



Good practices in reporting, oversight, civil society and the media



International Foundation
for Electoral Systems
Regional Europe Office

Reporting requirements for political parties or candidates



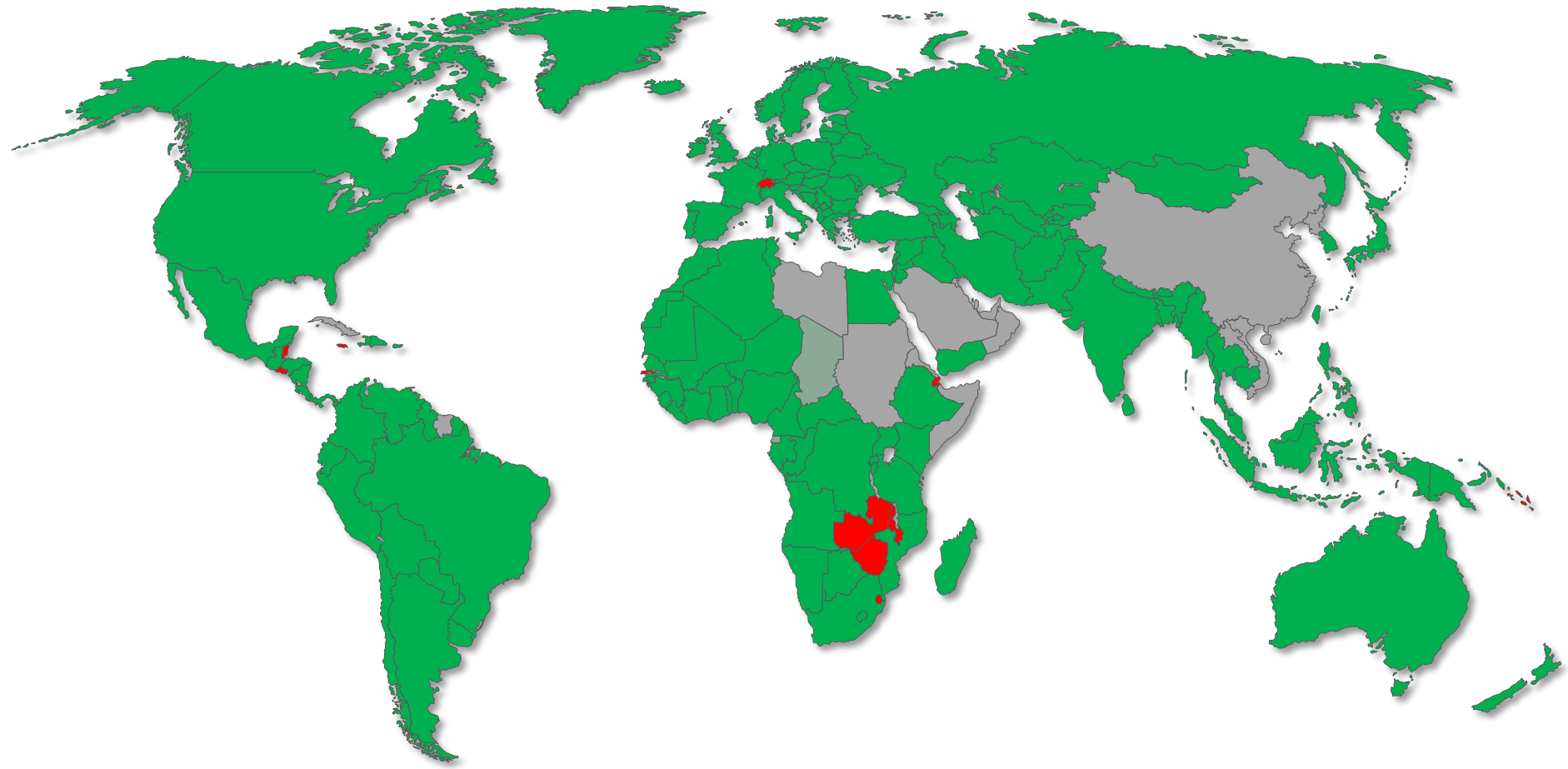
Does have reporting requirements



Does *not* have reporting requirements



Data not available





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?



