European Commission
United Nations Development Programme
International IDEA

Joint Training on
Effective Electoral Assistance

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UN/UNDP Lessons Learned & Good Practices
Maputo, 23-27 June 2008

Presentation Overview

UNDP Historical Background on the field of EA

Results of Periodic Lessons Learning Exercises

UNDP Activities and Regional Statistics

Q: When did the UN first get involved in elections?

A: From the late 1940s through the 1970s, the UN was involved in observation/verification of elections. Rise in technical assistance began in the early 1990s.

10-Year Review of UNDP Electoral Assistance (1990-2000)

Why?

To distill lessons/recommendations for:

- UNDP country offices
- UNDP and UN policy bodies
- UNDP corporate policy on electoral assistance
- Broader governance programming agenda
- Institutional memory

10-Year Review Findings

Approach of UNDP

Gov / Poverty agendas

Civic / Voter education

Donor coordination

Resource mobilization

Logistical support to international observers

Lead time

Information-sharing and evaluation

Electoral Systems and Processes

PRACTICE NOTE
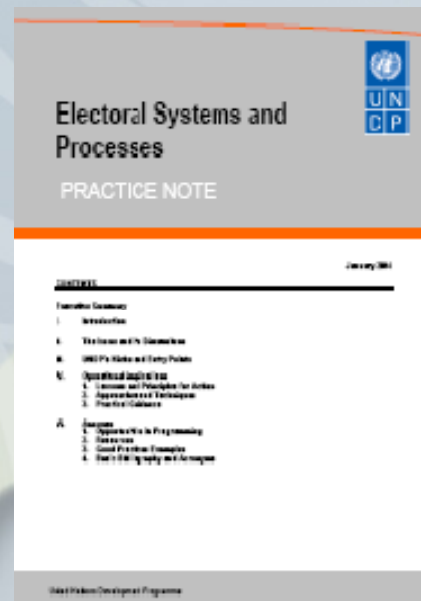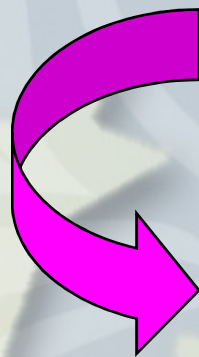
Global Practice Mtg Manila 2004

UNDP needs…

**To bridge the gap b/n 'election' and 'electoral' – in policy, design and implementation**

Guidance on working with political parties

An implementation guide – what UNDP does, how… substance but + resources, coordination

GLOBAL PRACTICE MEETING ON
ELECTORAL SYSTEMS AND PROCESSES
15 -18 November 2004 - Manila, Philippines

To leverage partnerships

Practice Meeting Results
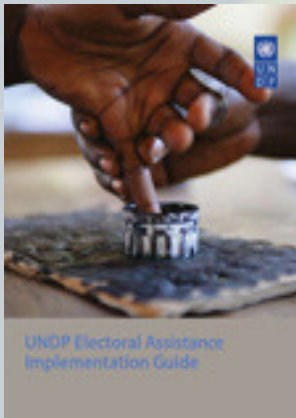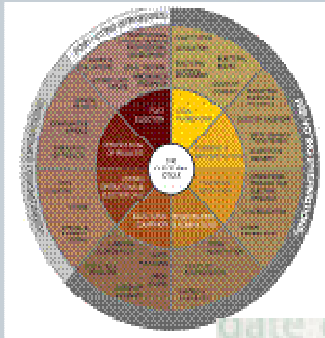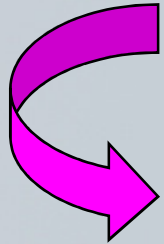
Electoral Cycle Approach

Political Parties Handbook

Implementation Guide

Global Tools – ACE, BRIDGE, CORE

A HANDBOOK ON WORKING WITH POLITICAL PARTIES

UNDP Electoral Assistance Implementation Guide

ace
PROJECT | PROJET | PROYECTO

bridge
Building Resources in Democracy, Governance & Elections
A Course in Electoral Administration

Getting to the CORE
A Global Survey on the Cost of Registration and Elections

In collaboration with   International Organization for Migration   Canadian International Development Agency   Promoting Credible Elections and Democratic Governance in Africa

