

DIPD

DANISH INSTITUTE FOR
PARTIES AND DEMOCRACY

2018-2020
STRATEGY

PARTIES
&
DEMOCRACY
IN THE WORLD

Sixth draft, 17/5/17

FOREWORD

The Danish Institute for Parties and Democracy (DIPD) was established by the Danish Parliament in 2010. It came about as the result of a desire among the Danish political parties that Danish development cooperation should help further the development of democratic, well-functioning and cooperative political parties. Today, we have a far better understanding of what we are good at and what works in practice.

The bill adopted by the Danish Parliament in 2010 established a clear framework for the nature and scope of DIPD's work. The strategy, called "Parties & Democracy in the World", outlines the board's prioritization of initiatives and resources in the period 2018 - 2020.

The Danish Parliament has opted for an approach where we establish **democracy projects** through the Danish political parties, multiparty **democracy projects** through the institute, and a combination thereof. We will continue with this approach, and in the coming years we will work to strengthen the interplay between these different types of projects, which will include making sure that the parties of the Danish Parliament are involved in all types of projects to an even greater degree. The direct involvement of the political parties must be brought into play to the greatest extent possible and in every possible way.

We have developed themes and approaches that build on **Danish political experiences** and areas in which we have **particular expertise**, for instance when it comes to the importance of volunteerism in politics, the participation of women in politics, engaging the youth in political parties, the parties' local anchoring, and dialogue platforms. The aim is not to export a Danish model of democracy, but rather to present ideas and experiences stemming from our own democratic development that may serve as inspiration for other countries.

Democracy faces difficult circumstances in many parts of the world. Our Danish model possesses many strengths and has led to outstanding results. We want to share the dialogue, cooperation, and the Danish form of democracy with the world with a view to inspiring democratic development in other countries. However, we most often work in countries which are not stable democracies, and challenges and setbacks are accordingly to be expected. There is **no simple magic formula** that makes political parties or systems democratic.

That said, through long-term partnerships characterized by **mutual trust and transparency**, we believe that the resources at the institute's disposal can support and contribute towards democratic development in selected countries. We will also ensure that knowledge is exchanged between countries and that Denmark, too, benefits from these experiences. This strategy is based on the experiences that the political parties and institute have accumulated over the past few years.

Together with Denmark's development cooperation and humanitarian policies and the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, DIPD's work **constitutes an important component of Danish foreign aid**, whether it be in relation to the work between Danish political parties and foreign political parties or the work to facilitate dialogue between conflicting parties in selected countries.

Chairman
Henrik Bach Mortensen

Director
Rasmus Helveg Petersen

VISION, MISSION, AND PRINCIPLES

The law establishing the Danish Institute for Parties and Democracy provides the institute with a mandate to contribute to the strengthening of democratic culture, political parties and multi-party systems in selected developing countries. This mandate has been expressed in the form of a vision, a mission, and some key principles.

VISION OF THE INSTITUTE



To contribute to the development of well-functioning democratic political parties, multi-party systems, and other institutions as central stakeholders in a democratic culture in selected developing countries.

MISSION OF THE INSTITUTE



To establish partnerships with political parties, multi-party platforms, and other institutions through the active involvement of Danish political parties, Danish stakeholders, and international partners.

PRINCIPLES OF THE INSTITUTE

- That democratization builds upon and is strengthened by the **respect for human rights**, particularly civil and political rights, and rights like freedom of assembly, freedom to organize, freedom of expression, and the protection of minorities;
- That the institute takes its point of departure in **democratic principles** rather than one particular political system consisting of particular institutions and processes;
- That the institute considers **political parties as key actors** in a parliamentary democracy, where parties are tasked with a number of key democratic responsibilities and interacting with e.g. the media and civil society;
- That all the activities and partnerships are firmly **grounded in a political analysis** of the environment and conditions determining the context of our work. This analysis also focuses on areas where Danish experiences can contribute in a qualified manner, in cooperation with and complementary to other Danish and international efforts, to strengthening democracy;
- The partnership should be seen as a **meeting of political cultures** with international partners, where common democratic challenges can be discussed on a basis of equality, including the need to strengthen volunteerism and popular participation in the work of political parties both in Denmark and abroad.

- That DIPD's commitment is formed on the basis of a partnership, characterised by long-term collaboration, principles of trust and credibility and with targets and results formulated through thorough analysis and dialogue.

STRATEGY FOR CHANGE

What is needed to promote democratic development and well-functioning democratic political parties, multi-party systems, and institutions? Each partnership is unique, and a strategy for change must be based on a thorough analysis as well as common objectives and a consensus on which methods to use in order to transform objectives into results.

