



Observation & Reporting

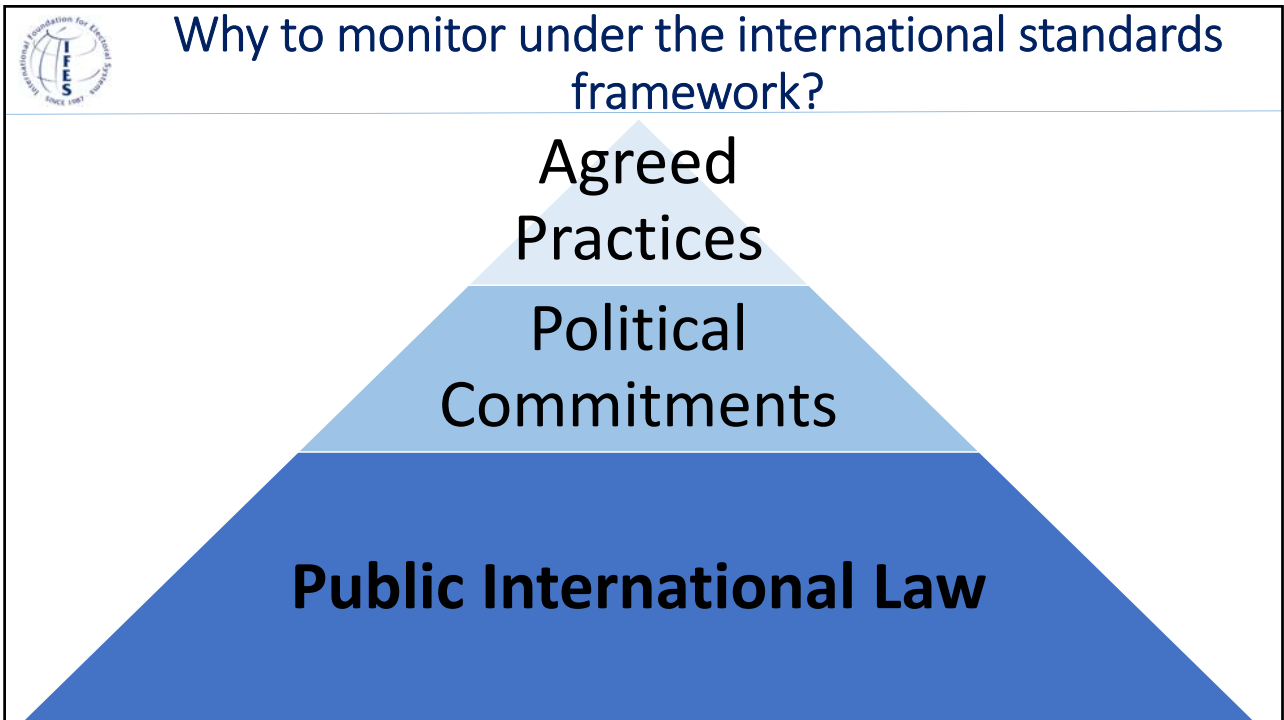
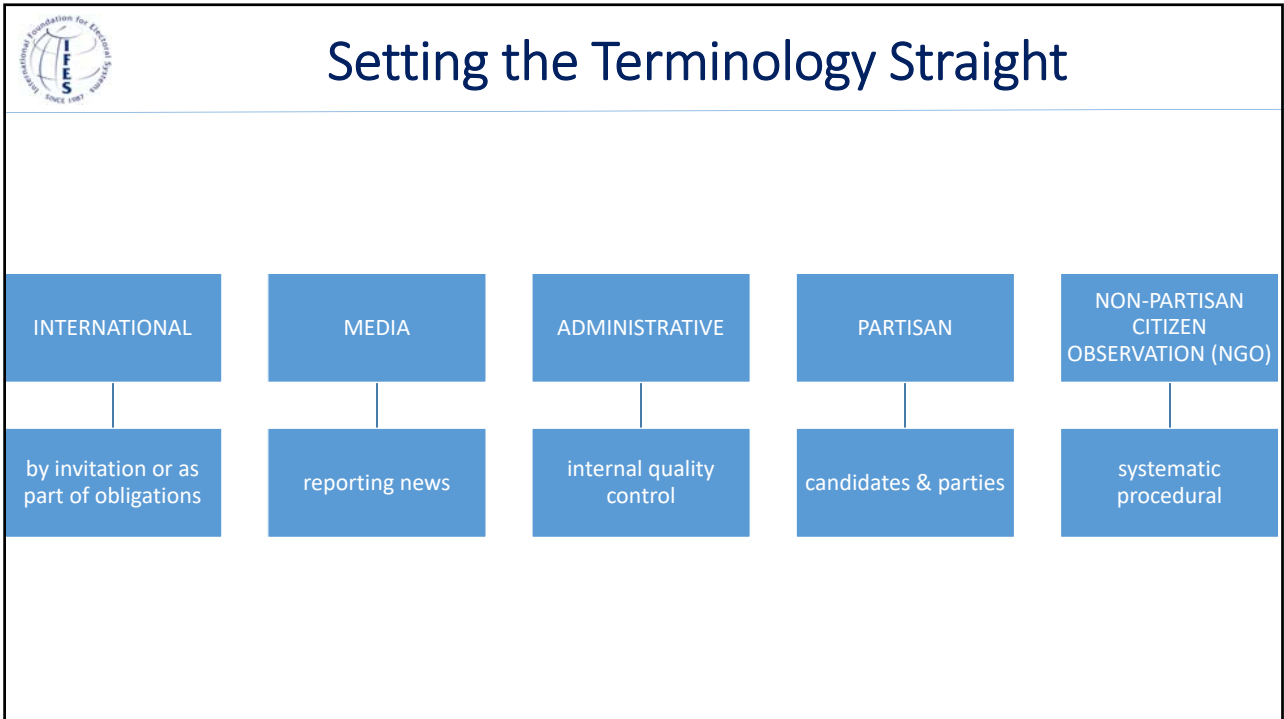
Workshop on BVR, Zimbabwe, August 2017




