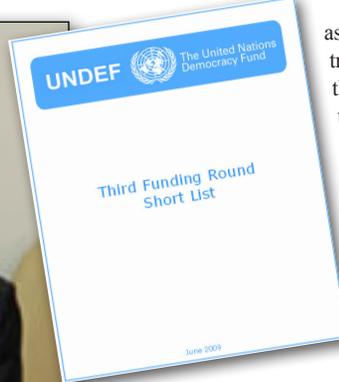


**INSIDE UNDEF**

# Secretary-General finalizes selection of Third Round projects



assessment and quality control processes are rigorous, the results cannot be claimed to be scientifically beyond error. No doubt many excellent project proposals have not been selected. But UNDEF can assure the Board that those proposed projects that made it

through to the short list are of excellent quality.”

applied in the Third Round.

With more than 2,100 applications this

Successful applicants have been advised by email, and are now required to prepare project documentation and to cooperate with continuing due diligence requirements. Once the process is complete, UNDEF will publish the list of grantees. It is not UNDEF practice to advise unsuccessful applicants of the results, or to enter into a dialogue on individual applications. If applicants have not received an email from UNDEF to the contact points provided in the application, they can assume that their

proposals are not on the final short list. We encourage future applicants to read the [lessons learned](#) published in UNDEF Update 2, and, with that as a guide, to begin already now to think through their

With more than 2,100 applications this time, it was a particularly difficult task to narrow down the proposals to the final short list of around 70 projects

forthcoming proposal. To get an idea of what UNDEF require, you may also wish to look at [project application guidelines from previous funding rounds](#). Subject to the views of the Advisory Board, the next

round of funding should begin in November 2009, through the on-line UNDEF application database.

*Analysis of project selection, page 6*

The UN Secretary-General has accepted the recommendations of the United Nations Democracy Fund Advisory Board and approved the list of projects for the Third Round of Funding. UNDEF warmly congratulates all the successful applicants, and thanks all those who

time, it was a particularly difficult task to narrow down the proposals to the final short list of around 70 projects. As UNDEF Executive Head Roland Rich told the Advisory Board, “UNDEF cannot guarantee that only the best applications made it onto the short list. Although the

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## Obama Administration reaffirms US support for Fund

UNDEF Executive Head Roland Rich met with Dr. Esther Brimmer, United States Assistant Secretary of State for International Organizations, in Washington, D.C on 10 July 2009. Dr. Brimmer, who was nominated by President Obama in March and confirmed in April, reaffirmed the strong support of the United States -- UNDEF’s largest contributor and one of its founders -- for the work of the Fund.



## INSIDE UNDEF



## UNDEF represents UN Secretary-General at Community of Democracies

Portugal hosted the Fifth Ministerial Conference of the Community of Democracies in Lisbon on 11-12 July. Founded in 2000, The CD is an intergovernmental organization of democratic countries that is committed to strengthening democratic values around the world, with a focus on engaging civil society actors in the process.

The Portuguese Foreign Minister, Sr. Luis Amado, welcomed many ministerial colleagues as well as a special guest, Dr. Madeleine Albright, who as US Secretary of State in 2000 was instrumental in launching the CD. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon was unable to attend and was represented by Mr. Roland Rich, Executive Head of the UN Democracy Fund, who delivered a [message](#) on the Secretary-General's behalf.

The Secretary-General's message said that while democracy is widely seen as a universal value, much work remains to be done to turn it into a universal reality. "This is the momentous goal that the Community of Democracies has set for itself," the message said. "The Community of Democracies is not alone in these efforts. Many others are work-

ing towards the same goal, with the United Nations foremost among them... the United Nations has adopted democracy as an end in itself as well as a means to achieve peace, development and respect for human rights."

The final declaration of the Conference committed its membership to:

"Strive for democratic governance globally to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms for all; to advance democratisation and to involve citizens in a transparent political process; to support the rule of law, gender equality, human security, freedom of expression and access to information, access to basic public services, effective and accountable state institutions, sustainable economic growth and social cohesion."

Lithuania has now taken over the presidency of the CD, and Mongolia was announced as the next president.

Ministerial meetings of the Community of Democracies are unusual in that civil society representatives participate along with government officials in various sessions and workshops.

