



Society for International Development
Washington Chapter



FY 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Democracy, Rights, & Governance Workgroup

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DEMOCRACY, RIGHTS, & GOVERNANCE WORKGROUP

The SID-Washington (SID-W) Democracy, Rights, and Governance Workgroup is a group of individuals who are actively engaged in the ongoing evolution and development of human rights and democracy associated with international development, including the role of civil society. With events ranging from strengthening health governance to dealing with corruption and evolving political analysis, this workgroup aims to inform and educate on any and all development issues that relate to democracy, rights, and governance, as well as how civil society can help shape economic and social outcomes.



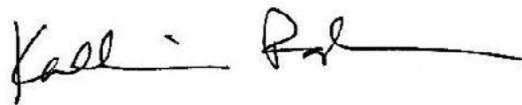
Dear Members of the Democracy, Rights, & Governance Workgroup,

We are happy to report that we had another exciting year! As we reflect on last year, the workgroup produced several great events, ranging from [Next Generation Human Rights](#) to [Government Accountability and the Sustainability of Democracy](#) to [Natural resources management adventures in thinking and working politically](#). We are planning events for another exciting year, so stay tuned on our website about upcoming event announcements!

This workgroup informs and educates the international development community on all issues related to democracy, rights, and governance. Additionally, the workgroup explores how civil society plays into DRG and can help shape economic and social outcomes.

Thank you for your continued interest and support of the workgroups. We hope to see you at future SID-Washington events! If you have any questions, please feel free to send an email to events@sidw.org.

Best regards,



Katherine Raphaelson



Paul A. Sherman





**Eric
Bjornlund**

President,
Democracy
International, Inc.

Eric Bjornlund is a lawyer and is co-founder and President of Democracy International (DI), a U.S.-based firm founded in 2003 that provides technical assistance, analytical services, and project implementation for democracy, human rights and governance (DRG), peace and resilience, and other international development programs worldwide. He is also Adjunct Professor in the Department of Government at Georgetown University, where he teaches in the graduate program in Democracy and Governance and serves on the program's advisory board. Over the past 30 years, Mr. Bjornlund has designed, managed, evaluated, and provided training and technical assistance for international development programs in 70 countries.

Mr. Bjornlund holds a Juris Doctor from Columbia University, a Master in Public Administration from John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, and a Bachelor of Arts magna cum laude from Williams College.

For full biography on Mr. Bjornlund, please see website: <https://sidw.org/eric-bjornlund-0>.



**Ann
Hudock**

President and CEO,
Counterpart International

Ann Hudock is President and CEO of Counterpart International. Bringing more than 25 years of international development experience, Dr. Hudock leads Counterpart's global program portfolio, building on the organization's body of work with new approaches to promote civic participation and government accountability.

Before joining Counterpart in 2017, Dr. Hudock worked at Plan International USA, where she led the expansion of the international program portfolio and served as Vice-Chair of the Plan Federation Program Directors Forum. She was a Managing Director at DAI, diversifying their work beyond U.S. government funding and creating a strong portfolio with UK Department for International Development.

Before working with DAI, Dr. Hudock was the Deputy Country Representative and the Acting Country Representative for The Asia Foundation in Hanoi, Vietnam. Democracy and governance issues were the foundation of her career in her roles as head of Democracy and Governance at World Learning in Washington, DC; as one of the first Democracy Fellows at USAID in 1997; and as Special Assistant to the Under Secretary of State for Global Affairs, covering the Democracy, Human Rights and Labor portfolio.

EVENT CALENDAR

Tuesday, October 16, 2018

9:00AM-10:30AM | SID-Washington

Discussion on Justifying DRG Assistance

Wednesday, November 14, 2018

10:00AM-11:30AM | SID-Washington

Democracy, Rights, & Governance Workgroup
Planning Meeting

Thursday, March 7, 2019

10:00AM-11:30AM | SID-Washington

Next Generation Human Rights

Tuesday, April 9, 2019

5:45PM-7:15PM | SID-Washington

Government Accountability and the Sustainability of
Democracy

Thursday, April 25, 2019

8:30AM-11:30AM | SID-Washington

Natural Resources Management Adventures in Thinking
and Working Politically



Discussion on Justifying DRG Assistance

Moderator: **Eric Bjornlund**, President, Democracy International Inc.

