



2023

INTERNATIONAL ELECTORAL AWARDS CEREMONY



Recognising excellence in
electoral management



INTERNATIONAL ELECTORAL AWARDS CEREMONY 2023

15 NOVEMBER 2023
LISBON – PORTUGAL



ABOUT THE CEREMONY

The International Electoral Awards Ceremony is an esteemed event that pays tribute to the vanguards of the electoral domain. As we convene in the Crowne Plaza in Caparica, Lisbon, this year's ceremony holds special significance as it marks our first gathering since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Celebrating the tireless efforts, innovations, and strategic brilliance of individuals and organizations, the awards commend those who have not only upheld the tenets of democracy but have also navigated unprecedented challenges during the pandemic. Their dedication, resilience, and foresight, especially in these trying times, have been instrumental in ensuring transparent and fair elections.

Nominees this year come from diverse corners of the globe, each sharing the collective objective: to guarantee that every voice resonates, every vote is valued, and every electoral endeavor is impartial. As we recognize these exemplary contributions, we hope to inspire the wider electoral community to continue pursuing excellence, even in the face of adversity.

Witnessing this celebration, attendees will be immersed in the tales of industry frontrunners, their journeys, and their unwavering commitment to fortifying democracies everywhere. This year's International Electoral Awards Ceremony is not merely an event — it's a salute to the indomitable spirit of democracy and its defenders. Let us come together in honoring the best in electoral affairs in this post-pandemic era.



DEAR COLLEAGUES



It is an honour to host this ceremony, which is taking place in Portugal for the first time.

The presentation of these Electoral Awards is a testimony to the importance of democracy as a foundation of modern societies. It recognises the individuals and electoral management bodies that work tirelessly to ensure that elections are held in a transparent, fair and inclusive manner. By publicising their remarkable achievements, the ceremony inspires others to continue fighting for better electoral systems, stronger democracies and a brighter future for all.

Sharing the efforts of impartiality in all electoral acts is a source of great joy. It allows us to value what brings us together, the right of citizens to participate in democratic life.

The Merit Awards, Electoral Commissioner of the Year and Electoral Commission of the Year allow us to recognise just one person or entity, but I'm sure they fall short of what is fair, since I am a witness to the commitment and dedication of all the people who work in this area, so I can only imagine how difficult it would be for the judges to award the prizes.

These Awards value the outstanding efforts of electoral commissions and their members to ensure free and fair elections, celebrate creative approaches to engaging voters, particularly in the digital age, and honour inspiring stories of individuals and organisations that defend democracy and electoral participation.

I would therefore like to congratulate the members of the judging panel, who had a difficult assignment on their hands. I also congratulate all the participants for their courage and even creativity, who, election by election, look for the best solution to overcome the barriers, adapting to technological evolution, without ever forgetting who is most important: the citizen.

José Vítor Soreto de Barros
President of the National Electoral Commission of Portugal

ABOUT CNE

The National Electoral Commission of Portugal was created in 1974, to regulate the election for the Constituent Assembly, the new Constitution was approved in 1976 and is still in force.

The Commission is the high body of electoral administration, it is independent and works before the Portuguese Parliament.

Throughout the last 49 years, CNE has regulated and monitored over 640 elections and 15 referenda.

CNE is now composed of 10 members, who are independent when exercising their functions and who cannot be removed from office.

The President is a judge from Supreme Court of Justice, to be appointed by Superior Council of Judges. The other members are citizens of renowned merit (nowadays 6), to be elected by the Parliament, in a single list, being each one proposed by a parliamentary group, and three experts, appointed one by each governmental departments with competencies for the areas of Internal Affairs, Foreign Affairs and Media. CNE can appoint delegates and usually there are CNE's delegates for the autonomous regions of Azores and Madeira.



COMISSÃO NACIONAL DE ELEIÇÕES

This plural composition has brought an equilibrium to CNE, which is reflected by the fact that most decisions are adopted by consensus or unanimity.

