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**United Nations Development Programme**  
Bureau for Development Policy  
Democratic Governance Group  
Oslo Governance Centre

## **UNDP's engagement with Political Parties**

July 2005

political  
parties

**UNDP is the UN's global development network, advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. We are on the ground in 166 countries, working with them on their own solutions to global and national development challenges. As they develop local capacity, they draw on people of UNDP and our wide range of partners.**

This paper has been developed by the UNDP Oslo Governance Centre in consultation with UNDP country offices and the Democratic Governance Group, Bureau for Development Policy, New York. This document is intended for internal use and should not be circulated without prior agreement with the Oslo Governance Centre ([oslogovcentre@undp.org](mailto:oslogovcentre@undp.org))

## INTRODUCTION

**This report, which is intended for UNDP democratic governance practitioners, analyses and summarizes a mapping of UNDP's engagement with political parties that was conducted in October 2003 and updated in May 2005. The information contained in the mapping is indicative rather than exhaustive and reflects the various ways UNDP Country Offices are currently working and engaging with political parties. The aim of the mapping is to strengthen UNDP's programme and policy staff's understanding of UNDP's engagement with political parties. The mapping will serve as a key reference for informing the development of UNDP's corporate policies and practices concerning political parties.**

The report is divided into two principal parts: (i) a detailed analysis of UNDP's engagement with political parties by focus area and (ii) a detailed analysis of UNDP's engagement with political parties by region.

The information gathered as part of the mapping comes from the following sources:

- (i) A survey that was completed by UNDP country offices in October 2003 on the various ways that UNDP may engage with political parties in programme countries.
- (ii) An analysis of queries, consolidated replies and e-discussions that have taken place on UNDP's democratic governance practice network (DGPN) as well as the e-discussion on the topic of 'UNDP's engagement with political parties' that took place in September 2004.
- (iii) An analysis of projects funded from the Democratic Governance Thematic Trust Fund (DGTTF) and the ROAR (2002 and 2004).

The mapping identifies 43 UNDP Country Offices (COs), extending across all regions, that currently engage or have engaged with political parties as part of their programmatic work in strengthening democratic governance.

Based on the MYFF analysis<sup>1</sup>, for the most part, UNDP works with or supports political parties through three service lines:

- SL 2.3: electoral systems and processes (16 COs)
- SL 2.2: parliamentary development (13 COs)
- SL 2.1: policy support for democratic governance (16 COs)

Initiatives involving political parties that are part of gender/empowerment of women programmes as well as initiatives focussed on multi-stakeholder dialogue processes are, for the purposes of this mapping, captured in SL2.1. The mapping revealed that there were very few initiatives directed at political parties as part of the other service line areas of SL 2.7: public administration reform and corruption (2 COs); SL 2.5: access to information & e-governance (1 CO); SL 2.4: justice and human rights (no COs) and SL2.6: decentralisation/local governance (no COs).

(1)  
[www.undp.org/  
execbrd/pdf/dp03-  
32e.pdf](http://www.undp.org/execbrd/pdf/dp03-32e.pdf)

The 43 experiences that are detailed in the mapping reflect a **broad spectrum** of ways that UNDP engages with and interacts with political parties. Some of the initiatives are directly aimed at political parties as the object of cooperation, while others involve support of a more indirect nature. For example, in Nicaragua and Lesotho, political parties are the main beneficiaries of a political party support programme, while in Zimbabwe or in Cambodia the political parties are indirect beneficiaries of support to Parliament. In this regard, 'direct' is defined here as UNDP engaging with or supporting political parties as primary partners and/or beneficiaries in their own right. Conversely, 'indirect' is defined as UNDP engaging with or supporting political parties as secondary partners and/or beneficiaries. Obviously, this distinction is not always clear cut.

The mapping identifies and regards:

16 COs as engaging with or supporting political parties directly  
28 COs as engaging with or supporting political parties indirectly.

## UNDP ENGAGEMENT WITH POLITICAL PARTIES BY FOCUS AREA

The mapping shows a number of different entry points for engaging with political parties as well as focus areas. Chief among these are (i) engaging with political parties as part of efforts to strengthen electoral processes and systems and (ii) engaging with political parties as part of efforts to strengthen the Parliament. However, the mapping also includes initiatives in which COs are working with political parties outside these two programme areas. For example, in programmes designed to increase women's political participation and initiatives aimed to facilitate political parties' involvement in national agenda setting dialogue processes.

The main areas include:

- Capacity development for Members of Parliament (MP)
- Capacity development for political parties
- Enhancing political party engagement in dialogue processes
- Initiatives aimed at increasing women's political participation
- Improving electoral systems and processes
- Strengthening political party systems

### **Capacity development for Members of Parliament (MP)**

14 COs (Benin, Cape Verde, Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Zimbabwe, Algeria, Djibouti, Tunisia, Fiji, Marshall Islands, Cambodia, Solomon Islands Vietnam and Kyrgyz Republic) are engaging with political parties as part of a strengthening Parliament programme. The mapping shows that there is a significant focus on supporting capacity development initiatives targeted at MPs (who are also representatives of political parties). For example UNDP Algeria supported a project focussed on the political parties represented in Parliament. The project had four objectives: (i) setting up constituency offices (ii) training MPs on ICTs and good governance and human rights and democracy (iii) linking MPs with the parliament and (iv) promoting international co-operation with other MPs in the other regions. UNDP Vietnam is also undertaking activities to train and provide assistance to government officials, MPs and local government authorities, most of who are members of the only party functioning in the country.

