

WHAT DID WE LEARN?

Learning Brief: Key takeaways and 10 Lessons Learned

Thank you for joining us for the first session of the webinar series [Deliberative Democracy for Breaking the Gridlock: Exploring Insights from HDR 2023/24 for innovative governance programming](#) co-organized by UNDP and UN Democracy Fund, UN Partnerships on 8 October 2024.

We unpacked the concept of Deliberative Democracy and solidified our understanding by sharing examples of successful practices from , including challenges in governance and some policy recommendations for citizen engagement, which is essential for effective governance and policy decisions.

Did you miss the session? Head to [SparkBlue](#) for the recording and see below a recap of key takeaways.

Key takeaways

[The UNDP Human Development Report 2023/2024](#) focuses on the role of deliberative democracy and innovative governance in enhancing human development. As a concept, deliberative democracy emphasizes the importance of discussion and consensus in decision-making processes. And for this purpose, a system where citizens engage in dialogue to make collective choices, enhancing legitimacy and accountability is essential.

The importance of ensuring diverse representation in engagement processes, addressing marginalization and equitable representation, will lead us to successful governance practices.

Identifying hurdles that hinder effective deliberative practices and citizen engagement will be key, and to do so, there are some innovative techniques such as online platforms, community forums, and participatory budgeting that gathers citizen input.

On the contrary, divisions can impede constructive discourse, leading to conflict and decreased citizen collaboration.

10 Lessons learned:

- Deliberative democracy encourages informed citizens participation, promotes transparency and strengthens democratic legitimacy.
- Mechanisms for Deliberative Democracy includes citizens' assemblies, deliberative polls, and public consultations to foster discussion and gather diverse perspectives

- Governments should develop frameworks that support citizen dialogue and ensure institutional responsiveness to public input.
- Local institutions, together with civic organizations and development agencies should work together to increase public understanding of deliberative practices through educational campaigns and training programs.
- Countries like Ireland successfully used citizens' assemblies to address controversial issues like constitutional reforms
- Brazil's practices illustrate how engaging citizens in budget decisions fosters transparency and accountability.
- As a result, trust in governance is enhanced, marginalized voices are empowered, and policy responsiveness is improved.
- Barriers for citizen engagement include digital divides, apathy and exclusion of specific demographics, limiting comprehensive engagement.
- Lack of funding and infrastructure can restrict the implementation of participatory initiatives.
- Established political structures may resist adopting innovative governance approaches due to fear of loss control.

Follow-up Resources:

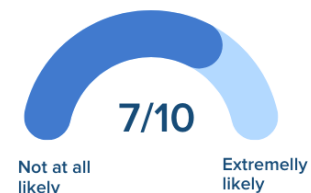
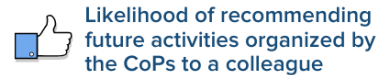
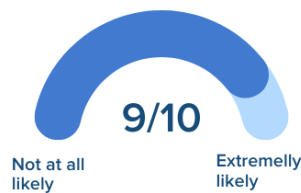
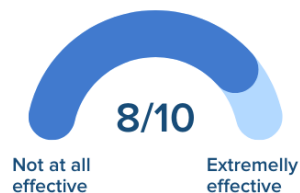
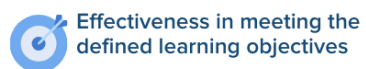
- [Public Dialogue and Deliberation](#): A communication perspective for public engagement practitioners by Oliver Escobar
- [Global Citizens' Assembly Network](#): a research collective that generates actionable insights to inform policymakers
- [Democracy R&D](#): the largest global network dedicated to deliberative democracy and democratic innovation
- The OECD Report: [Innovative Citizen Participation and New Democratic Institutions](#)
- [OECD Deliberative Democracy Database](#)
- [DemoReset](#): an initiative that connects DemoReseters, organizations, academics, activists, dedicated to empowering democracy and participation processes across the Global South
- [Citizen engagement in evidence-informed policy-making: a guide to mini-publics](#) by World Health Organization
- [Delibera Brasil](#): an organization that aims to contribute to the strengthening and deepening of Brazilian democracy
- The Citizens' Assembly of Bujaru
- [Innovative Citizen Participation Network](#)

- [Participa + Brasil](#): an initiative by the Government of Brazil
- [The first Citizens Assemblies in Malawi](#) - Documentary Trailer
- [Teaching Power](#): a political film by the newDemocracy Foundation, commissioned and funded by the United Nations Democracy Fund

For more information and support on citizen engagement and deliberative democracy, contact [Emanuele Sapienza](#), Global Lead on Open and Inclusive Public Sphere.

How did we do?

POST-EVENT SURVEY RESULTS



Participation:

Total number of participants: 136

Countries: 27