Setting the Terminology Straight

What is the difference between **OBSERVATION** and **MONITORING**?

What is the **MANDATE** of your organizations?





Standards for Observation

<p>ICCPR Article 25</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every citizen shall have the right and the opportunity, without any of the distinctions mentioned in article 2 and without unreasonable restrictions: • (a) To take part in the conduct of public affairs, directly or through freely chosen representatives;
<p>General Comment 25, Article 20</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ...There should be independent scrutiny of the voting and counting process



Standards for Observation



GNDEM

GLOBAL NETWORK OF DOMESTIC ELECTION MONITORS

Media Monitoring Project Zimbabwe (MMPZ)

Zimbabwe Election Support Network (ZESN)

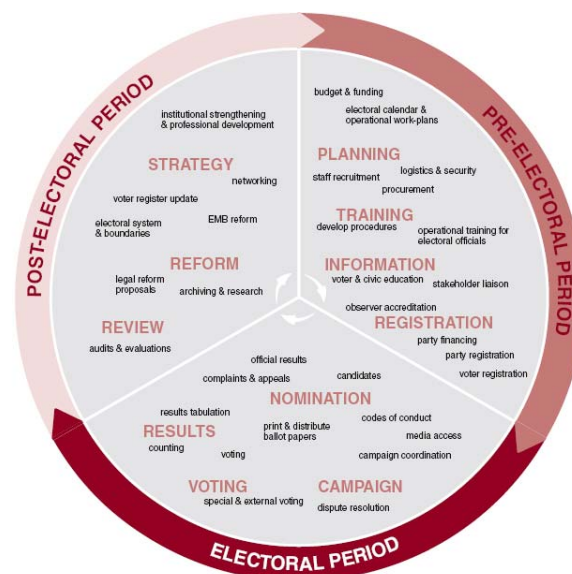


Standards for Observation

- **RULE OF LAW:** Non-violence, follow the law, respect the roles in elections
- **INDEPENDENCE:** Non-partisanship, Independent from government, no personal comments, systematic and long-term observation
- **TRAINING:** Observers must be trained
- **REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:** Accurate, timely, verified, substantiated, regular
- **COOPERATION:** between various observers
- **INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS:** assessment of elections under the framework of civil and political rights (national and international)



Setting the Methodology for Observation





Setting the Methodology for Observation

Observation goal?

From Soup to Nuts vs Specialized observation

“Core Team”

Large scale deployment

Statistical analysis



Standards for Reporting

Reporting as a Right

- integral part of the **right to participate in public affairs**, as defined by the UDHR and ICCPR.
- Right to demand **access, evaluate and report** on legal frameworks, institutions, processes and the political environment

Methodology

- should be included in the report
- size of the team
- areas of observation
- sample size
- limitations



Standards for Reporting

Schedule

- responsibility for issuing reports, statements and releases on a **regular basis**.
- **no withholding** of election reports
- information, analyses and conclusions **belong** to those who created them
- organisations are responsible for **determining the timing and manner** for presenting their findings and recommendations.

Reporting Results

- projections of results must **carefully consider** timing.
- special attention to **internal reporting, sufficiency of the information, accuracy** of the statistical data.
- must include methodology - **sampling and statistical calculations**



Standards for Reporting

Cooperation with State Institutions

- **good will** cooperation with electoral authorities, **seeking co-operation**
- strive to **meet with the electoral authorities**,
- **request information or clarification** on the application of legislation
- **share information** gathered through observation

Recommendations and Advocacy

- **not only** facts and analyses
- **offer recommendations!**



Standards for Reporting

Funding

- **obligation** to report
- information on potential **conflict of interest**

Impartiality

- **key** feature
- **highest ethical standards** for impartiality and accuracy
- applies to **referendum** choices.



Standards for Reporting

Int'l Standards & Legal Framework

- analysis of the national legal framework and compliance with laws and regulations
- compliance with international obligations, commitments and other international standards.

Training

- **obligation to ensure** that all their **staff and observers** fully understand the standards for non-partisan election observation
- training on **national and international frameworks** for elections
- training in **observation methodology and reporting**



LITERATURE

Council of Europe Handbooks: Using International Election Standards 2017

Reporting on Reporting on Elections 2017



CONTACT

vpran@ifes.org