

Governance and Democratic Strengthening

M Adil. Khan, "[People Matter: Civic Engagement in Public Governance](#)," in United Nations *World Public Sector Report*, 2008.

How have states attempted to bring civil society organizations into policy discussions and policy development? What lessons can be learned from these attempts? Many states are attempting to make national macroeconomic policy-making a participatory and multi-stakeholder process through the formation of Economic and Social Councils (ESCs). ESCs are consultative bodies designed to promote multi-stakeholder consultations on public policy and generally include representatives of businesses, civil society organizations, trade unions and government. ESCs that engage civil society in their processes can balance the needs of the market with the concerns of those the markets do not directly serve. As a result, ESCs have become a strategic means for broadening the base of multi-stakeholder participation in policy-making. Nevertheless, a number of ESCs in developing countries, *particularly in sub-Saharan Africa*, face difficulties resulting from low credibility, poor representation, underfunding and lack of linkages to the rural poor. This chapter from the 2008 UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs *World Public Sector Report* examines initiatives to promote civic engagement in policy development. It argues that political leadership, institutional changes, and capacity-building are of crucial importance for the success of participatory initiatives.

Antoine Heuty and Ruth Carlitz, "[Resource Dependence and Budget Transparency](#)," Open Society Institute, February 2009,

The [International Budget Partnership](#) has released its [2008 Open Budget Index](#), a biennial, independent, comparative measure of government budget transparency in 85 countries. This year, for the first time, the report includes data on openness and public accountability in China, Sudan, Saudi Arabia, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. According to this short briefing paper by the [Revenue Watch Institute](#), the 2008 index data confirms a direct connection between the poor performance of many resource-dependent countries and the lack of budget transparency and accountability in the 22 countries considered significant oil and gas producers.

A. Rocha Menocal, V. Fritz and L. Racker, "[Hybrid Regimes and the Challenges of Deepening and Sustaining Democracy in Developing Countries](#)" ODI (2008).

A wave of democratization swept across the developing world from the 1980s onwards. However, the Third Wave's large-scale transformation in formal political institutions from Africa to Asia to Latin America has only led a limited number of countries to consolidate functioning democratic regimes. Instead, many new regimes have 'gotten stuck' in transition, combining a rhetorical acceptance of liberal democracy with illiberal and/or authoritarian traits. This article analyses the emergence and characteristics of these hybrid regimes, as well as the challenges of democratic deepening. It suggests that, the absence of a broad consensus to uphold democracy make hybrid regimes be unstable and/or unpredictable. It proposes a more modest set of goals that emerge from a realistic assessment of problems facing these regimes.

Claire Mcloughlin. "[Helpdesk Research Report: Lessons Learned on Parliamentary Strengthening](#)." *Governance and Social Development Resource Centre* (Dec. 2008).

Responding to a query from AusAID, GSDRC compiled this summary of lessons learned documents in parliamentary strengthening, including links to each individual document. First, the report summarizes common themes mentioned in each of the included documents. This is followed by a summary of program evaluations of parliamentary strengthening projects. One SUNY/CID report from the Kenya project is included, among others written by UNDP, DFID, SIDA, and others.

Africa

Chris Blattman, "[From Violence to Voting: War and Political Participation in Uganda](#)," Center for Global Development, 2008.

What are the links between war, violence and individual political participation? This Center for Global Development paper presents evidence from northern Uganda which finds increased political participation among former combatants and victims. It concludes that the principle determinant of this increased political participation appears to be amount of war violence that individuals experienced.

["Zimbabwe: Engaging the Inclusive Government,"](#) Africa Briefing N°59, International Crisis Group, 20 April 2009.

After nearly a year of talks led by the Southern African Development Community (SADC), Zimbabwe's long-ruling ZANU-PF party and the two factions of the opposition Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) formed a coalition government in February. Opposition entry into government is a landmark development, and broad segments of the population are optimistic for the first time in years that a decade of repression and decline can be reversed. There is considerable international skepticism whether the flawed arrangement can succeed; many are tempted, with some reason, to second-guess the decision of mainstream MDC leader Morgan Tsvangirai to accept the deal under SADC and ZANU-PF pressure. But he had no good alternative, given a collapsed economy and humanitarian catastrophe from which his constituency was suffering. Donors should re-engage and apply a "humanitarian plus" aid strategy. South Africa, in collaboration with SADC, should negotiate retirement of hardline senior security leaders in the lifespan of the inclusive government.

