



Inclusiveness and Electoral Integrity

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About us



- Joint Task Force established by the European Commission (DEVCO) and UNDP – two representatives from each.
- Provides support in all stages of project formulation and implementation of all EU-UNDP electoral assistance projects.
- Guidelines governing electoral assistance projects to be signed by two organizations

About us



- JTF is part of Global Project for Electoral Cycle Support (GPECS) – world-wide project supporting all UNDP election related projects, with advisors in:
 - NYC
 - Panama
 - Amman
 - Addis Ababa
 - Bangkok
 - Brussels

- E-learnings – courses and certificates:
 1. Electoral Results Management Systems
 2. Reinforcing Credibility and Acceptance of Electoral Processes
 3. Sustainability in Electoral Administration
 4. EU and UNDP Working Together in Electoral Assistance
 5. ICT and Elections Management
 6. Effective Electoral Assistance

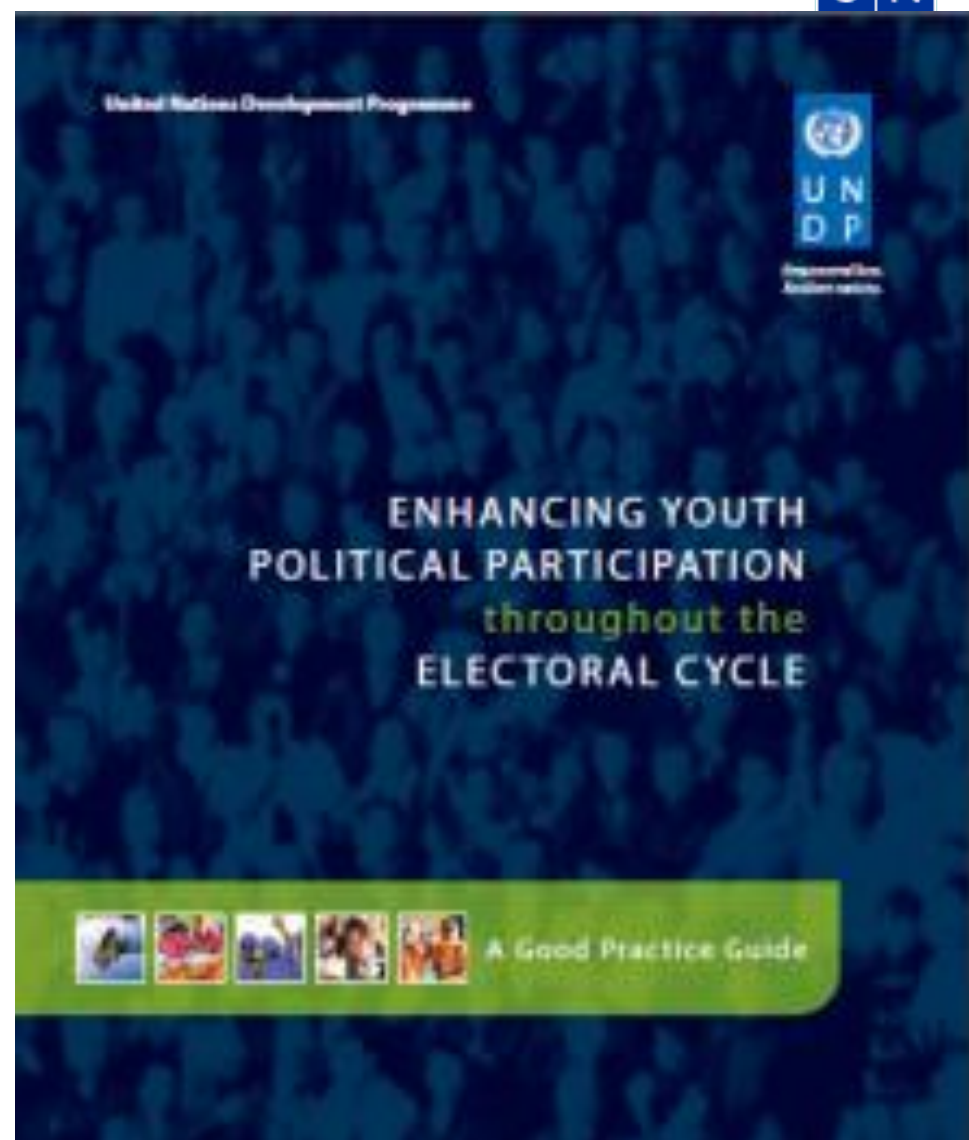
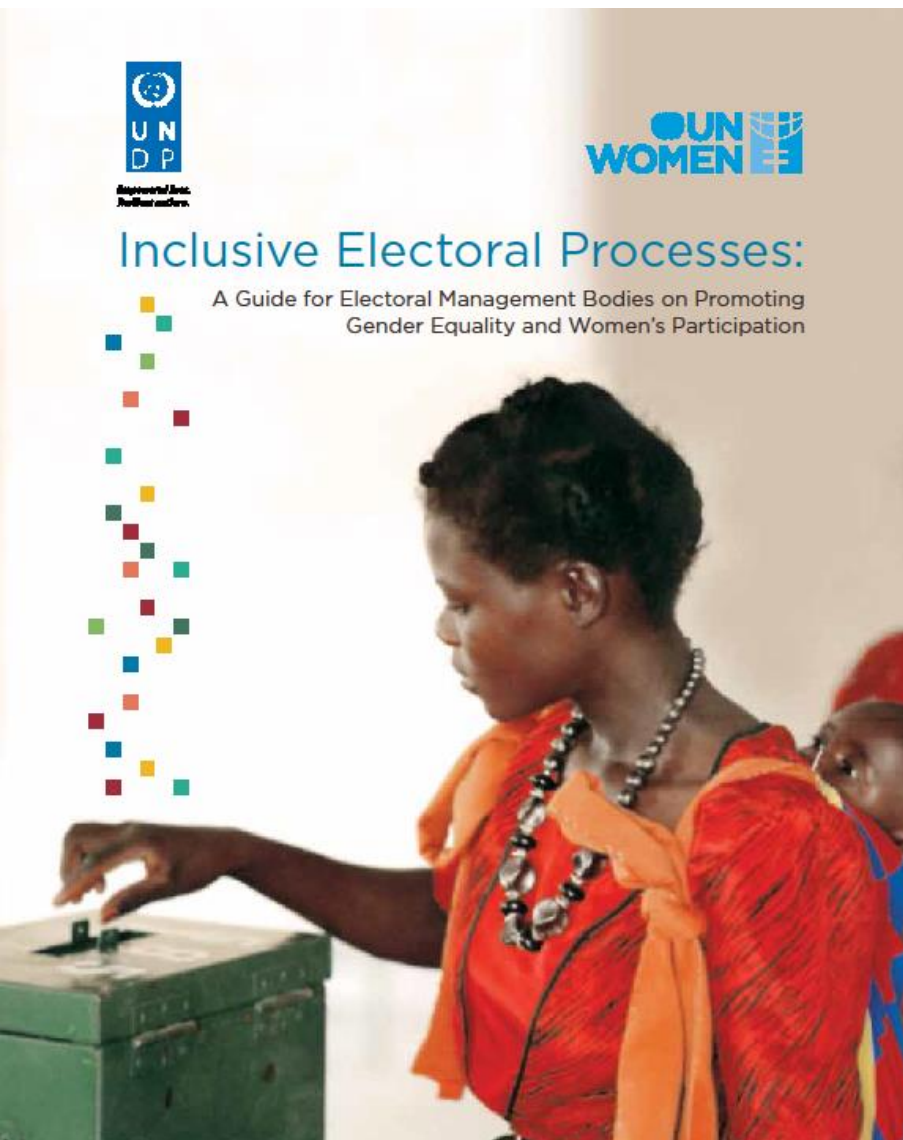
- On line at: <http://elearning.ec-undp-electoralassistance.org/> (or google “UNDP JTF”)