### **Capacity development for political parties**

13 COs (Benin, Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Tanzania, Cambodia, Fiji, Timor Leste, Egypt, Sudan, Guyana, Mexico, Nicaragua and Suriname) are supporting initiatives that seek to develop the capacities of political parties. Support may include the provision of issue-based training, up-skilling and education/ awareness raising programmes for political party representatives on development/governance issues such as the MDGs, HIV/AIDS, gender, electoral laws and processes. In some cases this capacity development support is targeted towards women in political parties (2 COs: Egypt and Sudan) or youth in political parties (also 2 COs: Guyana and Nicaragua). For example, the Republic of Congo UNDP has supported a project which aims to provide a legal framework for the operation of political parties as well as build



their capacities. UNDP Timor Leste co-ordinated a multi-donor electoral project supporting preparations for the 2001 constitutional assembly elections which included a component for support to political parties. UNDP supported the political parties and individual candidates by setting up political resource centres in which graphic designers, computers, internet connections and telephone lines were supplied. In addition UNDP provided quotas for reproduction of materials (posters, pamphlets etc). Capacity development for political parties may encompass work related to a specific election in the sense that it initiates there and uses the election as its focus, as well as working with parties in a non-election environment. The important factor is not so much the assistance's timing but its nature. Capacity development support might aim to help parties develop platforms, recruit and train new members, undertake outreach activities or civic education, play a role in electoral reform or form caucuses in parliament, and thus be more medium- to long-term support not necessarily tied to an election.

### **Enhancing political party engagement in dialogue processes**

13 COs (Lesotho, Mauritania, Republic of Congo, Sudan, Mongolia, Kosovo, Kyrgyz Republic, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras and St Kitts), have worked or are working with political parties to facilitate their engagement in multi-stakeholder dialogue processes. Most of these initiatives are in the Latin America and Caribbean region. For example, through the facilitation of a multiparty dialogue, UNDP Guatemala has supported political parties in the pursuit and elaboration of a Shared National Agenda, with the aim of identifying the main socio-economic problems of the country and to adopt the main lines of action to face them. A group of around 40 politicians from 20 parties was established to initiate dialogue through workshops with the participation of more than 100 national and international experts from the political arena, the private sector, academia and social movements. UNDP Honduras has facilitated discussions and negotiations between political parties and civil society leaders to advance electoral reforms. The negotiations were carried out through a Political Commission formed by representatives of the main political parties. Consultations were carried out with: workers, and indigenous groups; private enterprise; and environmental and gender groups, foundations and NGOs. This process culminated in a signed a manifesto in which the political parties fully committed to supporting and promoting electoral and political reforms in the next administration.

### **Initiatives aimed at increasing women's political participation**

11 COs (Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Sudan, Pakistan, Albania, Kyrgyz Republic, Barbados, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador and Guatemala) are engaging with political parties as part of wider efforts to increase the political participation of women. These initiatives fall into four main aims: (i) to increase women's representation in political parties; (ii) to increase women's representation in Parliament; (iii) to increase the number of women voting in elections and; (iv) to elevate gender issues on the national agenda. UNDP Pakistan has been working with political parties, government officials and NGOs as part of ongoing support to strengthening electoral processes and institutions to ensure greater participation, particularly with respect to

women and the poor in the electoral process. In the Kyrgyz Republic, UNDP with SIDA are supporting a Gender Equality in Politics project which aims at building the potential of women leaders to run for politics in the 2005 parliamentary elections through a series of intensive trainings on issues of leadership, gender equality, political campaigning, image making etc.

### **Improving electoral systems and processes**

10 COs (Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, South Africa, Togo, Pakistan, Timor Leste, Kyrgyz Republic, the Dominican Republic and Honduras) are engaging with political parties as part of a strengthening electoral systems and processes programme. In some cases this includes supporting the engagement of political parties in consultations on electoral reform. For example, UNDP Honduras has facilitated discussions and negotiations between political parties and civil society leaders to advance electoral reforms. The negotiations were carried out through a Political Commission formed by representatives of the main political parties. Consultations were carried out with workers and indigenous groups; private enterprises; and environmental and gender groups, foundations and NGOs. This process culminated in a signed a manifesto in which the political parties fully committed to supporting and promoting electoral and political reforms in the next administration. In the Dominican Republic, UNDP is supporting a project to strengthen local election committees with particular emphasis on the involvement of women. The project also aims to see civil society and political parties closely involved in monitoring elections. UNDP Ethiopia through its multi-donor assistance project for the 2005 national parliamentary elections provided technical assistance to political parties which included assistance in drafting a code of conduct for campaigning, advocacy and technical assistance in organizing the Joint Political Party Forums and debates, and training on domestic observation of polling station activities. Additionally, in order to promote multi party elections and level the playing field, donors supported in-kind campaign assistance through the National Election Board. Registered parties and candidates received goods and services including printed materials such as campaign flyers or t-shirts and access to transport for candidates to campaign within their constituencies.

### **Strengthening political party systems**

7 COs (Republic of Congo, South Africa, Bangladesh, Kosovo, Lithuania, Guatemala and Paraguay), are engaged in initiatives that support the strengthening of political party systems. This focus area includes work that contributes to strengthening the political party system itself rather than political parties. Examples include support to the development of a code of conduct or charter for political parties or reform of the legal framework governing political parties (political party financing etc). For example, UNDP Republic of Congo has been supporting the establishment of an observatory organ and the development of a political parties' charter. The objective of the charter is to provide the legal and judicial framework for formation and regulation of political parties.