## Remember to democratize the International Day of Democracy



The second International Day of Democracy (IDD) will be held on 15 September. In our previous issue, UNDEF urged civil society organizations to join the party and organize their own activities on this auspicious day, complementing official celebrations. UNDEF wants to showcase your activities, so we ask you to write a brief story about your observance, take some interesting photos, and email all of it to us at [democracyfund@un.org](mailto:democracyfund@un.org) soon after your event takes place. We will display them on a special page on our website.



## Practitioner profile

Ms. Sanam Anderlini, who serves on the UNDEF Advisory Board for 2009 in an individual capacity, brings to it unrivalled experience in the work to strengthen the voice of women and to

bridge the divide between the work of women in conflict areas and policymakers at the international level.

Currently a Research Affiliate of the MIT Center for International Studies, Ms. Anderlini was a leader of the effort to build cooperative strategies bringing together civil society, Governments and the UN in support of the landmark Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security. As Director of the Women Waging Peace Policy Commission, she led research on women's contributions to peace processes in 12 countries, with a particular focus on negotiations, post-conflict governance, transitional justice and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration.

"From the beginning, UNDEF has recognized how vital women's civil

society groups are to promoting and sustaining democratic values and systems," Ms. Anderlini said on joining the Advisory Board. "The Fund supports a wide variety of projects, and has sought to ensure that gender sensitivity -- full and fair representation of women's voices and perspectives alongside men's -- is a key component across the spectrum of projects."

Iranian by birth and a UK citizen, Ms. Anderlini is the author of *Women Building Peace: What They Do, Why It Matters*, a cross-regional analysis of how gender sensitivity in programming can be a catalytic component in the complex task of building sustainable peace, with concrete examples of how to draw on women's untapped potential.



NEWS FROM THE FIELD

## Raising civic awareness among Yemeni youth



In Yemen, where the youth make up the majority of the population, an UNDEF-backed [project](#) by the International Foundation for Electoral Systems recently completed its work to raise civic awareness among young people through active participation and engaged community

service. Workshops were conducted around the country, including in marginalized areas such as the Al Almal community in the city of Ta'izz, to improve young people's understanding of their civil and political rights; raise their level of tolerance and respect for human rights; and boost

their level of participation and volunteerism.

Participants were given the opportunity to prioritize common issues, design strategies on how to approach policy makers and engage with them in a collaborative and constructive partnership, and develop action plans. The project also addressed gender, with almost 50 per cent of participants

being young women.

Participants demonstrated a high level of engagement and maturity, reinforcing both the relevance of the project and the readiness of Yemeni youth to contribute to the democratization process in their country.

## Strengthening the voice of young Lebanon

In late June 2009, the 64 newly selected members of the Lebanese National Youth Parliament attended their first plenary session and received the following advice from the Minister of Education and Higher Education Ms. Bahia Hariri: "Let dialogue be the only way for you to seek your national goals. Let democracy be the basis of your consciousness and your path for it to become national consciousness...Democracy is about convictions and principles, not only mechanisms and coloured papers."

The Lebanese National Youth Parliament was orga-

nized by the International Organization for Migration with an UNDEF grant to give youth the skills needed to become effective members of civil society. The composition is similar to that of the Lebanese National Parliament, enabling members to form sub-committees and draft, amend and pass bills into law. Youth parliamentarians will be answerable to their "constituents" via comments boxes placed in schools throughout the country.

Strengthening the voice of youth in the political process is all the more crucial given Lebanon's recent reform reducing the voting age from 21 years to 18 years. The youth parliamentarians will hone their debating, advocacy and negotiating skills, and meet with prominent politicians and members of civil society to discuss topics ranging from youth unemployment to drug abuse, nuclear proliferation and discrimination. A video documentary will be produced in Arabic – with French and English subtitles – to capture best practices in the hopes that the experience may be replicated elsewhere in the region.



## Building the capacity of Iraq's lawyers



In Iraq, UNDEF funds a [project](#) organized by the International Legal Assistance Consortium to build the capacity of a diverse and representative group of Iraqi lawyers in using the legal system to uphold the rule of law. In cooperation with the Central and Eastern European Law Institute, the International Bar Association and the Japan Federation of Bar Associations, ILAC organized a training seminar in March 2009 for 50 Iraqi lawyers nominated by the Iraqi Bar Association, Iraqi Jurists Association and Kurdistan Bar Association.

