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NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION**



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**REPORT OF THE WORKSHOP ON THE  
THEME “CIVIC EDUCATION ON  
ELECTIONS IN RWANDA”**

**Kigali, May 2002**

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## **APPENDIX**

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3. Opening Speech by His Excellency the President of the Republic of Rwanda.
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## **PREFACE**

As stipulated in article 4 of law n°39/2000 of 28/11/2000 concerning the nature and operation of the National Electoral Commission, the Commission was given the responsibility of preparing and conducting a Civic Education programme on elections.

In the framework of carrying out this responsibility, the National Electoral Commission provided basic education on principles of democracy regarding the rights of electing leaders and of being elected as leaders, the rights of people's participation in election process and of observing the activities of their leaders during elections. People were also sensitised on elections of Leader at District, Municipal, Sector and Cell levels.

In the framework of preparing a long term programme on Civic Education so that all levels of Rwandan people can be sensitised on consolidating democracy and responding positively to the planned elections, the National Electoral Commission decided to organise a workshop on Civic Education on matters concerning Democracy and Election.

It is in this connection that a workshop on Civic Education on elections was held in Hotel des Mille Collines on 15-18 may 2002, Kigali, Rwanda.

This workshop brought together resource persons representing government institutions, heads of diplomatic missions and international organisations, legitimate political parties and organisations, religious denominations, academic and research institutions, different associations and Non Governmental Organisations.

In this workshop, it was decided that the programme of Civic Education on elections reach the people without delay, and that it should be supported by all the institutions including donors . It was also decided that a Consultative Committee be set up to ensure a follow up of the programme implementation.

In preparing this report, the National Electoral Commission intended to distribute the resolutions of this workshop on Civic Education on elections in Rwanda to the participants so that they could assist in planning activities and help other people contribute their ideas in the process of refining the programme.

In order for the workshop on Civic Education on elections in Rwanda to achieve its goal, the National Electoral Commission was given assistance by different institutions. It is in this regard that the Commission takes this opportunity to thank high ranking government institutions such as the President's Office, the National Assembly the Prime Minister's Office and other state organs that gave assistance by contributing ideas and attending its sessions .

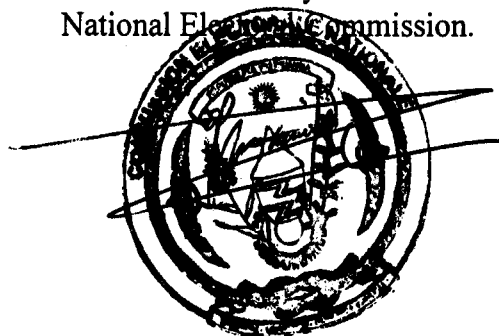
The National Electoral Commission wishes to thank USAID for their financial support through I.F.E.S, with the purpose of making the workshop a success as hopefully planned. The National Electoral Commission also wishes to thank I.F.E.S which provided experts who gave speeches on Civic Education in general, and on elections in particular. These speeches have contributed a lot to Civic Education programme on elections in Rwanda.

The National Electoral Commission particularly wishes to thank all the participants in the workshop which took place on 15 -18 May 2000 for the constructive ideas they contributed, and for the support they may offer in future so that Civic Education programme on elections can reach all the Rwandans and be beneficial to them.

Done at Kigali, 31/05/2002.

**BAZIVAMO Christophe**

Executive Secretary of the  
National Electoral Commission.



# 1. INTRODUCTION

One of the tasks assigned to the National Electoral Commission when it was created was to prepare and conduct a Civic Education programme on elections.

From the time the National Electoral Commission was set up in June 2000, it embarked on voter's education on elections that took place in the whole country on 6/03/2001. This information concerned elections of leaders of districts, Kigali City and Municipalities. Then elections of sector and cell leaders took place from 25 to 26 March 2002.

It was found out that the responsibility of teaching Civic Education required a lot of effort, capability and a concrete programme that is based on efficient knowledge and judgement. That is the reason why in a democratic country, the most important thing is for people to always participate in elections, knowing very well the advantages of those elections. The National Electoral Commission therefore found that it could not handle alone issues relating to civic education in general or at election level in particular.

It is in this connection that in order to succeed, the National Electoral Commission wanted all levels of Rwandan people and even non-Rwandan experts in election matters, to meet in the workshop so that they could contribute basic ideas which will be the basis for the introduction of Civic Education programme on elections in Rwanda and that the role and collaboration between various institutions towards this action be defined.

The Workshop that took place in Kigali was attended by more than 100 participants including high ranking government officials and intellectuals from all over the country as well as non Rwandan dignitaries and experts.

The workshop proceeded in three phases: different messages and speeches in the plenary session; group work; and presentation of a synthesis of ideas in the plenary session.

This report comprises details of the meeting as indicated below:

1. Topics and the content of Civic Education programme on elections in Rwanda.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. People who will be involved in Civic Education and what is expected of them.