## UNDP ENGAGEMENT WITH POLITICAL PARTIES BY REGION

Of the 43 COs that are captured in the mapping, 12 COs are in Africa; 5 in the Arab States region; 9 in the Asia & the Pacific region; 4 in Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (ECIS) and 13 COs in the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region.

### Africa region

The 12 COs in the Africa region comprise: Benin, Burundi, Cape Verde, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Mauritania, Republic of Congo, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo and Zimbabwe. The main entry point for engaging with and supporting political parties in the Africa region is through SL 2.3: electoral systems and processes (7 COs); followed by SL 2.2 parliamentary development (4 COs) and SL 2.1: policy support for democratic governance (1 CO). Five COs are providing direct support and eight COs are providing indirect support (the Republic of Congo is engaging with political parties both directly and indirectly). The main focus areas in the Africa region include improving electoral systems and processes (5 COs) and capacity development for Members of Parliament (also 5 COs). Capacity development for political parties comes in at third place with (4 COs).

#### Benin

UNDP Benin has involved political parties as an explicit stakeholder in a recent evaluation of elections that led to a consensus among majority and opposition parties on the need for a permanent voter register and on the method of establishing such a register. UNDP Benin is building on the experience of Niger for capacity building in multi-partisan public consultations for the review of legislation through its support to the National Assembly. Furthermore, political parties in Benin have expressed the need to strengthen the technical capacity of staff that work in the parties. In response to this demand, the country office is launching a project in 2005 with TTF governance resources for capacity building of political parties. Support is directed towards the following areas: (i) putting into place a consultation framework for the political parties, (ii) drawing up an ethical, deontological and political code, (iii) sensitisation of parties and the population on the rules of democracy through the dissemination of the code (iv) training the leaders of the parties on leadership and communication. A transparent strategy will be applied to decide which parties to support, as it would be impossible to support all 106 parties in the country.

SL: 2.2 Focus areas : Capacity development for Members of Parliament;  
Capacity development for political parties

Direct

#### Burundi

In relation to the preparations for the 2004 elections, UNDP Burundi worked to support the electoral process for the reinforcement of democratic institutions. Support was directed towards the following areas: building consensus among key stakeholders such as political parties and civil society organisations on a suitable electoral system; a nationwide citizen education campaign and training to deepen the participation of underrepresented groups such as women and minorities; and the establishment of independent and permanent electoral management bodies. UNDP Burundi has also supported strengthening the capacities of the independent electoral commissions for future elections and monitoring; and making political parties aware of key democratic principles in the context of a polarised environment.

SL: 2.3 Focus area: Improving electoral systems and processes

Indirect



**Cape Verde**

UNDP Cape Verde has contributed indirectly to enhance the capacities of political parties by supporting the national parliament in capacity building of parliamentary groups and their representatives. It has also organised parliamentarian debates and experience sharing with other assemblies.	
SL: 2.2 Focus area: Capacity development for Members of Parliament	Indirect

**Democratic Republic of Congo**

UNDP Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) with funding from the Democratic Governance Thematic Trust Fund (DGTTF) 2005 is supporting a project aimed at engendering the electoral process by promoting women's participation in decision making processes, enhancing their participation as «electors» and increasing the number of women candidates at all level of elections. To this end, the project creates a framework for women's involvement in the electoral process and promotes dialogue at all level of society i.e. within national institutions, political parties and civil society. Under the inter Congolese dialogue which includes government, armed groups, civil society and political opposition it was agreed to set up a parliament for which the members are not elected but representatives of political parties. UNDP DRC co-funded with the Italian Government and DFID a capacity building project in order to support transitional institutions including the parliament. The support focused on: (i) training of parliamentarians, administrative and technical staff; (ii) the constitution of a documentary fund; (iii) direct support to Bureau d'etudes and the service of documentation; and (iv) the development of a communication strategy. This support as well as support to the development of legislation covering the transition and support to the process of regional peace and the harmonization of the legislation aim to contribute to a successful political transition period.	
SL: 2.3 Focus area: Increasing women's political participation; Improving electoral systems and processes; Capacity development for Members of Parliament	Indirect

**Republic of Congo**

UNDP Congo Republic with funding from the Democratic Governance Thematic Trust Fund (DGTTF) 2005 is providing support to the finalization and the implementation of a new law on political parties as well as support for political parties capacity building. The main expected outputs of the project are: (i) facilitate the set up of a dialogue framework for political parties leaders; (ii) draft and adopt a code of conduct through the dialogue framework; (iii) support the finalization of laws on political parties status and financing, the legal regime of political organizations and the opposition's status in the Congo; (v) build capacities of political parties leaders and members from both majority and opposition, to better play their role in promoting and enhancing a democratic state and sustainable development in the Congo; (v) raise awareness of political parties leaders on regional and global initiatives such as MDGs, NEPAD and APRM.	
SL: 2.3 Focus area: Strengthening political party systems; Capacity development for political parties; Enhancing political party engagement in dialogue processes	Direct & Indirect

**Ethiopia**

The multi-donor assistance project for national elections in 2005, co-ordinated by UNDP, provided technical assistance to the National Election Board which led to the formation of the Joint Political Party Forum, organization of televised debates, adoption of a Code of Conduct for political parties during the campaign period, and training of political parties on election day observation. In-kind campaign assistance was provided to political parties through the National Election Board, which included securing air time, provision of campaign posters and access to transport to visit constituencies during the campaign.	
SL: 2.3 Focus area: Improving electoral systems and processes	Indirect

**Lesotho**

Since 2003, UNDP has supported a transformational leadership training programme for core national structures including members of the national assembly, senior government executives, and traditional and community leaders to enable them to take the lead in forging deeper national unity and to enact or support proactive policies to address the country's daunting development challenges. In 2002, UNDP Lesotho brokered a meeting of all political party leaders contesting the elections. Through UNDP's involvement starting in 1999, the opposition and the government were brought together, in a joint seating, to thrash out their differences. UNDP Lesotho subsequently co-sponsored a multi-party forum to deliberate the merits of the electoral model then in use. This was to respond to the one-party dominance of national elections and the electoral concerns. The forum reached consensus to recommend a new model that has been in use since 2002.

