



Thematic Roundtable 5
International Engagement to Advance
Democratic Governance and Development

I. A number of prerequisites would have to be in place to create an environment conducive to democratic development and on-going democratic governance

- Different contexts and histories, and starting point in terms of levels of achieved development and democratic governance (poor countries, pre-transition from conflict, post conflict, challenged democracies, and mature democracies)
- Mutual respect should be the starting point, with benchmarking to measure progress, but support to those not meeting the benchmarks
- Need to balance between service delivery and individual freedoms, as poverty is a key risk to sustainable democracy.

II. Key institution necessary for successful democratic development

- Independent judiciary and media are key institutions to be supported (including the need to shift perception about authority and to build trust in the systems of justice)
- Institutions for conflict management (across groups, and a cross generations) are particularly necessary , and if absent there is need to create them
- Decision-making institutions, particularly around resource allocation, are essential for democratic outcomes in development. These institutions need to be made participatory and accountable
- Emerging and nascent institutions need to be supported, particularly in countries that are far from adopting democratic reforms

III. Role of key institutions in maintaining democratic governance

- Provide incentives for reform particularly in voice and accountability (freedom of the press, poverty strategy development)

- Direct support for capacity to engage in policy debates (support to parliaments, MCC compact development)
- Support to political parties and media institutions (example: Malian and Ghanaian experience in financing political parties and the media)
- Build capacity of NGOs and civil society organizations
- Support to nascent institutions that come from domestic and local demand for reforms
- Seek better balance between accountability to citizens and accountability to donors

IV. How should these institutions be supported and by whom?

- Direct financial support from multilateral and bilateral agencies to those achieving democratic reforms through positive incentives (such as used by the MCC on Voice and Accountability)
- Indirect support through technical assistance and assistance such as through the PRSP process of the World Bank and IMF
- Support to intermediate processes and institutions such as APRM and EITI
- Advocacy and research on causality and the link between democracy and development

V. Role for CD

- Evolve criteria for benchmarking democracies and a common set of objectives to be pursued in support of democratic reforms
- Support nascent democracies, and provide guidance and capacity development on service delivery and delivery of individual freedoms
- Provide a space for dialogue and discourse on democracy and democratic governance
- Share practices amongst members and non-members (Example: Handbook for Diplomats for Democracy and Development Support)
- Act as common voice on values of democratic governance in areas related to human rights declarations and laws
- Provide direct finance from one member country of the Community of Democracies to another to support democratic and development outcomes
- Aid countries that are not yet members to achieve membership in the Community of Democracies (Special role for the new CD Secretariat to consider)
- Establish criteria for the use of CD Fund and the use of other multilateral and bilateral support for democratic governance reforms

- Support through visiting missions of members of the Community of Democracies, the advancement of specific issues in participating countries, including support for government to government learning