European Commission
United Nations Development Programme

Joint Task Force on Electoral Assistance

EC-UNDP Workshop on

Formulating and Implementing Electoral Assistance Projects in the Context of the EC UNDP Partnership

UN Policy and Strategic Framework, Roles and Responsibilities and the New Note of Guidance

Brussels 1 – 4 February 2011

UNDP Policy Framework

Art 21 (3) Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)

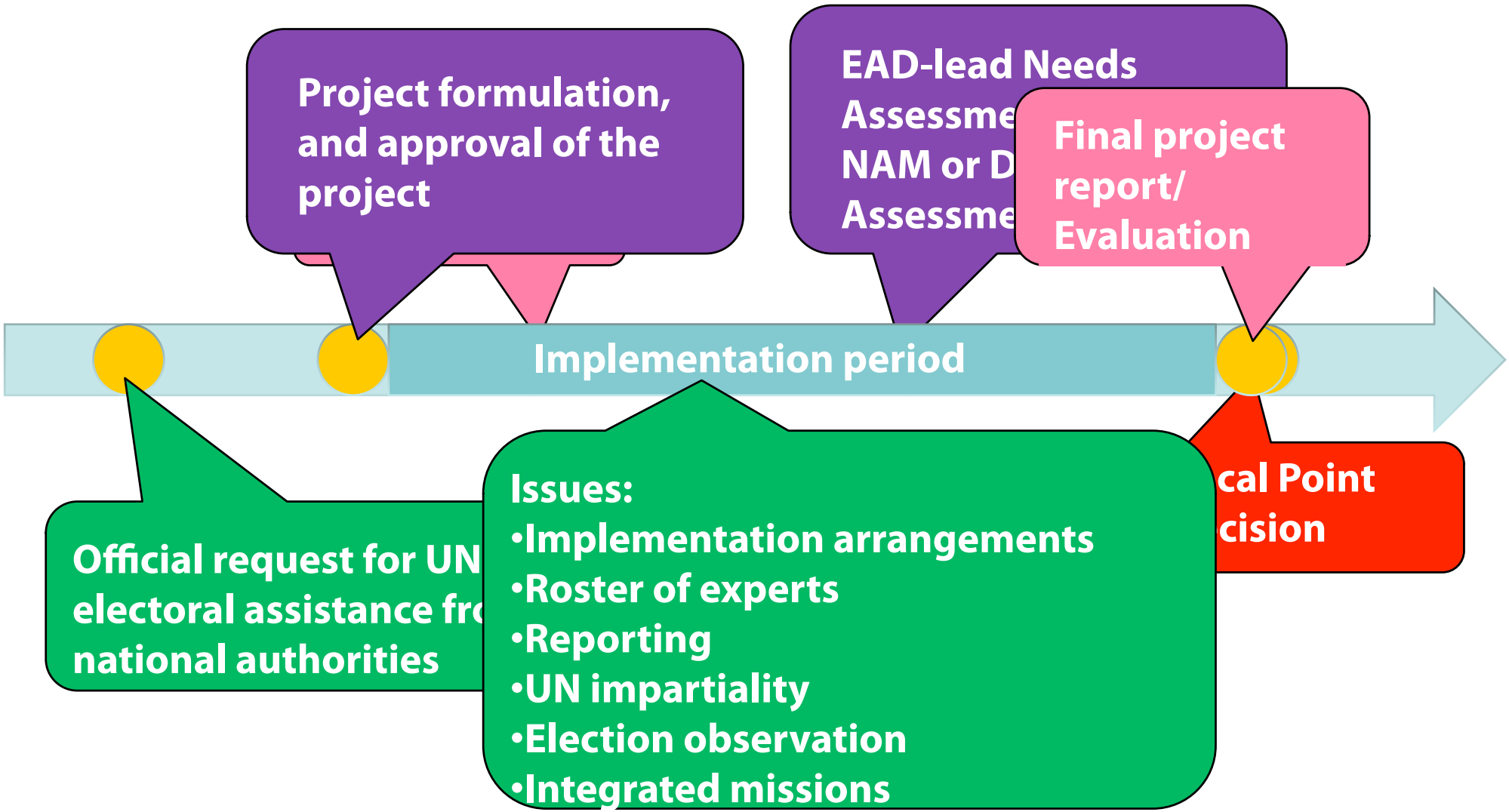
The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures.

