

Selectivity Criteria

Certain minimal conditions are necessary before an international electoral development mission can be deployed. There must be a minimal security environment, sufficient respect for individual and political rights, minimal local institutions to serve as conduit for electoral and democratic development processes (ie. a functioning government and civil society), sufficient local commitment to democratization, and sufficient local commitment to international assistance. Conversely, missions may not be needed where democratic development has suitably progressed. The question then is: to what extent do multilateral organizations properly accept or turn down invitations to observe and assist?

Evaluation Criteria and Scope

The evaluation criteria section assesses a mission's assistance or observation standards against international electoral and human rights norms, international electoral techniques, as well as local needs, political and electoral systems and conceptions of democracy. Scope refers to the extent to which electoral support has sufficient chronological (entire electoral process plus capacity-building follow-up), geographical (urban and rural), functional (technical electoral, mediation, and broader democratic institution-building) and demographic (state and civil society) coverage.

Mission Structure and Operation

This sub-category examines mission reaction time, leadership, personnel selection, training, logistics, the reporting system and cooperation with international and domestic groups. It also looks at the relevance of mission structure and operation to the local context.

Credibility and Resolve

Credibility refers to the level of trust that the international community and local authorities and population place in the effectiveness and impartiality of expertise and evaluation capabilities of a particular electoral mission. Resolve is a component of credibility in that current resolve can lead to future credibility. It asks the question: to what extent has the mission been critical of irregularities or fraud, or conversely, gone the extra distance to serve as an active mediation tool for conflict resolution?

Impact on Electoral Process

A mission's direct impact on the electoral process can be evaluated several ways. Has there been electoral reform since the start of the mission? Was the election a success (high candidate and voter participation, candidate representativeness, respect for results, free and fair, good logistics, democratic winners, will of majority, due regard for minorities)? Was there improvement over past elections and improvement in subsequent elections? Were there specific examples where the mission contributed to electoral reform or a successful election through