

DIPD ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022

PARTNERSHIPS FOR DEMOCRATIC CHANGE

DIPD

DANISH INSTITUTE FOR
PARTIES AND DEMOCRACY

DIPD Annual report 2021-2022

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Front Page: The illustration depicts the then UNDP Director of Gender and currently Executive Director of UNAIDS, Winnie Byanyima at DIPD's conference "Women in Politics" 2012.

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FOREWORD

REVIVING GLOBAL DEMOCRACY

2021 and 2022 have been years of new beginnings. Eleven years after a broad coalition of parties in the Danish parliament decided to establish the Danish Institute for Parties and Democracy in recognition of the need to support the development of democracies globally, the decision has proven even more timely than predicted. After years of optimism and democratic blossoming, the iron fist of autocracy is now prevailing again.

A wave of coup d'états has brought new uncertainty to the Sahel, which was already struggling to manage the growing implications of climate change, terrorism, and migration. The military also retook power in Myanmar and threw the careful progress towards multiparty democracy aside to wage war on its own population. A staggering 70% of the world population now live in autocracies.

From a European perspective, these events proved to be a prelude to the re-emergence of war on European soil. As Putin ordered the invasion of neighbouring Ukraine on the 24th of February 2021, he also pushed aside 30 years of post-USSR diplomacy. The invasion catalysed immediate solidarity from the West to Ukraine, and a hard line has since been drawn between those who actively oppose Putin's aggression and those who do not. Looking beyond the EU's borders, this line begins to blur, and for the first time

since the fall of the Berlin Wall, the talk of a new world order is now predominant.

This worrying trend is forcing Western governments to reshape their foreign and security policies. Similarly, DIPD started 2021 by launching its new five-year strategy. While building on the experiences of the past ten years and the strong collaboration with the parties in the Danish parliament, the strategy also sets a new course for the institute and its partnerships.

Recognising the widespread rise of autocracy and the representation crisis political parties are faced with across the globe, DIPD's new strategy aims to address key challenges in safeguarding and supporting democratic political parties and multiparty democracies. Together with the political parties in the Danish Parliament, DIPD is standing up for democracy and offering 150 years of experience in building democratic political parties and a resilient democratic culture characterised by dialogue, collaboration, and healthy competition.

Using the new strategy as a platform, a number of new partnerships were initiated during 2021-2022, while new collaborations in old partner countries are taking shape. With partnerships in 19 countries and new initiatives on the way, DIPD is determined to continue countering the democratic decline.




Lisbeth Pilegaard,
Executive Director




Kasper Sand Kjær,
Chair of the Board

FOREWORD BY SPEAKER OF THE DANISH PARLIAMENT

In 2010, the Danish Parliament took a forward-looking decision to set up the Danish Institute for Parties and Democracy (DIPD). According to the Act on DIPD, the institute's purpose is to strengthen Danish support for democracies in general and establish political parties and multiparty systems in developing countries in particular. DIPD has long proved its worth as a bridge-building organisation.

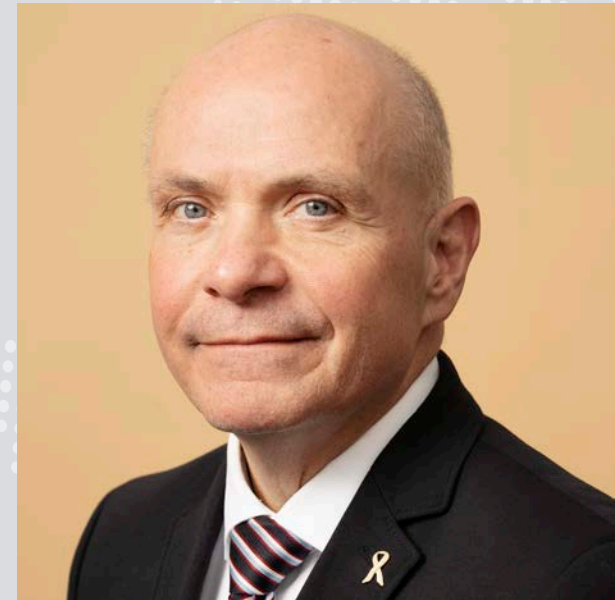
There is indeed – more than ever – a need for an organisation like DIPD that works on a cross-party basis for universal values such as democracy, freedom, prosperity, equality, and peace. The number of people living in liberal democracies is decreasing.

Many political parties in Denmark have close ties with their sister organisations around the world. They do a fine job in their own right. However, an organisation like DIPD reaching out and helping to build democratic institutions undoubtedly adds an additional dimension.

For more than 12 years, DIPD and the Danish political parties have collaborated with political parties, local authorities, and other organisations in 25 countries in Africa, the Middle East, Asia, Latin America, and Eastern Europe.

Assistance is provided with due regard for the culture and history of the individual countries in which DIPD operates. Partnership with local resources is a cornerstone of DIPD's work. In my view, this is the best approach. You achieve very little by giving lectures. There is hardly any activity more meaningful than helping emerging democracies blossom.

Søren Gade
Speaker of the Danish Parliament





EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2021 – 2022, DIPD began bringing the 2021– 2025 strategy to life in collaboration with the Danish political parties and partners across the globe. These 18 months have been used to build on already well-established partnerships and to create new alliances in Denmark and abroad.

While longstanding partnerships in countries such as Bhutan, Burkina Faso, and Ghana have gradually been phased out, new collaborations have sprouted in the Western Balkans, Asia, and Denmark. DIPD also began developing new multiparty collaborations, which have always been an integral part of the institute's work. While the multiparty partnerships in Bhutan have been concluded after more than ten years of col-

laboration, new collaborations between coalitions of Danish political parties and partners in Kenya, Nepal, and beyond are taking shape.

The report provides an overview of these developments, offering introductions to all partnerships and several personal stories from people who stand for democracy in the 19 countries where DIPD engages.



LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ACTORS

DANISH POLITICAL PARTIES

C	CPP	Conservative People's Party
DLDP V	DLDP/ DLP	Danish Liberal Democracy Programme/The Liberal Party
SF	GL	Green Left
Ø	RGA	Red-Green Alliance
A	SDP	Social Democratic Party
B	SLP	Social Liberal Party

INTERNATIONAL ACTORS

AMS-OSC	Articulacion de Movimientos Sociales y Organizaciones de la Sociedad Civil (Nicaragua)
ASOCAM	Asociación Regional Campesina (Colombia)
BCMD	Bhutan Center for Media and Democracy
BDD	Bhutan Democratic Dialogue
BiEPAG	Balkans in Europe Policy Advisory Group
BNEW	Bhutan Network Empowering Women
BWPC	Bhutan Women Parliamentary Caucus
CDIP-BF	Inter-Party Dialogue Framework of Burkina Faso

CDD	Center for Democratic Governance (Ghana)
CHADEMA	The Party for Democracy and Progress (Tanzania)
CMD-K	Centre for Multiparty Democracy – Kenya
CGD	Centre for Democratic Governance (Burkina Faso)
CPN	Communist Party of Nepal
DA	Democratic Alliance (South Africa)
DOM	Democratic Renewal of Macedonia
EECMD	Eastern European Centre for Multiparty Democracy
EPD	European Partnership for Democracy
HDP	People's Democratic Party (Turkey)
IDEG	Institute for Democratic Governance (Ghana)
IMC	Inter-party Mechanism for Cooperation (Nepal) (Formerly JOMPOS)
JOMPOS	Joint Mechanism for Political Party Strengthening (Nepal)
LDP	Liberal Party of Macedonia
MAPA	Marcha Patriótica (Colombia)
NIMD	The Netherland's Institute for Multiparty Democracy
NLD	National League for Democracy (Myanmar)

SDPC	SocDem Asia Parliamentarians' Caucus
SWADEPA	Swazi Democratic Party (Eswatini)
UNAMOS	Unión Democrática Renovadora (Nicaragua)
URA	United Reform Action (Montenegro)
USDP	Union Solidarity and Development Party (Myanmar)
WFD	Westminster Foundation for Democracy
YfIG	The Youth for Inclusive Governance (Ghana)

OTHER ACTORS & ACRONYMS

SDG's	Sustainable Development Goals
CSO	Civil Society Organisations
ECB	Electoral Commission of Bhutan
ENoP	European Network of Political Foundations
MP	Member of Parliament
SAC	State Administrative Council (Myanmar)
PDF	People Dialogue Festival (Kenya)
PPP	Political Party Peer Network
V.Dem	Varieties of Democracy Institute

STRATEGIC FOCUS



STRATEGIC FOCUS

In 2021, DIPD established and implemented a new strategic approach based on a decade's worth of experience. According to the annual democracy reports (2020 – 2023) by the Varieties of Democracy Institute (V-Dem), democracy is declining at an unprecedented speed. The starting point for DIPD's strategy is therefore DIPD's understanding of the global state of democracy and how the Danish political parties can play a role in the support and development of democracies. To illustrate the work, DIPD developed a theory of change that visualises the journey DIPD, and partners need to take to reach its goals.

The core of the strategy is DIPD's partnership approach. Consequently, DIPD programmes consist of long-term partnerships between Danish political parties, political parties, civil society actors, or other relevant stakeholders in 19 countries. The partnerships are built to generate change within democratic parties and to ensure that all groups in the societies are heard and offered a seat at the table. DIPD puts particular focus on women's and young people's participation, as both groups are typically systematically underrepresented when decisions are made, leaving more than half of the population excluded from political decision-making. DIPD wishes to contribute to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which the political parties have a special role

and responsibility towards. DIPD and the political parties work towards the SDGs to leave no one behind and promote economic, social, political, and environmental sustainability.

To ensure DIPD's strategy remains dynamic and responsive to a changing world, DIPD must have the courage to renew its work accordingly. Therefore, DIPD strives to have a continuous focus on knowledge and learning. Lessons from partnerships, global trends, and academic insights on democracy guide DIPD's efforts.

