

Aims and Activities. International IDEA undertakes work through three activity areas: providing comparative knowledge derived from practical experience on democracy-building processes—elections and referendums, constitutions, political parties, women's political empowerment and democracy self-assessments—from diverse contexts around the world; assisting political actors in reforming democratic institutions and processes, and engaging in political processes when invited to do so; influencing democracy-building policies and assistance to political actors.

Membership. The International IDEA had 25 full member states and one observer state in Feb. 2010.

Organization. IDEA has regional operations in Latin America, Africa, the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific, and has a staff of over 70 worldwide.

Headquarters: Strömsborg, 103 34 Stockholm, Sweden.

Website: <http://www.idea.int>

Secretary-General: Vidar Helgesen (Norway).

International Mobile Satellite Organization (IMSO)

Founded in 1979 as the International Maritime Satellite Organization (Inmarsat) to establish a satellite system to improve maritime communications for distress and safety and commercial applications. Its competence was subsequently expanded to include aeronautical and land mobile communications. Privatization, which was completed in April 1999, transferred the business to a newly created company and the Organization remains as a regulator to ensure that the company fulfils its public services obligations. The company has taken the Inmarsat name and the Organization uses the acronym IMSO. In Feb. 2010 the Organization had 94 member parties.

Organization. The Assembly of all Parties to the Convention meets every two years.

Headquarters: 99 City Road, London EC1Y 1AX, UK.

IMSO Website: <http://www.imso.org>

Email: info@imso.org

Inmarsat Website: <http://www.inmarsat.com>

Director of the Secretariat, IMSO: Esteban Pachá Vicente (Spain).

Chief Executive, Inmarsat Ltd: Andrew Sukawaty (USA).

International Olympic Committee (IOC)

Founded in 1894 by French educator Baron Pierre de Coubertin, the International Olympic Committee is an international non-governmental, non-profit organization whose members act as the IOC's representatives in their respective countries, not as delegates of their countries within the IOC. The Committee's main responsibility is to supervise the organization of the summer and winter Olympic Games. It owns all rights to the Olympic symbols, flag, motto, anthem and Olympic Games.

Aims. 'To contribute to building a peaceful and better world by educating youth through sport, practised without discrimination of any kind and in the Olympic Spirit, which requires mutual

understanding with a spirit of friendship, solidarity and fair play.'

Finances. The IOC receives no public funding. Its only source of funding is from private sectors, with the substantial part of these revenues coming from television broadcasters and sponsors.

Address: Château de Vidy, Case Postale 356, CH-1007 Lausanne, Switzerland.

Website: <http://www.olympic.org>

President: Jacques Rogge (Belgium).

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Established in 1951, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) is dedicated to promoting humane and orderly migration. It does so by providing services and advice to governments and migrants.

Members (127 as of Feb. 2010). Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Republic of the Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, India, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, South Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liberia, Libya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Rwanda, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, United Republic of Tanzania, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, UK, USA, Uruguay, Venezuela, Vietnam, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe. 17 countries and a large number of government agencies and NGOs have observer status.

Activities. IOM assists refugee populations during and after emergencies and facilitates their resettlement. IOM also helps find solutions for internally displaced persons (IDPs), former combatants, victims of ethnic engineering, and populations in transition or recovery environments. IOM activities that cut across these areas include the promotion of international migration law, the protection of migrants' rights, policy debate and guidance, migration health and the gender dimension of migration. Since 1952 IOM has directly assisted some 13m. migrants. In 2005 IOM launched its largest ever emergency response following the Indian Ocean tsunami in Dec. 2004. IOM's programme budget for 2008 exceeded US\$1bn., funding over 2,030 active programmes and more than 6,690 staff members serving in over 440 field offices in more than 100 countries.

Official languages: English, French, Spanish.

Headquarters: Route des Morillons 17, POB 71, 1211 Geneva 19, Switzerland.

Website: <http://www.iom.int>

Director-General: William Lacy Swing (USA).