

## Inputs for Governance Information Bulletin

Week of 7 April 2009

### Democracy and Institution Building

[Democracy Assistance: Political Vs. Developmental?](#) Journal of Democracy, *January 2009*, Volume 20, Number 1

Democracy-aid providers are moving away from one-size-fits-all strategies and are adapting their programs to diverse political contexts. Two distinct overall approaches to assisting democracy have emerged in response.

[Strengthening Legislative Financial Scrutiny in Developing Countries](#) UNDP/DFID

How can the UK's Department for International Development (DFID) improve its work in strengthening legislative financial oversight? This study from the London School of Economics and Political Science suggests that robust oversight at the country level is crucial for effective direct budget support. DFID's projects involving legislative financial scrutiny are vulnerable to political risks and achievements are fragile. Nonetheless, where the approach is comprehensive, long-term and builds on local, broad-based support, this work can deliver substantial and cost-effective governance improvements.

["Women and Work"](#) Inter-Parliamentary Union

As part of its efforts to strengthen the capacity of parliaments to promote gender equality and respect for women's rights, the IPU organized its second meeting of members of parliamentary bodies dealing with gender issues in Geneva, in December 2007. "Women and Work" was the general topic of this second Seminar, which was organized by the IPU in cooperation with the International Labour Organization and was also open to parliamentary bodies dealing with labor issues. It brought together members of parliament to discuss ways and means of identifying key priority areas for action and parliamentary initiatives and strategies to achieve equality between men and women on the labor market. This publication contains the experts' contributions, extracts of the debates and the summary and recommendations of the Rapporteur of the seminar. It is available as a pdf [here](#).

Short Technical Papers on Parliamentary Functioning, UNDP

The UNDP's Democratic Governance site provides a series of technical notes on the basics of parliamentary functioning that could be useful for practitioners working with new legislators and legislators in new parliaments. Each note includes a list of resources and institutions to contact for further assistance. Over the next few months we will highlight one of these technical papers in each issue.

- [The Legislature and Constituency Relations](#)

### Places Where We Work

## *Middle East and North Africa*

### [“Is the EU Serious about Democracy in Jordan?”](#) FRIDE

Political reform in Jordan, initiated with much fanfare in 1989, has not lived up to expectations. In fact, the last five years have seen significant reversals. Nevertheless, international actors, who in theory have a significant amount of leverage in the country, given its dependence on foreign aid, are unlikely to push for any significant reforms which might cause instability in a country viewed as an important ally against terrorism and a key player in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The EU’s record in promoting human rights through its foreign policy is mixed and marred by inconsistencies, contradictions and questionable motives. In the case of Jordan, the partnership building approach seems not to have succeeded in ‘socializing’ Jordanian counterparts through persuasion; rather it is characterized by indulgence or, some would say, connivance with a nondemocratic regime. The deference shown to the regime has limited any potential success in the area of political reform with the most positive achievement being the establishment of a political dialogue and a sub-committee on democracy and human rights, argues Ana Echagüe in this working paper available for download as a pdf [here](#) .

### [“Party of Justice and Development in Morocco: Participation and Its Discontents,”](#) Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

Questions have arisen over the nature of participation of mainstream Islamist movements across the Arab world in politics. For example, the parliamentary representation of Moroccan Party for Justice and Development (PJD) has gradually risen from 9 (of 325 seats) in the 1997 elections, 42 in 2002, and 46 in 2007. The PJD is attempting to find a sustainable balance between the pragmatic demands of participation and those dictated by its Islamist frame of reference. Given the restricted political environment in Morocco and various conditions imposed by the ruling establishment, the PJD has adopted moderate positions on various societal and political matters. At the same time, it has had to be careful not to alienate wide segments of its constituency drawn to it because of its religious frame of reference. [Entire paper available [here](#).]

### ["The Treasury Approach to State-Building and Institution-Strengthening Assistance: Experience in Iraq and Broader Implications."](#) United States Institute of Peace

This article reviews state-building efforts by the Treasury Department in post-invasion Iraq. It discusses finance-related technical assistance provided to Iraqi institutions and the need for local involvement in the development of new institutions. It emphasizes the importance of interagency coordination in the field as opposed to Washington. It is available in pdf form [here](#).

## *Latin America and the Caribbean*

### [“Haiti 2009 - Stability at Risk”](#) International Crisis Group

This report assesses the prospects of political upheaval in Haiti during 2009. It argues that reconstruction following the aftermath of the food crisis and hurricanes of 2008 has yet to bring tangible results to the Haitian people. Aid efforts need to be better coordinated between NGOs, the government, and international organizations. Parliamentary participation in reconstruction is also suggested as one means of strengthening democratic institutions.

### *Africa*

[“Legislating Poverty’ in Africa: What role have Parliamentarians been playing in PRSP Implementation and Policy?”](#) Governance and Social Development Center

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 activities of the executive. In this report, the Parliamentary Centre assesses the effectiveness of parliamentary involvement in the PRSP process, as well as the effects of interventions on PRS implementation and policy in the budget process. It examines seven cases: 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.

[“Demonstrating Legislative Leadership: The Introduction of Rwanda's Gender-Based Violence Bill,”](#) Governance and Social Development Center

What can be learnt from the work of Rwanda's female parliamentarians? This report by the Initiative for Inclusive Security reviews the literature concerning women's participation in politics. It considers the issue of gender-based violence in Rwanda and the role of women in Rwanda's government. Factors behind the successful development of the gender-based violence (GBV) law included soliciting input from constituents and maintaining close relationships with civil society. Women parliamentarians' participatory model of leadership and lawmaking has contributed significantly to improving governance in Rwanda.

[“Information Access, Governance and Service Delivery in Key Sectors: Themes and Lessons from Kenya and Ethiopia”](#) World Bank PREM Note

This PREM Note highlights the institutional context of information flows and differences in sector performance in service provision in Kenya and Ethiopia on the basis of forms of information, its access, availability and dissemination. It is available in pdf form [here](#).

### *Central Asia*

Anna Larson, [“Afghanistan’s New Democratic Parties: A Means to Organise Democratisation?”](#) AREU

Party development in Afghanistan over the last eight years has been stunted by legal barriers to party formation and the Single Non-Transferable Vote system, and external assistance to existing parties has not been incorporated into democratization projects. Despite barriers, new

parties have been formed in the last few years, among them a number of what AREU calls “New Democratic Parties” (NDPs) that prioritize ideological stances and have stated commitments to the multi-ethnic democracy. Ideologically, these parties range from Islamist to Maoist. In this report of the Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit, Anna Larson argues that assistance to NDPs should be recognized as an important part of the broader democratization process, and donors should find ways of building the capacity of NDPs to represent the ideological diversity and interests of Afghan citizens in policy-making. The report is available for download as a pdf [here](#).