

SUNY Center for International Development Governance Information Bulletin 4

Governance, Democracy Assistance, and Public Sector Performance

Chr. Michelsen Institute, 2004, '[Governance Interventions in Post-War Situations: Lessons Learned](#),' Research Paper, UNDP & Chr. Michelsen Institute, Bergen

Which democratic systems are most likely to be successful at the end of armed conflicts? What has been learned in the last ten years of peace building in countries such as **Guatemala** and **Afghanistan**? This paper, from the Chr Michlesen Institute in Norway, looks at the recent experience in internationally assisted transitions from war to peace. Governance is a process, not a product, a long-term perspective is necessary and social engineering has distinct limits.

Scott, C. and Wilde, A., 2006, '[measuring Democratic Governance: A framework for selecting pro-poor and gender sensitive indicators](#),' United Nations Development Programme, Oslo

How should we measure democratic governance? Most indicators are developed by external stakeholders to compare nation states and are not designed to help countries undertake governance reforms. This UNDP guide presents a framework for generating pro-poor gender sensitive indicators to help policy makers monitor and evaluate democratic governance at the country level. It argues that indicator selection is itself a governance process.

Department for International Development, United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank Institute, 2007, '[Donor Consultation on Parliamentary Development and Financial Accountability](#)' Final report from a joint donor meeting on Parliamentary Development, 21st and 22nd May, Brussels

What lessons can be learned from existing parliamentary development programs? How can the role of parliaments in financial governance be strengthened in developing countries? This paper from the UK Department for International Development (DFID), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Bank Institute (WBI) reports on a two day consultation on donor evaluations, normative frameworks and measures of progress for parliamentary development.

Wehner, J., 2007, '[Strengthening Legislative Financial Scrutiny in Developing Countries: Report prepared for the UK Department for International Development](#),' London School of Economics and Political Science, London

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.

Hubli, S., and Mandaville, A.P., 2004, '[Parliaments and the PRSP Process](#)', WBI Working Paper, Series on Contemporary Issues in Parliamentary Development, World Bank, Washington D.C.

How can parliaments in poor countries strengthen the PRSP process? How can donors help integrate parliaments into poverty reduction? This paper by the World Bank Institute provides a range of options to address these issues, identifying activities that will strengthen the impact and sustainability of recipient countries' PRSPs and ensure political legitimacy and national ownership of the process.

Dutta, N., et.al., 2007, '[Strengthening Legislatures for Conflict Management in Fragile States](#),' Woodrow Wilson School of International and Public Affairs, Princeton University, Princeton.

What role does the legislature play in conflict management in fragile states? How can its role be strengthened? This study from Princeton University, UNDP and USAID assesses the situation in **Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina** and **Uganda**. It argues that the legislature can use its representative and deliberative capacities to become an effective institution for conflict management. Legislative strengthening should focus on three areas: building compromises within the legislature; overcoming executive-legislature imbalance; and strengthening linkages between constituents and the legislature through effective communication and representation.

Africa

[Neither Consolidating Nor Fully Democratic: The Evolution of African Political Regimes, 1999-2008](#), Afrobarometer.org .

This bulletin addresses the fate of democracy as seen by Africans themselves. Do they say they *want* democracy and do they think they are *getting* it? To what extent are democratic regimes established, stable, or *consolidated*? Afrobarometer Round 4 conducted public attitude surveys in 19 countries during 2008. Overall, across 19 countries, support for democracy stands at 70 percent: from 39 percent in Madagascar, to 85 percent in Botswana. On average, 75 percent reject military rule, 73 percent reject a one-party system, and 79 percent reject strongman rule, but only 57 percent of respondents reject *all three* alternatives to democracy, and fewer than half (45 percent) fully demand democracy by *both* rejecting the three alternatives and explicitly supporting democracy. Further, it found that an average of 59 percent believed that they lived in a full or almost full democracy, ranging from 91 percent of Botswana to a mere 14 percent of Zimbabweans (in 2005). Satisfaction with democracy is just at 49 percent. A regime is "consolidated" when there is *sustained* balance between demand and supply. High level equilibrium – both at 70 percent or more – indicates a consolidated democracy. There are *no consolidated democracies* in our sample, although Botswana comes closest, with popular demand at 65 percent, and perceived supply at 80 percent. In contrast, Lesotho appears to be settling in as a *consolidated autocracy*, with demand at just 23 percent in 2008, and a mere 18 percent perceiving substantial supply. Most political regimes in Africa are *unconsolidated hybrid*

systems. In countries like Kenya, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, citizens demand more democracy than elites are willing to supply.

South and Central Asia

Aga Khan Development Network, 2003, '[Public-Private Partnerships for the Delivery of Basic Education Services to the Poor](#)', Seminar Report, Ismaili Centre, London.

