthening the capacity of EMBs become embedded in assistance programmes. In line with the principles that emerged in Ottawa, International IDEA has developed an electoral cycle training course for elections desk officers and technical advisers, and has forged a common electoral training approach between the European Commission (EC) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The new *EC Methodological Guide on Electoral Assistance* incorporates the electoral cycle approach as a fundamental principle of sustainable electoral assistance.

> Elections and democracy are a process. It's not only an event that takes place every four years or every five years. Programmes should focus on the sustainability of the election management body ... Electoral Management Bodies have an important role in the years where there are no elections. They can play an important role in civil communication; they can also play an important role in updating the voter list, the voters' roll, and in outreach with political parties ... donors should continue to support electoral commissions even after elections. The practice shows that donors in general lose interest after elections.
>
> *Ammar Al Dwaik, Chief Electoral Officer of the Palestinian Central Elections Commission*

PHOTO: SARA STAINO, INTERNATIONAL IDEA

Launch of the ACE Electoral Knowledge Network in Ottawa, Canada in May 2006. From the left: then Chief Electoral Officer of Canada Jean-Pierre Kingsley, then Leader of the Government in the House of Commons and Minister for Democratic Reform Robert Douglas Nicholson, President of IFES Richard Soudriette and Executive Director of EISA Denis Kadima.

International IDEA released two major publications on elections during 2006 as part of its agenda to strengthen electoral management capacity and to promote better electoral processes: a new Handbook on *Electoral Management Design* written for electoral administrators and those involved in building professional and cost-effective electoral administrations with a reputation for delivering free and fair elections; and the Spanish edition of the new *International IDEA Electoral System Design Handbook* for distribution throughout the Spanish speaking world.

Electoral Knowledge Resources
International IDEA is actively engaged in developing resources to support the development of professional electoral administration: The *ACE Electoral Knowledge Network* is an online encyclopedia, an information resource covering all aspects of election administration, from electoral systems to vote counting and access to the media during elections. The material in the *ACE Electoral Knowledge Network* has been assembled by International IDEA and six partner organizations. The latest version was launched in May 2006. The Network is a 'live' online venue where professionals can share their practical knowledge with each other and find solutions to challenges in the field.

The *BRIDGE Project* (Building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Elections) aims to develop the capacity of electoral administrators. It is the most comprehensive professional development course in election administration worldwide and has been adapted to various regional contexts. *BRIDGE* was developed together with the UN Electoral Assistance Division and the Australian Electoral Commission. In 2006 *BRIDGE* training was conducted in Africa, Latin America, the Middle East and the South Caucasus.

PHOTO: INTERNATIONAL IDEA

BRIDGE training in Yerevan, Armenia.

As a key example of the impact of the *BRIDGE* training programme, in 2006 International IDEA was requested to enter into a partnership through several agreements with the Central Electoral Commission (CEC) in Armenia to implement a programme of support and professional training over a two-year period until 2008. In this connection, International IDEA and the CEC developed a specific *BRIDGE* curriculum for Armenia that has been welcomed by electoral officials.

An important focus area for International IDEA's work and research is voter participation. Increased voter turnout is one sign of voter confidence in the electoral system and an important display of individual participation in the political process. However, extensive research carried out by International IDEA and its partners suggests that the contrary is becoming the norm. *Engaging the Electorate: Initiatives to Promote Voter Turnout*, launched by International IDEA in October 2006, takes stock of different methods used throughout the world to increase voter turnout. International IDEA continues to engage in seeking to define effective civic education and in identifying institutional and other design issues which are linked to participation.

> The use of technology to guarantee credible elections must be reconsidered. When donor budgets need to spend money quickly, it is tempting to throw money at technology. But, this is the best way of maximizing risks, minimizing benefits and compromising sustainability. We need to be sceptical, what are the real needs, whose benefits and motivation.
>
> *Michael Maley, Director of Research and International Services of the Australian Electoral Commission*

Balloons display the national colours during an election campaign in Peru.

2. Political parties

Properly functioning political parties are fundamental to a well functioning democracy. Political parties are crucial to aggregating interests, presenting political alternatives and forming a link between the voters and those elected. Competition between parties can promote better policies and more accountable governance.

