

REINFORCING CREDIBILITY AND ACCEPTANCE OF ELECTORAL PROCESSES

The Role of Electoral Stakeholders and Electoral Administrations

***CODES OF CONDUCT AS INSTRUMENTS FOR
EMB'S TO ENGAGE WITH POLITICAL PARTIES***

Jerome Scheltens

Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD)

Democracy Assistance through Political Party Support

REINFORCING CREDIBILITY AND ACCEPTANCE OF ELECTORAL PROCESSES

The Role of Electoral Stakeholders and Electoral Administrations

❖ **“Is a code of conduct (CoC) sufficient to ensure that political parties and candidates abide to an electoral contest?”**

NO. It depends on how it is...

- **produced before the elections.**
- **used during the elections.**
- **used to engage throughout the electoral cycle.**

Electoral processes:

- ❖ System level: structure, legal, formal, playing field & their rules.

Political party support (NIMD):

- ❖ Behavior level: culture, moral, informal, individuals & their ... *conduct*.

- **From “Free & Fair” to “Genuine & Credible”.**
- **An expansion of mandate: from Structure to Culture.**
- **Recalibrate Impartiality & Neutrality: from ‘equal distance’ and ‘non-engagement’ to engagement.**
- **3 examples of PP Relations management: TRUST**
 - **Codes of Conduct**
 - **Expectation management**
 - **Programmatic parties**

1. Codes of Conduct, and before and after

PROCESS:

- **Co-created** with parties (don't offer a international community pre-made standard) as such **locally owned** by parties.
- Part of a CoC for ***all* stakeholders** (not *only* parties).

CONTENT:

- One role of a CoC is to refer to **law (reminder, checklist)** and generally refer to **universal principals and ideas**.
- But think of **incentives**: explain what benefit CoC's have for parties. So allow **negotiation**. Agree on **practical** arrangements.

ENFORCEMENT?:

- Stimulate self- or co-owned **monitoring** and even real-life **resolution** mechanisms.
- **NO legal penalty. CoC ≠ LAW. It's a Moral instrument.**

Signing of Memorandum of Understanding for the inter-party organization for dialogue in Uganda



2. Manage acceptance of EMB's work and Announcement of Results

Manage unrealistic (oppositional) expectations: 'You won't win 100%.'

Before elections:

- Briefing (neutral, factual) on system, votes per seats, citizens per region, etc.. to hint to strategizing campaign objectives.

During elections:

- Regular briefing, agreement on announcement procedures.

Post-election:

- **Healing wounds sessions:** shared analyses + room to vent frustration + self- & peer-evaluation.

(obviously difficult in too-close-to-call situations)

3. Programmatic parties: *out of the box!*

- **How genuine & credible are elections when...**
 - *there is no difference between parties (no choice for voters)?*
 - *based on positions & platforms (programmatic parties)?*
- **Use EMB voter education mandate to stimulate and support parties to present themselves more programmatically.**
- **(Which in turn is a strategy for less personalized and less violent politics).**

3 EXAMPLES : PROGRAMMATIC COMPARISON: VOTER INFORMATION

3. Programmatic parties (Ecuador, Bolivia, Malawi, Georgia, Peru)

Elecciones 2009:
¡Construyamos confianza!
Construyamos democracia!

domingo 29 de noviembre de 2009

Nº 6 Publicación de información, análisis y debates

Cuestionario sobre Jóvenes

www.construyamosdemocracia.org.bo

> Evo Morales
Movimiento al Socialismo

Los líderes de los partidos políticos se reunieron en la gran plaza de la ciudad de La Paz para celebrar el día de la confianza y el respeto de los "Tercer Gobierno". Evo Morales declaró en una rueda de prensa que la confianza es el fundamento de la democracia y que el respeto de los "Tercer Gobierno" es el fundamento de la confianza.

El líder principal es el presidente Evo Morales, quien ha sido reelegido y ha ganado el apoyo de la mayoría de los bolivianos. El partido de Evo Morales es el Movimiento al Socialismo (MAS).

El MAS es un partido político que se centra en el desarrollo económico y social, la justicia social y la soberanía nacional. El partido ha sido el más votado en las elecciones de 2009.

> Samuel Doria Medina
Unidad Nacional

El presidente electo del MAS, Evo Morales, ha sido elogiado por su liderazgo y su compromiso con el desarrollo del país. El partido de Samuel Doria Medina es la Unidad Nacional (UN).

El partido de Samuel Doria Medina es un partido de centro-derecha que se centra en el desarrollo económico y social, la justicia social y la soberanía nacional. El partido ha sido el segundo más votado en las elecciones de 2009.

> Alejo Véliz
Pueblos Unidos por la Libertad y Soberanía

El partido de Alejo Véliz es el Pueblo Unido por la Libertad y Soberanía (PULS). El partido se centra en el desarrollo económico y social, la justicia social y la soberanía nacional. El partido ha sido el tercer más votado en las elecciones de 2009.

MALAWI: 2009 GENERAL ELECTIONS

KEY ISSUES FROM PARTY MANIFESTOES

AFORD ALLIANCE FOR DEMOCRACY

MCP MALAWI CONGRESS PARTY

DPP DEMOCRATIC PROGRESSIVE PARTY

NARC NEW RAINBOW COALITION

PETRA PEOPLES TRANSFORMATION

RP REPUBLICAN PARTY

PPM PEOPLES PROGRESSIVE MOVEMENT

UDF UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT

VOTEMATCH DUTCH PARLIAMANTAR

WEDNESDAY 22 NOVEMBER

Statement 21

A homeowner receives tax relief on this scheme should be made less a people in the higher income groups mortgage.

