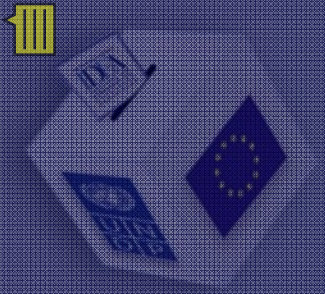




Introduction to Elections and International Electoral Support

University of Orebro, 24-25 April, 2009

Sara Staino, Programme Officer
International IDEA



Why are elections important?

Elections are the central institution of democratic representative governments



Every citizen shall have the right and the opportunity,
without any unreasonable restrictions:

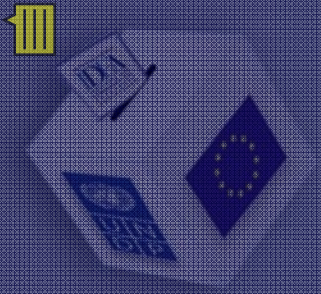
- a) To take part in the conduct of public affairs, directly or through freely chosen representatives;
- b) To vote and to be elected at genuine periodic elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret ballot, guaranteeing the free expression of the will of the electors;
- c) To have access, on general terms of equality, to public service in his country.



International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

23 March 1976

ARTICLE 25



Every citizen shall have the right and the opportunity, without any discrimination on grounds of race, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status, to take part in the elections of his country.

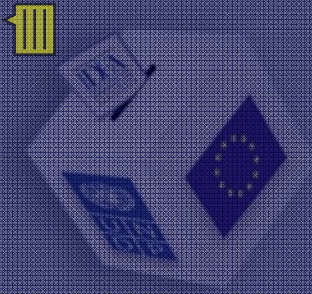
Elections should not be seen in isolation from democratic

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

23 March 1976

ARTICLE 25

c) To have access, on general terms of equality, to public service in his country.



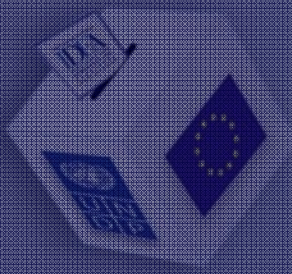
Elections should not be seen in isolation from democratic governance and development

part of the broader
democratic government and
development strategy

linked to poverty reduction,
conflict management and
gender awareness

The Origins of elections





elections were
primarily an
internal matter
of states

NO

**EXTERNAL
SCRUTINY**

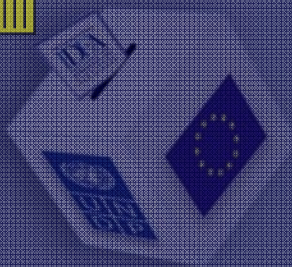
EVALUATION

C O L D W A R DEMOCRATISATION WAVE



a wide number of
countries
reformed their
electoral systems
and **processes**

CHALLENGE



Why was it difficult to conduct free and fair elections in the 1990's?





THE KNOWLEDGE GAP

Mayibuye March 1991

Feature

Page 29

The basic demand of the ANC for a system of one person, one vote, has inspired our struggle for a democratic South Africa. We are committed to the exercise of political power through equal, direct and periodic elections, and to the right of all citizens over the age of 18 to vote and to hold public office. This relates to another dimension of a democratic order: freedom of association, which includes the right to establish or join political parties or any other organisations.

The ANC has also made it a central part of its platform for negotiations that a Constituent Assembly be elected by the entire people to determine and adopt a democratic constitution for South Africa. Such an election would be an important and fundamental act of self-determination by the people.

Elections for the Constituent Assembly will be followed by ordinary general elections for a national parliament, possibly regional assemblies and certainly for local authorities. Such elections allow citizens to express their choice as between political parties, policies and ideologies.

ELECTORAL SYSTEMS

The critical issue is the way the votes which a party or person obtains in an election are to be translated into seats. This is not a technical question to be settled by lawyers or professionals. It must involve everyone concerned with the result of an election, which affects access to and the retention of power.

Throughout the period of colonial rule, whites, who had access to power, used what is known as the 'plurality' or single member system. It is also known as the first-past-the-post or winner-takes-all system. This method of electing public representatives is found in Britain, in former British colonies in Africa, Canada, New Zealand, Australia, the Lower House of India and in the United States. No country on the mainland of Europe uses this system.

Until recently, hardly any crit-

Democratic elections – but how?

Without democratic elections, the political organs running our country will have no legitimacy. This also applies to the body which is meant to draw up a new constitution. The question is: what kind of electoral system is the most suitable? MAYIBUYE put this question to Kader Asmal, a Visiting Professor of Law at the University of the Western Cape and member of the ANC Constitutional Committee.

icism was heard of the South African electoral system among the whites. This is because it served their purpose of identifying which party was most capable of maintaining apartheid. The debate, until fairly recently among the whites, was not about the lack of fairness in the electoral system, but how best to control the demands of the black majority.

Faced with the urgent demand for universal suffrage on a single voters' roll, the apartheid regime was forced to concede this in principle. But, over the past decade, a ferment of proposals have been made by think-tanks, government-appointed bodies and other interests, to ensure that the normal consequence of democracy in an election – majority rule – are frustrated by fancy and intricate proposals. These include compulsory power-sharing in the executive, guaranteed representation of and vetoes by white minority racial interests. "Simple unsophisticated majority rule", the argument goes, would be undemocratic!

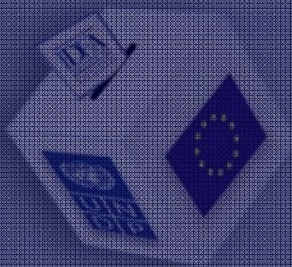
PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION

Associated with this attempt to reduce the majority to powerlessness have been proposals to change the electoral system to some form of proportional representation. In this system, there is a direct or close enough relationship between the number of votes a party obtains and the number of seats allocated to it or won by the party. But the proposals, as contained, for instance in the KwaZulu-Natal Indaba Report call for 'minority group' representation and measures to forestall the capacity of 'any single party (having) more than 50% of the seats in the first chamber'.