SL: 2.3 Focus area: Capacity development for political parties;  
Capacity development for Members of Parliament;  
Enhancing political party engagement in dialogue processes

Direct

**Mauritania**

UNDP Mauritania is currently implementing a project on «Strengthening Dialogue with Civil Society for the Achievement of the MDGs» in which eight political parties represented in Parliament are involved. The project focus is to establish a national dialogue to build peace and citizenship among all actors of society including government, non-governmental organisations, trade unions, political parties, private sector, local communities, the judiciary administration, parliament, local authorities, resource persons and development partners. The political parties have been consulted specifically regarding the elaboration of the project and are involved in the regional and national workshops dealing with issues such as the environment, democracy, justice and citizenship.

SL: 2.1 Focus area: Enhancing political party engagement  
in dialogue processes

Direct

**South Africa**

UNDP South Africa is supporting the electoral conflict management programme which seeks to put in place mechanisms that help manage or prevent possible conflict before, during and after the electoral process. The project focuses on the development of a code of conduct to be agreed upon by all political parties and the establishment of systems to monitor the behaviour and conduct of politicians as well as the facilitation of conflict prevention training amongst political parties are among the main outputs.

SL: 2.3 Focus area: Improving electoral systems and processes;  
Strengthening political party systems

Indirect

**Tanzania**

UNDP Tanzania has included capacity building with political parties as an element of its election support programme which includes training on: the roles and responsibilities of Members of Parliament as representatives of the people; raising awareness of the constitution, parliamentary procedures and other issues; development of «Private member's motions» for tabling in parliament; the use of ICT as a tool and means of delivery of their duties; assistance for the setting up of networks that tackle sensitive and topical issues; the role of opposition as «government-in-waiting». UNDP Tanzania is also supporting the October 2005 elections through its management of a project that provides for civic education entailing and engaging all political parties, including opposition parties.

SL: 2.3 Focus area: Capacity development for political parties

Direct

**Togo**

UNDP Togo has engaged with political parties in an indirect manner through support to Parliament. In the past, UNDP Togo has also provided support to electoral processes jointly with other partners and multilaterals, the objective of which was to strengthen the capacity of the electoral commission with regard to the organization of electoral activities. A project to support observation of elections has also been elaborated, but has not been approved due to the suspension of support by the UN Secretary General to the electoral process.	
SL: 2.2 Focus area: Improving electoral systems and processes	Indirect

**Zimbabwe**

UNDP Zimbabwe is supporting a parliamentary strengthening programme in which assistance is provided for the setting up of constituency information centres for the 120 elected MPs from both main parties. UNDP Zimbabwe is also supporting a Women's Parliamentarian Caucus which is composed of women from all parties. The country office has organised study tours, budget and pre-budget seminars and worked to strengthen the capacities of portfolio committees where MPs from both parties are represented.	
SL: 2.2 Focus area: Capacity development for Members of Parliament	Indirect

**Arab States region**

**The five COs in the Arab States region comprise: Algeria, Djibouti, Egypt, Sudan and Tunisia. The main entry points for engaging with and supporting political parties in the Arab States region is through SL 2.2: parliamentary development (3 COs) and SL 2.1: policy support for democratic governance (2 COs). All five COs are providing indirect support. The main focus areas in the Arab States region is capacity development for Members of Parliament (3 COs) with capacity development for political parties (2 COs) and increasing women's political participation (2 COs) coming in as second equals.**

**Algeria**

UNDP Algeria supported a project focussed on the political parties represented in Parliament. The project had four objectives: (i) setting up constituency offices (ii) training MPs on ICTs and good governance and human rights and democracy (iii) linking MPs with the parliament and (iv) promoting international co-operation with other MPs in the other regions.	
SL: 2.2 Focus area: Capacity development for Members of Parliament	Indirect

**Djibouti**

While the country office has no programmes directly supporting or strengthening political parties, UNDP Djibouti has worked to support the Parliament - where many former opposition parties are represented in a large presidential coalition - through gender sensitisation seminars and specific training to reinforce its oversight functions.	
SL: 2.2 Focus area: Capacity development for Members of Parliament	Indirect

## Egypt

UNDP Egypt does not provide direct assistance to political parties. However, it is collaborating with the National Council for Women to start up the Centre for the Political Empowerment for Women which aims to build a cadre of women with the appropriate leadership skills and knowledge for a career in politics. The Centre welcomes the participation of women members from all political parties. The training programmes also include women from political parties from the opposition to share their experiences in election campaigning.