VISION

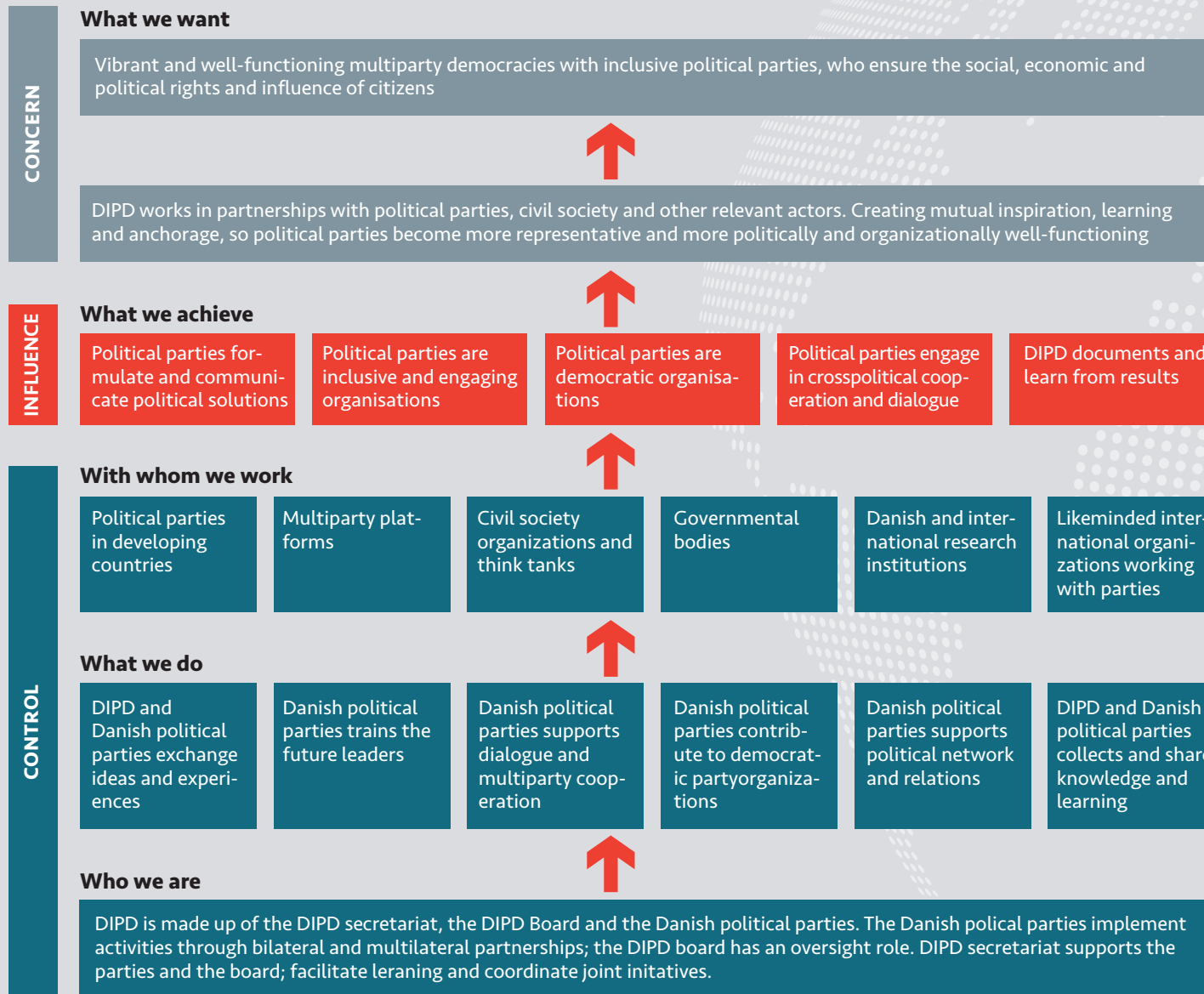
DIPD's vision is to have strong and well-functioning multiparty democracies with representative parties, ensuring the social, economic and political rights and influence of all people.

MISSION

DIPD works in developing countries through partnerships with political parties, civil society and other relevant players. Our work generates mutual inspiration, learning and change so that political parties become more inclusive and more politically and organizationally efficient.



THEORY OF CHANGE



Why we can

Well-functioning and democratic political parties are a prerequisite for the development of well-functioning, representative multiparty democracies. Democratic political parties are the best guarantee for freedom, prosperity, stability, equality and peace.

Our partners and collaborative actors are willing and able to interact to promote and protect representation and political and organisational well-functioning political parties.

DIPD works through long-term equal partnerships. The political parties contribute to partnerships with knowledge, experience and resources. The purpose of the partnerships are formulated jointly with respect for the independence and context of the partner organisations.

The precondition for a successful implementation is the joint development of frameworks, systems and guidelines for the partnerships.

DIPD supports strategic planning, learning and analysis. DIPD contribute to national and international knowledge sharing and research into democratisation and the role of political parties. DIPD will incorporate and communicate knowledge at all levels to strengthen the work in the partnerships.

MONITORING, EVALUATION, AND LEARNING - INTRODUCING OUTCOME HARVESTING



To support the path for long-term democratic development, DIPD and the Danish political parties introduced Outcome Harvesting in the evaluation and documentation processes. Outcome Harvesting was chosen because it is designed to measure *change* rather than *activities*. It is especially useful in complex contexts where societal changes like democratic development or the influence of women in a political party is the goal rather than the number of women in politics or the number of activities done in the partnership. As such, the outcome harvesting approach embraces the dynamic nature of policy work and democratic development, acknowledging the fact that multiple actors often contribute towards the same outcome and that outcomes can be unpredictable and not always progressive by nature.

Outcome Harvesting is aligned with the use of a theory of change and is adaptable to different contexts and methods. Supporting the political parties' partnerships, DIPD has developed a handbook on the use of Outcome Harvesting.

GLOBAL OVERVIEW OF PARTNERSHIPS



⇒ NICARAGUA Ø

⇒ COLOMBIA Ø

A Social Democratic Party

B Social Liberal Party

C Conservative People's Party

SF Green Left

DLDP
V DLDP/ The Liberal Party

Ø Red-Green Alliance



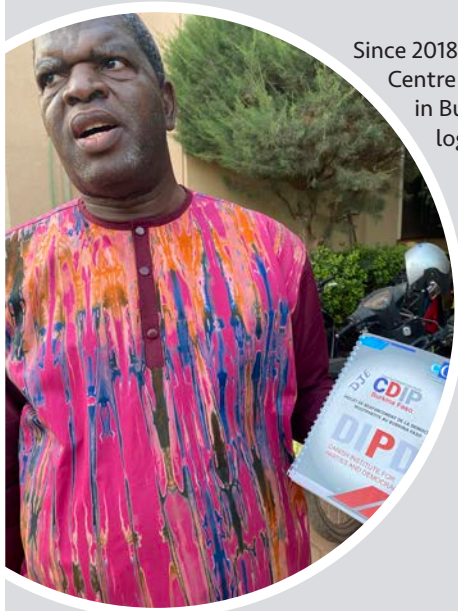


EVENTS AFFECTING PARTNERSHIPS

**BURKINA FASO:
DOUBLE COUP D'ÉTAT LEAVES DEMOCRACY
OUT OF ACTION**

The situation in Burkina Faso has been complex and highly volatile, with two military coups within a year. Following extensive public protests, the democratically elected president, Roch Marc Kaboré, was deposed in January 2022. The military cited the government's lack of funding in the fight against extremists as a justification for their intervention. The public's resentment towards the government's cooperation with France, the former colonial power, also played a role. The new military regime pledged to restore democracy within three years and implemented martial law in several regions. However, in September 2022, the initial regime was overthrown by another military faction, which was dissatisfied with the first faction's lack of progress in stopping extremist attacks and the nation's continued cooperation with France. This new administration has not indicated when democratic elections will resume.

Since 2018, DIPD has collaborated with the Centre for Democratic Governance (CGD) in Burkina Faso to promote dialogue between political parties.



**COLOMBIA:
ELECTIONS OFFER POSITIVE
FORECAST FOR PEACE**

In June 2022, Colombia held its second presidential election since the implementation of the 2016 peace agreement, which ended a decade-long conflict. The election marked a turning point as Gustavo Petro, the left-wing candidate, defeated the centre-right candidate, Rodolfo Hernández, and became the first elected left-wing president in the country's history. Despite an uptick in political violence leading up to the election, the candidates were largely able to campaign freely, and the election was regarded as fair and transparent. The continuation of the 2016 peace agreement's implementation was backed by both Petro and Hernández, which is a significant victory for the peace agreement's long-term stability plan. The Red-Green Alliance sent a delegation to assist in the monitoring of the parliamentary election. Additionally, The Red-Green Alliance was accredited as an observer and took part in the first and second rounds of the presidential election as election observers in cooperation with the Alliance for Global Justice.

**KENYA:
GENERAL ELECTION INCREASES
SEATS HELD BY WOMEN**

Voters headed to the polls as Kenya held elections in August 2022. The general election encompassed both the presidency and all parliamentary seats. William Ruto, the former deputy president, was declared the winner. The opposition candidate, Raila Odinga, officially petitioned against the outcome of the election, which was later rejected by the Supreme Court. In the election, Kenya increased the number of women elected to parliament from 75 to 81 MPs. This rise is part of the work done over the past 20 years, where seats held by women have increased from 7% in 2003 to 23% in 2022.





**NEPAL:
GENERAL ELECTION
RESULTS IN A HUNG PARLIAMENT**

In November 2022, Nepal's general election resulted in a hung parliament. The previous parliament was characterised by volatility, numerous dissolutions, and internal conflicts within the Communist Party of Nepal (CPN). After the election, the social democratic Nepalese Congress Party became the dominant political force. Pushpa Kamal Dahal of the Communist Party of Nepal became prime minister after the Maoist Centre, Unified Socialist, and other small parties joined forces. The election also saw a notable rise in the number of young politicians (politicians under the age of 30) who managed to secure eight seats in the House of Representatives. DIPD has worked consciously in Nepal on increasing youth participation in the political process. The partnership took place through a multi-party platform with Nepalese parties and has emphasised the engagement of youth in politics.

**THE PHILIPPINES:
GENERAL ELECTION PUTS DEMOCRACY AT RISK**

A general election was held in the Philippines in May 2022. A coalition led by Sara Duterte, daughter of the former president, Rodrigo Duterte, and Ferdinand Marco Jr., the son of the former dictator Ferdinand Marcos, won the election. They ran for the positions of Vice President and President, respectively. Under President Rodrigo Duterte, democracy in the Philippines declined, and the opposition is deeply concerned that this trend will continue under the new administration. The elections, according to independent election observers, were held in the most regressive atmosphere since the fall of the Marcos dictatorship in 1986. Vote-buying, political violence, and misinformation campaigns were rampant during the election period. The Danish Social Democratic Party supported its Philippine partner, Akbayan, in establishing a new political strategy to advance democracy and human rights as well as a communication strategy to counteract the widespread transmission of fake news and disinformation.




**SOUTH AFRICA:
UNCERTAINTY PRIOR TO LOCAL ELECTIONS**

In November 2021, local elections were held in South Africa. The Moseneke report from July 2021, published by the Electoral Commission of South Africa, discussed the prospect of postponing the municipal elections to 2022 because of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, such a delay was deemed unconstitutional. The Danish Liberal Democracy Programme's partner, the Democratic Alliance, which is the largest opposition party in South Africa, voiced their concern that it was difficult to plan for the election due to the uncertainty of the dates. However, at the elections, the Democratic Alliance increased the number of municipalities in which they hold political power to 35 municipalities.



