

Africa and Near East



MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK

April 2001

BENIN

Presidential Elections

On March 4, Benin conducted presidential elections as required by its constitution. The electoral process began with the adoption of electoral law 2000-18 pertaining to the rules regulating general elections in Benin; law 2000-19 pertaining specifically to the rules regulating presidential elections in Benin; and



Representatives of presidential candidates continue their discussions after the presidential candidate debate in Natitingou, Benin, sponsored by IFES on

In this issue....

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| <i>Benin</i> | <i>p. 1</i> |
| <i>AAEA</i> | <i>p. 2</i> |
| <i>Burundi</i> | <i>p. 2</i> |
| <i>Côte d'Ivoire</i> | <i>p. 3</i> |
| <i>DRC</i> | <i>p. 4</i> |
| <i>Ghana</i> | <i>p. 6</i> |
| <i>Guinea</i> | <i>p. 8</i> |
| <i>Liberia</i> | <i>p. 8</i> |
| <i>Mali</i> | <i>p. 8</i> |
| <i>Morocco</i> | <i>p. 8</i> |
| <i>Nigeria</i> | <i>p. 9</i> |
| <i>Sierra Leone</i> | <i>p. 12</i> |
| <i>Tanzania/Zanzibar</i> | <i>p. 13</i> |
| <i>Uganda</i> | <i>p. 13</i> |
| <i>Yemen</i> | <i>p. 14</i> |

(Commission Electorale Nationale Autonome—Autonomous National Electoral Commission) on January 25, 2001. The process was concluded on April 6 with the installation of President Kérékou, declared winner by the Constitutional Court at the end of a second round of voting that took place on March 22. Presidential candidates of the first round, Nicéphore Soglo and Adrien Houngbedji, did not compete in the run off.

Overall, the process took place in an atmosphere of non-violence. Seventeen candidates were allowed to participate in the race

and a large majority of the Beninese electorate registered and voted in the first round. The calm behavior of the electorate, despite the sensitive and often confusing circumstances surrounding the first round of elections, has been praised by many local and international observers.

Cascade Training Program

With funding provided from the United States Agency for International Development under the CEPPS mechanism, IFES started to work with CENA in early February. On February 2, IFES met with CENA representatives to discuss the proposed training schedule. IFES and the CENA agreed that IFES would train a core group of 34 coordinators who would travel to Benin's 12 departments to train all 132 members of departmental election commissions (*Commission Electorale Départementale, CED*) and all 877 members of local election commissions (*Commission Electorale Locale, CEL*). IFES also agreed to reproduce 50 copies of the updated 1999 guide for census agents and create and print 30,000 copies of an 8-page "aide-mémoire" for registration staff. On February 22 and 23, some 20 Beninese electoral experts joined the core group of coordinators to supervise the nationwide training of 24,000 poll workers.

Regional Debates

IFES worked with three Beninese NGOs (ALCREER, CERID and RGD) and two NGO coalitions (SCONGA and CODE-CONG) to organize five regional debates in the departments of Borgou, Atacora, Zou, Mono and Atlantique. Nine out of 17 possible candidates actually participated or officially designated a representative to participate in these debates. More than 600 voters from various localities were able to express the concerns of their communities, namely education, health, drinkable water and the en-

vironment. The participants recommended that in the future a more direct dialogue with the candidates be allowed. Nevertheless, they concluded that the debates allowed them to compare the programs of the candidates with their main concerns. As for the candidates, they recommended that the activity be repeated again in the future.

In order to complement the NGOs' narrative reports and explore perspectives for the future, an evaluation session with the five partner NGOs was conducted in Cotonou on March 8, 2001. The local NGOs specifically suggested that IFES give them more guidance on financial reporting. They also expressed their hopes that more candidate debates be organized in view of the upcoming local elections later this year.

ASSOCIATION OF AFRICAN ELECTION AUTHORITIES

During February and March 2001, the Association for African Election Authorities' (AAEA) Executive Secretariat has been collecting responses to the organizational capacity survey it had sent to member bodies late last year. Reminders were sent out to those member organization that have not submitted their filled out questionnaire yet. In addition, the AAEA has contacted those election authorities that are on its Advisory Board to suggest potential dates and locations for this year's Advisory Board meeting.