STEMWIJZER
©2006 Instituut voor Publiek en Politiek (IPP)

VOTEMATCH DUTCH PARLIAMANTARY ELECTIONS

WEDNESDAY 22 NOVEMBER

Back to the statements

Voting recommendation

Compare your result with that of the party

Scores on statements Compare your answers with those of others

Extra importance What do the other respondents consider important

Recommendations given What the results of other respondents

Party positions The positions of all parties side by side

Close

Voting recommendation
PvdA

Compare the positions Click in the table below on the name of the party in order to compare your answers with the positions of the parties.

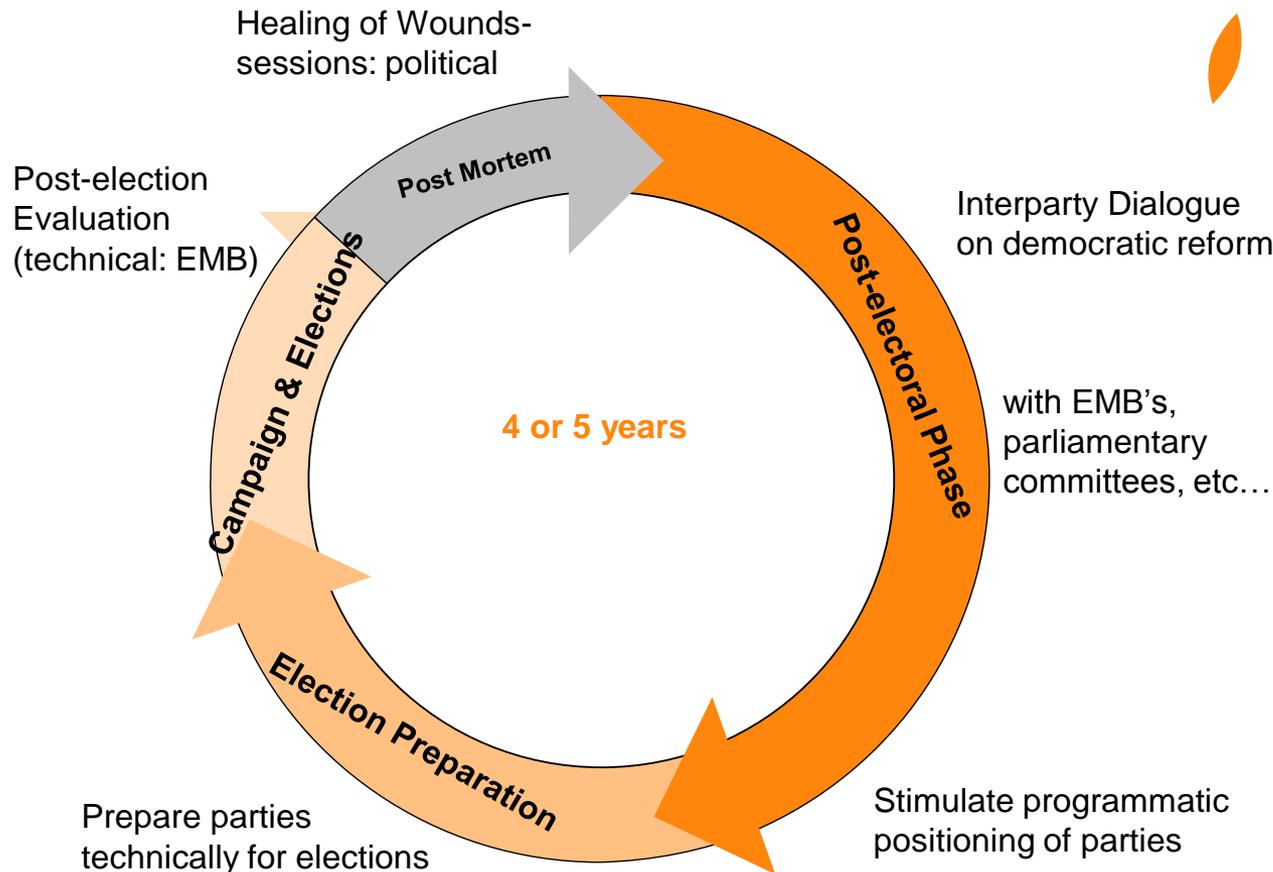
Party	Little agreement	Much agreement
PvdA	██████████	██████████
GreenLinks	██████████	██████████
SP	██████████	██████████
Partij voor de Dieren	██████████	██████████
CDA	██████████	██████████
ChristenUnie	██████████	██████████
D66	██████████	██████████
SGP	██████████	██████████
Fortuyn	██████████	██████████
E&NL	██████████	██████████
VVD	██████████	██████████
Groep Wilders / Partij voor de Vrijheid	██████████	██████████

STEMWIJZER
©2006 Instituut voor Publiek en Politiek (IPP)

- **Start long before elections, work throughout the electoral cycle**
- **Interparty Dialogue platforms**
 - by iNGO's (like NIMD)
 - locals CSO's or NGO's
 - Parties-founded and owned Centres for Multiparty Democracy (CMD's)

 - EMB
 - forum of Registrar for Political Parties
 - Parliamentary arrangement
 - Other

Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy



Thank you

Jerome Scheltens

jeromescheltens@nimd.org