Speakers: **Mary Laurie**, Government Relations Manager, USGLC
Liza Prendergast, Senior Director, Strategy & Outreach, Democracy International
Tim Meisburger, Director, Center of Excellence on Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance, USAID

Event Description: As the role of American engagement in the world is in question, the current administration, much like past ones, has justified foreign aid largely on grounds of American national economic or security interests. But does justifying foreign assistance based upon U.S. national interests help or hurt our efforts to promote democracy, human rights, and governance around the world? SID-Washington's Democracy, Rights, & Governance Workgroup is pleased to welcome international experts on DRG assistance to discuss questions, such as; do questions regarding the rationale for democracy assistance have implications for the institutional arrangements of U.S. DRG assistance?

Key Takeaways

1) Democracy as an Intrinsic Good in and of Itself and as an Expression of the American Spirit

Tim Meisburger (USAID), made the argument that USAID implementors perceive democracy as an expression of American values, which allows us to justify democracy assistance in the same way we justify humanitarian assistance—it is the right thing to do. **Liza Prendergast (Democracy International)** added that this argument is valid and credible, as the Democracy Project—a national survey that analyzed how Americans feel about democracy domestically and internationally—found that 78% of Americans agree that US support for democracy and human rights should either continue or increase.

2) The Importance of Bringing DRG Assistance to Congress

Mary Laurie (USGLC), posed the question, “how do we justify assistance to Congress and the American people?” USGLC, a coalition of businesses and NGOs, brings people together, all united in support of advocating Congress to provide assistance in various countries. The challenge, however, is how to convey to Congress that DRG assistance is crucial. Mary argued that the American people must be engaged with those in Congress, and to talk to candidates now about the importance of DRG programs to lay the groundwork for when they are in office. Liza agreed and stated that we must continue to make the case to Congress that DRG assistance is imperative, as it is an argument that resonates with the American people. Tim added that another challenge we face is helping those in Congress and in the U.S. to understand that DRG assistance is a process and takes a lot of time.

3) DRG Assistance as a Long-Term Process

Tim stated that the USAID DRG Center takes a long-term view of programs in various countries and, often, they see outcomes sometimes two generations later. Moreover, programs that are being implemented today are always being planned for the long-term, and each project should be contributing to the long-term framework. Otherwise, we are left with small unconnected projects that do not amount to what is needed in the future. Mary added that not only is it a long-term process, but it can become even longer when looking at our administration and how often roles change. For example, the administration changes every four, sometimes eight years. Thus, DRG assistance faces challenges, but with the mindset on the future and the long-term, more projects can be effective.

4) Convincing Foreign Leaders on DRG Benefits

Tim began by saying that context matters, and each host government will respond in varying ways. One thing that Tim encourages is to be able to articulate to foreign leaders why engaging in democracy or democratic practices is beneficial. Moreover, explaining to foreign leaders that if they listen to their constituents, they become popular and have the possibility of becoming reelected. Liza spoke about the importance of working within the interests of host governments and finding allies. In other words, find champions and allies in foreign governments who may want to reap the benefits of DRG assistance. Liza agreed with what Tim mentioned about context; context matters, and we need to be careful about lessons learned in the past versus what might work now.

Democracy, Rights, & Governance Workgroup Planning Meeting

Summary: The Democracy, Rights, & Governance Workgroup hosted a planning meeting to generate ideas and plan events for the upcoming year. Over the past year, the group organized events on topics such as Human Capital and Public Administration: Improving Governance Effectiveness through Civil Service Reform and Private Sector Engagement in Governance.

Meeting Agenda

I. Welcome & Introductions

II. Meeting Goals

III. Brainstorming Activity

IV. Next Steps

Discussion

I. Welcome & Introductions

II. Meeting Goals

- Discuss and establish expectations for the workgroup. In the spirit of democracy, engage in a participatory process to plan an agenda for the upcoming year.
- DRG has been part of the development agenda for decades now, and has always found bipartisan support.
- Add value to participants and our community; where people want to come and pay attention.