DIPD's strategy for change takes as its point of departure that party systems must be strengthened, particularly the functions of political parties in relation to citizens and governance. Dialogue and cooperation between political parties, as well as those parties' communication with other actors, are crucial prerequisites for change. Both these areas require a thorough analysis of the system in which the political parties operate, e.g. electoral systems and the roles of other actors, as well as an analysis of the parties in relation to their capacity, resources, and commitment. Naturally, such an analysis must be a continuous and on-going process. There are two objectives and corresponding efforts that are crucial to democratic development.

1 Political parties' capacity to operate in a democratic manner so that they are both representative and accountable

Political parties are key actors in democratic societies. They serve as channels for the choices of the electorate and thus the ability for citizens to influence their national parliament and government. They ensure that the electorate can take a stance on different party platforms and keep politicians accountable. A strengthening of these **key democratic functions** in political parties results in a stronger democracy and helps ensure that more qualified candidates run for office. This may e.g. be facilitated through the participation of citizens in political work at the local level; more democratic processes for decision-making within the parties; increased inclusion of women and youth, and improvements in good governance through stronger mechanisms for accountability and transparency. The two crucial democratic functions of **representation and accountability** are particularly important.

2 Political dialogue and cooperation between parties in a multi-party system

In young democracies and countries characterized by deep internal divisions, **cooperation and dialogue** between the political parties contributes to a more balanced and

less conflict-ridden political environment. It also paves the way for reaching common solutions to difficult challenges. Cooperation and dialogue also results in a better understanding of political opponents and therefore also opportunities to reach settlements and joint reform measures aimed at improving the overall framework for the party system. Strengthening the internal democratic culture within the parties through the **exchange of experiences and good practices** is also important. These types of initiatives can also contribute towards democratic **legislation for and regulation of** the party system.

ACTION AREAS FOR 2018 - 2020

Relying on a combination of experience, expertise, needs, and resources, we will prioritize five action areas over the next three years. In all the initiatives that will take place during this period, DIPD will offer its expertise and experience through the Danish political parties, the DIPD secretariat, and a broad international network. This knowledge will be used in the projects to strengthen the parties' democratic functions as well as cross-party dialogue and cooperation.

1 DIPD will strengthen representation in the organization of political parties

→ We will work to strengthen our partners' ability to represent and involve members and politically interested citizens at the local level. **Women and youth representation** has been chosen as a focus area because we in Denmark have a lot of useful inspiration, experience, and expertise to offer in this regard and because we believe that women, young people, and dialogue are extremely important ingredients to the fostering of democracy. In addition, we will strengthen **local representation** in the parties' organizational structure in order to ensure broad influence. We will work with partners on concrete initiatives that make them better able to ensure that women, youth and locals are actively involved in the party's organization.

2 DIPD will strengthen the development of the parties' internal decision-making processes, how they develop policies, and how they communicate with the public and electorate

- We will work together with partners on establishing **internal procedures and policy development**, which implies that all important decisions should be adopted in a democratic, transparent manner, and enhance our partners' capacity to **communicate with the public and electorate**, who help keep the parties accountable.

3 DIPD will help strengthen political dialogue and cooperation between parties in a multi-party system

- We will work together with partners to **create and use platforms** to promote inter-party dialogue and communication between the parties and other political and non-political actors, and we will also help our partners work together to develop reform initiatives relating to the conduct of parties and party members, particularly in connection with elections.

4 DIPD will strengthen communication and knowledge sharing

- DIPD will actively **communicate** with politically interested groups and individuals in the Danish public. A communication strategy is being prepared in which DIPD will identify target groups and make sure to actively interact with these and provide them with relevant information.
- The **knowledge** that DIPD accumulates via its many contacts in connection with its promotion of democracy in selected countries must be collected and processed. Therefore, DIPD must seek out partnerships with universities and other knowledge institutions so that DIPD's unique knowledge and practical experiences are also used to contribute to regular research in this field.
- DIPD will systematically collect knowledge from projects and consolidate this into **methods** which can be used across projects.

5 DIPD will strengthen the organization of the Danish political parties' administrative resources, which will include developing a simple and uniform objective-to-result system

- DIPD will ease the **administrative work** in connection with party-to-party partnerships in the form of directly lending support to the parties. This includes continuing work with the development of a **single and simple objective-to-result system** which can be used to show whether the expected objectives and results are being reached. Among other things, this will require increased capacity for the development of a monitoring and evaluation system that supports the parties' work and ensures uniformity across DIPD's projects in rela-

tion to planning, reporting and evaluation. Additional resources are a prerequisite to ensuring that this effort is completed at a satisfactory level.

