

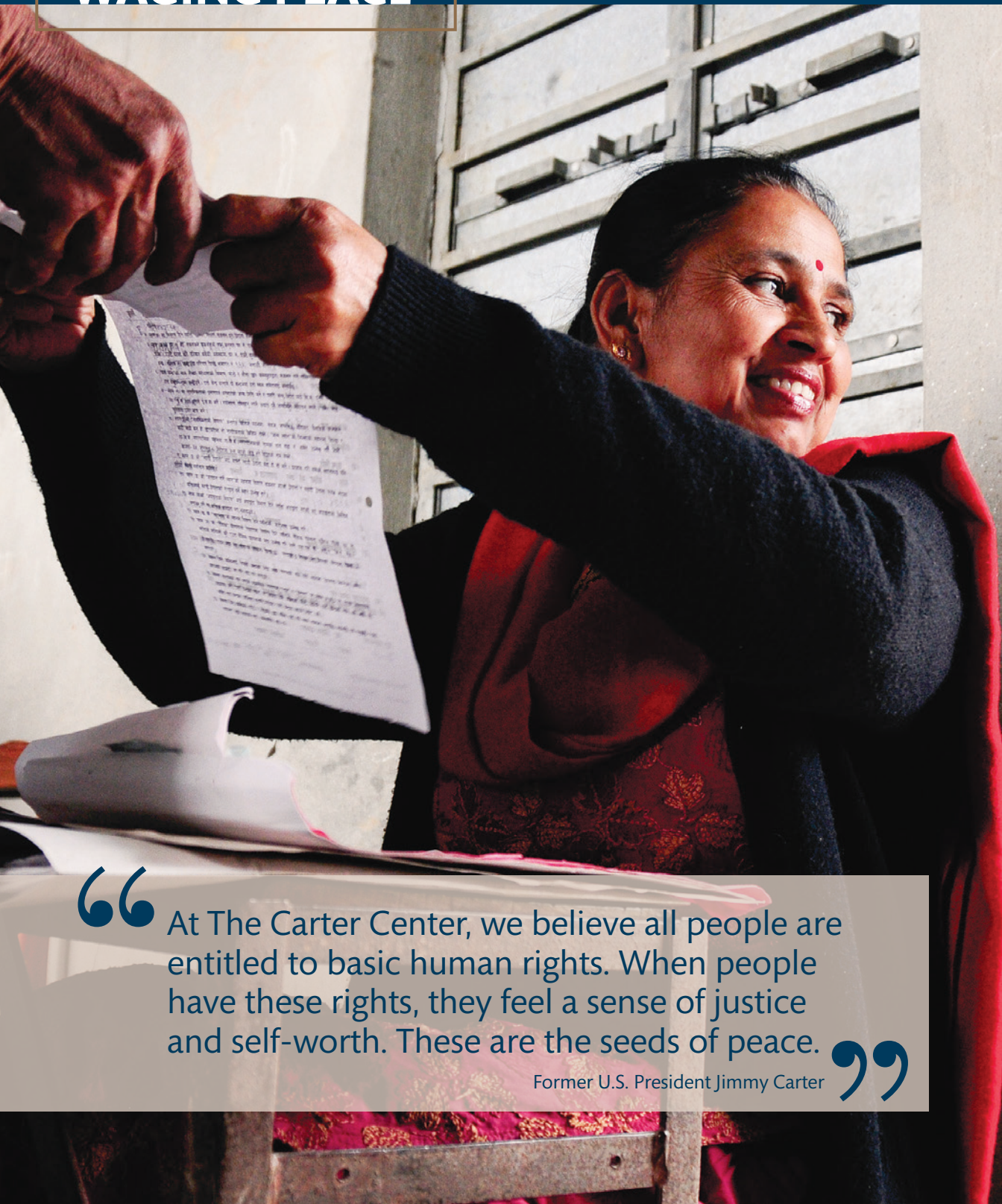


PEACE PROGRAMS

THE
CARTER CENTER



WAGING PEACE



“ At The Carter Center, we believe all people are entitled to basic human rights. When people have these rights, they feel a sense of justice and self-worth. These are the seeds of peace. ”

Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter

Cover: Women wait to vote in South Sudan.

The Carter Center observed elections and undertook long-term democratic transition monitoring in Nepal: (left) A Nepali woman registers people to vote, and (right) former U.S. President Jimmy Carter greets a boy in Kathmandu.



