

**Dear friends of the UN Democracy Fund,**

Welcome to UNDEF Update No.1. This quarterly electronic newsletter responds to the strong global interest in the UN Democracy Fund. With one million hits on our website in November 2008 and more than 2,100 project applications in December, we clearly need to meet a demand for more information about our work in supporting civil society efforts for democracy around the world.

UNDEF is a trust fund of UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, who takes a close interest in its work and participates actively in its deliberations.

“UNDEF strives to make the Secretary-General’s vision a reality by investing in civil society efforts that strengthen the foundations of democracy from within. In this way, UNDEF plays a novel and distinct role”

In a recent keynote address, he recalled that “the Republic of Korea underwent a long and difficult political transition. It was the will of the people... with full and strong support from the international community. With our transition to a pluralist State came greater transparency and accountability, a more effective government machinery, and a thriving business sector able to compete with the rest of the world. I will forever be grateful to

the international community and the United Nations for their support in helping to make it happen. Today, as Secretary-General, I am determined to ensure that the UN works globally, wherever we can, to help people and nations everywhere build and strengthen democratic systems.” UNDEF strives to make the Secretary-General’s vision a reality by investing in civil society efforts that strengthen the foundations of democracy from within. In this way, UNDEF plays a novel and distinct role in complementing the UN’s work with Governments to strengthen democratic governance around the world.



UNDEF Update is divided into three parts. The first — **Inside UNDEF** — will cover the Fund, its Advisory Board, its staff and the colleagues who work closely with us. It will also explain how UNDEF deals with the thousands of applications it receives each year.

The next section, the heart of the newsletter — **News from the Field** — will provide glimpses of some of the projects being undertaken with our support, with clickable links to full stories on our website.

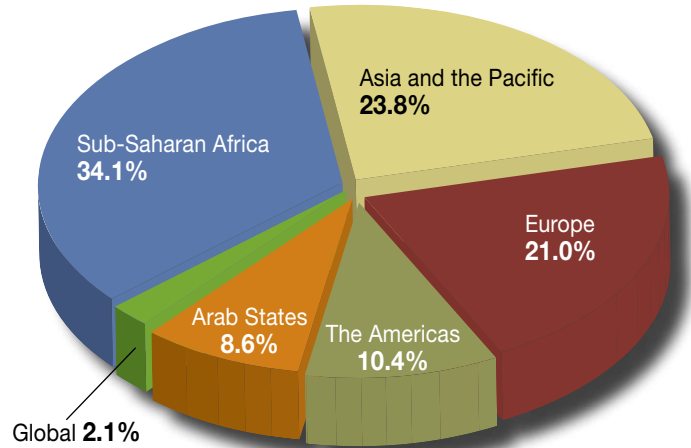
The last section — **Worth Reading** — will bring to your attention some thoughtful writings in the field of democracy support.

Finally, UNDEF takes this opportunity to express its gratitude to the 35 nations that have contributed to its work so far. A list of our donors can be found at the end of the Update.

Happy reading.  
Roland Rich  
Executive Head

**INSIDE UNDEF**

**More than 2,100 projects vie for UNDEF funding**



UNDEF received a record 2,143 applications in its Third Round of Funding, the deadline for which was New Year’s Eve -- an increase of 14% from 1,873 applications in the Second Round. The proposals originated from organizations in 138 countries, the vast majority local NGOs in Africa, Asia, Europe and the Americas.

In November, the month the Third Round was launched, the UNDEF website received more than one million hits -- reflecting overwhelming interest in the Fund.

UNDEF, which was created as a Trust Fund by the UN Secretary-General in 2005, supported 205 projects around the world in its first two rounds -- 158 local projects in 95 countries, 34 regional projects covering a further 13 countries, and 13 global projects. They range from strengthening civil society leadership skills to promoting the political participation of women and youth to capacity-building programmes for parliamentary candidates and media.

A thorough process of assessment, quality control and due diligence is now underway. Only by mid-year do we anticipate being able to notify applicants that have been short-listed.

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## INSIDE UNDEF

## New Advisory Board ready to take their seats for 2009

The Secretary-General has announced the 2009 composition of his Advisory Board -- the body which gives him policy guidance on the development of programme frameworks and funding guidelines, and recommends funding proposals for his approval.