UNDP Policy Framework

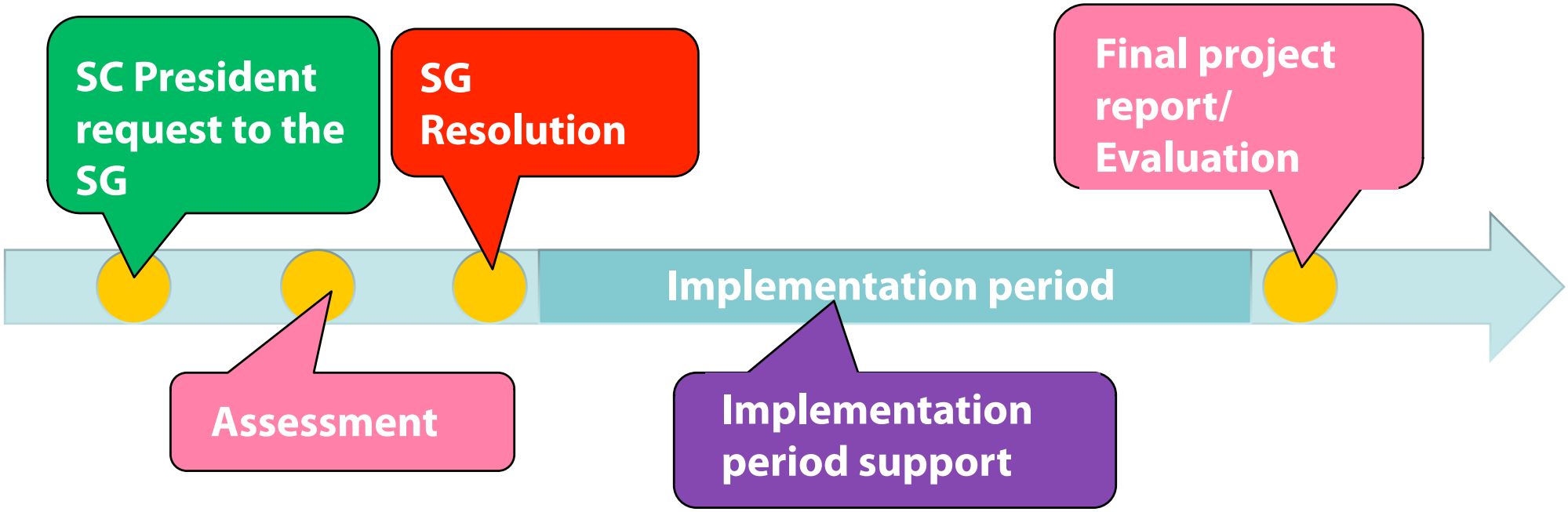
GA Resolution 64/155 (2010): Strengthening the role of the United Nations in enhancing periodic and genuine elections and the promotion of democratization

Recommends that, throughout the time span of the entire electoral cycle, including before and after elections, as appropriate, based on a needs assessment
and in accordance with the evolving needs of requesting Member States, bearing in mind sustainability and cost-effectiveness, the United Nations continue to provide
technical advice and other assistance to requesting States and electoral institutions in order to help to strengthen their democratic processes…

UN Electoral Assistance Standard Procedure



UN Electoral Assistance
UN Mission Procedure



Who does What?

The UN Focal Point for Electoral Assistance activities in the UN system is the USG for Political Affairs.

Role and responsibilities:

- ✓**Ensures system-wide coherence and consistency**
- ✓**Lead in UN system wide coordination of electoral assistance**
- ✓**Facilitates the development of institutional memory and**
- ✓**Dissemination of electoral policies, in collaboration with UNDP and other UN agencies**
- ✓**UN RC/UNDP RR plays the coordinator role at country level**

Who does What?

The Electoral Assistance Division (EAD) supports the Focal Point to fulfill his mandate.

Role and responsibilities:

- ✓**Review of requests**
- ✓**Ensure consistency and coherence, UN coordination**
- ✓**Maintain a roster of electoral experts**
- ✓**Identify and maintain UN electoral standards**
- ✓**Institutional memory, UN electoral policy, UN electoral standards**
- ✓**Maintain contact with other regional and intergovernmental organizations**

Who does What?

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) provides electoral assistance support from HQ and field levels.

