

Contents

Foreword.....	I
Preface	III
Acronyms and Abbreviations	IX
1. OVERVIEW	1
Introduction	1
How to Use this Handbook	3
What Electoral Systems Are	5
The Importance of Electoral Systems.....	5
Electoral Systems and Party Systems	6
Electoral Systems and Conflict Management	6
Psychological and Mechanical Effects	6
The Importance of Context	7
The Broader Democratic Framework	7
Criteria for Design	9
Providing Representation	9
Making Elections Accessible and Meaningful.....	10
Providing Incentives for Conciliation	10
Facilitating Stable and Efficient Government	11
Holding the Government Accountable	12
Holding Individual Representatives Accountable	12
Encouraging Political Parties	12
Promoting Legislative Opposition and Oversight.....	13
Making the Election Process Sustainable	14
Taking Into Account 'International Standards'	14
Conclusions	14
The Process of Change.....	15
Who Designs?.....	15
What are the Mechanisms for Reform and Amendment?.....	20
Advice on Debate and Dialogue	21
Advice on Implementation	22
Assessing the Impact of Change	23
Trends in Electoral System Reform	23
Design Components	25
2. THE WORLD OF ELECTORAL SYSTEMS	27
Plurality/Majority Systems.....	28
Proportional Representation Systems.....	29

Mixed Systems	29
Other Systems	29
3. THE SYSTEMS AND THEIR CONSEQUENCES	35
Plurality/Majority Systems	35
What Plurality/Majority Systems Are	35
First Past The Post (FPTP).....	35
Block Vote (BV).....	44
Party Block Vote (PBV).....	47
The Alternative Vote (AV).....	47
The Two-Round System (TRS).....	52
Proportional Representation Systems	57
What Proportional Representation Is	57
List Proportional Representation (List PR)	60
The Single Transferable Vote (STV)	71
PR-Related Issues.....	77
District Magnitude	77
The Threshold	83
Open, Closed and Free Lists	84
<i>Apparentement</i>	90
Mixed Systems	90
Mixed Member Proportional (MMP).....	91
Parallel Systems.....	104
Other Systems	112
The Single Non-Transferable Vote (SNTV)	113
The Limited Vote (LV)	117
Borda Count (BC).....	118
Electoral System Tiers and Hybrid Systems	118
Considerations on Representation	121
Representation of Women	121
Representation of Minorities.....	122
Communal Representation	123
The Timing of Elections	124
Remote Voting.....	124
Turnout Issues.....	125
Additional Issues Relevant to Post-conflict and Transitional Elections	126

4. ELECTORAL SYSTEMS, INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS AND GOVERNANCE ...129

Electing a President	130
First Past The Post	130
Two-Round Systems	133
Preferential Voting	135
Distribution Requirements	137
Electing an Upper House	138
Different Tiers of Governance	139
Electing Supranational Bodies	139
Electing Federal/State Assemblies and Autonomous Jurisdictions	144
Electing Local Authorities	144
Electoral Systems and Political Parties	149
Direct Democracy Options	150

5. COST AND ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS OF ELECTORAL SYSTEMS.....153

6. ADVICE FOR ELECTORAL SYSTEM DESIGNERS.....159

Tables and Figures

Table 1: Recent Changes to Electoral Systems	24
Table 2: Electoral Systems for National Legislatures.....	30
Table 3: The Distribution of Electoral Systems across National Legislatures.....	31
Table 4: Countries Using MMP Systems.....	91
Table 5: Countries Using Parallel Systems.....	112
Table 6: Variations on Proportional Representation	118
Table 7: Five Electoral System Options: Advantages and Disadvantages	119
Table 8: Potential Cost and Administrative Implications of 12 Electoral Systems	156
Figure 1: The Electoral System Families	28
Figure 2: Electoral System Families: Number of Countries.....	32