SELECTION OF PARTNERS AND COUNTRIES

In this strategy period, there will be a particular focus on creating synergies between party-to-party and multi-party partnerships. DIPD cannot be active everywhere at once and must therefore decide which developing and transition countries we will focus on as well as the partners with whom we work. We rely on several criteria in relation to our choice of partners and countries.

- Long-term collaborations with existing partners will take priority along with countries where the parties have the desire and resources to commit to further democratic development. These are projects and places where results have been achieved and contacts have been established, and it is therefore only natural to continue and further develop these collaborations with partners in countries where progress is being made. Significant results have been achieved in many countries including Malawi, Swaziland, East Africa, Bhutan, Nepal, and Myanmar.
- DIPD will prioritize countries and partners where it is possible to leverage Denmark's own experiences to establish interaction and synergies between party-to-party partnerships and multi-party partnerships.
- The Danish political parties' collaborations are also selected on the basis of the countries in which they can identify political parties that are suitable to work with.
- A number of Danish ambassadors posted in very different countries have requested that DIPD get involved in their specific country. These embassies have observed a need for support for democratization. DIPD's engagement in Nepal came about as a result of such a request. The engagement of a Danish embassy as well as the possibility of making a positive difference in that country is therefore also a factor that is considered when selecting partner countries. Additional resources will be required in order for DIPD to respond to these types of requests.
- The relationship between ambitions, resources, and results is considered very carefully when deciding on the number of countries and partners.

DISSEMINATION OF THE STRATEGY

Once the strategy has been adopted by the board, the secretariat will finalize the update in relation to the dissemination component. In addition to images, etc., the dissemination component will be comprised of three elements:

- **AN ILLUSTRATION** A graphic designer will work with the secretariat on preparing a visual depiction of DIPD which among other things will illustrate its unique relationship with the Danish Parliament.
- **A 'DIALOGUE'-BOX** See below.
- **CONCRETE EXAMPLES.** Interspersed throughout the strategy will be examples from the field (see below). The secretariat will carry out a final selection and editing of the examples so that they are not all from the same country, excessively long, etc.

Finally, the texts will be revised one last time for grammar, language errors, etc.

DEMOCRACY IS A DIALOGUE

Democracy is a dialogue. Denmark's experience as a cooperating democracy, where political parties from both sides of the aisle come together to make comprehensive agreements that survive changes of government and elections, is quite unique. It is a practice that requires dialogue and trust between parties that are generally on opposing sides. Dialogue is the key.

DIPD's work revolves around strengthening political dialogue abroad. This applies to the dialogue that takes place both within and between political parties. DIPD's work is also about ensuring that everyone can participate in this dialogue, including women, young people, and those who live in more remote areas of the country.

Political dialogue is under pressure in many places around the world. Democracy is under threat in several countries by established or emerging authoritarian regimes and by political or religious populists/extremists whose aim is to topple established institutions and do away with democracy and freedom. It has become harder to be a proponent of a traditional multi-party democracy. DIPD and its international work is even more crucial today than when the institution was first established.

EXAMPLES FROM THE PARTIES AND SECRETARIAT

Examples: All parties

1. The work with democratic parties in developing countries has been fruitful. All the parties from the Danish Parliament participating in the work have found good partners. For example, the Red-Green Alliance and Social Democratic Party have partners in Swaziland, Venstre and Liberal Alliance in Kenya, The Alternative in Nepal, the Socialist People's Party in Bolivia, and the Social Liberal Party and Conservative People's Party in Tanzania. Over the years, the Danish political parties have also formed trustful collaborations with one another. In Malawi, Venstre and the Socialist People's Party are working together to inspire the local parties to get involved in politics in a constructive way.
2. However, not all partnerships are successful. In Zimbabwe, for example, it has not been possible to facilitate a constructive dialogue between the three parties in the parliament despite several years of efforts. Similarly, in Tanzania a polarization of politics has been growing to the extent that it is even harder today for the parties to engage in dialogue that it was a decade ago. Danish political parties have also pulled out of collaborations in Egypt, Honduras and Ghana.

Examples: Multi-party collaborations

1. Multi-party collaborations are proving successful in countries such as Nepal, where parties that used to be in armed conflict with one another are now engaging in dialogue via a platform established by DIPD. The same type of dialogue platform was recently established in Myanmar, a young democracy that is struggling to take root after many decades of military rule.
2. Inspired by Denmark and Nepal, the five political parties of Bhutan with support from DIPD joined together in the Bhutan Democracy Dialogue – BDD – which has now committed to the Thimphu Declaration to work for 30% representation of women in the next parliamentary election.
3. In the preparation of the new constitution in Nepal, the DIPD-supported multi-party platform in Nepal facilitated multi-party dialogue that led to joint positions and recommendations on key constitutional issues and processes.