BURUNDI

Political Situation

In February, Hutu rebels and Burundi government troops engaged in heavy fighting, which

marked the fiercest assault by rebels on Bujumbura in seven years. The battle claimed at least 200 lives and displaced 53,000 individuals living in the northwest of Bujumbura. Government troops have now driven back the rebels and regained control of the northeastern outskirts of the Capital. The latest round of peace talks aimed at ending Burundi's civil war concluded with little progress. Key parties to the Accord failed to reach consensus on the structure of the transitional political institutions and on the question of who should head a new government, despite pressure from African states charged with overseeing the peace process. The biggest challenge to implementing the Accord remains the inability of the parties involved to secure a ceasefire with the two main armed rebel factions who have yet to sign the Peace Accord, keeping the country under a state of permanent insecurity.

Program Activities

During February and March, IFES helped to establish civic networks in all 13 zones of Bujumbura. More than 600 individuals, youth and women, from various ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds have been recruited to participate in a series of field activities designed to increase the capacity of civil society to engage in the ongoing peace and legal reform process. The workshops proposed by IFES will address requests by women and youth for more information on current institutional and legal reforms and will serve as a forum in which to express views on these reforms. These workshops will also enable the participants to develop their communications skills and enable them to better express their views to key decision

makers.

On March 8, to celebrate Women's day, IFES/Burundi organized a special event in Bujumbura. The event included the presentation of a "wailing and aspiration wall" prepared for the occasion by women involved in previous IFES activities. A workshop that focused on how women viewed their role during the recent conflict in Burundi was also organized. The purpose of this activity was to provide women with the opportunity to express themselves, demonstrate their solidarity and celebrate the special day. The event received wide media coverage by national tele-



Burundian women at a workshop organized by IFES on Women's Day, March 9, 2001. Participants are singing in front of the "wailing wall" where women expressed their fears and hopes regarding the peace process in Burundi.

vision and radio, private radio stations and Bujumbura's main newspapers.

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Program Activities

In early March IFES returned to Abidjan to initiate a civic education campaign in support of Côte d'Ivoire's March 25 municipal elec-

tions. Using seminars, local radio, national television and local information networks, 24 representatives from eight civil society organizations traveled throughout the country from March 15 to 17. The campaign was designed to inform the electorate on the use of the single ballot and to introduce voters to the concept of proportional representation, an innovation of the constitution adopted in July 2000. In support of the campaign, IFES designed and produced 5,000 posters and 100,000 brochures.

Municipal Elections

On March 25, Côte d'Ivoire held its municipal elections. All the main political parties participated including the Rally for Republicans, RDR, the main opposition party that boycotted last year's parliamentary and presidential elections. Official results gave 64 municipalities (out of a total of 197) to the RDR and 59 to the country's former ruling

party, the Democratic Party of Côte d'Ivoire (PDCI). Independent candidates won 39 town councils while the Ivorian Labor Party gained control of one. The ruling Ivorian Popular Front secured 33 municipal councils.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (DRC)

Political Situation

Significant progress was made during February and March toward revitalizing the peace process in the DRC following the assassination of President Laurent Kabila and the accession to power of his son Joseph in late January. Since taking office with a speech that spoke of economic liberalization, democ-



Two IFES coordinators lead a civic education workshop in Port Bouet, Côte d'Ivoire.

ratic transition and respect for human rights, Joseph Kabila has shown himself willing to embrace efforts to end the war and move towards democracy. Most notably, he has accepted Ketumile Masire, former President of Botswana, as facilitator of the Inter-Congolese Dialogue called for in the 1999 Lusaka Accord. Joseph Kabila also allowed the United Nations Mission in Congo (MONUC) to begin deploying peacekeepers in government controlled territory. In addition, observers noted that a positive signal was given by the visit of the UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in the Congo, Roberto Garreton. Mr. Garreton arrived in the DRC on March 11 to gather information on the current human rights situation in the DRC. Joseph Kabila has already visited the United States, France, Britain and Belgium.

The belligerent parties agreed in February to withdraw at least 15 km (nine miles) from their front lines, and in March MONUC reported that the disengagement process had begun successfully with the exception of Equateur province. MONUC began deploying peacekeepers by sending some 110 Uruguayan troops to Kalemie in eastern Congo and prepared for further deployment of troops to Mbandaka, Kananga, and Goma during early April. Some 2,500 armed troops are eventually due in the country to guard 500 unarmed U.N. observers.

The Inter-Congolese Dialogue Facilitator's office also sprung back into action with President Masire making public statements of support for the new government attitude and beginning consultations with foreign governments and rebel groups. He is due to visit Kinshasa in early April.