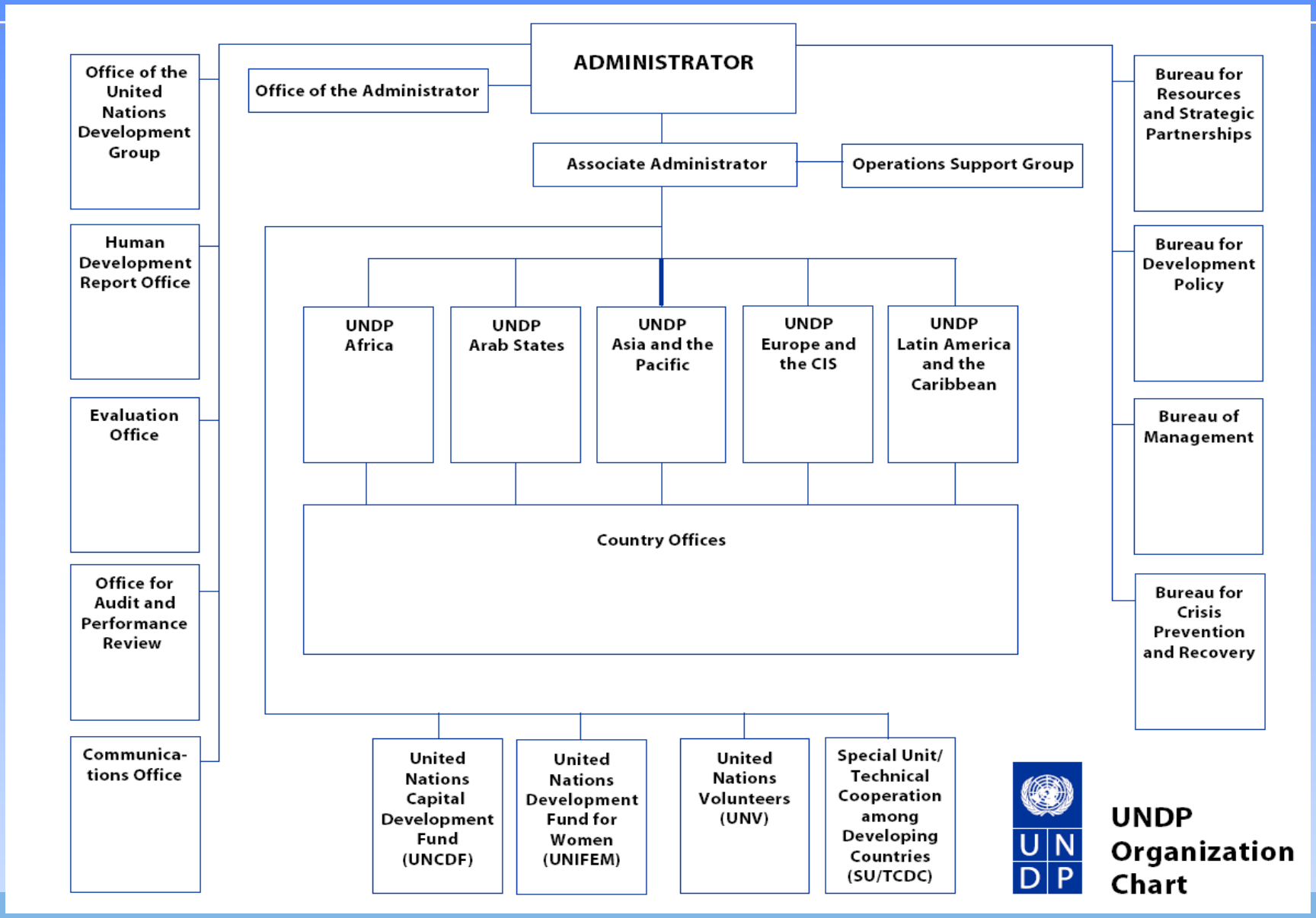
Role and responsibilities:

- ✓**Identification and formulation of new projects**
- ✓**Implementation and monitoring of ongoing projects**
- ✓**Working close with all stakeholders stakeholders**
- ✓**Coordination**
- ✓**Management of basket funds and resource mobilization**
- ✓**Procurement of electoral materials/logistical support**
- ✓**Capacity development – ACE, BRIDGE, JTF Trainings etc.**

Who does What?

Entity	Function
UNDP Country Office (CO)	Provides corporate policy guidance, advice and best practices on electoral systems and processes. Inputs into the drafting of the base documents when requested.
UN Electoral Assistance Division	Supports the CO in terms of corporate and regional positions, authorising eventual pre-financing for electoral assistance.
UNDP Regional Centres	Supports the formulation, contract negotiation and clearance with the EC, as well as the co-drafting of an eventual MOU in a basket situation. Works alongside AIDCO E4.
UNDP Procurement Support Office	Provide policy and programming advice as decentralized offices of Regional Bureaux and BDP.
UNDP Bureau for Development Policy	Serves as main country-level interface for UN electoral assistance. Responsible for liaison with Government and bringing the donor community together.
UNDP Regional Bureaux	Supports United Nations Focal Point – USG for Political Affairs – in decision to provide UN election assistance. Guides expert selection; offers technical assistance particularly in post-conflict scenarios; inputs on evaluation.
UN/UNDP Brussels Office	Provides specific electoral advice to help the CO in putting together a realistic procurement budget, timetable and appropriate procedures but can be called upon to do the procurement exercise itself at behest of the CO.

UNDP Organizational Chart



Key UN Actors

United Nations Department for Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) charged with SC/GA mandate for electoral assistance in many post-conflict situations, which is implemented through a peacekeeping missions in partnership with the other country team members, particularly UNDP.

United Nations Office of Project Services (UNOPS) is a service provider which assists UNDP, DPA, DPKO and Member States with operational and other support in electoral events.