Example: The Socialist People's Party and Venstre

1. In Malawi, the 5 political parties (with representatives in parliament) chose to collaborate with Venstre and the Socialist People's Party on finding a way for the country's large generation of young people to actively and constructively participate in the parties' political work. Veteran senior politicians from the two Danish parties have met with Malawian party leaders, completing exercises together and preparing concrete plans aimed at involving young people and ensuring they have influence and responsibilities in the political parties. The

youth divisions of the two Danish parties have exchanged experiences directly with young Malawians during a visit to Denmark and two visits to Malawi. Several very different youth initiatives are now underway in all 5 parties.

Example: The Conservative People's Party

1. The Conservative People's Party's collaborative project with the party CHADEMA in Tanzania has been aimed at women and young people. During the 2015 parliamentary election, they succeeded in mobilizing more women and young people than in 2010. 19% of the candidates in the constituencies were women, and the proportion of those elected who were women rose from 4% to 18%. Because a proportion of seats are already reserved for women, there are now more women than men in CHADEMA's parliamentary group. The proportion of young people also increased, with 10% of the parliamentary group now being individuals under the age of 30.

Examples: The Social Democratic Party

1. In the Social Democratic Party's partnership with SocDem Asia, participatory processes from the development of the party's new manifesto has formed the basis for sharing experiences. The Social Democratic Party's new manifesto, also called "Denmark's biggest political dialogue", has been the source of inspiration for similar processes relating to policy development in Myanmar, the Philippines, and Nepal, where the focus has been on inclusive development of social democratic policies at a national level.
2. The Social Democratic Party also has an on-going collaboration with SWADEPA in Swaziland which has over time managed to eliminate the pervasive belief that political parties are banned in the country. In practice, this has entailed parliamentarians presenting themselves before the king and public as SWADEPA members, and representatives from the police stating publicly in 2015 that the SWADEPA party is not an illegal political organization.

Examples: Venstre

1. For four years now, Venstre's Danish Liberal Democracy Programme (DLDP) has had a collaboration with the National Restoration Party in Zambia, a small and ambitious opposition party. The collaboration has included organizational development, policy development, and increasing the influence of young people and women in the party. This has led to positive results on many fronts. For example, NAREP is essentially the only party in Zambia which is nurturing its internal democracy and which has held a party congress in recent times. However, it is not easy being an opposition party in the Zambian electoral system. Project support for NAREP will be phased out in 2017.
2. In Kenya, DLDP is working together with the Centre for Multiparty Democracy (CMD), an umbrella organization for political parties in Kenya. The partnership has been ongoing since 2011. In the beginning, the aim was partly to ensure

that young people from opposing parties could be in the same room and develop youth policy together and partly to inspire the Kenyan political parties in terms of how to communicate better. Over the past three years, the project has primarily come to revolve around policy development, i.e. what the parties are communicating rather than how they communicate. In a country where ethnicity is indubitably the most important factor in politics, it is a major and very important challenge to work towards making politics be about politics rather than other issues. Thanks to the DLDP project, many young politicians in Kenya are making a dedicated effort to focus on attitudes and solutions rather than what region people are from or which ethnic group they belong to. This has also been apparent during the primaries ahead of the August 2017 election. CMD appreciates collaborating directly with a political party that can help directly inspire Kenyan political parties.

Example: The Alternative

1. In Nepal, The Alternative is collaborating with a newly established party in a knowledge-sharing project focused on communication and dissemination. Democratic pillars such as transparency, inclusion, and co-creation are prerequisites to a vibrant democracy and at the very heart of The Alternative's political work. That is why The Alternative is supporting the Nepalese party with disseminating these values in versatile ways based on the former's own experiences with establishing a new party and communicating with the public.

Example: The Socialist People's Party

1. Since 2011, the Socialist People's Party partnership with the socialist party MAS in Bolivia has influenced how conflicts are handled within the party and with other political actors. The Socialist People's Party has shared experiences relating to how democratic organs and a trained conflict management team can improve the political climate. A team consisting of 26 conflict mediators has been trained to mediate and manage conflicts within the party and to themselves deliver training in local communities so that more people are equipped with the tools to manage future conflicts. More than 700 party members in leadership positions and over 50 members of parliament have participated in this training, where they have acquired concrete tools to approach conflicts in a constructive manner such as learning to listen.

Example: Red-Green Alliance

Example: The Social Liberal Party

Example: Liberal Alliance