Program Activities

As prospects brightened in the DRC, the IFES Resource Center for Democracy, Elections and Rule of Law continued to provide

access to information to a steady stream of academics, civil society leaders, and independent researchers who frequent the center to use the document collection or access the world-wide web free of charge using IFES Internet stations. Internet training and week-day distribution of democracy news to partners and the press also continued.

In February, in collaboration with the U.S. Embassy Cultural Center, IFES organized two activities in celebration of "Black History Month". At the first event, a viewing and discussion of the film *AMISTAD*, 25 participants engaged in an emotional discussion on the subject of human rights and development and the important role that civil society has to play in the promotion of a society that functions in accordance with the rule of law. In the second activity, 27 participants discussed the book entitled: *Possessing the Secret of Joy*, written by Alice Walker focusing on the subjects of mutilation, safeguarding African traditions, civic education and individual rights.

The IFES Rule of Law program's work with the Congolese civil society Working Group for Institutional Reform was buoyed by the recent positive political developments. The Working Group began meeting anew to revitalize work already begun on key legal texts including the following:

- Draft Constitution
- Legislation on Nationality
- Legislation regulating Political Parties
- A program for the Transition Government (to govern after the Dialogue until elections)
- Legislation on elections and the electoral process
- Legislation on the regulation of associations (NGOs) and the press

Two of these drafts, the legislation regulating

political parties and the one on associations, have been used as basic documents by civil society representatives who sit on a joint government-civil society commission created by President Kabila. The commission, which included several political party representatives, was tasked to develop proposals on certain politically sensitive dossiers, particularly the modification of the presidential decree that regulates the activities of political parties (Decree 194). The commission was in session from March 22-26. The texts of the Working Group were the only ones presented and the final recommendations of the joint commission were largely inspired by them.

The Cardinal of Kinshasa discussed with President Joseph Kabila the draft constitution and other texts that IFES and the International Human Rights Law Group have helped civil society prepare for the Inter-Congolese Dialogue. The President expressed his support for this process. The National Bishop's Council in their February public statement similarly expressed formal support of the draft constitution and other texts being prepared by civil society.

In another activity, the Rule of Law and Resource Center staff teams assisted in the conception and planning of a conference on the "educational value of justice" held on Saturday, March 17 in the Matonge quartier of Kinshasa. The activity was conducted in collaboration with *l'Institut de Promotion de la Philosophie Francophone* (IPPF) and the theater group Les Kamikazes. There were approximately 100 participants, which included prosecutors, judges, lawyers, law professors, law students, police officials, prison officials, court clerks, university students, journalists, and members of local NGOs. The activity featured presentations from two law professors and an attorney that centered on the structure and function of the judicial system, and proposals for reform in the admini-

stration of justice in the DRC. After the presentations Les Kamikazes performed three scenes which displayed how the DRC society would function if judges, prosecutors and police were honest and fair. Afterwards, there was a lively debate that involved everyone in the audience on issues related to democracy, reconstruction of the judicial system, the need for a judicial training center, good governance, and civic education on justice issues.

IFES/DRC staff also attended several key meetings as civil society once again gears up and prepares to participate in the Inter-Congolese Dialogue. IFES continues to work closely with our partners in Kinshasa and in the provinces to determine how IFES can best assist them in preparing and participating. One request has been to train civil society leaders in negotiation and mediation skills through workshops and role-plays taking into consideration the different parties who will be participating in the Dialogue. IFES is also in communication with the Facilitator's offices in Kinshasa and Gaborone, Botswana in order to evaluate what kind of assistance the offices could need to make the Dialogue as democratic and inclusive as possible. The Facilitator's team has expressed the need for an information, education and communication strategy before, during and after the Dialogue. IFES and the other international NGOs working in DRC are brainstorming on how best to respond to this request.

GHANA

STEP 2000: Expanded Planning Meetings

After the successful conduct of two rounds of elections on December 7 and 28, 2000, the Electoral Commission (EC) of Ghana switched into a mode of introspection during the first few months of 2001. IFES provided funding to the EC for its evaluation and assessment efforts from support received from

the U.S. Agency for International Development.

After having funded a first evaluation meeting for EC senior staff and Regional Directors in January 2001, IFES provided assistance for three regional expanded planning meetings during the month of March to allow the EC to conduct a thorough review of the electoral process in 2000 with its key personnel. The expanded planning meetings took place from March 14 to 16, in Kumasi, Ashanti Region for the central belt, from March 21 to 23 in Bolgatanga, Upper East Region for the northern belt and from March 26 to 28 in Ada, Greater Accra Region for the southern belt. The planning meetings provided an occasion for the EC leadership to meet for the first time with all its district electoral officers.

