Methodology

This document explains the conceptual framework of the GSoD Indices and provides an explanation of its regime classification, as well as definitions of some of the key concepts used in the Global State of Democracy analysis.

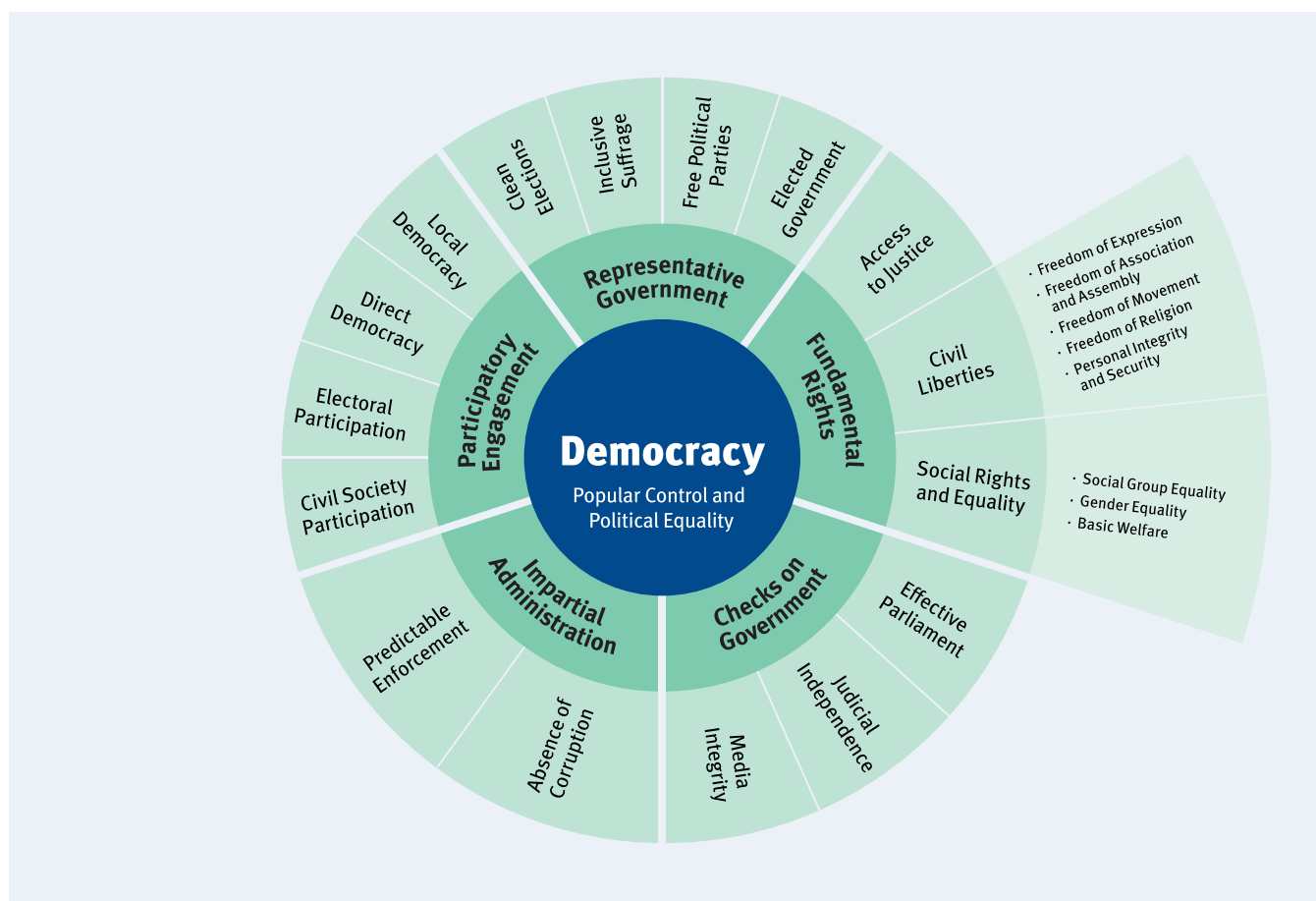## The GSoD framework and the GSoD Indices

In November 2017 International IDEA launched the first edition of its new biennial report, The Global State of Democracy. The report provided evidence-based analysis and data on the global and regional state of democracy, with a focus on democracy's resilience. It also contributed to the public debate on democracy, informed policy interventions

and examined problem-solving approaches to the challenges facing democracies worldwide.

