

WEBINAR TO LAUNCH THE POLICY NOTE ON GOVERNANCE IN AUTHORITARIAN CONTEXTS

Edited for a smoother reading experience

PART 1: Reflections on the Policy Brief from participants of the Webinar (2 July 2020)

[02.07.2020 14:05] Valbona Karakaçi:

It's good to link the frame with people and values: are there new values appearing? Should we be more value than regime oriented? There is a great debate if democratic systems proved to be effective in COVID situation

[02.07.2020 14:08] Alex Shankland:

This is a very useful policy note, but in relation to point 2 (approach and entry points). and given the important points Andrea made about pros and cons of 'going local', I wonder how it can be adapted to deal with variation at the subnational level? For example in Mozambique (a country that Marc knows very well, and where Sulila is based so he may also wish to comment!) the governance context in insurgency-hit Cabo Delgado province is very autocratic (disappearances of journalists, harassment of CSOs, etc.) whereas in Maputo it is still relatively liberalised (despite indications of closing civic space).

[02.07.2020 14:27] Craig Hatcher:

Just following on from Alex Shankland on geographical/spatial differences – there is an emphasis on decentralisation and sub-national governments in the policy note (as an entry point?), but perhaps there could be a reflection on cities, for example, making a stance against democratic backsliding at the national level; with cities sometimes referred to as 'islands in the illiberal storm' (e.g. Londoners voting strongly against Brexit). Similarly, governance at the margins of the state and the (territorial) limits to state rule could be considered. Well done – the policy note is a great discussion point.

[02.07.2020 14:10] Luy, Christian GIZ:

Thanks a lot for the opportunity to participate in this interesting presentation and discussion. Great! I have a comment: The role of donor coordination is very important, especially in contexts where backsliding or improvement is happening. Often this coordination is a huge challenge and not easy to accomplish. It needs to go hand in hand with political dialogue... This coordination could also start at the local level, for example in the field of service delivery/ basic services. Thanks again, great Webinar!

[02.07.2020 14:10] caroline:

Hello, at the conceptual level, how to present and defend a framework for governance, human rights and democracy that we present as "international values" when more and more examples from "old" democracies going bad give arguments and credits to strong and autocratic governments? in other words, how not to sound patronizing or neocolonialist at the conceptual level?

[02.07.2020 14:12] Valbona Karakaçi:

Thnx Caroline, I was trying to share the same! There are even contradicting human rights situation such as during Pandemia (the health right in one side with the freedom of movement right on the other side)

[02.07.2020 14:16] Etienne Patrick EDA ETP:

...on the other hand, we are not neutral, we are supporting a set of values and try to support the local actors which are sharing it! I would emphasize the importance of the political dialogue: in a number of countries, I feel we might be more straightforward, more agile and more opportunistic.

[02.07.2020 14:17] Branislav Milic:

Thank you very much for this interesting opportunity...we certainly do cope with this type of challenge. I still wonder how to make a clear distinction between supporting society to its democratic aspirations and supporting authoritarian regimes. An example is the consolidation of public finances or, more precisely, support, e.g. support in the area of tax policy as a segment that contributes to the equal distribution of responsibilities and governance in general. However, it also can contribute to and can become an additional instrument of financial power for authoritarian regimes...

[02.07.2020 14:23] Dieng Abdoul Wahab EDA DIEWA:

Hello Patrick. Absolutely agree with you that we are not neutral. However how I think we can be simpler, more agile and more opportunistic in the political dialogue in this type of particular context where the room for maneuver is reduced

[02.07.2020 14:15] Jesper Elias Lauridsen:

My quick feedback: 1. sound categorization of regimes (archtypes). 2. important point linking PEPA to designing and adapting ToC. 3. Needs more focus on informal governance institutions and actors. 3. would be interesting applying lenses for gender and social inclusion and conflict sensitive programme management. 4. looking forward it would be interesting to collect more practices and lessons learned with more innovative interventions and approaches

[02.07.2020 14:18] Darbellay Romain EDA DRN:

How do we navigate between consensus around common interests and result oriented compromise with authoritarian or kleptocratic regimes without falling into "compromission" or complacency? Are we versatile enough to manoeuvre?