3. Activity programme for preparing and transmitting Civic Education on elections in Rwanda.

## 2.MAIN TOPICS AND THE CONTENT OF CIVIC EDUCATION PROGRAMME ON ELECTIONS IN RWANDA

In the framework of teaching Civic Education on elections, participants in the workshop worked out the main topics and the content to concentrate on as indicated in the tables below:

Table 1: Topics and content of a Civic Education programme on elections

TOPIC	CONTENT
<b>1. CIVIC EDUCATION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introduction;</li> <li>- Meaning of Civic Education;</li> <li>- Reasons why Civic Education should be taught</li> </ul>
<b>2. HISTORY OF RWANDA</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- History during the period before colonialism;</li> <li>- History during the period of colonialism;</li> <li>- History after the period of colonialism;</li> <li>- Genocide in Rwanda.</li> </ul>
<b>3. DEMOCRACY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What is Democracy;</li> <li>- History of Democracy;</li> <li>- Principles of Democracy;</li> <li>- Democracy in Rwanda;</li> <li>- Type of Democracy that is relevant to Rwanda.</li> </ul>
<b>4. HUMAN RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Explanation of human rights;</li> <li>- How to respect human rights;</li> <li>- Obstacles in respecting human rights.</li> </ul>
<b>5. CITIZENSHIP</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Who is a Rwandese citizen? (Citizenship);</li> <li>- What is Citizenship;</li> <li>- Patriotism;</li> <li>- Responsibilities and the rights of a citizen.</li> </ul>
<b>6. CULTURE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Explanation of Culture;</li> <li>- Characteristics of Rwandan culture;</li> <li>- Foundations of culture;</li> <li>- Link between culture, good governance and Democracy;</li> <li>- Strategies of fighting obstacles of culture within democracy.</li> </ul>
<b>7. GOOD GOVERNANCE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Characteristics of good governance;</li> <li>- People's participation in good governance;</li> <li>- Principles of good governance;</li> <li>- Obstacles to good governance;</li> <li>- Strategies designed to get rid of obstacles to good governance.</li> </ul>

<p><b>8. EDUCATION ON ELECTIONS</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- History of elections in Rwanda;</li> <li>- Explanation of electoral process;</li> <li>- Types of elections;</li> <li>- Methods of election;</li> <li>- Rules and regulations that govern</li> <li>- The importance and value of elections</li> <li>- The importance and necessity of electoral campaigns;</li> <li>- Responsibilities of elections officials;</li> <li>- Link between democracy and elections;</li> <li>- Possible obstacles to elections and For remedy;</li> <li>- Involvement of parties in a democracy and elections;</li> <li>- Involvement of various actors within an electoral process.</li> </ul>
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### **3. PARTNER INSTITUTIONS AND THEIR ROLE IN CIVIC EDUCATION PROGRAMME ON ELECTIONS IN RWANDA**

In order to teach Rwandan people Civic Education efficiently, it is essential to have sufficient collaboration between the National Election Commission and different institutions having mass education in their attributions so that the role of each institution towards this action is defined. It is in this connection that group discussions pointed out relevant institutions and their role in Civic Education programme on elections in Rwanda as indicated in the figure below:

**Table 2. Responsible institutions and their role in Civic Education programme on elections in Rwanda**

<b>INSTITUTION</b>	<b>RESPONSIBILITIES</b>	<b>BENEFICIARIES</b>
<p><b>1. NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Explaining the law regarding elections</li> <li>- Preparation, implementation and follow-up of Civic Education programme on elections</li> <li>- Sensitisation on election programme</li> <li>- Explaining the methods of elections</li> <li>- Sensitisation of the people on elections</li> <li>- Training trainers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- National electoral commission staff at all Levels</li> <li>- Trainers who will train others at different Levels</li> <li>- Population in Rwanda</li> </ul>

INSTITUTION	RESPONSIBILITIES	BENEFICIARIES
<b>INSTITUTIONS</b> 2.1 MINALOC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sensitisation of the public on the importance of responding positively to the programme</li> <li>- Educating grassroots Leaders and the population in general</li> <li>- Follow-up of the Methods in which civic education programme is being Implemented</li> <li>- Bringing together the National Electoral Commission with other institutions Involved in civic education programme on elections.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The public</li> <li>- Leaders at all</li> </ul>
2.2 MINEDUC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Preparation of teaching programmes on Civic Education on Election in all schools at all levels</li> <li>- Training of teachers and head teachers in civic education on Elections</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Teachers</li> <li>- Head teachers</li> <li>- Pupils and students</li> </ul>
2.3 MIGEPROFE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Preparation of specific topics and programmes of civic education on elections</li> <li>- Extending these programmes to women structures and associations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Women structures</li> <li>- Women</li> </ul>

