



IFES Quarterly Report: January 1 – March 31, 2005

Global Electoral Standards

USAID Cooperative Agreement No. DGC-A-00-01-00004-00

Project Period: October 1, 2003 – December 31, 2005 (as approved 3/31/2005)

Total Budget: \$85,000 Expenses Recorded to Date: \$57,117

Background

The Global Electoral Standards project will develop a *Standards Framework* for the following topical areas: political finance, delimitation, internet, election technology, and external and absentee voting. These five *Framework* documents will examine the issues of standards for these topics from the perspective of human rights conventions and will reflect discussions on standards that are included in regional initiatives such as those by the Association of Central and eastern European Election Officials (ACEEEO), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Southern African Development Community, and the Council of Europe. These *Framework* documents will be part of the standards project that is being undertaken by NDI, TCC, and UN-EAD and included with their activities where appropriate.

In order to receive comments from election administration practitioners, the *Frameworks* will be discussed with EMBs through the regional associations of election officials. After comments have been received from EMBs, the Challenge project will develop five assistance packages to support EMBs in their administration of these new responsibilities under the standards frameworks.

Activities

The distribution of the standards papers is currently in process. IFES is distributing the papers for comment to members of individual EMBs, regional election associations, functional associations such as COGEL and IACREOT, and is also posting the papers on IFES' website for comments from those interested in the various issues touched on by the papers.

Activities Planned for Next Quarter

IFES will begin revising the standards papers based on comments received from those who review these papers. These papers will be compiled in one volume and distributed to USAID and others interested in the standards covered by this project. IFES will also work toward incorporating the papers or elements of the papers into the revised Administration and Cost of Elections (ACE) website.