The Global State of Democracy 2019: Addressing the Ills, Reviving the Promise is the second edition of this report. As an intergovernmental organization that supports sustainable democracy worldwide, International IDEA

FIGURE 1

The GSoD Indices conceptual framework

defines democracy as a political system that is based on popular control and political equality. One of the Institute's core principles is that democracy is a universal value for citizens and a globally owned concept for which there is no universally applicable model.

Democracy is an ideal that seeks to guarantee equality and basic freedoms, empower ordinary people, resolve disagreements through peaceful dialogue, respect differences, and bring about political and social renewal without economic and social disruption. Therefore, International IDEA's broad concept of democracy encompasses more than just free elections—it has multiple dimensions, including civil and political rights, social and economic rights, democratic governance and the rule of law.

International IDEA's broad understanding of democracy overlaps with features emphasized by different traditions of democratic thought associated with the concepts of electoral democracy, liberal democracy, social democracy and participatory democracy. This concept of democracy reflects a core value enshrined in article 21 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (United Nations 1948), that the 'will of the people' is the basis for the legitimacy and authority of sovereign states. It reflects a common and universal desire for peace, security and justice. Democracy reflects the fundamental ethical principles of human equality and the dignity of persons and is therefore inseparable from human rights.

In 2017 International IDEA constructed a new set of indices, the Global State of Democracy Indices (GSoD Indices), based on the core principles of democracy and on the Institute's State of Democracy assessment framework (a tool designed for in-country stakeholders to assess the quality of democracy). The Indices were developed by International IDEA staff with the support of external experts and the supervision of an expert advisory board consisting of five leading experts in the field of democracy measurement.

The GSoD Indices are a quantitative tool for measuring the performance of democracy globally and regionally in its different aspects over time, beginning in 1975. They serve as the main evidence base for the report, and provide a new, comprehensive measurement of democracy. They capture trends at the global, regional and national levels based on International IDEA's definition of democracy (International IDEA 2008). In this second edition of *The Global State of Democracy*, the GSoD Indices have been expanded to cover 163 countries over the period 1975–2019. In 2019, the Indices cover a total of 162 countries.

The conceptual framework underpinning the Indices (see Figure 1) translates International IDEA's definition of democracy—which emphasizes popular control over public decision-making and decision-makers, and equality between citizens in the exercise of that control—into five main democracy attributes that contain 16 subattributes based on 116 indicators.

This framework aims to be universally applicable and compatible with different institutional arrangements. Using this broad understanding of democracy, the GSoD Indices do not provide an overarching democracy index with a score for each country that would allow democracies to be ranked. This approach differentiates the GSoD Indices from several other democracy measurement methodologies. It is used to enable a more multi-faceted analysis and understanding of democracy.

In addition, compared to some other democracy measurements, the GSoD Indices are distinguished by their relatively high degree of coverage in terms of years covered (since 1975, with annual updates) and number of countries included (163); the incorporation and use of different data sources; and the availability of uncertainty estimates for users, which allows them to assess whether differences in scores are statistically significant. For a more detailed comparison between the GSoD Indices and other measurements see International IDEA (2020).

The five attributes of democracy in the GSoD Indices conceptual framework

The GSoD Indices conceptual framework is based on five attributes of democracy: Representative Government, Fundamental Rights, Checks on Government, Impartial Administration and Participatory Engagement.

Attribute 1: Representative Government

Representative Government covers the extent to which access to political power is free and equal as demonstrated by competitive, inclusive and regular elections. It includes four subattributes: Clean Elections, Inclusive Suffrage, Free Political Parties and Elected Government.

Attribute 2: Fundamental Rights

Fundamental Rights captures the degree to which civil liberties are respected, and whether people have access to basic resources that enable their active participation in the political process. This aspect overlaps significantly with the international covenants on civil and political, and economic, social and cultural rights. It includes three subattributes: Access to Justice, Civil Liberties, and Social Rights and Equality. It also includes the following subcomponents: Freedom of Expression, Freedom of Association and Assembly, Freedom of Religion, Freedom of Movement, Personal Integrity and Security, Basic Welfare, Social Group Equality and Gender Equality (see Figure 1).

Attribute 3: Checks on Government

Checks on Government measures effective control of executive power. It includes three subattributes: Effective Parliament, Judicial Independence and Media Integrity.

