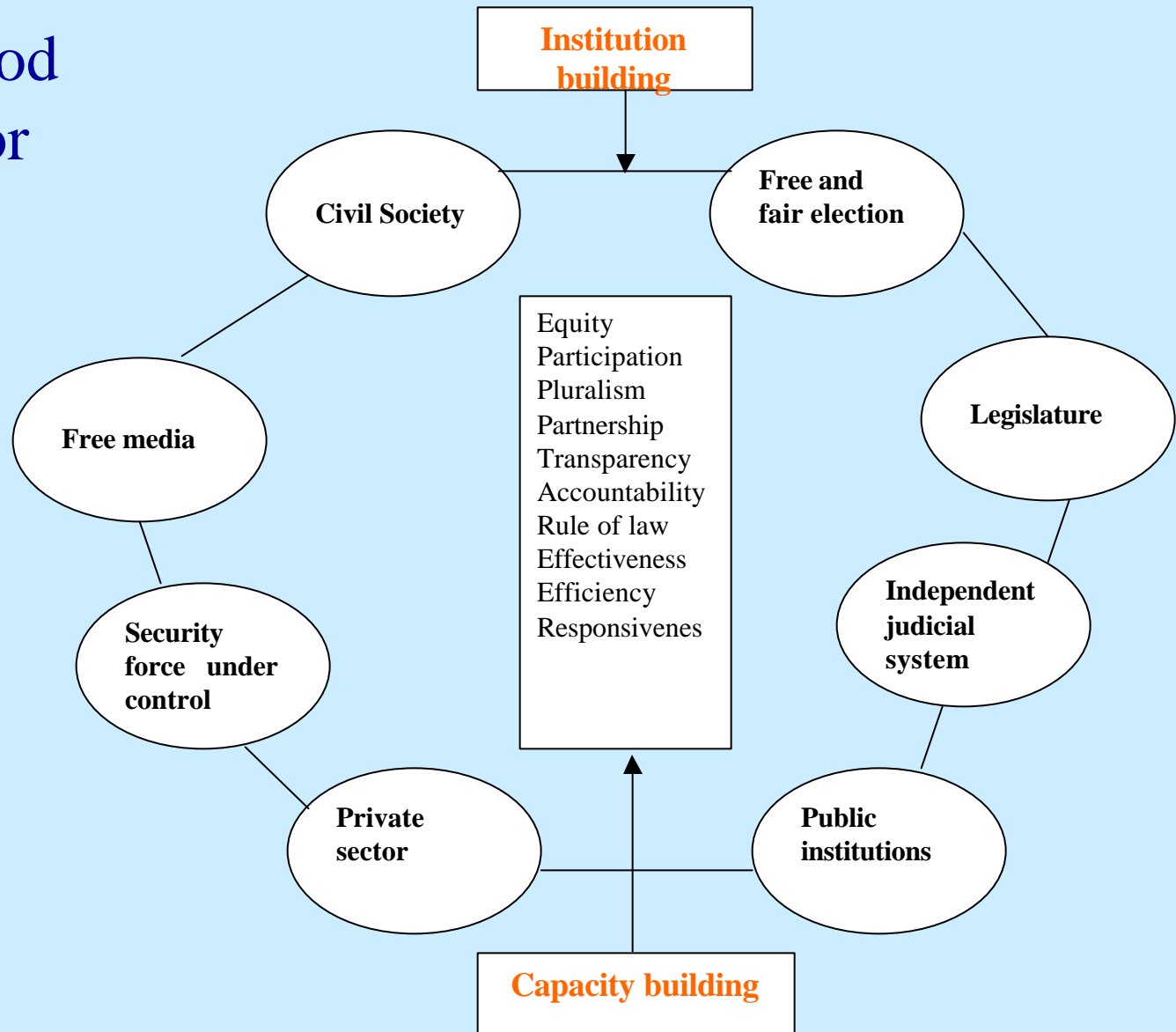


Democratic Governance Human Development Report

Costa Rica/Tajikistan

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Promoting Good Governance for Human Development



Deepening Democratic Governance for Human Development

Costa Rica

Context

- Country characteristics
- Transition to Democracy
 - 1821 - Independence from Spain;
 - 1948 - Civil War breaks out, sparked by election dispute;
 - 1949 - New constitution abolishes military;
 - 1975 - Final constitutional reforms.
- High HDI country (Ranked 43), Polity score 10/10, Civil liberties score 2 (1-best, 7-worst), Political Rights score 1/7, Press Freedom 16/100, Voice and Accountability 1.37/2.5
- Income Poverty (1999): 20% pop. (LA average: 44%)
- Gini (1999): 0.47 (Uruguay 0.44, Chile 0.56, Argentina 0.54)

Outline of the Report

- Introduction/Overview
- Chapter 1 – Democratic Governance for Human Development
- Chapter 2 - The State of Democratic Governance and Human Development in Costa Rica
- Chapter 3 - Strengthening Formal Democratic Institutions
- Chapter 4 - Deepening Democratic Participation and Accountability
- Chapter 5 – Policy Recommendations

What informs this NHDR?

