

## ■ EDITORIAL

### Women in the driver's seat of democratic politics

Gender equality in politics is not about the system allowing women in. It is not about politics giving something to women. It is about women actively taking their rightful place as equals with men in political decision-making. It is about women being agents of change.



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By Vidar Helgesen, Secretary-General

## ■ FOCUS: INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2013



Photo ©: Jean-Lionel Dias

### Women as agents of change

Posted: March 8, 2013

International IDEA joins the rest of the world in celebrating International Women's Day 2013 with the theme: "Women as Agents of Change". Women need to be part of the political, social and economic transformations taking place across the world. Unless these processes involve women, women will merely become "recipients" of change rather than "agents" of change.

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### Agent of change in Nepal: Mohana Ansari, of the Women's Commission

Posted: March 4, 2013

Ansari tells IDEA about the change in women's status in Nepal, and also about her personal journey to a leadership position.

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### Agent of change in Haiti: Marie Yolaine Gilles Colas

Posted: March 6, 2013

Journalist Gilles Colas shares her thoughts about the situation of women in Haiti and the challenges in the fight for equality.

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## ■ SPOTLIGHT ON

**(New!) How to ensure women's participation in politics – have your say in IDEA's poll and survey on Facebook!**

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### **Agent of change in Tunisia: Yousra Fraous, Arab Institute for Human Rights**

Posted: March 6, 2013

Fraous talks about the recent achievements for women's rights and her aspirations for the future of Tunisia.

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### **Latin America: Statistics are encouraging, but parity is still out of reach**

Posted: March 8, 2013

IDEA Latin America reports on the status of women representatives in politics in the region.

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### **Supporting women in the democratic transition process in Libya**

Posted: February 1, 2013

The "Support to Democracy Building in Libya" project focuses on empowering and increasing the active participation and inclusion of women, in the transitional process in Libya.

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### **Regional organizations and women's political participation**

Posted: January 16, 2013

The Inter-Regional Democracy Resource Centre, hosted by IDEA, describes the experiences of the regional organizations in promoting gender equality and women's political participation.

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#### ■ OTHER NEWS

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### **Diary from the Kenyan elections**

Posted: March 7, 2013

IDEA's Erik Asplund traveled to Kenya for the March 2013 elections to work with the Independent Electoral Boundaries Commission of Kenya (IEBC), the body using IDEA Electoral Risk Management Tool, designed to mitigate and prevent election-related violence.

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### **Who we elect in Kenya next will determine our future**

Posted: March 4, 2013

Leading up to the March 2013 Kenya elections, IDEA colleague Joan Sawe, Director of Corporate Services and Kenyan, shared her reflections on the past and the future.

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### **Tanzania assesses the State of Local Democracy from a gender perspective**

Posted: February 28, 2013

The Tanzanian Centre for Democracy will conduct an assessment of local democracy from a gender perspective in 2013, using IDEA's State of Local Democracy (SoLD) assessment framework.

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### **Myanmar's transition to democracy process**

Posted: February 27, 2013

Interview with historian Thant Myint-U.

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### **The link between politics and organized crime in the Andean region**

Posted: January 22, 2013

As part of IDEA's Protecting Legitimacy in Politics initiative, a series of case studies explore the relationship between politics and organized crime networks in Peru, Ecuador and Colombia.

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#### ■ NEW PUBLICATIONS

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### **(Still) Unseeing Eyes: New Eight-country Report on Gender, Electoral Campaigns and the Media in Latin America (Spanish)**



Seeks to identify possible bias in Latin American media coverage of female candidates compared to their coverage of male candidates, and to measure the emphasis placed on gender

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



Highlights key findings, global trends and regional variations. Now available in Spanish!

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equality issues in campaign debates.

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**Electoral Justice: An Overview of the International IDEA Handbook (Arabic)**



Highlights various approaches to electoral justice that are more broadly presented in Electoral Justice: The International IDEA Handbook. Now available in Arabic!

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**Deepening Democracy: A Strategy for Improving the Integrity of Elections Worldwide (Bahasa Indonesia)**



Highlights threats to democratic progress and puts forward recommendations to strengthen the integrity of elections. Now available in Bahasa Indonesia!

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