

ANNEX

Economic and security dividends from democracy support: Examples from International IDEA's work

Across diverse contexts, International IDEA's work demonstrates that democratic governance is a cost-effective investment in security, stability, prosperity and sustainable development. With lean structures, low overheads and a combination of local, regional and global expertise, IDEA helps strengthen the institutions that prevent conflict, combat corruption, enable governments to deliver for citizens and address the root causes of instability.

IDEA's comparative advantage lies in its ability to connect local, regional and global action. Working with governments, electoral authorities, parliaments, civil society, regional organizations and multilateral institutions, IDEA combines research, technical assistance, convening, advocacy and coalition-building to address governance challenges from multiple angles. While rooted in traditional democracy support, IDEA increasingly works at the nexus of democracy, security and economic development, helping build the resilience, accountability and institutional capacity that underpin long-term stability and prosperity.

For Norway, support to IDEA is a strategic investment in the institutions, partnerships and rules-based international order that underpin security, prosperity and effective development cooperation. Core funding enables IDEA's global knowledge, convening power, multilateral engagement and rapid response capacity, while project funding delivers targeted support at country and regional levels. Together, they create a mutually reinforcing model that advances Norway's development, security and foreign policy objectives. The examples below illustrate how this approach delivers tangible results in practice.

In **Ukraine**, International IDEA supports preparations for post-war elections, including secure and inclusive out-of-country voting for more than 1.5 million displaced voters, while strengthening electoral risk management, cybersecurity and resilience to information warfare. This work helps Ukraine sustain democratic resilience during the war and prepares the foundations for credible elections, national recovery and European integration in the post-war period. In what will surely be an extraordinarily important moment, there is no room for Ukrainian elections to fail or be called into question. For Norway, supporting Ukraine's democratic resilience is an investment in a stable, secure and democratic Europe, reducing the risk of future instability on NATO's borders.

Moldova and **Armenia** illustrate how democracy support can serve as security infrastructure in countries facing external pressure and foreign interference. Ahead of Moldova's 2025 parliamentary elections and Armenia's 2026 parliamentary elections, International IDEA supported electoral authorities to strengthen electoral risk management, oversight of online campaigning, social media monitoring, voter information and resilience

against disinformation, hybrid threats and foreign interference, including Russian-linked influence operations. By helping democratic institutions protect the integrity of electoral processes and maintain public trust, IDEA contributed to strengthening democratic resilience and safeguarding both countries' democratic trajectories. For Norway, supporting such resilience in Europe's wider neighbourhood is a cost-effective investment in regional stability, helping to limit malign external influence, strengthen the security environment on NATO's eastern periphery and reinforce long-term European and transatlantic security.

International IDEA's work in **Africa** demonstrates how – by combining support to governance reforms, anti-corruption efforts, civic participation, social inclusion, conflict mediation and policy dialogue, IDEA helps countries build more resilient institutions capable of delivering both development and security outcomes.

In **Nigeria**, IDEA has supported anti-corruption, financial integrity and rule-of-law reforms that contributed to the country's removal from the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) grey list, restoring confidence in the financial system and improving access to international markets. IDEA also supported reforms to strengthen social protection systems and civic participation, helping improve the effectiveness and accountability of public institutions.

In **The Gambia** in 2021, International IDEA played a critical role in helping to avert electoral violence during the highly contested presidential election following the end of Yahya Jammeh's dictatorship. Working with political parties, civil society, faith leaders, traditional authorities and the media, IDEA facilitated the development and implementation of a Presidential Code of Conduct that committed candidates to peaceful, inclusive and fair electoral competition. Despite heightened tensions and fears of violence, candidates largely respected the process, accepted the results and contributed to a peaceful transfer of power. This demonstrated how IDEA's convening power and expertise can play a key role in reducing conflict risks, strengthen democratic resilience and advance Norway's priorities of peace, stability and inclusive governance in fragile contexts.

In **Latin America**, IDEA generates evidence, identifies effective responses and convenes dialogue on the governance impacts of organized crime, violence, inequality and citizen insecurity. By helping countries address these challenges through stronger democratic governance and institutional accountability, IDEA contributes to more stable conditions for development, trade and investment. For Norway, this is a cost-effective investment in stronger economic partners, more resilient markets and reduced instability in a region of growing geopolitical and economic importance.

International IDEA's engagement in **multilateral processes** through its Permanent Observer status at the UN demonstrates the value of combining country-level and regional experience with global norm-setting and policy influence. The ability to connect local, regional and multilateral action is a core part of IDEA's comparative advantage and impact.

For example, IDEA played a key role in advancing the first-ever UN resolution on political finance transparency and integrity under the Convention against Corruption, strengthening global anti-corruption standards and reducing opportunities for illicit influence in politics. The [11th Conference of State Parties \(CoSP\) to the UN Convention Against Corruption \(UNCAC\)](#), adopted resolution 11/7 on [Preventing and combating corruption through enhancing transparency in the funding of political parties, candidatures for elected public office, and electoral campaigns](#) by consensus. The resolution, tabled by [Albania](#), [Ghana](#), [Mongolia](#), and [Norway](#) and co-sponsored by [nearly 60 countries](#), represents a historic milestone, as the first resolution and the most comprehensive set of global standards on this topic. The advice from International IDEA experts directly supported Norway in its leadership of advancing this resolution, a major milestone in global anti-corruption and democracy-strengthening efforts and will usher in a new era of reform opportunities.

These efforts illustrate how relatively modest core investments can generate impact far beyond individual projects. By linking country-level reforms with regional cooperation and multilateral norm-setting, IDEA helps strengthen the institutions, standards and partnerships that underpin prosperity, sustainable development and the rules-based international order. At a time when that order faces growing pressure from geopolitical competition, corruption and authoritarian influence, this work directly advances Norway's interest in a more stable, predictable and cooperative international system.

The **Global Democracy Coalition (GDC)**, whose Secretariat is hosted by International IDEA, is a practical example of the cost-effective, networked and multi-stakeholder approach advocated by Vendepunkt. Convened by IDEA, the Coalition brings together more than 180 civil society organizations, think tanks, foundations, democracy practitioners, governments and multilateral actors from across all regions, providing one of the few remaining global spaces where democratic actors can collaborate at a time when the democracy ecosystem faces shrinking resources, growing authoritarian pressure and increasing fragmentation. The GDC creates opportunities for civil society to engage directly with governments and multilateral institutions, while providing governments with access to local expertise, innovation and citizen perspectives. A concrete outcome from the GDC was its success in providing a platform for civil society to engage in the Summits for Democracy, ensuring that democratic activists and organizations could have their voice heard in the governmental process. More recently in 2025, emergency grants mobilized through the Coalition helped vulnerable democracy organizations in the Global South survive massive aid cuts, preserving critical capacity and support for democratic actors during a period of acute uncertainty.

For Norway, support to the GDC is a highly efficient investment with significant multiplier effects. Rather than supporting individual organizations in isolation, it strengthens an entire global ecosystem of democratic actors, extends the reach and impact of Norwegian support, and reinforces the partnerships, knowledge networks and rules-based international order that underpin long-term peace, prosperity and security.