At the same time, parties across the world face a series of challenges. Political instability in some regions and particularly in conflict-prone societies continues to prevent parties from developing a legitimate platform to compete in the political arena and participate in the development of a society rooted in democratic values. The failure by many ruling parties to respond to pressing social and economic challenges has further undermined the legitimacy of political parties in the eyes of citizens, civil society and the media. These challenges are compounded by a number of internal functioning issues that further undermine the credibility of political parties.

As a means to support political parties in their endeavour to overcome or confront some of these challenges, International IDEA has focused on identifying policies and programmes that aim to improve international assistance for political parties. The basis of this work has been the development of a comprehensive global database on the situation of political parties. The database (*www.political-parties.org*) covers more than 300 political parties in

over 50 countries, addresses the internal functioning of political parties, structural weaknesses, the external regulatory framework, funding options and women's representation.

Subsequent research across different regions on the functioning of political parties has highlighted the following:

South Asia
In South Asia, International IDEA and its partners have raised key questions regarding the current status of political parties by exploring issues such as: how parties are faring in elections; how they are conducting themselves in public office as well as in opposition; how they are functioning in the region; what party leaders, public institutions and civil society can do to make parties more representative and more effective; and how parties are responding to the challenges of change. In 2006, several activities took place as a preliminary step to answering some of these questions. A seminar on *Political Parties in Nepal* in March laid the groundwork for a review of political parties and their functioning in Nepal. An initial publication, *Nepal Country Review of Political Parties*, has since served as a new platform for discussion and dialogue in the country.

Parallel to the work carried out in Nepal, International IDEA organized a conference on *Political Parties and the Challenges of Democratic Development* in Pakistan in April, and a workshop in India to discuss the findings of International IDEA's study on *The State of Political Parties in South Asia*.

Latin America
In Latin America, the major challenges facing political parties include the need for financial and regulatory reform, and the need in certain cases to renovate internal structures. In 2006, International IDEA's engagement with political parties continued across Latin America.

Political party representatives from Central America met in Nicaragua in October 2006 to examine how they can fight poverty and encourage development. The workshop facilitated exchange between political parties in Central America on reforms and experiences that have proven effective in reducing poverty. Participants from political parties also discussed lessons learned for building party organizations that are better able to fight poverty. Another concrete result was the decision to elaborate a national study in order to obtain a deeper analysis of the party-poverty relationship in three countries within the region: Nicaragua, Honduras and the Dominican Republic. The study is scheduled to begin in 2007.

A second Ibero-American Seminar on Political Parties was held in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, in September 2006. The objective of the seminar was to review political and electoral reforms that had already taken place in the region and analyse their impact. The seminar served as a basis for the launch of a new programme on political and electoral reform with the Instituto de Investigaciones Jurídicas, UNAM, Mexico.

The publication *Regulación jurídica de los partidos políticos en América Latina* (Legal Regulation of Political Parties in Latin America) was launched in Cordoba, Argentina in September at a seminar on the funding of political parties and election campaigns – a hot topic in Latin America.

A seminar in the Dominican Republic in September on *Political Parties and Electoral Bodies* identified the need for political and constitutional reform.

Each of these activities served to support the development of more effective policy making in the field of political parties in Latin America and to provide more policy choices and options to decision makers. They also served as an initial assessment of the reforms required to further consolidate democracy in the region.

Africa
Recognizing the role that properly functioning political parties have to play in strengthening democracy, International IDEA and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Parliamentary Forum held an Africa-wide forum in Windhoek, Namibia in October 2006 on *The Role of Political Parties as Agents of Democratization*. A major outcome of the Forum was a roadmap defining steps to be taken for securing a role for political parties vis-à-vis regional organizations.

*From the left: Regional Director of International IDEA's Africa Programme Abdalla Hamdok, Liberia's President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf and International IDEA's Board Chairperson Lena Hjelm-Wallén at the launch of the **Women in Parliament – Beyond Numbers** Handbook in Monrovia, Liberia, September 2006.*

3. Women in politics

If political systems are to be genuinely democratic, women must be equally represented in political life and have a voice in decision-making processes. Yet, women occupy a mere 16.6 per cent of positions in parliaments across the globe and have achieved representation greater than 30 per cent in only 18 countries. This is why International IDEA includes a gender perspective in all aspects of its work and is strongly committed to increasing women's participation in politics.