The 2009 Board members include the Governments of the current seven largest UNDEF donors -- the **United States, India, Japan, Qatar, Australia, Germany and France**, as well as six other States from different regions, chosen for their proven commitment to democracy: **Botswana, Lebanon, Mongolia, Panama, Slovenia** as well as **Trinidad and Tobago**, representing Small Island States. It also comprises four personal representatives of the Secretary-General: Professor **Michael Doyle** of Columbia University, who stays on as Chair of the Board; Dr. **Ashraf Ghani**, former Finance Minister of Afghanistan, co-author of *Fixing Failed States*, and Chairman of the Institute for State Effectiveness; Ms. **Sanam Anderlini**, an Iranian-born UK citizen affiliated with the MIT Center for International Studies, former director of the Women Waging Peace Policy Commission, author of *Women Building Peace*, and one of the drafters behind UN Security Council resolution 1325; and Mr. **Amir Dossal**, Executive Director of the UN Office for Partnerships, who serves in an *ex officio* capacity.



Ashraf Ghani



Sanam Anderlini

As civil society forms the overwhelmingly dominant client base of UNDEF, the Board also includes two civil society organizations chosen for their expertise beyond a single country: the **Asia Society**, which works to promote understanding of the people, leaders, and institutions of Asia; and **Femmes Africa Solidarité**, a women's non-governmental organization working to strengthen the role of women in the conflict prevention, management and resolution in Africa.



## UNDEF marks first International Day of Democracy

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, gave the keynote address at **UNDEF's event on the first International Day of Democracy**, 15 September 2008. Other speakers included Ambassador Jean-Maurice Ripert and Ambassador Yukio Takasu, Permanent Representatives of France and Japan and Members of the UN Democracy Fund Advisory Board.

Ms. Farrah Parvaiz Saleh, the Executive Director of Citizen's Commission for Human Development,

reported from the field on the UNDEF project "Strengthening Democratic Practices in Pakistan". Mme Voré Gana Seck, Présidente, Conseil des ONG d'Appui au Développement, presented the UNDEF project "Dialogue des sociétés civiles pour la Démocratie en Afrique de l'Ouest". Videos of all speeches, presentations, the question and answer session and a slideshow with a sampling of UNDEF projects, are available on [UNDEF's website](#).

## Practitioner profile

UNDEF is delighted that Professor **Michael Doyle** has accepted to stay on as Chair of its Advisory Board for 2009. Doyle is the Harold Brown Professor at Columbia University in the School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia Law School and the Department of Political Science. He is also a former UN Assistant Secretary-General and Special Adviser to then Secretary-General Kofi Annan, with responsibility for strategic planning, and a former vice-president and senior fellow of the International Peace Institute. One of the conclusions of Doyle's work, known to some as "Doyle's law", contends that liberal democracies are less likely to war with each other.

At the recent World Economic Forum's Global Governance Agenda Council in Dubai, 7-9 November 2008, Professor Doyle presented a [paper](#) on democratic liberalization. In it, he noted the many positive effects democracy can have on a



State's foreign and domestic policies. But he cautioned that democracy is far from a cure-all for world conflict, that it is unlikely to be successfully imposed from abroad, and that global governance needs to operate much more inclusively than is envisaged by the proposal for a "League of Democracies".



## NEWS FROM THE FIELD



## Raising rights awareness in Northern Iraq

The Dove of Peace Programme works with UNDEF support in Northern Iraq to raise awareness of human rights, build social change, promote gender equality and foster respect for minorities. It provides education and advocacy services to members of marginalized groups, such as ethnic and religious minorities, women or people with divergent



political views. Many had been largely unaware of their rights or the legal mechanisms to protect them. The project is implemented by Concordia, a local NGO based in Iraqi Kurdistan and comprised of different ethnicities, thus bridging divides that continue to cause conflicts.

## Reconciliation through radio in Nepal

UNDEF funds [an initiative by the Equal Access group in Nepal](#) to strengthen democracy building-principles and reconciliation by ensuring an informed citizenry. It works through an innovative combination of radio programming entitled New Nepal, leadership training and direct community mobilization activities.



The radio series highlights practical reconciliation solutions and success stories and gives voice to the needs and concerns of rural youth. Inspired by the characters in the serial drama, youth gain knowledge of human rights as well as local and national governance. The accompanying audio magazine section provides in-depth follow-up and practical links to resources. The broadcasts are aired on Radio Nepal, the national broadcaster, and 35 FM stations. They reach over 900 listening clubs, and a rural audience of over twelve million.