The present system of "plurality" operated by whites is seriously defective, undemocratic and unfair. But the new proposals put forward by forces within the establishment seek to perpetuate white domination under a new guise. This was the consensus reached at the workshop

demand for comparative knowledge

demand for electoral assistance



THE ACE
ELECTORAL
KNOWLEDGE
NETWORK

ace



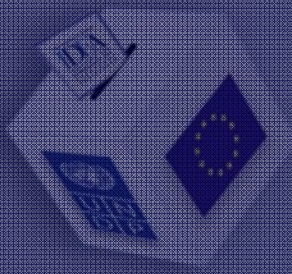
project | projet | proyecto

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ace

bridge



CREDIBILITY GAP

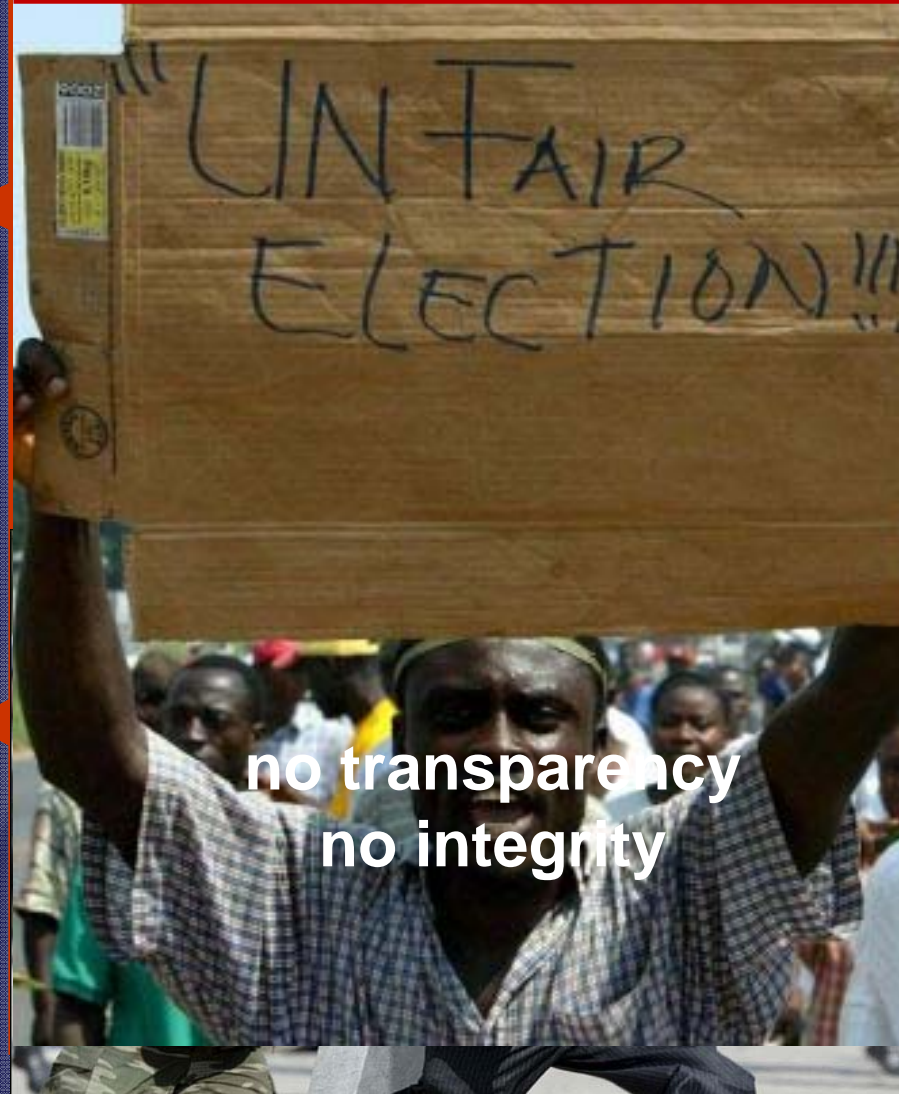
lack of credibility
and
mistrust

voters'
apathy and
low turnout

Disputes and
violence

no transparency
no integrity

lack of
legitimacy of
elected
government





Electoral Support



Electoral Assistance

Election Observation



What is Electoral Assistance?

Electoral Assistance is the Legal, technical and logistic support provided to legal electoral reforms (electoral laws), electoral processes and institutions that manage elections (EMBs).

- Provided by UN, UNDP, EC, USA (IFES, NDI, IRI) International IDEA
- Recipients of electoral assistance have mainly been EMBs (Electoral Management Bodies)
- Traditional aim: to support the conduct of a specific electoral event

event-driven electoral support

what could the consequences be if no follow-up assistance is provided during the post-election period?

PERIOD "IN BETWEEN ELECTIONS"

loss of capacity and know-how

loss of institutional memory

lack of incentives, demotivation

duplications and gaps

building of local capacity

provision of electoral support

YEAR 1

YEAR 2

YEAR 3

YEAR 4

YEAR 5

elections

election

?



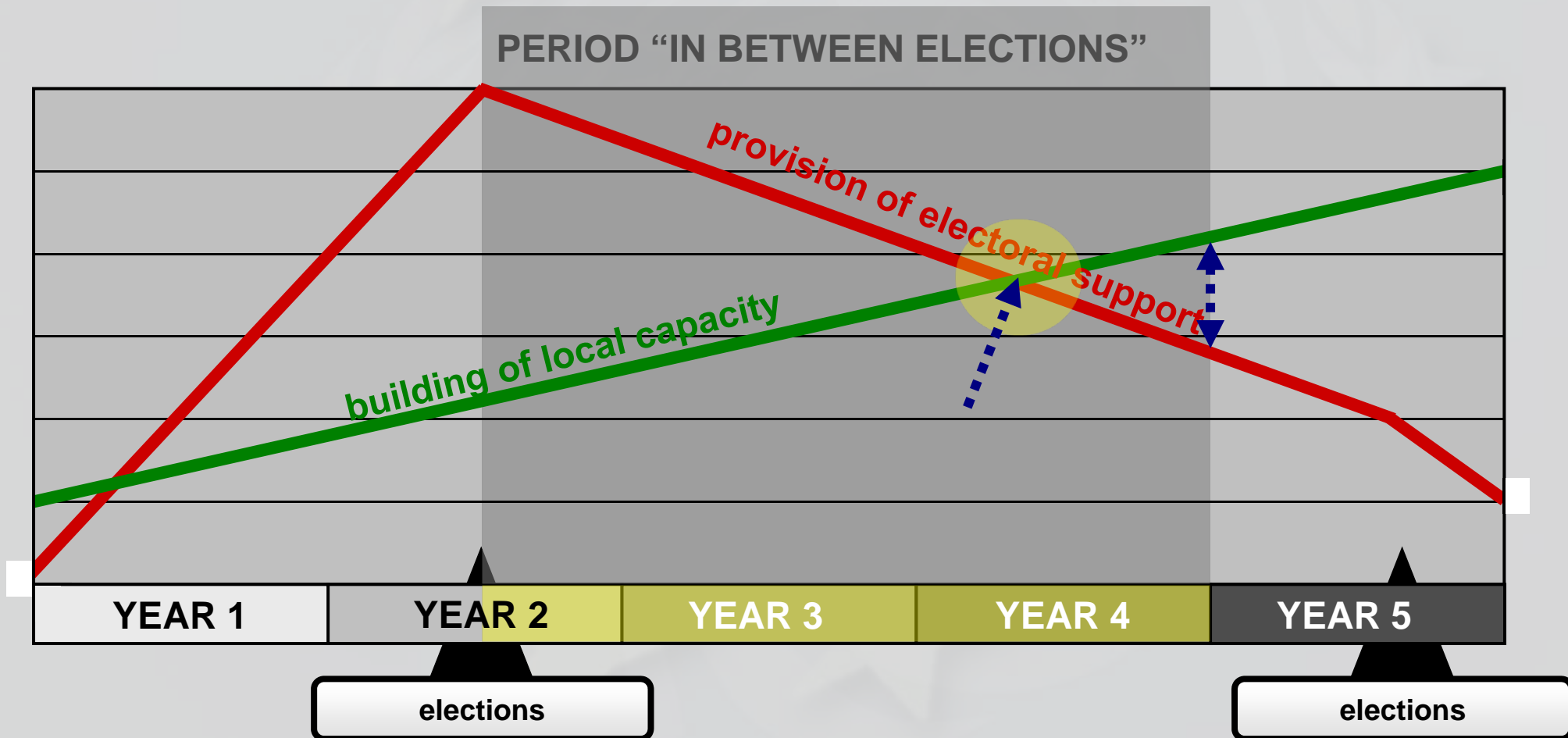
New approach

Strengthening institutions' effectiveness, sustainability and capacity in the long term:

