

## UNDEF Slideshow on the International Day of Democracy

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen. It is a great pleasure to be with you this afternoon to share with you some of our achievements and ambitions at the UNDEF. UNDEF is supporting some 200 projects and though not all are represented in this slide show, we hope to provide a good visual sample of our work in the field.

1. The UN Democracy Fund is the Secretary-General's Trust Fund. The Secretary General is supported by an Advisory Board that provides strategic guidance and makes recommendations on project proposals.



2. The Secretary-General is supported in the secretariat by Amir Dossal, Executive Director of the UN Office for Partnerships and Roland Rich, Executive Head of the UN Democracy Fund.



3. The Secretary-General is also supported by a Program Consultative Group, comprising representatives from the UN Department of Political Affairs; the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations; the UN Development Programme; the UN Development Group Office; the UN Development Fund for Women; the UN Office on Drugs and Crime; and the Office for the High Commissioner for Human Rights.



4. UNDEF has a small but dedicated team of staff supported by interns at various times of the year.



5. UNDEF projects are situated all around the world. This group of participants involved in a Community Reporters Training course has just emerged from a temple in Nepal.



6. This happy lady is receiving her certificate of participation in a community paralegal workshop in Samoa.



7. Here is another group showing off their certificates from a seminar on democratic decision-making in local councils in a small town in Ukraine.



8. This workshop took place in Burundi to inform citizens on their rights and sensitize them to the electoral process.



9. And in this project, supported by UNDP and International IDEA, the Constitutional Assembly of Bolivia is debating the future governance structures of that country.



10. These Palestinian girls are filling in their evaluation feedback at the conclusion of a youth election monitor training in Nablus city.



11. Some UNDEF projects focus on community leaders as in this project by the Inter-Parliamentary Union with parliamentarians in Africa on human rights reporting obligations.



12. As any cricket fan will recognize, this is Imran Khan, speaking at the South Asian Symposium on “Strengthening Democratic Practices in South-East Asia” in Islamabad, Pakistan.



13. Former national leaders, members of the Club of Madrid, are holding discussions on democratic values in the Arab world.



14. But more often than that, participants in UNDEF projects are simply members of the community, committed to work for democracy in their countries like these girls in Nepal taking part in the reconciliation and democracy building project.



15. These participants are lost in heavy thought at a workshop on democratic media in Sierra Leone.



16. These young Argentineans are discussing issues at an access to information seminar.



17. Sometimes they are only onlookers like these three boys in Yemen, who hopefully will be the beneficiaries of a project that raises civic awareness among youth through community service.



18. Some UNDEF projects take place in august settings, like this seminar in Cordoba, Spain, discussion democracy promotion in the Arab region.



19. At the aforementioned South Asian Symposium, Minister Yousaf Raza Gillani of Pakistan is participating in the closing ceremonies.



20. A group of parliamentarians participating in this consultation to strengthen parliamentary oversight and citizen engagement in Serbia.



21. Often the discussions take place under a tree, as here in Pirada, Guinea Bissau.



22. Or at this citizenship workshop on the island of Tanna, Vanuatu.



23. This civic and electoral training is taking place in a classroom of a local school in Burundi.



24. But the only link between all UNDEF projects is that they are about discussing and deliberating, sometimes it is in formal settings like these journalists in Niger, discussing how to prevent corruption.



25. At this meeting of a project to foster cooperation and dialogue within civil societies, the project team is deliberating in Cotonou, Bénin.



26. These Afghani girls sitting on a carpet are learning about Human Rights & Women's Rights.



27. These participants in a project on the role of local ombudsmen in Bulgaria are involved in a media conference.



28. This youth leadership training in rural Nepal has the participants sitting on the floor.



29. These young Southeast Asian leaders in governance have forsaken their chairs and are also sitting on the floor in Bangkok, Thailand.



30. There are many women involved in UNDEF projects, like at this training course for gender awareness in Indonesia.



31. This training encourages women's involvement and democratic governance in Senegal.



32. These ladies have successfully participated in a workshop for Congolese parliamentarians on governance and human rights and are happily receiving their certificates.



33. These women are speaking at a citizen empowerment training for the indigenous Q'eqchi' People in Guatemala.



34. These women, Kosovar and Serbian, are working together for peace in the region.



35. This woman is a beneficiary of a project focusing on the rights of the indigenous highland people of Thailand.



36. But men are also closely involved, like these members of local councils in Ukraine, who are benefiting from a conference on methods and procedures of democratic decision-making.



37. Participants seem to be happy to be involved like these ladies taking part in coaching for Haitian women entering politics.



38. This is a colorful group from Sierra Leone during the 2007 presidential elections, celebrating their right to vote.



39. On behalf of all UNDEF projects, they say “Thank You” to all those who supported their efforts to strengthen democracy in their countries.