III. Brainstorming Activity

Topics:

1. Looking at the research behind good governance.
2. What is a good civic and legal education program? Focusing on skills, attitudes, thoughts about democracy.
3. Transforming the role of civil society from conducting oversight to taking more ownership of the governance process such that organizations do not just lobby, but actively attempt to change and influence social and economic behaviors at large.
4. Role of direct participation – what is missing? How is governance paid for.
5. DRG exit strategy and funding.
6. Countries with long-term refugee presence: what are the refugees' rights?
7. Different groups with tool kits should collaborate and discuss what has and has not worked in the past.
8. The role of self governance.
9. Holistic development processes
10. ADS-201 USAID – how to apply inclusive approaches in development?

Formats

11. Collaborate with TWP – Thinking and Working Politically Working Group – created by DFID and Work Bank, focusing on political economy analysis.
12. The pre-meeting survey indicated high demand for traditional panels and networking events.
13. A more deliberate approach to ensure young and mid-career DRG professionals meet political organizers and stay connected with DRG ground work.
14. Launch a mentor-mentee program or a related event to help young professionals in DRG; collaborate with SID-W's Young Professionals in Development Network (YPN).

Next Steps

Based on the discussion, the Workgroup Co-Chairs will compile feedback from the meeting, and coordinate with SID-Washington staff to roll out exciting events over the course of the next year, prioritizing the following:

1. Looking for opportunities to invite local political activists who are visiting D.C. to speak at SID-W.
2. Programming events for technical knowledge sharing.
3. TWP collaboration.
4. Topics -- Inclusion: how to define and frame it; Refugees and rights; DRG exit strategies.
5. Sharing programmatic learnings within the community.

Next Generation Human Rights

Moderator: **Thomas O. Melia**, Washington Director, PEN America

Speakers: **Shelley Inglis**, Executive Director, Human Rights Center, University of Dayton
Nicole Widdersheim, Human Rights Advisor, Center of Excellence on Democracy, Human Rights & Governance, USAID

Event Description: What is the future of human rights? What are the nextgen rights approaches that are emerging in the field? In what ways do these new practices intersect with traditional human rights work? This panel explored these questions and focused on whether and how human rights work is evolving to meet the demands, concerns, and structural shifts taking place globally.

Key Takeaways

1) Acknowledging Human Rights as a Key Pillar in Global Democracy and Governance

Thomas O. Melia (PEN America) began the panel by addressing how the U.S. Government has supported democracy consolidation around the world and strengthened the protection of human rights over the last hundreds of years. Shifts in approaches between each political period have impacted the priority agenda of Democracy, Rights, & Governance (DRG) Workgroup in the administration in various ways. **Nicole Widdersheim (USAID)** explained that it is important to note that human rights have become one of the important pillars in democracy and governance of the U.S. administration. In the last 12 years of her experience working in the post-war and conflict regions across many African nations, the universal human rights framework seems more aspirational than practical.

However, the administration's effort towards a long-term embodiment of human rights, the 2030 Strategy, establishes a robust foundation to provide a safe environment for the most vulnerable profiles in society, women and children, who are victims of human rights violations often just for performing their daily activities. The 2030 Strategy's development objectives are committed to protecting and promoting the universal human rights framework, supporting a global commitment in partnership with the countries that ratified the International Declaration of Human Rights, and providing Foreign Service Officers with guidance and policy objectives in line with U.S. commitment to protect universal human rights.

2) Integrating Human Rights in International Development Work

Shelley Inglis (University of Dayton) unfolded the three UN approaches to incorporate human rights into international development practices: (a) integrating intersectional human rights into projects, across all forms of design, implementation, and evaluation. The example of this work is the UN's Inclusive Development Policy that highlighted gender equity and women empowerment, (b) promoting democracy at a global level and highlighting accountability while working with local governments, and (c) supporting the enforcement of rule of law. While Inglis mentioned that the traditional approaches of human rights advocacies, such as media exposure, policy report, monitoring, and "naming and shaming," are irreplaceable, she also warned of the threat behind political dimensions and disruptive technology. Given their ability to allow potential democracy violations at a global scale, it is critical to keep up with digital security.