The Carter Center's peace programs strengthen freedom and democracy in nations worldwide, securing for people the political and civil rights that are the foundation of just and peaceful societies.

Amid the trend toward greater democracy worldwide, The Carter Center has been a pioneer in the field of election observation, monitoring more than 100 national elections to help ensure that the results reflect the will of the people.

Beyond elections, the Center seeks to deepen democracy by nurturing full citizen participation in public-policy making and by helping to establish government institutions that bolster the rule of law, fair administration of justice, access to information, and government transparency.

A culture of respect for human rights is crucial to permanent peace. The Center supports the efforts of human rights activists at the grass roots, while also working to advance national and international human rights laws that uphold the dignity and worth of each individual.

When democracy backslides or formal diplomacy fails, the Center offers mediation expertise and has furthered avenues for peace in Africa, the Middle East, Latin America, and Asia.

Since 1982, The Carter Center has shown that creating a world at peace is a very possible journey, one step at a time.

DEMOCRACY PROGRAM

Now more than ever, citizens around the world participate in elections to hold their governments accountable, and more governments than ever recognize democratic elections as essential to establishing their legitimate authority. However, while elections are critical to democratic legitimacy, they cannot change the political culture of a society overnight. Long-term efforts are necessary to build an inclusive democratic society that respects human rights and laws, administers justice fairly, and encourages full citizen participation in government.

Observing Elections

Assessments by organizations that monitor elections in emerging democracies play a central role in shaping perceptions about whether an election is genuinely democratic. The Carter Center has been a pioneer of election observation, monitoring more than 100 elections in Africa, Latin America, and Asia since 1989 and forging many of the techniques now common to the field. The Center must be invited by a country's election authorities and welcomed by the major political parties to ensure it can play a meaningful, nonpartisan role. In the months before election day, observers analyze election laws, assess voter education and registration, and evaluate fairness in campaigns. On election day, the presence of impartial observers reassures voters that they can safely cast a secret ballot and sometimes deters interference or fraud. Before, during, and after an election, the Center's findings are reported through public statements, both in-country and to the international community.



An election worker awaits voters in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Carter Center works in the country to strengthen democracy by supporting and training citizen election observers, activists who are working to advance respect for human rights, and local groups seeking reforms to enable the Congolese people to benefit from their country's natural resources, particularly its mineral-rich mines.

The Carter Center has observed more than 100 elections in 39 countries.

Developing Standards for Democratic Elections

The Carter Center—with the U.N. Electoral Assistance Division and the National Democratic Institute—played a key role in producing the Declaration of Principles for International Observation, which established professional guidelines for election observers. Launched in 2005, the declaration has been endorsed by 50 observer organizations. In addition, the Center is spearheading a multiyear



Marie Danielle Luyoyo Pwenika, a Congolese election observer for The Carter Center, talks with a polling station worker during Tunisian presidential elections.

initiative to build a systematic framework for assessing elections based on states' obligations under international law to ensure genuine democratic elections and foster consensus on these standards.

Strengthening Democratic Governance

Building on its activities in election observation and democratic election standards, the Center works in targeted countries to strengthen the foundations of democratic governance through a range of programs: deploying international observers to monitor political transitions, constitution drafting, and peace implementation processes; providing training and support to domestic civil society organizations to observe elections and monitor government performance in meeting core democratic and human rights; and catalyzing high-level political engagement to advocate for key democratic and electoral reforms.

To support these initiatives, the Center has developed a series of best-practice tools and training resources that it makes available to international and domestic observers, civil society groups, and other key stakeholders.



You cannot have a game without a referee, and the Carter Center observers, I think, are the referee for the election process.

— Nizar Boukraa, Tunisian voter



HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAM

A commitment to human rights for all people around the world was a founding principle of The Carter Center. These include civil, political, social, economic, and cultural rights and freedoms enumerated in the U.N. Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Center's Human Rights Program undertakes a range of activities to strengthen such rights as the bedrock of peaceful and just societies.

Supporting Human Rights Defenders

Courageous and effective activists for the rights of others often face great risks in countries where basic human rights are still ignored. These unsung heroes from countries worldwide gather annually at the Human Rights Defenders Forum at The Carter Center to discuss national and global issues affecting the enjoyment of human rights, such as the state of U.S. commitments to human rights, the impact of the war on terror, the role of religion in bolstering or undermining human rights, and the abuse of women and girls.