The intensive four-day programme focused on the practical application of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant for Civil and Political Rights. Legal experts from the Arab region, Japan, Europe and the US offered comparative perspectives on the application of these instruments. Of particular interest was a presentation by the Japan Federation of Bar Associations on the Japanese experience after the Second World War, focusing on rebuilding the judicial system and addressing violations of humanitarian law. Small plenary sessions enabled Iraqi lawyers from both genders to contextualize their training and discuss provocative issues such as the legal rights of women and children, fair trial guarantees and how to address human rights abuses committed by foreign powers. On completing the course, several of the Iraqi lawyers offered to organize similar trainings for their colleagues in Iraq, advocate reform of discriminatory legislation, and coordinate more closely with civil society groups on human rights issues.

## NEWS FROM THE FIELD

## A network of tools for credible and accepted elections



Adopting best practices in electoral administration is an important way for States, particularly those in transition or emerging from conflict, to organize elections that will be viewed as credible and acceptable. International IDEA, the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, provides a unique repository of knowledge and best practices in electoral administration through its [ACE Knowledge Network](#). The Network gives electoral professionals access to a comprehensive range of materials, case studies and lessons learned, covering all stages of the electoral process.

With UNDEF's support, the Network has expanded its reach by strengthening the functions of its [regional centres](#) in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, and

the Middle East. The centres strengthen regional cooperation by providing election management bodies with a forum to seek advice on electoral issues. Furthermore, the regional centers have translated and disseminated key documents in several languages including Arabic, French, Spanish and Russian. The regional centre for West Africa is the UNDEF-backed Gorée Institute, featured in the article to the right.

In June 2009, UNDEF Programme Officer Cynthia Hatfield participated in IDEA's annual seminar, which brought together regional centre representatives and electoral professionals to share experiences and enhance the functionality of the Network. A Regional Centre Intranet was launched as a secure platform for exchanges of lessons learned and discussion of regional issues.

## Towards the full participation of women in El Salvador



Women continue to be severely under-represented in elected positions in El Salvador, despite the considerable contributions they have made to rebuilding the country almost 20 years after the end of its 12-year civil war. At the same time, women in politics can provide an entry-point to greater consensus-building in El Salvador, which remains a highly polarized society.

With UNDEF support, the Association of Salvadoran Women Parliamentarians and ex-Parliamentarians, ASPARLEXSAL, is conducting a [course in politi-](#)

[cal leadership](#) bringing together women from all six political parties represented in the Assembly. Graduates have gone on to become parliamentary candidates, mayors and municipal officials. As important, by enabling women from different backgrounds to form a cohesive group for nine months, the course promotes dialogue, understanding across party lines, and areas of common ground – a pioneering experience for most of the participants. On a visit to San Salvador in April 2009, United Nations Democracy Fund Senior Adviser Annika Savill met with both course participants and the ASPALEXSAL leadership. "I had never interacted with a member of one of the other parties

before and was actually even a little afraid," said one alumna. "Now, we all meet regularly and even go on trips together. We know how much we have in common."

This is particularly valuable at this juncture of El Salvador's political evolution. With the recent victory of FMLN in general elections after 20 years of ARENA Government, and the presidential handover in June 2009, the country is undergoing yet another crucial and challenging transition on its journey to build and consolidate a functioning democracy.

## L'expertise électorale et la société civile en Afrique de l'Ouest



En juillet 2009, le Centre de Gorée pour les processus électoraux a mis en ligne son site internet (<http://www.goreecenter.org/>) afin de servir de plateforme d'échange d'information et d'expertise en matière électorale entre les organisations de la société civile d'Afrique de l'Ouest. Une des fonctionnalités les plus innovantes du site sera son forum thématique.

L'élaboration de ce site internet est une des composantes d'un projet financé par le FNUD et mis en œuvre par l'Institut de Gorée (<http://www.goreeinstitute.org/pages/support.htm>) qui a pour but de renforcer la capacité de la société civile à l'échelle régionale en matière d'analyse et de réformes électorales, de créer un environnement propice à des élections libres et justes, de promouvoir de bonnes pratiques électorales et de construire des réseaux de partenaires électoraux de la société civile en Afrique de l'Ouest.

Le projet vise non seulement à la mise en place de moyens de collecte et de diffusion d'information en matière électorale notamment par le biais du site internet; il aussi pour ambition de créer un réseau sous-régional d'organisations de la société civile et d'un espace de réflexion et de dialogue sur les processus électoraux et l'état de la démocratie en Afrique de l'Ouest. Une des illustrations concrètes de ce processus a été l'organisation d'une formation [BRIDGE](#).

