

*Democracy involves the right of the people  
freely to determine their own destiny.*

*The exercise of this right requires a system  
that guarantees freedom of expression, belief  
and association, free and competitive elections,  
respect for the inalienable rights of individuals  
and minorities, free communications media,  
and the rule of law.*

— (From NED's founding Statement  
of Principles and Objectives, 1984)



**National Endowment  
for Democracy**

*Supporting freedom around the world*

# Overview



**The National Endowment for Democracy (NED)** was created in 1983 as a private, nonprofit, grant-making foundation with a mission to strengthen democratic institutions around the world through nongovernmental efforts. In the nearly two decades that have passed since NED's founding, the Endowment has remained on the leading edge of democratic struggles everywhere, while evolving into a multifaceted institution that is a hub of activity, resources and intellectual exchange for activists, practitioners and scholars of democracy the world over.

NED is a unique institution. The Endowment's nongovernmental character gives it a flexibility that makes it possible to work in some of the world's most difficult circumstances, and to respond quickly when there is an opportunity for political change. NED is dedicated to fostering the growth of a wide range of democratic institutions abroad, including political parties, trade unions, free markets and business organizations, as well as the many elements of a vibrant civil society that ensure human rights, an independent media, and the rule of law. This well-rounded approach responds to the diverse aspects of democracy and has proved both practical and effective throughout NED's history. Funded largely by the U.S. Congress, the support NED gives to groups abroad sends an important message of solidarity to many democrats who are working for freedom and human rights, often in obscurity and isolation.

In 1984, the Endowment began making grants to prodemocracy groups in countries such as Poland, Chile and South Africa, whose struggles then seemed so intractable. The triumph of democracy in these countries sparked a wave of democratic transitions that transformed the world in the decade that followed. NED's grants program has adapted to the needs and priorities of this new international landscape. Today NED assists democrats who face the longest odds in places like Burma, Cuba, Sudan, Congo, China and much of the Muslim world, as well as those working to consolidate democracy in countries that have made more progress.

The Endowment is guided by the belief that freedom is a universal human aspiration that can be realized through the development of democratic institutions, procedures, and values. Democracy cannot be achieved through a single election and need not be based upon the model of the United States or any other particular country. Rather, it evolves according to the needs and traditions of diverse political cultures. By supporting this process, the Endowment helps strengthen the bond between indigenous democratic movements abroad and the people of the United States — a bond based on a common commitment to representative government and freedom as a way of life.

*Many elements of NED's work combine to create a comprehensive approach to promoting and understanding the development of democracy on a global scale:*

## Maintaining a Global Grants Program

Operating on a global scale has long been a central element of NED's strategy, which assumes that no region where democrats are asking for help should be disregarded, no matter how difficult the challenges to change might be. In a globalized world, political and social breakdown in any country can quickly spread to other parts of the world, becoming a threat to international peace and security, making it unwise to write off any country as insignificant or beyond hope.

NED's Grants Program provides assistance to democrats in over 80 countries who are working to:

- Open dictatorial systems
- Democratize semi-authoritarian countries
- Consolidate new democracies
- Renew war-torn societies

NED concentrates most of its resources in the first two categories, dictatorships and semi-authoritarian regimes, where barriers to democratic progress are the greatest. The third and fourth objectives seek to help democrats in transitional countries, where there has been significant democratic progress, but where institutions remain weak; and to help those democratic elements in war-torn or failed states that lack virtually any institutions of governance, democratic or otherwise.

## A Multisectoral Approach

NED's multisectoral approach is characterized by its special relationship with four core grantees: The National Democratic Institute for International Affairs, the International Republican Institute, the American Center for International Labor Solidarity, and the Center for International Private Enterprise, which represent the two major American political parties, the labor movement and the business community, respectively. Each of the core grantees draws on the talents and energies of its respective fields in the United States and abroad to offer unparalleled expertise on democratic business, labor, and political party development and electoral reform to democrats around the world. The relationship between NED and the core groups provides institutional balance, built-in bipartisanship, and assurance that the Endowment will be evenhanded in its judgments and receptive to diverse approaches to democratic development. In addition to the core grantees, NED provides direct support to groups abroad who are advancing human rights, independent media, the rule of law and a wide range of civil society initiatives. NED also places a special emphasis on increasing the participation of women and youth in democracy-building.

