

October - December 2015



From Secretary-General Yves Leterme

Many things have happened at International IDEA and for democracy worldwide this past year. In addition to important elections in Myanmar and a new constitution in Nepal, we celebrated our 20th anniversary, launched the book *Democratic Transitions: Conversations with World Leaders* and organized multiple workshops, training sessions and events around the globe.

[Read more about the work we have done and what we are hoping to do in 2016.](#)

From the regions

Africa

Our Africa Programme has gone through major changes during 2015 in order to better respond to increased demand in the region. In January the office moved from South Africa to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and in April Adebayo Olukoshi took over as the new Regional Director.

We have hired several new programme officers and staff to better meet the needs of Member States and other countries in the region that have requested International IDEA's help.

[Read more from Regional Director Adebayo Olukoshi here.](#)



Asia & the Pacific

This year brought about a long-awaited election in Myanmar, and a new constitution in Nepal and International IDEA has been highly involved in both processes. Constitutional reforms were also initiated in Solomon Islands, Thailand, Philippines and Sri Lanka.

ASEAN is moving toward an ASEAN Community and issues of democracy and governance are featuring on the agenda more prominently throughout the region.

[Read more from Leena Rikkila Tamang, Regional Director, Asia and the Pacific](#)

Latin America & the Caribbean

Latin America began the year in the midst of a major economic slowdown while heading into numerous presidential and legislative elections. The peace negotiations in Colombia entered a final phase, and the need for structural reforms aimed at adapting to the new global context was on the agenda in several countries in the region.

Read more from Regional Director Daniel Zovatto.
[In English](#)
[En español](#)



Coming in 2016 Wider Europe Programme

In 2016, International IDEA will initiate its Wider Europe Programme. This strategic shift reflects the geopolitical developments of the past years, in which European democracies, both established and emerging, have been going through turbulent changes.

[Read more](#)

Best Electoral System Test available online

The Best Electoral System Test (BEST) is an online tool that builds on International IDEA's *Electoral System Design Handbook*. It allows those involved in the debate on electoral system design to explore the characteristics of twelve common electoral systems in a simple and interactive way.

[Try BEST here](#)

Digital Parties Portal Launch

International IDEA will launch a web-based information and communications technologies (ICT) repository in early 2016. The portal compiles information on and explanations of ICT related tools for the use of political parties to help political parties around the world to help their fundraising, policy making, campaigning and outreach.

[Read more](#)

Publications

Youth Participation

While young people between the ages of 15 and 25 constitute a fifth of the world's population their influence on national politics remains limited. [The Youth participation in electoral processes: new roles for African electoral management bodies](#) policy brief encourages EMBs to think more creatively around how to bring youth on board and engage in multifaceted programmes to address the issue.

CBP Annual Review

This second [Annual Review of Constitution-Building Processes](#) describes the key issues underlying constitutional transitions in 2014. It features chapters on women and constitution-building; constitution-building in Libya and Yemen; exclusionary constitutionalism in Chile and Hungary; secessionist movements; federalism and regionalism; constitutional term limits; and debates on the use of war powers.

Social Media Guide

In the past several years EMBs have noted an increased reliance on social media in the electoral process, but they have also voiced concern. [The Guidelines for the Development of a Social Media Code of Conduct for Elections](#) provide advice on the use of social media during elections and general guidelines for EMBs and other stakeholders.

Interim Constitutions

[The Interim Constitutions: Peacekeeping and Democracy-Building Tools](#), on the process and design of interim constitutions in conflict-affected settings, examines the diversity of post-1990 interim constitutions in terms of their structure and their role in broader peacebuilding processes.

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