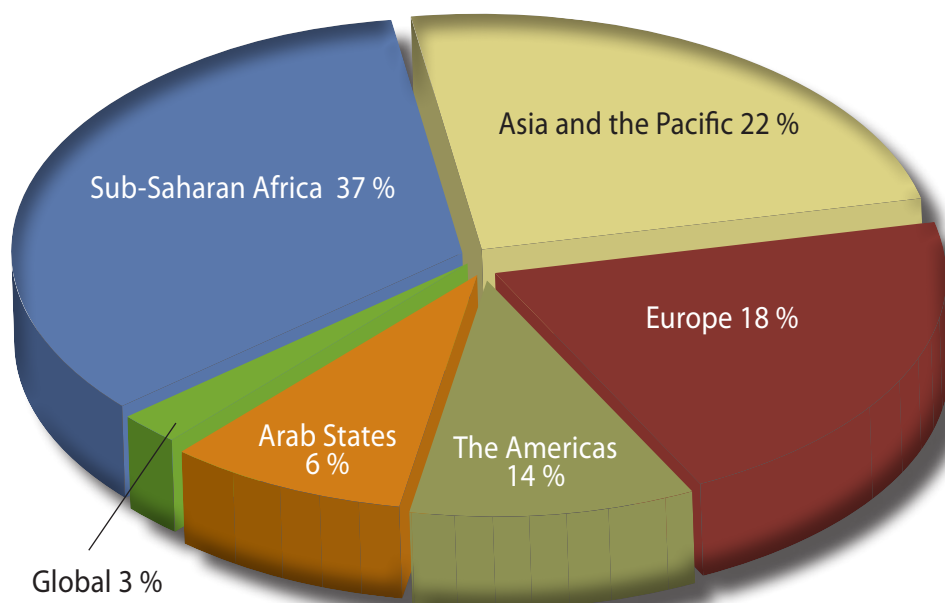


# ALMOST 2,000 ORGANIZATIONS COMPETE FOR UNDEF GRANTS



UNDEF received 1,966 applications for its Fourth Round of Funding by the deadline of New Year's Eve 2009. The proposals originated from organizations in 137 countries, the vast majority local NGOs in Africa, Asia, Europe and the Americas. The examination by independent assessors is now under way, a process in which all applications will be judged on their inherent quality and scored against set criteria.

As no more than some 70 proposals can be expected to be short-listed, the assessment process is expected to be highly rigorous and competitive. The various further stages of the selection process include review by the UNDEF Programme Consultative Group -- comprising the Department of Political Affairs, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the UN Development Programme, the UN Development Fund for Women and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime -- and the UNDEF Advisory Board. Because of the high volume of applicants, only those who advance to the short-list will be contacted by UNDEF. This is expected to be in the second half of 2010, at which stage, short-listed applicants will be required to compose a draft project document -- the final stage of the selection process.

In its first three Rounds of Funding, UNDEF supported [271 projects](#) around the world - 207 projects in 99 countries, 47 regional projects covering a further 28 countries, and 17 global projects. They all reflect a focus on strengthening the voice of civil society, ranging from empowering marginalized groups to organizing women to claim their rights and exchanging electoral best practices.

## IN THIS ISSUE

### INSIDE UNDEF

More than 2,000 projects vie for UNDEF funding .....	1
New Advisory Board appointed for a two-year term .....	2
Practitioner profile .....	2

### NEWS FROM THE FIELD

UNDEF-backed NGO on frontlines of Haiti relief effort .....	3
Bulletins pour une citoyenneté informée au Togo .....	3
Women build jurisprudence on the ground to address AIDS in Tanzania .....	3
Images bring civil society endeavours to life in Northern Caucasus .....	4
Active citizens and accountable Local Government in Bangladesh .....	4

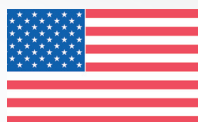
### WORTH READING

An UNDEF-backed tool to clean up political funding .....	5
McFaul book advocates increased backing for UNDEF .....	5
IDASA And UNDEF join forces for African democracy .....	5
Gender double standard is in the liberal DNA, say NGOs at UNDEF-backed conference .....	5

CONTRIBUTORS' ROLL CALL .....	6
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## INSIDE UNDEF

# NEW ADVISORY BOARD APPOINTED FOR A TWO-YEAR TERM



The Secretary-General has finalized the composition of the new UNDEF Advisory Board -- the body which gives him policy guidance and recommends funding proposals for his approval. From now on, under the UNDEF Terms of Reference revised last year, the Board is appointed for a period of two years, rather than one year as had been the case since UNDEF was established in 2006 as a Trust Fund of the Secretary-General.