The National Electoral Commission aims to promote the objective awareness of citizens regarding elections and referenda, to ensure the equality of treatment of all citizens in all operations of voter registration, as well as regarding elections and referenda, and to ensure equal opportunities of political action and campaign of all candidacies in a given election, as well as regarding those campaigning in referenda.

CNE is currently enhancing international cooperation with organizations such as A-WEB and the Network of Electoral Jurisdictional and Administration Bodies of the Portuguese-Speaking Countries Community (ROJAE-CPLP).

DEAR COLLEAGUES



On behalf of the International Centre for Parliamentary Studies, I am delighted to welcome you to the International Electoral Awards Ceremony 2023 in the scenic Crowne Plaza, Caparica, Lisbon.

I'd like to extend our appreciation to the Portuguese National Electoral Commission for their unwavering support, making this event possible, especially in these trying times.

The International Electoral Awards Ceremony stands as a beacon, illuminating the tireless dedication and commendable achievements of individuals and organizations in the electoral domain. This year is particularly poignant as we come together for the first awards ceremony since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The global health crisis emphasised the indispensable role of these entities and their extraordinary resilience in navigating unparalleled challenges, ensuring the spirit of democracy remains undeterred.

This ceremony is not just a recognition of their achievements; it's a celebration of the collective resolve of the electoral community. As we honor their efforts, we also chart the course for the next phase of electoral excellence, fortified by the lessons of the past.

I deeply value the presence of every attendee and nominee tonight. Your journeys, innovations, and commitment form the backbone of our democratic fabric. Together, we create a narrative of hope, resilience, and unwavering dedication.

As we proceed with tonight's event, I am confident that this awards ceremony will be a resonant testament to the enduring spirit of the electoral community and the values we uphold.

Wishing everyone an evening of inspiration, recognition, and celebration.

Matt Gokhool
Chief Executive
International Centre for Parliamentary Studies

ABOUT ICPS

The International Centre for Parliamentary Studies exists to promote effective policymaking and good governance through enhanced interaction between Parliaments, governments and other stakeholders in society.

The Centre's primary focus is the empowerment of human capital through capacity building. To this end, the Centre organises a range of training programmes, conferences and policy discussions to address current public policy issues on the international stage, within Europe and in the UK. These provide a forum for policy discussion, debate, networking and consolidation of international best practice.

ICPS also provides a range of in-country consultancy services to public administrations and government agencies around the world that bring tangible and lasting change. Our consultancy services cover a range of areas including electoral affairs, regulation, governance, public sector reform, health and security.

We have worked with a variety of international organisations including the World Bank, Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, Council of Europe, the African Development Bank, the European Development Bank, the International Labour Organisation, the International Organisation for Migration,



International Centre for Parliamentary Studies

USAID, and many UN bodies including the UNDP, UN Women and UNICEF.

We have also worked with a broad range of governments including the United Arab Emirates, South Africa, Kenya, the UK, Moldova, Saudi Arabia, Portugal, Lithuania, Jamaica, the Cayman Islands, the Turks and Caicos Islands, Bermuda, Sierra Leone, Kosovo, Malaysia, Hong Kong and Australia. We have trained more than 5,000 individuals and organisations in the last 4 years.

In addition, we are the publisher of The Government Gazette, a quarterly magazine which provides quality analytical and politically neutral coverage of the leading institutions and policymakers in the European Union.

SCHEDULE

19:00	Move attendees into main ballroom
19:15	Award Ceremony Start
19:20	Opening Entertainment – College Musical Group of Nova School of Science and Technology
19:35	Presentation from CEO of ICPS
19:40	Presentation from President of CNE
19:50	Presentation 1: International Institutional Engagement Award
20:00	Presentation 2: Electoral Conflict Management Award
20:10	Entertainment – Luísa Amaro (Portuguese guitar)
20:10	Starters to be served
20:30	Presentation 3: Accessibility for All Award
20:40	Presentation 4: First Time Voter Award
20:50	Presentation 5: Election Management Award