Findings of UNDP Elections e-Survey (2006)

Challenges to Effective Electoral Assistance:

- **Timing constraints**

- **Delays in disbursement of funds and allocations**

- **Financial management challenges**

- **National capacity challenges greater than anticipated**

- **Difficulties in engaging with national counterparts**

- **Voter registration: disputes, security and infrastructure**

- **Political party support**

- **Procurement technical specifications**

Findings of UNDP Elections e-Survey (2006)

"Who were the financial contributors to the UNDP election project?" Respondents listed 21 countries and the European Union *(%s reflect frequency of citation)*
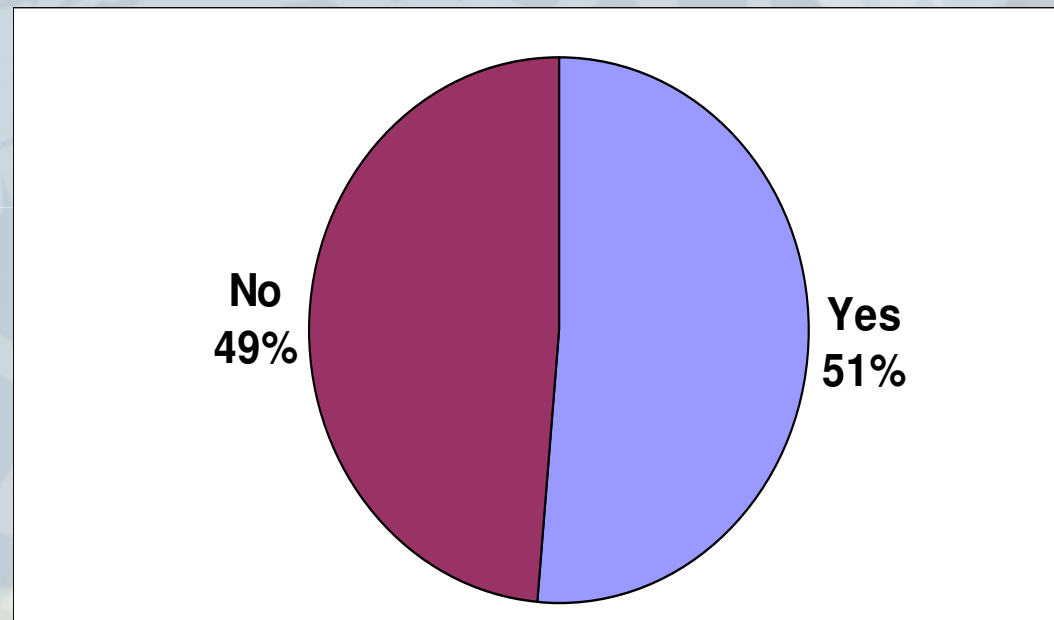
Financial Contributors to the Electoral Process
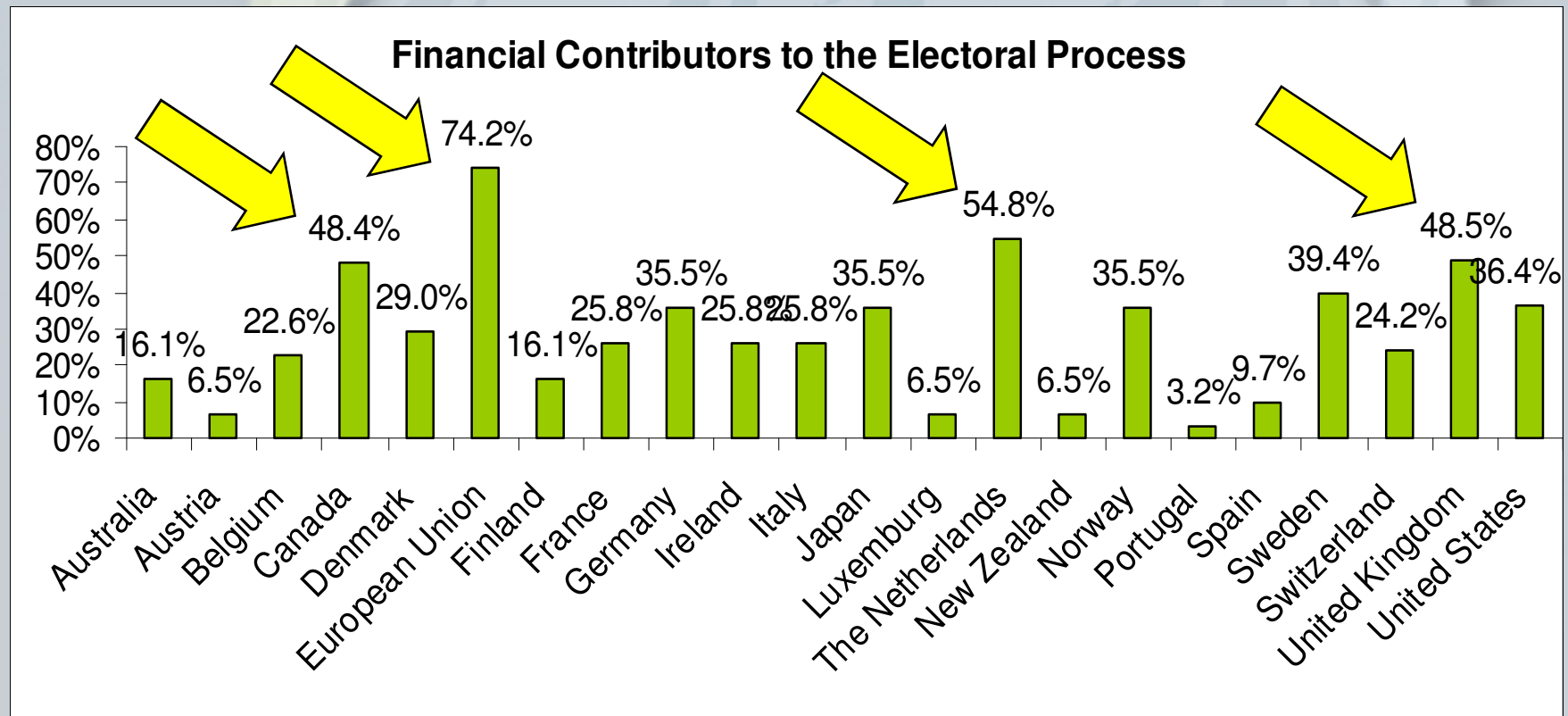
Findings of UNDP Elections e-Survey (2006)

