



AGENDA

Declaration of Principles on International Election Observation

Fourth Implementation Meeting

Warsaw, 10 – 11 September 2009

Promoting Electoral Integrity Through Credible Election Observation

Thursday, 10 September

09:00 Registration

09:30 Welcome and Opening Remarks

- Douglas Wake, First Deputy Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)
- Nicolas Kaczorowski (OSCE/ODIHR)
- Denis Kadima, Electoral Institute of Southern Africa (EISA)

10:00 Session One: Case Studies of Recent Elections

This session will examine cases that have posed particular challenges to the credibility of international election observation and cases where international observation has contributed significantly to promoting electoral integrity.

Case Study 1: Moldova

Both of Moldova's 2009 elections presented significant challenges to election observation. Violent protests followed the first elections, and constitutional requirements triggered holding the second poll. In the second election, authorities detained and in some cases deported ENEMO leaders and a number of observers, making it impossible for it to deploy its observation mission. The panel will describe the experiences of the observation missions, and discussion will address how observation missions could mitigate interference with their own efforts and that of other credible organizations.

Moderator: Staffan Darnolf (International Foundation for Electoral Systems - IFES)

*Panelists: Konrad Olszewski (OSCE/ODIHR)
Constantin Marza (European Network of Election Monitoring Organizations - ENEMO)
Pietro Ducci (European Parliament)*

10:45 Coffee Break

11:15 Session One – Continued

Case Study 2: Malawi

Malawi's 2009 elections presents an example of the positive contributions that international election observation missions can make to mitigating potentials for violence and building public confidence where warranted. The panel will describe the various efforts undertaken in the pre-election period, during the election and in the immediate post-election period, and discussion will concentrate on identifying how communication and coordination among observation groups can contribute to improving such contributions.

Moderator: Julia Brothers (National Democratic Institute - NDI)

*Panelists: Titi Pitso (EISA)
Mark Stevens (Commonwealth)
Patrick Dupont / Isabelle Ribot (European Commission)*

12:00 Session One – Continued

Case Study 3: Afghanistan

Security and other conditions created an exceptionally difficult situation in Afghanistan prior to the August 2009 elections, complicating international observation and making it challenging to employ accepted best practices. The discussion will explore how election observation organization and missions assessed the Afghanistan experience, how they focused on the electoral process, and lessons for addressing similar difficult situations in the future.

Moderator: Nicolas Kaczorowski (OSCE/ODIHR)

*Panelists: Isabelle Ribot / Patrick Dupont (European Commission)
Eric Bjornland (Democracy International)
Laura Grace (NDI)*

13:00 Buffet Lunch (provided by OSCE/ODIHR)

14:30 Session Two: Strengthening Observation Methodology and Promoting Electoral Improvement

This session will examine how observer organizations currently approach the observation of various forms of election malpractice and assess their impact on the overall election process. The session will also identify ways in which methodologies might be strengthened, including effective promotion of implementation of recommendations.

Working Group 1: Politically Motivated Violence, Intimidation, Vote Buying (*Rapporteur: Michael Svetlik, IFES*)

Working Group 2: Use and Abuse of State/Administrative Resources (*Rapporteur: Steven Griner, Organization of American States - OAS*)

Working Group 3: Monitoring and Promoting Follow-up to Recommendations (*Rapporteur: David Carroll, Carter Center*)

16:00 Coffee Break

16:30 Conclusions from Working Groups followed by a discussion

Moderator: Paul O'Grady (Democracy Reporting International)

- *Presentation on Long-Term Observation Project. Douglas Rowland (International Election Monitors Institute - IEMI)*

17:30 End of Session

18:00 Reception

Friday, 11 September

09:30 Session Three: Post-Election Day Observation

This session will focus on observation of resolution of election disputes and observation in cases of post-election conflict or serious human rights abuses, including post-election retribution. Discussion may also address additional activities observers can utilize in problematic elections, such as drawing attention to early warning signs or mediating electoral disputes.

Moderator: Avery Davis-Roberts (Carter Center)
Panelists: Sead Alihodzic (International IDEA)
Kirsten Mlacak (OSCE/ODIHR)

10:45 Coffee Break

11:15 Session Four: Addressing Challenges to the Credibility of Election Observation

This session will identify ways in which challenges to credible election observation can be concretely addressed, including through training of observers, coordination and communication of post-election statements, and cooperation of signatory organizations.

Moderator: Bertha Santoscoy (OAS)
Panelists: Pat Merloe (NDI)
Gillian McCormack (NEEDS Project)

12:30 Buffet Lunch (provided by OSCE/ODIHR)

14:00 Session Five: Moving the Declaration of Principles Forward

Discussion of some of the issues related to the Declaration of Principles identified in previous implementation meetings, including the involvement of outside organizations such as election commissions and domestic observer groups; more systematic exchange of good practice and lessons learned; peer review of reports; relationship with United Nations bodies; and the possibility of having the Declaration mentioned in a United Nations General Assembly resolution.

Moderator: Craig Jenness (United Nations Election Assistance Division)

15:30 Closing Remarks

Ambassador Janez Lenarčič, Director of the OSCE/ODIHR

16:00 Close of the Meeting