At the meetings, EC head office directors and regional and district level staff gave presentations on lessons learned from the December 2000 elections. Subsequently, the meeting participants formed break out groups to discuss the upcoming delimitation of electoral boundaries and start planning for the 2002 District Assembly and Unit Committee elec-

tions.

EC-IFES Lessons Learned Meeting

On March 17, 2001, Electoral Commissioners, EC head office department directors and regional directors met with IFES in Kumasi, Ashanti Region. The meeting provided an opportunity for both sides to review the appropriateness and timing of IFES' assistance and give an honest assessment of a partnership that started in 1994. EC officials expressed their overall appreciation for IFES' support. They noted that the relationship IFES and the EC had to grow over time after EC members had felt left out of the original conception of the project in 1994. At the end, the EC representatives pointed out areas in which future donor aid will be sought in order to increase the EC's management capacities at all levels. IFES President Richard W. Soudriette, in a letter addressed to the meeting, praised the relationship between IFES and the Electoral Commission as "our longest, sustained relationship with any election management body in the world" and "the closest, both in terms of the personal relationships that have developed between members of IFES and the Commission and in terms of our working partnership."



IFES President Richard Soudriette (2nd from left) and IFES/Ghana staff met the Honorable J.A. Kufuor, President of the Republic of Ghana (center) on March 8, 2001.

Visit by IFES President

IFES President Richard W. Soudriette visited Ghana from March 2 to 8, 2001. During his trip, Mr. Soudriette benefited from the opportunity to visit Ghana to thank IFES/Ghana staff for their long years of dedicated service to IFES. In meetings with the newly elected President of Ghana, Mr. J.A. Kufuor, as well as the U.S. Ambassador, USAID, representatives from the British Department for International Development, the European Union and the United Nations Development Pro-

gram, Mr. Soudriette shared IFES' appreciation for the peaceful election process and discussed future programming.

GUINEA

In March, IFES Guinea Project Manager Elizabeth Côté met with representatives from the Guinean government, the international donor community and civil society organizations to discuss the current status of civil society in Guinea and the challenging political context.

In order to increase popular understanding of the potential role of civil society, IFES plans to initiate a dialogue where all sectors of Guinean civil society will have an opportunity to reflect on the concept of civil society; its role in addressing political and social crises; and its contribution to supporting peace and democracy. To initiate this dialogue, IFES will organize a series of carefully planned roundtables. Each roundtable will gather different sectors of civil society, i.e. labor unions, cooperatives, religious leaders. The results of these collective discussions will be presented at a forum where delegates from all sectors will meet to discuss the conclusions and recommendations generated by the roundtables.

LIBERIA

In the past two months, IFES has been working to procure broadcasting and studio equipment to Radio Veritas, based in Monrovia, Liberia. The equipment will enable the station to increase the dissemination of its programs and the quality of its broadcasts. IFES is in the process of delivering the materials to Radio Veritas.

MALI

In early February 2001, upon consultation with USAID/Mali, IFES sent Guinea Program Manager, Elizabeth Côté to Bamako, Mali, to design a program related to women's participation in the political process. After meeting with USAID/Mali and different local NGOs, Ms. Côté identified the *Forum Malien d'Appui a la Democratie et aux Droits Humains* (FOMADDH) as a potential partner. FOMADDH specializes in the design, execution and evaluation of projects and programs promoting democratic culture and human rights. The organization has been involved in programs reinforcing the capacities of local women leaders in the management of local affairs; increasing the awareness of the judicial officials on the importance of women's rights in their daily work; and initiating encounters and exchanges between elected women mayors.

MOROCCO

During the month of March 2001, IFES conducted its fourth series of administrative and commercial law seminars. Both seminar sessions took place at the Institut National des Etudes Judiciaires (INEJ) in Rabat.

Twenty judges from the administrative tribunals of Rabat, Fès, Casablanca, Oujda, Marrakech and Méknès, as well as officials from the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) attended the session on administrative law on March 16 and 17. Also present at the training was a high-ranking official from the Yemeni Ministry of Justice to witness the progress in the Moroccan experience in specialized administrative courts.

The seminar was conducted by IFES experts Professor David Gruning, from Loyola University Law School in New Orleans, Louisi-

ana, and the Honorable Peter J. Messitte, United States District Judge, District of Maryland. Seminar topics, which were chosen by IFES in consultation with participants, Ministry of Justice officials and members of the project Comité de Pilotage, included the enforcement of administrative decisions, the liability of public officials, expropriation, and electoral litigation.