3) Challenges and Opportunities

Nextgen human rights present two challenges for the world: capacity and global trend. The recent changes are more rapid, meaning the models and program design must be able to shift at this same speed, and be able to modify to current demand. As the world undertakes the emerging human rights issues differently, the target of engagement in the global trend is also expanding. International development organizations must integrate traditional program approaches with non-traditional approaches through cooperation with civil society, social movement, and young people.

Government Accountability and the Sustainability of Democracy

Speaker: **Lahcen Haddad**, Vice President, SID International

Event Description: SID-W's Democracy, Rights, & Governance Workgroup held a conversation regarding government accountability with Lahcen Haddad, Member of the Governing Council of the Parliamentary Network and Vice President for the Society for International Development (SID International), who visited from Morocco. How do you hold governments accountable? What is the difference between holding parliament accountable as opposed to a government? What can the media and civil society do to reinforce control and accountability? Mr. Haddad discussed these questions and more using the new book *Holding Governments Accountable and the Parliamentary Network's sixteen principles of good governance*. These include:

1. Accountability is important for maintaining the sustainability of democracy.
2. It is about who must answer to whom for what and under what ground rules.
3. Cultural values could create a sense of group accountability.
4. Compliance without quality of information is make-believe accountability.
5. Devolving responsibility for decisions on budget and spending reduces bureaucracy.
6. Democracy needs political and financial literacy.
7. The key to accountability is information.
8. A robust record management is at the very heart of a transparency regime.
9. Debate and deliberation are part and parcel of the accountability exercise.
10. All those in positions of power should be accountable. However, accountability in parliament is different from accountability of government.
11. "Open Parliaments" is best way for these to regain leading role within democracy.
12. Election is a delegation of sovereignty and a form of periodic accountability exercise by the people.
13. Strong opposition in Parliament means stronger control and oversight.
14. To reinforce its control role, Parliament should build stronger bridges with civil society.
15. Strong and responsible media and civil society reinforce control and accountability.
16. Social accountability & citizen engagement help the state by strengthening its links

Key Takeaways

1) What is accountability?

Lahcen Haddad (SID International) defined accountability as, "holding those in power (elected through democratic ways or chosen via transparent processes) to account means: measuring their performance against set targets and objectives and against set rules and standards, and gauging the efficiency, and effectiveness of their use of the resources put at their disposal to carry out their mission." Haddad explained that accountability is one pillar of legitimate and effective democratic rule. Haddad added that there are three things that keep governments accountable; first is the citizens, as they hold representatives accountable when voting for them because the official must keep their promises if they want to be re-elected; second is council members or parliamentarians who summon governments to answer for their actions; and third are independent fiscal entities, verifying that financial management follows set rules and standards.

2) Having a Social Accountability

The voice of the population is also crucial to accountability. Haddad introduced social accountability into the discussion and explained its importance for allowing the people to have a voice. Social accountability is about giving citizens, civil society and media the right, the space, and the freedom to express their concerns. Professional and independent media, as well as well-managed civil society organizations, play a major role in informing and mobilizing public opinion and communities to demand for accountability. Social accountability helps the state by strengthening its links with citizens. Haddad noted the following key elements of social accountability that interact with each other: citizen action, state action, information flows, citizen-state interface, and civic mobilization. Haddad added that media and civil society are crucial aspects as well, and that the role of the media plays just as big of a part in social accountability.

3) The Role of Parliament

According to Haddad there are four main roles of parliament. First, parliaments need to create new forms of accountability, in order to provide different forms of checks and balances between different branches of government. Second, parliament needs to be strong so that it can act as the voice of the people and make government responsive to people's needs and interests. Third, parliament consists of monitoring and ensuring that public policies are effectively implemented by the executive branch. Lastly, when Parliament truly becomes an "Open Parliament," it regains its leading role within the democratic system.

4) World Bank Governance Indicators

The World Bank has set up a list of governance indicators that can be divided into six groups: voice and accountability, political stability and absence of violence, government effectiveness, regulatory quality, rule of law, and control of corruption. Most of the indicators revolve around making citizens at the heart of governance, focusing on transparency and improved effectiveness in performance and quality service delivery. Haddad stressed the most important element within the indicators is the focus on citizens and the focus on being responsive to citizens. Parliamentarians can feel accountable to their



Natural Resources Management Adventures in Thinking and Working Politically

Moderator: **Eric Bjornlund**, President, Democracy International Inc.

