

Digital Democracy

Technology, data, AI, and the internet positively serve elections and democracies.

Democracies must seize the opportunities presented by emerging technologies, including AI and next-generation privacy tools, and understand their capabilities and risks. IFES supports the democracy community to harness technology, data, and the internet for good and mitigate against their most serious threats to democracies.

- ✓ Thoughtfully developing data analytics, AI, and other technology to support elections and political processes.
- ✓ Providing high-risk election actors with resources and support to enhance their online safety and security in the face of pervasive digital threats.
- ✓ Promoting open, secure, and inclusive civic participation, defending digital rights and internet freedom, and fighting mass surveillance, through cutting edge research, cross-sectoral partnerships, and highly localized programming.
- ✓ Ensuring access to high quality information and combating harmful online speech that inhibits political discourse and makes political processes unsafe, particularly for election officials, women and marginalized communities.
- ✓ Forging connections between election officials, technology companies, and policy makers to improve coordinated action around foreign malign interference and the risks and benefits of emerging technologies.

EXAMPLES

Voluntary Electoral Integrity Guidelines for Tech Companies:

Created with input from major tech firms Microsoft, Google, Meta, Snap, and TikTok, this how-to guide offers 11 applicable commitments tech companies should adopt to support EMBs with limited technical expertise. Includes instructional guidelines for how to build relationships, share research, and bridge the communication gap between tech companies and EMBs to advance election integrity.



[Electionsandtech.org](https://electionsandtech.org)

Cyber and Information Resilience Elections Network (CIREN):

IFES has established two regional networks of election officials in Europe and Asia-Pacific to facilitate coordination between neighboring countries when combating cyberattacks. By uniting partners regionally and transnationally, EMBs can share strategies for resilience and expand their technical capacities in response to cyber threats. African CIREN is slated to launch in 2025.



[CIREN](https://ciren.org)

USAID Electoral Cybersecurity Briefing Series:

A framework designed to increase EMBs' cybersecurity preparedness. Emphasizing proactive measures, this series guides elections officials through risk reduction steps related to voter registration, election results management, and partnerships with donors.



[USAID Electoral Cybersecurity Briefing Series](https://www.usaid.gov/electoral-cybersecurity-briefing-series)

OVER THE
LAST FIVE
YEARS:



provided tech support
to **50+** countries



Voluntary Guidelines endorsed by
35+ EMBs, CSOs and tech companies