Administrative judges at the end of their two-day training seminar held in Rabat on March 16 and 17.

On March 23rd and 24th, 2001, a second seminar on commercial law was held at INEJ and was attended by 28 judges and court vice-presidents from the commercial tribunals of Rabat, Fès, Casablanca, Marrakech, Tangier and Agadir.

Professor Jeswald Salacuse from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy in Medford, Massachusetts, and the Honorable Loren Smith, Senior Judge at the United States Court of Federal Claims in Washington, D. C., led the seminar discussions on a range of substantive and operational issues that increasingly preoccupy the newly established

commercial courts in Morocco. Topics discussed included the commercial contract, bank liability, corporate law, alternative dispute resolution, the discovery procedure and ways to improve the efficiency of court administration.

Good attendance and spirited discussions in both seminars have demonstrated a high level of interest among the participating judges who expressed general satisfaction with the seminar activity and recommended that IFES continue its educational support but also consider on-site assistance in court operations.

In addition to the seminar activities, IFES staff held a series of meetings with officials from the Ministry of Justice, USAID and the largest administrative and commercial courts. The purpose of the meetings was to assess progress and discuss

anticipated needs of the Moroccan Judicial system.

NIGERIA

BEAT Workshop Material Development

In preparation for its series of 36 training workshops for almost 900 State Electoral Officers and state administrative and logistics staff, IFES/Nigeria has completed the development of its Basic Election Administration Training (BEAT) curriculum materials. The materials were developed after an intensive one-month effort by Rushdi Nackerdien, an

IFES consultant and curriculum development specialist from South Africa. Mr. Nackerdien worked closely with Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) Training Unit staff and Bello Sarki, the IFES/Nigeria Project Assistant. The materials consist of two documents: A 130 page facilitator’s manual that provides a step-by-step guide through the training material and includes tips on facilitation of the workshops, and a 136 page participant’s workbook. The workbook contains course material and worksheets that will be used during the two-week training workshop. A mixture of lectures, discussions, role-play, individual and group work and a number of exercises to be completed by the trainees are designed to allow for a participative atmosphere and animated debate among workshop participants. Each workshop covers the following nine modules:

Principles of Election Administration

This module provides an overview of election administration and the role of the professional election administrator in the democratic process.

Free and Fair Elections

This section introduces international standards of free and fair elections and cases when legislation is insufficient to guide the election administrator.

Election Planning

Trainees develop election calendars and task lists that ensure timely delivery of election services. Trainees will be required to develop a comprehensive election calendar and task list for their local government area.

Logistics

Workshop participants will become familiar with the principles of logistics planning and the development of logistics plans. Each Electoral Officer will be required to develop a comprehensive logistics plan for his or her

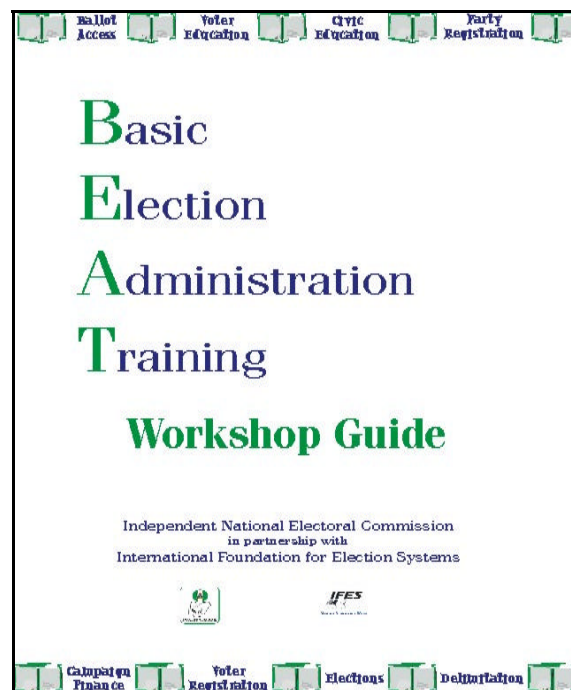
local government area.

Ethics in Election Administration

This module covers ethics principles for the election administrator through extensive role-plays simulating different ethically challenging situations. This will also include discussion of Nigeria’s Anti-Corruption Act as it pertains to the administration of elections.

Working with the Media

Aspects of media involvement in elections are covered. This module aims at providing the participants with practical skills to work with the media.



The guide for workshop participants provides background materials and exercises for participants in the IFES-sponsored Basic Election Administration Training Workshops in Nigeria.

