

DEMOCRACY STARTS WITH DIALOGUE

Netherlands Institute for
Multiparty Democracy

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THE NETHERLANDS INSTITUTE FOR MULTIPARTY DEMOCRACY (NIMD) WORKS TO PROMOTE PEACEFUL, JUST AND INCLUSIVE POLITICS WORLDWIDE

Accountable and inclusive governance is the key to achieving peace, stability and prosperity. That's why NIMD works in the heart of the political arena, helping to build democratic societies where every citizen's voice is heard.

Our work is characterized by dialogue. We unite actors from across the political divide, building trust and ending historic rivalries.

We support established and aspiring politicians as they shape the future of their countries. Our work helps build effective politics that represents peoples' needs, regardless of their gender, background or beliefs.

Our ultimate aim is to achieve peaceful, just and inclusive societies that deliver sustainable development for everyone.



OUR STORY

NIMD was established by seven political parties from across the Dutch political spectrum, with the aim of supporting emerging democracies through a multiparty approach. Accommodating competing voices and embracing political diversity is therefore in our DNA. It is what makes us unique as an organization.

Since our founding in 2000, NIMD has grown to operate in over 20 countries around the world. Thanks to years of experience in the field, our team of analysts and practitioners has achieved results in the most sensitive political contexts.

We work on an impartial and non-partisan basis with all political parties in a country, groups or political stakeholders in a country. This is essential in ensuring citizens see themselves represented in politics and have the opportunity to influence decision-making. Our flexible, politically astute and inclusive approach builds trust and bridges competing interests, allowing for real deliberation across party divides.

NIMD'S FOUNDING PARTIES

CHRISTEN-DEMOCRATISCH APPÈL (CDA)
Christian Democratic Appeal

CHRISTENUNIE (CU)
Christian Union

DEMOCRATEN 66 (D66)
Democrats 66

GROENLINKS (GL)
Green Party

PARTIJ VAN DE ARBEID (PVDA)
Labour Party

STAATKUNDIG GEREFORMEERDE PARTIJ (SGP)
Reformed Political Party

VOLKSPARTIJ VOOR VRIJHEID EN DEMOCRATIE (VVD)
People's Party for Freedom and Democracy





OUR VISION

One clear conviction lies at the heart of everything we do at NIMD: Real and sustainable change starts with investing in effective politics.

That's why we work towards peaceful societies where institutions are strong and politics works for the people, regardless of their gender, religion or background. This is the vision also set out in Goal 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In 2015, the United Nations set this ambitious Global Agenda as a comprehensive

framework for countries to transform our world, by creating the conditions that allow all people to thrive.

We at NIMD are convinced that this path to sustainable development begins with trust in politics and political institutions.

Indeed, strong and inclusive political institutions - with accountable and transparent governance that works in the peoples' interests - are preconditions if we want to eradicate poverty, secure economic growth and reduce inequality.



OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

IMPARTIALITY

Our approach is value-based and non-partisan. We are not affiliated with one specific political denomination and we work with political actors from across the political spectrum.

LOCAL OWNERSHIP

We work on an equal basis with our local partners. Our programmes are locally set and reflect local demands.

INCLUSIVENESS

We provide a platform for discussion for both ruling and opposition parties. All parties take part in the dialogue with an equal voice.

LONG-TERM COMMITMENT

Political transformation, building trust and strengthening political systems takes time. Our success comes from building long-lasting relationships with local partners and institutions.

DIVERSITY

Effective democracies reflect the diversity of their citizens. NIMD strives to give marginalized groups a seat at the table and champions the cause of gender equality.





OUR APPROACH

NIMD works at the heart of politics, supporting political actors from across the political spectrum, and empowering them to contribute effectively to sustainable development.

We have different strategies to help us do this. We promote dialogue between politicians from different political parties and groups, so that they can come to shared solutions on the issues that matter. We strengthen the capacities of political actors and parties, so that they have the tools they need to work responsively, effectively and accountably. And we train young and aspiring politicians in our Democracy Schools, so that they have the knowledge and skills to take up their roles as future leaders.