About us



- Publications
- On line at: http://www.ec-undp-electoralassistance.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=147&Itemid=103&lang=en
- Or google “UNDP JTF”

Examples of publications



- Conferences:
 - 2014, Dead Sea Jordan -- “Reinforcing credibility and acceptance of electoral processes: The role of electoral stakeholders and electoral administrations”

Save the date!



Conference on the topic of inclusion in the
electoral process to be held in Brussels,
Belgium **18-19-20 May**

Inclusiveness



- Definition:

Participation, on an equal footing, of the broadest pool of stakeholders throughout the electoral cycle

Inclusiveness



- Voters
- Candidates

- Who:
 - Youth
 - Women
 - Minorities
 - Migrants (internal/external)
 - People with disabilities

Inclusiveness



- Barriers:
 - Legal
 - Administrative/Technical
 - Economic

- The barriers can create an opportunity to engage in malfeasance and erode integrity of the process. Examples:
 - Barriers to voter registration – legal, financial (requiring travel, for example – more difficult for women and the poor)
 - Barriers to candidate registration – residency requirements language tests (possibility of subjective application)

Some examples:

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights (*Article 21*)
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) (*Article 7*)
- The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) (*Article 29*)

Sustainable Development Goals



- **SDG 16:** Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies
- **Target 16.7:** Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels.



- **Introducing** measures – for example quotas (women, youth, minorities)
- But also **removing** those legal requirements that disproportionately affect certain voters.

Beyond requirements



- Ensuring inclusive electoral process is a **RIGHT**, not a privilege.
- But even when that right is guaranteed in the law, it doesn't always materialize – additional steps may be necessary to breathe life into the legal norms.

Electoral Cycle



Paramount question:



-- Will the measures we are taking going to contribute to inclusive AND credible process?

-- Most of the time the answer is complimentary – increasing participation of underrepresented (voters and/or candidates) contributes to credibility.

But the answer may not always be straight forward...

-- Example: use of technology

-- Technology can make elections **MORE inclusive** – by making it easier for people with disabilities to vote, for example.

Or it can make it **LESS inclusive** – if it's complex or not well explained.

It can also make it **LESS credible** – if it erodes trust in the process.

Temptation to replicate practices used in other countries – especially developed democracies.

-- Example: the Netherlands, proxy voting and technology

-- In case of a voter is unable to go to the polling station for whatever reason, he/she can verbally ask another voter to cast the ballot for him/her. All that is needed is a photocopy of the ID and voter card -- minimal supervision and no way to verify voter's will has been respected.

-- International observers (OSCE) raised grave concerns about the practice.

-- However, NO political party voices concern about proxy voting and 84% of voters support it!

-- At the same time, concerns about e-voting (voting machines) led to discontinuation of their use in the Netherlands.

Lesson from the Netherlands:

We trust the people much more than the machines?

Therefore, no single answer – solutions from elsewhere should be taken as inspiration, not copied.

The future



Internet voting – ultimate inclusivity tool, at least for voters?

Perhaps, but...

- Trust?
- Secrecy of the vote?
- Security?

Food for thought ...



- What are the political, social and economic parameters influencing the degree of inclusiveness of an electoral process?
- How does inclusiveness in electoral processes foster credibility, representativeness and contribute to prevent violence?
- Which are the processes that contribute towards inclusiveness?
- Which actors can support inclusiveness within these processes?



Thank you
and hope to see you in Brussels in
May!