The practical experiences of women who are already involved in the political process need to be made more readily accessible to others. In 2006, International IDEA launched a project with UNDP, UNIFEM, the Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the National Democratic Institute (NDI) to set up an international knowledge network for women in politics via the Internet. The network is called iKNOW Politics (International Knowledge Network of Women in Politics), and aims to provide women with a web-based platform with access to resources, practical experience

Without women's equal participation in political life, all members of society will suffer. As world leaders made clear in the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document, 'progress for women is progress for all', equality is not just a worthy goal, but a proven way of accelerating human development.

Kemal Dervis, UNDP Administrator

and a wide network of experts. It will allow women political leaders, academics and others throughout the world to be in direct contact with each other and to share information and expertise. iKNOW Politics is designed to meet the needs of political candidates, politicians and elected officials, researchers and others interested in advancing women in politics.

International IDEA's flagship Handbook *Women in Parliament: Beyond Numbers* has become a resource that is used throughout the world since it was initially published in 1998. In September 2006 a revised version of the Handbook was launched by International IDEA and the President of Liberia, Ms Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, at a seminar in Monrovia attended by women legislators from South Africa, Liberia, Ghana and Kenya. Representatives from the Pan African Parliament and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) also participated. Referring to the Handbook, President Johnson-Sirleaf argued for a concerted effort to target all stages of women's political participation, from the moment they decide to run for public office through to when they are elected as representatives.

The use of quotas as a means of promoting women's political participation has developed substantially in recent years, but the impact of quotas and how they can be applied is often less well known. The *Quota Project* – a global database on quotas for women – was fully updated throughout 2006. The database – a joint effort by International IDEA and the University of Stockholm – contains extensive material on the use and impact of quotas on women's participation around the world.

> Women's presence in parliaments around the world is a reality that is impacting on the social, political and economic fabric of nations and of the world. Yet their access to these important legislative structures, learning how to work within them, and the extent to which they impact on and through them, remain serious challenges. It is critical, for the sake of ensuring fully functioning democratic institutions, and total respect for the human rights of all that these challenges be targeted and overcome.
>
> *Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, President of Liberia*

The selection of women candidates is an important first step towards increasing women's political participation. But once elected, women politicians may also need practical support to ensure that they are effective legislators and politicians. In 2006 International IDEA worked closely with the record number of newly elected congresswomen in Peru (35 of 120 members). A seminar held in July, *Congresswomen: The Representatives We all Want*, examined how to communicate better with voters, how to use congressional resources to improve legislative performance, and how to ensure a gender perspective in public policy. The seminar resulted in the establishment of the multi-party Peruvian Women's Parliamentary Caucus, which aims to keep gender equity on the legislative agenda and ensure adequate female representation on congressional committees. The seminar proved to be so successful with participants that it became a model for a similar exercise in Ecuador in December 2006.

4. Democracy building and conflict management

Constitution building is a key component of democratization and conflict management in divided societies. International IDEA is positioning constitution-building processes as a key area in its new Strategy. This initiative will include the development of knowledge networks and policy guidelines to support constitution-building processes that are planned and carried out in an inclusive, participatory and effective manner, resulting in constitutions that are nationally owned, sustainable, sensitive to the gender and conflict dimensions, and effective at responding to national priorities. In 2006, International IDEA released a policy paper *Constitution-Building Processes and Democratization,* which outlines the limitations and challenges in this area. The policy paper signals International IDEA's significantly increased focus on constitution-building processes for the coming five years.

Constitution building remains high on the agenda of a number of Asian countries. International IDEA and UNDP arranged a two-week training course on *Constitution Making in Asia* in late July 2006 in Bangkok, Thailand to outline the role that constitutions can play in post-conflict environments and to highlight the importance of the constitution design process itself. The course concentrated on the need for the constitution-building process to be inclusive and participatory so that citizens can perceive that their interests and rights are truly catered for. The training course targeted members of political parties, scholars, civil servants and senior students involved in constitution-building processes in Nepal, the Maldives, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Burma.

PHOTO: INTERNATIONAL IDEA

Participants at the Constitution Making seminar in Bangkok, July-August 2006.