## Teacher-training in living and learning democracy, Bosnia and Herzegovina

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, UNDEF supports a [project](#) implemented by CIVITAS for "Teacher-Training in Living and Learning Democracy." Addressing the crucial need to foster acceptance and subscription to democratic values, the project pays special attention to human rights, intercultural understanding, and empowerment and promotes joint

efforts to realize human rights by means of civil society networking. It brings together teachers, students, education and media representatives, members of all ethnic groups and national minorities, especially Roma, people with special needs, and youth. In this way, it builds bridges between communities by exploring questions of identity, human rights, democracy,

civic participation and activism.

In June 2009, CIVITAS conducted two three-day workshops with teachers in Banja Luka and Mostar. The workshops allowed teachers -- key multipliers of knowledge and values -- to build up their knowledge in civic competence, citizen active participation and awareness and understanding of human rights.



## WORTH READING

### UN support for demand-driven democratization: oxygen or oxymoron?

At a World Bank roundtable in May 2009, UNDEF Executive Head Roland Rich [discussed](#) the demand-side innovation of UNDEF's work, drawing on examples from transition democracies and pre-transition situations as well as dilemmas associated with such efforts.



### India's role in democracy promotion



In a major departure from its traditionally non-interventionist approach to diplomacy, India has embraced democracy support as part of its foreign policy agenda. It plays a leading role in the United Nations Democracy Fund. UNDEF Executive Head Roland Rich participated in a [discussion](#) on the subject organized by the Council on Foreign Relations.

"India was very keen to promote democracy in a more multilateral context"

### Strengthening dialogue and democratic institutions in El Salvador



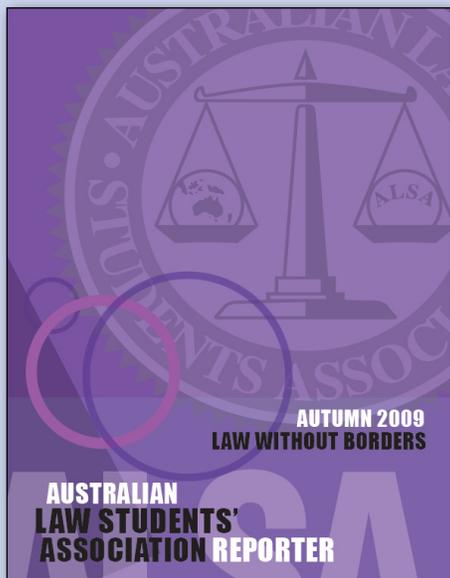
On a visit to San Salvador in April 2009, UNDEF Senior Adviser Annika Savill spoke at the closing of a national dialogue [project](#) implemented by the Salvadoran Foundation for Economic and Social Development, FUSADES.

"Through this project, you are advancing the work to build democracy that first began between El Salvador and the United Nations almost 20 years ago, when the UN facilitated the accords for peace"

### The symbiotic relationship between democracy and the rule of law

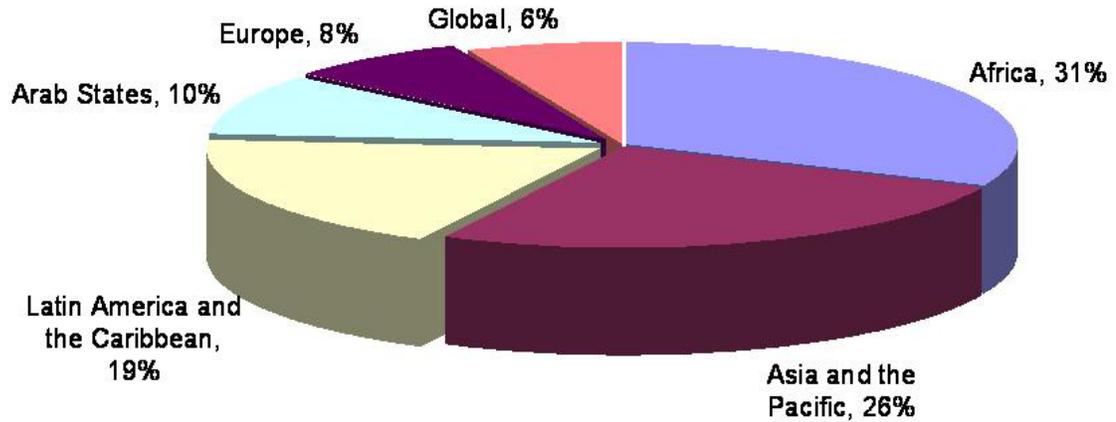
The Autumn 2009 edition of the Australian Law Students' Association flagship publication, the ALSA Reporter, features an [article](#) by UNDEF Executive Head Roland Rich setting out why the rule of law and democracy depend on one another.