The 2010-11 Board members include the Governments of the seven largest UNDEF donors as measured by cumulative contributions received by December 2009: the United States, India, Japan, Qatar, Australia, Germany and Spain; and six other Member States reflecting diverse geographical representation, including one representative from Small Island Developing States -- all of which have demonstrated commitment to democratic principles: Costa Rica, Ghana, Iraq, Mauritius, Poland and Republic of Korea.

The Board also includes four individual members: Michael Doyle, Professor of

International Affairs, Law and Political Science at Columbia University, who stays on as Chair of the Board; Kwame Anthony Appiah, Professor of Philosophy at Princeton University (see Practitioner Profile below); and Seyla Benhabib, Professor of Political Science and Philosophy at Yale University. Mr. Amir Dossal, Executive Director of the UN Office for Partnerships, remains an *ex officio* member.

As civil society forms UNDEF's overwhelming client base, the Board includes two civil society organizations chosen for their expertise beyond a single country: Conectas Human Rights, a São Paulo-based international umbrella organization bringing together human rights practitioners and working for the consolidation of the rule of law in the southern hemisphere; and the International Peace Institute, the New York-based independent, international think tank dedicated to strengthening international peace and security institutions through policy research, convening, publishing and outreach.



Michael Doyle  
Photo by Peter Freed



Seyla Benhabib



## PRACTITIONER PROFILE

UNDEF is delighted that Professor Kwame Anthony Appiah of Princeton University has accepted the Secretary-General's invitation to serve on the UNDEF Advisory Board for 2010-11. Dr. Appiah, who grew up in Ghana and the United Kingdom, has taught philosophy and African studies at the [Universities of Ghana, Cambridge, Duke, Cornell, Yale](#) and [Harvard](#). He joined the Princeton faculty in 2002 as Laurance S. Rockefeller University Professor of Philosophy and the University Center for Human Values. He is also associated with Princeton's Center for African American Studies and Programs in African Studies. Dr. Appiah's published work includes *In My Father's House*, which won the [Herskovitz Prize](#) for African Studies, *Colour Conscious: The Political Morality of Race* (with Amy Gutmann), *The Ethics of Identity*, and *Cosmopolitanism: Ethics in a World of Strangers*. As an intellectual bridging the global South and North, as well as the worlds of philosophy and of African studies, he adds a unique perspective to the work of UNDEF. "I am honoured to serve on the UNDEF Advisory Board," said Dr. Appiah. "No work is more important today than building the social infrastructure for democratic governance around the world."

*The next issue of UNDEF Update will profile Professor Seyla Benhabib.*



Photo by David Shankbone

## NEWS FROM THE FIELD

# UNDEF-BACKED NGO ON FRONTLINES OF HAITI RELIEF EFFORT



Haiti has more NGOs per capita than any country in the world except India. Since the earthquake struck, local NGOs have been the key to the response.

One of them is the Association Femmes Soleil d'Haiti, which was about to launch an UNDEF-backed project for empowering women when the catastrophe happened. Since then, it has been engaged full-time in the relief and humanitarian effort to help the displaced, wounded and vulnerable.

For Femmes Soleil, located in the north coast port city of Cap-Haïtien, this has also meant addressing cases of sexual violence that have occurred in the turbulent aftermath of the disaster.

"Already young girls have been sexually abused and violated," Elvire Eugène, a human rights lawyer and the Secretary-General of Femmes Soleil, wrote in an email to UNDEF on 20 January.

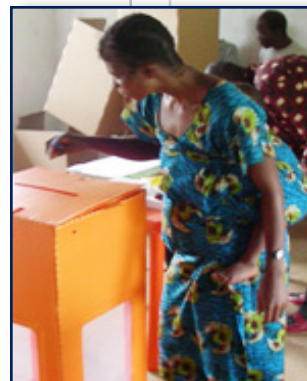
"There have even been several cases of rape."

