



***Peer to peer electoral assistance:
The role of EMBs and Elections Canada's experience***

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Overview

- **EMBs' key competencies and good practices**
- **Peer-to-peer electoral assistance**
- **Elections Canada's recent international assistance activities**

The role of EMBs

- **Elections: intersection between politics and public administration**
- **Key competencies of EMBs:**
 - **Preparing and delivering elections: technical electoral expertise**
 - **Managing relationships with political stakeholders**
 - **Public administration**

Good practices for effective EMBs

- **No single model**
- **EMB good practices :**
 - **permanent body with clear legal status**
 - **independent and impartial (may include political party representation)**
 - **professional staff**
 - **transparency and accountability**

Existing EMBs as resources for assistance

- Repository of knowledge and experience
- Repository of tested frameworks, practices, policies, procedures and tools

EMBs : peer-to-peer assistance (1)

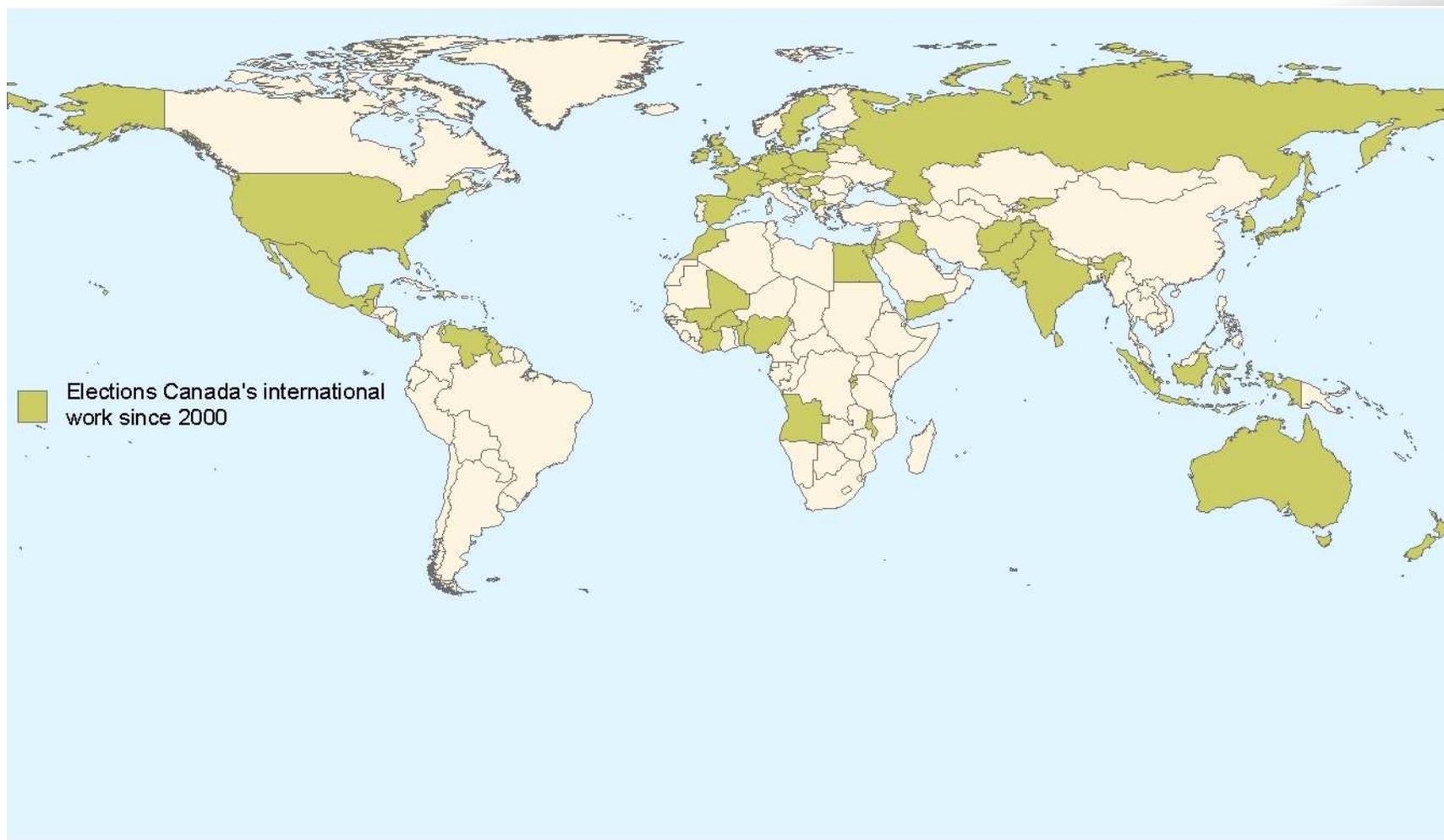
- **Key advantages:**

1. **Highly specialized expertise**
2. **Climate of trust**
3. **Credibility**
4. **Long-term approach (*election cycle approach*)**

EMBs: peer-to-peer assistance (2)

- **Ways to deliver peer-to-peer assistance**
 - **Bilaterally**
 - **Multilaterally through international events**
 - **Multilaterally with international organisations**
- **Complementarity**

Elections Canada's International Activities Since 2000



Elections Canada's approach

- **Accompaniment for longer-term international electoral support:**
 - **Aim:** sustainability of democratic electoral processes
 - **Focus:** building institutional capacity of national EMBs
 - **Emphasis:** longer-term support, in-depth analyses, peer reviews

What we have done

1. **Monitoring & Evaluation:** expert assessment, long-term support to EMBs, deployment of short- and long-term observers
2. **Technical assistance missions**
3. **Delegations to Elections Canada:**
 - i. Electoral authorities
 - ii. Heads of State, parliamentarians, political party representatives, journalists, civil society
4. **Exchanges of electoral knowledge & experience**
5. **Polling day visitors programs & study trips**

What we have done

1. **Expert assessment, long-term support to EMBs, deployment of short- and long-term observers**
 - **Independence**
 - **Peer review**
 - **In-depth assessment**

What we have done

2. Technical assistance missions:

- pre-election assessment
- technical advice
- training, and
- provision of election materials

What we have done

3. Delegations to Elections Canada:

i. Electoral authorities

ii. Heads of State, parliamentarians,
political party representatives,
journalists, civil society

▪ Training tailored to visiting delegation needs:

- The Canadian electoral system
- Democratic governance matters

What we have done

4. Exchanges of electoral knowledge & experience

- Participation in international conferences, seminars, workshops, etc...
- Share experiences, lessons learned and best practises

What we have done

5. Polling day visitors programs & study trips

- Professional exchanges as elections are carried out
- Understanding of country contexts and challenges

Effective Collaboration

- **ACE Electoral Knowledge Network**
 - Partner since 1997
 - International launch of ACE II – May 2006 (Ottawa)

Conclusion: where we are going

- **Strategic partnerships**
- **Directions for future collaboration**