SCHEDULE

21:00	Entertainment: Traditional Portuguese Dance Group
21:00	Main course to be served
21:20	Presentation 6: Citizens' Engagement Award
21:30	Presentation 7: Electoral Ergonomic Award
21:40	Presentation 8: Lifetime Achievement Award
21:50	Dessert to be served
22:00	Presentation 9: Electoral Commission of the Year
22:10	Presentation 10: Electoral Commissioner of the Year
22:20	CEO of ICPS closing speech
22:30	End of the Award Ceremony & group photo of all attendees at Ceremony

JUDGES



Matt Gokhool
Chief Executive
International Centre for Parliamentary Studies

Matt is the Chief Executive of the International Centre for Parliamentary Studies. He is a qualified Barrister and a member of the Honourable Society of the Middle Temple. He has previously held the position of Chief Executive of the Outer Territories of Mauritius, and the Chairman of the Prime Minister's Communication Cell.

Matt was a founder member of Parliamentary Communications, which is the largest parliamentary and political communication organization in Europe. In 2005, he was nominated Chief Executive of Huveaux Learning which was the result of the merger of Westminster Explained, Epic plc and Fenman, thus creating the largest independent trainer of the UK Civil Service. He is presently the Chairman of the International Centre for Electoral Psychology and has assisted numerous Heads of States and Heads of Governments in their endeavor to engage with the electorate and to sustain their democratic principles through the electoral process.



Soreto de Barros
President
National Electoral Commission of Portugal

Soreto de Barros is a Lord Justice of the Supreme Court of Justice. Has been the President of the National Electoral Commission of Portugal since 2016. Graduated in Law from the University of Coimbra, he began his career as a Deputy Prosecutor of the Republic, he was a Judge in several judicial districts and served as Judge of the Lisbon Court of Appeal.

He was also Secretary Judge of the Higher Judicial Council, President of the National Conscientious Objection Commission, Director-General of Judicial Services/Administration of Justice, Representative of the Ministry of Justice in the Multilateral Committee for the European Agreement on the Transmission of Requests for Judicial Assistance, and Vice-President of the Portuguese Judges' Union.

JUDGES



Michael Bruter
Director
Electoral Psychology Observatory

Michael leads the ECREP initiative in Electoral Psychology at the London School of Economics. As well as being a professor at the LSE, he is Adjunct Professor of political science at the Centre for the Study of Democratic Citizenship at McGill University in Montreal and Europa Fellow at the Australian National University.

Michael has published seven books and multiple articles in the fields of elections, political behaviour, political psychology, identities, public opinion, extreme right politics, and social science research methods. His ECREP project on electoral psychology in 25 countries received multiple prizes such as the award for Best International Research from the Market Research Society. He has given over 20 keynote speeches in locations including the House of Lords, Assemblée Nationale, European Parliament, and has advised leading institutions such as the Council of Europe and European Commission.



Alberto Guevara
Former Director of the Electoral Tribunal of the Federal
Judiciary (Mexico)

Alberto is a political scientist, with Master's degrees in Public Policy and Public Administration, and a PhD in Law. He served at International IDEA as member of the Secretariat of the Global Commission on Elections, Democracy and Security, where he worked with former Heads of State and former UN-Secretary General Kofi Annan, to put together recommendations to strengthen the integrity of democracy.

In Mexico, he worked as political communications advisor for the Specialized Prosecutor for Electoral Crimes in the aftermath of the 2006 elections. Later, Alberto was appointed General Director of International Relations at the Federal Electoral Tribunal, where he organized and participated in more than thirty observation missions worldwide. He currently advises public and private sector organizations on institutional relations, streamlined processes, and strategic communications.

JUDGES



Toby James
Director
Electoral Integrity Project

Toby is Professor of Politics and Public Policy at the University of East Anglia. He is currently Co-Director of the Electoral Integrity Project, an independent academic research project based at UEA and the Royal Military College of Canada/Queens University. The project produces innovative and policy-relevant research to improve elections worldwide. The flagship publication is the annual Global Electoral Integrity Report.

