

NZA/029/0031/5



IMD

Netherlands Institute for
Multiparty Democracy

Dear Participant,

It is a great pleasure to welcome you to the conference **Network Democracy: Enhancing the Role of Political Parties**. We do hope you had a pleasant journey from your home to The Hague.

The objective of the conference is to discuss the role of political parties in the process of democratisation, opportunities for supporting political parties, the need for closer international co-ordination and democracy networking. We are looking forward to an intense, fruitful and rewarding two days of debate.

Included in this package are:

- Invitation City Council of the Hague to the reception on 24/4
- Final version of the agenda
- Map of the Hague with locations
- Bus scheme – local transport
- Information about De Ridderzaal
- General information International IDEA
- General information IMD
- Conference papers (see annex)

If you have any problem, need or query please don't hesitate to contact any of our staff on the telephone numbers given below:

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Once again welcome to The Hague and the conference.

Yours sincerely,

IMD and International IDEA

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Conference 'Network Democracy: Enhancing the Role of Political Parties'
24 - 25 April 2001, The Hague

Annex Conference papers

Popular Attitudes to Democracy in Africa

Michael Bratton & Robert Mattes

From: The Journal of Democracy, January 2001

Overview of the International IDEA Handbook on Funding of Parties and Election Campaigns

Michael Pinto-Duschinsky

Party Funding in Established Democracies

Karl Heinz Nassmacher

The Labour Movement and the Emergence of Opposition Politics in Zimbabwe

Brian Raftopoulos

The External Funding of Political Parties

Senator Jos J.A.M. van Gennip

Building the Capacities of Political Parties in Southern Africa: Reviewing the Strategy of the Netherlands

Volker Hauck

ECDPM Discussion Paper No. 15, April 2000

Developing Political Parties overseas

Abstract for the speech by Trefor Williams, Chief Executive Westminster Foundation

Some observations on the role of Political Parties in the Democratisation Process on the African Continent

Rainer Erkens, Regional Director Africa, Friedrich-Naumann-Stiftung

Towards Sustainable Democratic Institutions in Southern Africa. Conference report from Gaborone, Botswana May 2000

International IDEA

African Views of Political Parties: Some Cross-National Survey Evidence

Michael Bratton

DEVELOPING POLITICAL PARTIES OVERSEAS

Abstract

This talk examines how the Westminster Foundation for Democracy promotes the development of political parties overseas. The rationale for WFD's engagement with political organisations arises from the reasons for the establishment of the Foundation in 1992. Whilst support to political parties is only one of WFD's areas of work, it is a key and distinctive area. The talk explores how WFD works with British political parties represented in the House of Commons to develop political parties overseas.

The rationale for developing overseas political parties is examined. Whilst active political parties are not, of themselves, guarantors of democracy, a democracy cannot function without them. The existence of vibrant and diverse political organisations is an important indicator of a healthy democracy. WFD's work aims to ensure that political parties are not only effective in vote gathering, but that they themselves behave in a democratic way and that they function effectively and responsibly in both opposition and Government.

A brief overview of the characteristic features of the party political scene overseas leads to a discussion of the type of interventions undertaken by WFD to develop the capacity of political parties by giving them the 'tools' which will enable them to grow and develop independently of external support. Examples will be given of WFD's method of working, including training, consultancy and advice and how work is undertaken, both with individual parties, and on a cross-party basis. WFD's extensive non-political party work ensures that an holistic approach is taken to developing the capacity of individuals and organisations to participate in and promote the democratic process.

Trefor Williams
Chief Executive
Westminster Foundation