"Democracy, for all its cumbersome checks and balances, is the only system that fairly allows for involvement of the people in devising the rules under which they are to be governed. Without democracy, law takes on a different character"

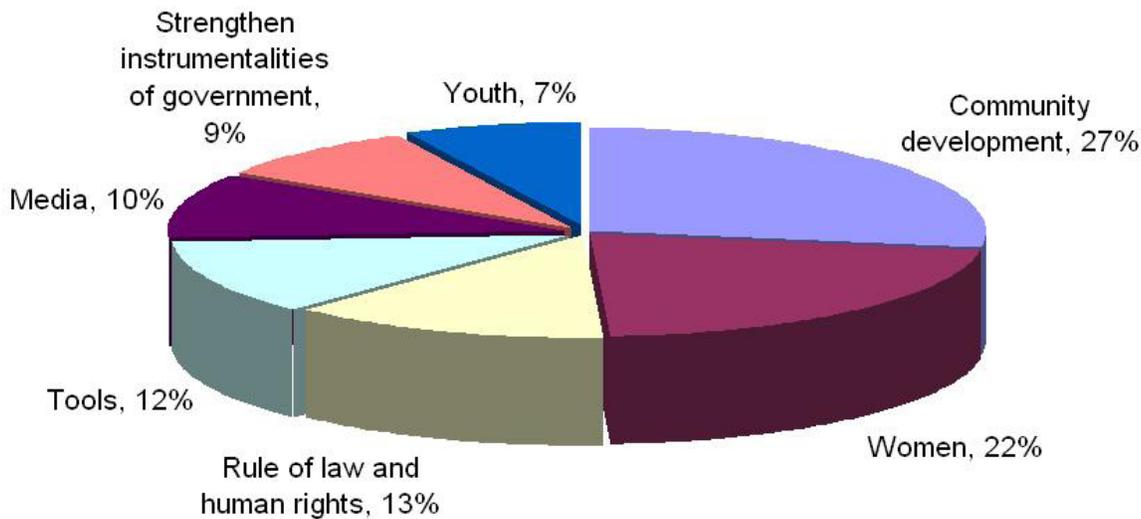


## ANAYSIS OF UNDEF'S THIRD ROUND PROJECT SELECTIONS

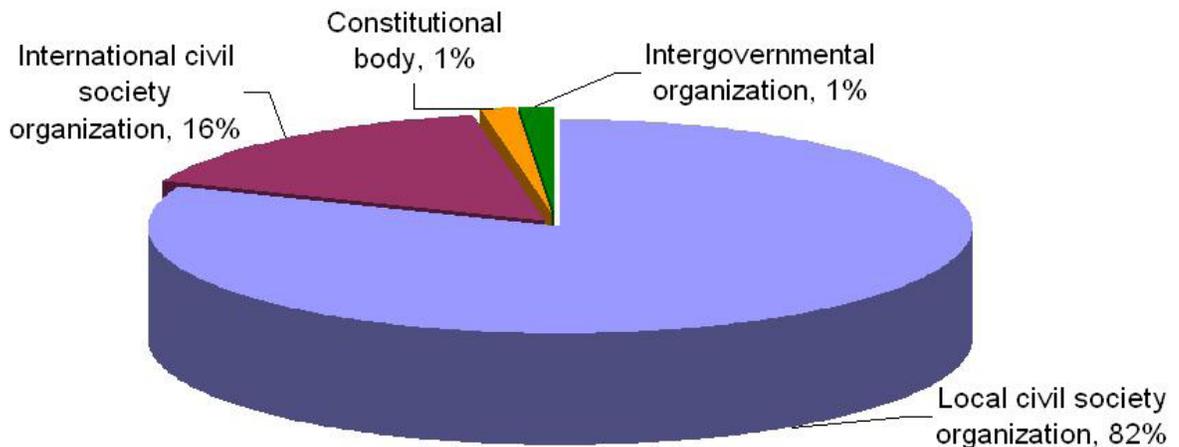
### ■ Projects by region



### ■ Projects by key activity



### ■ Projects by applicant type



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