Toby's research focuses on the electoral integrity and democracy, the policy process and political leadership. Toby has written commissioned policy reports for national and international organisations, and collaborated with organisations such as International IDEA, IFES, the Carter Center, Westminster Foundation for Democracy and the UK Foreign Office.



Thomas Hicks
Commissioner
U.S. Election Assistance Commission

Thomas was confirmed by unanimous consent of the United States Senate on December 16, 2014 to serve on the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC). Prior to his appointment with the EAC, he served on the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on House Administration from 2003 to 2014. Mr. Hicks recently completed the Election Center and Auburn University's Certified Elections/Registration Administrator (CERA) program. He received his J.D. from the Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law and his B.A. in Government from Clark University (Worcester, MA).

JUDGES



John Hollins
Former Chief Electoral Officer
Elections Ontario

John Hollins is the Chairperson of the Delian project, has served as the Chief Electoral Officer for the Canadian Province of Ontario, and prior to that was the Director of Elections for the City of Toronto. He oversaw the implementation of AODA Accessibility Laws guidelines for disabled voters whilst CEO of Elections Ontario. Past electoral outreach activities include endeavours in Africa and the South Caucasus, with current efforts focused on the Caribbean. In 2004, John was appointed Canada's Chief Electoral Advisor to the Palestinian Authority (PA), working alongside former U.S. President Jimmy Carter during the 2004-05 PA elections. He continues to be an active lecturer on the topic of democracy and governance.



Sy Mamabolo
Chief Electoral Officer
Electoral Commission of South Africa

Sy is the Chief Electoral Officer of the Electoral Commission of South Africa. He has extensive electoral experience spanning nearly 20 years, and has been involved with nine of South Africa's elections in total. Prior to his present role, he served as Deputy Chief Electoral Officer of Electoral Operations, where his portfolio included, among others, the compilation of the voters' roll, candidate nomination, party registration, stakeholder management and counting and results. Before that he was Provincial Electoral Officer for Gauteng, the province which is the economic hub of South Africa.

Sy holds a Master's degree in Local Government Management from the University of the Witwatersrand. Before joining the Electoral Commission, he served as director for local government in the Gauteng provincial government. All these roles have involved extensive interaction with stakeholders at different levels across a range of functional disciplines, including the media, political parties, security institutions, state departments and multilateral organisations, including the United Nations.

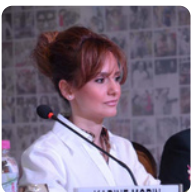
JUDGES



Laura Matjošaitytė
Former Chairwoman
Central Electoral Commission of Lithuania

Laura has extensive experience in the elections field with a progressive career of 10 years within the Central Electoral Commission (CEC) of Lithuania. She served as a member, deputy chair, and over the past 4 years chair of the CEC Lithuania. Laura was the President of the Association of the European Election Officials (ACEEEO). During her mandates, Laura represented the Commission in many international events, where she exchanged good practices and lessons learned as part of the CEC Lithuania team with homologs all over the world, as well as acquired knowledge from top electoral experts

Laura's academic background includes teaching Constitutional and Comparative Constitutional Law at the Mykolas Romeris University, co-authoring a book on Comparative Constitutional Law, as well as researching and publishing various articles in scientific journals on topics related to elections. Laura started her career as a lawyer in house, later, attorney-at-law. She holds a BA and a master's degree in Law from the University of Mykolas Romeris. She is fluent in English, German, speaks Russian, is a native Lithuanian speaker.



Natia Zaalishvili
Director
Centre for Electoral Systems Development, Reforms and
Trainings

Natia is the current Director of the Centre for Electoral Systems Development, Reforms and Trainings in Georgia and a seasoned lawyer. With a background in both private and public sectors, she started in the public service in 2006 with the Georgian Parliament, then progressed to the Presidential Parliamentary Secretary's office, where she was Deputy-Head until 2010. Moving to electoral systems development, she received a 2013 international award for First-Time Voters' education. Since 2014, she has been a member of the International Electoral Awards Committee and has contributed to electoral training and development internationally.