"The situation is terrible," said Elvire Eugène. "There is flooding. There are large numbers of people in the street without food or drinkable water."

"In cooperation with the authorities, we sent 20 buses to Port-au-Prince to repatriate people to Cap. We receive them in a gym, in hospitals, and we have opened an emergency shelter. And we have helped take care of 4,000 bodies of people from Cap-Haïtien who died in Port-au-Prince."

"It's only through this effort to help families that are affected in one way or another that we manage to keep going and not fall apart."

# BULLETINS POUR UNE CITOYENNETÉ INFORMÉE AU TOGO



Avec le soutien du FNUD, « Droits et Libertés pour Tous au Togo » est une initiative de trois organisations de la société civile togolaise. Ce projet promeut la culture démocratique dans la société dans toute sa composante sans tenir compte du rang social de

l'appartenance politique, religieuse, ethnique et régionale.

# WOMEN BUILD JURISPRUDENCE ON THE GROUND TO ADDRESS AIDS IN TANZANIA



In Tanzania, UNDEF supports a ground-breaking partnership between women judges and a women's grassroots support network to develop the role of the judiciary in addressing HIV/AIDS. "Jurisprudence on the Ground" brings together three partners: the Society for Women and AIDS in Africa-Tanzania, which provides educational and medical services to rural women; the International Association of Women Judges; and the Tanzania Women Judges Association, which trains Tanzanian magistrates and judges on international, regional and domestic human rights laws protecting women against discrimination and violence. Judges and magistrates who have taken part in these trainings have established a track record of issuing judgments striking down discriminatory laws and practices, expanding the rights of women on issues ranging from economic discrimination, property rights, custody and inheritance to sexual assault and other violence against women.

The partnership was born at the 2006 session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, when the Society for Women and AIDS in Africa representative was struck by the relevance of a presentation by the International Association of Women Judges about women's legal rights on issues ranging from property and inheritance to domestic violence. With UNDEF support, the partnership has held trainings for judges, first-line magistrates and aid workers in different parts of Tanzania. It has developed accessible and clearly written public education materials in English and Swahili about basic rights as well as information on what court to turn to, what to expect as a witness in court, and where to complain if a court officer asks for a bribe. Aid workers have taken the messages and materials to rural areas, using drama, music and community meetings to inform thousands of women about their rights and how to uphold them.

Les partenaires du projet mettent en place des mécanismes de sensibilisation des populations du monde rural sur le concept de la démocratie à travers des supports éducatifs différents tels que les publications et l'organisation de causeries débats dans les lycées et collèges. Ce projet œuvre également pour former les élites locales sur les thèmes de la démocratie participative, des droits de l'homme et de la citoyenneté. En outre, le projet met en place des outils d'information et de communication afin de promouvoir une meilleure participation des populations aux élections présidentielles et locales.

Dans le cadre de ce projet, un bulletin d'éducation civique intitulé « Infos Citoyennes » a été lancé et déjà 6 bulletins ont été réalisés. Cette publication a pour but de contribuer à l'éducation et à la formation citoyenne des populations sur les valeurs et principes démocratiques afin qu'elles deviennent de véritables acteurs de développement, et ce par la vulgarisation des textes législatifs et réglementaires en vigueur pour une meilleure information du citoyen.

## NEWS FROM THE FIELD



# ACTIVE CITIZENS AND ACCOUNTABLE LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN BANGLADESH

In Bangladesh, UNDEF funds a project to create conditions for more active civic engagement among rural and semi-urban poor citizens, and to build up the capacity of local government towards more accountable and effective governance.

that stronger, more accountable local governance leads to gains in material welfare; and targeting local bureaucratic and political culture to make it more responsive towards the poor.

## IMAGES BRING CIVIL SOCIETY ENDEAVOURS TO LIFE

## IN NORTH CAUCASUS

These and other images are entries for a photography exhibition that forms part of an UNDEF-backed project for community empowerment in the Northern Caucasus. The project works to advance democracy at the community level in Dagestan, Chechnya, Ingushetia and North Ossetia, by equipping NGO leaders with skills in community leadership, advocacy, project management and resource mobilization. The photographs, taken by members of the public, non-profit organizations and local journalists to illustrate the life of ordinary people in the North Caucasus, provide a tool to introduce NGOs to the public and raise awareness of their work.