Speakers: **Claudia D'Andrea**, Independent Consultant
Lisa McGregor-Mirghani, Senior Government Specialist, RTI International
Kyle Rearick, Natural Resource and Governance Advisor, Democracy, Rights, & Governance Center, USAID
Jeffrey Stark, Senior Advisor, TWP and PEA, DAI
Sharon Van Pelt, Director, Democracy and Governance, Chemonics International

Event Summary: SID-Washington's Democracy, Rights, & Governance Workgroup and the DC-based Thinking and Working Politically Community of Practice collaborated to present the following event.

Development practitioners working on governance and sector interventions are increasingly attuned to the pivotal role of thinking and working politically (TWP) to improve the prospects of success of their projects and programming. TWP focuses attention on the effects of power relations on the incentives, constraints, relationships, and behaviors of key societal groups. Environment and biodiversity projects that focus on natural resources like land, water, forests, wildlife, and fisheries are especially sensitive to political contestation over issues such as livelihoods, overlapping formal and traditional institutions, and national patrimony. This session brought together participants to share recent experiences in political economy analysis (PEA) from Africa and Latin America to explore how that work contributes to the evidence base for TWP, the process of adaptive learning and management, and efforts to mainstream TWP into the strategies and programming of the U.S. Agency for International Development and the broader development community.

Key Takeaways

1) Claudia D'Andrea (Independent Consultant) opened the panel by discussing her experience working on PEAs in Africa. For her, TWP is more of an approach than a tool. D'Andrea listed some of the general lessons learned from PEA. The most critical was "what you put into the mission is what you get out of it." Investing in time and relationships really help with PEAs. There is an assumption that a PEA is a one-time occurrence and a project implementer will return home upon completion. However, questions always arise - if the worker has these relationships, they can say "well, we know who to ask" and ask, "what comes next." D'Andrea finished her discussion by listing the "key messages" she had.

- a. PEA work needs to be problem driven
- b. The work should have a learning focus
- c. The roles of local government need to be reformed so they are in the driver seat
- d. The project's plans need to have more flexibility to allow a long-term commitment
- e. Workers must adapt to strengthen TWP through PEA

2) Kyle Rearick (USAID) identified three points that make TWP happen.

- a. Changing the work culture for implementers: Currently, they are expected to arrive to the community and begin working. However, implementers need the time to develop relationships with the local community and understand the lay of the land before starting work. They need to have a better understanding of their counterparts in the community and whether those counterparts are other NGOs, political groups, or informal leaders in the community. Implementers cannot work on the political component of a PEA until they can develop the relationships with their partners. Changing the culture leads to better programming and puts people in a position to think and work politically.
- b. Thinking and working politically for collaborative learning and adaptation: There needs to be an initial inspection period when implementers can work in an iterative fashion. This would give implementers the potential and time to think more politically in terms of program design.
- c. Using political analysis (PA) to test assumptions in program

designs: Rearick advised the audience to use PA to question assumptions and change programming.

3) Jeffrey Stark (DAI) used his work in Ghana to demonstrate three key points.

- a. Crisis of sustainability: In Ghana, fisheries are nearing its collapse due to overfishing.
- b. Standardized methods: In the biodiversity sector, there are open standards for the practice of conservation.
- c. Using Ghana to show how those methods can be used to reflect TWP and generate areas of investigation: When Jeffrey created a situational model for the overfishing in Ghana, there were several drivers for the problem. After analyzing the problem, he found political drivers that he could use as entry points to the problem. Stark then asked about the necessary steps to stop overfishing through political reform. The implementers know the technical solutions for the problem, but the political reforms are behind.

4) Sharon Van Pelt (Chemonics International) focused more on the risk of TWP by using examples from her PEA in Guatemala. Drug traffickers and the mafia are strong actors in the region, as they are competing for local resources. Her primary concern when working was to “do no harm” because people could be killed as a result of their work. Due to this concern, she focused heavily on the relationships that were being formed in Guatemala, ensuring that outsiders did not see their work as a threat and that there was a strong level of trust. She urged the attendees to find a positive influence – a respected individual or organization that has the trust of the community – to enter a system, connect with the community in which they are working, and mitigate the risk of being viewed as a threat.





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