JUDGES



Nasim Zaidi
Former Chief Election Commissioner
Election Commission of India

Nasim possesses a Ph.D. degree in Biochemistry and a Master's degree in Public Administration from Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University. He served as 20th Chief Election Commissioner of India from 2015 to 2017 and earlier worked as Election Commissioner from 2012 to 2015. As a constitutional authority, he conducted free and fair elections in the country to all state assemblies and was associated with the conduct of the Parliamentary General Election in 2014. He brought about several institutional reforms at the ECI including introduction of digital technology in several areas such as inclusive voter registration, election monitoring and 100% use of VVPAT with EVMs.

During his tenure, he introduced significant administrative capacity, policy changes, core values and strengthened engagement with external stakeholders. His main contributions in the ECI include electoral roll purification drives to delete duplicate voters and linking rolls with Birth and Death Registry online for removal of deceased voters.

Nasim formulated a 5-Year Strategic Plan to prepare the Commission to meet future challenges. National Voter's Service Portal and Electronic Postal Ballot System was also launched in his period. Strengthening voter education program, setting up Global Knowledge Network of EMBs and Risk Management were other notable contributions.



AWARDS

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONAL ENGAGEMENT

The International Institutional Engagement Award will honour initiatives in the field of election assistance and election observation that successfully contributed to an increase of legitimisation of the electoral process and a growth of public confidence towards democratic procedures.

Context

Article 21 of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights enshrines the right of everyone to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives. Furthermore, Article 21 determines that the will of the people shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures. The engagement of International Institutions, Governmental and Non-Governmental Organisations and Charities aims at supporting countries to carry out elections that meet these fundamental democratic principles.

Criteria

The International Institutional Engagement Award will honour initiatives in the field of election assistance and election observation that successfully contributed to an increase of legitimisation of the electoral process and a growth of public confidence towards democratic procedures.

In this category the members of the Electoral Stakeholders Network are invited to nominate International Institutions, Governmental and Non-Governmental Organisations, Charities and people working in the third sector. The nominee's work should have had an emphasis on monetary, technical or material support, training, legal assistance, voter registration, combating electoral fraud and civic education. Furthermore electoral observer missions are eligible to be nominated for an award. Nominations should specify the international actor responsible for the initiative, the initiative itself and the country in which the initiative was implemented. Criteria will include the originality of the initiative, how well it was designed and implemented, and how effective its results have been.

AWARDS

ELECTORAL CONFLICT MANAGEMENT

This Award will honour undertakings of an Electoral Management Body or Electoral Management Officials, Civil society organisations, (CSO's), non-governmental organisations NGO's, and other stakeholders that have effectively managed a pre- or post-electoral conflict and/or successfully managed elections in a conflict environment.

Context

Conflicts and disputes related to elections are multifaceted. Pre- or post electoral disputes are an important proof for the vitality of a political system and for ability to critically assess and question democratic processes. Furthermore, they are a sign of civil society's common understanding of electoral procedures. Moreover, elections can be used as a mediating and pacifying instrument to solve an existing political conflict in a given country. The acceptance of the outcome of an election is once more a viable sign for the maturity and health of a democracy. Nonetheless, elections can also cause conflicts ranging from peaceful protests to mass upheavals and violent eruptions. A recent development is the transformation from post-conflict elections to conflict elections. More precisely this means that elections are often held in countries with ongoing conflicts, in a hostile and violent environment. It is a common practise of anti-democratic forces to threaten and harm voters on polling day to sabotage elections and undermine a countries democracy.

Criteria

Different conflicts need different solutions and approaches to be solved. The Electoral Conflict Management Award will honour undertakings of an Election Management Body or Electoral Management Officials, Civil society organisations, (CSO's), non-governmental organisations NGO's, and other stakeholders that have effectively managed a pre- or post-electoral conflict. Furthermore, the successful use of elections as a pacifying or mediating instrument and the prevention of electoral violence will be rewarded. Additionally, the successful holding of elections in a conflict environment will be recognised.

