

■ EDITORIAL

The integrity of elections

Holding elections is not rocket science. But upholding the *integrity of elections* is another matter. Elections take place on a weekly basis around the world – not all of them in democratic countries, and not all of them marked by fair electoral competition. One such election took place recently in Russia, where the 4 December State Duma elections were marked by fraud and a total lack of the conditions for fair electoral competition.



» [Read more](#)

Vidar Helgesen

By Vidar Helgesen, Secretary-General

■ FOCUS: THE INTEGRITY OF ELECTIONS



Season's Greetings 2011, take a look **INSIDE**

Looking closely at the role of regional organizations in elections

Posted: December 13, 2011

A workshop on the role of regional organizations in promoting and protecting the integrity of elections is being hosted by International IDEA in Stockholm from 13–15 December 2011.

» [Read more](#)

Electoral Management Bodies meet in Stockholm

Posted: December 6, 2011

Electoral Management Bodies (EMBs) from 20 countries attended International IDEA's annual EMB Dialogue in Stockholm on 5–8 December 2011. During the EMB Dialogue, IDEA's new Policy Paper *Introducing Electronic Voting: Essential Considerations* was launched.

» [Read more](#)

Integrity of elections – a renewed commitment

Posted: November 25, 2011

"Building democracy is a complex process", said Kofi Annan at the second meeting of The Global

■ IN THIS ISSUE

- » [Editorial: The integrity of elections](#)
- » [Focus: The integrity of elections](#)
- » [Other news](#)
- » [New releases](#)

■ SPOTLIGHT ON

We are keeping busier than ever:

-  [on Facebook](#),
-  [on Twitter @Int_IDEA](#)
-  [and on Youtube](#)

Follow our Secretary-General

-  [on Twitter @VidarHelgesen](#)
- [and on our website](#)

■ MORE NEWS

For more news, check International IDEA's:

- » [Newsroom](#)
- » [Previous newsletters](#)

■ SUBSCRIBE

Subscribe to International IDEA's newsletter

- » [Proceed here](#)

■ TELL A FRIEND

Send International IDEA's newsletter to your colleagues and contacts.

- » [Proceed here](#)

■ FEEDBACK

We want to hear from you! E-mail your comments and suggestions:

- » info@idea.int

■ VACANCIES

Register your CV in International IDEA's database.

- » [Proceed here](#)

Commission on Elections, Democracy and Security in Doha in November. "Elections are only a starting point but if their integrity is compromised, so is the legitimacy of democracy."

[» Read more](#)

■ OTHER NEWS

The Arab Spring – almost a year underway

Posted: December 14, 2011

The Arab Spring is nearing the end of its first year. IDEA's Ayman Ayoub reflects on the past year and the way ahead in the region.

[» Read more](#)

State of Democracy in Zambia – report launched in Lusaka

Posted: December 8, 2011

The State of Democracy in Zambia report was launched at a time of new leadership in Zambia, reflecting the hope and aspirations of the Zambian people.

[» Read more](#)

2011 Latinobarometer

Posted: November 30, 2011

IDEA's Daniel Zovatto summarizes the outcome of the 2011 Latinobarometer, a public opinion survey covering 17 Latin American countries, in the article "Central America: Pessimism increases hand in hand with the economic crisis and insecurity".

[» Read more](#)

Protecting politics from drug trafficking

Posted: December 9, 2011

Although drug trafficking has affected Latin American countries for years, the rise in transnational crime syndicates poses new and urgent challenges to the region's fledgling democracies.

[» Read more](#)

Women's participation in Nepal: debate of inclusive proportional representation

Posted: December 8, 2011

In Nepal, equal representation is a major agenda item for the women's movement. In this newsletter, we are sharing two articles by two voices from the country.

- **Deepti Khakurel**, Women and Constitution Building Coordinator, International IDEA
- **Usha Kala Rai**, former Coordinator, Women's Caucus (Constituent Assembly member)

Exploring constitutional processes in Barcelona

Posted: November 21, 2011

Participants from all over the world gathered to learn more about how they can effectively engage in constitutional reform and implementation processes back home, and how people in other countries have solved problems similar to their own.

[» Watch the movie](#) and [read more](#)

Designing politics for development

Posted: December 5, 2011

How to design democratic politics to promote economic growth and social development was the subject of a meeting organized by International IDEA in Stockholm on 5–6 December.

[» Read more](#)

Sustaining the momentum of democratization in the Arab world: discussed at democracy forum

Posted: November 28, 2011

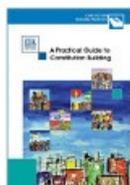
"International IDEA's firm conviction is that there is no 'one-size-fits-all' solution for the democratization and reform processes underway in the Arab region", said Vidar Helgesen at the Forum in Madrid in November.

[» Read more](#)

■ NEW PUBLICATIONS

A Practical Guide to Constitution Building

This Guide offers a wide range of world examples of how constitutions develop and how their development can establish and entrench democratic values.



Introducing Electronic Voting: Essential Considerations

Outlines factors that can influence the success of e-voting solutions and highlights the importance of taking them into account.



[» Read more](#)

» [Read more](#)

Designing for Equality: Best-fit, medium-fit and non-favourable combinations of electoral systems and gender quotas (Burmese)



» [Read more](#)

5th Global Electoral Organization Conference: Credible Elections for Democracy



The GEO 2011 brought together politicians, academics, donors, international organizations and electoral management bodies to share their experiences, discuss current challenges facing elections and new approaches to managing them.

» [Read more](#)

International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA).

Tel: +46 8 698 37 00, Fax: +46 8 20 24 22 | E-mail: info@idea.int | Web: www.idea.int

Editors: Andrea Liebman and Monika Ericson

International IDEA, Strömsborg, SE-103 34 Stockholm, Sweden

© 2011, International IDEA. All rights reserved.

[Click here to unsubscribe the address](#)



Paloma