## Building engagement in Pakistan

UNDEF supports [an initiative implemented by the Citizens' Commission for Human Development to encourage broad engagement in Pakistan's political process](#), with a focus on women's participation. The Commission has been encouraging attitudinal changes in Pakistan for more than 20 years, focusing more recently on supporting the decentralization process. The project is aimed at political leaders, parliamentarians, journalists, local government officials and NGOs. As one participant put it: "Democracy requires public participation; without it, the concept of democracy remains colourless."



To view video

## Advancing human rights in the context of Islam in Afghanistan

UNDEF support helped make possible [an extensive project on human rights within the context of Islam in Afghanistan](#). The initiative, implemented by Equal Access, includes a 100-episode radio drama, a host-led magazine show, women's listening circles and human rights leadership training. It reinforces democratic principles and supports civil society within existing cultural and religious traditions.

My Rights, Our Rights, Others' Rights in the Light of Islam, a radio drama series written by an Afghan team, incorporates human rights-related themes into each episode. Our Beloved Afghanistan, a radio series based on real-life stories, provides models of positive change for Afghans, specifically



women. And the human rights leadership training component has reached over 5,000 rural women, Islamic leaders, teachers and community health workers. Since at least 70 per cent of Afghanistan's population can neither read nor write, the curriculum included training with illiterate participants. Trained facilitators have led local listening discussions for women in their homes, allowing a safe and constructive environment to discuss Islamic rights in their community.

The project was conducted in collaboration with the Afghan Ministry of Women's Affairs, the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission and other local NGOs.

To view video

## NEWS FROM THE FIELD

## Strengthening media capacity for democracy and human rights in Somalia

Freedom of the press is a casualty in Somalia's prolonged armed conflict. Professional media have a vital role to play in efforts to build peace, establish effective governance and develop a democratic system.

To support this process, [UNDEF funds the National Union of Somali Journalists' project "Strengthening Somali Media Capacity for Democracy and Human Rights"](#). Within the project framework, the Union organized a workshop on Ethical Journalism and Role of Journalism in Society in Mogadishu on 20 - 22 January. Thirty journalists, including 11 women, took part in the event, which commemorated Somali Press Day on 21 January.

The participants expressed their determination to pursue ethical journalism despite considerable risks, pressures and deliberate violations of their rights. They also pledged to work as ad-



vocates for the right of the media to work in freedom from private, commercial and political interference, for the safety and security of journalists, and for solidarity with victimized journalists.

By organizing workshops across the country on the norms, values, tools, standards, and practices of journalism, the project strives to provide professional training and development opportunities to Somali media professionals and to empower women journalists. It aims to educate more than 250 Somali journalists in good governance and human rights values and to create and equip a media centre. Participants come from print, radio, television and internet media.

## Evaluer les défis de l'alternance démocratique en Afrique

L'organisation d'élections libres et régulières est une qualité nécessaire des régimes démocratiques, la succession et l'alternance au pouvoir en est une autre et représente un élément fondamental du fait démocratique. S'agissant plus particulièrement de l'Afrique on peut observer des formes de résistances à l'alternance démocratique qui peuvent parfois entraîner des manifestations violentes.

L'Institut des Droits de l'Homme et de promotion de la démocratie: la démocratie au quotidien a reçu une subvention dans le cadre du deuxième cycle de financement du FNUD pour [un projet qui s'intéresse à cette thématique et cherche à identifier et analyser les motifs et les formes de résistances à l'alternance démocratique en Afrique](#). Ce projet se compose de plusieurs activités et notamment,

l'IDH organisera une conférence du 23 au 25 février prochains à Cotonou regroupant représentants des Etats africains et de la société civile. Le rôle de la Constitution comme garante de l'alternance démocratique ou encore le rôle de la société civile seront parmi les thématiques qui seront abordées.

Conférence internationale sur "Les défis de l'alternance démocratique"

Du 23 au 25 février 2009

## Citizens' participation through technology in remote Peru



Technology plays a key part in facilitating citizens' participation in countries with dispersed populations, distant from the centre of decision-making. [In Peru, UNDEF supports the pilot project "Innovative System for Citizens' Participation with Congressmen and Congresswomen"](#). Implemented by the Hanns Seidel Foundation, the pilot works to help a Congresswoman and a Congressman in the regions of Arequipa and Piura respectively, from different political parties, better represent their constituencies through the use of technology. The aim is for citizens to have access to their congress representative from any telephone or Internet café, in Spanish or in Quecha. All staff of the Congress representatives are offered personalized training in the use of the system, backed up by 24-hour technical support from the Foundation's technology partner. The system can serve as a model for countries with similar demographics.