HOW AND WHERE DO WE WORK?

A photograph of a crowd of people at a protest. In the foreground, a person holds a large sign made of three pieces of cardboard. The sign has the text 'FIGHT TODAY FOR A BETTER TOMORROW' written on it. 'FIGHT TODAY' and 'TOMORROW' are in large, bold, black block letters. 'FOR A' is in smaller black block letters, and 'BETTER' is in a red, cursive script. The background is blurred, showing other people and greenery.

FIGHT TODAY
FOR A BETTER
TOMORROW

THE STRATEGIC GOALS OF DIPD

GOAL NO. 1

POLITICAL PARTIES FORMULATE AND COMMUNICATE POLITICAL SOLUTIONS

DIPD will work to ensure that political parties in developing countries formulate political solutions to significant challenges and that they communicate their policies and engage in dialogue with citizens. Formulating political solutions to significant social challenges is a core task for political parties, and DIPD will strengthen their capacity to develop relevant policies and support equitable political dialogues.

GOAL NO. 2

POLITICAL PARTIES ARE INCLUSIVE AND ENGAGING ORGANISATIONS

DIPD will work for more inclusive and engaging political parties. Engaging citizens and securing political influence is a core task for political parties, and DIPD supports democratic representation through political parties. This is done, among other ways, by working determinedly with gender equality and young people in politics, as well as ethnic and geographical representation.

GOAL NO. 3

POLITICAL PARTIES ARE DEMOCRATIC ORGANISATIONS

DIPD will work to ensure that political parties in developing countries are well-organised, transparent, and internally democratic, fostering inclusive and active member participation at the local and national levels. Political parties being well-functioning organisations is a prerequisite for members to be able to involve themselves and gain influence, and for the organisations not to become personality-driven and opaque.

GOAL NO. 4

POLITICAL PARTIES ENGAGE IN CROSS-PO- LITICAL COOPERATION AND DIALOGUE

DIPD will work to promote cross-party cooperation and dialogue between political parties in developing countries and between these parties and Danish parliamentary parties in order to contribute to well-functioning multiparty democracies. Through cross-party cooperation, DIPD will support, for example, constitutional and decentralisation processes as well as a larger emphasis on gender equality and youth policies.

GOAL NO. 5

DIPD WILL LEARN FROM AND DOCUMENT OUR RESULTS

In support of the first four goals, DIPD will base our work on learning, relevant knowledge, and research. We will systematically document and communicate our results, facilitate cross-party learning and support the exchange of experience across partnerships with our international partners.

HOW AND WHERE DO WE WORK?

Currently, six Danish political parties have formulated framework agreements with DIPD, working in a total of 19 countries across four continents. It is in these framework agreements that the strategy comes to life through the Political parties' partnerships.

An example of how strategic goal number one is implemented is in the partnership between the Social Democratic Party and SocDem Asia, which focuses on enhancing the capacities of their member parties to promote the Sustainable Development Goals. Another example is the Red-Green Alliance, which hosted pro-democratic workshops with their partner from Nicaragua to formulate political solutions.

As with all strategies, the goals tend to overlap, and DIPD's partnerships will naturally touch upon more than one goal at a time. Several examples focus on the role of youth and women in politics, which are important parts of DIPD's strategic goal number two and an integrated part of the SDGs. As shown in the partner-

ship between the Green Left and United Reform Action in Montenegro, the partnership has several integrated focal areas: to strengthen its youth wing (goal number two), a strong policy formulation component (goal number one), and the partnership supports the party to become more inclusive (goal number three). A good example of goal number four is the multiparty partnership in Kenya focusing on including the SDGs in party manifestos in local politics.

Strategic goal number five about learning and knowledge is in everything DIPD does, from its theory of change to the methodological focus of Outcome Harvesting. It is in the way the political parties work in partnerships with likeminded political parties and movements, and it is integrated in DIPD's work with engagement and communication.

In the following sections, all the partnerships will be presented chronically starting with DIPD's representation in Myanmar and Nepal.

DIPD IN MYANMAR AND NEPAL



MYANMAR

DIPD

DIPD Myanmar



DIPD has been present in Myanmar for more than a decade, working on its democratic development. A vital lesson drawn from DIPD Myanmar’s experience was the necessity for agility in the rapidly shifting political landscape. The military takeover in February 2021 significantly disrupted partnerships that DIPD Myanmar had cultivated over the previous decade, particularly with political parties such as the Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) and the National League for Democracy (NLD). The polarisation of political parties along pro-democracy and pro-military lines further complicated DIPD’s efforts to promote inclusive multiparty dialogue. In order to maintain relevance, DIPD Myanmar adapted its operational methods to accommodate the evolving realities on the ground. This adjustment included ex-

panding its scope of engagement to include CSOs and grassroots movements, recognising their integral role in shaping the country’s trajectory.

Maintaining a strong in-country presence was another critical lesson. Despite very challenging circumstances, DIPD Myanmar chose to continue operations within the country, adjusting its business model to safeguard its team and partners. Stakeholders greatly appreciated this choice because it showed DIPD’s dedication to supporting Myanmar’s democracy movement in its time of need. DIPD Myanmar, by staying in the country, not only solidified its position as a trusted partner but also stood out as one of the few organisations that advocated for multiparty and multistakeholder dialogues, despite the pushbacks and risks involved.

In 2021– 2022, DIPD Myanmar worked through DIPD funding and implemented two externally funded projects: “Strengthening Governance Reforms in Myanmar (SPACE)”, funded by the Danish Embassy in Yangon, and “Promoting Peaceful Myanmar through Culture of Dialogue”, funded by the European Union. These initiatives aimed to support democratic processes, encourage dialogue, and enhance capacity among political parties and CSOs in Myanmar. In response to the political and security climate, DIPD Myanmar carefully selected and forged partnerships with over 23 pro-democracy political parties and CSOs in Myanmar. This strategy prioritised inclusivity in terms of gender and ethnicity. Political parties supporting the State Administration Council (SAC) were not part of the project. DIPD Myanmar fostered mul-





tiparty and multistakeholder dialogue by organising over 50 activities, involving over 1300 participants from the selected political parties and 80 CSOs.

The importance of a continuous risk assessment proved to be a key tool in navigating Myanmar's complex environment. DIPD Myanmar swiftly created an extensive risk matrix to identify and address operational, legal, political, security, and IT risks. The matrix was regularly updated to reflect the rapidly changing situation, allowing DIPD Myanmar to implement mitigation measures and ensure the continuity of its operations and activities. Despite the anticipated

risks materialising, DIPD Myanmar's proactive approach and preparedness helped absorb the shocks and maintain its presence in the country.

DIPD Myanmar also learned the importance of addressing the interplay between democracy and peacebuilding. Following the military takeover, DIPD observed a growing divide between the peace and democracy agendas among donors, international actors, and national stakeholders. In response, DIPD Myanmar consciously opted to support the peacebuilding agenda through its multiparty and multistakeholder dialogue platforms. These platforms provided a safe

space for pro-democracy actors to engage in constructive discussions with political parties. They emphasised non-violence and the role of political parties in navigating towards a peaceful resolution to the crisis.

Lastly, DIPD Myanmar recognised the efficacy of a blended approach for its activities, utilising both online and in-person modes of delivery. Online activities proved successful in reaching partners and stakeholders in remote areas, but the limited access to electricity and the high cost of mobile internet in Myanmar presented obstacles.

NEPAL

GOAL
NO. 2

GOAL
NO. 3

GOAL
NO. 4

DIPD

DIPD Nepal & Joint Mechanism for Political Party Strengthening

In 2012, DIPD formed a partnership with the Joint Mechanism for Political Party Strengthening (JOMPOPS) to promote multiparty collaboration in Nepal and support its democratic transition. Since then, multiparty collaboration among political parties has become more robust and sustainable, particularly at the local level. Striving towards self-sustainability, JOMPOPS finalised a strategy for institutionalisation. Although JOMPOPS managed its operations with local resources, it remained open to partnerships with international organisations. Its priority areas included enhancing multiparty cooperation, promoting inclusive democracy through the empowerment of women and youth, and bolstering democratic practises inside political parties.

JOMPOPS, with DIPD's support, made a significant contribution to policy changes regarding gender equality. This was achieved by supporting gender audit exercises within a JOMPOPS member party. This strategy had a demonstrative effect on other parties, which have since considered conducting gender audits. Furthermore, DIPD supported a pilot democracy audit aimed at assessing internal democracy. This initiative was expected to encourage other parties to conduct comparable audits. In June 2022, a team from



the DIPD secretariat conducted a monitoring mission in Nepal, engaging with a variety of stakeholders. These included senior and youth politicians involved in the project. This mission provided an invaluable opportunity for interactions with youth politicians, who represent a key target group for the partnership.

Over the years, JOMPOPS has established itself as a professional and locally run platform. It adopted a local Nepali name, Antartparti Sahakarya Samyantra, translating to Inter-Party Mechanism for Cooperation. To mark the fact that political parties are now accustomed to working in cross-party partnerships and to start working outreach-oriented, JOMPOPS has expanded its presence into many committees at various

levels. This includes a high-level committee responsible for JOMPOPS's policy decisions. Currently, the committee is exploring ways to institutionalise JOMPOPS as Nepal's multiparty platform. It is also exploring methods to regularise the numerous multiparty committees that have emerged in various spheres.



ASIA

GOAL
NO. 1

GOAL
NO. 5

JOINT FORCES FOR PROMOTING SOCIAL WELFARE POLICIES



The Social Democratic Party, Network for Social Democracy in Asia (SocDem Asia)

The Social Democratic Party continued its long-term partnership with the Network for Social Democracy in Asia (SocDem Asia) – an organisation comprising like-minded organisations and parties from 13 Asian countries. Direct military takeovers of civilian governments or the election of autocrats primarily caused democratic reversals and shrinking democratic spaces in Asia. The autocratic tendencies of governments in the region have further escalated, with Myanmar and Thailand under complete military control and India and the Philippines under authoritarian leadership. The shrinking of democratic spaces makes it more difficult for political parties to promote democracy, inclusion, and social welfare. The member parties of SocDem Asia are at the forefront of the fight against these democratic rollbacks.

SocDem Asia's current activities are planned for August 2022 – till the end of 2025:

The present work has two core aims: firstly, to strengthen the SocDem Asia Parliamentarians' Caucus (SDPC) as a platform for promoting social welfare policies, using the frameworks of the Sustainable Development



Goals (SDGs) and the 2019 SDPC Jakarta Declaration. Secondly, to enhance the capacities of SocDem Asia member parties to champion the SDGs by endorsing social welfare, green policies and programmes, and mobilising community support at the local level.