Attribute 4: Impartial Administration

Impartial Administration concerns how fairly and predictably political decisions are implemented, and therefore reflects key aspects of the rule of law. It includes two subattributes: Absence of Corruption and Predictable Enforcement.

Attribute 5: Participatory Engagement

Participatory Engagement measures people's political participation and societal engagement at different levels. Because they capture different phenomena, the subattributes of this aspect—Civil Society Participation, Electoral Participation, Direct Democracy and Local Democracy— are not aggregated into a single index.

The GSoD Indices: regional and national coverage

The first iteration of the GSoD Indices covered the period 1975–2015. The data is updated annually and the latest data currently available covers until the end of 2019. The GSoD Indices now cover 163 countries in the world.

The GSoD Indices also cover six regions: Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Middle East and North America. The grouping of countries within these regions primarily follows a geographical logic, but also takes account of historical and cultural links, particularly in the regional subdivisions. Some further modifications needed to be made to enable meaningful analyses of relatively coherent regions with comparable social, political and historical backgrounds.

Table 1 outlines the GSoD Indices' regional and subregional geographical divisions. For more information on the geographical definition of regions in the GSoD Indices see International IDEA (2017b).

TABLE 1

The GSoD Indices: regional and subregional geographic divisions

Region/subregion	Country
Africa	
East Africa	Burundi, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, Tanzania, Uganda
Central Africa	Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Republic of Congo
Southern Africa	Angola, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe
West Africa	Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo
North Africa	Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, South Sudan, Sudan, Tunisia
Latin America and the Caribbean	
The Caribbean	Barbados, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago
Central America and Mexico	Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama
South America	Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela
North America	
North America	Canada, United States of America

TABLE 1

The GSoD Indices: regional and subregional geographic divisions (cont.)

Region/subregion	Country
Asia and the Pacific	
Central Asia	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan
East Asia	China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Japan, Mongolia, Republic of Korea, Taiwan
South Asia	Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka
South East Asia	Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Viet Nam
Oceania	Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea
The Middle East	
The Middle East	Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine/West Bank, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, United Arab Emirates, Yemen
Iran	Iran
Europe	
East-Central Europe	Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Estonia, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Kosovo, Latvia, Lithuania, North Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia
Eastern Europe/Post-Soviet Europe	Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Russia, Ukraine
North and West Europe	Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Luxemburg, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom
South Europe	Cyprus, Greece, Israel, Italy, Portugal, Spain, Turkey

The GSoD Indices: data sources

The GSoD Indices aggregate indicators from a number of data sets. In the 2018 update, the number of data sets has been reduced from 14 to 12. The number of indicators used is 116, of which V-Dem indicators constitute around 70 per cent.

The data relies on a range of extant data sources that fall into four categories:

1. *Expert surveys*. Assessments by country experts of the situation on a particular issue in a particular country.

2. *Standards-based 'in-house coding'*. Coding carried out by researchers and/or their assistants based on an evaluative assessment of country-specific information found in reports, academic publications, reference works, news articles and so on.

3. *Observational data*. Data on directly observable features such as the proportion of parliamentarians who are women, infant mortality rates and the holding of legislative elections.

4. *Composite measures*. This data is based on a number of variables that come from different extant data sets rather than original data collection. For a full list of the indicators sourced from the various data sets see International IDEA (2020).

The GSoD Indices: additional methodological information

For a full explanation of the GSoD methodology see International IDEA (2020).

Scores and scales

The GSoD Indices consist of attribute and subattribute scores per country per year (country–year). The scoring runs from 0 to 1, where 0 represents the lowest achievement in the sample and 1 is the highest.

For almost all the attributes and subattributes, the annual scores for each country are accompanied by uncertainty estimates (confidence intervals) that assess whether differences between countries and within countries over time are statistically significant. The only exceptions are the subattributes based on a single observational indicator (e.g. Political Participation) or formative aggregations procedures

(e.g. Inclusive Suffrage, Direct Democracy and Local Democracy).

Methodology

Both the GSoD Indices and the analysis contained in the GSoD report respond to the lack of analytical material on democracy building and the quality of democracy at the global and regional levels; most studies focus on the national level. The GSoD initiative strives to bridge the gap between academic research, policy development and democracy-assistance initiatives. The data and the report are intended to inform policymakers and decision-makers, civil society organizations and democracy activists, policy influencers and think tanks, and democracy support providers and practitioners.