[02.07.2020 14:27] Vasilev Petar EDA VASPE:

Thank you very much for inviting me for the webinar, it is quite interesting and relevant for Serbia where we face downward democratic trend unfortunately. We are regularly assessing contextual developments, political economy and its impact on our projects as we try to adapt to the changing environment. We see more room to operate at the local level, however it is also not an option for us to entirely disengage from the central level (Parliament in particular). Also I very much liked the concept paper you have prepared. I am sorry to leave the discussion at this point, I wish you a successful rest of the webinar. Regards from Serbia. Petar

[02.07.2020 14:29] roy kelly:

Would it be useful to add a short case write up in a small box within the policy note to illustrate the four different regime types showing an example of a country moving forward (as Marc said a country where a good offense strategy would be effective) and an example of a country moving backward (as Marc said a country where a defensive strategy may be important). These might help practitioners understand, analyze and design tractible strategies.

[02.07.2020 14:30] Iff Andrea Cornelia EDA IFA:

What I find interesting in terms of values: It is important to give the local organizations a voice. And this happens in a trustworthy way when there is data. So the point of good data by local organizations (see example Tanzania) is really important.

PART 2: First round of feedback

[02.07.2020 14:32] Iff Andrea Cornelia EDA IFA:

WHAT IS THE MAIN INSIGHT THAT YOU HAD TODAY IN THE WEBINAR?

[02.07.2020 14:32] Papageorgiou Trippolini Melina EDA PAPME:

the idea to consider the eco liberalisation perspective

[02.07.2020 14:32] Habimana Dominique EDA HAQ:

Trends

[02.07.2020 14:33] David Morley:

Useful to see systematic process for categorisation of states.

[02.07.2020 14:33] Darbellay Romain EDA DRN:

Patterns of authoritarianism

[02.07.2020 14:33] Miguel Loureiro:

Trends and paths are key to understand

[02.07.2020 14:33] Ndikumasabo Annonciate EDA NAN:

entry points

[02.07.2020 14:33] Müller Suzanne EDA MULSU:

Clear models

[02.07.2020 14:33] Widmer Alexander EDA WID:

The very diverging views on country classification....

[02.07.2020 14:33] Fritsche Lea EDA FTL:

information collection platforms

[02.07.2020 14:33] Ni Ni Win EDA NNW:

types of regimes in different context

[02.07.2020 14:33] Branislav Milic:

I do not feel alone! (Serbia)

[02.07.2020 14:33] Iff Andrea Cornelia EDA IFA:

We are disturbing the way how we measure democracy :-)

[02.07.2020 14:33] Matthias - swisspeace:

There is more of a common understanding on what that all means for SDC and its programming

[02.07.2020 14:33] Maver Boris EDA MAVBO:

what is important is not where the countries are, but where they are coming from and where they are heading to

[02.07.2020 14:33] Celestine Krösschell:

Trajectory of regimes

[02.07.2020 14:33] roy kelly:

Need for designing an appropriate strategy for taking the offense and the defense depending on the specific country context

[02.07.2020 14:33] Etter Luca EDA ETL:

media spearheading democratic slide..