The members of the Electoral Stakeholders Network are invited to nominate an Election Management Body or official who has achieved outstanding results in the field of electoral conflict management. Nominations should specify the Election Management Body or Person nominated and the respective initiative. Criteria will include the originality of the initiative, how well it was implemented, and how effective its results have been.

AWARDS

ACCESSIBILITY FOR ALL

This Award will recognise initiatives by Election Management Bodies or Electoral Management Officials, Civil society organisations (CSO's), non-governmental organisations (NGO's), and other stakeholders that ensure equal access and participation in the electoral process for everyone, including marginalized groups such as women, persons with disabilities, and minorities.

Context

Ensuring equal access and participation in the electoral process is a fundamental aspect of a democratic society. Yet, certain groups within society may face barriers due to physical, geographical, social, cultural, or educational reasons. This award acknowledges outstanding efforts to overcome these barriers and promote accessibility and inclusiveness in electoral democracy.

Criteria

The Accessibility for All Award will recognize outstanding initiatives by Election Management Bodies or Electoral Management Officials, CSO's, NGO's, and other stakeholders that strive to achieve equal access and participation in the electoral process for all citizens, regardless of gender, disability, ethnicity, religion, or any other social, biological, or cultural factors. Initiatives may include measures to increase participation of women, persons with disabilities, ethnic, linguistic, or religious minorities, as well as efforts to promote proportionality and representativeness in the electoral outcome.

Nominations should specify both the Election Management Body nominated and the initiative perceived to have improved accessibility and inclusiveness in the electoral process. Criteria will also include the originality of the initiative, how well it was designed and implemented, and how effective its results have been.

AWARDS

FIRST TIME VOTER

This Award will recognise Electoral Management Bodies or Electoral Management Officials, Civil society organisations, (CSO's), non-governmental organisations NGO's, and other stakeholders which have taken outstanding measures to facilitate optimise the electoral experience of first time voters, realising the importance of the first electoral experience of a voter and the unique challenges that it raises.

Context

Academic research has shown that the most important election in an individual's life is usually his/her first. First time voters are 'special', because how they perceive the first election in which they are eligible to vote, whether they do participate in it or abstain, and how good or bad their first electoral experience is will determine their perception of and attitudes towards electoral democracy for the rest of their lives. First time voters are also unique because of the challenges that they pose to Election Management Bodies. They may not have any prior knowledge about elections, parties, or the electoral process, they may be intimidated by their new responsibility as a citizen, and they may have different questions and concerns as compared to experienced voters.

Criteria

The First Time Voters Award will recognise Electoral Management Bodies or Electoral Management Officials, Civil society organisations, (CSO's), non-governmental organisations NGO's, and other stakeholders which have taken outstanding measures to facilitate, optimise, and/or help the electoral experience of first time voters, realising the importance of the first electoral experience of a voter and the unique challenges that it raises.

Initiatives nominated for the award may be directed at any type of first time voters: young voters who reach franchise age for the first time, new citizens, who have just received the nationality of their country and will be eligible to participate in its elections for the first time, or even all citizens in a country that has had its first democratic elections. Any initiative helping the situation of first time voters is eligible, whether it pertains to information, registration, voting conditions, satisfaction, or any other aspect of the vote preparation and process. Nominations should specify both, the Election Management Body and/or person nominated and the initiative perceived to have improved citizens' engagement. Criteria will include the originality of the initiative, how well it was designed and implemented, and how effective its results have been.

AWARDS

ELECTION MANAGEMENT

This Award recognises approaches by Electoral Management Bodies or Electoral Management Officials, Civil society organisations, (CSO's), non-governmental organisations NGO's, and other stakeholders which were able to overcome remarkable country specific challenges; improving elections and guaranteeing a secure, transparent and smooth running of elections.