In September 2006, International IDEA released a new publication *Democracy, Conflict and Human Security: Pursuing Peace in the 21st Century* which is a sequel to the publication *Democracy and Deep-Rooted Conflict: Options for Negotiators* (1998). The new publication reinforces and updates the earlier one and brings in the more recent challenges of democracy

In Sri Lanka we need constitutional checks and balances to guarantee human rights and the rights of ethnic groups. During the (constitution making) course I found that many of the other participants had similar issues to deal with in their home countries as we do in Sri Lanka and the fact that we were given a chance to discuss and debate these issues with each other was very beneficial.

Selvin Ireneuss, Director of the Sub-Committee for Immediate Humanitarian and Rehabilitation Needs, Sri Lanka

and conflict and seeks to promote debate on some of the key human security challenges of the 21st century. From this perspective, key activities were held to launch and discuss the findings of the publication with the aim of providing policy orientation for promoting a broader definition of democracy that includes human rights concerns, capacity for social and economic development, accountability, the building of consensus in settings of high diversity, improving electoral processes and promoting public involvement.

Traditional justice mechanisms have often had major relevance in fostering reconciliation, particularly in Africa. Rwanda for example has demonstrated how the village-based justice mechanisms have been translated to the national level to address the legacy of the genocide. With a workshop in Pretoria in September 2006, International IDEA commenced work on the area of traditional justice and its relationship to reconciliation and conflict management in Africa, using case studies in Mozambique, Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda, Sierra Leone and Liberia. Material on the experiences of a number of countries is to be assembled and incorporated into International IDEA's broader work on democracy building.

During 2006 International IDEA focused its reconciliation initiatives in Africa, Asia and the Balkans. In March, a meeting of the *Reconciliation Experts Network* was held in Stockholm and a reconciliation seminar aimed at Anglophone West Africa was held in Accra, Ghana, in collaboration with the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding and the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre. In April, 20 experts met at International IDEA's headquarters to discuss how to promote sustainable reconciliation in the Western Balkans. The meetings resulted in the formation of an online Reconciliation Resource Network to be launched in 2007.

5. Democracy assessments

The State of Democracy (SoD) methodology, first published in 2000, is a perceptions-based assessment methodology that can be used by internal actors to diagnose the quality of their democracy. With the democracy-building environment becoming increasingly hostile to 'foreign-led' democracy promotion efforts, SoD has become attractive as a tool that empowers citizens to assess the strengths and weaknesses of their democracy, to debate priority issues, and to mount evidence-based advocacy for reform on the basis of the findings. First developed in 2000, the methodology has so far been applied in no less than 17 countries worldwide—in both developing and developed countries.

Using the SoD methodology, the government of Mongolia involved its civil society, parliament, regions, media and the international community in assessing the state of democracy in Mongolia. The results were developed into national governance indicators, and resulted in a national plan of action. It is the intention of Mongolia to inspire other countries to undertake similar exercises in order to build an international resource and a body of experience to learn from. This work was handed over to the International Conference on New and Restored Democracies (ICNRD) movement at its 6th conference held in Qatar in late 2006.

During the year International IDEA decided to respond to the increasing demand for a meeting place for the various SoD users that want to share their experiences and to contribute to the improvement and updating of the methodology. All studies so far are to be made available on a special website (accessed via International IDEA's main website) which will also incorporate an electronic discussion forum. International IDEA's intellectual partner, the Human Rights' Centre at Essex University, is providing the updates in cooperation with the SoD network of users. Two versions of the methodology will appear in print during 2007: one full handbook and one brief and simplified overview.

Much of International IDEA's work is oriented towards the custodians of democracy; but International IDEA also has a community of donors supporting and following its work. This community is challenged by an increasing demand to show results in areas where impact is difficult to assess, such as political change and political dynamics. In an attempt to respond to this demand for experience sharing and best practice, International IDEA commissioned studies of a variety of evaluation methods, aiming to assess results and impact of donor-funded interventions for democracy support. Three communities were brought together at a joint International IDEA-Sida seminar in Stockholm on 24 April 2006: the donor community, professional evaluators and implementers that were being evaluated. Six case studies were presented and debated, shedding light on the pros and cons of six very different methods of assessment. The studies and outcomes will be presented in a publication in 2007.

Kuwaiti women demonstrate outside the all male Kuwaiti Parliament before the session convenes to discuss a proposal granting Kuwaiti women full political rights.

