

## SUNY Center for International Development

### GOVERNANCE INFORMATION BULLETIN #1

#### Democratization and Institution-Building Technical

[“Is the European Union Supporting Democracy in its Neighbourhood?”](#) FRIDE

This Spanish-European think tank has a full book available for download as a pdf file, as are individual country chapters. Despite the EU’s broad formal commitments to promote democratic norms, the feeling is widespread that in practice European governments have become less committed to promoting political change in many countries. This book explores the EU’s role in promoting human rights and democratic norms in the European neighborhood through a detailed study of the full range of different EU instruments that support human rights improvements and democratic reform in Morocco, Jordan, Lebanon, Ukraine, Belarus and Azerbaijan. It looks at the extent to which democracy and human rights commitments made under European Neighborhood Policy (ENP) action plans and the national bilateral assistance programs of EU member states are implemented in practice.

[“Governance for the Future: Democracy and Development in the Least Developed Countries,”](#) United Nations Development Program

“Governance for the Future: Democracy and Development in the LDCs” is the first United Nations Report to focus specifically on the challenges of governance faced by the 50 poorest nations in the world, collectively known as Least Developed Countries (LDCs). This publication emphasizes that to achieve sustainable development, LDCs must build transparent, accountable and effective democratic governance systems. Building a strong relationship between the state and its citizens is key to successful development and to achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. Governance for the Future includes country profiles for the 50 LDCs with extensive economic, social, and governance indicators.

[“Guidelines for the International Community on Parliaments, Crisis Prevention and Recovery,”](#) United Nations Development Program

Strong parliaments have vital contributions to make to peacebuilding and democratization. After conflict, however, parliaments are weak in relation to the executive branch, armed groups and other non-state actors. Building enduring peace and democracy requires timely and dedicated support to parliaments’ development. As UNDP’s “Guidelines for the International Community on Parliaments, Crisis Prevention and Recovery” elucidate, the international community needs to increase its support to,

and liaison with, parliaments in conflict-affected countries. Otherwise, investments in elections and transitional processes risk being undermined

Thomas Carothers. "[Democracy Assistance: Political vs. Developmental?](#)" *Journal of Democracy*. 20(1), 2009.

This article explores two different ways to think about the promotion of democracy. One is the political approach, which focuses on specific electoral moments in a nation's politics whereby democratic forces might triumph over nondemocratic forces. Another is a developmental approach that is more incremental, and aims for the long-term development of democracy with regard to a broad range of social and economic sectors as well as the creation of functioning states. In addition, this article compares U.S. and European approaches to democracy assistance in the context of the differences between political and developmental approaches.

### **Places Where We Work**

#### *Afghanistan*

["Afghanistan: New U.S. Administration, New Directions"](#) *International Crisis Group*. Asia Briefing No. 89. 13 March 2009.

In this new report, the ICG lays out recommendations for how the Obama Administration should approach security and state-building in Afghanistan. Among the main points of the report: the U.S. should focus more assistance funding and technical support on building durable and accountable state institutions, and eschew backing individual powerbrokers; the U.S. Congress should shift control over assistance funds from the Department of Defense to an expanded USAID; and protection of population centers should become a greater priority for U.S. and international security forces in the country.

["Media Law Wrangling Leaves Journalists in Limbo."](#) Institute for War and Peace Reporting

After two years of debate, an unprecedented advocacy effort by Afghan media workers and civil society, and a failed draft law on print and broadcast media, Afghanistan's media workers still lack a legal framework to work within, complicating their already difficult profession. In this article, media advocates claim that their requests for international assistance in advising the parliament during the legislative drafting process were largely ignored, and emphasize the necessity of future technical support.

#### *Africa*

## [Democracy at the Local Level in East and Southern Africa: Profiles in Governance](#)

In East Africa, IDEA's work on Democracy at the Local level has been in a project designed to build the capacity for leadership at the local level. In partnership with the African Union of Local Authorities and the Electoral Institute of Southern Africa, it focuses on developing tools to enhance citizens' participation at the local level including: development of a local democracy assessment instrument to evaluate conditions of local democracy in the region. This report summarizes the findings of a pilot democracy assessment conducted in 4 cities in Gaborone (Botswana), Lusaka (Zambia), Mwanza (Tanzania) and Nairobi (Kenya).

## [Legislative Poverty in Africa: What Role Have Parliamentarians Been Playing in PRSP Implementation and Policy?](#)

To ensure effective implementation of Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs), greater recognition has been given in recent years to parliamentarians' role in oversight and monitoring. This document, produced by the Parliamentary Centre and funded by the World Bank Institute, assesses how effective parliamentary involvement in the PRSP process has been, and what impacts interventions have had on PRS implementation and policy, with a focus on the budget process. The document focuses on seven countries – Ghana, Niger, Tanzania, Malawi, Kenya, Senegal and Zambia. Across parliaments there is still a general lack of knowledge relating to PRSPs, and participation in the process has been problematic.

### *Serbia*

Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Mission to Serbia, "[Mission to Serbia supports reformers in developing new laws on the judiciary.](#)"

Since the passing of the National Judicial Reform Strategy and the new Constitution in 2006, the OSCE Mission to Serbia and the Ministry of Justice have been working together with Serbian judges and prosecutors on developing a new package of laws on the judiciary. In this feature interview, prominent Serbian jurists reflect on the process of judicial reform and their involvement with the OSCE.

### *Bosnia*

["Bosnia's Incomplete Transition: Between Dayton and Europe."](#) *International Crisis Group*. Europe Report No. 198. 9 March 2009.

This ICG report discusses the complications of transitioning Bosnia from an international protectorate to full sovereignty. These issues involve the question regarding the status

of the High Representative (whom should be reappointed yet limit its own powers, according to the report), Bosnian inclusion into the EU despite its inability to meet European demands on police reform, and local political struggles among Bosnian politicians. This report concludes with recommendations on what the EU should do as it assumes a greater role in the political development of Bosnia.