Conflict Management

Trainees, through discussion and role-plays, will learn how to deal with challenging and often confrontational situations faced by election administrators.

Basic Electoral Law, Regulations and Guidelines

Trainees will be expected to be able to discuss the electoral law, regulations and guidelines and be able to find the necessary information in a law, regulation or guideline.

Women in Election Administration

Workshop participants will review the role of women in election administration and discuss the constraints on their increased involvement.

Visual Basic and SQL Server Training for INEC Information Technology Staff

In an effort to ensure that the Independent National Electoral Commission has the capacity to manage the largest voter registration database in Africa (50 million records) and one of the largest in the world, IFES, in early March, started training 10 of the Commission's Information Technology staff in Visual Basic and SQL Server. These two applications will be used to manage the database. Michael Yard, IFES election computer specialist, is providing the training through a six-

week intensive course in the use of the applications.

IFES Assists INEC in Development of Voter Education Strategy

With voter registration scheduled to begin in October 2001, IFES is assisting the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) in developing a strategy that ensures every Nigerian knows when, where, and how to register to vote at more than 120,000 registration centres throughout Nigeria.

Debi Williams, a voter education specialist, was contracted by IFES to assist INEC's voter education team with developing its strategy. The strategy will use a wide range of media including posters, drama sketches, and TV and radio spots. The extensive use of radio messages is planned as it is the medium that reaches most of the people of Nigeria. Special efforts are planned to reach out to the approximately 300 language groups in Nigeria by working with civil society organisations and local electoral officers. IFES is planning to subgrant to a civil society group

to hold a workshop in late April that will bring grassroots civil society organisation together to talk about the most effective means to deliver voter education to groups that do not speak the major languages of Nigeria and have been left out of voter education programs in the past.

Visit by IFES President

IFES President Richard Soudriette visited the Nigeria field office on March 1 and 2. Mr. Soudriette benefited from



IFES President Richard Soudriette (3rd from left) and IFES Senior Advisor for Election Administration Joe Baxter (2nd from right) met with Independent Electoral Commission of Nigeria Chairman Dr. Abel Guobadia (2nd from left) and members of the INEC on March 1, 2001.

this opportunity to meet IFES/Nigeria staff and hold talks on IFES programs with the INEC Chairman and Commissioners, donors and the U.S. Ambassador.

SIERRA LEONE

Under Project STEPP (Supporting the Electoral and Peace Processes), IFES and its sister organization, IFES Ltd, based in London, are working to support the National Electoral Commission (NEC) of Sierra Leone. Project STEPP is funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development and the British Department for International Development.

In February 2001, Project STEPP facilitated the development and printing of the NEC's Strategic Plan, which has since been distributed to the Government of Sierra Leone, the political parties, civil society organizations and the media throughout the country. Copies have also been shared with the international donor community.

The Strategic Plan is the result of the NEC's Strategic Planning Retreat, which was held from January 23-26, 2001. The Strategic Plan is principally focused on the NEC's activities for 2001 and, as a technical document, sets out the Commission's specific goals and objectives to be achieved in the shorter-term. The Plan also contains the NEC's longer-term vision and guiding principles, which will underpin the performance of the Commissions' functions. Included in the Plan is a timeline for the presidential and parliamentary elections, which was developed following consideration of the current situation in Sierra Leone. The NEC proposes that the elections could be held in December 2001, with voter registration in September 2001.

The Strategic Plan contains the NEC's Mission Statement, which is as follows:

"The National Electoral Commission (NEC) is a public institution, whose mission is to organize, conduct and supervise all public elections and referenda, register all eligible voters, demarcate constituency boundaries and make regulations for the efficient performance of its functions. The NEC also seeks to impartially serve all stakeholders in the electoral process, and to undertake voter education programs for the citizens of Sierra Leone as a means of promoting and sustaining democracy and good governance."

In undertaking this Mission, the NEC is guided by the following Principles: independence, transparency, credibility, impartiality, professionalism and dedication, integrity and accountability.

The Plan also identifies five Strategic Goals in the areas of: conduct of elections, voter registration, resource capacity and restructuring, voter education and consultation. The Commission developed 30 specific objectives aimed at achieving these goals.

Throughout the month of March, the NEC focused on developing operational plans to guide its work in the five areas noted above. These operational plans are informing the development of the elections budget, which is scheduled for completion by mid-April, in accordance to the Strategic Plan. To assist in the development of the elections budget, Mr. E.Q. Sakyi, Director of Finance at the Electoral Commission of Ghana, traveled to Sierra Leone in mid-March for a one-month consultancy under Project STEPP.