SL: 2.1 Focus area: Capacity development for women in political parties; Indirect  
Increasing women's political participation

## Sudan

UNDP Sudan's engagement with political parties came through an eight month pilot project funded by the Democratic Governance Trust Fund "Women in Politics Project – UNDP" (DGTTF 2004: SL2.1 policy support for democratic governance). The project covered the following focus areas: (i) enhancing political party engagement in dialogue processes; (ii) capacity development for women in political parties; and (iii) initiatives aimed at increasing women's political participation. Before the end of its duration, the project succeeded in winning a generous fund for its extension from the Ministry of International Cooperation of the Netherlands. The three years extension began in 2005 with a broader scope and scale of activities in the form of the "Good Governance and Equity in Political Participation". The project has formed four open forums comprising members representing different sectors of the society. The four forums are: (i) women in political parties forum (including women members from 15 political parties); (ii) civil Service officials forum; (iii) university students forum; (iv) journalists project forum. The forums helped the project facilitate, organize and execute almost all its activities. There have also been forums for dialogue between political parties on issues related to gender and political participation. The project introduced the Joint Assessment Mission (JAM) for the political parties represented in the project forums and organized a number of meetings between the two sides. The JAM was the body which was assigned the mission of assessing Sudan's development needs in the post conflict era and presenting these needs to donors for support. The JAM included UN, World Bank, Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement. The project organized meetings for dialogue between the JAM and opposition political parties represented in the projects forum to enable the JAM to receive different opinions on Sudan's post conflict needs. UNDP Sudan has also supported the development of training packages for a group of women in Sudanese political parties selected by their parties and carried out in collaboration between the project management and the women in political parties' project forum. The training covered areas of: Strategic Thinking, Gender and Good Governance, Campaigning and Mobilization Techniques, Engendering the Constitution and Conceptual Structures of Leadership. The project has also organized a "University Students Awareness Raising" Workshop. The objective of the workshop was to sensitize university students to, and increase their awareness of, the importance of women political participation. The project organized and prepared a media campaign and broadcasted it through Sudan's national broadcasting service. The media campaign included preparation and broadcast of a radio competition on Sudanese women political participation and eleven episodes of Radio programmes on the same subject. The project developed and implemented an "Advocacy Plan of Action". The plan included organizing orientation workshops to journalists, students and civil society organizations. The project organized a National Conference on the "Advancement of Women Role in Politics" and a training workshop for twenty women journalists on "Capacity Building for Women Journalists".

SL: 2.1 Focus area: Increasing women's political participation; capacity Indirect  
development for women in political parties;  
Enhancing political party engagement in dialogue processes.

## Tunisia

It is rare that UNDP Tunisia has formal/official relations with the various political parties. There is scope for UNDP Tunisia to work in closer cooperation with the Tunisian Parliament and the different political parties. Different questions were raised, such as; in which fields could UNDP help the Tunisian Parliament, what are the possible means of intervention etc.? It has been decided that to start of with, the cooperation will be focused on training and capability building. UNDP Tunisia will involve the Tunisian Parliament, where possible in training sessions/awareness building session provided by the United Nations System as a whole in Tunisia.

SL: 2.2 Focus area: Capacity development for Members of Parliament

Indirect

## Asia & the Pacific region

**The nine COs in the Asia Pacific region comprise: Timor Leste, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Fiji, Marshall Islands, Mongolia, Pakistan, Solomon Islands and Vietnam. The main entry point for engaging with and supporting political parties in the Asia & the Pacific region is through SL 2.3: electoral systems and processes and SL 2.2 parliamentary development (both 5 COs). SL 2.1: policy support for democratic governance; SL 2.5: access to information & e-Governance and SL 2.7: public administration reform & anti-corruption all have (1 CO). One CO (Timor Leste) is providing direct support with eight COs providing indirect support. The main focus area in the Asia & the Pacific region includes capacity development for Members of Parliament (5 COs) with capacity development for political parties at second with (3 COs). Improving electoral systems and processes is second with (2 COs).**

## Bangladesh

The two major political parties in Bangladesh have been equally active in using national strikes (hartals) as a means of protest. Opposition party politicians claim that calling hartals is often their only chance to raise their concerns. UNDP Bangladesh is in the final stages of a policy paper publication which puts forward a number of short-term and long-term alternatives to hartals that encourages the opposition party to voice their concerns through peaceful methods and, at the same time, encourages the regime in power to allow greater space for the 'culture of democratic dialogue' to take hold and grow in Bangladesh. UNDP Bangladesh is also planning to draft a code of conduct for political parties in close consultation with political parties to further the policy dialogue.

SL: 2.3 Focus area: Strengthening political party systems  
2.1

Indirect



## Cambodia

UNDP Cambodia is supporting the provision of MDG awareness initiatives for political parties to help focus and enrich their campaign platforms. Workshops with political parties have been undertaken to promote MDG awareness and encourage parties to focus campaigns on the Cambodian MDG paradigm. Through the organization of outreach trips to remote constituencies support is being provided to women caucuses of MPs and senators to enhance their understanding on local issues related to the MDG agenda and promote their involvement in MDG monitoring. In addition, an evaluation of the Cambodian elections pointed to the need for improvement in several areas. UNDP Cambodia responded by offering legal and technical assistance to the National Election Committee (NEC) including support for strengthening the liaison mechanism with political parties within NEC to inform and train the parties' representatives on electoral law and regulations. A UNDP-supported and Australian-funded initiative with the Cambodian Ministry of Information known as «Equity News» featured state news media covering political parties on an equitable basis. The concept of neutral election coverage provided a starting point for a confidence-building exercise of political parties which is hoped to be expanded over time to cover the overall political debate. In addition, through its Parliamentary Development programme, UNDP Cambodia is targeting MPs of the 3 main political parties represented in parliament to enhance their capacities through various interventions including support to the review of legislative proposals, building understanding on development issues, IT training, participation in regional and international exchange for a.