## Building on the Success of the Grants Program

The success of the grants program has propelled the Endowment to develop new areas of work to advance our mission. In the process, NED has become a mature and complex institution — one that seeks to aid the work of democracy activists, to deepen the level of analysis and understanding of democratic development, and to foster a sense of common purpose within the worldwide movement for democratic change. New activities that now complement and enhance NED's grants program include:

### Advancing research on democracy

In 1990 NED founded the *Journal of Democracy*. Now more than a decade old, the *Journal* is widely recognized as the pre-eminent international forum for publishing new research on democracy, debating critical issues, reviewing current literature, and reporting on important events and recent developments that affect the progress of democracy in the world. The success of the *Journal* provided a solid foundation for the establishment in 1994 of the

International Forum for Democratic Studies, a leading center for analysis of the theory and practice of democratic development worldwide. Other activities of the Forum include conferences, seminars, books on all aspects of democratization, the Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellows Program, a library and online database, and a collaborative network of democracy research centers based in new democracies. The Forum is an integral part of the Endowment and demonstrates NED's belief that research and practical activity are mutually beneficial. (See page 6)

### Cooperating with other democracy foundations

NED is working to increase international cooperation among existing democracy foundations and to encourage all established democracies to create similar institutions. In 1993 NED convened the first in an on-going series of "democracy summits" among democracy foundations. In addition to general information-sharing among foundations, these "summits" provide opportunities to coordinate strategy and assistance for some of the most difficult places to promote democracy. Since to 1993 summit, democracy assistance foundations have commenced operations in France, Sweden, the Netherlands, Poland, Austria, Australia, and Spain. Ireland and Taiwan may soon follow suit.

### Building a worldwide movement for democracy

In 1998 NED launched an ambitious new initiative, the World Movement for Democracy, a dynamic network of democrats, both individuals and organizations, who aspire to work in a coordinated way to address proactively the toughest challenges to the advancement of democracy and human rights in the world today. The global initiative complements the interrelated aspects of the Endowment's work: grant support, international cooperation, and democracy research. (see page 7)





# Grants



## A Proven Track Record

The Grants Program is the heart of the Endowment's work. Since 1984, NED has made thousands of grants to nongovernmental groups in more than a hundred countries. NED is proud that it has supported activists involved in nearly every democratic transition of the past two decades. NED grantees played critical roles in the transitions to democracy in Poland, Chile and South Africa more than a decade ago, and more recently NED grantees were influential actors in breakthrough elections in Nigeria, the Balkans and Mexico, to name but a few examples.

**A Flexible Approach:** NED's flexible and efficient grants program assists democratic activists in diverse situations:

**In closed societies:** Just as NED was able to provide critical support to dissidents in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union before the collapse of communism, today it supports those working for human rights and democratic goals in such countries as Burma, China, Cuba, Iraq and North Korea. NED works with both indigenous groups and organizations in exile to create both internal and external pressures for liberalization. NED's long-term, flexible approach takes advantage of any realistic opportunity to advance democratic ideals, defend human rights, and encourage the development of civil society.

**In semi-authoritarian countries:** NED remains engaged in countries like Russia, Ukraine, Kenya, Venezuela and Egypt where democratic progress has stalled or been reversed. Using its multisectoral approach,



NED can address comprehensively the many and diverse shortcomings of democratic development in semi-authoritarian states. These include the need for electoral reform, market reform, the rule of law, political party development, independent media, free trade unions, the general development of civil society, and the defense of human rights.

**In new democracies:** In many countries where democratic institutions have been established only recently and are still very weak, there is broad support within and outside the government in favor of deepening democratic consolidation. In such emerging



democracies as Thailand, Mexico, Bulgaria, Ghana and Bangladesh, democracy cannot be taken for granted and back-sliding is an ever-present possibility. NED programs focus on making governments more accountable and transparent; supporting innovative solutions to problems of consolidation; increasing broad-based participation in the political process; and strengthening the capacity and transparency of political parties.

**In war-torn or failed states:** NED continues to emphasize programs that build a culture of peace as a necessary foundation for democratic development in countries like Sudan, Somalia, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Afghanistan that lack virtually any institutions of governance, and where society remains deeply divided, often along ethnic or religious lines. NED provides critically needed support to defend human rights, educate about democracy and provide training in conflict resolution. The objective of these programs is to support enclaves of democratic values that can become centers of grassroots pressure for peace and reconciliation.

## The Grant-Making Process

The Endowment is governed by an independent, bipartisan board of directors. With an annual congressional appropriation, it makes hundreds of grants each year to support prodemocracy groups in six regions: Africa, Asia, Central and Eastern Europe, Latin America, the Middle East and the New Independent States of the former Soviet Union. The Endowment supports projects that promote political and economic freedom and participation, a strong civil society,

independent media, human rights, and the rule of law.

Programs in the areas of labor, business, and political party development are funded through the four core grantees (described on page 3). Programs in other areas of work are funded largely through grants to hundreds of indigenous grassroots organizations.

Funding decisions are made on a quarterly basis by the NED Board. In addition to evaluating how a program fits within the Endowment's overall priorities, the Board considers factors such as the urgency of a program, its relevance to specific needs and conditions in a particular country, and the democratic commitment and experience of the applicant.

In addition to setting long-term strategic goals, the Board develops an annual program plan and oversees evaluations that provide valuable lessons to guide NED's future work.

For more information about applying for a grant, visit the NED Web site at [www.ned.org](http://www.ned.org).