The first activity initiated by SocDem Asia was a successful regional conference in September 2022. The conference was attended by 35 policymakers coming from India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Nepal, New Zealand, the Philippines, and Thailand; it included 18 female and 17 male participants. Kasper Sand Kjær, a member of the Danish Parliament and the Chairperson of DIPD, and Kirsten Brosbøl, a former member



of the Danish Parliament and Convenor of Parliamentarians for Global Goals, participated online. A highlight from the conference and project launch was the conference statement "Social Democrats for SDGs: SocDem Asia Parliamentarians Caucus Resolution on Advancing the SDGs". The declaration outlined a "commitment to collective understanding and taking action on ensuring the promotion of the SDGs" at the regional and national levels, within South Asia's parliaments and political parties. The statement summarised SocDem parliamentarians' dedication to interventions at the regional, local, parliamentary, and party-political levels.

ASIA

GOAL
NO. 1

GOAL
NO. 3

SUPPORT FOR DEMOCRACY IN MYANMAR AND THE PHILIPPINES



The Social Democratic Party and SocDem Asia

The Social Democratic Party is a well-established Danish political organisation with over 150 years of experience and over 30,000 members. It has a well-functioning party organisation, established party structures, statutes, rules, and regulations, as well as transparent funding. It supports partners in Asia, where the political landscape is challenging. While some political parties in Asia are strong, well-organised, and well-established, others are smaller and need capacity support and more democratic cultures and structures in order to positively influence democratic development. Many operate in states with undemocratic regimes with limited freedom of expression and association. In these challenging contexts, the Social Democratic Party has supported partner parties to develop well-established party structures and enhanced their capacity to operate in limited democratic spaces.

Due to Myanmar's unstable situation under a repressive military dictatorship, and the anticipated regression of democracy in the Philippines, the Social Democratic Party initiated an additional partnership with SocDem Asia, DPNS in Myanmar, and Akbayan in the Philippines. The aim was to provide specific and timely support for democratic development in these countries. "The Emergency Support Project" in Mae



Sot experienced challenges caused by the precarious situation of political refugees on the Myanmar-Thailand border. Since working within Myanmar presented security challenges, implementation strategies were revised, and the Social Democratic Party decided to work with DPNS outside of Myanmar itself. In the Philippines, a "low visibility/under the radar" intervention was undertaken as a risk mitigation strategy against political persecution.

The overall objectives were to provide technical assistance to develop party strategies for each political context, develop pilot projects to support the deepening of democracy in both countries, and provide technical assistance in developing political communication strategies to promote democracy.



While successful implementation was achieved in the Philippines, activities will continue in Mae Sot until March 2023. In the Philippines, the Social Democratic Party supported Akbayan by providing technical support to develop an updated political strategy for promoting democracy and human rights, as well as a communication strategy for combating fake news and disinformation. In Mae Sot, the DPNS was supported in updating their political strategy, given their democratic repression in Myanmar and their exile to Thailand. As part of the activity, a communication strategy and pilot intervention called "Democracy and Organizing Hub" were developed to provide political education to refugees. Additionally, a newsletter will be published to provide updates on the political situation in Myanmar.

COLOMBIA

GOAL
NO. 1

GOAL
NO. 2

ORGANISING FOR NEW PARTICIPANTS IN DEMOCRACY



The Red-Green Alliance, Marcha Patriótica, and Tierra Libre

In Colombia, the Red-Green Alliance worked with two organisations: Marcha Patriótica and Tierra Libre. Both partnerships ended amicably in 2022, paving the way for a new partnership with La Manada Feminista in 2023.

The 2022 election constituted a significant shift in Colombia's political landscape, given that it marked the first-ever election of a left-wing president, Gustavo Petro. Petro swore to continue the peace process and brought hope to groups disheartened by the inadequate implementation of the 2016 Peace Agreement. Furthermore, the failure of the previous government to implement aspects of the 2016 peace agreement raised concerns that conflict could re-emerge. However, with the election of Petro, there is now renewed hope for the consolidation of peace. In another ground-breaking development, the election of Francia Márquez as the first Afro-Colombian Vice President signalled a leap forward for equal representation.

The Red-Green Alliance's collaboration with Marcha Patriótica focused on peaceful and democratic participation in the political process. There was a particular emphasis on groups that had been marginalised and excluded. As an umbrella organisation, Mar-



cha Patriótica includes groups such as human rights organisations, the LGBTQ+ community, indigenous people, political prisoners, and victims of state violence. Marcha Patriótica conducted five educational schools, focusing on the 2022 election, the special constituencies for peace, social leaders, and election observers in the regions of Catatumbo, Sur de Bolívar and Cauca. The participants in the schools were mainly farmers who lived in the special electoral districts, representing the hardest-hit conflict areas; most of them were elected officials. The schools used peace pedagogy to strengthen the relationships between different groups and their knowledge of the 2016 peace agreement.

Meanwhile, Tierra Libre, focuses on issues of environmentalism, the rights of peasants, sustainable agricultural development, and maintaining the peace agreement. The Red-Green Alliance partnered with Tierra Libre to empower local leaders to create municipal policy solutions. This was achieved through a



series of schools and meetings exploring Colombia's political situation. The meetings also provided a place to build a social and political movement in Sumapaz, focused on themes such as peace, human rights, gender equality, and political participation. The meetings provided a space for the exchange of knowledge and for designing political and organisational proposals on topics such as agroecology, food sovereignty, and the autonomous economy. Furthermore, Tierra Libre's communication strategy was adapted to strengthen the organisation's advocacy and political participation work, as well as its community engagement. These events were held through a collaboration between Tierra Libre and the farmers' organisation, ASOCAM. This endeavour proved to be a crucial medium for fostering dialogue between parties and civil society organisations.

GEORGIA

GOAL
NO. 1

GOAL
NO. 2

GOAL
NO. 3

COUNTERING DEMOCRATIC BACKSLIDING

B

The Social Liberal Party and Eastern European Centre for Multiparty Democracy (EECMD)

In response to ongoing democratic challenges, the Social Liberal Party aided pro-democratic and pro-European parties and movements in Georgia. In order to achieve enduring results, it forged a long-term partnership with the Eastern European Centre for Multiparty Democracy (EECMD).

One of the key aims of the partnership was to assist the political parties in crafting strategies for fundraising, mobilisation, outreach, and recruitment. The objective was to stimulate greater engagement in the parties' activities through an emphasis on inclusion, transparency, and political accountability. This strategy ensured that the parties were well organised, transparent, and internally democratic, fostering inclusive and active member participation at the local and national levels.

The Social Liberal Party, in its alliance with EECMD, prioritised building the capacity of smaller Georgian liberal parties. This included hosting workshops on organisational building, intra-party democracy, decentralised policymaking, and equitable and inclusive participation. Additionally, plans were underway to develop an intra-party democracy index, produce publications on democracy and liberal values, and organise a study visit for Georgian politicians to Denmark.



Overall, the goal of the activities in Georgia was to contribute to the development of well-functioning political parties in the country. This is a prerequisite for members to be able to involve themselves and gain influence and for the organisations not to become personality-driven and opaque. The Social Liberal Party believed that supporting pro-democratic, pro-European parties and movements in Georgia would counter the democratic backsliding in the country and ensure a more inclusive and participatory political system.



KENYA

GOAL NO. 1	GOAL NO. 2	GOAL NO. 3	GOAL NO. 4	GOAL NO. 5
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LONG TERM CROSS-PARTY ENGAGEMENT



DLDP

**Danish Liberal Democracy Programme (DLDP)/
The Liberal Party & the Centre for Multiparty De-
mocracy, Kenya (CMD-K)**

The Centre for Multiparty Democracy Kenya (CMD-K) has been a partner to Danish Liberal Democracy Programme (DLDP) / the Liberal Party for over a decade. CMD-K is an umbrella organisation for twenty-two

parties in Kenya, providing a platform for political parties, political actors, and policymakers to engage in dialogue and cooperation, thereby strengthening multiparty democracy.

For four years, CMD-K has organised and hosted the People Dialogue Festival in Nairobi. This unique event allowed political rivals to engage in civil dialogue, and it offered the public and civil society actors the chance to interact with Kenya's political actors. The People Dialogue Festival was demonstrative of the high quality of CMD-K's work.

DLDP worked together with CMD-K to organise the People Dialogue Festival in 2021 (in hybrid form) and 2022. However, the primary focus of this collaboration was to build a bridge between the past 10 years of partnership and a new multiparty partnership with CMD-K and several other Danish parties. This new partnership ran a pilot programme in 2022, focusing on the implementation of the UN SDGs in policy development. The partnership, which included the Social Democratic Party, DLDP/ the Liberal Party, and the Conservative People's Party, published a model manifesto on incorporating the SDGs into party manifestos and capacity building for parties and candidates.

KENYA, CASE STORY: THE PEOPLE DIALOGUE FESTIVAL GOES HYBRID



DLDP V

Danish Liberal Democracy Programme (DLDP) / The Liberal Party, and the Centre for Multiparty Democracy, Kenya (CMD-K)

People Dialogue Festival took place for the third time in September 2021 under the constraints of the COVID-19 pandemic. The festival was held in a hybrid format, combining a physical location in Nairobi with

around 100 attendees and online livestreaming for remote participants. Despite its hybrid nature, the festival succeeded in fostering dialogue, providing the many participants with something to reflect upon.

In 2022, the festival returned to its original in-person format at the National Museum in Nairobi. The festival ran smoothly and excelled at encouraging civil dialogue between Kenyan politicians

from opposing parties. The Danish Liberal Democracy Programme (DLDP) / The Liberal Party conducted a study titled “The Role and Structure of Political Parties in Selected Counties in Kenya”, which was presented and used as a basis for a discussion on the topic. That year, the People Dialogue Festival saw significant growth and ownership from various political and civic actors.

KENYA

GOAL NO. 1 GOAL NO. 4 GOAL NO. 5

FROM SINGLE PARTY TO MULTIPARTY PARTNERSHIP



**Danish Liberal Democracy Programme (DLDP)/
Danish Liberal party, the Social Democratic Party,
the Conservative People’s Party and the Green Left**

Aligned with the DIPD strategy, DLDP, the Social Democratic Party, the Conservative People’s Party, and the Green Left in 2021 identified a common wish to strengthen the political parties’ role in implementing the SDGs at local level politics in Kenya. In dialogue with DLDP, it was decided to work on a partnership with CMD-K, the parties in Kenya and the four Danish political parties.