As an Institute-wide project, the publication employs a mixed methodology. It incorporates input from staff

TABLE 2

Data sets used in the compilation of the GSoD Indices

Data set	Data provider	Reference
Bjørnskov-Rode Regime Data (BRRD)	Bjørnskov and Rode	‹http://www.christianbjoernskov.com/bjoernskovrodedata/›
Cingranelli, Filippov and Skip	CIRIGHTS Human Rights Data Project (CIRIGHTS)	‹ www.binghamton.edu/institutes/hri/›
Civil Liberties Dataset (CLD)	Møller and Skaaning	‹http://ps.au.dk/forskning/forskningsprojekter/dedere/datasets/›
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) statistics	FAO	‹http://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#home›
Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluations (IHME)	IHME	‹http://ghdx.healthdata.org/record/ihme-data/global-educational-attainment-1970-2015›
International Country Risk Guide (ICRG)	Political Risk Services	‹http://epub.prsgroup.com/products/icrg›
Lexical Index of Electoral Democracy (LIED)	Skaaning, Gerring and Bartusevicius	‹http://ps.au.dk/forskning/forskningsprojekter/dedere/datasets/›
Media Freedom Data (MFD)	Whitten-Woodring and Van Belle	‹http://faculty.uml.edu/Jenifer_whittenwoodring/MediaFreedomData_000.aspx›
Political Terror Scale (PTS)	Gibney, Cornett, Wood, Haschke, Arnon and Pisanò	‹http://www.politicalterrorscale.org/›
Polity IV	Marshall, Jaggers and Gurr	‹http://www.systemicpeace.org/inscrdata.html›
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) statistics	UNESCO	‹http://data.uis.unesco.org/›
Varieties of Democracy data set	V-Dem	‹https://www.v-dem.net/›

members across International IDEA's headquarters and regional offices, including external contributors. It was peer reviewed by a group of external academic experts and practitioners. Building on International IDEA's regional presence and expertise in the field of democracy, it also draws on the Institute's in-depth regional knowledge of democratic trends.

Regime classification

The Global State of Democracy 2019 introduces a political regime classification based on the GSoD Indices. The classification aims to facilitate understanding of the Indices, enhance the analysis, and ensure greater policy relevance of the data. The GSoD Indices define three broad regime types: (a) democracies (of varying performance), (b) hybrid regimes and (c) non-democracies.

This regime classification was adopted by International IDEA in 2019 and is based on a consultative process with scholars from the GSoD Indices Expert Advisory Board, which advised on the creation of the Indices and continues to provide methodological support to the Indices.[1]

The regime classification adopted by International IDEA is not intended to be seen as a central part of the analysis of the GSoD report, rather as a generic reference point to enhance analytical simplicity for a policymaking audience and complemented by attribute-level performance analysis and nuanced qualitative analysis. The classification is focused on the electoral component of democracy and is not used to rank countries but to cluster democratic and non-democratic performance into broad categories in order to facilitate analysis.

Regime classifications are useful for making sense of, and assigning meanings to, the abstract numerical GSoD Indices scores. They can be used for overall global and regional trends analysis, as reference points to analyse country cases or to detect intertemporal and/or cross-national patterns in the data set. However, when describing a country, International IDEA aims to complement the regime typology with attribute- and subattribute-level analysis whenever possible to retain the nuances captured by the GSoD Indices data set.

Labelling performance of attributes
The first step in the regime classification is to determine performance levels for each attribute. These levels can also be applied to subattributes, as needed. Based on numeric threshold values, three levels are distinguished: high, mid-range and low levels (see Table 3).

Defining and identifying types of political regimes
The classification distinguishes between three broad regime types: democracies, hybrid regimes and non-democracies.

Democracies
Drawing on International IDEA's notion of democracy, which emphasizes 'popular control over decision-making and political equality among those exercising that control' (International IDEA 2008: 20), the GSoD Indices classify political regimes as 'democratic' if they have governments emerging from sufficiently inclusive, clean and competitive elections.

This concept is rooted in scholarly theories and popular perceptions of democracy that view electoral contestation and participation rights as core elements of a democracy (see International IDEA 2018: 13). However, the concept specifies only the minimum requirements for a political regime to qualify as a democracy. Countries classified as democratic by these standards may differ widely in the quality of their democracy and in the performance of their different democratic attributes.