[02.07.2020 14:33] Joachim Merz:

Different(iated) entry points

[02.07.2020 14:33] Norbert:

how to intervene in authoritarian context

[02.07.2020 14:33] Zayed Issam EDA ZAI:

modules of defining governance VS regime effect, I guess

[02.07.2020 14:33] Lux Stephanie Alexandra EDA LXS:

political economy analysis including gender and power analysis

[02.07.2020 14:33] Puyo Philippe EDA PUYPH:

very rich environment

[02.07.2020 14:33] Dieng Abdoul Wahab EDA DIEWA:

role of civil society

[02.07.2020 14:33] Molla Md Sydur Rahman EDA MOLSY:

Role of media

[02.07.2020 14:33] Cana Saranda EDA PSA:

the categorisation and the respective entry points

[02.07.2020 14:33] Tsivtsivadze Tamar EDA TSITA:

Addressing different authoritarian regimes in a tailor-made manner

[02.07.2020 14:34] Valbona Karakaçi:

Entry points

[02.07.2020 14:34] Puyo Philippe EDA PUYPH:

value and people centered

PART 3: Second round of feedback

[02.07.2020 14:34] Iff Andrea Cornelia EDA IFA:

What does still remain open for me, what questions are still not discussed?

[02.07.2020 14:34] Norbert:

how to deal with clientelism

[02.07.2020 14:34] Puyo Philippe EDA PUYPH:

link regimes trajectory and levels of development

[02.07.2020 14:34] Ayari Nosra EDA AYN:

Keeping the balance between supporting good governance while doing no harm to the population

[02.07.2020 14:34] Iff Andrea Cornelia EDA IFA:

How can we bring the people view in better? How can we support movements that have no leadership?

[02.07. 2020 14:34] David Morley:

How to adapt programmes to changing context.

[02.07.2020 14:34] Fritsche Lea EDA FTL:

more practical aspects

[02.07.2020 14:34] Habimana Dominique EDA HAQ:

predicting future

[02.07.2020 14:34] Branislav Milic:

The management consideration, a balancing management process!

[02.07.2020 14:34] Maver Boris EDA MAVBO:

how do we defend politically, in Switzerland, an engagement in/with auth. regimes

[02.07.2020 14:34] Tsivtsivadze Tamar EDA TSITA:

susceptibility of different regimes even when they are doing fine

[02.07.2020 14:34] Zayed Issam EDA ZAI:

what do we build up on existing systems

[02.07.2020 14:34] Craig Hatcher:

are we talking about authoritarian regimes or authoritarian practices

[02.07.2020 14:34] Tissot Baranzini Caroline EDA TIR:

are we fit to be agile enough to be able to change our working modalities with changing regimes

[02.07.2020 14:35] Darbellay Romain EDA DRN:

Are we ready to pay the political price?

[02.07.2020 14:35] Miguel Loureiro:

How to link this typology with all others (nature of state, source of revenue), political settlement...

[02.07.2020 14:35] Joachim Merz:

Democracy and democratization as values per se in development cooperation

[02.07.2020 14:35] Müller Suzanne EDA MULSU:

Entry points to keep civil society space in autocracy

[02.07.2020 14:35] Lux Stephanie Alexandra EDA LXS:

ensuring that this discussion takes place in our offices, is broadly owned and applied

[02.07.2020 14:35] Tissot Baranzini Caroline EDA TIR:

how does it fit with the FCS agenda

[02.07.2020 14:35] Valbona Karakaçi:

Risks mitigation of working in different regimes

[02.07.2020 14:35] Matthias - swisspeace:

How to communicate that working on governance may not result in an improvement of democratic governance

[02.07.2020 14:35] roy kelly:

how to structure to get "tractability" in our various reform interventions.

[02.07.2020 14:35] Molla Md Sydur Rahman EDA MOLSY:

Quality of public services in different regime

[02.07.2020 14:35] Ndikumasabo Annonciate EDA NAN:

trades-off between Swiss interest and engagement in authoritarian regimes

[02.07.2020 14:35] Etter Luca EDA ETL:

To what extent is this discussion influencing broader SDC / FDFA dialogue - not just within governance sector.

[02.07.2020 14:35] Dieng Abdoul Wahab EDA DIEWA:

which instruments to better strengthen and protect the media and civil society

[02.07.2020 14:35] Jirdeh Nimo Mohamoud EDA JIN:

How do we harvest and empower traditional governance systems

[02.07.2020 14:35] Craig Hatcher:

when to engage with the judiciary (sorry, two questions)