Context

The successful management of elections is crucial to a valid outcome of the democratic process. Truly democratic elections often stand and fall with the quality of the electoral management which has to be done differently in every country. There is no one size fits all approach for successful electoral management. However, election management is mainly about handling the organisation, logistics and infrastructure of elections. Breaking it down, election management is predominantly tackling the challenge of voter registration, guaranteeing a transparent and secure electoral process, carrying out a flawless authentication of voters, providing the necessary facilities, instruments and materials for elections and securing a faultless and adequate counting of the votes and presentation of results.

Criteria

The Electoral Management Award recognises electoral management approaches by Electoral Management Bodies or or Electoral Management Officials, Civil society organisations, (CSO's), non-governmental organisations NGO's, and other stakeholders which were able to overcome remarkable country specific challenges; guaranteeing a secure, transparent and smooth running of elections.

The members of the Electoral Stakeholders Network are warmly invited to nominate an Electoral Management Bodies or Electoral Management Officials, Civil society organisations, (CSO's), non-governmental organisations NGO's, and other stakeholders who delivered an outstanding management of elections, achieving excellent results. Nominations should specify both the Election Management Body and/or person nominated and elections that have been excellently managed.

AWARDS

CITIZENS' ENGAGEMENT

This Award rewards Electoral Management Bodies or Electoral Management Officials, Civil society organisations, (CSO's), non-governmental organisations NGO's, and other stakeholders for putting citizens at the heart of the electoral process and maximising their engagement and their satisfaction. This could comprise initiatives to tackle low turnout, cynicism, distrust, perceived legitimacy issues.

Context

Democracy is government by citizens, and elections are the tool which is used across the democratic world to ensure that citizens are in control of their political system. This means that citizens should be at the heart of any election, and that the absolute priority of any election management body should be to ensure that elections are organised in such a way as to optimise the engagement, participation, satisfaction, trust, and perceived legitimacy of citizens.

Criteria

The Citizens Engagement Award is aimed at rewarding Electoral Management Bodies or Electoral Management Officials, Civil society organisations, (CSO's), non-governmental organisations NGO's, and other stakeholders for embracing what should perhaps be their most important goal: to put citizens at the heart of the electoral process and maximise their engagement and their satisfaction. At a time when most democratic societies face problems with citizens' engagement, such as low turnout, cynicism, distrust, perceived legitimacy issues, and low democratic satisfaction, Electoral Management Bodies have a key role to play to restore trust in the electoral system and citizens' involvement in electoral democracy.

As a consequence, we invite nominations for any outstanding initiative by an Electoral Management Body or Electoral Management Officials, Civil society organisations, (CSO's), non-governmental organisations NGO's, and other stakeholders to foster and improve citizens engagement. This could be a policy which has improved turnout, is improving citizens' trust in or satisfaction with the electoral process, or has attempted to better understand what are citizens' perceptions about the electoral process or what impedes them from being more engaged. Nominations should specify both the Election Management Body and/or person nominated and the initiative perceived to have improved citizens' engagement. Criteria will include the originality of the initiative, how well it was designed and implemented, and how effective its results have been.

AWARDS

ELECTORAL ERGONOMY

This Award will recognise Electoral Management Bodies or Electoral Management Officials, Civil society organisations, (CSO's), non-governmental organisations NGO's, and other stakeholders which tailored electoral procedures to the psychology of their voter and the specific characteristics of their electorate.

Context

Electoral ergonomics is the optimisation of the design of every detail of electoral procedures to make them as suited as possible to the citizens of a given country. Research has shown that every detail in electoral procedures matters. Adapting them to the psychology of citizens and the specificity of a country's society and culture can have an immense impact on the quality of electoral democracy. Indeed, electoral ergonomics can have a very strong effect on minimising error and influences in the vote, they determine how comfortable voters are with elections, and how positively they feel towards the electoral process.

Criteria

The Electoral Ergonomics Award will therefore recognise outstanding initiatives taken by an Election Management Body or Electoral Management Officials, Civil society organisations, (CSO's), non-governmental organisations NGO's, and other stakeholders that tailor some electoral procedures to the psychology of their voter and the specific characteristics of their electorate (cultural habits, demographic and geographical make-up of the population, social or literacy characteristics, etc).