The Representative Government attribute of the GSoD Indices substantiates this basic concept of democracy and relates it to empirical evidence. This attribute measures the integrity of elections, the inclusiveness of voting rights, the extent to which political parties are free to campaign for political office and the extent to which national representative government offices are filled through elections. To be classified as a democracy, a political regime must score at least 0.35 on Representative Government.

Since Representative Government is an aggregate measure summarizing four subattributes and 18 underlying indicators by means of a statistical estimation, it is sometimes difficult to identify which of its component indicators are responsible for classifying a country as non-democratic. Therefore, International IDEA uses the Lexical Index of Electoral Democracy (LIED), which is one of the indicators used to calculate the Representative Government score, as a measure to help distinguish democracies from other types of political regimes.

The LIED has seven clearly defined levels that measure whether countries select their legislature and executive through competitive elections (Skaaning, Gerring and Bartusevičius 2015). To qualify as a democracy, a political regime must score at least 4 on the LIED—that is, it must have minimally competitive multiparty elections for its legislature and executive.

For a country to classify as a democracy, the GSoD Indices require that it holds minimally competitive multi-party elections. However, beyond this minimalist criteria, democracies can be of different of quality depending on how they perform on other key aspects of democracy beyond the electoral. The GSoD Indices have defined three performance levels of democracies depending on how they perform on their five core democratic attributes: *high performing democracies*, *mid-range performing democracies* and *weak/*

TABLE 3

Attribute-level labels

IF value >0.7	>=0.4 & value =<0.7	IF value <0.4
High Representative Government	Mid-range Representative Government	Low Representative Government
High Fundamental Rights	Mid-range Fundamental Rights	Low Fundamental Rights
High Checks on Government	Mid-range Checks on Government	Low Checks on Government
High Impartial Administration	Mid-range Impartial Administration	Low Impartial Administration
High Participatory Engagement	Mid-range Participatory Engagement	Low Participatory Engagement

low-performing democracies. The criteria underpinning these categories can be found in Table 5.

Hybrid regimes

In addition to democracies, International IDEA's GSoDrframework creates separate categories for hybrid regimes and non-democratic regimes, to reflect the diversity of the current global democracy landscape. The common denominator of these two types of regimes is that they do not hold competitive elections (as measured by the LIED). However, hybrid regimes may combine democratic and non-democratic characteristics, while non-democracies will have fewer democratic features and more non-democratic features. Therefore, patterns of attribute pcrformance will vary between hybrid and non-democratic regimes, as outlined below.

International IDEA considers a hybrid regime category necessary in order to avoid equating political regimes that exist on the boundary between autocracy and democracy with consolidated autocracies, and to mark the gradations of 'democratic-ness' characterizing many of these boundary countries with unsettled political–authority relations, and to show that many of these countries exhibit both democratic and authoritarian features in different combinations.

Hybrid regimes are defined in International IDEA's 2018–2022 Strategy as 'having the combination of elements of authoritarianism with democracy (…). These often adopt the formal characteristics of democracy (while allowing little real competition for power) with weak respect for basic political and civil rights' (International IDEA 2018: 11).

Therefore, for International IDEA, hybrid regimes may have some nominally democratic institutions and some democratic processes and practices but are characterized by pervasive informal practices eroding the functioning of formal institutions, which may also include weakened checks and balances (Bogaards 2009; Morlino 2009; Mufti 2018).

Hybrid regimes are defined operationally by International IDEA as political regimes that score at least 3.5 on the GSoD Representative Government attribute and less than 4 on the LIED (i.e. they do not hold competitive elections).

While criteria based on numerical thresholds have been defined in order to classify hybrid regimes in the GSoD framework, International IDEA also recognizes the inherent challenge of classifying such regimes, as by their nature they can extend conceptually into both the democracy and non-democracy category.

Authoritarian regimes

Authoritarian regimes include autocracies, one-party systems, military regimes, authoritarian monarchies and failed states or war-torn, conflict-ravaged countries without a centralized monopoly on the use of force.

Authoritarian regimes, similar to hybrid regimes, do not hold competitive elections. Even if they do hold some form of elections, incumbent political elites in authoritarian regimes disadvantage their opponents, and restrict the competitiveness of these elections 'so profoundly and systematically as to render elections instruments of authoritarian rule rather than instruments of democracy' (Schedler 2013: 3; see also Levitsky and Way 2010: 5).