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) has as part of its mandate support to improve public administration. UNDESA is partner of the ACE Electoral Knowledge Network.

Key UN Actors

United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF) supports democratization globally. UNDEF finances projects in a number of areas, including electoral support, political parties, and civic education. It is intended to complement UN efforts to strengthen and expand democracy worldwide.

International Organization for Migration (IOM) has frequently implemented out-of-country registration and voting (OCV) programmes for conflict-forced migrants. IOM has also acted as a service provider to EU Electoral Observation Missions.

New Note of Guidance

Department of Political Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat and the United Nations Development Programme: Revised Note of Guidance on Electoral Assistance

Background

1. The previous version of the note of guidance on electoral assistance was signed by the Department of Political Affairs (DPA) of the United Nations (UN) Secretariat and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in January 2001 with the objective of clarifying respective roles and standard procedures.

2. This is a revised version of the January 2001 note, which takes into account developments and lessons learned in the field of electoral assistance. Its main objective remains to establish clear guidance on the roles and responsibilities of DPA and UNDP in this area. This revised note of guidance replaces all previous guidance.

Overview

3. The UN system is engaged in a wide range of activities that are intended to support the efforts of Member States to promote democratic electoral processes and build sustainable democratic institutions. Member States often request advice and assistance on the legal, institutional, technical and administrative aspects of organizing and conducting elections or seek election observation, or coordination of observers, by the UN.

4. A number of trends and challenges in electoral assistance have been recognized in recent Secretary-Generals' reports on "Strengthening the role of the United Nations in enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections and the promotion of democratization". In 2007, the Secretary-General noted that requests to organize or observe elections continued to decrease, while technical advice and assistance to electoral authorities and other institutions have become the norm. There is an increasing realization that building capacity to organize credible elections may require assistance over a sustained period and over several electoral cycles. The electoral cycle refers to the entire electoral process, from the pre-election preparation period to polling to the post-election period. It takes account of entry points and partners that the UN engages with (electoral management bodies, domestic observer groups, political parties, the judiciary, parliament, etc.) depending on where a country is in the cycle and its needs. The concept behind the 'electoral cycle' approach is to provide support to a country's institutions and processes over time in a sustained manner so that international support is reduced and eventually concluded, rather than provide significant support from scratch before each new election event.

In 2009, the Secretary-General also noted a number of challenges such as the potential for elections to be overshadowed by political discord or violence, especially after results are announced; concerns regarding the cost of elections and sustainability; and, following the increase of actors involved in electoral assistance both inside and outside the UN, the need to ensure coordination and cohesion and safeguard the Organization's impartiality. The UN must therefore continue to make adjustments in its practices in order to meet such emerging trends and challenges.

Objectives

5. The objectives of UN electoral assistance are three-fold:

(a) To assist Member States in their efforts to hold democratic elections in accordance with obligations, principles and commitments outlined in universal and regional human rights instruments;

(b) To contribute to building, in the recipient country, a sustainable institutional capacity to organize democratic elections that are genuine and periodic and have the full confidence of contesting parties and candidates and the electorate; and

(c) To reduce the potential for election-related violence.

Roles and responsibilities within the United Nations system

6. In view of the increasing demand for electoral assistance and in order to ensure consistency in the

Date: October 2010

Parties: DPA/EAD and UNDP

Objective: Clarify roles & responsibilities and standard procedures

Global Programme for Electoral Cycle Support (GPECS)

1 February 2011

GPECS Goals

Overall Goal: To deepen democracy and accelerate human development.

UNDP Strategic Plan Outcome: Electoral laws, processes and institutions strengthen inclusive participation and professional electoral administration

Corollary Strategic Plan Outcomes:

- Post-conflict governance capacity strengthened
- Gender equality and women's empowerment

Key Principles of GPECS

- ❖ Interdependence of global, regional, country activities
- ❖ Participation of **women** as a key goal
- ❖ **Linkages** with other Democratic Governance areas
- ❖ Multi-year, multi-level, multi-partner initiative

Key Principles of GPECS

- **Ongoing review, reassessment and revision**
- **Knowledge** sharing and lessons learned
- Promotion of national **ownership**
- **Long term assistance approach**
- **All regions, but a special emphasis on Africa**

Summary of Components

Programme Component 1:	**Leadership, advocacy and capacity development at the global level**
Programme Component 2:	**Regional knowledge development, exchanges and capacity**
Programme Component 3:	**Electoral cycle support and lessons learned at the national level**
Programme Component 4:	**Empowerment of women throughout the electoral cycle**
Programme Component 5:	**Management of the programme**

Component 1. Global

Programme Component 1: **Leadership, advocacy and capacity development at the global level**

Objectives:

- To promote electoral cycle within the global community of practice
- Bring different initiatives under one umbrella
- Break new ground in policy development
- Strengthen electoral practice architecture
- Develop new tools and products
- Share knowledge

Component 2. Regional

Programme Component 2: **Regional knowledge development, exchanges and capacity**

Objectives:

- To respond to region-specific needs for electoral support;
- Learn and codify regional lessons;
- Reinforce regional capacity
- Cooperation with regional institutions
- Support south-south cooperation
- Conflict prevention mechanisms
- Support regional centers of excellence

Component 3. National

Programme Component 3: Electoral cycle support and lessons learned at the national level

Objectives:

- Advisory services to the countries
- Direct project support

(Country Window Guidelines)

Component 3. National

Who can apply for GPECS support?