SL: 2.3; 2.2; 2.5 Focus area: Capacity development for political parties

Indirect

## Fiji

UNDP Fiji's Parliament Strengthening programme is proposing to establish *non-partisan* but official Parliamentary Constituency Service and Information Centres, as a pilot, to be based in the regional administrative centres. These Centres are to be used by *all* Parliamentarians, both Members and Senators to meet their constituents and citizens *but not for partisan purposes*. This same project would also consider strengthening political party's infrastructure, limited to non-election periods, with generic assistance that benefits all registered and interested political parties, whether represented in Parliament or not. The proposed objectives are: (i) to support parties with established or proposed district offices in training of district staff, development of guidelines for proper use of district offices, advise on management of district office systems; (ii) support for constituency meeting: provide advice on opportunities for MPs to meet constituents through events such as preparing for end-of-session report backs; (iii) improving operations of District Offices; (iv) development of constituency relations manuals and toolkits as reference manuals, checklists for organizing meetings, advice on media relations; (v) assistance to political party staff for skills training of in production of newsletters, training of MPs on Radio or TV interview skills. The project would also provide training, attachments, education services, and support for MPs in advocating key development issues. Activities will include conduct of issue-based workshops to promote good governance and human rights objectives and to provide awareness and training for gender analysis for policies and budgets.

SL: 2.2 Focus area: Capacity development for Members of Parliament;  
Capacity development for political parties

Indirect

### The Republic of Marshall Islands

<p>UNDP works indirectly in support of political parties, largely through training of parliamentarians which benefits all members regardless of political party or any other group affiliations. In a context where there is no formalised party system but groups which establish themselves during election times around issues, or after elections as being for or against the government, UNDP is proposing to support a project which would: (i) support the design and implementation of a legislative drafting programme for senators that includes gender and human rights orientation; (ii) provide drafting support to senators for private members' bills and during committee scrutiny of bill; (iii) conduct seminars for senators on parliamentary obligations relating to international human rights instruments, MDGs and engendering national budgets; (iv) conduct orientation on legislative processes for all senators.</p>
<p>SL: 2.2 Focus area: Capacity development for Members of Parliament Indirect</p>

### Mongolia

<p>Following the general elections in June 2004, UNDP Mongolia sought to offer assistance to negotiate a solution to the political deadlock facilitating help from experts in political negotiation processes and political consensus building.</p>
<p>SL: 2.3 Focus area: Enhancing political party engagement in dialogue processes Indirect</p>

### Pakistan

<p>UNDP Pakistan has been working with political parties, government officials and NGOs as part of ongoing support to strengthening electoral processes and institutions to ensure greater participation, particularly with respect to women and the poor in the electoral process. In 2002 and 2003, workshops were held on this subject.</p>
<p>SL: 2.3 Focus area: Increasing women's political participation; Improving electoral systems and processes Indirect</p>

### The Solomon Islands

<p>UNDP works indirectly in support of political parties, largely through training of parliamentarians which benefits all members regardless of political party or any other group affiliations. UNDP is proposing support in the Marshall Islands to: (i) designing modules for training and orientation for MPs and establishing such training as a requirement for all new members of Parliament; (ii) designing and assisting with the implementation of training for staff and MPs on ICT, management, financial, reporting, and other relevant skills; (iv) designing, negotiating, securing funding and supporting mentoring networks, and short-term attachments for staff, Speaker, Committee Chairs and MPs, particularly women MPs and (v) developing a community consultation model and disseminating this to MPs and the community.</p>
<p>SL: 2.2 Focus area: Capacity development for Members of Parliament Indirect</p>

### Timor Leste

<p>UNDP Timor Leste co-ordinated a multi-donor electoral project supporting preparations for the 2001 constitutional assembly elections which included a component for support to political parties. UNDP supported the political parties and individual candidates by setting up political resource centres in which graphic designers, computers, internet connections and telephone lines were supplied. In addition UNDP provided quotas for reproduction of materials (posters, pamphlets etc).</p>
<p>SL: 2.3 Focus area: Capacity development for political parties; Improving electoral systems and processes Direct</p>

**Vietnam**

UNDP Vietnam undertakes activities to train and provide assistance to government officials, MPs and local government authorities, most of whom are members of the only party functioning in the country.	
SL: 2.2 Focus area: Capacity development for Members of Parliament 2.7	Indirect

**Europe/CIS region**

**The four COs in the ECIS region comprise: Lithuania, Albania, Kosovo and the Kyrgyz Republic. The main entry point for engaging with and supporting political parties in the ECIS region is through SL 2.3: electoral systems and processes (3 COs). One CO is providing direct support (Lithuania) with three COs providing indirect support. The main focus areas in the ECIS region are increasing women's political participation (2 COs); strengthening political party systems (2 COs) and enhancing political party engagement in dialogue processes (also 2 COs).**

**Albania**

Under UNDP's Women in Leadership programme in Albania, UNDP is providing support to developing the capacity of existing and potential women leaders through training in areas such as gender equality, development concepts, management and leadership skills, image building, public speaking, fundraising and practical initiatives. Target groups include female election candidates and women active in civil society organisations.	
SL: 2.3 Focus area: Increasing women's political participation	Indirect

**Kosovo**

UNDP Kosovo has attempted to address the challenge of moving political parties away from the politics of personalities and identities through a National Human Development Report (NHDR) which focuses on governance issues, including the quality and nature of political parties. The report was timed to coincide with the election campaign for parliamentary elections. The idea was to confront political parties with some key development questions in the hope that this would provoke some position-taking/ debate on development options, rather than the symbolism and/ or ethnicity driven politics that characterises Kosovo to date.	
SL: 2.3 Focus area: Enhancing political party engagement in dialogue processes; Strengthening political party systems	Indirect