- Seven years of the annual State of the Nation Report;
- The Citizens Audit of Democracy: 1998 – 2001;
- Participatory NHDR Preparation.

Key messages of the Report

1. The Costa Ricans political system complies with the basic principles of a democracy
 - Contestability for power
 - Checks and balances
 - Free and independent media
 - Civilian controlled armed forces
 - Respect for HR, civil freedoms and political rights

Key messages of the Report

2. The system has been designed to promote and protect the welfare of its people. This has translated into important achievements in terms of Human Development:

Costa Rica and the Human Development Index

Ranking	Country	Life expectancy (years)	Adult literacy (%)	Gross enrolment ratio 1ary/2ary/3ary (%)	GDP per capita (US\$PPP 1993)
No. 1	Norway	78,5	100,0	97,0	29.918
No. 2	Sweden	79,7	100,0	101,0	24.277
No. 4	Belgium	78,4	100,0	109,0	27.178
No. 19	New Zealand	77,6	100,0	99,0	20.070
No. 31	Barbados	76,8	98,0	77,0	15.494
No. 34	Argentina	73,4	96,8	83,0	12.377
No. 43	Costa Rica	76,4	95,6	67,0	8.650
No. 45	Kuwait	76,2	82,0	59,0	15.799

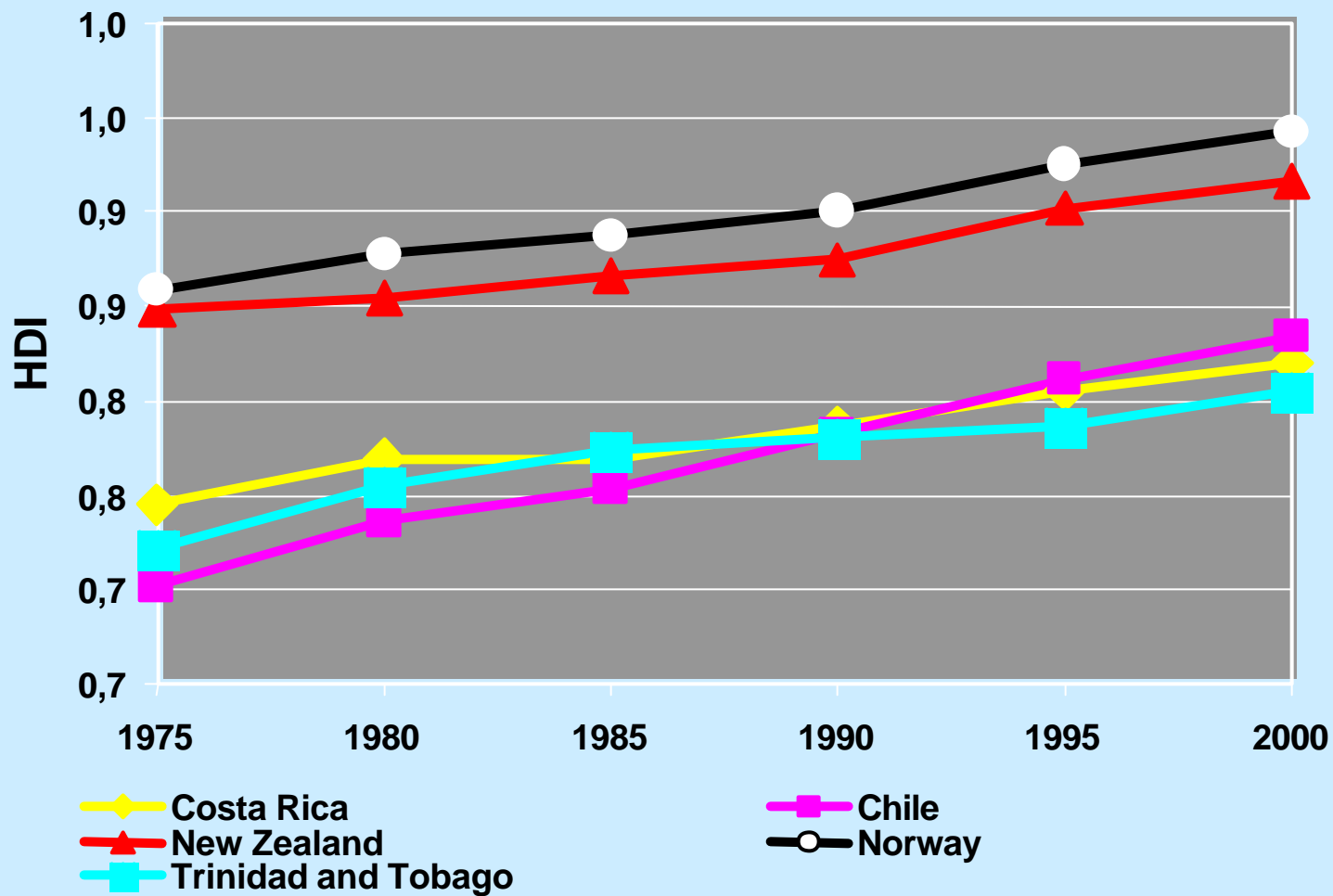
Costa Rica and the Gender-related Development Index