- Mainly Africa countries
- Democratising and post-conflict countries
- Low and Middle Income countries
- ECA-inspired Activities, such as long term capacity development, promoting national ownership and mutual accountability

Component 3. National

How to Apply for GPECS support?

- Interested COs submit an Expression of Interest (EoI) via the GPECS Regional Electoral Advisor (REA)
- The REA will assist COs with drafting and finalizing the EoI
- The REA forwards the EoI to GPECS Programme Management for scrutiny and subsequent submission to the GPECS Steering Committee
- Once EoI is approved by GPECS Steering Committee, the REA assists the CO with the project formulation

Component 4. Gender

Programme Component 4: Empowerment of women throughout the electoral cycle

Objectives:

- To achieve full and equal participation of women as voters and candidates
- To build a body of knowledge about women´s political participation;
- Develop a strategy for UNDP programming on gender mainstreaming in the electoral cycle
- To focus on the unique challenges of women´s participation in post-conflict situations.

Component 5. Management

~~Programme~~ Component 5: **~~Management~~ of the programme**

Objectives:

- To manage GPECS efficiently, effectively and in line with the results expected;
- Provide operational support for the successful implementation of the programme
- Communication and visibility activities
- Monitor, evaluate and audit the programme;
- Risk assessment and management
- Donor reporting
- Coordination with the Steering Committee

Thank you!