<b>INSTITUTION</b>	<b>RESPONSIBILITIES</b>	<b>BENEFICIARIES</b>
2.4 MIJESPOC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Preparation of specific programmes of Civic education on elections</li> <li>- To transmit these Programmes to youth organisations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Youth structures</li> <li>- Youth Associations</li> <li>- Heads of Youth institutions</li> <li>- Youth mobilizers</li> <li>- Leaders of cultural institutions</li> </ul>
2.5 MINAFFET	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Transmitting Civic Education programmes on elections to Rwandans Abroad</li> <li>- Transmitting Civic Education programme on elections to embassy staff</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rwandese living in foreign countries</li> <li>- Embassy staff</li> </ul>
2.6 MINADEF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Teaching Civic Education on elections to soldiers and veterans</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Soldiers</li> <li>- Veterans</li> </ul>
2.7 MININTER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Teaching Civic Education on elections to the National Police, Prison Warders and prison security Personnel</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Policemen</li> <li>- Prison warders</li> <li>- Prison security personnel</li> <li>- Prisoners</li> </ul>
<b>GOVERNMENT COMMISSIONS</b>  3.1 UNITY AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION	Teaching Civic Education on elections to the public through solidarity camps (tolerance and collaboration programme)	Rwandese nationals who join solidarity camps
3.2 CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sensitising the population on how to respect, to know and defend the constitution</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rwandese people</li> </ul>

<p><b>4. POLITICAL PARTIES AND ORGANISATIONS</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Teaching tolerance, importance of elections</li>   <li>and accepting the results of elections</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rwandese people in general</li> <li>- Members of political parties and organizations</li> </ul>
<p><b>5. CIVIL SOCIETY</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Teaching Civic Education through different sectors, associations, private sector and other institutions and associations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Members of associations</li> <li>- Members of religions denominations</li> <li>- Members of the private sector</li> </ul>
<p><b>6. MEDIA</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sensitisation of the population in Civic Education through the press, radio and TV</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rwandese people in general</li> </ul>

## **4. ACTIVITY PROGRAMME FOR CIVIC EDUCATION ON ELECTIONS IN RWANDA**

For Civic Education programme on elections to reach all categories of the Rwandese people, there must be a concrete activity programme and its schedule. The activity programme should be based on the following strategies:

1. Compiling and refining the ideas that emanated from the workshop on Civic Education programme concerning elections;
2. Establishment of a coordination team and its methods of work vis-a-vis other institutions that have a role in Civic Education on elections;
3. Preparation of lessons and guidelines on Civic Education concerning elections;
4. Identification of trainees and grouping them in categories;
5. Selection of trainers in Civic Education and empowering them in their work;
6. Identification of the requirements and their source;
7. Training representatives of different categories;
8. Sensitisation of the population on Civic Education concerning elections;
9. Teaching the people about election matters;
10. Establishment of methods of follow-up and evaluation;

Other than the strategies taken from discussion groups which were the basis of preparing Civic Education programme on elections, the programme was refined according to topics which will be given on Civic Education concerning elections in Rwanda.

This is demonstrated especially where topic 8 concerning sensitization of the people on Civic Education was merged with seven topics that will be taught namely the sensitization on election matters, the history of Rwanda, good governance and democracy, human rights and obligations, Citizenship and Rwandan culture.

Table 3. indicates Civic Education activity programme on elections in Rwanda following strategies and topics which will be taught on Civic Education concerning elections.

**Table 3. Activity programme for Civic Education Programme on elections in Rwanda**

1. Compiling and refining the results of the workshop on Civic Education concerning elections

<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Expected results</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Responsible Institutions</b>	<b>Beneficiaries</b>	<b>Duration</b>	<b>Source of funds</b>
To compile a document that consists of ideas derived from the meeting.	The document is available	<p>Convening meetings intended to compile and discuss the results of the meeting.</p> <p>Compiling and refining the results of the meeting.</p> <p>Putting the results in writing</p>	<p>National electoral Commission.</p> <p>A committee that was established by the National Electoral Commission</p>	National Electoral Commission	20/05 – 5/6/2002	National Electoral Commission

## 2. Establishment of a coordination body and its operation

<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Expected results</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Responsible institution</b>	<b>Beneficiaries</b>	<b>Duration</b>	<b>Sources of finance</b>
To advise the National Electoral Commission and to follow-up the implementation of the programme	Coordination body has been created	appointment of members of the coordination body	National Electoral Commission	National Electoral Commission	19/6/02	National Electoral Commission

### 3. Selection of people who will prepare training programmes and teaching material for

#### civic education on elections

Objectives	Expected results	Activities	Responsible Institution	Beneficiaries	Duration	Sources of funds
-To Prepare Teaching materials and Training Programme	-Teaching material and programmes are available	- To identify the requirements from the resource persons	-National Electoral Commission	National Electoral Commission	June-July 2002	National Electoral Commission
		-To select resource persons who will prepare training programmes	-National Electoral Commission	National Electoral Commission	25-29/5/02	National Electoral Commission
		-To prepare training programmes on Civic Education concerning election	-Selected Experts	National Electoral Commission	31/5-17/6/02	Government Sponsors
		-To seek expert assistance to refine the Training programmes define their activities	-Selected Experts	National Electoral Commission	19-25/6/02	National Electoral Commission
		-To finalise teaching material	-Selected Experts	National Electoral Commission	26/6-25/7/02	Government Sponsors
		-To prepare teaching material	-Selected Experts	National Electoral Commission	26/8-25/9/02	Government Sponsors