## Advancing women's political engagement in Haiti

UNDEF supports [an initiative in Haiti to strengthen women's political participation as well as their negotiation and leadership skills](#). The project, implemented by UNIFEM, MINUSTAH and two local NGOs -- Fanm Yo La and the Training Center for Commitment, Responsibility and Capacity Building -- works through training, coaching, and strengthening links between women in politics and women's organizations on

the ground. This participatory approach is an innovation in Haiti, and has contributed to building effective networking skills that have proved a key tool in empowering women and their organizations. The project brought together an alliance of women's organizations that issued a common set of recommendations to the Haitian electoral council for ensuring that the new electoral law actively encourages the participation of women.





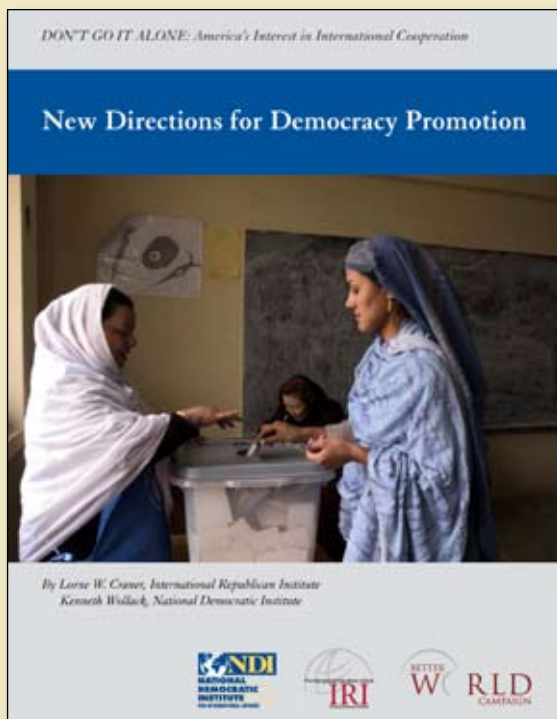
## WORTH READING

## Bipartisan advice for new US Administration

“[New Directions for Democracy Promotion](#)”, a recent paper published by the respective heads of the National Democratic Institute and the International Republican Institute, Ken Wollack and Lorne Craner, recommends action for the new US Administration.

The paper’s first joint recommendation for the new Administration contains an early and welcome indication of bipartisan United States support for UNDEF:

“Re-energizing U.S. alliances among democratically minded nations inside and outside of the United Nations, including within the UN’s regional groupings; announcing the intent to conduct democracy promotion as much as possible by working with allies and through international organizations to give such efforts greater legitimacy and an international face. In this regard, announce **continued support and funding to the United Nations Democracy Fund** and the United Nations Development Programme.”



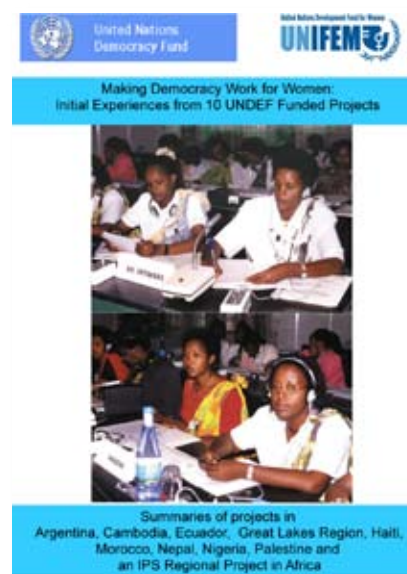
## The World of Parliaments

Quarterly Review Web version

### The UN carries baggage on the road to democracy promotion

The United Nations approaches democracy promotion burdened with some difficult baggage, UNDEF Executive Head Roland Rich notes in [an article in The World of Parliaments](#), the review of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. But over the past decade, the UN has adopted a forthright role in the field, with the United Nations Democracy Fund as the latest and most direct articulation of the UN’s commitment.

