

# Agenda

## Political Parties in Conflict-Prone Societies

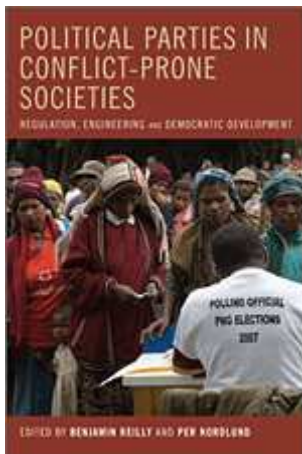
4 September 2008, 10:30am – 12:15pm  
Conference Room 5, United Nations, New York

- 10:30 Introduction and welcome by Jean-Marc Coicaud, Head of the UNU Office in New York
- 10:35 Welcome by Massimo Tommasoli, Permanent Observer for International IDEA to the United Nations
- 10:40 Institutional welcome on behalf of the Centre for Democratic Institutions (CDI) and scene-setting comments: Hon. Robert Hill, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations
- 10:50 Presentation on the project and book: Ben Reilly, Director of CDI and Professor of Political Science in the Crawford School of Economics and Government at the Australian National University
- 11:05 Presentation on the principal conclusions: Per Nordlund, formerly Senior Programme Manager, Political Parties Programme at International IDEA
- 11:20 Response/comments by Dr Necla Tschirgi, Senior Policy Advisor/Consultant with the Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) at the United Nations
- 11:35 Open discussion including members of the audience

# Overview

## *Political Parties in Conflict-Prone Societies* *Regulation, Engineering and Democratic Development*

Edited by Benjamin Reilly and Per Nordlund  
UNU Press



The book is the result of a joint project of the Centre for Democratic Institutions (CDI), the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA) and the United Nations University (UNU).

Political parties are an essential component of representative democracy. They organize voters, aggregate and articulate interests, craft policy alternatives, recruit and socialize new candidates for office, set policy-making agendas, integrate disparate groups and individuals into the democratic process, and provide the basis for coordinated electoral and legislative activity. Well-functioning political parties are central to the process of democratic development, and therefore highly relevant to policy debates regarding democracy promotion and

governance.

Since the 1970s various multiparty systems have been introduced in new, restored and emerging democracies around the world. Today more countries decide on their leaders through multiparty elections than ever before. The number of competitive democracies has increased threefold, and the number of political parties now contesting elections worldwide has increased many times more over the last 30 years.

Multiparty politics may empower vulnerable groups, increase transparency, mediate conflict and achieve redistribution of income to the poor. However, it is no guarantee of development or the consolidation of democracy. Multiparty politics may subvert the broader process of democratization by empowering already dominant elites, marginalizing minorities and, perhaps most seriously, mobilizing ethnic, regional and religious groups against each other.

As a result, there is a growing trend for developing democracies to attempt to shape their party systems by regulating the way parties can form, organize and behave. Importantly, most of the initiatives and innovations emanate from new democracies rather than established ones, and the impetus for crafting parties is often nationally or regionally driven—rather than dictated or inspired from Western examples.

This volume examines this growing trend in conflict-prone societies towards promoting stable and inclusive political parties via political party regulation and engineering. During the launch, the editors will present the key arguments and findings of the volume and the discussion will consider the relevance of this for broader debates about peacebuilding, democracy building and democratic governance in divided and conflict-prone societies.

# Biographies



**H.E. Ambassador Robert Hill** - Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations, New York

H.E. Ambassador Robert Hill took up his appointment as Australian Ambassador to the United Nations in April 2006 following a distinguished career in the Australian Parliament and as a Cabinet Minister in Government. He was a Senator for the State of South Australia from July 1981 until March 2006. From March 1996 to October 2001 he was the Federal Minister for Environment. From October 2001, until his resignation in January 2006, he was the Minister for Defence. He was Leader of the Government in the Senate from 1996 to 2006.

