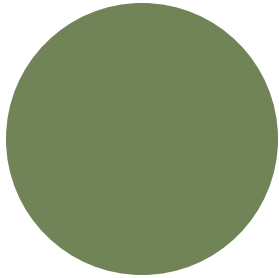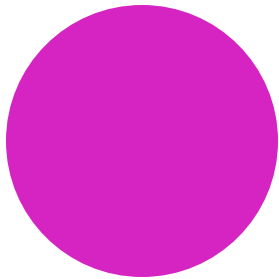# Global Project
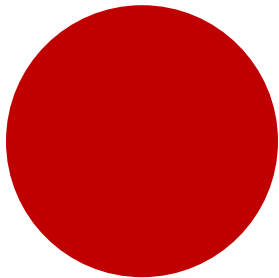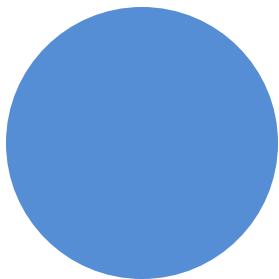## for Electoral Cycle Support II

PHASE II (2015 – 2017)

May 2015

Elections are the ultimate means through which **citizens voice** their **political preferences** and **choose** their representatives.

Elections are regularly conducted in **almost all countries**. Yet, many countries continue to face challenges related to the **integrity** and **credibility of their elections**.

Electoral processes are also important benchmarks in **peacebuilding processes**, particularly in severe post-conflict contexts. Elections can also, however, fuel existing conflicts and divisions in society.

Hence, inclusive and credible **electoral cycle support** is an integral tool for democratic governance and peaceful development.

UNDP's Electoral Assistance

Provides support to approximately
65 countries
per year

UNDP's Electoral Assistance

In the Strategic Plan 2014-2017, UNDP adopts an **integrated approach** to supporting inclusive political processes (IPP) that aims to strengthen political processes and institutions for **improving citizen participation**, voice and accountability and (re-) build a strong(er) and more inclusive **social contract**.

UNDP's Electoral Assistance

It integrates electoral cycle support to other areas such as **civic engagement, constitutional reform** and **parliamentary work**, and supports key actors such as political parties and civil society groups.

It prioritises the **prevention of election-related violence** as well as support to countries in transition.

It stresses the importance of **inclusion** for credible and peaceful processes (especially focusing on women, youth, indigenous people and persons with disabilities).

Global Project
for Electoral Cycle Support II

UNDP's main vehicle for the formulation and implementation of **electoral policy** at the global, regional and country levels.

Builds from the achievements as well as **recommendations** from **evaluations** and **lessons learned** exercises.

Maintains **rapid response**, **fast-track mechanisms** to request and approve country-level electoral support.

Prioritizes gender mainstreaming and promotes an inclusive electoral agenda.

Promotes long term **capacity development**, knowledge and learning exchange.

GPECS Phase II – four inter-dependent and mutually reinforcing pillars

Phase II – GLOBAL

New Cutting-Edge Initiatives: GPECS II concentrates on innovative knowledge products that advance the electoral cycle approach in identified gap areas, such as:

a) civil and voter registries, the application of new technologies, and identity management in the biometric age;

b) cost and sustainability of electoral processes, and;

c) electoral security and integrity of electoral processes.

Strengthen policy and programming support to countries offices through the JTF in Brussels.

GPECS Regional Component

At the regional level, **GPECS II** will provide policy and programming support to country level projects.

In addition, the **regional component** will focus on the exchange of good practices, per networking and knowledge creation and dissemination in all regions, with specific focus on each region:

GPECS Regional Components

Africa: Strengthening the electoral capacity and south-south cooperation of relevant regional bodies; Enhancing inclusive electoral processes in Africa; Support to the Sahel region.

Arab States: Establishing the Organization of Arab EMBs; Strengthening electoral capacities of regional organization; enhancing regional electoral knowledge; Promoting the Participation of Women and Youth; building partnerships.

Asia-Pacific: Building electoral integrity, electoral security and conflict prevention, and regional organization engagement.

GPECS Regional Components

Europe and CIS: fostering regional knowledge development, exchanges and capacity and political participation of women and other vulnerable groups (people with disabilities, minorities).

Latin America and the Caribbean: Mainstreaming gender in electoral processes; Youth political and electoral participation throughout the electoral cycle; Regional Research and Knowledge Management.

GPECS Phase II

- Allows for earmarked and un-earmarked contributions and features a mechanism that allows **donor contributions** to be channeled to **specific countries**;

- Features a **fast-track mechanism** to fund these electoral processes in very short timeframes.

GPECS Phase II

Provides for bridge financing, at country level, before more sizeable contributions are received by donors. Channeling funding for national electoral processes through **GPECS II** will, moreover, provide the added benefit of linking country-level support to global and regional lessons learned and policies and vice versa. A Steering Committee will govern the strategic direction of **GPECS II** and the allocation of country funds.

The total project budget is expected to be **USD $35 million** for a period of three years (2015 -2017).

GPECS II will be led from UNDP headquarters in New York to ensure synergies with other UN entities and further areas of governance and peacebuilding, especially those focusing on inclusive political processes.

Thank you!

UNDP

GPECS II
Global Project
for Electoral Cycle Support II