## Kyrgyz Republic

UNDP Kyrgyz Republic with support from SIDA is supporting a Gender Equality in Politics project which aims at building the potential of women leaders to run for politics in the 2005 parliamentary elections through a series of intensive trainings on issues of leadership, gender equality, political campaigning, image making, social partnership. A lot of attention is being paid within the project to working with parliamentarians, both males and females. Training workshops on women's participation in politics and on gender-sensitive legislation attended by parliamentarians, representatives of NGOs, and journalists; and study tours to Sweden by parliamentarians have been conducted and undertaken. UNDP Kyrgyz Republic has also supported another project around the elections which aims to promote good governance and democratic practices by providing effective strategic support to build the long-term capacity of institutions, groups and citizens involved in the elections and to enhance effectiveness and transparency of the national electoral process. The project's emphasis is to link process-oriented electoral support to broader and longer-term good governance programmes. Expected outcomes include professional interaction between national electoral management bodies and civil society organisations, media, political parties, and national and international observers through a series of joint interactive meetings and workshops advancing productive and enduring relationships.

SL:2.3	Focus area: Increasing women's political participation;	Indirect
2.1	Capacity development for female Members of Parliament; Improving electoral systems and processes; Enhancing political party engagement in dialogue processes	

## Lithuania

One of the four main components of the UNDP supported Lithuania National Anti-Corruption plan is to assist the holding of a roundtable discussion on the problems related to the financing of political parties and political campaigns. This component is aimed at constraining political corruption through the preparation of a new law on the financing of political parties, organisations and campaigns. The law is being drafted by a local working group who is assisted by foreign experts. UNDP financial support covers the preparation of the agenda, rent of premises and the cost of the participation of one expert at the roundtable.

SL:2.7	Focus area: Strengthening political party systems	Direct
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## Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) region

**The 13 COs in the LAC region comprise: Bolivia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, St. Kitts, Suriname, Barbados, Dominican Republic and Ecuador. The main entry point for engaging with and supporting political parties in the LAC region is through SL 2.1: policy support for democratic governance (11 COs). Nine of the COs are providing direct support and four COs providing indirect support. The main focus areas in the LAC region are enhancing political party engagement in dialogue processes (6 COs) and increasing women's political participation (5 COs). Capacity development for political parties is second place with (4 COs).**

### Barbados

UNDP Barbados has developed a project - «Gender Mainstreaming: Strengthening the Participation of Women in Politics and Civil Society Leaders in Caribbean Political and Parliamentary Processes» - and is implementing it in collaboration with UNIFEM. Working with political parties is a natural entry point for this programme. The project builds on dialogue initiated at the Caribbean Regional MDG Consultation in 2003 and aims to foster a women in politics "constituency" across national boundaries. While the project will be initiated in Barbados, it will be replicated in the Eastern Caribbean countries served by UNDP Barbados.

SL: 2.1 Focus area: Increasing women's political participation

Indirect

### Bolivia

UNDP Bolivia works with a number of partners to establish a broad based consultative process for the design and the realization of a Constituent Assembly. One of the key areas of activity is consensus building with main actors such as parliament, political parties, civil society organisations, citizens' movements, indigenous organizations, women's movements and the government administration. To complement this initiative a project has been launched in which UNDP works in cooperation with national Foundations that bring support to the Congress and political parties in order to develop methodologies and create forums that will facilitate open and constructive deliberation processes. The creation of settings such as a «Forum for the Renovation of the Political System» could play a critical role in facilitating genuine dialogue between political actors. UNDP also plans to work together with the National Electoral Court and IDEA to develop new initiatives oriented towards the strengthening of the role of the political parties in the preparation and realization of the Constituent Assembly.

SL 2.2 Focus area: Enhancing political party engagement in dialogue processes

Direct



**Costa Rica**

UNDP Costa Rica engages with political parties through social dialogue initiatives. One of the dialogue themes includes «Representation and participation.» Through social dialogue with relevant actors belonging to different political and social groups, UNDP Costa Rica expects to reach a minimum consensus or form coalitions for future work that will necessarily involve political parties. UNDP Costa Rica is working on a Programme entitled «The Active Citizenship of Women (PROCAM),» which has as its aim the creation of equal and real participation for women in political power and decision-making at all levels. PROCAM arranges forums and training on political participation and leadership for women in political parties and community activities. As a result of the actions taken by PROCAM, the problem of limited women's access in the political decision-making process has been incorporated into the national agenda. Legislative affirmative action mechanisms have also been established to further women's participation in political decisions.

SL: 2.1 Focus area: Enhancing political party engagement in dialogue processes; Increasing women's political participation Direct

**Dominican Republic**

UNDP is playing a leading role in fostering democratic governance in the Dominican republic through a project to strengthen local election committees with particular emphasis on the involvement of women. The project also aims to see civil society and political parties closely involved in monitoring elections.

SL: 2.3 Focus area: Improving electoral systems and processes; Increasing women's political participation. Indirect

**Ecuador**

In July 2000 the project «Women Leaders and Citizenship - Actions for Empowerment» was initiated through a partnership between the Government, UNDP, UNIFEM, and various NGOs. The general objective was to contribute to increasing the participation of women and better women's access to leadership positions in public and civil life in Ecuador. More specifically, the goals were 1) to promote measures that would guarantee equal access and participation in power structures, including political parties, and in the decision-making process; 2) to formulate communication strategies in order to promote a public debate on women's leadership positions and decision-making levels; 3) to promote policies and develop strategies for creating more equal policies at the local level; and 4) to strengthen young women's organizations and attract new members, especially at the local level. The project was completed in July 2002.