Ranking HDI	Country	Position	GDI	GDI level	GDI
No. 34	Argentina	33		High	0,836
No. 37	Uruguay	40		High	0,828
No. 40	Chile	39		High	0,824
No. 43	Costa Rica	41		High	0,814
No. 57	Panama	51		Medium	0,820
No. 104	El Salvador	87		Medium	0,696

Costa Rica and the Human Poverty Index

Ranking HDI	Country	Position HPI	Value HPI
No. 37	Uruguay	1	3,9
No. 43	Costa Rica	2	4,0
No. 40	Chile	3	4,1
No. 55	Cuba	4	4,1
No. 116	Honduras	36	20,5
No. 118	Nicaragua	41	24,4
No. 120	Guatemala	40	23,5

Costa Rica: HDI trend (1975-2000)



Key messages of the Report

3. Although citizens generally have high confidence in their democratic system, there is increasing disillusionment in some areas.
 - Increasing concerns with the *performance and effectiveness* of important democratic institutions;
 - Underdeveloped mechanisms to exercise effective *participation in political life* and in the decision making process;
 - *Underdeveloped mechanisms of democratic accountability:* to scrutinize public affairs and to demand better performance of institutions.

Costa Rican Trust in Institutions

Institutions	1998	1999	2000	Average 1998-2000 a/	Basic perception 1998-2000 b/	Tendency 1998-2000 c/
Ombudsperson	71	51.2	61	61.1	Trust	Falls
Catholic Church	65.7	53.2	48.6	55.8	Trust	Falls
Radio	63.4	62.9	69.4	65.2	Trust	Not clear
Elections' Tribunal	52.7	47.4	49	50	Trust	Not clear
Press	46.4	37.6	42.3	42.1	Trust	Not clear
Comptroller	40.7	16.2	27.8	28.2	Trust	Falls
Tribunals	31.3	4.1	9.8	15.1	Trust	Falls
TV	15.5	16	12.7	14.7	Trust	Not clear
Unions	7.7	-15	-12.5	-6.6	Distrust	Augments
Executive power	6.6	-8.3	-19.8	-7.2	Distrust	Augments
Congress	3.4	-21.8	-38.5	-19	Distrust	Augments
Police	-25.9	-4.4	-7.8	-12.7	Distrust	Falls
Other churches	-24.7	-24	-14.2	-21	Distrust	Falls
Political parties	-36.9	-58.1	-65.3	-53.4	Distrust	Augments

a/ Net result: positive (trust) - negative (distrust) opinions b/ Image: Trust: if the average of the observations 1998-2000 is positive (+) Distrust: if the average of the observations 1998-2000 is negative (-) c/ Tendency: Trust falls if obs. from 1999 and 2000 are 10% lower than the obs. of 1998. Trust augments if obs. from 1999 and 2000 are 10% higher than the obs. of 1998. Distrust augments if obs. from 1999 and 2000 are 10% lower than the obs. of 1998. Distrust falls if obs. from 1999 and 2000 are 10% higher than the obs. of 1998. Source: Estado de la Nación 2001

Deepening Democratic Governance for Human Development in Costa Rica

1. Strengthening formal democratic institutions: The systems of political participation and representation, and the separation of powers.

- Enhance the *democratic governance of political parties* to make them more transparent, inclusive, and accountable;
- Promote greater *political pluralism* in national governance, by eliminating barriers in the electoral system that discriminate against small and emerging parties;
- Recalibrate the *separation of powers* between legislature and executive to reflect the needs of the economy in the era of globalisation, reducing the constraints on the executive to command economic and social policy;
- Strengthen the *capacity of the judiciary* to promote the rule of law in a timely and equitable manner and improving the democratic mechanisms to elect Supreme Court Judges

Deepening Democratic Governance for Human Development in Costa Rica

2. Strengthen democratic participation, values and democratic accountability.
 - Promote progressive, *democratic decentralization*;
 - Strengthen the *capacity and openness of public institutions* to better serve citizens, including by strengthening access to information;
 - Build the *capacity and accountability of civil society organizations* through legal reform and organizational strengthening;
 - Strengthen the capacity of citizens as democratic actors through *civic education*;
 - Establish *quotas for women's participation* in the legislature.

Advocacy of the HD Report

- Nation wide dissemination to promote citizens ownership of the report
- TV program to further understanding of human development and disseminate the results of the report
- Develop a program with the Ministry of Education to include HD in the primary and secondary school curricula
- Present the report to Cabinet, the Legislature and the Judiciary
- Incorporate the main results of the report into the regular UNDP/Government programming instruments