NIMD's work reaches countries around the world, each with their own complex political history and diverse communities.

Starting with an in-depth analysis of the specific political context, we assess how we can use our unique portfolio and expertise to contribute to positive change. Then, together with our local partners, we develop a tailor-made approach to make that change a reality.

Since political change can come from many places, we work at different levels, from aspiring local politicians to national political leaders.

During the course of our programmes, we constantly monitor and evaluate our work. We want to build democracies that are future-proof, so we share our achievements and learn from our mistakes.

Through this pioneering attitude, we hope to arrive at innovative and effective solutions with a long-term impact.

OUR WORK IN PRACTICE

FACILITATING INTERPARTY DIALOGUE

Democracy starts with dialogue.

That's why NIMD sets up and facilitates safe and informal spaces where dialogue can take root and begin to thrive. Here, we bring together actors from all political denominations, so that they may overcome barriers and build the foundations for working together. Once a basic level of trust has been established, we help the participants formulate a common agenda for democratic reform. As a result, the dialogue often leads to improvements in the formal democratic system.

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INTERPARTY DIALOGUE PLATFORMS

CHANGING LEGISLATION THROUGH DIALOGUE: EXAMPLES FROM GUATEMALA

The conservative 'macho' culture in Guatemala does not allow much space for women's political participation. NIMD sees changing this as a key priority and supports the Women's Commission, a multiparty group in the Congress which aims to put gender issues on the agenda.

With NIMD's support and analysis, the Women's Commission worked with civil society and other women's groups to draft a law against femicide in 2008.

Guatemala has the highest femicide rate in Latin America: between 2000

and 2012, over 5000 women were murdered. After a long and intense dialogue process, the law was approved in Parliament. It contributed to sensitizing Guatemala's political culture to this important gender issue.

In 2017, this topic was still very much on the agenda of Congress. In fact, there was a move to weaken the law by removing a number of its provisions.

With NIMD's assistance, women MPs were able to protect the law, together with other Congress Commissions.

DEMOCRATIZATION IN COLOMBIA: TOWARDS A MORE EQUAL AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETY

When NIMD started working in Colombia in 2010, it was in an effort to strengthen political actors and make Colombia's political system more open and inclusive. Over the years, we have built up good relations with the country's political parties and managed to gain their trust.

Based on our achievements in Colombia, we were formally requested in 2016 to assist in the implementation of the Peace Agreement between the Colombian Government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC – now the Common Alternative Revolutionary Force). This Agreement was signed when, after four years of negotiations, both sides agreed to work

together to build stable and enduring peace in the country.

Through our programme 'Democratic Action for Peace', we are currently helping Colombia's political parties to adapt to the country's new political situation following the Peace Agreement.

We do this through training and dialogue activities. In addition, we have set up eleven Democracy Schools in the regions most affected by the conflict. Here, (aspiring) politicians from all parties, and civil society representatives, come together to work for peace, reconciliation and better political representation.

WORKING WITH POLITICAL ACTORS

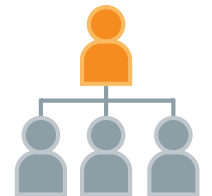
Democracy depends on responsive politicians.

NIMD works in countries where democracy is young and therefore still fragile. In many of these countries, political actors lack the skills and experience they need to fulfil their role in the context of a democratic society.

In addition, political parties are often based on the personality of the leader rather than real programmes or policies. That's why NIMD helps political parties and actors to build their capacities in a variety of ways. For example, we provide specific support for policy analysis and offer training to help parties develop clear and realistic policy positions.

We also bring parties closer to voters by helping them draft manifestos, democratize their candidate selection process, and improve the representation of women and marginalized groups.

**OVER
200**



**POLITICAL PARTIES
SUPPORTED BY NIMD**

DEMOCRACY SCHOOLS

Every democracy needs democrats.