Mr Hill held a number of shadow portfolios in opposition including Justice, Foreign Affairs, Defence, Public Administration, Education and Science and Technology. Prior to his entry into politics he practiced law as a barrister and solicitor. Mr Hill's interests include law reform, Australian and Asian history, legal and environmental education and the arts. He was born in 1946 in Adelaide, South Australia and educated at Scotch College. He holds a Law degree and an Arts degree from the University of Adelaide and a Masters of Law from the University of London. He is married with four children.



**Dr. Per Nordlund** - Formerly Senior Programme Manager, Political Parties Programme at International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance

Prior to joining IDEA in 2004 as a senior programme officer on the Political Parties Programme, Per Nordlund has worked as an academic and with development cooperation. In 1998, Per Nordlund joined the Swedish development agency, Sida, as a senior democracy advisor. He was then stationed in Harare, Zimbabwe as Sida's regional democracy and human rights advisor for Southern Africa between 2000 and 2004, with responsibility for Sida's regional program of democratic governance and for supporting the Swedish Embassies in Southern Africa in their implantation of bilateral development cooperation.

As a researcher, Per Nordlund has a Ph.D. in political science from Uppsala University in Sweden. He has worked extensively on comparative politics and theories of democratization as a researcher and teacher at Uppsala University, having been a research associate at the University of Zimbabwe, University of Zambia and University of the Witwatersrand in South Africa.



**Dr. Benjamin Reilly** - Director of the Centre for Democratic Institutions and Professor of Political Science in the Crawford School of Economics and Government at the Australian National University (ANU).

In addition to his academic career, Professor Reilly has previously served with the United Nations, the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA), and the Australian government. Professor Reilly has held visiting fellowships at Oxford, Canterbury and Harvard universities, and has received financial support from the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the United States Institute of Peace, the East-West Center and the Australian Research Council. He holds a PhD in Political Science from the ANU.

The author of six books and widely published in both academic journals and newspapers, Professor Reilly has advised governments and international organizations on issues of democratisation, constitutional reform, party politics, electoral system design and conflict management in Afghanistan, Bosnia, East Timor, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Fiji, Guyana, Lebanon, Papua New Guinea, and the Solomon Islands. He was also a polling official in the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia in 1993.



**Dr. Massimo Tommasoli** - Permanent Observer for International IDEA to the United Nations, Secretary-General's Office

From 1999 to 2003 Mr Tommasoli has been Head of the Good Governance and Conflict Prevention Unit in the Development Co-operation Directorate (Development Assistance Committee - DAC Secretariat) of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). In this capacity he led the Secretariat work of the DAC Networks on "Good governance and capacity development" (GOVNET) and on "Conflict, peace and development cooperation" (CPDC). He combines multilateral and bilateral experience, having worked in UNESCO and - as senior policy advisor - in the Directorate General for Development Cooperation of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where he has also been a member of the Technical Evaluation Unit of the Steering Committee for Development Cooperation. He has evaluation and field work experience (through both short- and long-term field assignments) in the New Independent States (Russian Federation, Ukraine, Kazakhstan), Sub-Saharan Africa (Ethiopia, Somalia, Tanzania), and Latin America (Brazil, Colombia).

Lecturer at Italian Universities and international training centres, Mr Tommasoli is author of seven books, many essays in edited books and articles in social and political science journals. Mr Tommasoli holds a doctorat at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (EHESS) of Paris with a dissertation on participatory development in the Horn of Africa.



**Dr. Necla Tschirgi** - Senior Policy Advisor/Consultant, Peacebuilding Support Office at the United Nations

Dr. Necla Tschirgi is Senior Policy Advisor/Consultant with the Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) at the United Nations. Previously, Dr. Tschirgi was the Vice President of the International Peace Academy in New York from 2001-2005 and headed the Peacebuilding and Reconstruction Program at the International Development Research Centre in Ottawa from 1996-2001. Her research interests lie at the interface between security and development studies and she headed the Security-Development Nexus research program at the International Peace Academy which produced a range of publications and policy papers on current approaches to conflict management and sustainable development.