

# Constitution Building Course

Barcelona International Peace Resource Center and International IDEA



**Ajuntament de Barcelona**  
Barcelona International  
Peace Resource Center

## Constitution Building for Democracy

21 – 25 November 2011 in Barcelona, Spain

### ***Introduction***

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Constitutions do much more than establish government and regulate its relationship to citizens – for many states, they have become tools to manage crisis and conflict, build inclusive democracies and lay the foundation for a culture of human rights. Constitution building is a political process aimed at addressing the challenges that modern democracies are facing.

Constitutional reform has thus become a characteristic part of intrastate conflict resolution, peace building, democratic reform and equitable economic development. National stakeholders and international professionals who work in these fields must have a competent understanding of the process of constitution building, the challenges and constraints during these processes as well as the realistic opportunities for political and social transformation. This course will address what kind of practices will help citizens, leaders and their supporters build democratic, sustainable constitutions.

### ***Overview***

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This five day course on ***Constitution building for democracy*** is aimed at professionals interested in developing their knowledge on how constitution building practices influence the protection of political and other rights and liberties as a means to building democracies that resolve conflicts peacefully. The workshop will follow an experience-based and interactive learning format.

The core workshop will revolve around norms, comparative practices and problem solving supported by resource materials from Constitution Building Training Programme:

- ✓ Module on constitution building practices and mechanisms
- ✓ Module on constitution building for a human rights culture

### ***Objectives***

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Participants of the training will be able to:

- Improve their understanding of and engagement in constitution building processes
- Be able to identify viable constitution building practices that are suited in their own contexts or the contexts in which they work
- Have broader options on how to bridge the sociological divisions on human rights issues
- Use constitution building to solve some of the challenges of building a sustainable democracy

## ***Training outline***

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### Overview

- Introduction to constitution building practice
- The 3-step approach of the Constitution Building Training Programme

### Part 1:

- Setting the stage for constitution building in different democratizing contexts
- Selecting and establishing mechanisms and practices for constitution building
- Case studies
- Problem solving exercises and feedback

### Part 2:

- Identifying human rights issues in contested constitution building processes
- Inclusive and participatory human rights culture
- Working with group dynamics in human rights claims, including by women and minorities
- Case studies
- Problem solving exercises and feedback

## ***Training team***

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The focus of the training workshop is the experience of the individual participants. The use of comparative options that are practice-oriented will assist participants to explore specific issues that they confront in their own work. A team of experienced trainers will lead the course and facilitate interactive exercises, discussions and case study analysis.

To enrich discussions, provide feedback to participants and to ensure that technical aspects, especially from a legal perspective, are thoroughly addressed, the training team will be complemented by resource persons who are constitutional and human rights law experts.

## ***Who should participate?***

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The course on Constitution Building for Democracy is open to participants from around the world. Participants will have a variety of disciplinary backgrounds and skills. They will be individuals working in political and technical aspects of democratic reform and conflict management within a range of national and international institutions. Specifically, those with responsibilities within the following functions will benefit from attending the training:

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| ✓ Advising on governance/democracy reforms        | ✓ Implementing constitutional reform         |
| ✓ Advocacy/promotion of human rights              | ✓ Legislating/law making/legal reform        |
| ✓ Briefing officials/politicians on constitutions | ✓ Monitoring democratic practices            |
| ✓ Conflict mediation support                      | ✓ Policy making/implementation               |
| ✓ Civic education on constitutions                | ✓ Technical assistance for governance reform |

The course is limited to 26 participants.

## ***Travel & accommodation***

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The organizers will provide economy class return air tickets and full board accommodation for participants. There is no course fee.

## ***Application***

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Please submit your application form, C.V. and motivation letter on or before **31 October 2011**. Applications should be submitted to [m.allen@idea.int](mailto:m.allen@idea.int).

Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis.

Please note that for most participants who do not hold an EU passport, it will be necessary to apply for a Schengen visa to enter Spain. It will take up to four weeks for the visa to be granted. Therefore it is recommended that if you hold a passport which requires you to obtain a visa, to submit your applications materials as soon as possible.

## ***Venue & Organizers***

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The training will be held at the Barcelona International Peace Resource Center (BIPRC) in the Castell de Montjuïc or Montjuïc Castle, a municipal facility located on a rocky terrace by the coast, rising to a height of 192 meters above sea level.

The Peace Center aims at contributing to the transformation of a former military prison and military museum into an active international peace space, through a highly specialized training program addressed to professionals active in international peace and humanitarian relief missions. For more information on BIPRC, please visit [www.bcnpeacecenter.cat](http://www.bcnpeacecenter.cat)

International IDEA is an intergovernmental organization whose mission is to support locally owned and sustainable democratic change worldwide. It has 27 member states drawn from all continents. IDEA undertakes its work in the fields of electoral processes, constitution building, political participation and representation, and democracy and development. International IDEA works worldwide. Its global headquarters is in Stockholm, Sweden, with regional programmes in Asia and the Pacific, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, West Asia and North Africa. For more information on International IDEA, please visit [www.idea.int](http://www.idea.int). For more information on constitution building, please visit [www.constitutionnet.org](http://www.constitutionnet.org).

## ***Contact***

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