



## **Module Two: Government and Civics**

### **Objectives**

Part One: a basic course in Democratic Civics: understanding the forms and role of government and rights and duties of citizens.

- Democracy; history, types, strengths and weaknesses
- Separation of Powers: checks and balances
- Good or fair Governance
- Civil Society: a third sector outside of government and business

Part Two: Comparative analysis of different governments; in particular in Africa

Part Three: The International Arena

- International Organizations: UN, AU, WTO, OECD, WHO, etc
- NGOs

The aim of this session will be to help participants acquire an understanding of the foundation of legitimate government and the foundations of good governance.

### **Module Two Format**

While this module will rely more heavily upon presentation, reading and work assignments, a number of experience-based simulations and exercises will be used as well to support the concepts learned.

Skill development will focus on negotiation and mediation skills.

### **Module Two Content**

Legitimacy of government and consent

Basic concept of a political system

What is a Nation State?

History, Geography, Population, Government, Representation system

Foundation of democracy

History of the concept of democracy and review some of the thinkers on the subject.

Different types of democratic representation: city state, parliamentary regime, presidential regime, federation, confederation



Democracy as a political system of competition for power: The processes whereby political parties get selected to be represent the will of the people.

Participation of citizens in a democracy – their duties

The rights of citizens in a democracy and basic human rights

### **The rule of law**

The separation of power: judiciary, legislative and executive

Citizens are equal in front of the law: meaning and implications

Different legal systems: Anglo Saxon, Roman / civil code

### **Comparative analysis of different kinds of governments**

An overview of different representation systems within African countries: the colonial heritage and its application nowadays.

Comparative study of present government in a selection of African countries: South African, Ghana, Algeria, Morocco, Lybia, Kenya, Zimbabwe. (the range covers different systems including dictatorship)

### **Civil Society**

Roles and duties of civil society: Non-governmental institutions, trade unions, associations of private interest, religious groups, ethnic minority groups...

Means of expression and positioning of civil society in a Nation State: platforms to be created at the local level and at the national level.

### **International Organizations**

The international system: a forum of representation of the interests of Nation States.

The United Nations – structure and functioning

The UN Commission for human rights.

Other international organization which are active in Sudan: The World Health

Organization mission and activities

The Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO)

The High Commission for Refugees (HCR)

UNICF

UNCTAD

Where do NGO play a role in the international arena and what are some of their missions: Human Rights, Peace, Health, Refugees.

Regional African Institutions: African Union, COMESA, NEPAD and other regional institutions.



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By: Bill Daniels; Marie Antoinette Orsini; Diana Orejas; Challenge Learning International (Geneva)