

Terms of Reference

Date	11-08-2011
Country	Netherlands, The Hague
Internship assignment	Literature study and analysis about the link between democracy and development
Period	September – November 2011
Requirements	Academic background in or affinity with international development, political science, democratic governance or domestic accountability

1. Introduction

The Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD) is a democracy assistance organisation of political parties in the Netherlands working for political parties in emerging and evolving democracies. Currently NIMD works with more than 150 political parties in 16 programme countries in Africa, Latin America, Asia and Eastern Europe, NIMD works with a vision of: “democratic societies that observe the rule of law and foster the public good”.

NIMD and its local partners seek to achieve three mutually reinforcing outcomes that contribute to this vision:

1. An established and functioning multiparty dialogue
2. Legitimate and functioning political parties
3. Fruitful interaction between political and civil society:

The activities in the programme countries are based on these three outcomes, and foremostly constitute the facilitation of a platform for interparty dialogue and the building of capacity of political party organisations.

The field of democracy and political party assistance is relatively new within international development cooperation, and NIMD is continuously learning and adapting the specific interventions. NIMD also plays an active role in sharing the lessons and initiating discussions with other national and international development partners about intervention strategies, monitoring of results and institutional learning.

2. Research assignment

The observed link between better democratic governance and increased development, resulting in economic growth, has been shown in theory and practice. For instance economist Paul Collier states in his book *The Bottom Billion* (2008) that stagnating countries where development has failed encounter four traps, of which one is the bad governance trap. He claims that aid can only work if this is combined with better governance interventions such as improved laws and charters.

The positive correlation between political stability, the rule of law, respect for human rights and economic development is also underscored in the recently published report of the Scientific Council for Government Policy (*Less Pretention, More Ambition, WRR*).

Political and governance conditions define how growth and distribution take place, but also how women's rights are dealt with, how to prevent state fragility and how to deal with climate change. The above correlation does not mean that all existing democracies have good scores on the human development index or that inclusive economic development is available for all. Most democracies have some kind of democratic deficit that hamper development, causing a continuous struggle with structural economic problems such as high unemployment and a weakly developed private sector, badly managed health and education systems, and a dysfunctional police and justice system.

NIMD focuses on political parties as missing link in improving development, and in decreasing the democratic deficit. More responsive and better organised parties increase accountability and can jointly move a country forward.

The internship assignment consists of preparing a paper that analyses existing research and practical literature or case studies about the link between democracy and democratic systems or institutions; and socio-economic development. The idea is to produce an overview of the growing body of literature available, in a readable and user-friendly format.

The following research questions will be guiding the paper, with special attention to NIMD's programme countries.

- What does the international literature and practice say about the correlation between democratic and social economic development, specifically looking at democratic actors such as political parties, parliaments and electoral management bodies.
- How does "more democracy" (i.e. better democratic practices) positively influence human development and citizens' say on their own future.

The research will contribute to the discussion within NIMD, between NIMD and its partners and with other democracy strengthening organisations, and inform decision making on specific intervention strategies within the field.

3. Practical information

The assignment is foreseen for a period of around 2,5 months (September – November 2011), flexible hours possible. A modest remuneration is available and transport costs are reimbursed.

A motivation letter and CV can be sent to Monique Ronza, e-mail: moniqueronza@nimd.org **before 26 August.**