Before the 2022 Kenyan election, the Social Democratic Party, the Conservative People’s Party, and DLDP / the Liberal Party successfully supported a pilot partnership with CMD-K, to strengthen the capacity and insight of the political parties in relation to the SDGs and how they meaningfully could integrate the SDGs in their campaigns and manifestos. Following this success, the CMD-K partnership turned from a DLDP partnership into a multiparty partnership, with support, exchange, and funding from the four Danish parties.



MONTENEGRO

GOAL
NO. 1

GOAL
NO. 2

GOAL
NO. 3

YOUTH FORUM IN LOCAL POLITICAL DEMOCRACY



The Green Left and United Reform Action (URA)

In February 2022, The Green Left formed a partnership with the United Reform Action (URA) and their think tank, Green Politics, in Montenegro. This partnership was formalised following a series of visits, dialogues, vision exchanges, and workshops. URA was founded in 2015 and it currently has three representatives in parliament as part of Montenegro's coalition government, including the Prime Minister, Dritan Abazovic.

The political situation in Montenegro has been complex since the general election in August 2020. As a result of this election, the longstanding government was replaced and an expert government was formed. However, the expert government fell short in certain policy areas. In January 2021, URA agreed on a proposal to form a minority government. The opposition supported this move, which led to ongoing political instability in the country. As this instability was ongoing, the partnership was affected in various ways. For example, the preparations for the second phase of activities were significantly delayed. However, the challenges which the political turmoil provided for the partnership were tackled with effective and high-level cooperation and communication between the Green Left and URA. Through regular meetings, mitigation efforts were established, and expectations as well as the need for support were made clear.



After a pilot phase, the platform for a long-term partnership was built towards the end of 2022. The partnership will focus on three objectives: empowering local branches of URA, strengthening the youth wing of URA with a specific focus on local branches, and increasing the capacity of the think tank Green Politics to serve as an effective supporting partner to URA.

While the pilot partnership faced significant challenges due to a political crisis in Montenegro and the measures taken to counter the COVID-19 pandemic,



these difficulties were tackled through good communication between the Green Left and URA and with timely mitigation efforts. Actions included switching to online meetings, maintaining regular communication with the representatives of the youth forums, and utilising the political crisis to recruit young people into URA. This demonstrated successful communication, cooperation, and adaptation abilities within the partnership.

During the pilot phase, two youth forums were also established, and three workshops were held between December 2021 and mid-February 2022, featuring participation from youth forum representatives. Furthermore, meetings were held with potential youth forum members in multiple cities and in several Montenegrin municipalities, where bases were set up for the formation of additional youth forums.

MONTENEGRO, CASE STORY: PILOT ON YOUTH FORUM TURNS INTO A LONG-TERM PARTNERSHIP



Green Left, United Reform Action (URA)

The partnership between the Green Left and URA exemplifies progress towards goal number two: increasing youth involvement in local politics. This success is evident in a case story demonstrating their effective collaboration.

Between November 2021 and February 2022, the Green Left in Denmark and URA in Montenegro carried out a pilot phase prior to a partnership with a long-term perspective. The goal was to establish the infrastructure for URA's youth forum. This pilot was completed during a challenging period. Montenegro was grappling with political instability, largely due to URA's position as a minority government. Simultaneously, a new COVID-19 strain led to strict pandemic control measures. Despite these challenges, URA managed to prioritise regular communication with representatives of its youth forum, which was still in the process of being officially formed. Despite most meetings being held online due to COVID-19 restrictions, it was possible to organise two workshops in the months of January and February 2022. These workshops focused on inspiring and attracting young people to the youth forum, and they



addressed important topics such as global election campaigns and the European Union's perspective on the Western Balkans.

The outcome of this collaboration was highly productive. The dialogues, workshops, and youth involvement led to the formation of the URA Youth Forum as an official party institution, thus achieving



the initial goal. By the end of the project, two new local Youth Fora had been established. One in the city of Danilovgrad with 37 members and one in the city of Herceg Novi with 54 members. Building on the valuable insights and successful experiences of the pilot phase, URA and the Green Left established a long-term partnership.

NEPAL

GOAL
NO. 2

GOAL
NO. 3

GOAL
NO. 4

GOAL
NO. 5

YOUNG PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION IN THE DEMOCRATIC CONVERSATION

B

Social Liberal Party & JOMPOPS

In Nepal, the Social Liberal Party has continued its partnership with JOMPOPS to strengthen young people's participation in democracy and political parties. The goal was to bring the youth from the parties closer together on shared themes and stimu-

late cooperation through interparty youth dialogue. The aim was to promote mutual understanding and cross-party cooperation. The partnership between the Social Liberal Party and JOMPOPS represented a vital move towards promoting youth and gender empowerment and strengthening multiparty cooperation in Nepal.



NEPAL, CASE STORY:

YOUNGLEAD TRAINERS CONTINUE YOUTH OUTREACH

B

The Social Liberal Party & JOMPOPS

The case story involving the Social Liberal Party and their partner, JOMPOPS, serves as a clear demonstration of how DIPD's strategic goal number four can be achieved. This collaboration has built the YoungLead programme with the purpose of enabling cross-party dialogue among young politicians. One of their first major activities for the young politicians, trained through the YoungLead programme,

was to organise a JOMPOPS multiparty youth interaction in June 2022. The purpose of the training was to create a forum for cross-party dialogue under the theme "Opportunities and Challenges for Youths in Democracy". The young politicians served as event coordinators, facilitators, and key presenters on the event's theme. This created an engaging forum, allowing the visiting DIPD colleagues and the Social Liberal Party representatives to interact with their predominantly younger party colleagues.

For the youth participants, the interaction with both Nepali and Danish youth participants became an engaging and valuable lesson for future engagement

in cross-party dialogues. Consequently, they voiced a strong interest in organising future interactions, potentially longer in duration, during a brainstorming session which concluded the event.

Subsequently, more youth empowerment events took place, involving over 200 youth participants. The events also featured YoungLead trainers from other parties sharing their collective experience of collaboration over the years. These offered trainees the opportunity to experience the type of multiparty collaboration youths like them are engaged in across parties.

NICARAGUA

GOAL
NO. 1

A RED-GREEN COLLABORATION



The Red-Green Alliance and UNAMOS

Nicaragua's democratic trajectory has been declining for over a decade. The Ortega/Murillo regime has leveraged the state apparatus to commit violence and foster a climate of intimidation to quell protests and ensure its grip on power. In response to this, the Red-Green Alliance has formed a partnership with the left-wing party Unión Democrática Renovadora (UNAMOS) and the umbrella organisation Articulación de Movimientos Sociales y Organizaciones de la Sociedad Civil (AMS-OSC). This partnership aimed to support the push for a progressive and democratic alternative to the Ortega Government.

In 2021–2022, there were widespread clamp-downs on opposition parties, which included the Red-Green Alliance's partners. Both organisations were forced into exile and have taken residence in Costa Rica from where they continue to fight for their democratic rights to speech and participation in Nicaragua. Nicaragua's democratic decline has impacted the partnership between these organisations and the Red-Green Alliance, prompting the exploration of alternative options for continuing the collaboration from Costa Rica.

In February 2022, a representative from UNAMOS visited Denmark and met with the Red-Green Alliance's Nicaragua group and the broader Nicaraguan



network in Denmark. Furthermore, this representative also met with representatives of the Social Democratic Party in Parliament. This meeting offered a chance for the Danish parties to learn more about the dire state of democracy in Nicaragua and the precarious environment in which pro-democratic politicians are forced to operate.



The Red-Green Alliance has included the Socialist Youth Front (SUF), one of the two youth organisations affiliated with the Red-Green Alliance, in partnership with AMS-OSC. Following the summer of 2022, a productive workshop was organised with AMS, where SUF gave presentations on ruler techniques. The event was an excellent opportunity for both partners to apply political theory to formulate political solutions.

NORTH MACEDONIA

GOAL NO. 1 GOAL NO. 2 GOAL NO. 3

POLICY DEVELOPMENT & STRONG INTERNAL PARTY STRUCTURES



The Green Left and Democratic Renewal of Macedonia (DOM)

In North Macedonia, the Green Left established a new partnership with the Democratic Renewal of Macedonia (DOM) and their think tank, Green Planet for All. DOM is a green-liberal party established in 2006 with one representative in the North Macedonian parliament. The partnership is aiming to enhance policy development and internal democratic structures. This partnership was initiated with a pilot phase clarifying objectives, strategies, expected outcomes, and future partnership priorities.

The initiation of the partnership was hindered by North Macedonia's complex social and political situation. When the COVID-19 crisis struck, the country was in the middle of a political transition as the interim government had only just dissolved itself, resulting in only partially operational national institutions. By February 2021, the country was grappling with a rapid infection and death rate, becoming one of the countries with the highest death rates per million inhabitants worldwide. The pandemic also significantly increased the poverty rate. Secondly, North Macedonia continues to struggle with a high level of corruption and clientelism in public leadership positions. Consequently, there is a lack of trust in the government and public institutions. Especially many young



people have left the country young people. Labelled a “hybrid regime” by the Economist, North Macedonia is confronting a democratic deficit, including a lack of separation of powers.

These multifaceted social and political issues have posed significant challenges for DOM, constraining their capacity to dedicate time, resources, and energy to the formulation of the pilot. The aim has been to develop DOM's internal capacity in policy research, policy development, governance, and political communication. Good results towards this goal were documented during a seminar in November 2022, which followed up on a fact-finding mission in 2021, where two representatives from the Green Left visited North Macedonia.

This seminar successfully initiated crucial internal debates within DOM prior to its party congress.



It established a political forum for DOM leaders, key members, and DOM youth, and it facilitated the exchange of ideas and experiences between DOM and the Green Left. Moreover, the seminar also helped prioritise and solidify ideas for initiating a long-term partnership. Participants successfully reached consensus on anti-corruption measures, green transition policies, and renewable energy expansion. The presence of the Green Left representatives helped DOM identify these priorities as policy areas for further development; they also clarified the ways in which the Green Left could add value in a long-term partnership.

This new partnership aims to enhance DOM's policy development, communication, and youth inclusion, bolster local branches, and aid Green Planet for All, contributing to policy formation, communication, and internal restructuring.



NORTH MACEDONIA, CASE STORY: POLICY DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE



Green Left & Democratic Renewal of Macedonia (DOM)

In November 2022, Troels Stru Schmidt and Aleksander Myrhøj from the Green Left attended a political conference on policy development in North Macedonia, held by the Green Left's North Macedonian sister party, DOM. Representing DOM were its official leader, other prominent leaders, members of its board, local councillors, youth wing members, and ordinary party members from various municipalities.