Middle East

Heydemann, Steven, "[Upgrading Authoritarianism in the Arab World](#)," Saban Center, Brookings Institute, October 2007.

After twenty years, Arab regimes have become proficient at containing and disarming democracy promotion if not exploiting it for their own purposes. Strategies that take advantage of the openings offered by authoritarian upgrading are more likely to advance democratic change in the Middle East than the continuation of policies that do not take into account how governance in the Arab world is being transformed. Two openings hold out particular promise: first, adapting U.S. democracy promotion policies to exploit more effectively the openings that upgrading itself produces; and second, taking steps to weaken the coalitions on which upgrading depends.

Eurasia

Brenda Lee Pearson, "[An External Review of Trainings Delivered to Local Government Staff : 2004-2007](#)," OSCE Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje, 2008.

This review provides the OSCE Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje with an assessment of the relevance, efficiency and impact of municipal trainings in Macedonia. The external review of trainings delivered to staff and elected officials local self government units (municipalities) from 2004-2007 in the country is based on an assessment of existing documents from the government on national training policies and strategies as well as from international agencies, associations, donors and civil society organizations. This evaluation is based on training data, evaluation reports and a series of semi-structured interviews with more than 40 selected senior Government officials, international agency staff and civic organizations' representatives. Members of the OSCE Public Administration staff have reviewed the findings. For comparative purposes, this report could be useful to CID project staff, especially those working on the Serbia and Bosnia projects.

Sofia Sebastián, "[Making Kosovo Work](#)," FRIDE, March 2009.

In this short policy brief, Sofia Sebastián explores how making Kosovo work requires the EU to reassess its current policies on the ground in Kosovo and towards Serbia. The EU needs to move beyond the dilemma of how to reconcile Serbia's EU path with Kosovo's independence and find a way to keep the accession machine moving forward for both Kosovo and Serbia, irrespective of the Kosovo stalemate. Good care should be taken not to reinforce partition by default.

Marieke Denissen, "[Mutual Accountability in Afghanistan: Promoting Partnerships in Development Aid](#)," Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit, April 2009.

This working paper focuses on how mutual accountability in development aid is understood and how it works in practice in Afghanistan, while also examining the challenges involved in achieving mutual accountability in aid relationships. It is based on research conducted in Kabul between July and November 2008. Thirty-five representatives of the Afghan Government, members of Parliament, the donor community, international NGOs, NATO, contractors and informed observers were interviewed. The paper concludes that mutual accountability can make development aid more effective by, for instance, increasing public support for development policies, increasing a government's legitimacy, increasing donor accountability, and contributing to anticorruption measures.

J. Alexander Their and John Dempsey. "[Resolving the Crisis over Constitutional Interpretation in Afghanistan.](#)" *USIPeace Briefing* (March 2009).

This paper provides a brief overview of the Afghan constitutional crisis over the role and institutional location of judicial authority in the post-Bonn regime. The crisis stems from a dispute between President Hamid Karzai and the Afghan National Assembly. While President Karzai has argued for more limited authority, the National Assembly has sought to provide judicial authorities with the power to examine the constitutionality of the laws of the state. The

crisis is complicated by the Afghan Constitution, which is not clear regarding which judicial authority has the power to review laws.

Latin America and the Caribbean

Nancy Roc, "Haiti: [The Bitter Grapes of Corruption](#)," FRIDE, March 2009.

Journalist Nancy Roc analyzes the how widespread corruption affects Haitian society and causes complete lethargy in the application of the rule of law. Her review of the past few years' major corruption scandals demonstrates the unwillingness of Haitian political and economic leaders to address corruption effectively. The absence of transparency and impunity of those involved in corruption create disincentives to foreign investors, which impedes economic development. The author argues that until measures to eliminate corruption are taken, Haitians will not be able to escape misery.