

## ■ EDITORIAL

### **A call for political courage on the integrity of elections**

Elections have the potential to further democracy, development and security - or to undermine them. What makes the difference is whether national and international actors have the political courage and the ability to tackle threats to the integrity of elections. The need to address the integrity of elections at political level is what lies behind the initiative taken by International IDEA and the Kofi Annan Foundation to create the 'Global Commission on Elections, Democracy and Security.'



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By Vidar Helgesen, Secretary-General

## ■ FOCUS: THE INTEGRITY OF ELECTIONS



Kofi A. Annan (Chair) and Hassan Wirajuda (Commissioner) of the Global Commission on Elections, Democracy and Security  
Photo ©: Andrea Liebman/IDEA

### **Why we should grade countries on their elections** - By Kofi A. Annan

Kofi Annan is the Chair of the Global Commission on Elections, Democracy and Security.  
OPINION published by CNN (19 September 2012):  
"Democracy is a universal value and aspiration, unbound by region, ethnicity, culture or religion. In the last two decades, it has spread across the world in unprecedented ways."

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### **Landmark report on integrity of elections launched in London**

Posted: September 20, 2012

The recently launched report by the Global Commission urges national and international action to protect and promote the integrity of elections, and provides a comprehensive series of recommendations to strengthen electoral processes and norms.

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### **Integrity of Elections: the role of regional organizations**

Posted: September 12, 2012

COMING UP: The Inter-Regional Democracy Resource Center will publish its first publication *Integrity of Elections: The Role of Regional Organizations*, capturing the experiences of regional organizations in the field of elections.

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## **IDEA collaborations and projects on Integrity of Elections**

» [Are there global norms of electoral integrity?](#)

A partnership with the World Values Survey has led to preliminary findings of consensus amongst citizen perception and expert assessments of both electoral integrity and electoral malpractice.

» [Why elections fail and what can we do about it?](#)

IDEA collaborates with "The Electoral Integrity Project", which will look into what happens when elections fail to meet international standards of integrity and what can be done to mitigate challenges to electoral integrity.

### ■ OTHER NEWS

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#### **New release: Electoral management during transition**

Posted: September 18, 2012

Decision makers in transitional societies have a chance to lay the foundation for democratic institutions. This new policy paper highlights choices for those who organize transitional elections.

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#### **An insider's perspective: working with elections in Namibia**

Posted: September 13, 2012

Read latest one in a series of interviews, where IDEA is speaking with EMBs from its 27 Member States, bringing their daily work closer to our readers.

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#### **"Money is getting in the way of democracy"**

Posted: September 12, 2012

The IV Ibero-American Electoral Justice conference in El Salvador brought together experts to discuss electoral justice in the Latin American region.

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#### **"Elections in Nepal remain vulnerable to violence" - IDEA's Electoral Risk Management Tool introduced to Nepal's Election Commission**

Posted: Sep 10, 2012

The Nepalese Election Commission is now keen on adopting The Tool to support the country's forthcoming comprehensive strategy on preventing electoral violence.

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#### **Mexico seminar: "Opinion Polls: Scientific Exercise or Political Strategy?"**

Posted: September 5, 2012

Opinion polls generally predicted victory for Enrique Pen Nieto in the recent Mexican Presidential elections, and polls tended to be overly-biased in favor of his party, the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI). What impact did opinion polls have on voters? And what caused the disparity between polling and the final result?

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#### **Translating women's presence in parliaments into influence in politics and decision making**

Posted: September 1, 2012

A seminar, organized by IDEA, in Ghana on women's political empowerment brought together women members of parliaments to discuss what strategies are successful for translating women's presence in parliaments into influence in politics and decision making.

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#### **Does democracy matter for good governance and public administration at the local level?**

Posted: July 10, 2012

International IDEA convened a panel on democracy at the local level during the international conference on "Public Administration and Governance: Tradition and Transformation," presenting cases of State of Local Democracy Assessments.

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### ■ NEW PUBLICATIONS

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#### **Electoral Management during Transition: Challenges and Opportunities**



Discusses the main issues regarding electoral management

#### **Political Finance Regulations Around the World: An Overview of the International IDEA Database**



Highlights key findings, global trends and regional variations.

during democratic transition.

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**National Visions:  
Social Dialogue and  
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Highlights challenges posed by a prospective vision of development and the dynamics of processes of social dialogue.

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**Constitutional Reform  
Processes and Political  
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(Arabic)**



Provides a set of guiding principles for constitutional reform based on practical experiences in eight countries.

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**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](mailto:info@idea.int) | Web: [www.idea.int](http://www.idea.int)

Editors: Andrea Liebman and Monika Ericson

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

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