ELECTORAL ASSISTANCE AND WIDER DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE SUPPORT

Linkages between support for democratic governance and electoral processes

Setting the Context

ON DEMOCRACY:

- It is an "Unfinished Journey" as John Dunn says
- It is not an event, but uneven and non-linear process
- It requires consolidation, deepening and maturation of institutions, political arrangements and practices
- Likelihood of stagnation or reversal – without close monitoring, watchfulness, etc

Setting the Context

ELECTIONS AND THE ELECTORAL PROCESSES

- Elections are inadequate for democracy: they can occur without democracy, but democracy is impossible without elections
- Elections fulfill key democratic requirement for participation and popular selection of rulers
- Elections are episodic – periodic events – but electoral processes are continuous, unbroken chain of events leading to elections
- Just like democracy, electoral process is "unfinished journey" that requires consolidation, deepening and maturation.

Setting the Context

Elections and Electoral Processes – continued

- Elections – the most challenging episodes in the democratic journey, even in advanced democracies; challenges are acute in emerging democracies: "weak state" theories, factional (ethnic) politics, politics of exclusion, etc

- Badly managed or disputed elections lead to post-election conflicts and at times civil wars.

Interactions between Electoral Processes and Democratic Governance support

- Nexus between elections and democratic governance: "good" elections facilitate peaceful and sturdier democratic journey; "bad" elections stagnate or reverse the journey

- Democratic governance and good elections are mutually inclusive; one should not be advanced without the other

Electoral Assistance and Emerging Democracies

Tentative Categorizations of Emerging Democracies: Avoiding "one size fits all"

- **Bb**uild/Rebuild (transitional) : post-authoritarian, post conflict, e.g., Guinea-Conakry, Liberia, CI

- **Consolidating**: Weak institutions, bad elections, e.g., Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Kenya

- **Deepening**: successful multiple elections, general credibility, e.g., Ghana, Tanzania, Botswana, South Africa

Electoral Assistance and Democratic Governance Support

KEY ISSUE: How to link EA to Wider DGS

- Assessment (NAM) should take into account the prevailing "democratic context" and apply the EA appropriately
- Redefine EA in broader terms, within the context of a country's democratic development framework
- EA should extend beyond EMBs to include other stakeholders, CSOs, political parties, legislature
- EA should not be episodic but aligned with the democratic "journey"

Electoral Assistance and Democratic Governance Support - continued

KEY ROLE FOR UNDP COUNTRY OFFICE

- CO – initiate formalized framework for <u>building</u>, <u>consolidating</u>, <u>deepening</u> democracy

- Framework as Comprehensive Package for both advancing democracy and DGS

- DGS – not limited to EA (EC/UNDPA/UNDP)

- Pool "Basket" Funding – DPs, UNPBF, UNDTTF

- Accentuate Local Ownership

EXAMPLE:
Deepening Democracy in Tanzania

A 5-year multi-donor "basket" ($12m) support for deepening democracy focuses on:

- Accountable Governance (Parliament and political parties

- Electoral Management Bodies, Electoral System and Electoral Processes

- Institutionalized Civic Education

- Civil Society and the Media

- The APRM process

DDTP basis for NAM for 2010 elections; EA designed to advance democratic governance

CONCLUSIONS

- The concept of EA should be broadened beyond EMBs
- Avoid episodic EA; link to the long-term goal to achieve democratic governance
- EA and DGS should be designed in accordance with existing democratic context
- A comprehensive framework for advancing democratic governance is essential (TZ example)
- Pooled Funding could be better mechanism