The aim of the conference was policy development, strengthening DOM's internal political dialogue, its organisational development, and initiating crucial discussions before DOM's party congress. The Green Left contributed by offering organisational and political inspiration, and it facilitated part of the conference, demonstrating participatory policy development. The Green Left's representatives were inspired by the conference after seeing DOM's political priorities, particularly the importance of EU enlargement. This topic is now being discussed in the international forums of the Green Left.

The conference was divided into three segments, each leading up to the production of a final conference outcome. It began with a networking exercise analysing DOM's current opportunities, limitations,



strengths, and weaknesses. This was followed by various presentations on themes such as capacity building and strengthening local political candidates, leading to debates and the sharing of experiences. The third segment focused on operationalising the political and organisational suggestions discussed throughout the day.



The conference outcome was a tentative action plan for DOM, encapsulating joint political, organisational, and communicative goals. An integral part of the action plan was the continuing partnership between DOM and the Green Left. The partnership is anchored in the strengthening of the strong relations developed during visits between Denmark and North Macedonia.

NORTH MACEDONIA

GOAL NO. 1

GOAL NO. 5

CONSTRUCTIVE PLAYER IN LOCAL DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENT



The partnership will work under DLDP's overall theme of "Cooperation and competition in local and national politics". This specific partnership agreement has two overall goals:

- To enhance the capacity of Liberal Democratic Party of Macedonia to act as a constructive and influential player in local politics in North Macedonia by increasing the engagement of its members and supporters.
- To enable Liberal Democratic Party of Macedonia to contribute to and influence the public debate in North Macedonia by improving synchronisation of politics between the national and the local levels, thus expediting Macedonia's goal of EU integration.

The partnership has only just begun and is currently limited to one year.

DLDP V

Danish Liberal Democracy Programme (DLDP) / The Liberal Party and Liberal Democratic Party of Macedonia

During 2021-2022 the Danish Liberal Democracy Programme has also expanded its international work into the Western Balkans by establishing a short-term partnership with its sister party, The Liberal Democratic party of Macedonia (LDP). LDP is a Social Liberal Party founded in 1997 and is currently led by Monika

Zajkova. As mentioned earlier, the social and political situation in North Macedonia is challenging, and the political climate is characterised by the various crises that have affected the country in recent years. After analysing the country's political context and the party's position, the two partners initiated a dialogue. Through online meeting, face-to-face meetings in Denmark in June 2022, and a visit from DLDP / The Liberal Party to Macedonia in December 2022, the two parties formed a short-term partnership.

SOUTH AFRICA

GOAL NO. 1 GOAL NO. 3 GOAL NO. 5

STRUCTURES FOR LOCAL POLITICS



DLDP V

Danish Liberal Democracy Programme (DLDP) / The Liberal Party & Democratic Alliance

The Danish Liberal Democracy Programme (DLDP) / The Liberal Party and the Democratic Alliance (DA) have been partners since 2018. The Democratic Alliance is the largest opposition party in South Africa,

while the Liberal Party is the oldest political party in Denmark, boasting over 150 years of democratic experience. As they have comparable political ideologies, both are members of the Liberal International.

The partnership theme, *“Ready to govern locally”*, reflects the DA’s growing role in various local governments in South Africa. This is where the Liberal Party’s

strong experience with responsibility in local politics played a role. The partnership reciprocally benefited both parties, with the Liberal Party learning from the DA’s advanced fundraising and campaigning methodologies. During 2022, a bridging period, the DA continued interventions under the *“Ready to govern locally”* theme. Activities included the development of online tools for local politicians, policy development, and *“mayoral breakaway”* seminars.

In September 2022, the first face-to-face interaction between the partners in more than two and a half years took place. A Danish delegation went to South Africa, including a former mayor and member of the Liberal Party contributed to partnership activities. These included a conference involving over 30 DA mayors and a coalition management workshop with key DA stakeholders.



SOUTH AFRICA, CASE STORY: INTERACTIONS BETWEEN DANISH AND SOUTH AFRICAN MAYORS



DLDP V

Danish Liberal Democracy Programme (DLDP) & Democratic Alliance

In South Africa, the Danish Liberal Democracy Programme (DLDP) / the Liberal Party has continued its collaboration with the Democratic Alliance (DA), the country's largest opposition party. Despite being in opposition at the national level, the DA governs one province and numerous municipalities, often in fragile coalitions determined by the party's central level. Following the 2021 local elections, the DA hosted two "mayoral breakaway" seminars to strengthen the internal dialogue of the party. The two events included both long-serving and first-time mayors.

The first mayoral breakaway occurred in March 2022, followed by the second in November. The events served multiple purposes, such as sharing best practises among mayors, providing networking opportunities for mayors to meet and learn from each other and other party leaders, relaying the DA's strategic political, governance, and policy direction, and providing valuable technical knowledge in areas such as communication, strategic planning, monitoring, and intergovernmental relations. A delegation from the Danish Liberal Party, comprising a former Danish



mayor and another DLDP member who has contributed to numerous DA governance initiatives, accompanied the DA's mayors and staff for the initial two days.

The reality faced by South African mayors and local South African politicians differs greatly from that of their Danish counterparts. However, through initiatives like the mayoral seminars, the DA endeavours to ensure their organisation encourages democratic dialogue to provide the most effective platforms for their elected politicians. The culture of openness and dialogue among sister parties offers inspiration to both Danes and South Africans.

SWAZILAND (ESWATINI)

GOAL
NO. 2

GOAL
NO. 3

WOMEN & YOUTH IN POLITICS



The Social Democratic Party & Swazi Democratic Party

In 2012, the Social Democratic Party and the Swazi Democratic Party (SWADEPA) initiated what has since proven to be a longstanding partnership. SWADEPA grew out of a long history of opposition with deep roots in the labour movement and has wide geographical representation and broad societal support. It is also a party with strong representation of both youth and women. The death of former SWADEPA president Jan Sithole in 2020, limited opportunities for travel due to COVID-19, and continuous attacks on political activists in Swaziland have affected the implementation of activities. Therefore, the training of SWADEPA in mitigating the risks related to being politically active will be included in the activities implemented in 2023. Due to the high level of risk, meetings between SWADEPA and the Social Democratic Party in February and June 2022 were held in Johannesburg.

A bridging phase with SWADEPA was implemented between July 2021 and April 2022. This period was characterised by rising conflicts in Swaziland, leading to serious security threats. The long-term plan developed at the beginning of 2022 builds on the activities and strategies implemented during the bridging activity period and previous activities implemented



with SWADEPA. The objectives are “Formulation of a SWADEPA strategy to increase local and international awareness & SWADEPA mobilising and capacitating more women and youth towards getting maximum results during the General Election”.

The plan has focused on communication that strengthens the peaceful push for democracy. Activities include community dialogues to prepare members for the SADC-facilitated national dialogue for democratic change, engaging local communities in preparation for the 2023 general election, and meetings with various South African political parties and South African envoys. The activities within the Political Parties Assembly (PPA) in Swaziland promote political parties in Swaziland to cooperate and offer mutual support for a national dialogue towards constitutional change. Collaboration between SWADEPA, other political parties, and foreign embassies has begun to foster peaceful dialogue for constitutional change.



The Social Democratic Party prioritised support for its partners’ efforts to increase the representation of women in politics. Efforts and interventions were mainly focused on training and capacity building for women to participate in political parties and run for office. SWADEPA’s interventions in previous projects successfully increased women’s recruitment and engagement in political activities. Recognising the need for a more strategic approach, the Social Democratic Party identified the need to focus on the topic of equal representation within political parties.

SWADEPA remains committed to mobilising women and youth for the upcoming elections and the national dialogue process. SWADEPA’s women leaders play a key role in advancing women’s empowerment in the country. It is expected that the number of women elected to leadership positions within SWADEPA will rise. However, the expansion of the Women’s League was curtailed by a lack of support from certain party leaders.



TANZANIA

GOAL NO. 2 GOAL NO. 3 GOAL NO. 4 GOAL NO. 5

TRANSPARENCY THROUGH TECHNOLOGY



The Conservative People's Party & The Party for Democracy and Progress



In 2013, The Conservative People's Party formed a partnership with The Party for Democracy and Progress (CHADEMA) in Tanzania. The decline of democracy in Tanzania, marked by the jailing of opposition members and stringent curbs on freedom of expression and assembly by the ruling party, underlined the significance of this collaboration. In its annual report for 2022, The Varieties of Democracy Institute in

Gothenburg classified Tanzania as an electoral autocracy, reinforcing the necessity of maintaining support for efforts to maintain democratic party structures and transparency within Tanzania's political parties. In 2021–2022, this collaboration focused on the development and implementation of a membership recruitment and registration app. The overall objective is to create a well-organised and active membership

with full transparency. The activities will gradually be implemented nationwide, supporting CHADEMA's major party-building efforts and grassroots strengthening. This has already expanded the party's presence and operations throughout most parts of the country. CHADEMA selected the Dar Es Salaam region as its main hub as it accounts for 20% of the nation's total voters. Activities will subsequently be extended to other regions within the country.

The strategy involves leveraging existing party structures to train current and potential leaders in registering and recruiting members via the newly developed CHADEMA Digital App. The aim is to maximise reach in the country, both geographically and demographically. Therefore, the main activities include training sessions, technical support, seminars, and fieldwork, which will run from 2022–2025.

TANZANIA, CASE STORY: USING TECHNOLOGY TO STRENGTHEN DEMOCRATIC ORGANISATION



The Conservative People's Party & CHADEMA

The Conservative People's Party's partnership with CHADEMA in Tanzania illustrates how Danish parties strive towards DIPD's strategic goal number three: strengthening democratic structures. Through the creation of a membership app called CHADEMA Digital, the partnership is contributing to a more efficient, democratic, and transparent member-based organisation. Outcome Harvesting was employed in this partnership to learn from outcomes and document results.

In the wake of the 2020 Tanzanian general election, the regime banned freedom of association and assembly; additionally, the media and political parties were suppressed. As public rallies were prohibited, CHADEMA devised an undercover programme to communicate its policies to the public and mobilise its membership base via the available space of social media.

The CHADEMA Digital app was developed with two objectives in mind. Firstly, it was designed to strengthen the membership base by facilitating the registration of both new and current members. Individuals could join CHADEMA, pay membership fees, and make donations simply by downloading the CHADEMA Digital app on their mobile phones. Secondly, it was designed to serve as a member communication platform. Through the partnership phase, CHADEMA was able to train party members on reg-



istration procedures and deploy several members at the local level.