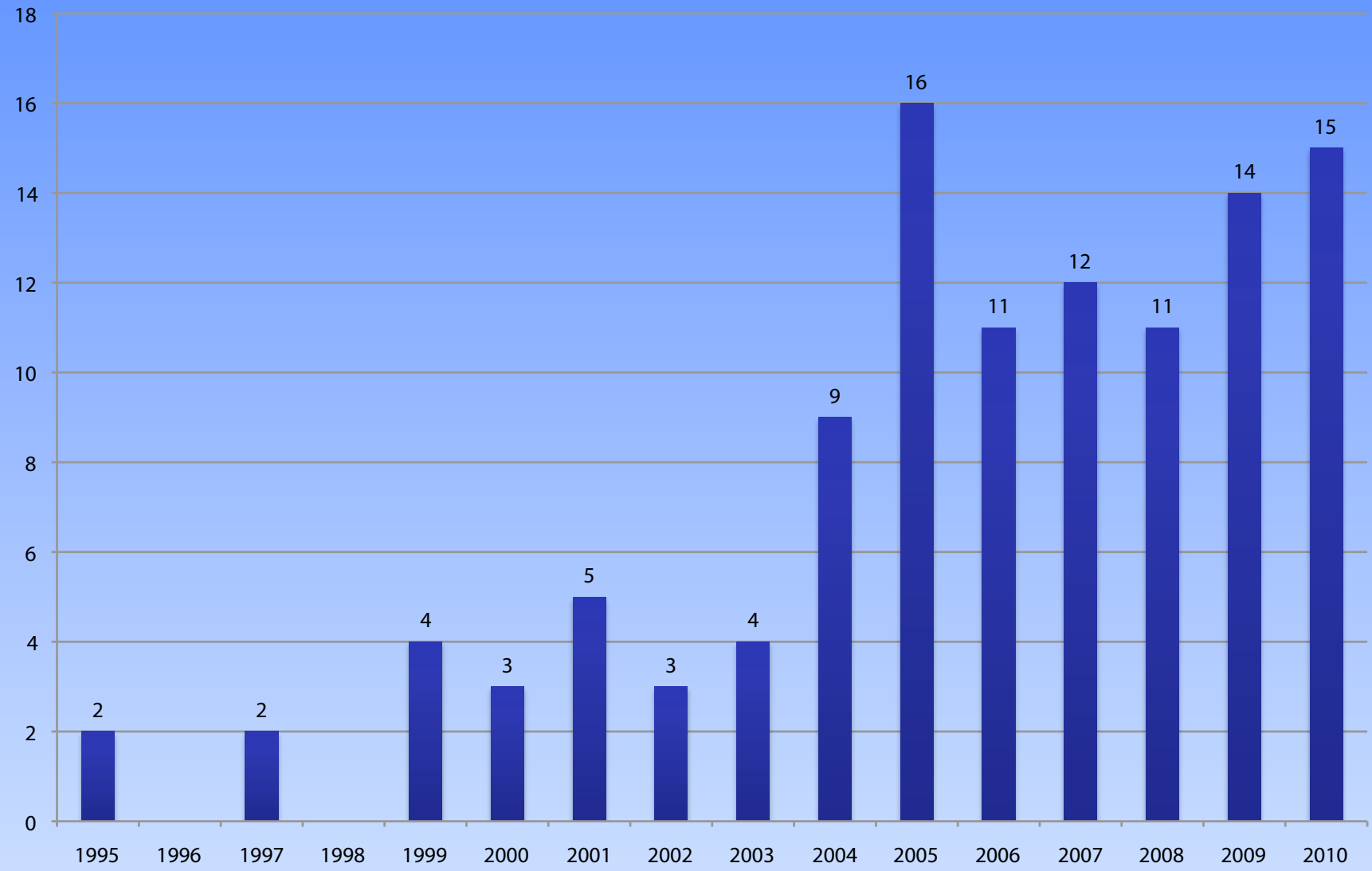
EU/EC and UN/UNDP

- ✓ **The EU and the UN are natural partners. They are united by the core values laid out in the 1945 Charter of the UN, and the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights.**
- ✓ **27 EU Member States and the EC are the largest contributors to the UN system. A total of 1.5 billion euros was approved by the EC to be channelled to the UN in 2009.**
- ✓ **2001 EC's Communication: "Building an effective partnership with the UN", and 2003 EC's Communication: "EU-UN relations: The choice of multilateralism".**
- ✓ **To facilitate programmatic cooperation between the EC and the UN, an updated Financial and Administrative Framework Agreement (FAFA) was agreed in 2003.**