The overall initiative uses training sessions, conferences and workshops to unite the region's NGOs in a wide and a vivid network able to promote democracy and advocate positive change in their communities.

The project is implemented by the Moscow-based FOCUS-MEDIA Foundation, which works for healthy, tolerant and prosperous communities through enlightening, educating and involving people and organizations in improving their living conditions and health.



The project, implemented by BRAC and titled "Active Citizens and Accountable Local Government", will develop local government capacity in the districts of Bogra and Jessore and strengthen interaction with the community by addressing both the demand and supply side of effective, accountable local governance; developing information-sharing practices to make local governance more transparent and accessible; demonstrating

UNDEF Executive Head Roland Rich (pictured) visited Dhaka in November 2009 to sign the project document, and met with beneficiaries of existing BRAC projects in the village of Manikganj. "UNDEF is delighted to be working with BRAC on strengthening democracy at the rural level," he told his hosts. "BRAC has demonstrated on many occasions its expertise in improving the lives of poor people."

## WORTH READING

### AN UNDEF-BACKED TOOL TO CLEAN UP POLITICAL FUNDING

Effective regulation of campaign and party funding is essential to fighting corruption and promoting transparency and accountability among political actors and institutions. UNDEF backs an initiative implemented by IFES, the International Foundation for Electoral Systems, on "[Achieving consensus: Global Standards for Political Finance](#)".

As part of the project, IFES has published [Political Finance Regulation: The Global Experience](#), which looks at how the intersection between money and politics can be regulated, taking into account the experiences of various countries around the world. The book offers practical solutions in four

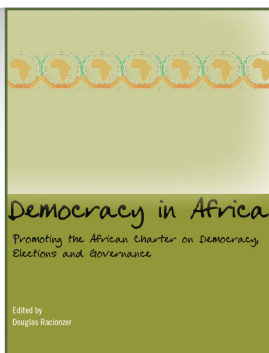
key areas: the disclosure of campaign and political party finance, spending limits, public funding of political parties and election campaigns, and political finance enforcement and oversight. It recognizes that many countries have introduced reforms to promote political integrity through transparent and accountable systems of political finance. In line with the United Nations Convention Against Corruption, it stresses that each environment requires a unique approach.

**Political Finance Regulation:  
The Global Experience**



### IDASA AND UNDEF JOIN FORCES FOR AFRICAN DEMOCRACY CHARTER

An UNDEF-backed initiative by the African democracy institute IDASA has yielded a [book of essays](#) on how African countries can promote and endorse the African Union's Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance. The book, which can be [downloaded as a PDF](#), contains a full reproduction of the African Union Charter. Adopted by the African Union in 2007, the 19-page Charter marks a significant step for the African Union as an actor promoting democratic governance on the Continent, and offers a unique opportunity for African stakeholders to consolidate democratic gains made so far. For the Charter to come into force, 15 countries need to ratify it. So far, it has been ratified by only two states, Ethiopia and Mauritania.



### GENDER DOUBLE STANDARD IS IN THE LIBERAL DNA, SAY NGOS AT UNIFEM-UNDEF CONFERENCE

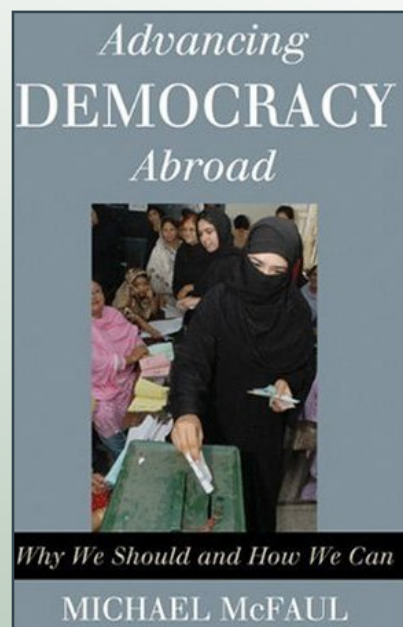
Civil society groups from 14 countries gathered in New Delhi in January 2010 to share experiences of efforts to ensure democracy delivers gender equality. Discussions at the conference, backed by UNDEF and UNIFEM identified two worrying trends: mounting levels of violence against women, linked by many participants to women's growing electoral successes and the resentment this generates from men; and the rise of conservative forms of identity politics that seek to curb women's rights and circumscribe both their private and public roles. An [article](#) on the conference was published by openDemocracy.