SL: 2.1 Focus area: Increasing women's political participation Indirect

**Guatemala**

UNDP Guatemala is working to strengthen the political party system and to strengthen political parties in their capacities. Through the facilitation of a multiparty dialogue, UNDP Guatemala has supported political parties in the pursuit and elaboration of a Shared National Agenda, with the aim of identifying the main socio-economic problems of the country and to adopt the main lines of action to face them, taking the Peace Accords and the National Human Development Reports as a basis. A group of around 40 politicians from 20 parties was established to initiate dialogue through workshops with the participation of more than 100 national and international experts from the political arena, the private sector, academia and social movements. The process includes dialogues within each party and a multiparty dialogue process. UNDP Guatemala is also providing assistance to the development of concrete proposals agreed upon between the government and civil society to encourage the participation of women in political activities and to have impact on gender issues in the political parties' plans.

SL: 2.1 Focus area: Enhancing political party engagement in dialogue processes; Strengthening political party systems; Increasing women's political participation Direct

**Guyana**

UNDP Guyana administers a UNCT/Donor programme to help build social cohesion. The Programme seeks to improve national capacity to peacefully resolve disputes; enhance the capacity of the judiciary and the police; and support the implementation of constitutional reforms. The Programme supported the participation of the General Secretaries from the two main political parties to attend a joint UN training workshop on early warning and preventive measures. This initiative was followed up with two workshops for the youth arms of the two parties, resulting in progress towards developing a joint calendar of activities to promote social cohesion. The chairpersons of the party youth arms also attended peacebuilding workshops together and will now embark on mainstreaming conflict transformation in their own organisations. In addition, the Programme - in partnership with the Ethnic Relations Commission - engaged leaders of Parliamentary political parties, with the active participation of leaders from civil society, through a workshop that explored ways of addressing Guyana's social tensions. This workshop has inspired efforts, currently ongoing, towards a 'national conversation' through a multi-stakeholder forum.

SL: 2.1 Focus area: Capacity development for political parties; Enhancing political party engagement in dialogue processes Direct

**Honduras**

UNDP Honduras has facilitated discussions and negotiations between political parties and civil society leaders to advance electoral reforms. The negotiations were carried out through a Political Commission formed by representatives of the main political parties. Consultations were carried out with: workers, and indigenous groups; private enterprise; and environmental and gender groups, foundations and NGOs. This process culminated in a signed manifesto in which the political parties fully committed to supporting and promoting electoral and political reforms in the next administration. In addition, UNDP has supported the engagement of a broader range of actors in the PRSP process by facilitating (through the Democracy Trust - DT) the involvement of political parties in key PRSP dialogue processes. The DT was conceived as a policy advocacy tool whose first goal is to ensure longstanding commitments to the PRSP process by the predominant political parties through financing for policy forums, civil society dialogue, think tank activities, advocacy, training of journalists on poverty issues.

SL: 2.1 Focus area: Enhancing political party engagement in dialogue processes; Improving electoral systems and processes Direct

**Mexico**

UNDP Mexico has supported a number of training activities on themes such as electoral justice, indigenous population, financing of political parties, voting abroad, new technologies. Two publications and a CD rom on electoral issues have been developed and distributed. In addition UNDP Mexico has supported the training of the legal officers from each registered political party on due procedures applicable to the raising of dispute claims for each electoral process. 162 legal officers from 10 registered political parties have been trained in legal procedures through the holding of workshops and seminars.

SL: 2.1 Focus area: Capacity development for political parties Direct

**Nicaragua**

UNDP Nicaragua has supported a pipeline project targeted towards young political leaders within existing political parties. The objective of the project is to develop the capacities of potential leaders that are already connected or working in the parties and that could become the next generation of leaders the country needs. Capacity building areas include: transparency, citizenship, political ideas, human development etc.

SL: 2.1 Focus area: Capacity development for political parties (youth) Direct

**Paraguay**

In 1999 UNDP Paraguay supported the political party strengthening project, which extended until 2001 and is now concluded. The main objective of the project was to facilitate substantive debate between the three main political parties (Partido Colorado, Partido Liberal Radical Auténtico y Partido Encuentro Nacional) through capacity-creating activities tailored to each of the political parties. The project was directly executed by the political parties.
SL: 2.1 Focus area: Strengthening political party systems <span style="float: right;">Direct</span>

**St. Kitts**

UNDP St Kitts is supporting a programme to establish governance mechanisms through multi-stakeholder dialogue to forge partnerships among non-state/non-traditional actors such as political parties, community-based organisations, women, youth and other marginalised and vulnerable groups by offering non-partisan support, access to new information and development inputs. The primary output is the design/implementation of a two-level simultaneous dialogue process with political leaders and civil society.
SL: 2.1 Focus area: Enhancing political party engagement in dialogue processes <span style="float: right;">Direct</span>

**Suriname**

UNDP Suriname with the Netherlands Institute for Multi-Party Democracy is currently supporting the Democracy Unit of the Anton de Kom University of Suriname in a preparatory assistance project for setting up a long-term programme for support to political parties. Consultations have been held individually and collectively with political parties to determine the content and management of the future programme.
SL: 2.1 Focus area: Capacity development for political parties <span style="float: right;">Indirect</span>