### Making democracy work for women: early results from 10 UNDEF-backed projects



UNIFEM has issued [a document describing initial results from 10 projects funded by UNDEF](#): local projects in Argentina, Cambodia, Ecuador, Haiti, Morocco, Nepal, Nigeria and the occupied Palestinian territories; a Great Lakes Regional project in Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Tanzania; and a project implemented by Inter Press Service International in Benin, Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Mali, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Swaziland.

The projects have all completed the first year of implementation. A common factor is building an enabling environment that creates opportunities for women to participate in reform policies, agendas and decentralization processes. Many of the countries involved have held or will hold elections during or just after the project period, and in several countries, women have run for office.

## CONTRIBUTORS' ROLL CALL

Cumulative contributions to UNDEF as at 15 December 2008

	Country	2005	2006	2007	2008	Cumulative Amount (US dollars)
1	United States of America	\$10,000,000.00	\$7,920,000.00		\$7,920,000.00	<b>\$25,840,000.00</b>
2	India	\$5,000,000.00	\$5,000,000.00		\$5,000,000.00	<b>\$15,000,000.00</b>
3	Japan			\$10,000,000.00		<b>\$10,000,000.00</b>
4	Qatar	\$2,000,000.00	\$4,000,000.00		\$4,000,000.00	<b>\$10,000,000.00</b>
5	Australia	\$7,303,974.44				<b>\$7,303,974.44</b>
6	Germany	\$1,600,000.00	\$1,584,784.50	\$1,086,000.00	\$2,964,959.57	<b>\$7,235,744.07</b>
7	France	\$588,100.00	\$629,350.00	\$656,550.00	\$1,913,316.00	<b>\$3,787,316.00</b>
8	Spain		\$1,059,080.00	\$1,231,132.50	\$1,211,915.00	<b>\$3,502,127.50</b>
9	Italy			\$1,485,400.00	\$1,462,400.00	<b>\$2,947,800.00</b>
10	Sweden		\$729,450.04	\$755,650.00		<b>\$1,485,100.04</b>
11	Republic of Korea		\$1,000,000.00			<b>\$1,000,000.00</b>
12	Ireland		\$658,724.00			<b>\$658,724.00</b>
13	United Kingdom	\$609,350.00				<b>\$609,350.00</b>
14	Romania			\$294,260.00	\$128,600.00	<b>\$422,860.00</b>
15	Denmark		\$265,017.67			<b>\$265,017.67</b>
16	Chile	\$20,000.00	\$80,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00	<b>\$160,000.00</b>
17	Poland	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00		<b>\$150,000.00</b>
18	Czech Republic	\$50,000.00		\$84,099.57	\$61,680.80	<b>\$195,780.37</b>
19	Senegal	\$100,000.00				<b>\$100,000.00</b>
20	Slovenia	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	<b>\$100,000.00</b>
21	Turkey			\$50,000.00	\$25,000.00	<b>\$75,000.00</b>
22	Hungary	\$25,000.00		\$25,000.00		<b>\$50,000.00</b>
23	Portugal	\$50,000.00				<b>\$50,000.00</b>
24	Croatia	\$5,000.00		\$20,000.00	\$22,000.00	<b>\$47,000.00</b>
25	Israel		\$17,500.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	<b>\$37,500.00</b>
26	Lithuania			\$13,277.69	\$15,642.16	<b>\$28,919.85</b>
27	Peru			\$20,000.00	\$5,000.00	<b>\$25,000.00</b>
28	Georgia		\$24,942.69			<b>\$24,942.69</b>
29	Estonia		\$10,395.00			<b>\$10,395.00</b>
30	Bulgaria			\$10,000.00		<b>\$10,000.00</b>
31	Mongolia		\$10,000.00			<b>\$10,000.00</b>
32	Cyprus			\$5,000.00		<b>\$5,000.00</b>
33	Ecuador				\$5,000.00	<b>\$5,000.00</b>
34	Latvia				\$5,000.00	<b>\$5,000.00</b>
35	Sri Lanka	\$5,000.00				<b>\$5,000.00</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$27,436,424.44</b>	<b>\$23,069,243.90</b>	<b>\$15,846,369.76</b>	<b>\$24,800,513.53</b>	<b>\$91,152,551.63</b>

Total amount approved for projects for the First Funding Round (2007): **\$35,075,229**

Total amount approved for projects for the Second Funding Round (2008): **\$23,895,000**

Total amount estimated for projects for the Third Funding Round (2009): **\$20,000,000-\$25,000,000**

Estimated administrative expenses per annum: **\$2,000,000**