#### 4. Identification of trainees and grouping them into categories

Objectives	Expected Results	Activities	Responsible institution	Beneficiaries	Duration	Sources of funds
To set up different categories	Categories were identified	To know the categories that will be trained.	National Electoral Commission	Trainees	June-July 2002	National Electoral Commission
		To identify members of these categories	National Electoral Commission	Trainees		
		To prepare training programmes	National Electoral Commission	Trainees		

#### 5. Selection of peer trainers that will train others and empower them in civic education concerning elections

Objectives	Expected results	Activities	Responsible institution	Beneficiaries	Duration	Sources of funds
To have training teams	Peer trainers have been trained and are available	Preparation of teaching material	National Electoral Commission	Trainees	October 2002	Government National Electoral Commission Sponsors
		Acquisition of required equipment				
		Training				

## 6. Identification of the requirements and their source

Objectives	Expected results	Activities	Responsible institutions	Beneficiaries	Duration	Sources of funds
To acquire the necessary support	Support is available	To make a list of the requirements.  To establish a budget.  To show the source of funds	National Electoral Commission	National Electoral commission	August 2002	National Electoral Commission

## 7. Training representatives of different categories

Objectives	Expected Results	Activities	Responsible institution	Beneficiaries	Duration	Sources of funds
To train representatives on civic education matters	Trainees are well sensitized on civic education matters	Organisation of training, acquisition of materials and preparation of training premises	National Electoral Commission	-Leaders -SOF -SOJ -Teachers -Soldiers -Policement -Representatives of political parties. -representatives of religions denominations	October 2002	Government of Rwanda  Sponsors

## 8. Sensitisation of the population on Civic Education

Objectives	Expected Results	Activities	Responsible Institutions	Beneficiaries	Duration	Sources of Funds
Teaching civic education to Rwandan Population	Cell consultative committees were trained in civic education matters	Preparation of training programmes and implementing these programmes.  Preparation of competitions in singing, drama and other entertainment activities.  Showing films.	Trained personnel.  National Electoral Commission  National Electoral Commission  Leaders	Rwandan Population  Rwandan Population  Rwandan Population	October 2002	Government sponsors  Friendly countries
<b>8.1 Elections</b>	Citizens are sensitized on elections. Free and fair elections. Culture of accepting election results whether they are in their favour or not.	Training	National Electoral Commission.  Ministry of Local Administration and Social Affairs.	Rwandese people	10/2/2002-7/2003  During preparations for elections	Government and sponsors

<p><b>8.2 History of Rwanda</b></p>	<p>Uniform interpretation and understanding of the history of Rwanda.</p> <p>Rwandese who understand and can fight the ideology of genocide.</p>	<p>To sensitise the Rwandan people in matters relating to Rwanda history. Explaining the root cause of genocide, its nature and effects.</p>	<p>Political parties.</p> <p>Ministry of Education.</p> <p>Unity and Reconciliation Commission.</p> <p>Civil society.</p>	<p>Rwandan people</p>	<p>October 2002</p>	<p>Government and sponsors</p>
<p><b>8.3 Good Governance</b></p>	<p>Citizens who know their role in the politics of good governance, security and sustainable development.</p>	<p>To train citizens.</p> <p>Conferences</p>	<p>Ministry of Local Administration and Social Affairs.</p> <p>Unity and Reconciliation Commission.</p> <p>Civil Society.</p>	<p>Rwandese people.</p>	<p>October 2002</p>	<p>Government and sponsors.</p>
<p><b>8.4 Democracy</b></p>	<p>Citizens who can participate in leadership.</p> <p>Appropriate democracy for Rwanda.</p> <p>National development.</p>	<p>Training Rwandan people.</p> <p>Holding debates on the right type of democracy for Rwanda.</p>	<p>National Electoral Commission.</p> <p>Ministry of Local Administration and Social Affairs.</p> <p>Political Parties.</p> <p>Media</p> <p>Civic Society.</p>	<p>Rwandan people.</p>	<p>Beginning of November 2002</p>	<p>Government and Sponsors.</p>

<b>8.5 Human Rights and Citizen Obligations</b>	<p>Rwandan people who understand their rights and obligations.</p> <p>A country governed by the rule of law. Good relations among citizens.</p>	<p>Training.</p> <p>Talks and discussion</p>	<p>Human rights Commission.</p> <p>Unity and Reconciliation Commission.</p> <p>Media.</p> <p>Civil Society.</p>	<p>Rwandan people.</p>	<p>November 2002</p>	<p>Government and Sponsors</p>
<b>8.6 Citizenship</b>	<p>-Tolerance</p> <p>-Settled disputes related to citizenship.</p> <p>-A non-sectarian country.</p> <p>-Patriotism</p>	<p>Seminars and discussions</p>	<p>-MINIJUST</p> <p>-Commission for repatriation of refugees</p>	<p>Rwandan people</p>	<p>November 2002</p>	<p>Government and Sponsors</p>