Culture is the key to political change. If we want political actors to work in the interests of their citizens; if we want them to be accountable, break down barriers to women and minorities and strive for inclusiveness... then we need to make sure that they believe deeply in inclusive politics.

At NIMD, we set up Democracy Schools around the world where young and aspiring politicians learn these values, and where political actors can gain the skills and practices they need to operate effectively in a democratic system. Through the schools, participants also get to know each other well and start building relationships across the political divide.

Our Democracy Schools are helping ensure the next generation can put their political values into practice in line with needs of their country. By providing a space for future leaders to speak, listen, and debate with mutual respect, we can bring effective and inclusive politics one step closer.

ALMOST
4000 
DEMOCRACY SCHOOL
GRADUATES

THE TUNISIAN SCHOOL OF POLITICS: EMPOWERING A GENERATION OF POLITICIANS

Since 2012, NIMD has been working in Tunisia together with Demo Finland to build the capacity of the parties and politicians. To achieve this, we have set up the Tunisian School of Politics, implemented by our local partner the Centre des Études Méditerranéennes Internationales (CEMI).

At the school, young politicians from nine different parties work together in a multiparty setting to acquire the skills and knowledge they need to run a successful multiparty democracy. This also creates trust and encourages open dialogue, resulting in relationships that transcend party affiliations. For example, current School of Politics participants voluntarily joined forces with alumni from previous classes to develop multiparty

policy proposals on counter-terrorism in 2016. These proposals were a clear demonstration of the skills learnt at the school being put into action.

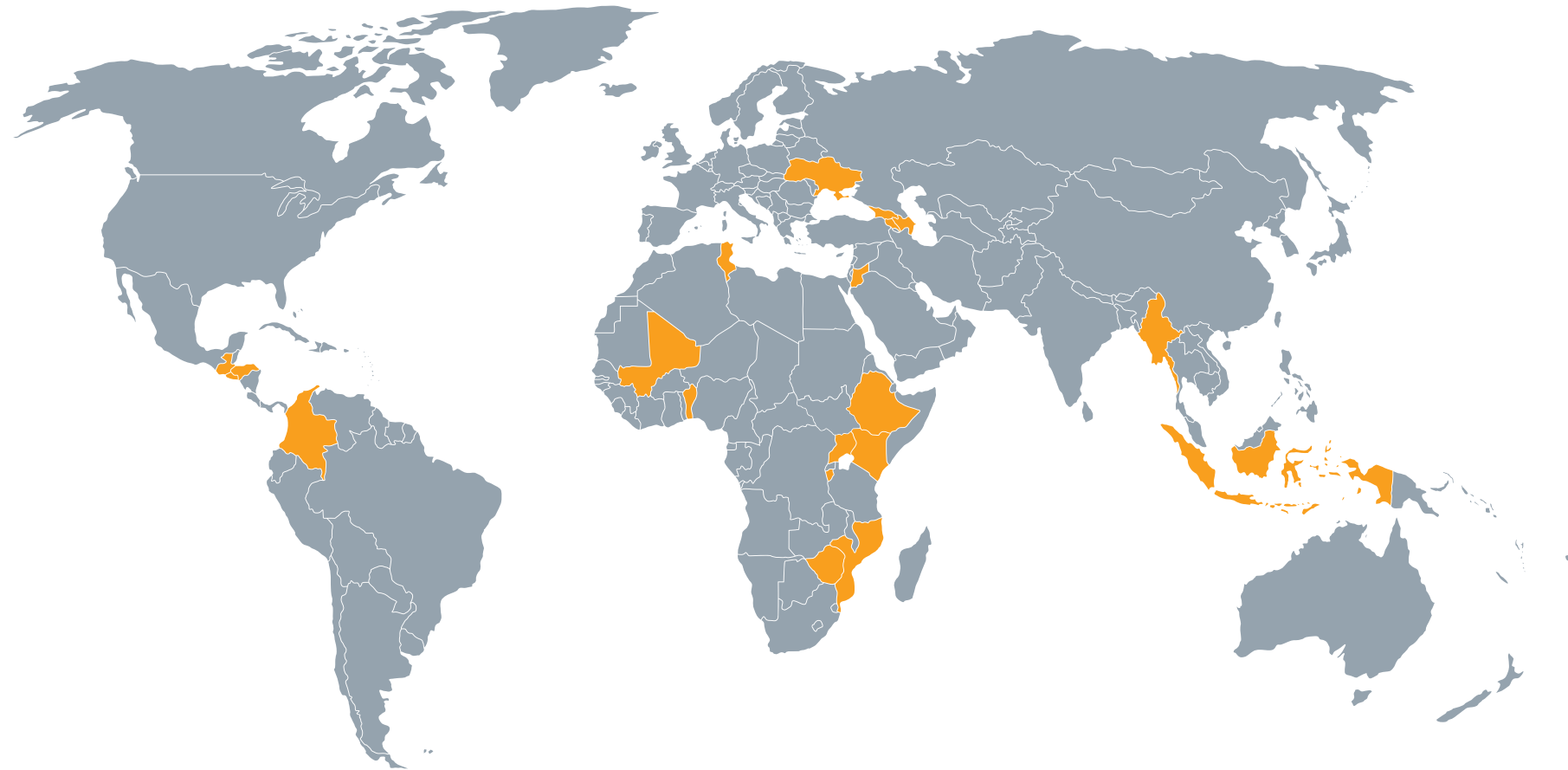
By the end of 2017, more than 280 politicians had graduated from the Tunisian School of Politics.