B. International IDEA's regional focus

1. Africa and the Middle East

Despite the wide range of challenges facing the continent, several African countries have continued to consolidate efforts to anchor democratic values and practices in their societies. Africa's regional organizations also remain committed to supporting democracy while civil society organizations expand their activities in support of democracy across the continent.

In 2006, the African Union welcomed International IDEA's continued involvement in the development of an *African Charter on Democracy, Governance and Elections*. The Charter has the objective of establishing broad principles and standards in each of these areas and there are high expectations that it will be adopted in 2007.

International IDEA made practical contributions to strengthening the capacity and professional development of electoral administrators by holding a number of *BRIDGE* training programmes in 2006. These included:

- A five-day course in August attended by 24 officials from Angola, Botswana, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Uganda and Zambia. The course provided an introduction to each of the *BRIDGE* training modules.
- A ten-day *BRIDGE* 'Train the Facilitators' course for officials from electoral management bodies as part of a two-year programme to support electoral administrators from Southern and East Africa.
- A ten-day *BRIDGE* course held in Amman, Jordan in November 2006, trained elections administrators from Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Palestine, Somalia, Sudan and Syria.

Together with the Independent Electoral Commission of South Africa, International IDEA provided technical assistance to the Democratic Republic of the Congo Independent Electoral Commission on electoral management and the collation of election results during the first round of the legislative and presidential elections that took place in July 2006. These elections, the first democratic elections held in 45 years, were the culmination of a long, halting process of political transition that came after a precipitous decline in state capacity and legitimacy during the Mobutu era (1965-1996), followed by six years of bitter conflict.

An election official empties a ballot box on 29 October 2006 in Kinshasa. More than 25 million citizens of the Democratic Republic of the Congo were registered to vote in the country's first democratic elections held in 45 years.

Other work in the elections field included co-sponsoring a seminar in Mauritius in February on *Electoral Reform in Mauritius: Moving Towards Inclusive Democracy.*

Political parties in a number of African countries have voiced a request for assistance in terms of the role that they can play in democratization processes. In October 2006, International IDEA and the SADC Parliamentary Forum held an Africa-wide forum in Windhoek, Namibia on *The Role of Political Parties as Agents of Democratization* to follow up on a previous meeting held in South Africa a few months earlier. The Windhoek forum was attended by the African Union, representatives of the regional economic communities such as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Central African States, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development of East Africa, the Pan African Parliament and representatives from across the spectrum of political parties. International IDEA continues to work with these partners in Africa to assist political parties address issues such

Democracy assistance was often not well tailored to local needs. Likewise, democracy aid is distributed in a way that does not always allow for long-term sustainability; many initiatives of the international community simply lack local ownership.

Ms Olyinka Creighton-Randall, Justice Sector Development Program, Sierra Leone

as how to resolve problems of funding, increase women's participation; strengthen their own internal functioning; and become more democratic themselves.

Sudan is a priority country for International IDEA. The Comprehensive Peace Agreement, signed between the government and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) in January 2005, set the scene for a gradual transition to multi-party democratic elections by 2009. Soon after the signing of the Agreement, Sudanese political parties became a focus for International IDEA. Despite a long tradition of active political parties, the country faces serious challenges during the transition period. Since July 2006, International IDEA and its partners have been engaged in a programme in Sudan that seeks to assist with transforming, developing and strengthening political parties and building their capacity to engage effectively both during and after the transition period in the peacebuilding and national reconstruction processes.

2. Latin America

Between November 2005 and December 2006, 12 Latin American countries held presidential elections. Most proved to be impeccable examples of the return to democracy, although there were signs of strain in some cases. In Mexico, the election result was contested by means of political mobilization; and in other countries many of the issues that undermine the confidence in democracy – such as exclusion or a failure to deliver prosperity – featured as election issues.

In Latin America, International IDEA continued to work alongside major organizations – such as the Organization of American States and the Inter-American Development Bank – to strengthen democracy. In 2006, the focus was on strengthening political parties, assistance with political reform and constitution building, training in electoral management and hands-on training for women elected to legislatures. The Andean region remained a priority.

Chile is currently debating issues related to electoral reform and is seeking to establish an electoral system that accommodates both stability and political inclusiveness. In April 2006, International IDEA received a request to provide technical assistance with the reform of the country's rigid electoral system. At President Bachelet's request, International IDEA provided options for different electoral systems along with technical advice to the Electoral Reform Commission, the Government and opposition parties, and political think tanks.

