



Election → Observation in Africa and Asia

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Outline

I. Democracy Promotion and Election Observation

– Why, when/where, how, what?

II. Observed elections / Election observations in Africa and Asia –
a very personal selection

I. Democracy Promotion and Election Observation



Why, when/where, how, what?

Why?

Democracy Promotion and Election Observation

- ▶ – why bother?
- ▶ Trade, after all, is considerably easier with well-established dictators.

Why?

Democracy Promotion and Election Observation

- as a development tool
- as foreign policy

- ▶ – Legal texts (esp. Treaty of Lisbon – TEU/TFEU), based on
- ▶ **EU as a Community of Values** and
- ▶ International Security Approach

- ▶ Historical ties

When/where?

Criteria to (try to) send an EU Election Observation Mission (EOM):

- ▶ Useful (contribute to transparency, deter fraud & violence, enhance confidence in elections, provide recommendations)
- ▶ Advisable (minimum standards expected)
- ▶ Feasible (invitation likely, logistics, security!)

- ▶ Historical ties
- ▶ Continuity/follow the electoral cycle

How?

Democracy Promotion and Election Observation

- ▶ – Follow the entire electoral cycle (spotlights don't work)
- ▶ Ex: EOM – Final Report – EU Delegation funds projects – EFM – more/different projects – EOM (maybe EEM)

How?

Legal and Financial Framework for express (=positive measures) Democracy Promotion:

- ▶ *European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR)*
- ▶ 1104 Mio. EUR for the MFF 2014–20 (same as 2007–13!!)
(138 Mio. EUR per annum)
 - 25% foreseen for Election Assistance and Election Observation
- ▶ 34,5 Mio. EUR p.a.

How?

▶ EU-EOMs

- Service Provider
- 60–120 election observers
- STOs and LTOs, Core Team + MEPs and bilateral diplomatic personnel as support
- Composition of teams
- (If) EU Election Observers can observe 3–5% of polling stations throughout the country on E-Day = results are statistically significant
- Goal is to have „...*an overall judgement, not administrative precision* „ (Holland, 2002, p.136)

What?

(Hard) Objectives of an EU-EOM

- Observe the election campaign
- Media observation
- Analyze the legal situation (electoral code, constitutional law, remedies)
- Meetings with political parties and independent lists, with representatives from Civil Society, with the Independent Election Commission organising the elections
- Observe the polling stations on E-Day
- Observe the counting of results
- Follow legal complaints

II. Observed elections/Election observations in Africa and Asia – a very personal selection



Learning by doing: Cambodia 1998: “free and fair”



Learning by doing: Cambodia 2003 – Poipet



Kenya 2007

Mwai Kibaki (Kikuyu) vs Raila Odinga (Luo)

“The elections **fell short** of key international and regional standards for democratic elections. Most significantly, they were **marred by a lack of transparency in the processing and tallying** of presidential results, which **raised concerns about the accuracy of the final result of this election.**”

Kenya 2007 – Preliminary Statement/Press

“On election day, voters turned out in large numbers and showed a genuine commitment to legitimate elections.” said Alexander Graf Lambsdorff, Chief Observer for the European Union Election Observation Mission (EU EOM). *“However, problems started after the close of polls. EU observers were turned away from tallying centres, particularly in Central province, without being given results and were denied access to the tallying room at Electoral Commission (ECK) headquarters on several occasions. In addition, EU observers reported tallying results from the Kieni and Molo constituencies which contained a significantly lower number of votes for one of the candidates than the ones announced at ECK headquarters in Nairobi. Lack of transparency as well as a number of verified irregularities therefore cast doubt on the accuracy of the result of the presidential election as announced by the ECK.”*

Kenya 2007 – Final Report

- ▶ *Overall conclusion*
- ▶ The 2007 General Elections in Kenya fell short of key international and regional standards for democratic elections.¹ Most significantly, the electoral process suffered from a lack of transparency in the processing and tallying of results, which undermined the confidence in the accuracy of the final result of the presidential election. Some violence before polling, notably during the nomination phase for parliamentary candidates hampered the conduct of the election, whereas widespread violence with numerous victims after election-day was part of a larger political crisis.
- ▶ ¹ Standards that were breached include Article 25 of the ICCPR relating to secrecy of vote, independence and neutrality of the election administration, transparency and the disposal of petitions.

Kenya 2007

Former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan arrived in the country to bring the two sides to the negotiating table. On February 28, 2008, Kibaki and Odinga signed a power-sharing agreement called the National Accord and Reconciliation Act 2008, which established the office of the Prime Minister and created a coalition government.

Election Assessment Teams

- Iraq 2010
- Afghanistan 2010


- Reports were widely “internally” circulated, but never published.
- Reports ARE shared with the national stakeholders.

Algeria 2012

- True Lies or Total Recall?
- Spies!
- Secret Service drivers
- A black hole from tallying of votes to mandate distribution
- No need for EU development aid
- “Last country standing....”

Zimbabwe 2018

- Last EU EOM in 2002 elections
- “Visa problems”
- Great hopes, lots of goodwill (“Coups? Which coup?”)
- New players (Robert Mugabe deposed/stepped down, Morgan Tsvangirai dead)
- New players?
- Police violence after elections



Questions? Comments?
Thank you

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