In addition, for more than 30 years, President and Mrs. Carter have personally supported thousands of human rights defenders by appealing to heads of state on behalf of those who are persecuted for their courageous work.

The Carter Center has worked to strengthen institutional protections for human rights and the work of activists in more than 25 countries, including Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia, Israel, the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and Egypt.

Strengthening International Human Rights Systems

President Carter was a strong proponent of establishing the post of high commissioner for human rights at the United Nations, and the Center has worked closely with each of the high commissioners. In 2006, President Carter and other Nobel Peace Prize laureates were instrumental in reforming the U.N. Commission on Human Rights, now the U.N. Human Rights Council. The Center also has endorsed the work of the International Criminal Court and voiced concerns about torture and other critical human rights issues.



At a Carter Center forum, Zainah Anwar, a human rights defender from Malaysia, speaks about the intersection of Islam and women's rights.

Mobilizing Action for Women and Girls Initiative

President Carter called the abuse of women and girls the most serious, unaddressed problem in the world. Recognizing the powerful influence of religious leaders, the Mobilizing Action for Women and Girls Initiative focuses on the policies and practices of the world's religious institutions and traditional and customary belief systems, with the objective of achieving more equitable treatment for women and girls. Many harmful practices are perpetuated because of discriminatory interpretations of religious texts and teachings, as well as by the normalization of violence in society. The initiative advances justice-based interpretations of such texts and develops curricula and training materials that underscore human rights and gender equality for use by religious and traditional leaders.

The Human Rights Program developed the Forum on Women website. Created to keep the issue of women's and girls' rights in the spotlight, the virtual hub highlights success stories, serves as a resource library and archive, offers interactive video chats with human rights defenders, and leverages technology to bring together activists scattered across the globe.



School counselor Asmau Ayub teaches a group of girls at a school in Accra, Ghana. She uses techniques learned from a Carter Center-supported training to help her students learn about women's rights.



Every time I come to the Carter Center's Human Rights Defenders Forum, I go home more energized and more hopeful that I'm not fighting alone.

—Dr. Saad Ibrahim, Egyptian human rights activist



CONFLICT RESOLUTION PROGRAM



On top of a cliff, a South Sudanese girl overlooks Juba, capital of South Sudan. Working with partners in Juba and Khartoum, The Carter Center has launched a series of nongovernmental dialogues between prominent leaders from Sudan and South Sudan in hopes of strengthening peace and creating a lasting understanding between the two countries.

Wars produce the worst violations of human rights worldwide and are the greatest impediment to human development. Most of the more than 60 major armed conflicts since the Cold War have been internal clashes over power, religion, national or ethnic identity, or access to natural resources or wealth. The Conflict Resolution Program works to help resolve such conflicts and build sustainable peace.

The Center has become a trusted broker for peace, serving as an alternative channel for dialogue and negotiation until official diplomacy can take place. As a nonpartisan, nongovernmental organization with access to world leaders and non-state actors, the Center uses its expertise in mediation, negotiation, and peacebuilding to help warring parties when traditional dispute-resolution methods fail, bridging the space between official diplomacy and unofficial peace efforts.

Monitoring and Mediating Conflicts

Program staff and interns monitor many of the world's armed conflicts to better understand the histories, underlying causes, primary actors, disputed issues, and dynamics on the ground, as well as efforts being made to resolve these disputes. The Center intervenes when no current avenues for

mediation exist or are working effectively. To mediate, the Center must be invited by the major adversaries and see indications that they are truly interested in resolving the conflict.

The Carter Center has furthered avenues to peace in Ethiopia, Eritrea, Liberia, Sudan and South Sudan, Uganda, the Korean Peninsula, Nepal, Haiti, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Palestine, Syria, and South America.

Implementing Peace Agreements and Peacebuilding

An end to fighting does not always mean a conflict has been completely resolved. The often protracted process that leads to a peace agreement represents the beginning of an even longer process of peace implementation and post-conflict reconciliation. All parties must be held accountable for implementing agreements in good faith. Even after a peace agreement is implemented, a conflict's root causes may linger and continue to fester, sometimes reigniting the conflict. Bringing former combatants together to forge a shared future demands patient, persistent efforts. The Carter Center works to ease ethnic tensions, identify and build consensus around shared social goals, strengthen the rule of law, and bring justice to victims.



In Liberia, Helen Flomo and legal adviser Michael Biddle discuss the unexpected death of her son while he was visiting his father. The Carter Center and the Catholic Justice and Peace Commission have helped Liberians with legal problems of all kinds, from inheritance issues to domestic violence.