In October 2006, International IDEA was invited by the Government of Bolivia to discuss how best international support could be channelled to the Bolivian constitution-building process and how the Bolivian experience could in turn be useful to other countries. International IDEA is currently providing support to members of the Constituent Assembly charged with rewriting the Constitution. In July 2006, a workshop was held for 70 newly elected members of the Assembly on *Constitutional Processes and Democratic*

*Chilean President Michelle Bachelet receives International IDEA's Secretary-General Vidar Helgesen
at her office in Santiago, April 2006.*

Dialogue with the aim of providing experiences and lessons learned of constitution building from around the world. Speakers from South Africa, Venezuela and Colombia attended the seminar.

In conjunction with its annual Council meeting, International IDEA organized a Roundtable on the *State of Democracy in Latin America* in Stockholm in June 2006 to assess how international assistance can support democratization in Latin America. The Secretary-General of the Organization of American States (OAS) was invited to the Roundtable and his presence allowed for a discussion on the best way to move forward together. Common

Political parties need to incorporate themselves more into society and address people's real concerns. Politics has become separated from real life. As parties and the government begin to solve people's problems, people will become reconciled with democracy, and the disenchantment that we see in opinion polls will begin to disappear. Politics must respond to people's needs and solve their problems.

Rafael Roncagliolo, Head of International IDEA's Andean Programme

areas for cooperation between International IDEA and the OAS were defined with the intention of developing this preliminary agreement into a more institutionalized cooperation framework in 2007.

Supporting the development of electoral management capacity remained a key emphasis in Latin America. In November 2006 a *BRIDGE* 'Train the Facilitators' programme was held in Bolivia for officials from Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, El Salvador, Mexico, Panama, Peru and Uruguay. Participants committed themselves to adapt the *BRIDGE* material to the Latin America context. A Spanish version of *Electoral System Design: The New International IDEA Handbook* was released in Mexico City in July 2006.

3. Asia

Both Sri Lanka and Nepal are grappling with how to emerge from conflict and move to sustainable inclusive democracy. International IDEA's work in Nepal, in particular, is directed at supporting the constitutional and political reform processes.

Prime Minister Koirala of Nepal (speaking) and the Communist Party of Nepalese Maoists' leader Prachanda (to the right), after signing an historic peace agreement 21 November 2006.

PHOTO: LORENZ CHRISTENSEN FOR PHOENIX IMAGES

Women demonstrating in Kathmandu, Nepal, demanding accountability for the deaths of their relatives.

In April 2006 in Nepal, King Gyanendra was forced to relinquish direct rule and establish multi party government after mass protests. By the end of 2006 the Maoist rebels had compromised over their armed struggle, committed themselves to the constitutional reform process and taken up positions in the new administration. Responding to requests from political parties and civil society in Nepal, in November 2006 International IDEA launched a project to support the constitution-building process and lay the foundations for sustainable democracy. The project is to be implemented with national partners, including political parties, and coordinated with UNDP and other members of the international community. Also in 2006, International IDEA's new *Electoral System Design Handbook* was translated into Nepalese and used at several workshops attended by political parties, including Maoists.
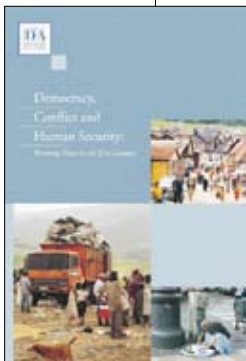
A training seminar on *Constitution Making in Asia* held in Bangkok in July 2006 attracted participants from Nepal, Sri Lanka, India, Burma, Thailand and the Maldives. The seminar focused on countries undertaking a constitution-building or reform process – such as Nepal and the Maldives – or those where constitution building and reform are seen as the best way of addressing the ongoing political and social crisis, such as Burma and Sri Lanka.

In Sri Lanka, the 2002 ceasefire appeared to have been discarded as military activity and violence escalated; and in October 2006 further talks in Geneva between the parties to the conflict failed to make any progress. International IDEA's work in Sri Lanka during 2006 remained focused on reconciliation, culminating in a publication entitled *Reconciliation and the Peace Process in Sri Lanka: Frameworks, Challenges and Ways Forward*. The publication was presented at the *Constitution Making in Asia* seminar in Bangkok.

