

Knowledge to lead

UNITAR Seminar on the Interdependence between Democracy and Development

Organized jointly by the United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF)

United Nations Headquarters, New York
Conference Room 5 (NLB)
1 September 2011

Information Note

Background

A discussion on whether democracy provides the requisite environment for promoting development, the seminar will reflect on democratic institutions for promoting transparency and accountability and responsiveness to citizens, versus the needs for expansive growth.

The sessions will include comprehensive presentations on the listed topics by **H. E. Mr. Manjeev Singh Puri**, Deputy Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations, **Ms. Zhang Dan**, Counsellor at the Permanent Mission of China to the United Nations, **Mr. Morton H. Halperin**, a former US diplomat and senior advisor to the Open Society Foundations who co-wrote a book entitled *The Democracy Advantage: How Democracies Promote Prosperity and Peace*, and **Mr. Roland Rich**, a former Australian diplomat and current Executive Head of the UN Democracy Fund whose most recent publication is *Pacific Asia in Quest of Democracy*. **Ms. Yvonne Lodico**, Head of the Unitar New York Office and former Special Adviser in Timor-Leste, for democratic governance, will co-chair the panel discussion.

Objectives

At the end of the seminar, participants will be able to:

- Describe the main characteristics of democratic institutions and public services; and compare systems of governance between a democratic government and a centralized government;
- Understand the linkages between democracy and development;
- Explain possible consequences of democratic institutions in developing countries.





Methodology

The seminar will be based on a participatory approach to allow ample time for questions and discussion on each topic on the agenda. Participants will receive a set of reference and background material, including selected articles, copies of PowerPoint presentations and other relevant material. The different topics will be presented by experiences officers in charge of the particular area at the Secretariat and in the Permanent Missions complemented by an academic perspective.

Overall facilitation of the session will be provided by UNITAR. The session will be conducted in English.

Target audience

This seminar is intended for members of permanent missions to the United Nations in New York who are involved or interested in democracy and development issues, and/or follow the work of the Second and Fourth Committees of the General Assembly.

Dates and venue

The seminar will be held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on 1 September 2011, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Conference Room 5 (NLB).

Contact and registration

The seminar is free of charge for all members of permanent missions accredited to United Nations Headquarters.

Members of permanent missions who wish to participate in this seminar are requested to **register online** at <http://www.unitar.org/event/new-york>.

For queries regarding the seminar, please contact Ms. Helene Gandois at helene.gandois@unitar.org, Tel. (212) 963-3021.

Registration deadline: Friday, 26 August 2011