



Round Table on International Partnership for Constitution Building

7 – 9 April 2010
Stockholm, Sweden

AGENDA

Wednesday, 7 April

19:00 **Welcome dinner at Stadshuskällaren, Stockholm City Hall**
(Participants are requested to gather at Sheraton Hotel lobby at 18:40 and will be escorted to the City Hall)

DAY 1

Thursday, 8 April

08:30 **Registration**

09:00 **Opening Remarks: Keboitse Machangana**, Director of Operations (Acting), IDEA

09:20 **Session I**

Presentation of highlights of a draft briefing paper followed by discussion:

- ❖ Main presenter: **Andrew Ladley**, Adjunct Professor, Victoria University of Wellington
- ❖ Discussant: **Paulos Tesfagiorgis**, Senior Advisor, Constitution Building, IDEA

Moderator: **Keboitse Machangana**, Director of Operations (Acting), IDEA

10:30 **Break and Group photo**

10:50 **Session I continued**

Continuation of plenary discussion on general and specific insights introduced in the draft briefing paper, while focusing on:

- How to define 'constitution building' for our purposes? What are the opportunities and limitations of constitution building after violent conflict and in democratization and constitutional transformation contestation contexts?
- How are the roles of international actors perceived among diverse external actors - multilateral, bilateral and regional actors?
- How have experiences with engaging in constitution building differed? What approaches worked or didn't work?

12:30 **Lunch**

13:45 **Session II Constructive engagement with national actors**

National ownership is a driving principle in many aspects of international assistance to national actors. Yet national actors are heterogeneous and multiple stakeholders with varying, often divisive and competing needs. Constructive engagement with national actors is aimed at supporting processes of democratic change when some actors are change champions and others spoilers.

- In order to support completion of successful processes of constitution building, such as in South Africa, how have diverse international actors responded to the needs and priorities of different national actors vis-à-vis the needs of the process and the country situation?
- How do external actors determine which actors to engage, when and on what basis?
- When has international engagement been unhelpful for national actors?
- Can good practices in engagement approaches be discovered and shared?
- How has international engagement in constitution building differed from international assistance for development and democracy building?

Discussants to frame issues for plenary discussion:

- ❖ **Winluck Wahiu**, Project Manager, Constitution Building Programme, IDEA
- ❖ **Jon Westborg**, Ambassador, Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- ❖ **Mario Buil-Merce**, Political Affairs Officer, UN Department of Political Affairs
- ❖ **Jason Gluck**, Senior Rule of Law Advisor, United States Institute of Peace

Moderator: **Helen Kavanagh Berglund**, Special Advisor to the Secretary-General, IDEA

15:30 Break

15:50 Session II continued

17:30 End of Day 1

19:00 Dinner reception at Sheraton Hotel

Keynote Speaker: **Cheryl Saunders**, Laureate Professor, Melbourne School of Law and Board Member of IDEA

DAY 2

Friday, 9 April

09:00 Session III Inclusion of marginalized groups

Contesting groups in constitutional processes wield asymmetrical power. Some groups are marginalized due to these imbalances in power, e.g. women, minorities and victims of conflict and may be sidelined during the substantive negotiations over the process of constitution building. The risk is that involvement of international actors can intensify power asymmetry and thereby, marginalization.

- Should the risk of marginalization inform how, when and where international actors engage?
- How can international actors help to expand political space for marginalized groups?
- How do international actors strike the appropriate balance between promoting equality and respecting autonomy? What is the impact and material outcome of these efforts?

Discussants to frame the issues for plenary discussion:

- ❖ **Wachira Maina**, Senior Governance and Legal Advisor, Office of the President, Rwanda
- ❖ **Markus Gottsbacher**, Senior Program Officer, International Development Research Centre
- ❖ **Amos Sawyer**, Chairperson, Governance Commission of Liberia

Moderator: **Ana Maria Bejarano**, Associate Professor, University of Toronto

10:30 Break

10:50 Session III continued

12:30 Lunch

13:45 Session IV Wrap-up session: Making connections

- How can useful links between the themes of the two days and the work of participants be strengthened?
- What issues were omitted that should have been discussed? What should be the areas to prioritize in terms of new and further research and knowledge sharing?
- What do participants consider useful for the Constitution Building Programme at International IDEA to build through partnership and collaboration to enhance and improve international engagement in constitution building?

- ❖ Facilitator: **Winluck Wahiu**, Project Manager, Constitution Building Programme, IDEA

15:45 Closing remarks: Keboitse Machangana, Director of Operations (Acting), IDEA

16:00 End of round table

----- Thank You! -----