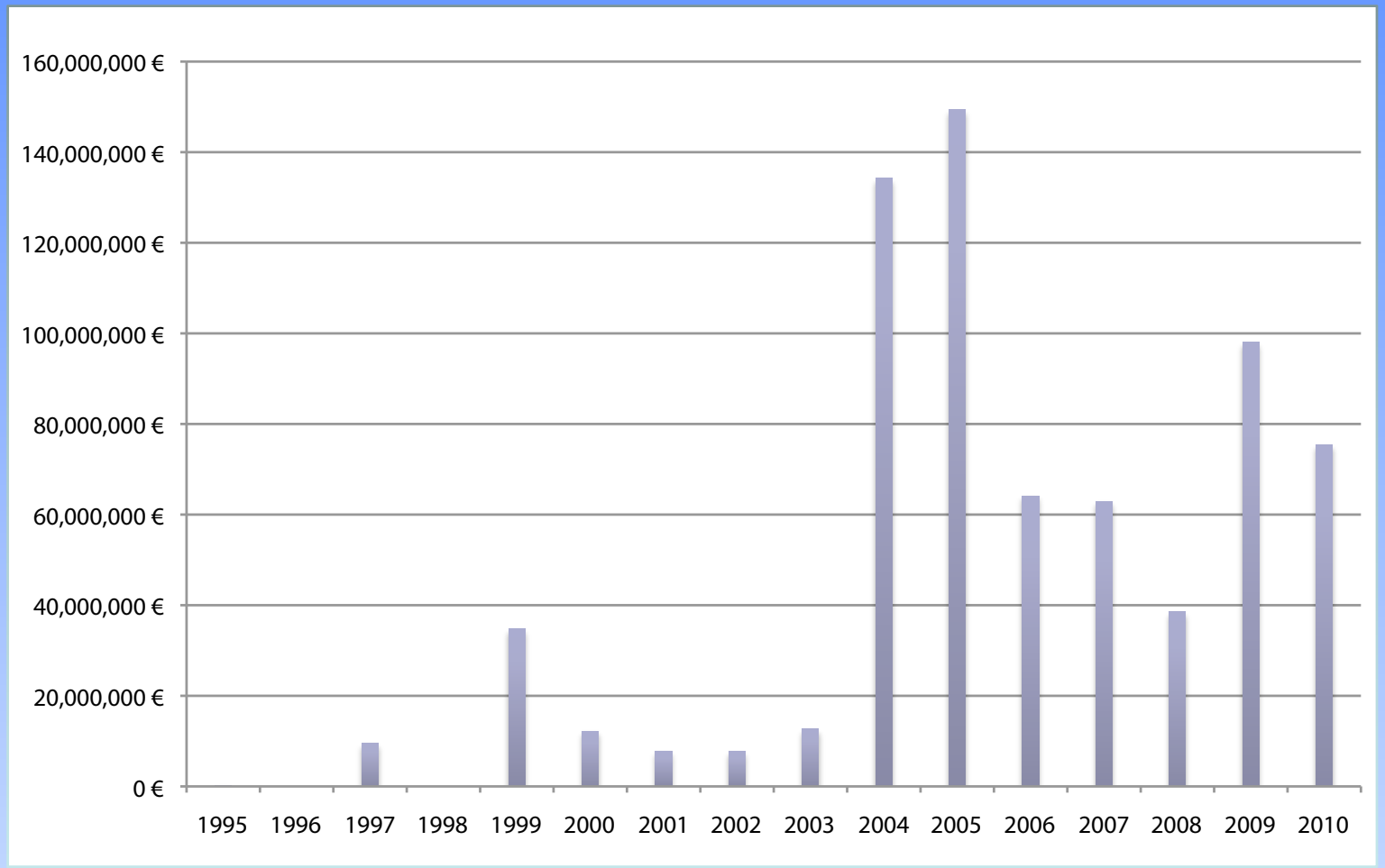
EU/EC and UN/UNDP

- ✓ The FAFA agreement provides a single shared legal, financial and administrative framework for all programmatic cooperation between the EC and the UN.
- ✓ FAFA has made cooperation more efficient, ensuring faster start-up of activities and ensuring administrative consistency across operations.
- ✓ In June 2004, the UNDP and the EC entered into a Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA) through the signature of a MoU to set out and better define the relational focus between the two institutions.
- ✓ The MoU focuses on governance (including elections, parliament and governance indicators), conflict prevention and post conflict reconstruction.