- Professional development and capacity building
- Institutional memory
- Evaluation
- Local ownership
- Link to democratic governance support
- Harmonise efforts
- Link to observation

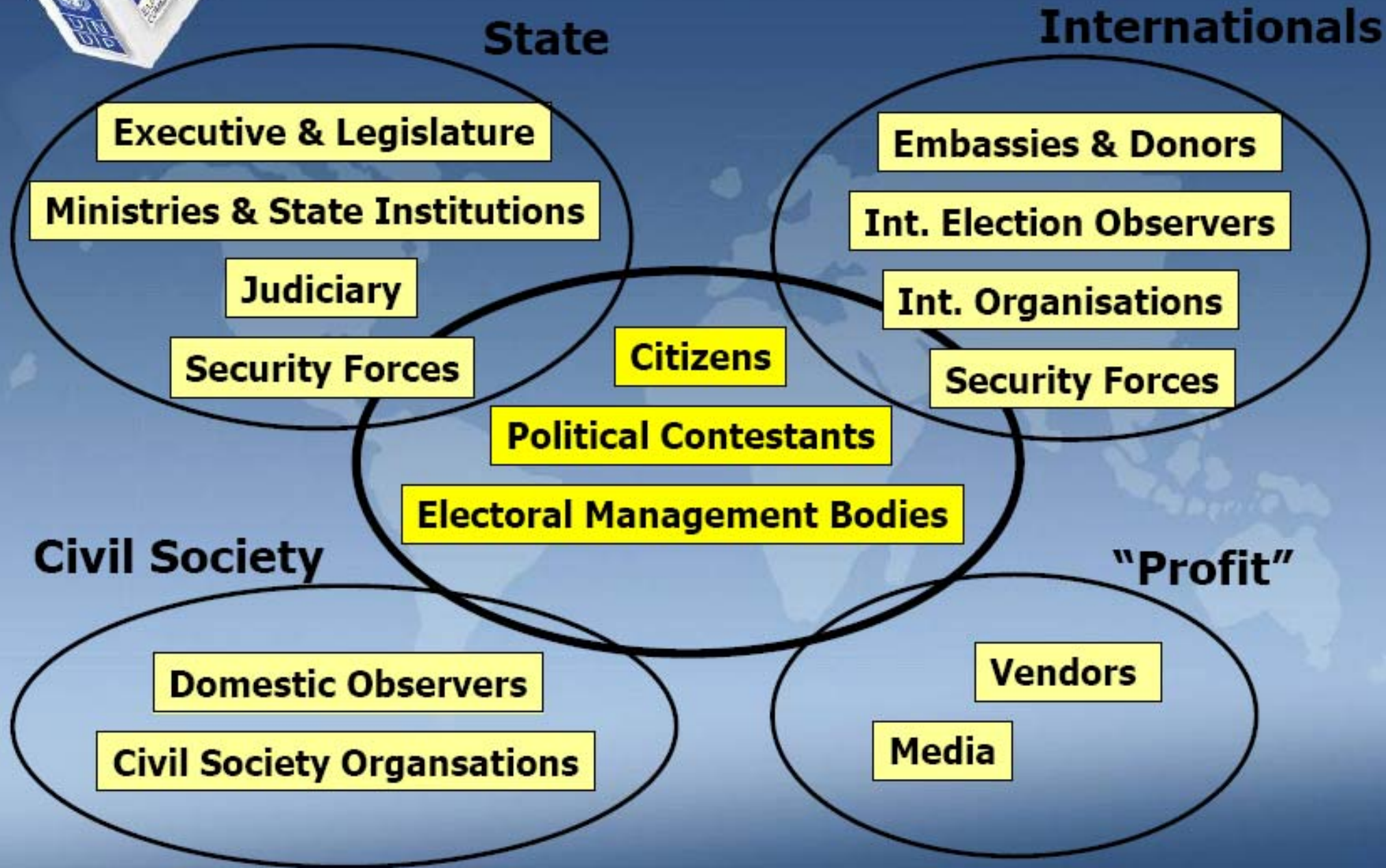


process-driven electoral support





Recipients and Stakeholders





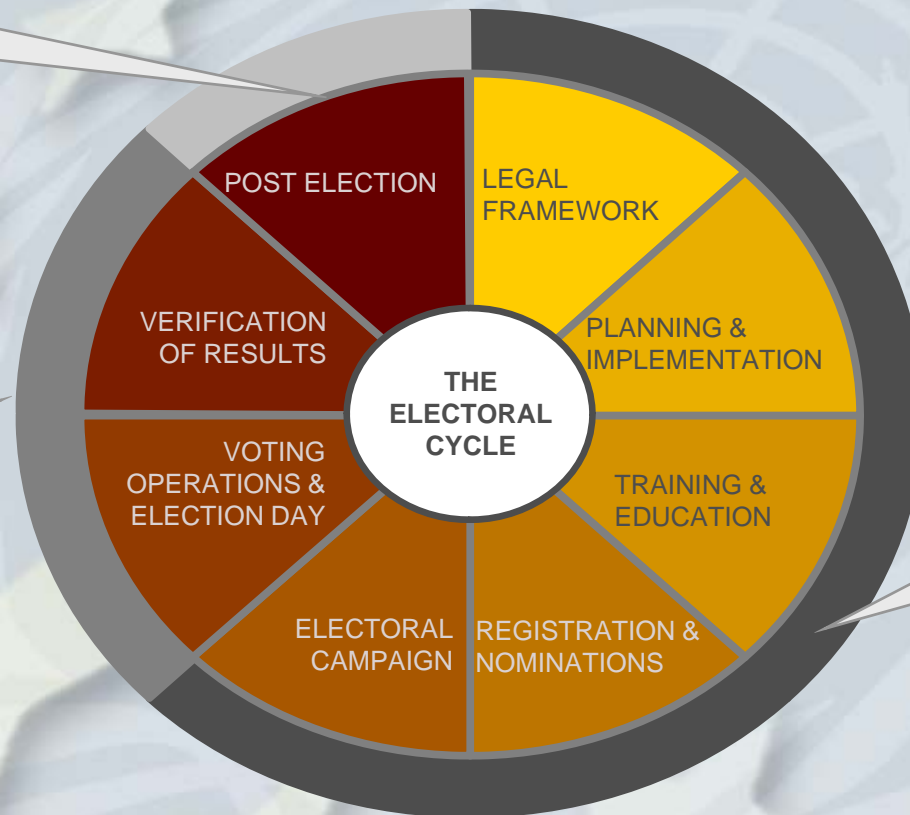
electoral cycle

three main segments

**post-electoral
period (strategy)**

**electoral period
(operations)**

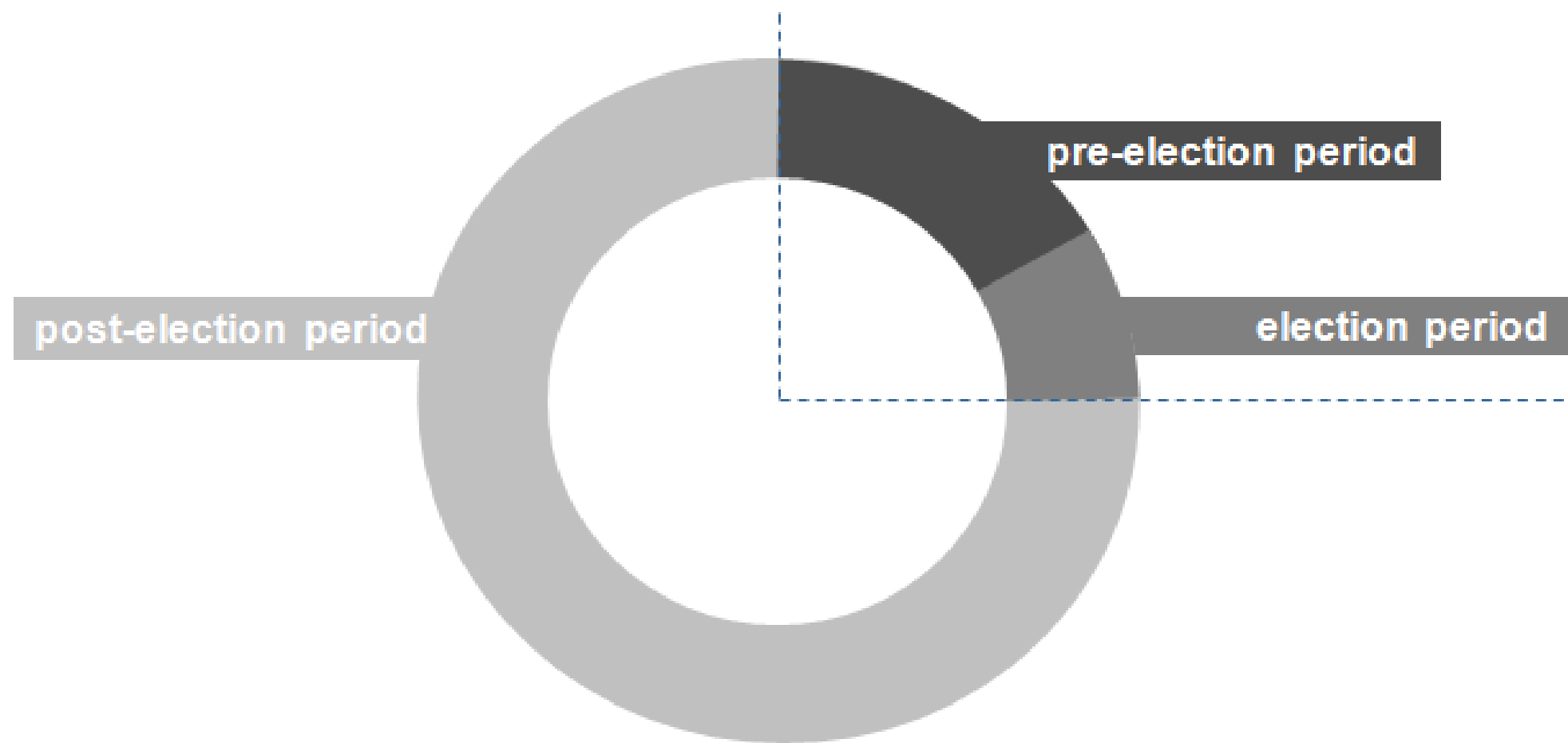
**pre-electoral
period
(preparations)**





post-election period

sustainable electoral support



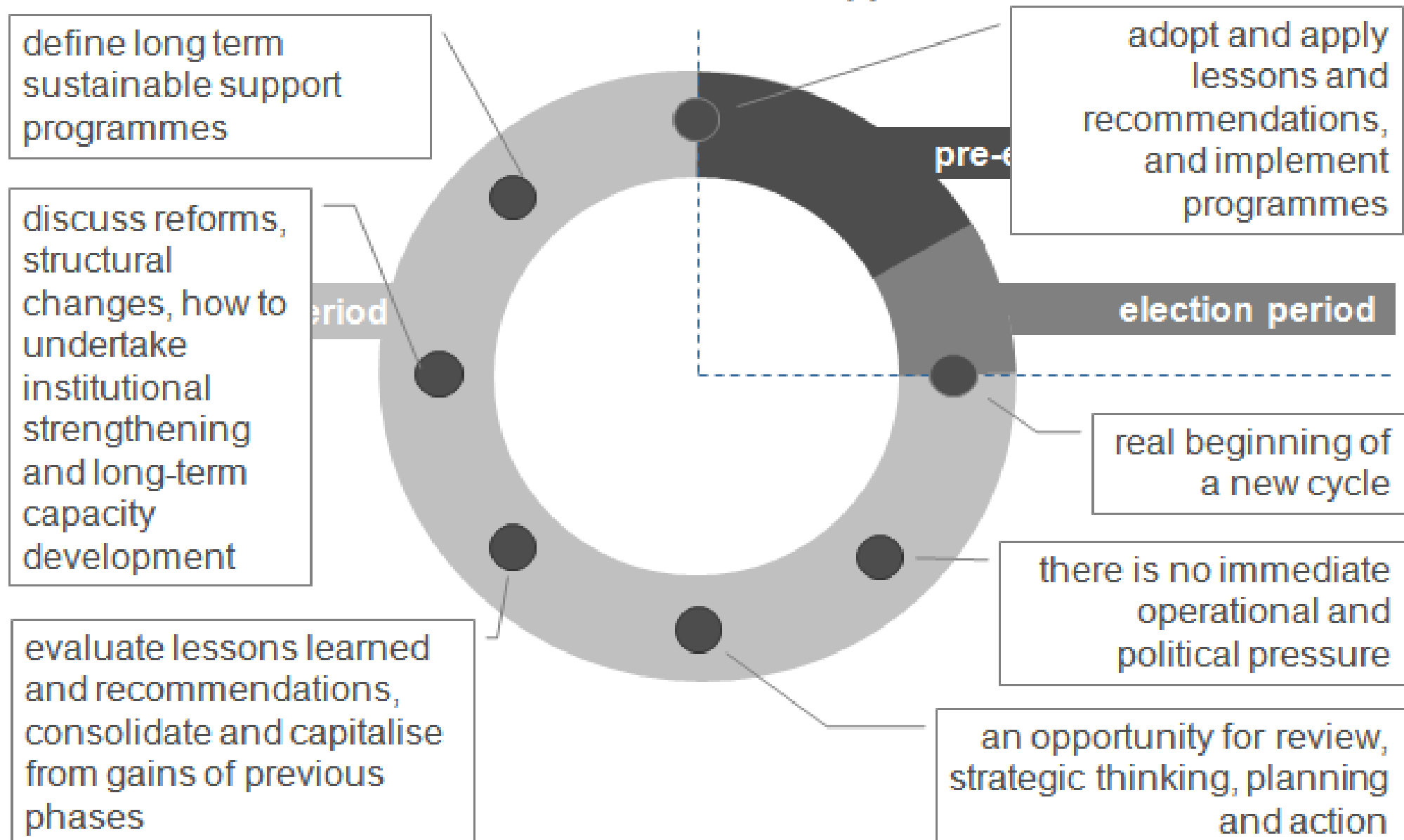
electoral calendar

3, 4 or 5 years



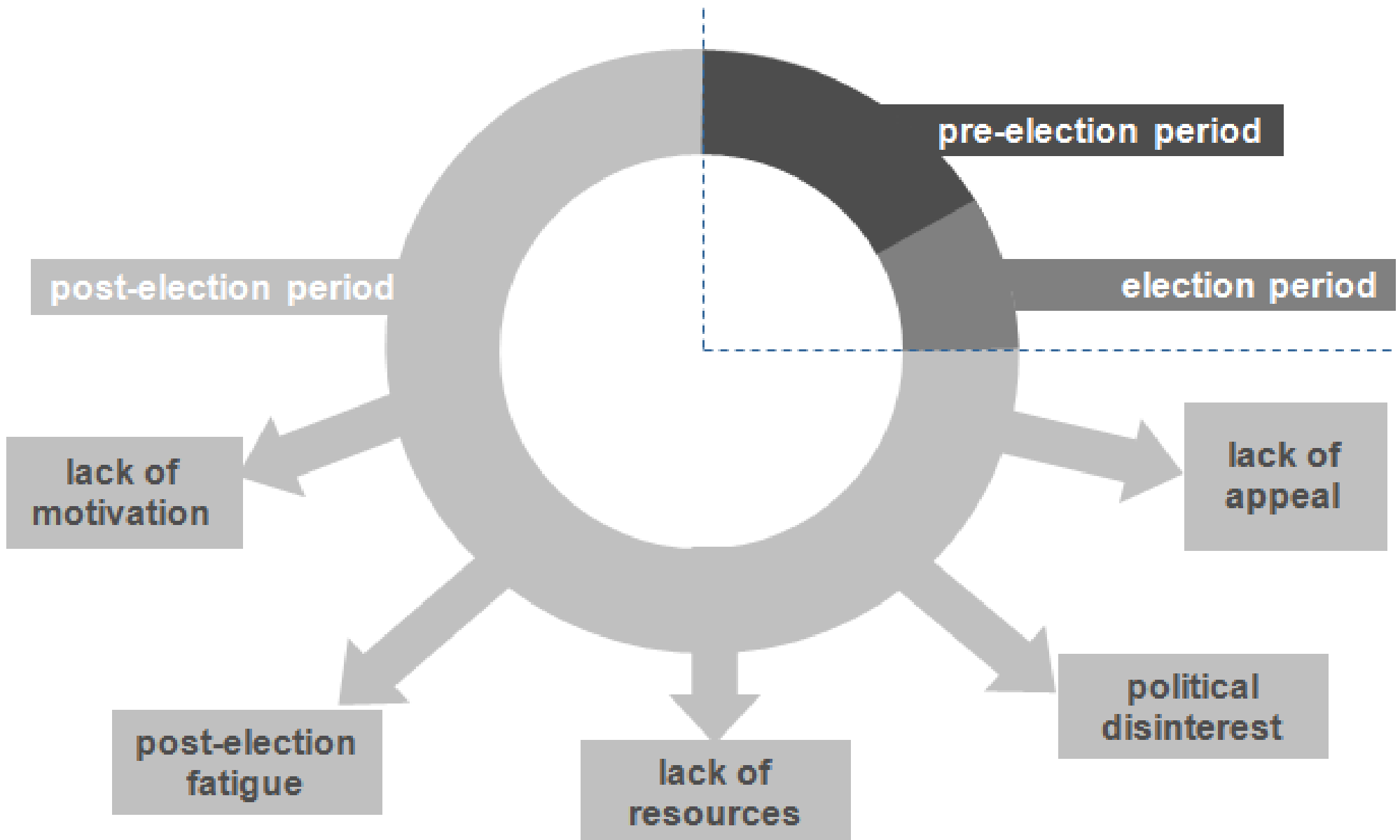
post-election period

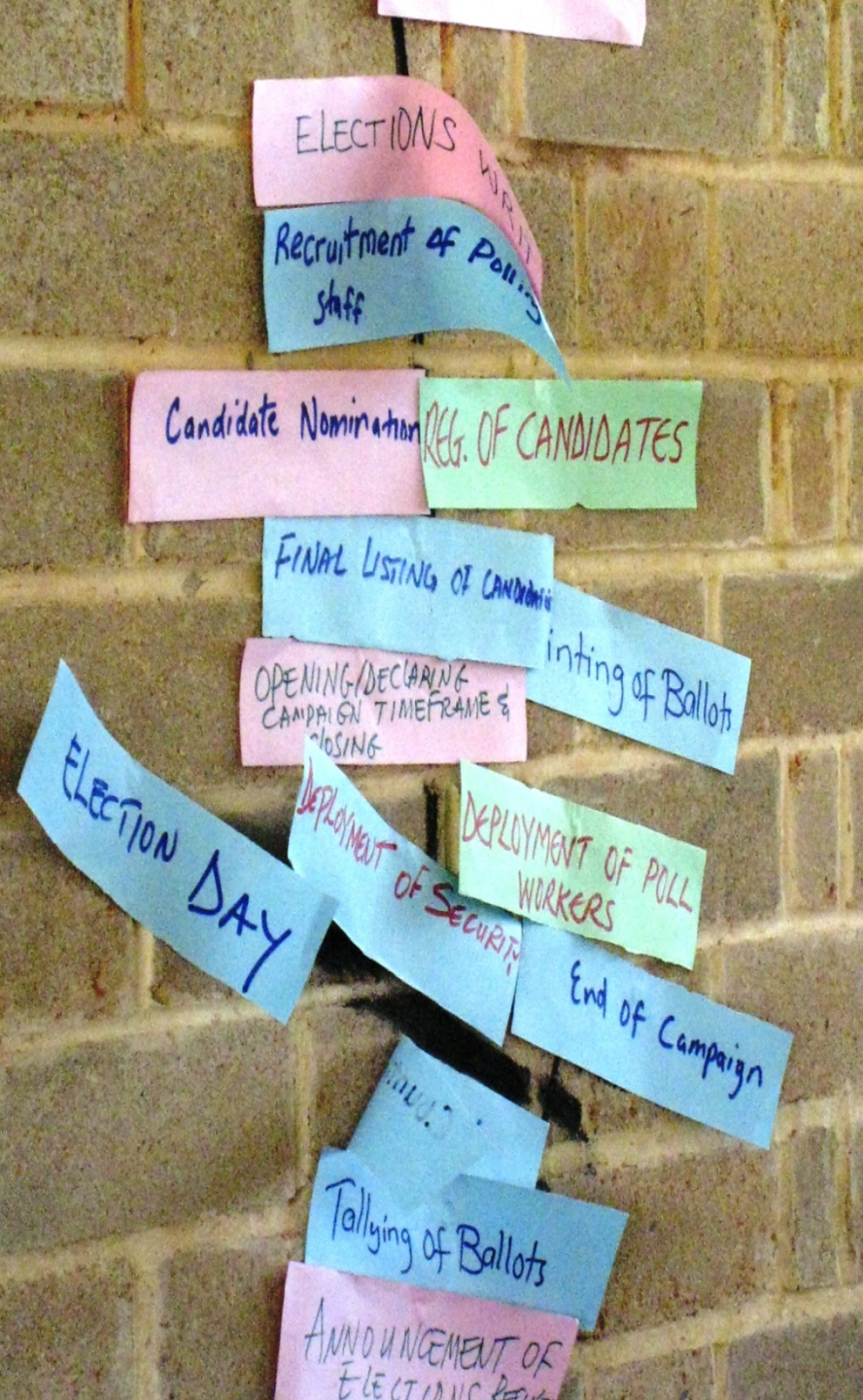
sustainable electoral support



post-election period

inhibitors





post-electoral activities

institution
strengthening
programmes

evaluation and assessment

capacity
development
programmes

auditing

technical evaluation
and audits

donor
coordination

structural changes of the EMB

legal reform

voter and civic
education
programmes