Preventing Conflict

While direct negotiation to resolve armed conflict is the program's major focus, it also emphasizes preventing conflict. A series of minor crises can signal or contribute to deteriorating societal and political stability. In such situations, parties in dispute may approach the Center as a neutral third party to facilitate dialogue that can keep tensions from erupting into violent conflict.



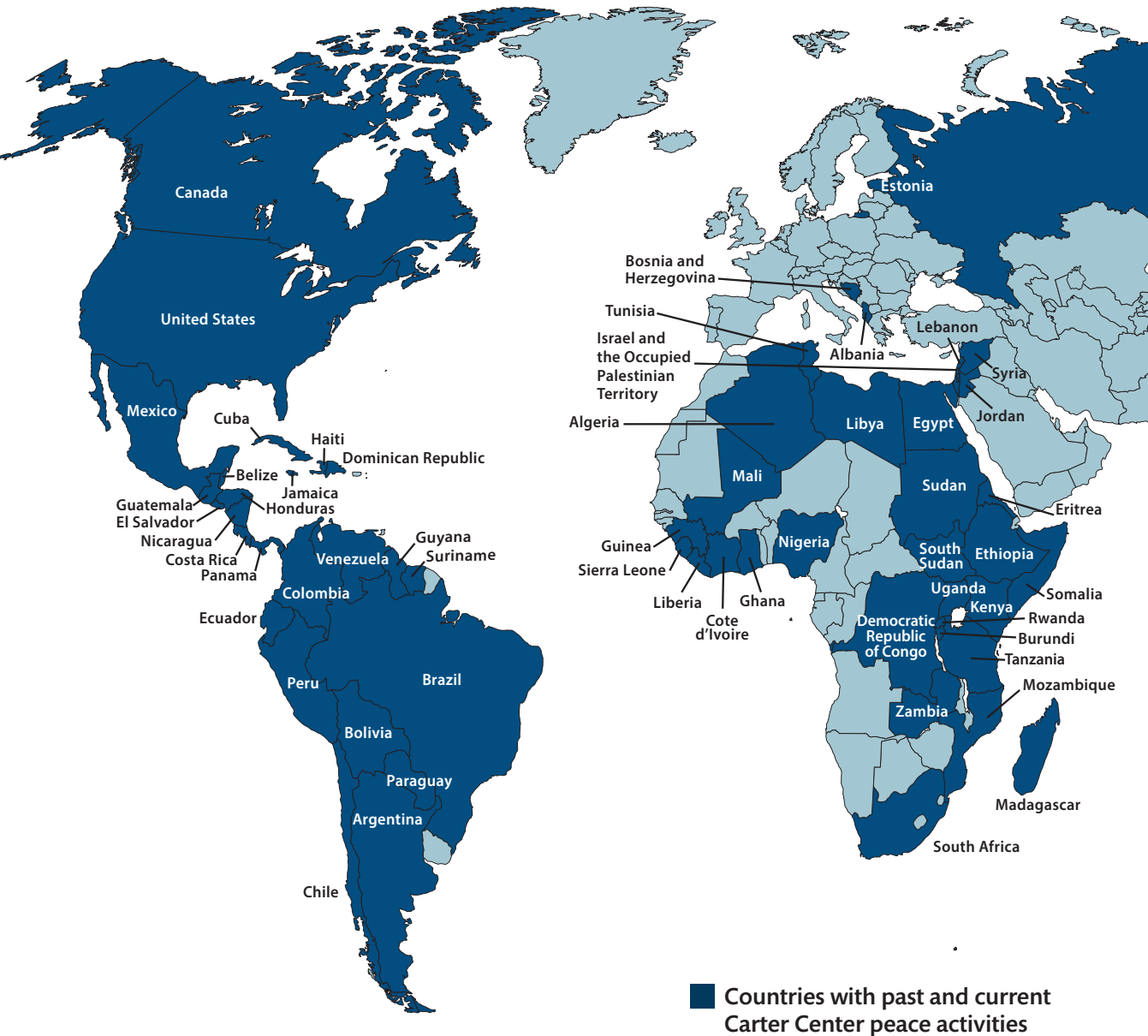
The Carter Center helped to end war, and we thank the Center for that and for encouraging us through work in rule of law, so people do not go back to war.