<b>8.7 Rwandan Culture</b>	-Civilized Rwandan people who respect their national culture and who are identified culturally.  -Citizens who have good culture and who can defend it.  -Educated citizens on the content of Rwandan culture.  -Pride of being a Rwandese	Discussions.  Talks and discussions.  Cultural Associations.	-MIJESPOC  -MINEDUC  -National Museum  -Artists	Rwandan people	November 2002	Government and Sponsors
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### 9. Setting up a system of follow-up and evaluation

Objectives	Expected Results	Activities	Responsible Institution	Beneficiaries	Duration	Source of funds
To carry out training evaluation	Sensitized Rwandese in civic education	Follow up and evaluation of the results.  Writing reports.	National Electoral Commission.  National Electoral Commission	National Electoral Commission.  National Electoral Commission	Every three months	National Electoral Commission

After preparing this programme, participants agreed on the resolutions of the workshop as shown on attached appendix no.5 of this report.

## **5. RESOLUTIONS OF THE WORKSHOP ON CIVIC EDUCATION CONCERNING ELECTIONS IN RWANDA**

Before concluding the workshop on elections in Rwanda, participants informed the visitors about the progress of the meeting and its resolutions as indicated in the speech by a representative of participants in the workshop.

From 15th to 18th May 2002 a workshop on Civic Education concerning elections took place in Hotel des Mille Collines, under the auspices of National Electoral Commission in collaboration with IFES through USAID assistance.

This workshop brought together government representatives, legitimate political parties, diplomatic missions in Rwanda and representatives of international organisations, members of the civil society, the private sector and many other institutions.

The workshop was officially opened by his Excellency the President of Rwanda. Its objectives were:

- To identify the main topics and their content to be taught in matters concerning civic education on democracy and elections in Rwanda. To identify all those who could play a role so that Civic Education programmes on democracy and elections can reach quickly and effectively the beneficiaries, and to identify mechanisms of their collaboration.
- To identify correct programmes of Civic Education concerning democracy and election in Rwanda
- To sensitise all the stake holders to support and assist Civic Education programme so that it can be implemented.

After talks given by IFES experts the proceeding work was done in groups for two days.

The main topics tackled were as follows:

1. The main topics and the content of Civic Education programme on elections in Rwanda.
2. The people organisations and institutions that can play a big role in Civic Education programme regarding elections, their responsibilities and beneficiaries
3. Strategies and plans for Civic Education programme on elections in Rwanda.

Participants in the workshop endorsed main topics which will constitute a Civic Education programme on elections in Rwanda. The topics are:

- Civic Education
- The History of Rwanda
- Democracy
- Human rights and citizen obligations
- Citizenship
- Culture
- Good governance
- Education on matters related to elections

Responsible institutions that will be in charge of training are as follows: -

- National Electoral Commission
- Government institutions
- Political parties
- Civil society
- The media

Strategies and an activity plan for implementing these training programmes were also prepared so that Civic Education on elections in Rwanda can reach the people. The strategies are as follows:

1. To compile and refine the ideas derived from the workshop on Civic Education concerning elections;
2. To establish a coordination body and lay out its mandate programme as well as its working relations with other institutions having civic education on elections in their attributions;
3. To select people who will prepare teaching programmes and teaching material for Civic Education programme on elections;
4. To identify trainees and to group them in categories;
5. To select and empower trainers who will train others in Civic Education;
6. To point out the requirements and their source;
7. To train representatives of different categories;
8. To sensitise the population in Civic Education on elections;
9. Give lessons and knowledge on elections;
10. To establish a system of follow-up and evaluation;

Participants in the workshop resolved that:

- Teaching programmes reach the population without delay;
- A committee should be established to complement the work of National Electoral Commission so as to implement strategies and programmes agreed upon in this workshop;
- It was decided that this programme be supported at various levels including donors;
  
- Participants expressed their satisfaction with the organisation of the seminar and its proceedings;

Those who attended the workshop were contented with the preparation and resolutions of the workshop.

## **6. CONCLUSION**

It is certain that this workshop on Civic Education on elections in Rwanda which took place from 15 to 18 May was attended satisfactorily and was well organised in such a way that it, produced the expected results.

As it was the first workshop of its kind, participants responded eagerly to the Civic Education programme on elections in Rwanda.

The most encouraging factor is that everything that was expected was completed, and participants managed to point out main elements which can be the basis for working out Civic " Education programme on elections in Rwanda.

On top of all the resolutions reached which include among others different ideas from people on various levels, in matters concerning civic education programme on elections, it was found out that this programme has a long way to go for a real change to take place in the context of understanding and behaving that is suitable to Rwandese or any one living in Rwanda, in matters related to elections, democracy and patriotism.

It goes without saying that the National Electoral Commission, other than working hand in hand with other institutions, is particularly responsible for this programme in the way of refining it on a regular basis by referring to ideas and wishes of the people who attended the workshop, most particularly based on the following:

1. To prepare and refine teaching programmes together with their schedules on Civic Education programme concerning elections,

2. To immediately establish a committee which will assist the Commission in the follow-up of this programme.

3. To plan another meeting as soon as possible for those who will be involved in the programme so that they can do necessary preparations.