archiving and
research

technology
upgrades

strategic thinking and planning

dialogue and
stakeholder
consultation

networking

defining long term
sustainable support programme

boundary
delimitation

National Elections Commission Liberia



1 PRE-Election Assessment

CODE OF

ELECTIONAL BUDGET

Procurement

ELECTIONS TIME / INIT

Setting up a Data Center

PREPARE INDEPENDENT
TIC AND MOVEMENT PLAN

Accreditation
Observers, Reps, Media

IDENTIFICATION OF
V.R. CENTERS

- RECRUITMENT OF
REGISTRATION STAFF

TRAINING

VOTER
REGISTRATION

EXHIBITION

OF GRADING VOTER
ROLL

PUBLICATION OF POLLING
CENTERS

DEPLOYMENT OF
ELECTIONAL MATERIALS

REGULAR PRESS BRIEFING

Election Development Plan

Party Registration

ELECTIONS WRIT

Recruitment of Polling
Staff

Candidate Nomination

REG. OF CANDIDATES

FINAL LISTING OF CANDIDATES

Printing of Ballots

OPENING/DECLARING
CAMPAIGN TIME
CLOSING

DEPLOYMENT
OF SECURITY

DEPLOYMENT OF POLL
WORKERS

End of Campaign

ELECTION DAY

Counting of Ballots

Tallying of Ballots

ANNOUNCEMENT OF
ELECTIONS RESULTS

INVESTIGATION OF
COMPLAINTS / HEARINGS

Certification of Winners

