Good practices in reporting, oversight, civil society and the media
Reporting requirements for political parties or candidates

- Does have reporting requirements
- Does not have reporting requirements
- Data not available

The map does not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of IFES concerning the legal status of any country, area or territory or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its borders. Map developed by Magnus Ohman.
Nigeria – no reporting by candidates, although spending limit exists

Switzerland – No reporting requirements at a federal (national) level

South Africa – only reporting on public funds
Huge variation regarding detailed provisions – what can be expected where candidates may not be literate, or where political parties may not have access to a computer?
Minimum global *reporting* standards?

- Annual reporting by political parties
- Post-election reporting by political parties
- Post-election reporting to include information on candidate finance, or separate candidate reports
- Pre-election reporting?
The map does not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of IFES or IDEA concerning the legal status of any country, area or territory or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its borders. Map developed by Magnus Ohman.
Again significant variation in publication practice (older democracies are not always the best examples)
Minimum global *publication* standards?

- Publication of all reports on institution website
- Scans of submitted reports
- Enter data into electronic format (or electronic submission)?
- Excluding certain data (privacy)?
- What to do when large number of potential reports?
Enforcement considerations

• Acknowledge trade-off between transparency and restrictive regulations (bans and limits)

• Contestants will hide certain data if many restrictions exist, or if they fear formal or political sanctions

• In some scenarios, contestants may hide data for fear of reprisals

• Extensive, detailed reviews of reports is beyond most oversight institutions
Civil society oversight
Media attention
Formal regulation (enforced)
## The role of the State control and Social oversight

<table>
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<th><strong>State control</strong></th>
<th><strong>Social oversight</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Role</strong></td>
<td>Guarantee compliance with the law</td>
<td>Empower citizens to support or reject parties</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Oversee state control</td>
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<td><strong>Criteria</strong></td>
<td>Law and regulations</td>
<td>Standards of behaviour accepted by society</td>
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<td><strong>Powers</strong></td>
<td>Investigative and sanction misbehaviour</td>
<td>Uncover and denounce unacceptable political finance links</td>
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<td><strong>Weaknesses</strong></td>
<td>Depending on reporting of misbehaviour</td>
<td>Depending on disclosure</td>
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<td>Poor performance</td>
<td>Lacking awareness of political finance</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sanctions</strong></td>
<td>Political, civil, criminal sanctions</td>
<td>Protest and withdraw support</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Corrupt links</strong></td>
<td>Hard to prove causal link</td>
<td>Reasonable doubt suffices for withdrawal of political support</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Bruno Speck Political finance: state control and civil society monitoring U4 Brief No 12, 2008*
Investigate the actors

Role of civil society

Explain how political finance matter for average citizens

Monitor the public oversight bodies

Review financial reports

Explain how political finance matter for average citizens
Civil society and media considerations

- Role of civil society and media in restrictive or closing spaces
- Understanding and awareness among media, civil society and the public
- Risk of false report – fake news
- Social media – part of the problem and of the solution