Presidential and parliamentary elections are expected in 2003, so is a referendum on the constitution.

For this programme to coincide with the above mentioned, elections; one can predict two major obstacles as time and funds.

Sacrifice is therefore necessary for those identified officials who will be responsible for transmitting this programme to the beneficiaries and are requested to particularly include Civic Education in their ordinary activities.

The government and sponsors should also respond to the programme by providing necessary requirements, whether at the National Electoral Commission level or otherwise, depending on particular requirements for each responsible institution.

It is also necessary to bear in mind that according to the teaching programmes that will be given, Civic Education programme on elections in Rwanda should be given enough time in schools and other youth institutions, and should be in conformity with family education which is the basis of development.

There was healthy collaboration between the National Electoral Commission and I.F.E.S in the preparation and organisation of this workshop and this collaboration must be consolidated so that this action can reach the targeted goal without any handicap.

## **APPENDIX**

### **2. SPEECH BY USAID REPRÉSENTATIVE**

I am happy to take this opportunity to thank the Government of the National Unity, especially the National Electoral Commission which worked very hard to give the people the ability to participate in working out methods of elections and participatory democracy.

Presently, the government has managed to establish the National Electoral Commission based on Arusha Peace Accord.

The Commission has progressed so well that it is prepared to establish its own activity programme intended to give the Rwandan population the proper method of electing their own leaders in the atmosphere of justice and freedom. The commission also has the responsibility of sensitising the people on Civic Education concerning elections.

Essential activities that are related with elections are being organised by the National Electoral Commission. In 2003, there will be a Referendum on the New Constitution. After the referendum there will be Presidential and Parliamentary elections.

Your presence in the workshop therefore, demonstrates your support for elections based on democracy in Rwanda. If you continue to work together with this objective in mind, you will then be able to train and sensitise the population on their rights and their responsibilities in matters regarding elections. This meeting was funded by USAID and organised by the National Electoral Commission together with IFES, an American private organisation which is well versed in election matters.

This is a step forward in giving the people freedom to elect a government in charge of addressing their problems. We hope that with this workshop resolutions, the government and the different stakeholders will work out a common work plan for Civic Education programme on elections in Rwanda. We must be time conscious though time for elections is still ahead, it will take time for the population to be educated and sensitized on responding freely to elections.

The United States of America has been committed to supporting Rwanda in development activities since Rwanda got independence in 1962, but the country continues to have major problems at the moment. In the framework of fighting poverty, USAID-Rwanda will continue to support different activities in the country such as decentralisation of power and the GACACA jurisdiction, health(fight against HIV/AIDS), as well as finance and agriculture sectors. The work of USAID in Rwanda is to promote democracy in the hope that there will be good living in future and nothing will disrupt it.

I wish to promise you that USA is ready to continue to support democracy and sustainable development in Rwanda.

### **3. SPEECH BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION ON CIVIC EDUCATION.**

- Your Excellency the President of the Republic of Rwanda,  
Hon. President of the Supreme Council,
- Hon. Prime Minister,
- Hon. Ministers,
- Excellency the Ambassadors and Representatives of International Organisations,
  
- Ladies and Gentlemen.

On behalf of the National Electoral Commission and on my own behalf, I wish to thank you for the importance you have attached to this workshop on Democracy and elections in Rwanda, the first workshop of this nature that has taken place here in Rwanda. You are most welcome. Apart from the preparation and organisation of elections at both cell and sector levels, district and municipality levels, presidential and parliamentary levels, the National Electoral Commission has among other responsibilities, as it is stipulated by law 39/2000 of 28/11/2000 articles 3 and 4, the duty to prepare and organise Civic Education training programmes on elections.

However, since the National Electoral Commission started its work on 20-06-2000, now for two years, it concentrated on organising and conducting elections. In organising these elections, what was concentrated on was the methods in which these elections would be done.

The elections went on smoothly but at the same time showed the need for Civic Education and strengthening of the National Electoral Commission. It is in that context that a programme was aimed at increasing the capacity of the National Electoral Commission staff and that on Civic Education on elections was elaborated seeking support.

This workshop which is scheduled from today up to 18-5-2002 is within the framework of a long term project of Civic Education programme on elections and it needs support. The workshop was organised by the National Electoral Commission together with IFES, ( American Expert Organisation in elections). Support also came from experts in Civic Education on elections from different countries (USA, CANADA, SOUTH AFRICA, CONGO and IVORY COAST).

**The main topics to be tackled include the following:**

1. To identify the main topics that will be tackled and their content which can be taught within the context of Civic Education on Democracy and Election in Rwanda;
2. To identify possible responsible people organisations and institutions can play a role so that training programmes on Civic Education on elections can reach beneficiaries effectively and without delay;
3. To put in place a suitable programme of Civic Education on Democracy and elections in Rwanda;
4. To sensitize all concerned people towards the support and assistance of the Civic Education programme so that it can be implemented.

The United States of America through USAID is the first country to support this programme by providing financial support so that this workshop could take place; however, implementing the results of the workshop, which are expected to be useful, will need more effort.

