



IFES supports citizens' right to participate in free and fair elections. Our independent expertise strengthens electoral systems and builds local capacity to promote sustainable democracy.

# IFES Political Finance

Transparent and accountable systems of political finance that enhance the integrity of the political process and ensure a level playing field for parties and candidates are important for emerging, consolidating, and established democracies. Clearly defined and enforced regulations may reduce competitive advantages for wealthier contestants, quell vote buying and the abuse of state resources, and increase public confidence in the political system.

The International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) has worked in more than 45 countries to strengthen political finance regulation and oversight. In countries around the globe, IFES collaborates with all key domestic stakeholders – including parliaments, government institutions, civil society groups and media outlets – to cultivate effective and appropriate transparency and accountability measures.

**Legal and Regulatory Reform:** IFES works to build consensus around necessary legal reforms to ensure that the mandate of the political finance regulator and associated procedures are clearly defined within the legal and regulatory framework, and that the established system promotes transparency in political finance. IFES also provides assistance to political finance regulators in developing procedural regulations to clarify and expand upon the provisions in the legislative framework that provide guidance to electoral stakeholders on how to adhere to the law. This is accomplished through encouraging consultation of key domestic stakeholders and the facilitation of workshops and working groups.



*Examples of this include:*

- Supporting the recommendations of the political finance working group in Afghanistan for legislative and regulatory reform to enhance political finance transparency, and
- Hosting a multi-stakeholder workshop in Tunisia involving representatives from institutions that played a crucial role in controlling compliance with campaign finance regulations.

**Support to Public Institutions:** IFES assists public institutions with a mandate to receive and review financial reports from electoral contestants, and/or to investigate potential violations. IFES works with political finance regulators to develop internal procedures and manuals as well as conduct training that help clarify individuals' roles and responsibilities and the timing of different activities. Additionally, IFES supports responsible institutions in applying effective enforcement of political finance regulations to deter non-compliance and corruption through the [Training in Detection and Enforcement](#) (TIDE) program.

*Examples of this include:*

- Assistance to the State Audit Office in Georgia, including training on how to conduct political finance oversight investigations, and
- Conducting TIDE training and training on political finance reporting requirements for the Independent National Electoral Commission of Nigeria.

**Political Finance Monitoring and Outreach:** IFES strengthens the capacity of local non-governmental organizations to detect and raise awareness of major campaign finance and political party finance irregularities. IFES works together with local part-