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Requirements for reports to be made public



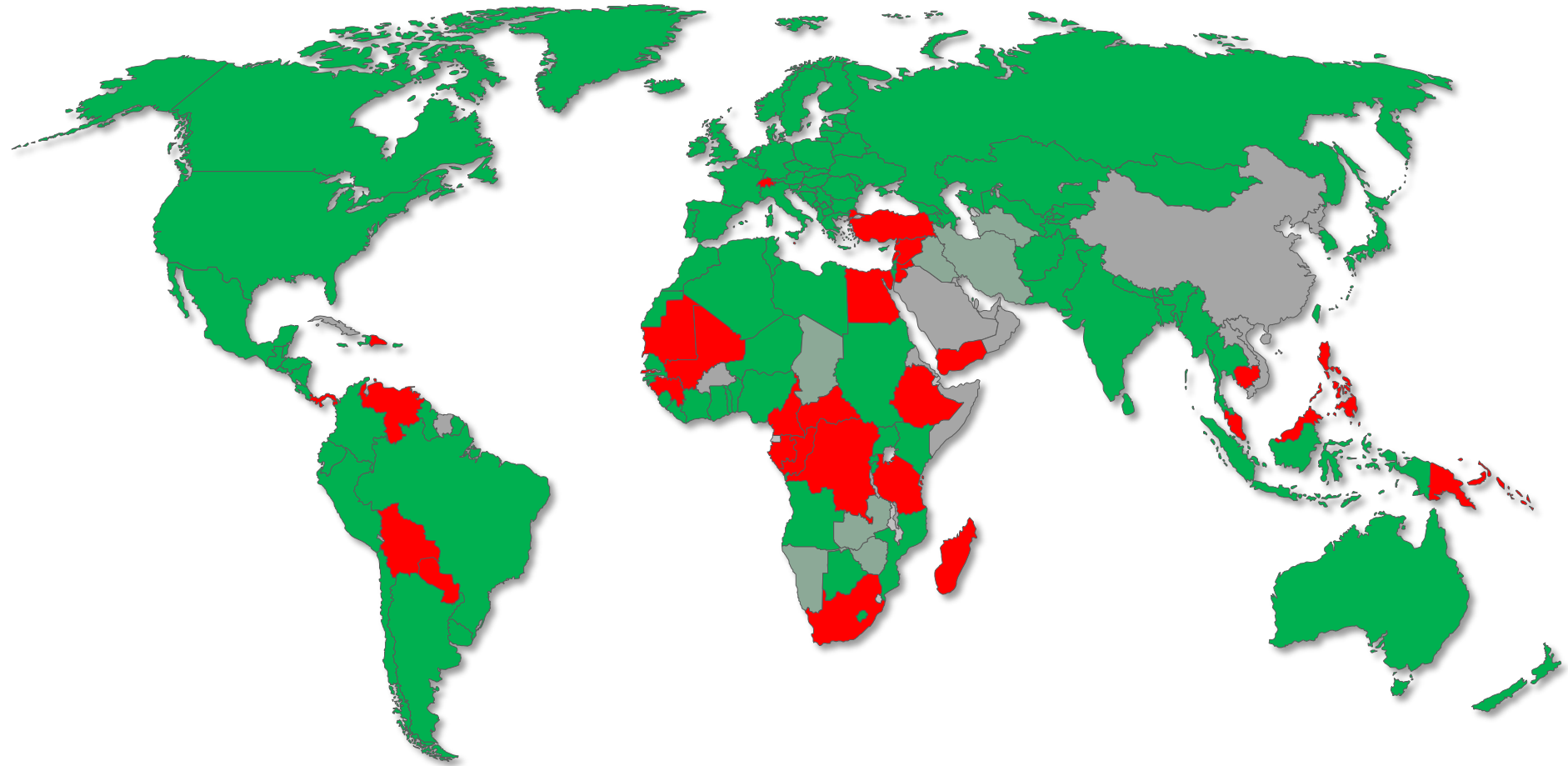
Requirement for reports to be made public



No requirements for reports to be made public



Data not available





Again significant variation in publication practice
(older democracies are not be 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?



- 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



Formal regulation (enforced)

Civil society oversight

Media attention



The role of the State control and Social oversight

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





- 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