Your Excellency the President of the Republic, Honourable Ladies and Gentlemen,

In the framework of achieving good results, Civic Education programme on elections in Rwanda was prepared and many institutions were invited. They include the following:

1. Members of parliament;
2. Cabinet Ministers;
3. Provincial Leaders;
4. Representatives of legal political parties;
5. Heads of National Commissions and other institutions that have Civic Education among their activities;
6. Non-Government Organisations;
7. Religious leaders;
8. Election Officials who conducted elections at provincial level;
9. Leaders of the institutions that has good governance as one of its responsibilities in province, and others.

In the framework of working in transparency and collaborating with other institutions, we invited many guests who are interested in knowing or in participating in different activities in Rwanda. They include heads of diplomatic mission and representatives of international organisations accredited here.

The workshop programme was scheduled as follows:

**Today ( first day):**

Experts from different countries already mentioned will give talks on Civic Education regarding elections together with examples, after which there will be discussions;

**Second day:**

Analysis of the main topics in groups and selection of what can be included in Civic Education programme on Democracy and elections in Rwanda and identification of people who can take part in the implementation of the programme.

**Third day:**

Group work on proper strategies for Rwanda and Civic Education programme on Democracy and elections in Rwanda.

**Fourth Day:**

This is the last day of the workshop: Participants will agree upon a Civic Education programme on Democracy and elections in Rwanda to be adopted.

We therefore hope that because of the importance of Civic Education on Democracy and elections in Rwanda for Rwanda and Rwandan people in general, everybody will try and contribute his best so that this workshop can yield good results that are appropriate for Rwanda.

Your Excellency the President of the Republic,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish to thank you again for your positive response to this workshop and I also thank The United States of America government which assisted us through USAID and IFES so that this workshop could take place.

Your Excellency the President of the Republic,

After giving you information on this seminar on Civic Education on elections and its programme, we welcome you to officially open the workshop.

Thank you.

## **5. SPEECH BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA TO INAUGURATE THE WORKSHOP ON CIVIC EDUCATION REGARDING ELECTIONS IN RWANDA**

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Honourable President of the National Assembly, Honourable Prime Minister,  
Honourable President of the  
Supreme Court, Honourable  
Ministers,  
Honourable Members of Parliament,

Excellencies the Ambassadors and other heads of diplomatic mission, Honourable Representatives of international organisations in Rwanda, Ladies and Gentlemen.

For three years now, Rwanda has decided to follow the policy of decentralisation, one of the methods of introducing democracy as desired by the Government of National Unity, to allow the population participate in their own administration and seek solutions for their problems.

It is in that context that in order to achieve this objective the government put in place administration structures that would enable the population elect leaders of their choice who would represent their interests at all levels.

The National Electoral Commission was therefore created and was given responsibilities of organising and conducting elections of different leaders in transparency, at cell, sector, district and municipality levels, as well as parliamentary and presidential elections.

After the National Electoral Commission was established, it organised and conducted the following elections:

- Election of district, Kigali City and municipal leaders in march 2001.
- By elections for Councils and Executive Committees of District and Towns on 18 - 06-2001 and 17-12-2001.

- Elections establishing grassroots structures in cells and sectors on 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> March 2002 which were immediately followed by those for replacement of leaders elevated from cell to sector level.

All these elections were attended effectively which shows that Rwandan people are craving for democracy. But elections alone are not sufficient, especially in our countries where every citizen needs to know well the reasons why he/she should participate, why somebody must be elected, and to know the responsibilities of the elected vi-a-vis the one who elected him/her or the role of the electorate in good governance. The Rwandese need to be sensitised on the significance of Democracy and its principles in relation to the rights of electing or being elected, to know the role of the population in general as far as election activities are concerned and to know how to monitor the methods of work and the work of elected people since they have to represent their interests and to promote all activities geared towards their development through collaboration and mutual understanding on what should be done so that they can make a significant step towards development. A body like the National Electoral Commission which is in charge of

preparing and conducting Elections also needs to always be well informed on how the population in general can achieve that goal through elections.

Rwandan population must know that they have the rights to elect efficient leaders and these leaders must reciprocate by knowing that they were elected to develop their people. Leaders are not above the law, likewise, the people should not think that they have all powers over the leaders.

The policy of decentralisation must be in line with giving the powers to the people so that they can take part in administration of their country. This policy combines all strategies which can make Rwandan people understand their role better in the fight against poverty, which is rampant among the people of Rwanda. It would be unproductive if the leadership and the policy did not lead to the welfare of the Rwandan population.

The history of Rwanda was characterised by leadership which denied citizens of their rights to elect their own leaders. The impact of that policy was disastrous for development, the leadership of the time sowed the seeds of sectarian and confrontational politics among the Rwandan people themselves to the extent of 1994 genocide when more than one million people were massacred and Rwandan community as well as development infrastructure destroyed, leaving problems of all kind as a consequence of bad leadership.

However, despite the negative impact, there are many lessons one can learn and Rwandese themselves must look for remedy to their own problems.