REPORT & EVALUATION

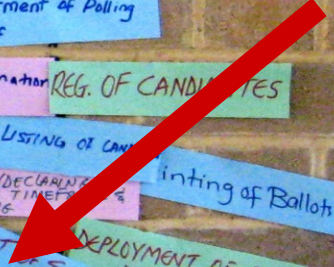
Legal Framework

ELECTIONAL
CYCLE

CAPACITY
BUILDING

FORMATION
OF COMMISSION

BOUND



PREPARATION FOR THE NEXT ELECTION WITH RESPECT TO LESSON LEARN

EDUCATING CITIZENS ON THEIR RESPONSIBILITY TOWARD THEIR Elected LEADERS.

IDENTIFICATION OF REGISTRATION CENTERS
①

Review Electoral laws for reform if possible

Formulation of Code of Conduct for Stakeholders

CIVIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGN
②

RECRUITMENT & TRAINING OF REG. STAFF

PROMOTING GOOD GOVERNANCE

EVALUATION OF POLITICAL PARTIES ACTIVITIES

CAPACITY BUILDING OF COE ELECTORAL STAFFS.

Fostering of good relationship with stakeholder

EDUCATING Elected LEADERS ON THEIR RESPONSIBILITY TOWARD THEIR CITIZENS.

ELECTORAL CYCLE

STRENGTHEN THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS

DEPLOYMENT OF REG. STAFFS AND LOGISTICS

REGISTRATION OF CANDIDATES

Continuous civic education

Table 4

Reform of electoral laws where necessary

VOTERS' EDUCATION

VOTERS' REGISTRATION

POLITICAL CAMPAIGN

PRINTING OF BALLOTS

RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING POLLING STAFF

Evaluation of the Electoral Process

RETRIEVAL OF MATERIALS from the field

COLLECTION OF BALLOT BOXES

CASTING OF BALLOTS (Election)

PUBLICATION OF POLLING PLACES

Candidate Nomination & Qualification
REPLACEMENT OF VOTER'S CARDS

PRINTING OF BALLOTS

ELECTION TIMETABLE

RELEASE OF ELECTION GUIDELINES

Drafting of Electoral Budget

ADJUDICATION OF COMPLAINTS

COUNTING TALLY OF RESULTS

ISSUANCE OF WRIT

Announcement of Results

Deployment of Sensitive & non-sensitive materials

CIVIC/Voter Education

QUALIFICATION OF CANDIDATES

EXHIBITION OF VOTER'S ROLL

CORRECTIONS ON EXHIBITION

VOTER'S REGISTRATION

PUBLICATION OF Candidate Roster

DEPLOYMENT OF POLLING STAFF AND LOGISTICS

CIVIC/VOTER EDUCATION FOR REGISTRATION

Campaign Period

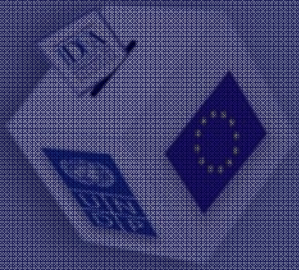
Acquisition of Electoral Materials

NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES



Election Observation

- Assessment of a given electoral process (event)
- More limited in scope
- Does NOT interfere with the conduct of the process
- Formulation of a judgment (report)