Q: **Do you feel you had sufficient training for the electoral support tasks you performed?**

A: **Almost half said no.**

No
49%

Yes
51%

Actions to address survey
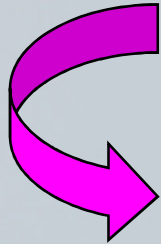
Joint EC-UNDP-IDEA Training

Capacity development of UNDP & EC staff
Partnership building
E-learning development

Implementation Guide (2007)

Audience is the non-expert practitioner

Combines findings from 10-year retrospective, Manila, recent e-survey and some evaluations, advisory missions

Some introduction to the "what", more on the "how"

UNDP Electoral Assistance Trends

2004-2007 Exp. in Democratic Governance=US$5.3bil
Electoral Systems and Processes=18% of this (1/5)

# of countries/regional programmes by region	2004	2005	2006	2007
Africa	20	17	17	14
Arab States	7	5	3	3
Asia/Pacific	4	8	8	7
Europe/CIS	2	3	2	2
LAC/Caribbean	8	5	5	5
Total	41	38	35	32

Major Types of Assistance

Traditional areas:

- Electoral reform, administration, sustainable electoral processes
- Civic and voter education, inclusive participation
- Support to international and domestic observers
- Mobilization and coordination of resources/partnerships for electoral support

Newer areas:

- Working with political parties
- Reduction of election-related violence and electoral dispute resolution
- Media and elections

Factors Affecting Scope and Type of Assistance

- **Type of election**
  - national (presidential, parliamentary) or sub-national (local)

- **Environment in which the election takes place**
  - post-conflict, transition, third or fourth post-transition/post-independence election

- **Other prevailing conditions**
  - size of electorate, health of the national economy and national funding available for elections, aid depending vs. non-aid dependent, state of voter register and electoral institutions, physical constraints, etc.

- **Level of support of political actors for democratic processes per se**

Thank you!