



The Evolving Role of Media in Elections



Free media have long been recognized as a cornerstone of democracy and play an important role in influencing political discourse during elections. The rise of new media – such as social media sites, blogs, email and other new media platforms – has changed the role media play in elections, with unprecedented opportunities for two-way dialogue and interaction. Recognizing the evolving role of media in elections, IFES has increasingly employed new media in its programming to support credible and transparent elections.

Election Management

Guatemala's Election Commission Prepares for Critical 2015 Vote

Amid a deep political crisis leading into September general elections, Guatemala's Supreme Electoral Tribunal has engaged in an unprecedented effort to enforce campaign finance regulations, counter political violence and promote increased participation among underrepresented populations to ensure a more inclusive and peaceful electoral process.

Election Integrity and Transparency

Election Audits: International Principles that Protect Election Integrity

IFES and Democracy International (DI) have released a new joint white paper that identifies best practices for election audits in developing democracies. Election audits, which are increasingly used as a means of settling disputes about electoral results, are often conducted as ad hoc processes without clearly defined standards and procedures. In this collaborative effort, IFES and DI put forth recommendations to guide electoral management bodies in preparing for election audits.

Citizen Participation

Social Media Rising: Technology Amplifies Stakeholder Voices during 2015 Nigerian Elections

The rise in global social media has significantly shifted the ways in which citizens are able to engage with candidates, parties, electoral officials, and with each other throughout the electoral cycle. In advance of Nigeria's 2015 presidential elections, IFES analyzed key trends on Nigerian social media using a sentiment analysis tool. Despite low levels of Internet penetration in Nigeria, the analysis demonstrated the potential of social media as a viable tool for increased voter enfranchisement and participation.

Inclusion and Empowerment

IFES Launches Revamped ElectionAccess.org

On May 13, IFES launched the newly renovated ElectionAccess.org, the world's first and only free resource solely dedicated to the global political rights of persons with disabilities. The website is a one-stop-shop for disability rights advocates and government officials to learn about election laws, best practices in inclusive political participation, and assistive devices.

Notes on Democracy



On May 17, IFES and The Maldives National University (MNU) signed a memorandum of understanding on the University Seminar Program. To that end, IFES will support MNU's political science program by developing and conducting a series of six seminars on political and electoral systems and their impact on political culture, women's political participation and youth. The seminars aim to give students tools to think critically about political and electoral issues.

Multimedia



Election Audits, Integrity, and Reform: Learning from the 2014 Afghanistan Election

Drawing on their extensive involvement in several recent election audits in developing democracies, IFES and Democracy International released a joint white paper that identifies best practices for election audits. At a launch event on April 22, panelists discussed the 2014 Afghan election and its aftermath, important standards for election audits, and the future of elections in Afghanistan.

Alumni Update



Former IFES Senior Program Manager for East and Southern Africa Raquel Darnolf is an institutional strengthening specialist with over 15 years of experience managing and implementing donor-funded development programs. In this IFES Q&A, Darnolf discusses the challenges of managing programs in East and Southern Africa, how technology can support the conduct of transparent elections, and her current work with civil society organizations in Africa.