To promote a long-term culture of dialogue and cooperation, we introduced an official interparty dialogue platform in 2016. One of the first outputs of this platform was the development of a charter on electoral ethics. Fourteen Tunisian political parties officially signed this charter, committing to promote a climate of mutual respect in the run-up to Tunisia's municipal elections on 6 May 2017.

WHERE WE WORK

Based in the Netherlands, NIMD works in Africa, Latin America, Southeast Asia, the MENA region and Eastern Europe. Every country has a unique and complex history, culture and political heritage. Therefore, NIMD always starts with an in-depth political analysis and uses this to develop tailor-made strategies for each country.

In every country, we work with a local partner organization or country office. Over the years, we have built strong relations with these partners. They are pivotal in our network, linking NIMD's worldwide expertise and resources to local activities as well as creating impact on the ground.



COUNTRIES AND PARTNERS

BENIN - NIMD Benin

BURUNDI - Burundi Leadership Training Program

COLOMBIA - NIMD Colombia

EL SALVADOR - NIMD El Salvador

ETHIOPIA - NIMD Ethiopia

GUATEMALA - NIMD Guatemala

HONDURAS - NIMD Honduras

INDONESIA - Kemitraan

JORDAN - NIMD Jordan

KENYA - Centre for Multiparty Democracy
Kenya (CMD-K)

MALI - NIMD Mali and the Centre Malien pour le Dialogue Inter partis et la Démocratie (Fondation CMDID)

MOZAMBIQUE - Instituto para Democracia
Multipartidária (IMD MOZAMBIQUE)

MYANMAR - NIMD Myanmar (jointly with Demo Finland)

SOUTH CAUCASUS - The Eastern European
Centre for Multiparty Democracy (EECMD)

TUNISIA - Centre des Études
Méditerranéennes Internationales (CEMI)

UGANDA - NIMD Uganda

UKRAINE - The Eastern European Centre for
Multiparty Democracy (EECMD)

ZIMBABWE - Zimbabwe Institute



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Building peaceful, just and inclusive societies is one of the major challenges of the coming decade. With our knowledge, experience and international network, we are at the forefront of this challenge. By strengthening political systems, bringing politicians together in dialogue and enabling them to function effectively, we lay the foundations for peace and inclusiveness around the world.

This work is more important than ever. At NIMD, are able to invest in long-term

programmes and maintain long-lasting relationships with our partners thanks to the continuing support of donors such as the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the European Commission, the Open Society Foundations, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), the United Nations, the Democratic Governance Facility (DGF), the US Department of State, and the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs.

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