questions

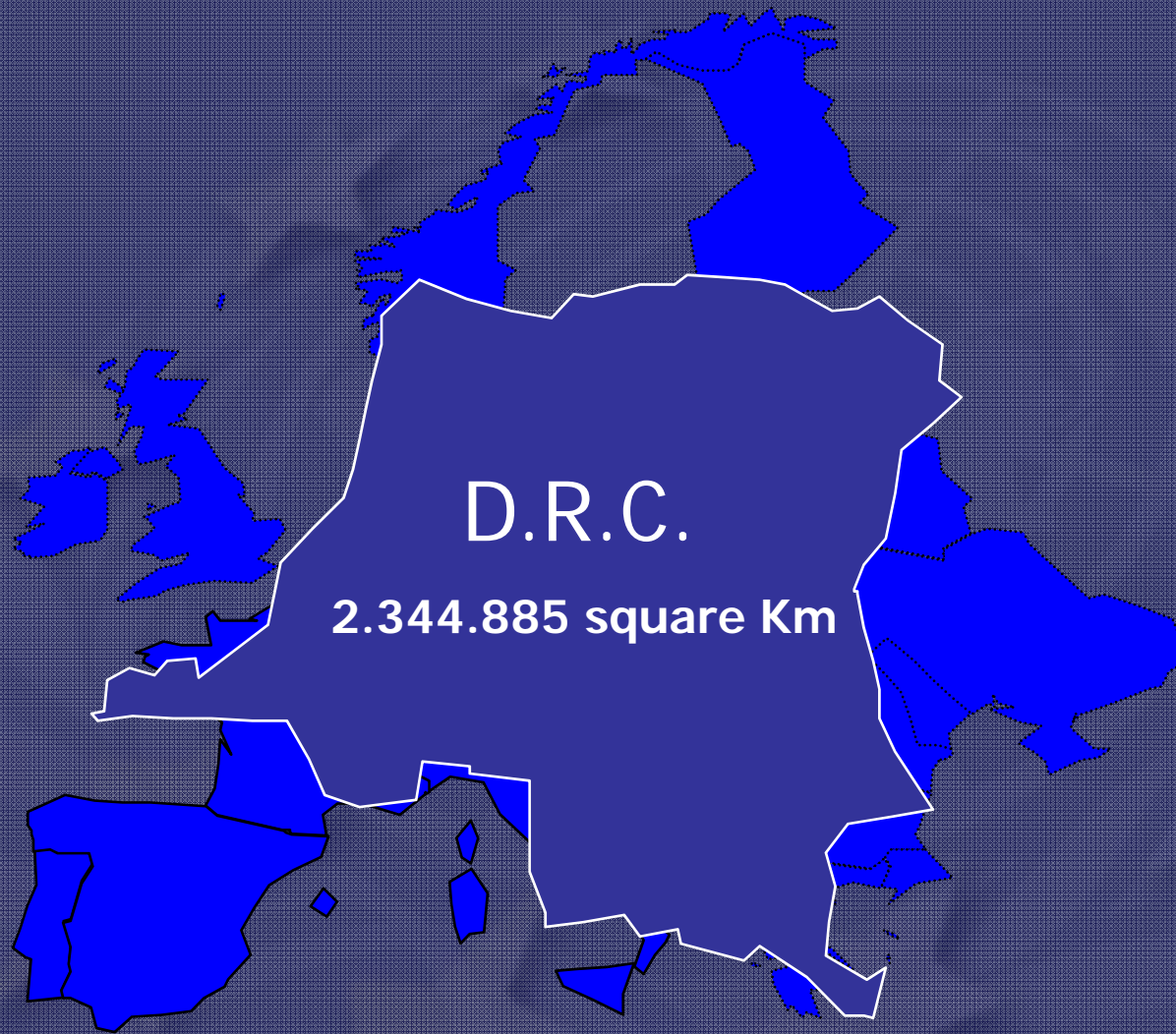
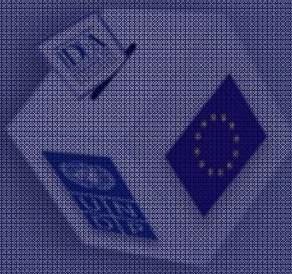




Challenges in the electoral process of the DRC



A huge country...



Equaling the
size of:

Portugal +
Spain +
France +
Italy +
Switzerland +
Belgium +
Luxemburg +
Netherlands +
Germany +
Denmark +
Austria +
Poland

or: ¼ of the size
of USA

... with very little infrastructure



D.R.C Facts

POPULATION	62.600.000
VOTERS	25.500.000
ELECTORAL STAFF	300.000
POLICE OFFICERS	76.000
CONSTITUENCIES	385
POLLING STATIONS	
CANDIDATES*	22.500

*200.000 candidates for the local elections



Main challenges

- **No civil register or homogenous ID documents**
- **No census since 1984**
- **Actual size of the electorate unknown**
- **No EMB - Setting-up from scratch**
- **No legal framework**
- **Short timeframe to accomplish the whole process**
- **No experience of multi-party elections since 1965**