# The International Forum for Democratic Studies

Never before has understanding what helps or hinders the advancement of democracy been more critical for international peace, good governance, and the protection of human rights. In response to the need for sustained and serious study of democracy's problems and prospects, the National Endowment for Democracy established the International Forum for Democratic Studies in 1994. The Forum is a leading center for analysis of the theory and practice of democratic development worldwide. It also serves as a source of information on the varied activities and experiences of groups and institutions working to achieve and maintain democracy around the world. Its many programs and activities, described below, enhance efforts to foster and improve democracy while also making important contributions to the field of comparative democratic studies.

## The Journal of Democracy

is one of the most widely read and cited publications on the problems and prospects of democracy around the world. Founded in 1990, the *Journal of Democracy* is published for the Forum by the Johns Hopkins University Press.

## The Democracy Resource Center (DRC)

collects, organizes, and disseminates information and analysis produced by and

about a wide range of groups and organizations working to strengthen democracy around the world. The DRC includes a library, several electronic databases, and a World Wide Web site called DemocracyNet. With these resources, the Democracy Resource Center links think tanks and resource centers in developing

democracies worldwide, and offers them intellectual and practical support. In this and other ways, the DRC helps to unite democrats and to advance democracy throughout the world.

## Research and Conferences Program

The Forum's research analyzes the conditions and challenges of democratic transition, reform, and consolidation around the world. Through its conferences, publications and other research projects, the Forum examines the issues facing emerging democracies and transitional societies as well as the common problems confronting both new and established democracies. The Forum's conferences involve and benefit scholars, policy makers, intellectuals, and activists representing diverse countries, experiences, and views. While the program's focus and outreach are global, it also seeks to address the interests and concerns of policy makers in Washington.

## Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellows

Established in 2001 to honor the two principal founders of NED, former U.S. President Ronald Reagan and the late congressman Dante Fascell, the Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellows Program provides support annually for 12-15 democracy activists, practitioners, scholars, and journalists from around the world to deepen their understanding of democracy and to enhance their ability to promote democratic change. Fellows choose between two tracks: a practitioner track (typically 3-5 months) to improve strategies and techniques for building democracy; and a scholarly track (typically 5-10 months) to conduct original research for publication. Authorized and appropriated by the U.S. Congress, funding for the program is provided through the State Department's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor.

# World Movement for Democracy

[www.wmd.org](http://www.wmd.org)



The World Movement for Democracy is a global network of democrats, who have come together to cooperate in the promotion of democracy. Initiated by NED and two Indian organizations in February 1999 at a global assembly in New Delhi, India, the World Movement is led by a distinguished international Steering Committee, and NED currently serves as its Secretariat.

Taking advantage of recent advances in communications technology, participants in the World Movement are using the Internet to create working groups to address both regional and functional issues related to democracy. An extensive Web site ([www.wmd.org](http://www.wmd.org)) serves as a forum for these networks to exchange information and ideas.

Periodic global assemblies provide participants with an opportunity to meet and exchange ideas and experiences in person through highly targeted workshops. The Second Assembly of the World Movement brought some 400 activists from more than 80 countries to São Paulo, Brazil in November 2000; the Third Assembly is scheduled for April 2003 in Durban, South Africa.

The World Movement for Democracy offers a new way to give practical help to democrats who are struggling to liberalize authoritarian systems and to consolidate emerging democracies. It has the potential to do so in a variety of ways:

- as an **ally** of democrats in dangerous situations who need political solidarity and moral support;
- as a **lobby** for the cause of democracy in international bodies and in countries where democracy is under siege;
- as a **facilitator** that links democrats from different countries and regions to exchange information more efficiently, work together, and help one another;
- as an **innovator** that encourages the development of new ideas and effective approaches for overcoming obstacles to democracy;
- as a **big tent** that provides a meeting place for democrats who are active in different professional and functional areas such as human rights, law, political party development, workers' rights, economic reform, research, and education;
- as a **resource center** that makes basic materials on democracy available to groups around the world;
- as a **monitor** that conveys the views of democratic activists on the efficacy of different forms of democracy support; and
- as a **catalyst** to stimulate new initiatives and help shape the priorities of the broader community of institutions concerned with the promotion of democracy.

For information about the World Movement for Democracy, send an e-mail message to [world@ned.org](mailto:world@ned.org).



## World Movement Steering Committee

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Mahnaz Afkhami,<br><i>Iran/USA</i>            | Irena Lasota,<br><i>United States</i>                       |
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| João Carlos Espada,<br><i>Portugal</i>        | Michael Pinto-Duschinsky,<br><i>United Kingdom</i>          |
| Carl Gershman,<br><i>United States</i>        | Xiao Qiang,<br><i>Hong Kong/USA</i>                         |
| Ivan Krastev,<br><i>Bulgaria</i>              | Krzysztof Stanowski,<br><i>Poland</i>                       |
| Bolivar Lamounier,<br><i>Brazil</i>           | Elisabeth Ungar,<br><i>Colombia</i>                         |
| Christopher Landsberg,<br><i>South Africa</i> | Secretariat:<br><i>National Endowment<br/>for Democracy</i> |
|   | Art Kaufman,<br><i>Project Manager</i>                      |



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