### MICHAEL MCFAUL BOOK ADVOCATES INCREASED BACKING FOR UNDEF

Michael McFaul, recently appointed Special Assistant to President Obama and director in the US National Security Council, has published a book in which he advocates increased US support for UNDEF. McFaul, NSC senior director of Russian and Eurasian Affairs and also a leading voice on democracy support in the Administration, wrote [Advancing Democracy Abroad: Why We Should and How We Can](#), while Professor in Political Science at Stanford University. As the Obama Administration reviews the role democratization will play in its foreign policy, McFaul's book calls for a reaffirmation of democracy's advance as a goal of US foreign policy and sets out a new course to achieve it.

“Most Americans (68 percent) also support the idea of promoting democracy ‘by working through the UN because such efforts will be more legitimate’. American support for the UN Development Programme and the UN Democracy Fund also should increase. President Obama also could use the bully pulpit of his new presidency to encourage other countries to donate funds to these agencies.”



## CONTRIBUTORS' ROLL CALL

Cumulative contributions to UNDEF as of 31 December 2009

	Country	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Cumulative Amount (US dollars)
1	United States of America	\$10,000,000.00	\$7,920,000.00		\$7,920,000.00	\$3,000,000.00	<b>\$28,840,000.00</b>
2	India	\$5,000,000.00	\$5,000,000.00		\$5,000,000.00	\$5,000,000.00	<b>\$20,000,000.00</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	Germany	\$1,600,000.00	\$1,584,784.50	\$1,056,603.77	\$2,964,959.57	\$1,500,000.00	<b>\$8,706,347.84</b>
6	Australia	\$7,304,974.44				\$456,900.00	<b>\$7,761,874.44</b>
7	Spain		\$1,059,080.00	\$1,231,132.50	\$1,211,915.00	\$1,388,504.00	<b>\$4,890,631.50</b>
8	France	\$588,100.00	\$629,350.00	\$656,550.00	\$1,913,316.00	\$1,006,400.00	<b>\$4,793,716.00</b>
9	Sweden		\$729,450.04	\$755,650.00		\$2,722,774.91	<b>\$4,207,874.95</b>
10	Italy			\$1,485,400.00	\$1,462,400.00		<b>\$2,947,800.00</b>
11	Republic of Korea		\$1,000,000.00				<b>\$1,000,000.00</b>
12	Ireland		\$709,219.86				<b>\$709,219.86</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	Poland	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$100,000.00			<b>\$200,000.00</b>
17	Czech Republic	\$50,000.00		\$84,099.57	\$61,680.80		<b>\$195,780.37</b>
18	Chile	\$20,000.00	\$80,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00	<b>\$190,000.00</b>
19	Slovenia	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$27,924.00	<b>\$127,924.00</b>
20	Senegal	\$100,000.00					<b>\$100,000.00</b>
21	Turkey			\$50,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	<b>\$100,000.00</b>
22	Hungary	\$25,000.00		\$25,000.00		\$25,000.00	<b>\$75,000.00</b>
23	Croatia	\$5,000.00		\$20,000.00	\$22,000.00	\$24,000.00	<b>\$71,000.00</b>
24	Portugal	\$50,000.00					<b>\$50,000.00</b>
25	Israel		\$17,500.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	<b>\$47,500.00</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	Morocco					\$5,000.00	<b>\$5,000.00</b>
36	Sri Lanka	\$5,000.00					<b>\$5,000.00</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$27,437,424.44</b>	<b>\$23,119,739.76</b>	<b>\$15,866,973.53</b>	<b>\$24,800,513.53</b>	<b>\$15,221,502.91</b>	<b>\$106,446,154.17</b>