— Mama Tumeh, leader of Liberia's Traditional Women for Peace, regarded as the spiritual leader of women throughout Liberia



ACTIVITY BY COUNTRY

Since its founding in 1982, The Carter Center has undertaken peace activities in more than 65 countries worldwide.



Countries Where The Carter Center Has Observed Elections



Bolivia
Cherokee Nation
China
Cote d'Ivoire
Democratic Republic of the Congo
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
Egypt
Ethiopia
Ghana
Guatemala
Guinea
Guyana
Haiti
Indonesia
Jamaica
Kenya
Lebanon
Liberia
Libya
Madagascar
Mali
Mexico
Mozambique
Myanmar
Nepal
Nicaragua
Nigeria
Occupied Palestinian Territory
Panama
Paraguay
Peru
Philippines
Sierra Leone
Sudan
Timor-Leste
Tunisia
Venezuela
Zambia

GLOBAL ACCESS TO INFORMATION PROGRAM

Access to information is a fundamental human right, as enshrined in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Information is power. It helps people protect against governmental abuses and enables them to take steps to improve their lives, their families, and their communities.



A Guatemalan woman works on a coffee plantation. A Carter Center study found that women in the Latin American country cannot access government information – to which they have a right – as easily as men.

The Carter Center’s Global Access to Information Program works in partnership with governments, civil society, and international and regional bodies to help governments become more transparent and accountable, and to enable citizens to understand policies, help determine public priorities, and use information to ensure the exercise of other human rights, including the rights to education, employment, and a safe environment.

Since 1999, The Carter Center has served as a leader in advancing the right of access to information, helping governments pass, implement, and enforce access to information laws in such countries as Jamaica, Bolivia, Nicaragua, Mali, China, and Liberia; collaborating closely with international and regional bodies; and offering technical assistance. It serves as a resource to advance the right around the world, in part by co-anchoring the access to information working group of the Open Government Partnership, a compact of approximately 60 countries committed to being more transparent and accountable.

The program institutes innovative programming to assure that governance, transparency, and the fundamental right to information reach even the most disadvantaged.

Assisting National Efforts

The Global Access to Information Program works with national governments and civil society leaders to advance access to information in target countries. For several years, for example, it has supported partners in Liberia. Recognizing the importance of access to information following Liberia’s long civil war, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf’s administration asked the program to support the drafting of the nation’s first freedom of information law, which was signed on Sept. 16, 2010.

Since then, the program has had a field office in Liberia, providing technical assistance and advice to civil society, media, government, and information commission partners in the law’s implementation, oversight, enforcement, and use.

The Carter Center has helped governments pass or implement freedom of information laws in Jamaica, Bolivia, Nicaragua, Mali, China, and Liberia.

Women and the Right of Access to Information

With genuine access to information, women can more easily take advantage of opportunities and make more effective decisions about education, land use and ownership, agricultural practices, or starting a business. They can ensure that their fundamental rights are met and protected. Yet in many countries, women can't access information as easily as men.

The Carter Center's women and access to information project assesses gender-based inequities in the exercise of the right of access to information and works with stakeholders in each country to remedy gaps in women's access to information. It currently works in select countries in sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, and Asia.

The IAT Tool

More than 100 countries have passed information laws. However, many of them are failing to fully and effectively implement their laws, and at present there are few objective means of analyzing and addressing this critical problem.

To fill this gap, the Global ATI Program developed the unique Implementation Assessment Tool to assess the extent to which public agencies are prepared to respond to requests and to provide information. Among other things, it assesses leadership, rules, procedures, resources, and training to help government agencies identify concrete, fixable problems that prevent citizens from accessing information to which they have a right. This new tool, which offers a benchmark of good practice, has been used in a dozen countries thus far.



A Liberian woman marches in a parade to celebrate International Right to Know Day. The Carter Center has helped the country implement its access to information law.



The Women and Access to Information study conducted by The Carter Center ... is an integral first step in identifying the prevalent barriers that women face in getting the necessary information to become economically empowered.

—Julia Duncan-Cassell, Liberian Minister of Gender, Children, and Social Protection



AMERICAS PROGRAM

The Carter Center established the Americas Program in 1986 when the Western Hemisphere was undergoing dramatic political changes. In many places, democracies were just beginning to bloom, and economies were opening.

Today, most of the countries in the region have achieved three decades of democratic governance, and the program works to ensure that these established democracies effectively serve their citizens. It engages in projects that strengthen regional capacities to promote democracy, transform and prevent conflicts, and improve democratic governance.