The *State of Democracy in South Asia Assessment* was launched with key partners in New Delhi in December 2006 as an attempt to review democratization processes in the region. The objective of the initiative was to carry out a baseline evaluation of democracy in the five South Asian countries of Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. It is expected that the *Assessment* will serve as a platform for further debate and analysis about democracy and to inform policy makers and decision makers about key reform requirements across the region. Prepared by the New Delhi-based Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS) in collaboration with International IDEA and the Department of Sociology, Oxford University, the *Assessment* will be published by Oxford University Press in 2007.

International IDEA's two-year project to support the newly established Council of Regional Representatives (DPD) in Indonesia was completed in early 2006. The project was designed to strengthen the DPD's oversight of Indonesia's national budget, develop stronger links between DPD members and their constituents, and assist the DPD in establishing simple yet robust administrative support for its members.

C. Publications released in 2006: Highlights

Democracy Building and Conflict Management

Democracy, Conflict and Human Security
A two-volume publication which explores how democratic practice can contribute to the management of contemporary conflicts and promote the realization of security and development objectives.

- *Democracy, Conflict and Human Security: Pursuing Peace in the 21st century* (Volume I) introduces analysis and recomendations based on research and an evaluation of lessons learned from democratization processes.
- *Democracy, Conflict and Human Security: Further Reading* (Volume II) presents essays and case studies written by specialists from around the world, further developing the themes analysed in Volume I.

Available in English (http://www.idea.int/publications/dchs/dchs_vol1.cfm) and (http://www.idea.int/publications/dchs/dchs_vol2.cfm).

Reconciliation and the Peace Process in Sri Lanka: Frameworks, Challenges and Ways Forward
This paper argues for the critical importance of integrating a reconciliation dimension into the formal Sri Lankan peace process, and outlines a number of practical strategies for promoting tolerance, co-existence and a willingness to confront the painful legacy of the violent past.
Available in English (http://www.idea.int/publications/pofdr.cfm).

Constitution-Building Processes and Democratization
In recent decades there has been considerable activity in the making or revision of constitutions which reflects the changed perception of the importance and purpose of constitutions: some constitutions are the result of pressure to democratize, others are the consequence of the settlement of long-standing internal conflicts which neither side can win.
Available in English (http://www.idea.int/publications/cbp_democratization/index.cfm).

Electoral Processes

Electoral Management Design: The International IDEA Handbook
Written for electoral administrators, electoral administration designers and others involved in building professional, sustainable and cost-effective electoral administrations that are able to deliver legitimate and credible elections. The book is based on know-how from around the world on the financing, structuring and evaluation of Electoral Management Bodies.
Available in English (http://www.idea.int/publications/emd/index.cfm).

Engaging the Electorate: Initiatives to Promote Voter Turnout From Around the World
This publication examines some of the efforts made throughout the world to
stem or reverse the decline in voter turnout and to attempt to maximize turnout
in elections, referendums and citizens' initiatives.
Available in English (http://www.idea.int/publications/vt_ee/index.cfm).

Diseño de sistemas electorales: el nuevo anual de IDEA Internacional
(Electoral System Design: The New International IDEA Handbook)
This is the Spanish edition of *Electoral System Design: The New International IDEA
Handbook*. Available in Spanish (http://www.idea.int/publications/esd/es.cfm).
Co-published with Instituto Federal Electoral and the Tribunal Electoral del
Poder Judicial de la Federación, Mexico.

Political Parties

Political Parties in South Asia: The Challenge of Change
This report provides a comparative view of the conditions, roles and functioning of
political parties in five countries in the South Asia region – Bangladesh, India, Nepal,
Sri Lanka and Pakistan.
Available in English (http://www.idea.int/publications/pp_south_asia/index.cfm).

Latin America

La politíca importa: Democracia y desarrollo en América Latina
(Democracies in Development: Politics and Reform in Latin America)
Analyses the effects of institutions on democratic systems, identifies regional
trends in democratic reform, and assesses efforts to improve governance.
Available in Spanish (http://www.idea.int/publications/dem_dev/sp.cfm).
Co-published with the Inter-American Development Bank.

Funding of Political Parties and Election Campaigns in the Americas
This study compiles the main features of political funding systems in the 18
countries reviewed. It also discusses likely repercussions for political party systems
and democratic regimes throughout the region of reforming political party and
election campaign funding.
Available in English (http://www.idea.int/publications/fopp_america/index.cfm).
Co-published with the Organization of American States.