How can Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) best be used for the delivery of basic education services to the poor? This report is based on a seminar organized by Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) and the Department for International Development (DFID), convened to discuss lessons and challenges in implementing PPPs. It focused on **Pakistan, Afghanistan** and **India** and suggested a number of key strategies for improving the effectiveness of PPPs.

Basu, A., 2005, '[Women, Political Parties and Social Movements in South Asia](#)', Occasional Paper no. 5, United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD), Geneva.

In South Asia, women have been heads of state and vital grassroots members of social movements, yet are under-represented in political parties. What determines the success of political parties in recruiting and promoting women? At what stage do parties supported by women feel compelled to represent their interests? What impact have female heads of state had on women's participation in party politics? Focusing on **Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka** and **India**, this United Nations Research Institute for Social Development paper examines the relationships between women and political parties, and between political parties and social movements that organize women.

Suhrke, A., 2007, '[Democratization of a Dependent State: The Case of Afghanistan](#)', Working Paper, Chr. Michelsen Institute, Norway

What impact has dependence on international assistance had on the democratization process in Afghanistan? This Chr. Michelson Institute (CMI) paper focuses on three areas of reform: structuring the interim administration; promulgation of a new constitution; and establishment of the legislature. It finds that the reform process has been shaped by the state's extreme dependence on external support. Incompatible policy objectives have produced conflicting directions. The resulting process has given democratization form rather than content and had related counterproductive consequences.

East and Southeast Asia

Eyben, R. et al., 2007, '[Gender Equality and Aid Effectiveness: Challenges and Opportunities for International Practice - Experiences from South East Asia](#)', Workshop Organized by DFID, UNIFEM and the World Bank, Bangkok

How can international aid practice support gender equality? This paper from a workshop organized by DFID, UNIFEM and The World Bank discusses the relationship between aid and gender equality in four South-East Asian countries. Key factors in achieving successful results are

broad-based political will, local consultation and well-aligned donor support. When implemented creatively, the five principles of the Paris Declaration – ownership, alignment, harmonization, managing for results and mutual accountability – provide a useful framework for effective social change.

Europe

International Crisis Group, 2009, '[Serb Integration in Kosovo: Taking the Plunge](#),' Europe Report No. 200, 12 May 2009, Brussels

More than a year after **Kosovo** declared independence, integration of its Serb minority remains a key challenge. For Belgrade, isolating Serbs from Kosovo institutions is a main plank in its policy of undermining the independence of its former province. A further crucial goal is to stem the Serb exodus, by providing for their needs there. Belgrade has devoted significant resources to this end, but with only limited success, especially south of the Ibar River, where the majority of Kosovo Serbs live. Parallel Serbian municipalities there operate only to a limited extent and have largely been unable to meet the needs of Serb communities. The Kosovo government and international bodies are pressing ahead with decentralization as the best way to engage Serbs in the institutions of the new state and persuade them they have a future in it. The paper pays no attention to central institutions, such as the parliament.

Batt, J, 2009, '[Bosnia and Herzegovina: The International Mission at a Turning Point](#),' Policy Brief, FRIDE, Birmingham, UK

On 22 January, the international community's High representative (HR) and European Union Special Representative (EUSR) in **Bosnia and Herzegovina** (BiH) unexpectedly announced his resignation in order to take up the post of Slovak Foreign Minister from 2 February. Lajcak has been unusually frank in expressing his frustrations with the international mission. His abrupt departure was no doubt intended to deliver a much needed wake-up call to the EU, which has failed to get to grips with Europe's most complex, damaged and dysfunctional country. In this Policy Brief Judy Batt explores possible ways forward for the EU and how it can rebuild its credibility in BiH.

Latin America and the Caribbean

International Crisis Group, 2008, '[Bolivia: Rescuing the New Constitution and Democratic Stability](#),' Latin America Briefing No.18, 19 June 2008, Brussels

President Evo Morales's efforts to consolidate sweeping reforms on the basis of a controversial new constitution have steered **Bolivia** into a cul-de-sac. On 8 December 2007, his supporters in the Constituent Assembly (CA) provisionally passed the text by running roughshod over procedures and virtually excluding opposition delegates. Weak attempts to bridge the deepening divide have failed, increasing potential for a violent confrontation both sides still seem to wish to avoid. Openly defying Morales in May 2008, however, Santa Cruz massively approved the department's autonomy statutes by referendum. Two other eastern lowland departments followed suit, with the fourth expected to do so on 22 June. Morales is pushing for final adoption of the constitution by referendum and a popular vote of confidence. The

Organization of American States (OAS), the European Union (EU) and several European countries, and the Group of Friends (Argentina, Brazil and Colombia) should provide good offices to help the government and opposition reach urgent agreement on a revised constitution that can keep the country together.