It is necessary therefore that every Rwandese must understand his/her role towards development activities for the reconstruction of the country. Now since we have

moved to the direction of democracy by practising decentralisation, It is necessary as I put before, that the people be well taught the principles of democracy especially in the areas of elections, though that Democracy must be in conformity with Rwandan interests and needs.

That is why this workshop on Civic Education on elections in Rwanda is very useful. Civic Education on elections in Rwanda is intended to help understand different national policies and to show everybody's role in the programme of democracy, whether as leader or ordinary people, the elected or the electorate. Civic Education is specific for every country. That is why in this workshop you are asked to base your facts on the knowledge of our country so that you can decide on what can lead to its development.

In this workshop, participants will learn from one another new approaches in the way of understanding, thinking, working, as well as behaving and collaborating during election period or during any other activities.

There should be a way of sharing views in matters regarding new approaches capable of boosting people's self confidence so that they can participate freely in national programmes. Leaders must understand their responsibility and the people must understand their rights and obligations as citizens.

I take this opportunity to thank government institutions for the role they played, and I particularly thank the National Electoral Commission which conceived and organised the workshop for the benefit of Rwanda and all the Rwandan people.

I also thank friendly countries such as the United States of America for the assistance they extended to us through USAID. My thanks also go to the International Foundation for Election Systems (IFES) which sent experts to help us in the activities of this workshop, together with other people who took part so that the workshop could take place.

I request all of you who will participate in this workshop to contribute what you can, whether in terms of constructive ideas or otherwise so that this workshop becomes productive as far as Civic Education on elections in Rwanda is concerned. In that way, future elections will be exemplary, and will be of great use to Rwandan people.

I therefore officially open this workshop on Civic Education regarding elections.

Thank you.

## **5. SPEECH BY HONOURABLE PRIME MINISTER OFFICIALLY CLOSING THE WORKSHOP ON CIVIC EDUCATION REGARDING ELECTIONS IN RWANDA**

Honourable President of National Assembly,  
Honourable President of the Supreme Council,  
Honourable Ministers,  
Honourable Members of Parliament,

Excellency Heads of Diplomatic missions, and Representatives of International Organisations,  
The Mayor of Kigali City,  
The Executive Secretary of the National Electoral Commission,  
Experts on elections,  
Ladies and Gentlemen.

You have been following this workshop on "Civic Education on Elections in Rwanda" for four days. I hope that the time you have been here you have had the opportunity to share views at length on suitable methods that can be used in transmitting Civic Education programme in matters regarding democracy and elections.

I also hope that if the resolutions of this workshop are properly implemented, Rwandan people will understand the national policy of consolidating democracy and decentralising administration and power. The population will also understand well their rights to elect and to be elected as well as their role in election matters.

Civic Education on elections will make people more selective while electing their leaders at different levels and more capable of monitoring and following up activities of these leaders. There is no doubt that Civic Education programme on elections will help elected leaders to know well that they were elected to develop their people as a matter of priority, to serve their interest and always have in mind that they are supposed to work for the people.

Generally, Civic Education on elections will help both the leaders and their people to understand that they must work together and complement each other in everything, the leaders shouldn't consider themselves above the law and the citizen should not be less concerned with what is taking place in the country. Both of them must know that they have a mission to complete as respectable citizens.

Civic Education will help in the reorientation of the people's thinking, understanding and behaviour. The leaders must know that they will never again direct their people

in such acts of destruction and the citizens should never accept to be lured into such acts that destroyed the Rwandan society and culminated in the 1994 genocide.

Civic Education will transform the people in a way that they will feel proud as Rwanda citizens with total freedom in their own country which freedom they cannot be deprived of or deprive others, freedom that is always positive, complementary and tolerant. It is certain that this workshop is useful because it has compiled the main topics which will be the basis of Civic Education in general, and of democracy and elections in particular. The Government of National Unity will always support the implementation of this programme because of its usefulness to the Rwandese in terms of welfare, patriotism and sacrifice for the country as well as to make Rwanda a land of peace and social cohesion for Rwandans as well as well for those who come into the country.

I wish to appeal to the government and social institutions to provide all possible support so that this programme can be adequately implemented.

On behalf of His Excellency the President of the Republic of Rwanda, and on my own behalf, I wish to thank all the people who played a role in contributing useful ideas during this workshop.

My thanks go more particularly to the National Electoral Commission which thought of organising and conducting this seminar. I cannot wind up without thanking from the bottom of my heart the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) for their great assistance extended to us through the International Foundation for Election Services (IFES) which enabled this workshop to take place and achieve what was expected by the Rwandan people. I wish to request friendly countries and other international organisations to continue to support Civic Education programme on democracy and elections as USAID did.

I again thank IFES experts who came from all the corners of the world to assist Rwandan people to refine the methods that will be used in giving the Rwandan population appropriate programmes on Civic Education regarding elections in particular.

Honourable Ladies and Gentlemen, I feel honoured to be with you again as I officially close this workshop on "Civic Education regarding Elections in Rwanda"

Thank You.