



Charter of the Global Partnership for Multiparty Democracy

The Global Partnership for Multiparty Democracy (GPMD) is the international lobby and advocacy network of democracy assistance organizations working on political party support from a multiparty perspective

The Global Partnership for Multiparty Democracy brings together organizations from all over the world that support political parties in young and emerging democracies from a multiparty perspective. The support is aimed at promoting a political culture of cooperation, consensus and dialogue between political parties. When political parties acquire the skills to develop a party programme, when they develop trust in each other, and when they are willing to work together for the common good, this leads to better functioning democratic political systems and ultimately to improved governance and sustainable development. In other words: political party support matters.

Mission Statement

The mission of the GPMD is to strengthen the position of organizations within the democracy assistance sector that support political parties from a multiparty perspective by:

- a) Developing joint positions on issues relating to political party support and lobbying and advocating for these positions at the international donor community.
- b) Providing the GPMD member organizations with a communication and coordination channel to continuously support the improvement of their approaches through knowledge sharing activities.

The GPMD encourages joint management and implementation of political party support programmes among its member organizations. The GPMD does not implement or manage its own political party support programmes.

The GPMD Member Organizations

The GPMD member organizations are non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that work with and support political parties of all denominations in one or more young and emerging democracies. Therefore the GPMD is a network of practitioners. Political parties themselves cannot be a GPMD member organization.

Guiding Principles of the GPMD Member Organizations

A GPMD membership requirement is that all member organizations must adhere to the following guiding principles:

- *Inclusiveness & Multiparty Perspective*
Working from a multiparty perspective refers to working with all relevant political parties across the political spectrum in a country. Inclusiveness means that the GPMD member organizations strive to make sure that the entire society is represented in political parties. This principle emphasizes that the GPMD member organizations place great value to giving underrepresented groups access to political parties and a role in political decision-making.

- *Impartiality & Non-Partisan*
The GPMD member organizations are explicitly non-partisan and are not affiliated to any single political ideology, either in nature or in practice. They support parties and facilitate activities in an impartial fashion. This does not mean that the GPMD member organizations are neutral since they actively promote democratic values.
- *Joint Ownership & Partnership*
The programmes of the GPMD member organizations are designed and implemented with political parties as equal partners and in joint ownership. In this way, the programmes are locally rooted, they respect the point of view of the beneficiaries and they are driven by local needs.

Initial advocacy positions

The GPMD aims to increase the recognition of and the funding for NGOs that support political parties in young and emerging democracies from a multiparty perspective. The GPMD uses lobby and advocacy as its main instruments. The GPMD has formulated two advocacy positions that it will initially focus on in its communication with the international donor community. These advocacy positions will be developed in position papers and then disseminated by the GPMD secretariat as well as by the individual member organizations.

1. More recognition for political party support as a fundamental part of democracy assistance

Political party support organizations receive only a small fraction of the total funds available for democracy assistance. When they do, the funds are primarily available for supporting elections. Although free, fair, genuine and credible elections are fundamental for a democracy, elections alone are not sufficient to guarantee the consolidation of a democracy. For democratic consolidation to take place, it is necessary to have politicians and political parties that believe in the public good and are responsive to the people's interests. The GPMD strives to stimulate the donor community to broaden its activities on democracy assistance and make more funds available for political party support.

Moreover, the GPMD advocates for budget ownership for programmes. Political transformation and democratization are slow change processes. Building trust is not achieved overnight, and daily politics can be unpredictable. Stalemates occur frequently, yet sudden opportunities for change should be seized immediately. Political programming requires long-term strategic vision combined with tactical manoeuvring. Therefore political party support organizations should be allowed to utilise more long-term funding periods and should have more space to realign planning and reallocate budgets. Furthermore, political party support organizations should be evaluated on outcome-level results and indicators.

2. More integration between political party support and development aid

The GPMD strives to raise awareness among donors about the importance of the political sector in achieving sustainable development. Too often democratization aid and development aid are seen as two separate topics and donors tend to pay more attention to development aid. Integrating development cooperation with political party support will increase the effectiveness of development aid. Therefore the GPMD advocates for more collaboration between political party support organizations and the development sector.

Political parties are central to achieving pluralistic, consolidated multiparty democracies which deliver on citizens' aspirations and lead to sustainable development.

POLITICAL PARTY SUPPORT MATTERS