The digital nature of the app and its organisation of the public in small numbers posed no issues with authorities. Dar Es Salaam City was chosen as the first place to carry out the special programme of registration and recruitment of members, distributing membership cards, and introducing the public to the party structures and organisation.



CHADEMA is transitioning from a traditional party to a formidable digital party by conducting member registrations digitally. This approach was extraordinarily successful and ground-breaking for Tanzanian politics and governance. The results are promising, and CHADEMA is now organising the public to digitally sign a petition advocating for a new constitution for the country.



ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION: DISSEMINATING DIPD'S KNOWLEDGE TO A BROADER AUDIENCE

A major component of DIPD's strategy is to distil relevant learning from our work and results; to combine with research and to disseminate the knowledge gained as part of DIPD's information and public engagement efforts, which have increased over the years. DIPD has taken part in the national and international public debate on democratic development and the role of political parties and gained knowledge through collaboration with research institutions and think tanks. DIPD and the political parties facilitate events, debates, and conferences in collaboration with national and international partners. In addition, DIPD contributes articles and op-eds about democratic development. Our engagement has contributed to the creation of new knowledge, challenged existing knowledge, and has served as a platform for the dissemination of partnership experiences.



INTERNATIONAL NETWORKS DEVELOP AND STRENGTHEN DIPD'S WORK

DIPD and the Danish political parties serve as active members of several international networks of like-minded organisations, political sister parties, and alliances. For the political parties, it is a deeply rooted tradition to take part in international networks and alliances like “The Alliance of Liberals”, “Democrats for Europe”, “The Party of European Socialists”, “The International Democrat Union”, etc. DIPD also works in alliances with like-minded organisations around Europe, e.g., as a member of the European Partner-

ship for Democracy (EPD), and in partnerships with organisations such as the Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD), the Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD), and the Political Parties of Finland for Democracy (Demo Finland).

Such networking activities allow DIPD and the Danish political parties to learn from its peers and exchange knowledge, ideas, and visions, as well as strengthen DIPD's methodological toolkits. The knowledge gen-

erated drives DIPD's efforts to put democracy on the agenda and is disseminated through partners, networks, social media, and public events, as exemplified below. At these events, DIPD partnerships experiences were combined with research on democratic development, such as data from the Varieties of Democracy Institute (V-Dem). This combination enabled DIPD to stay continuously updated and to discuss and renew approaches and strategies.

CONFERENCE ON THE INCLUSION OF BALKAN COUNTRIES INTO THE EU, DENMARK



The Green Left, the Social Democratic Party, Danish Liberal Democracy Programme (DLDP) / the Liberal Party, and The European Fund for the Balkans

In January 2023, the Green Left, the Social Democratic Party, and the Danish Liberal Democracy Programme (DLDP) / the Liberal Party, in collaboration with BiPAG, The European Fund for the Balkans, and the Danish Foreign Policy Society, organised a Balkan Conference in Copenhagen. The conference aimed to initiate a debate on the recent developments and the current challenges in the relationship between the EU and aspiring member states

in the Western Balkans, with a focus on the issue of EU accession for these countries. Participants included Danish members of parliament, parliament members from Serbia, North Macedonia, Montenegro, and Bosnia-Herzegovina, youth activists from other Balkan countries, as well as members of youth organisations like the Democratic Renewal of Macedonia's youth wing, and experts on Balkan affairs. The conference, which concluded with a speech by the Danish Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lars Løkke Rasmussen, served as an opportunity for the Danish and international parties to cooperate across party lines and share experiences.

JOMPOPS YOUNGLEAD INTERACTION BETWEEN YOUTH POLITICIANS, NEPAL

Social Liberal Party, JOMPOPS

In 2022, DIPD and the Social Liberal Party's partner in Nepal, the Joint Mechanism for Political Party Strengthening (JOMPOPS), hosted the cross-party dialogue event "Opportunities and challenges for youths in democracy" at a local campus in Kathmandu. The event was organised and facilitated by youth trained by the YoungLead programme. This programme used a training of trainers method to enable politically engaged young people in Nepal to better facilitate cross-party debates and strengthen future political engagement among youth.

In addition to representatives from both the Social Liberal Party and DIPD's secretariat, the YoungLead programme graduates and many other youth politicians joined the dialogue, 40% of whom were female. The high participation rate of women was a success in and of itself since the participation of women in politics in Nepal is a focus area for JOMPOPS. The youth politicians from YoungLead delivered a key presentation for the Social Liberal Party and the DIPD delegation on the situation for politically active youth in Nepal. The event thus served as an example of how the YoungLead programme produces new leaders.



NEW YEAR CELEBRATION, A YEARLY STATUS OF THE DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENT

In recent years, DIPD has established a tradition of hosting a New Year’s reception for the Danish political parties, partners, and friends of DIPD. The annual gathering offers a moment to reflect on the significant events and global developments of the past year. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the January 2022 celebration transitioned to an online format. The event was hosted by DIPD Executive Director Lisbeth Pilegaard who invited a panel of speakers that included Rune Lykkeberg, Editor in Chief of the Danish news outlet Information; Nadeen Aiche, Chairperson of Mino Danmark; Katja Iversen, Executive Adviser and author; alongside the Danish Minister of Development Cooperation and Nordic Cooperation, Flemming Møller Mortensen.



PEOPLE DIALOGUE FESTIVAL, KENYA

In 2022, the People Dialogue Festival (PDF) successfully took place and presented many opportunities for interaction and dialogue between politicians of all levels, activists, resource persons, and the public.

The People Dialogue Festival is Kenya’s version of the annual Danish “People’s Meeting”, and was held again in 2022, establishing itself as a regular event on the Kenyan political calendar. The festival has developed into more than a mere conference for politicians, welcoming Kenyans of all ages and genders along with international guests. At the festival, the political monologues that Kenyans have become accustomed to were replaced with dialogue. The anticipation for the event in 2022 was high as it was the first PDF since the COVID-19 pandemic, and both the public and politicians were eager to meet in person again. In addition to the political discussions, the festival was brimming with music, poetry, and art. Even in the face of an often-tense political climate, political parties set up information booths side by side – previously a rare sight. Considering that the Kenyan elections were on the horizon, this show of cross-party collaboration was more important than ever. The PDF contributed to shifting the focus from personality- and ethnicity-oriented election campaigns to a broad-based dialogue around issue-based politics.



'FOLKEMØDET' – THE WORLD'S LARGEST DEMOCRACY FESTIVAL'

In 2022, the twelfth rendition of the annual Danish “People’s Meeting” took place on the island of Bornholm in the Baltic Sea. After two years of digital and hybrid events, people were eager to reconnect in person, creating an energetic atmosphere. DIPD partnered with the Danish National UNESCO Commission, the Danish Cultural Institute, International Media Support, the New Democracy Fund and the Danish-Ukrainian Youth House, to organise “The International Scene”. Reviving Democracy was the overarching theme of the three days of lively and entertaining debates. International guests, such as the Panama Papers team member and award-winning journalist Roman Anin; democratic activists Olga Aivazovska from Ukraine; and Tatsiana Khomich from Belarus gave insightful international perspectives, and members of the Danish political parties, including the ministers for Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation, shared their outlook on a world, where democracy is under increasing pressure. Over the course of the three days, there was a thriving exchange of ideas and a spirited discussion on issues such as sustainability, freedom of expression, and democracy from a global perspective.



POLITICAL PARTY PEER NETWORK, DENMARK, 2022

In 2022, DIPD hosted the annual Political Party Peer Network (PPP) conference in Copenhagen, attracting more than 80 guests from political parties and democracy support organisations across the world. The network of international democracy assistance providers meets regularly to assess the state of democracy assistance, particularly focusing on political parties. The overall theme for the conference was “representation”, which prompted discussions on the general decline in democratic governance and the imperative for more robust democratic political parties. Participation in the PPP Network fosters relationships and provides opportunities for knowledge sharing and learning among many relevant organisations.

Following the PPP conference, DIPD hosted a public event featuring Professor of Politics and Director Jan-Werner Müller as a keynote speaker. This event focused on the role that technology plays in changing levels of trust in politics and politicians and thus contributed to the Tech for Democracy agenda laid out by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Professor Müller shared his insightful perspectives on ensuring that technology is leveraged for democracy rather than against it, which generated interesting discussions.

TALK TOWN, WOMEN'S COUNCIL'S ANNUAL MEETING, DENMARK

In 2022, members of the Red-Green Alliance took part in Talk Town, a democratic forum on equality, gender, and feminism. It was organised by the Women's Council Denmark and held over the course of three days. The Red-Green Alliance and its Turkish/Kurdish partner, People's Democratic Party (HDP), discussed their work to enhance women's engagement in political parties and democratic progress through the inclusion of women in politics in Turkey's increasingly strained democratic climate. In their conversation, they both focused on the challenges they confront and the potential ways forward in the face of these difficulties.

VARIETIES OF DEMOCRACY INSTITUTE, ANNUAL REPORT LAUNCH: "AUTOCRATIZATION CHANGING NATURE"



DIPD wishes to stay updated and be a part of the debate on global democratic development. The collaboration with the Varieties of Democracy Institute (V-Dem) is part of DIPD's strategy on learning and knowledge building. In 2022, DIPD welcomed the V-Dem Institute to Denmark for the release of its 2022 annual democracy report. Hosting the annual launch of this important report contributes to DIPD's work to build knowledge of the context in which DIPD and the political parties and their local partners operate.

In 2022, the report was titled "*Autocratization Changing Nature?*". The event took place in the front yard

of Altinget, with Steffan Lindberg, Director of the V-Dem Institute, giving the keynote speech. Lindberg presented an alarming perspective, emphasising that across the world democracy is in decline, having reached pre-1989 levels, and that autocrats everywhere are getting increasingly bold. He noted that autocratic governments are using misinformation to turn domestic and international opinions in their favour. He reported that global democracies are also in danger from rising toxic social polarisation, a decline in journalistic freedom, and restrictions on freedom of expression.

STRATEGIC TRANSITIONS

འབྲུག་གི་དྲུག་དཔེ
The Druk Journal
Volume 6, Issue 1
Spring 2020
Bhutan in the Age of Technology

BHUTAN DEMOCRACY FORUM 2021

Being Apolitical in Democratic Bhutan

Being a Good Citizen



Annual Report





STRATEGIC TRANSITIONS

DIPD's key tool for progress is developing strong partnerships. Democratic development is a challenging process, so DIPD is shifting from a project-driven approach to a partnership approach, establishing longer-term relationships with its partners. By creating flexible frameworks for these partnerships, DIPD can improve its response to new and urgent calls for support. At the same time, DIPD is strengthening the involvement of the Danish political parties in the institute's multiparty work.