Moreover, in such regimes, civil liberties tend to be systematically curtailed, there tends to be no clear separation of power, the judiciary tends to be controlled by the executive, oppositional political parties tend to be barred from operating freely, and the media tends to be systematically restricted, as are critical voices within civil society. Therefore, in non-democratic regimes as opposed to hybrid regimes, the 'democratic' features are significantly less numerous and the authoritarian features more prominent.

When observing the attribute-level classification of authoritarian regimes, these regimes tend to score low on most attributes. In rare instances, they may score mid-range on one attribute—generally an attribute that is not considered a core element of democratic systems by mainstream definitions of democracy. Examples of attributes on which authoritarian regimes could score in the mid-range include Impartial Administration (and if so, generally on Absence of Corruption) or Fundamental Rights (generally due to higher levels of Basic Welfare).

Political regimes that score below 3.5 on Representative Government and below 4 on the LIED are classified as authoritarian regimes (see Table 4).

TABLE 4

GSoD regime classification

	Democracy	Hybrid regime	Authoritarian regime
Necessary and sufficient condition	RG ≥ 0.35	RG ≥ 0.35	RG < 0.35
	& LIED ≥ 4	& LIED < 4	& LIED < 4

Notes: RG: Representative Government; LIED: Lexical Index of Electoral Democracy.

TABLE 5

Type of democracy by performance level

High performing democracy	Mid-range performing democracy	Weak/low performing democracy
High performance (GSoD score >0.7) on all five attributes .	No low performance (no GSoD score <0.4) on any attribute and not high on all five.	Low performance (GSoD score <0.4) on at least one attribute.

TABLE 6

Definitions and terminology

Term	Definition
Authoritarian regime	A country that does not hold minimally competitive elections (scores below 4 on LIED) and scores below 0.35 on Representative Government in the GSoD Indices.
Crisis of representation	The crisis of representation can be defined as a lack of faith in, or loyalty to, representative democracy, or a disengagement from its institutions and processes.
Deepening autocratization	The term 'deepening autocratization' is used to describe at least three statistically significant subattribute declines within hybrid regimes or non-democracies over a five-year period.
Democracy	International IDEA defines democracy as popular control over public decision-making and decision-makers, and equality between citizens in the exercise of that control.
Democracy	A country that holds minimally competitive multi-party elections (scores at least 4 on LIED) and scores above 0.35 on Representative Government in the GSoD Indices.

TABLE 6

Definitions and terminology (cont.)

Term	Definition
Democratic backsliding	The GSoD report uses the term '(modern) democratic backsliding' to describe the gradual and usually intentional weakening of checks on government and civil liberties by democratically elected governments. Democratic backsliding occurs in those countries that have suffered a net decline of at least 0.1 points on the average score of Checks on Government and Civil Liberties over a period of five years. Four different severities of democratic backsliding are identified: 1. **Moderate:** countries with declines of less than −0.15 on their averaged Checks on Government/Civil Liberties indicator during their episode of backsliding. 2. **Severe:** countries with declines above −0.15. 3. **Partial democratic breakdown:** countries with backsliding so severe that it results in a shift to a hybrid regime. 4. **Full democratic breakdown:** countries with backsliding so severe that it results in a shift to non-democracy. Democratic backsliding is always used to describe countries that were democratic at the onset of the backsliding episode. Democratic backsliding is a form of **democratic erosion.**
Democratic breakdown	The term 'democratic breakdown' is used in the GSoD report to describe the movement of a country from democracy to a hybrid regime (partial breakdown) or to a non-democracy (full breakdown).
Democratic erosion/ deterioration	When country-level declines in one or more subattribute of democracy are observed, but do not fit the conceptual and quantitative description of democratic backsliding, these are referred to as forms of democratic erosion or democratic deterioration. These two terms are used interchangeably in the GSoD report.
Democratic fragility	The term 'democratic fragility' is used to describe democracies that have experienced at least one episode of partial or full democratic breakdown since their first transition to democracy. Very fragile democracies are democracies that have experienced several episodes of partial or full democratic breakdown.
Democratic performance	When democratic performance is referred to in the GSoD report, it generally focuses on the scores (between 0 and 1) for the 28 aspects of the GSoD framework. Performance is analysed in absolute terms, based on a three-tier scale: low (<0.4), mid-range (0.4–0.7) and high (>0.7). In those few cases when relative performance is used, the world average is used as a benchmark and is always specified.
Democratic weakness	The term 'democratic weakness' or weak democracy is used in connection with countries that score low on one or more of their democratic attributes (unless they score high on four out of five attributes).
High performing democracy	Democracies that have high performance (GSoD score >0.7) on all 5 democratic attributes.
Mid-range performing democracy	No low performance on any attribute (GSoD score <0.4) and not high on all 5 (GSoD score >0.7).
Non-democratic regime	The GSoD Indices refer to non-democratic regimes as all those countries that classify as hybrid or authoritarian regimes.
Older and third-wave democracies	The GSoD report defines older democracies as those countries that were democracies before 1975. It defines as third-wave democracies those countries that transitioned to democracy after 1975. These are sub-divided into early third-wave democracies (those countries that transitioned to democracy between 1975 and 2000) and new third-wave democracies (those that transitioned after 2000).