Cuotas de género: democracia y representación
(Gender Quotas: Democracy and Representation)
This booklet aims to contribute to the debate on women's political representation
in Chile and Latin America in general, where women continue to be under-
represented in parliament.
Available in Spanish (http://www.idea.int/publications/coutas_de_genero/index.
cfm). Co-published with FLACSO, Chile.

D. International IDEA's databases

ACE Electoral Knowledge Network
http://www.aceproject.org/
The *ACE Electoral Knowledge Network* provides comprehensive and authoritative information on elections, promotes networking among election-related professionals and offers capacity development services. It is a joint endeavor between International IDEA, EISA, Elections Canada, Instituto Federal Electoral – Mexico, IFES, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations Electoral Assistance Division and the United Nations Development Programme and was revised and relaunched in 2006.

Political Finance Laws and Regulations
http://www.idea.int/parties/finance/db/
The largest collection of information on political finance laws and regulations on the funding of political parties in the world.

Quotas for Women
http://www.quotaproject.org/
International IDEA and Stockholm University have compiled comparative information on the use and impact of quotas for women in politics, including the different quota systems in existence today, the percentage of women represented and representation targets in countries where these exist.

Voter Turnout
http://www.idea.int/vt/index.cfm
The most comprehensive global collection of political participation statistics available. The database contains voter turnout figures on a country basis for national presidential and parliamentary elections since 1945.

Electoral System Design
http://www.idea.int/esd/index.cfm
The material on this website is a compilation of International IDEA's knowledge on electoral system design.

Member States and governance

Member States

The Member States of International IDEA are all democracies and provide both political and financial support to the work of the Institute. International IDEA's current Member States are: Australia, Barbados, Belgium, Botswana, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, Costa Rica, Denmark, Finland, Germany, India, Mauritius, Mexico, Namibia, the Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Uruguay. Japan has observer status.

Governance

International IDEA is governed by a Council composed of its Member States and assisted by a Board of eminent personalities. Mr Vidar Helgesen, former Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Norway, is the Secretary-General.

International IDEA's Board

- **Ms Lena Hjelm-Wallén**, Chairperson (Sweden), former Deputy Prime Minister and former Minister for Foreign Affairs
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- **Dr Brigalia Bam** (South Africa), Chairperson of the Independent Electoral Commission, former General Secretary of the South African Council of Churches
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- **Dr Ricardo Díez-Hochleitner** (Spain), Honorary President of the Club of Rome
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Honorary Board Member:

Ms Aung San Suu Kyi (Burma), General Secretary of the National League for Democracy in Burma and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate

Statement of revenue and expenditure

Euro	Budget 2006	2006	2005
REVENUE			
Contributions	10 075 965	9 816 866	9 424 222
Interest income	60 000	133 904	100 096
Other income	495 000	543 488	536 051
Total revenue	**10 630 965**	**10 494 258**	**10 060 369**
EXPENDITURE			
Operating expenditure			
Core programme			
Democracy and conflict management	966 682	811 861	984 184
Electoral processes	1 454 352	1 439 351	1 236 426
Political parties	941 862	832 741	776 216
Cross-thematic	1 435 542	1 466 782	1 160 743
Regional programmes	1 799 191	1 711 190	1 868 207
Programme development and follow-up	150 000	33 913	164 154
Total core programme	6 747 629	6 295 838	6 189 930
Earmarked project expenditure	1 500 000	1 624 544	1 414 371
Total operations	**8 247 629**	**7 920 382**	**7 604 301**
Administration expenditure			
Governing bodies	208 490	170 423	272 246
Personnel costs	1 184 947	1 121 903	1 149 194
Management	95 000	124 745	142 901
Human resources	314 000	244 523	294 122
Audit and accounting	90 000	77 525	139 020
Office expenditures	854 521	804 167	847 985
Total administration	**2 746 957**	**2 543 286**	**2 845 468**
Financing costs			
Exchange (gains) and losses	298 020	155 067	(300 758)
Overhead recovered		(129 401)	(69 113)
Total financing	**298 020**	**25 666**	**(369 871)**
Total expenditure	**11 292 606**	**10 489 334**	**10 079 898**