In actively pursuing its Strategic Goal concerning consultation (which reads, in part: "To meet regularly with the political parties, civil society and other stakeholders"), the NEC convened four public forums in March, in each of the four regions of the country. The meeting for the Western Area was held

in Waterloo, that of the Eastern Region in Kenema, that of the Southern Region in Bo, and that of the Northern Region in Lungi. At each forum, the NEC officially launched its operations in the four regions and also distributed the Strategic Plan to the media, members of the public and representatives of civil society and political parties. Over one hundred people attended each meeting and the meetings were also widely covered by the press.

Following the public launching, the Commission met behind closed doors with the political parties and civil society organizations to establish a Regional Consultative Committee (RCC). The NEC will regularly convene the RCC in the regions to seek the input of these key stakeholders in the electoral process. All four forums were supported by Project STEPP and the NEC.

TANZANIA/ ZANZIBAR

On March 27, 2001, IFES concluded activities for the Tanzania/Zanzibar project by issuing the final report on the observation mission to the 2000 Presidential, House of Representatives and Local Government elections in Zanzibar. Entitled, *IFES International Observer Report: The October 29, 2000 General Elections in Zanzibar*, the report covers observations of the 14-member international delegation who were in-country from October 1 – November 3, 2001. The report also provides post-election procedural and political recommendations for the Zanzibar Elections Commission (ZEC), the National Electoral Commission of Tanzania, political parties and the Tanzanian and Zanzibari governments.

For questions on the report or the project, please contact either Laurie Cooper, IFES'

Senior Program Officer and Tom Bayer, the Director of Africa and Near East Programs.

UGANDA

At the request of the US embassy in Uganda, IFES sent a three-member technical team to Uganda to accompany members of the US Embassy observer delegation for the March 12 Presidential elections in Uganda. Composed of IFES Senior Program Officer Laurie Cooper, the IFES team included consultants Kathi Walther and Frank Vassallo. With an estimated voter turnout of 70 percent, incumbent President Yoweri Museveni defeated his strongest challenger, Dr. Kizza Besigye, by a margin of 69.3 percent to 27.8 percent. Following the elections, the IFES team provided a brief synopsis of its observations and recommendations for future observation efforts.

Deployed in Mbale District and Rukungiri District, the IFES team for the most part reported that election day at the polling stations visited in the two districts went very smoothly. However, the IFES team did observe various irregularities that ranged from changed location of polling stations for military voters, confrontation between Besigye and Museveni supporters, missing ballots and irregular reconciliation of ballot papers. With parliamentary elections due in June/July 2001, the IFES technical team offered the following recommendations for future observation efforts:

- Use the experiences of the monitors/observers in the presidential elections to identify trouble spots, areas where training seems to be deficient or where the political activity is high. Plan deployment around those areas, especially if the number of observers is small.

- Once the areas are identified, liaise with people working in those areas and if possible begin to monitor the situation well ahead of the elections. There may be opportunities for some Kampala-based personnel to travel and participate in the monitoring exercise.
- Use polling station results (which should be available from the Electoral Commission by the end of March) to establish voting patterns, which may be compared with the parliamentary election results. This comparison may be useful in places where observers suspect that voting or results may have been interfered with during the presidential election.
- Obtain a schedule of candidates' meetings as soon as possible and cover several, especially in the previously identified trouble spots. This will provide an outlook on the election day proceedings approximately two weeks ahead of time.
- Obtain a schedule of presiding officer training sessions and attend a sampling of them in and outside Kampala.

If the post-referendum donor group plans to enter another agreement to observe the parliamentary elections, the IFES team cannot overemphasize the value of a coordinated effort. Although each participating country deployed observers, there was no opportunity for the observers to debrief after the elections. Consequently, the cumulative value of what the observers witnessed was not reflected in the group statement on the elections. At a minimum, the observers should plan to meet with each other before deployment and after the election for a comprehensive regional debriefing, with the leaders of

the regional groups coming together to contribute to the national statement.

YEMEN

On February 20, 2001, Yemeni voters went to the polls to vote on a combined election: a referendum on proposed amendments to the Constitution and local elections to elect local council representatives at the governorate and district levels. The long-awaited local elections were intended to introduce a measure of decentralization in the country, aimed at improving the delivery of public services in rural areas. The constitutional amendments were adopted by a vote of 73.5% of the voters. However, at almost two months after the elections, complete official results of the local elections have not yet been announced. Results announced so far by the Supreme Elections Committee confirmed that the General People's Congress (GPC) won the majority of the seats in the local councils. The main opposition party, the Congregational Party for Reforms (Islah), also won a significant number of seats, especially in the governorates and districts in the southern part of the country.