Initiatives nominated for this award may pertain to any aspect of electoral ergonomics, such as the design of the polling ballots or adaptation of voting machines, the organisation of the polling station or the polling booth, research on alternative voting mechanisms such as advanced, postal, or electronic voting. The key criteria pertain to the taking into account of the needs and specificities of citizens in the decisions made by Electoral Management Bodies, be it in the design, evaluation, justification, and/or experimentation of voting procedures according to voters' needs, psychology and culture. Nominations should specify both the Election Management Body nominated and the initiative perceived to have improved citizens' engagement. Criteria will also include the originality of the initiative, how well it was designed and implemented, and how effective its results have been.

AWARDS

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

This award shall be given to people for their remarkable achievements, outstanding work, deep commitment or great sacrifice in the fields of elections and democracy. Honoured shall be courage, persistence, dedication and the decision to cope with an issue against all odds.

Context

Throughout history it has been proven that the action, dedication and commitment of one individual can have the power to massively impact on social, political and cultural matters. Mahatma Ghandi, Martin Luther King and Emmeline Plankhurst, are among the most popular examples where the effort of one individual changed, what has been widely perceived as unchangeable. Especially in politics this unconditional personal commitment for a special cause is entangled with personal sacrifice. Mostly because political issues and problems are deeply rooted in society, interests fiercely protected by political or economic elites and thus it takes more than a lifetime to solve them.

Criteria

This award shall be given to people for their remarkable achievements, outstanding work, deep commitment or great sacrifice in the fields of elections and democracy. Honoured shall be courage, persistence, dedication and the decision to cope with an issue against all odds.

The members of the Electoral Award Committee will choose a winner who matches the above described criteria.

AWARDS

ELECTORAL COMMISSION OF THE YEAR

The Award Committee will honour a Commission, taking into consideration the effort to foster a 'community of good citizens' among election practitioners and the search for best practice, evidence based research and policy in the field of elections of Electoral Commissions worldwide.

Electoral Commissions worldwide are the independent watchdogs of democratic processes checking and balancing the use of democratic means by the governing political elite. Their duties are manifold and so are their challenges. Every Electoral Commission depending on the countries electoral system, demographic and geographic constitution has to approach its tasks in a fundamentally different way. Even the organisational composition and structure of Electoral Commissions differs vastly.

The Award for the Electoral Commission of the year will honour a Commission, taking into consideration the above described diversity of challenges, duties and organisational structures. Furthermore, the effort to foster a 'community of good citizens' among election practitioners and the search for best practice and evidence based research and policy in the field of elections of Electoral Commissions worldwide will be taken into consideration.

The Electoral Commissioner of the year Award is a non-nomination category. Every Commission that has been nominated in another category is automatically also nominated as Electoral Commission of the year. The ICPS Electoral Stakeholders Award Committee will create a shortlist on the basis of the submitted nomination and will subsequently choose a winner.

SHORTLIST

ACCESSIBILITY FOR ALL

- Central Electoral Board of the Dominican Republic
- The Electoral Tribunal of the Federal Judiciary of Mexico (TEPJF)
- National Electoral Institute of Mexico

CITIZENS' ENGAGEMENT

- Malawi Electoral Commission
- Elections Ontario
- Swedish Election Authority

ELECTION MANAGEMENT

- Central Election Commission of Georgia
- Independent Electoral Commission of Kenya
- State Election Commission, NCT of Delhi, India

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONAL ENGAGEMENT

- National Electoral Council of the Republic of Ecuador
- State Election Commission, Bihar
- Electoral Integrity Project and International IDEA

FIRST TIME VOTER

- State Election Commission, Bihar, India
- District Election Office, Koderma, India
- Daniel Stockemer/Aksel Sundstrom

SHORTLIST

ELECTORAL CONFLICT

- National Electoral Council, Colombia
- Central Election Commission, Georgia
- Commission on Elections – Philippines

ELECTORAL ERGONOMY

- Independent Electoral Commission of Kenya
- State Election Commission, Bihar, India
- Commission on Elections – Philippines

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