During 2021– 2022, the DIPD partnerships in Bhutan, Burkina Faso, and Ghana were brought to a close,

while JOMPOPS in Nepal continued to foster multi-party interaction and support the country's democratic transition. In Bhutan, DIPD has collaborated for more than 10 years with the Bhutan Network Empowering Women (BNEW) to increase women's political representation; with the Bhutan Democratic Dialogue (BDD) to strengthen cross-party dialogue; and with the Bhutan Centre for Media and Democracy (BCMD) to support the dissemination of knowledge and debate on democracy. In Burkina Faso, DIPD has supported the Centre for Democratic Governance (CGD) in establishing a dialogue platform between political parties to strengthen democracy. In Ghana,

DIPD has collaborated with the Institute for Democratic Governance (IDEG) and the Center for Democratic Governance (CDD) to ensure peaceful elections by engaging youth.

DIPD would like to extend its sincerest gratitude for the longstanding collaboration with all of these partners and wish them continued success. DIPD values all of the efforts and is appreciative of the strong commitment to attaining more diverse and representative political leadership and democracy. It is important to note that some of these organisations will continue to work closely with Danish political parties.

BHUTAN

DIPD

DIPD and Bhutan Network Empowering Women (BNEW) and Bhutan Democracy Dialogue (BDD)

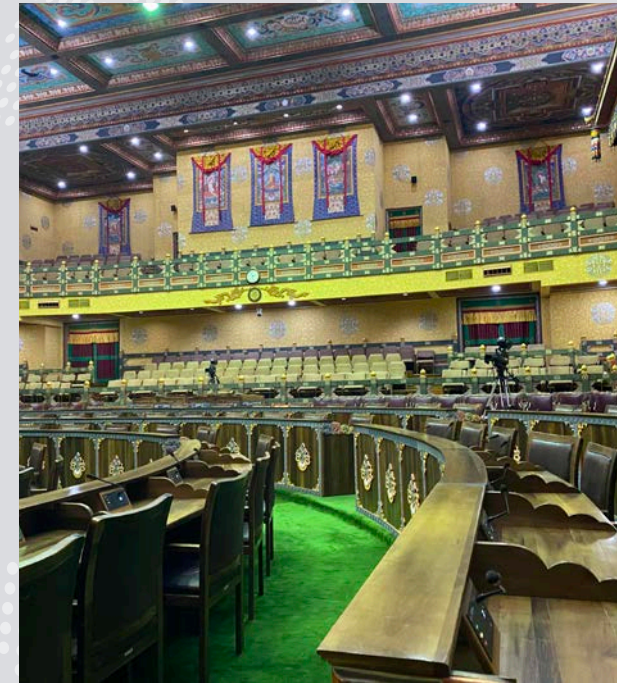
Between 2021 and 2022, DIPD concluded its work in Bhutan with Bhutan Network Empowering Women (BNEW) and Bhutan Democracy Dialogue (BDD). BNEW is a non-partisan and apolitical organisation dedicated to increasing women's political, governance, and leadership participation and representation. Bhutan's political leadership has traditionally been male-dominated, but BNEW launched several initiatives, including the Bhutan Women's Parliamentary Caucus (BWPC), to boost the number of women in political positions. BNEW also called for a change to the Election Act that would require political parties to field at least 30% female candidates in general elections.

The main objective of the collaboration in 2021–2022 was to enable BNEW to gain financial independence from DIPD and to establish itself as a strong and sustainable organisation. Most of its activities were focused on developing promotional videos and strategy documents. BNEW initiated several measures to reinforce its mission and improve its communication strategies. The first step was a reflection and strategic planning workshop, followed by the creation of a five-year strategic planning document. To increase

its effectiveness, BNEW also created a comprehensive communication and branding toolbox, a communication strategy, and redesigned, rewrote, and revised the design and content components of its website.

Furthermore, BNEW conducted research, produced advertising materials such as a story booklet, posters, and flyers, and produced promotional movies emphasising BNEW's activities and accomplishments. Another critical action was the organisation of a national conference on women in politics in collaboration with co-funding from other partners. BNEW also engaged in advocacy efforts to support its cause and that of its members during the third municipal election in the fall of 2021.

DIPD and BDD were partners from 2014 until the now-concluded phase-out project in the second half of 2021. BDD is a forum for the registered political parties of Bhutan; it is there to facilitate, nurture, and strengthen democracy in the country. During the phase-out project, BDD continued their work to strengthen the institutional and human capacity of the political parties as credible institutions of democracy. In addition, enhancing the platforms and opportunities for policy dialogue and exchange between the parties themselves as well as other stakeholders of democracy.



During the phase-out project, BDD conducted four activities. The activities have immensely benefited both Bhutan's political parties and the Election Commission of Bhutan (ECB). Besides the human capacity building of political parties, the Political Party Dialogue on Vibrant Democracy provided a much-needed discussion on the importance of political parties in a Democracy. The discussion focused on the importance of politicians creating positive perceptions and the challenges of party structures. The findings from the nationwide research on youth in politics provided the BDD and ECB with an opportunity to work together and further contribute to the wider discussion and engagement of youth in politics and democracy.

BURKINA FASO

DIPD

DIPD and Centre for Democratic Governance (CGD)

In 2022, DIPD concluded a multiparty partnership with the Centre for Democratic Governance (CGD) in Burkina Faso. The focus of this collaboration was on creating dialogue between the political parties in the country. The CGD supported the 15 political parties represented in the National Assembly and brought them together in the Inter-Party Dialogue Framework of Burkina Faso (CDIP-BF) in the implementation of the activity to “strengthen multiparty democracy”.

Since 2015, Burkina Faso has faced a highly intricate security situation that has had significant impacts on the lives of its people. This deterioration of the security situation has led to the closure of several schools, a significant loss of human life, and the displacement of more than a million people. As a result, some activities were relocated to peaceful areas for safety reasons.

Burkina Faso has experienced two coups d'état in recent years, one on the 24th of January 2022 and the other on the 30th of September in the same year. These events led to unconstitutional changes in the head of state. This political instability in Burkina Faso can be explained by two main factors: the democratic



deficit and the security crisis. Although the activities of political parties were suspended, the framework has served as a springboard for the promotion of political parties throughout this period.

Political dialogues, exchanges around themes at the framework level, and capacity building for women and young people are experiences that caught DIPD's attention during the implementation of this programme. The factors contributing to the programme's success can be summarised by the following points:

- The commitment and effective involvement of political actors in dialogue during the process

- The development not only of a climate of mutual tolerance between political actors but also, above all, the internalisation of the virtues of dialogue, such as willingness and sincerity, during political debates
- The physical and virtual frameworks reinforced fraternity and dialogue between the different teams
- The experience enabled women and young people to reconsider their positions because the presence of one of these stakeholders gives value to the other
- Gender was the subject of specific training but also a cross-cutting subject in all training sessions Thus, women have not only acquired knowledge on gender promotion but are also committed to being actors for gender equality

GHANA

DIPD

DIPD, Center for Democratic Governance (CDD), and Institute for Democratic Governance (IDEG)

DIPD formed a collaboration in 2019 with two prominent democratic institutions in Ghana, namely the Institute for Democratic Governance (IDEG) and the Center for Democratic Governance (CDD), with the goal of enhancing local multiparty democracy in preparation for, during, and after the 2020 presidential and parliamentary elections in Ghana.

CDD-Ghana partnered with DIPD to implement the “Youth for Inclusive Governance – Phase 2” partnership in three constituencies to promote peaceful elections in Ghana. The partnership focused on sustaining peace initiatives through capacity building programmes for political party youth leaders. These activities aimed to strengthen local democratic values and good governance while promoting positive party activism.

Results from the partnership show that political party youth leaders are more likely to cooperate and live in unity among themselves without indulging in violence if intentional and well-structured training programmes are organised for them.

IDEG partnered with DIPD with the aim of creating educational and advocacy materials that would



convince stakeholders to support proposed local government reforms. In 2021–2022, IDEG successfully produced an advocacy document outlining the proposed reforms, which included democratising local governance, creating a multiparty democracy commission, establishing a multiparty democracy fund, adopting a mixed-member proportional representation system, and devolving power and resources. These reforms could lead to greater inclusion, effective local economic development, and accountability.

IDEG’s research and analysis after the termination of the constitutional amendment process suggested that inadequate education and sensitisation on the benefits of the reform proposal were some of the reasons why the process was cancelled. Hence the partnership’s strategy was to intensify education on the benefits of the reform proposals and adequately consult and include key stakeholders and the public in the reform processes. This strategy yielded significant change as it brought stakeholders together to understand and appreciate the need to reform the local governance system and the benefits it could accrue.

CDD-GHANA, CASE STORY: OUTCOME HARVESTING REPORT

Phase two of The Youth for Inclusive Governance (YfIG) project focused on sustaining the peace initiative built ahead of the 2020 election through training and capacity building programmes for political party youth leaders in three constituencies.

In order to identify and learn from the changes resulting from the intervention, an outcome harvesting workshop was held in November 2021. Data was collected from project reports and the three constituencies where the training was conducted. The meeting brought together youth from the two main political parties in Ghana, who shared their contributions to increasing the level of youth understanding on issues of conflict and peace as basic tools for development.

The outcome of the partnerships showed significant changes in two areas. The first outcome was enhanced interpersonal relationships among political party youth, which resulted in a more peaceful environment. The youth leaders in the targeted constituencies came to understand each other at a human level rather than as representatives of parties. They recognised how they were used as agents to incite violent acts for political parties with little or no benefit during the electioneering period. As a result, they committed themselves to joint activities to positively engage in community clean-up campaigns and football match-



es to sustain peace among the youth. The change was significant because it led to a cordial and peaceful relationship among the youth of the two main political parties in Ghana, which had previously not been the case in these three constituencies. This change is very significant because conflicts between young people often led to the loss of life and property, making it difficult for residents to engage in any economic activity.

The second outcome was improved awareness among political party youth about the effects of political violence. The leaders of the political party's youth gained knowledge on the Vigilantism and Related Offences Act (ACT 999), and the stiff punishment prescribed in it for offenders, as well as on the concept of sustainability. They disseminated the message to their sub-groups as well as the knowledge gained from the

boot camp. The board game and syndicated group exercises made them appreciate the importance of cooperation and dialogue in addressing election-related issues instead of resorting to violence.

The motivation for sustaining these changes is to ensure that citizens in the targeted constituencies can continue to enjoy a peaceful environment without any disruption to their normal economic activities. The barriers to these changes would be a lack of commitment on the part of political leadership to peace and development, high unemployment and employable skills for the youth, and their ignorance of electoral laws and associated sanctions.

In summary, the YfIG's activities made significant contributions to promoting peaceful elections in Ghana.

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