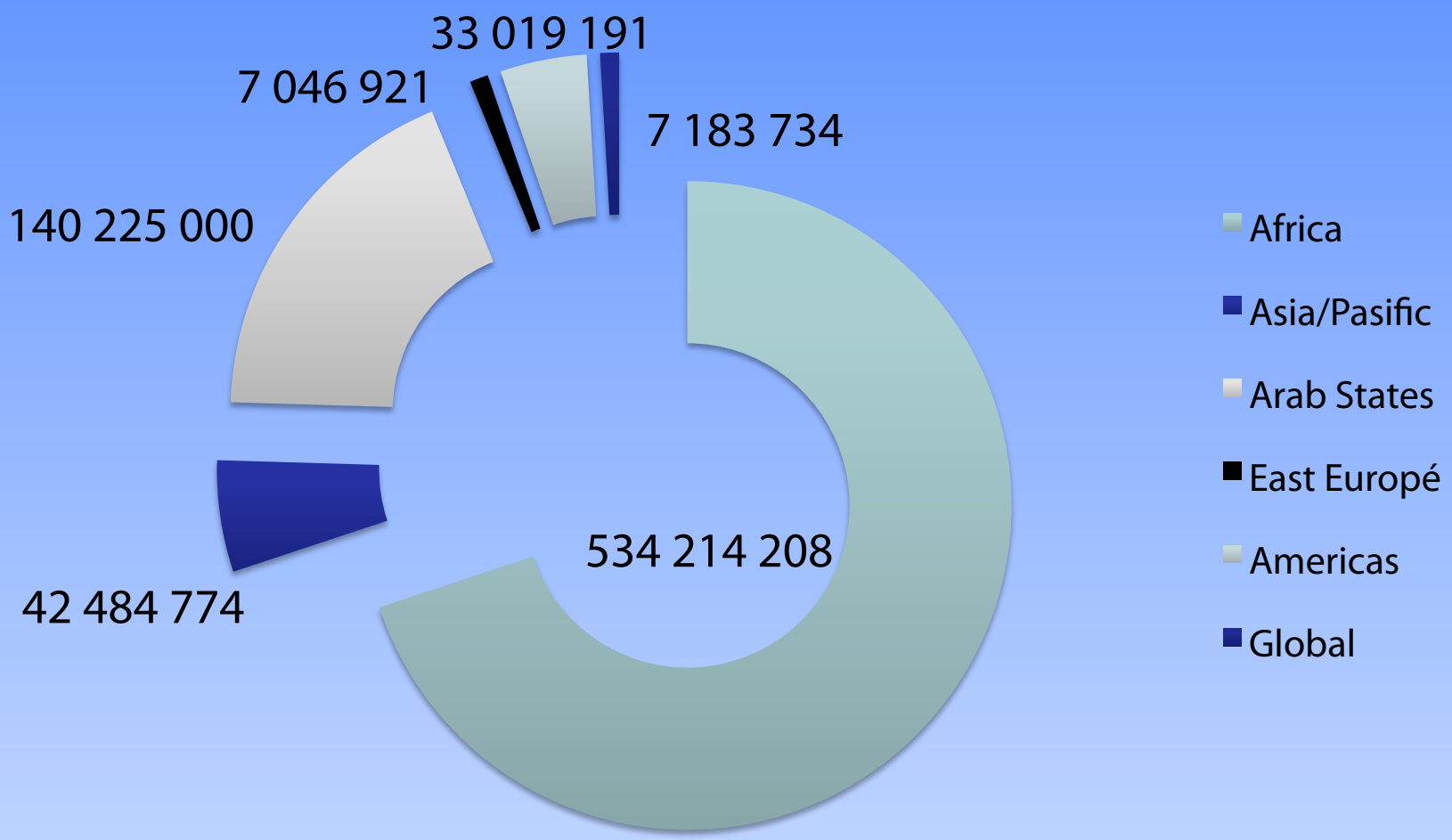
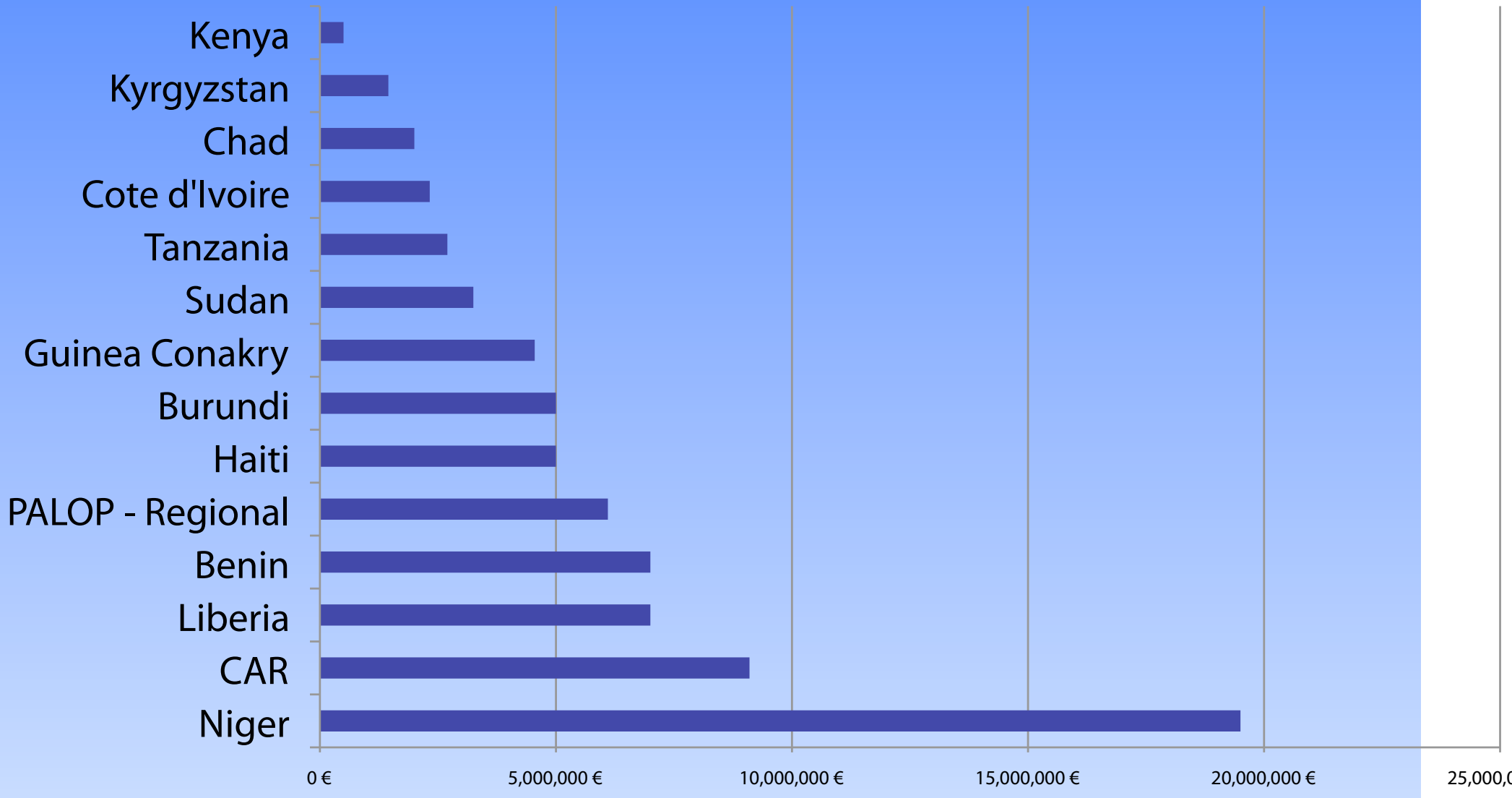
EC-UNDP Partnership on EA
Number of Projects



EC-UNDP Partnership on EA
EC contributions 1995-2010



EC-UNDP Partnership on EA
EC contributions in euro pr region



EC-UNDP Partnership on EA
EC contributions 2010