The town of General Farfan lies on the Ecuador border, separated from Colombia by a small river. The Carter Center helped restore diplomatic relations between the two countries.



Sustaining Democracies and Preventing Crises

The program helps countries facing significant citizen demand for political change to sustain strong democracies and prevent crises by sponsoring open dialogue and mediation, organizing consensus-building exercises, helping to identify reform priorities, and consulting with local actors about issues that may generate conflicts or that could deepen democracy. In all of this, the Center acts as a neutral nongovernmental organization—but one with access at the highest levels of government—to help mitigate potential crises within and between countries.

Building Regional Consensus

The collective defense of democracy is a key challenge and opportunity for countries in the Western Hemisphere. The program tracks key issues in inter-American relations and works with the Organization of American States, the United Nations, and regional civil society networks to help establish consensus on international norms to protect and promote democracy and citizenship. The program founded and serves as the secretariat for the Friends of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, a group of former presidents, prime ministers, and cabinet members from the hemisphere. Through quiet diplomacy and fact-finding missions, the Friends listen to disputing parties in country conflicts; encourage peaceful and constitutional means to resolve democratic conflict; focus international attention at critical political moments, including elections; and contribute to more informed and better-designed diplomatic actions.

The Americas Program has had an impact throughout the Western Hemisphere.



A Bolivian woman prepares to vote on a new constitution. The Carter Center works to strengthen democracy in the region.

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President Carter and The Carter Center have helped the people of Panama to overcome our challenges on the road to restoring our democracy.

—Juan Carlos Varela, President of Panama

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CHINA PROGRAM



Residents of Shidong village prepare to vote in local elections. One of the Carter Center's early involvements in the country was helping it organize and administer village-level elections—the equivalent of city councils in the United States.

President Carter's decision to normalize the relationship between the United States and the People's Republic of China in 1979 changed China, the United States, and the world. The Carter Center's China Program is dedicated to preserving this legacy and advancing U.S.-China relations by building synergy between China and the United States on issues of global importance—fostering greater cooperation between them in other nations, providing resources and scholarship, and nurturing the next generation of young leaders who can shape the critical U.S.-China relationship to be a cornerstone of global peace and prosperity.

Promoting U.S.-China Collaboration in Other Nations

The China Program has initiated programs to highlight the benefits of coordinated and collective action between the United States and China in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. This includes a platform to monitor and report on regional crises that could result in internal chaos and damage the crucial U.S.-China relationship. The program encourages multilateral dialogue to help resolve local conflicts, provide advice and assistance to local economic development and political reform efforts, and produce confidence-building measures for the U.S.-China relationship.

Nurturing Young Leaders

Complexities in U.S.-China relations require the next generation of leaders in both countries to be innovative problem solvers and analysts with fresh approaches. The program organizes forums that bring together young scholars from both countries to increase understanding and share ideas about ways to cooperate and avoid conflict.

Conducting Research and Providing Scholarship

The China Program produces original scholarship that provides action-oriented insights for advancing U.S.-China collaboration on global issues. Central to this, the program convenes an annual Carter Center Forum on U.S.-China Relations and organizes workshops on subjects crucial to both countries in collaboration with partners in China and other countries. Conference proceedings and workshop papers are published online or in print.

The Carter Center has worked in China since 1998.

Engaging China Online

In 2000, the China Program helped launch a website on villager self-government in China that quickly became one of the most comprehensive websites on grassroots democracy in China. Two years later, building on its decade of work monitoring China's village elections and helping standardize these elections' procedures, the Center launched chinaelections.org, which became the most-visited political reform portal inside and outside China. In 2008, the China Program and the Center's Access to Information Program jointly launched chinatransparency.org. And in 2013, the program launched the uscnpm.org website to provide updates on a wide range of topics related to U.S.-China relations, including foreign policy, economy and trade, and social media.



Carter Center projects in China aim to keep the country and its citizens engaged in the wider international community.

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The Carter Center has done a lot in China to promote social progress. Although it is difficult to work there, I believe that things will gradually become better and The Carter Center will be able to contribute more to China's transformation.

— Cong Riyun, professor at the China University of Political Science and Law

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Thank You.

The Carter Center's work to bring hope to citizens in struggling democracies and war-torn nations would not be possible without the generous support of our donors.

To contribute or find out more, contact the Center's Department of Institutional Development at (404) 420-5109 or visit www.cartercenter.org/donate.



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