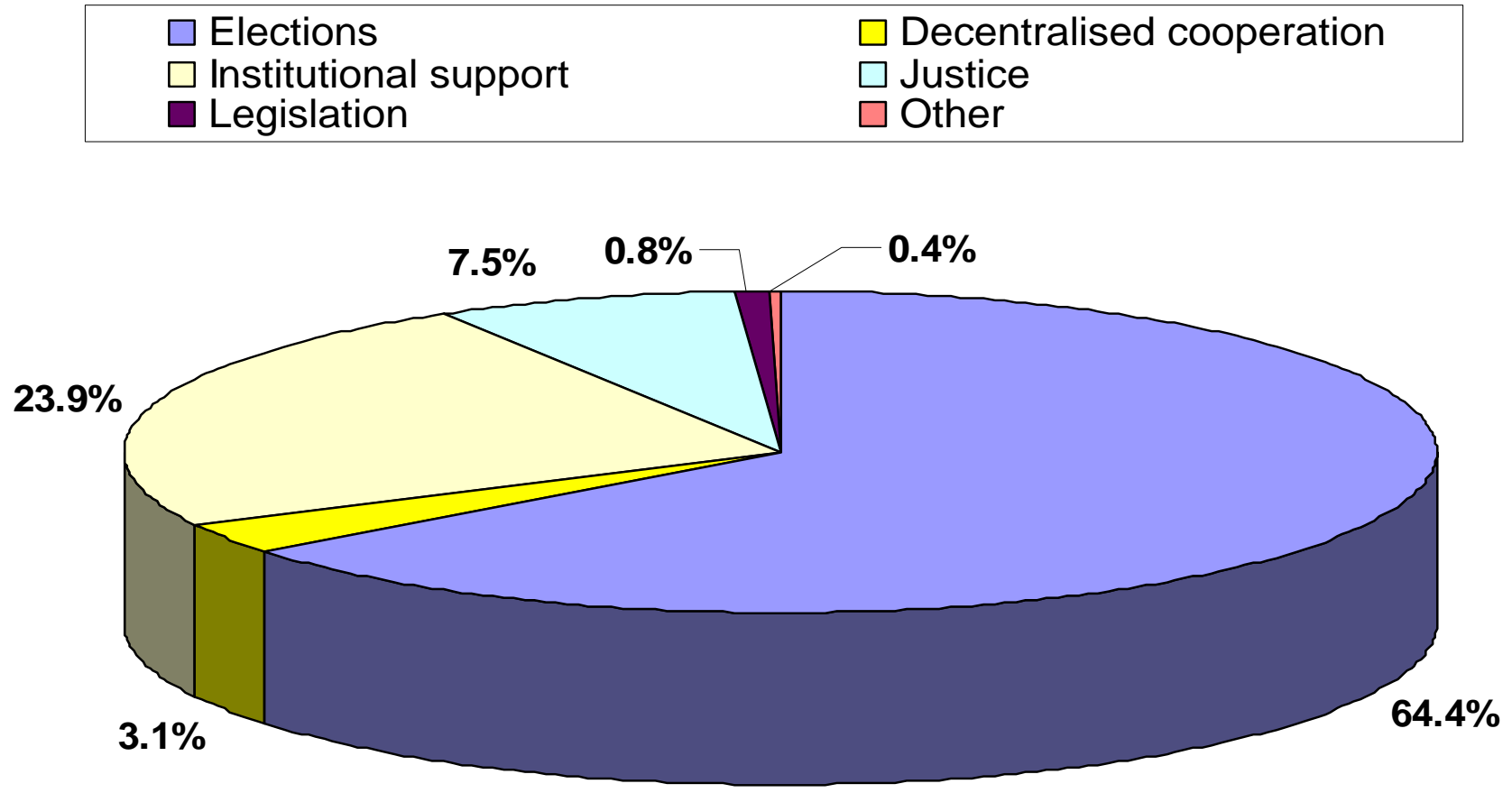
EU development strategy in DRC

- Institution building and Governance
- Support to the electoral process
- Support to police reform
- Health
- Infrastructures
- Preservation of natural resources
- Promotion of agriculture
- Humanitarian aid

2003-2007: European Commission funding of development and humanitarian aid programs in DRC has consisted of approximately **900 M€**



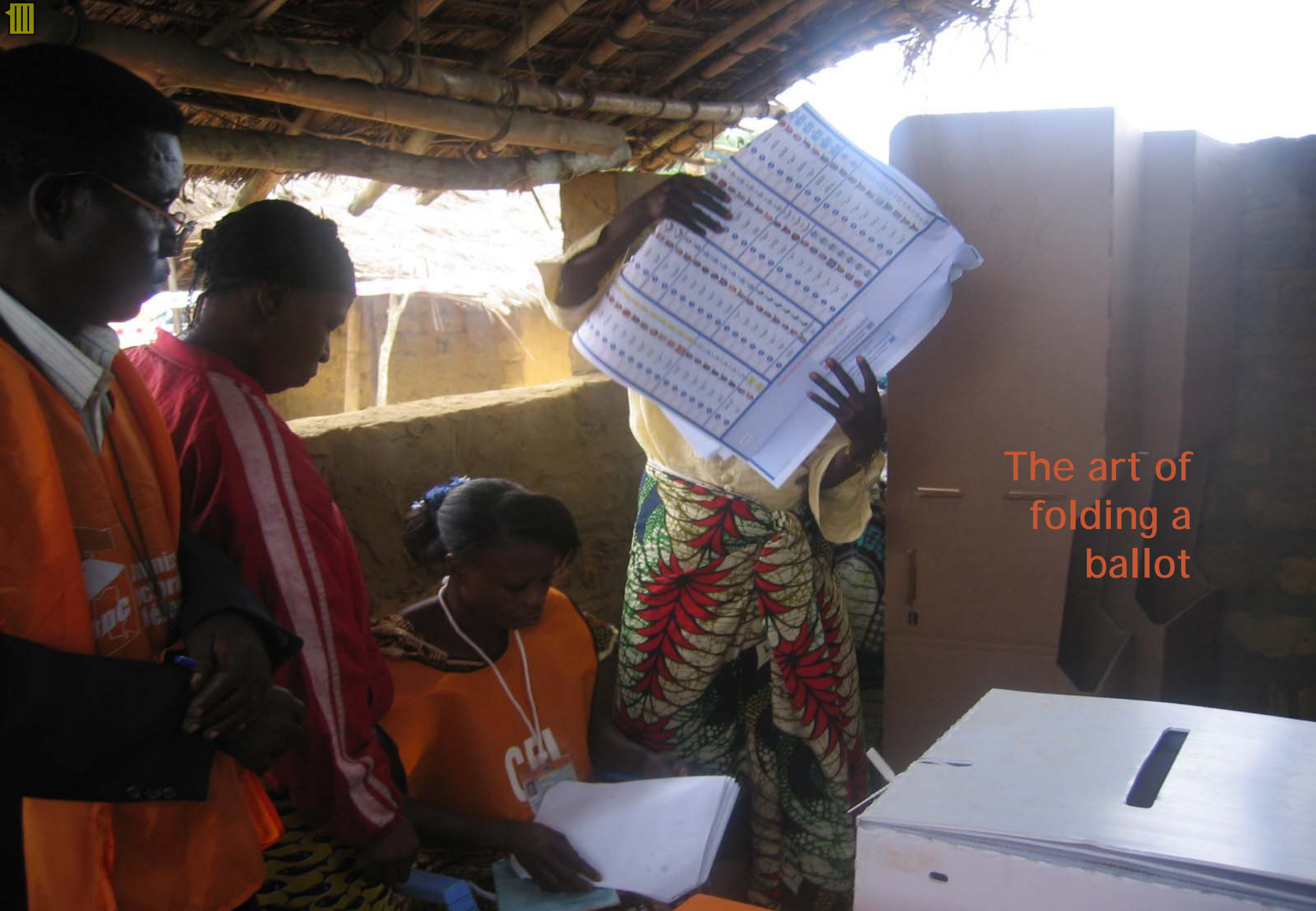
EC-UNDP Disaggregated Division for Democratic Governance 2006



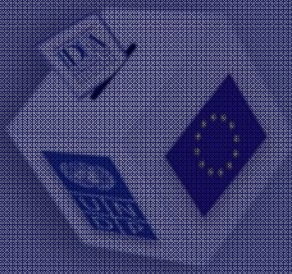


Assistance provided by EC

- Financial support
- Judicial support to setting up the legal framework
- Procurement and storage of material/equipment
- Technical assistance to EMB secretariat and electoral operations
- Preparation of electoral list
- Production and printing of ballot papers
- Compilation and transmission of results
- Capacity building initiatives:
 - Training of 300.000 electoral staff
 - Training of 76.000 police officers
- Support to and interaction with EU EOM (300 observers)
- Etc, etc....



The art of
folding a
ballot



Is the money spent on
electoral support
worth it