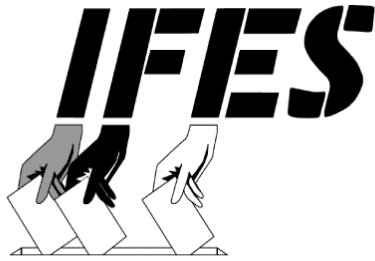
The SEC made an enormous effort to meet most of the technical and logistical challenges involved in preparing and conducting such complex elections in a very limited time. The immensity of this task severely tested its capacity and stretched its resources.

To support the SEC in its endeavor, IFES designed and printed two different sets of visual aids that served as the basis of the SEC cascade-training program for poll-workers. IFES also assisted with the production of two gender-specific, step-by-step "election day" procedures posters that served as both poll-worker training aids and as voter education

materials that were displayed in all the 2,025 polling centers nationwide.

On election day, IFES/Yemen conducted an informal observation mission that identified many organizational deficiencies and technical irregularities that characterized these elections. Among the most common shortfalls were: the inaccurate and outdated voters' lists; voters permitted to vote without identification documents; and confusion in the allocation of symbols to candidates on the ballot papers. Candidates had initially been allocated a specific symbol by the SEC and after having campaigned for a week or so, on election day the ballot paper was bearing a different symbol, or no symbol at all. The SEC justified these technical shortfalls and the general confusion found in some governorates with the extremely limited time provided to properly organize and conduct the elections.

Future IFES activities will focus on addressing and correcting these problems before the next Parliamentary and Local Council elections, due to be held in April 2003.



MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK

International Foundation for Election Systems
1101 15th Street, NW, Third Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005
Tel. (202) 828-8507
Fax (202) 452-0804
www.ifes.org

IFES provides technical assistance in the promotion of democracy worldwide and serves as a clearinghouse for information about democratic development and elections. Since its inception in 1987, the Foundation has pursued democratic initiatives in more than 120 countries. IFES activities are made possible, in part, by the United States Agency for International Development.

IFES/Washington Africa and Near East Staff

IFES/WASHINGTON
AFRICA AND NEAR EAST STAFF
1101 15th Street, N.W., Third Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005
Tel: (202) 828-8507
Fax: (202) 452-0804

Tom Bayer, Director of Programs
(tbayer@ifes.org)

John Mitchell, Deputy Director of Programs
(jmitchell@ifes.org)

Laurie Cooper, Senior Program Officer
(laurie@ifes.org)

Sue Palmer, Senior Program Officer
(susan@ifes.org)

Lazhar Aloui, Program Officer
(laloui@ifes.org)

Ed Kiely, Program Officer
(ekiely@ifes.org)

Lori Yamamoto, Program Officer
(lori@ifes.org)

**Please help us keep your contact information accurate.
Indicate corrections or updates on this form and fax to: Mutale Chilangwa at
202-452-0804 or e-mail the relevant information to mutale@ifes.org**

Name: _____

Title: _____

Organization: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Tel./Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Mutale Chilangwa, Senior Program Assistant
(mutale@ifes.org)

Caroline Vuillemin, Senior Program Assistant
(caroline@ifes.org)

Christof Kurz, Program Assistant
(ckurz@ifes.org)

Lorraine Marulanda, Program Assistant
(lmarulanda@ifes.org)

Frederic Hebert, Program Assistant
(fhebert@ifes.org)

Jeff Chatellier, Intern
(jchatellier@ifes.org)

Christel Joctane, Intern
(fasafrica@ifes.org)

IFES FIELD OFFICES AND STAFF IN AFRICA AND THE NEAR EAST

IFES/Burundi
Philippe Lamarche, Project Manager
(leogane@hotmail.com)

IFES/Guinea
Elizabeth Côté, Project Manager
(ifes-ci@globeaccess.com)

IFES/Democratic Republic of Congo
Marceau Edouard, Project Manager
(ifes@ic.cd)

IFES/Nigeria
Joe Baxter, Project Manager
Senior Advisor for Election Administration
(ifesnigeria@beta.linkserve.com)

IFES/Sierra Leone
Simon Clark, Program Manager

IFES/Yemen
Antonio Spinelli, Project Manager
(ifes@y.net.ye)

**We invite you to
visit our web site:**
www.ifes.org