TABLE 6

Definitions and terminology (cont.)

Term	Definition
Populism	Populism is used in the GSoD report as an umbrella term to define populist parties or leaders on the left or right of the political spectrum that promote nationalist and ethnonationalist ideologies, and that may have a more anti-establishment bent. It therefore aligns with a view of populism as a 'thin' ideology that is combined with other ideologies (Mudde and Rovira Kaltwasser 2017).
Resilience	International IDEA defines resilience as the ability of social systems to cope with, innovate, survive and recover from complex challenges and crises presenting stress or pressure that can lead to systemic failure. Democracy's resilience is seen as the ability of a political system to recover, adapt and/or flexibly address such complex challenges, crises and breakdowns (International IDEA 2017a). In the GSoD report, it specifically refers to the ability of regimes that have regressed into hybridity or non-democracy to return to democracy.
Significant advances and declines	All declines and advances referred to in the GSoD report are statistically significant, unless otherwise specified. These advances and declines are always assessed based on the 16 subattributes in the GSoD framework, as using the 28 aspects of the framework (which also include subcomponents) would lead to double counting and measurement errors. Statistically significant declines and advances are generally measured in five-year intervals, unless otherwise specified.
Top and bottom 25 per cent	In the GSoD report, the top and bottom 25 per cent of performers refers to the 41 countries that score in the top and bottom 25 per cent of countries in the GSoD Indices sample of 162 countries in 2018. The GSoD Indices do not rank countries within these groupings, although score performance varies between countries within these percentile categories.
Weak/low-performing democracy	Democracies with low performance (GSoD score <0.4) on at least one attribute.

References

Bogaards, M., 'How to classify hybrid regimes? Defective democracy and electoral authoritarianism', *Democratization*, 16/2 (2009), pp. 399–423, ‹https://doi.org/10.1080/13510340902777800›

International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA), *Assessing the Quality of Democracy: A Practical Guide* (Stockholm: International IDEA, 2008), ‹http://www.idea.int/publications/catalogue/assessing-quality-democracy-practical-guide›, accessed 31 August 2019

—, *The Global State of Democracy: Exploring Democracy's Resilience* (Stockholm: International IDEA, 2017a), ‹https://www.idea.int/gsod/›

—, 'Geographic definitions of regions in *The Global State of Democracy*', Background Paper, 2017b, ‹http://www.idea.int/gsod›

— *International IDEA Strategy 2018–22* (Stockholm: International IDEA, 2018), ‹https://www.idea.int/about-us/mission-values›

—, The Global State of Democracy Indices, 1975–2018 (2019), ‹http://www.idea.int/gsod-indices›

—, *The Global State of Democracy Indices Methodology: Conceptualization and Measurement Framework, V4* (Stockholm: International IDEA, 2020), ‹https://doi.org/10.31752/idea.2020.72›

Levitsky, S. and Way, L. A., *Competitive Authoritarianism: Hybrid Regimes After the Cold War* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010), ‹https://doi.org/10.1017/CBO9780511781353›

Morlino, L., 'Are there hybrid regimes? Or are they just an optical illusion?', *European Political Science Review*, 1/2 (2009), pp. 273–96, ‹https://doi.org/10.1017/S1755773909000198›

Mudde, C. and Rovira Kaltwasser, C., *Populism: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017), ‹https://doi.org/10.1093/actrade/9780190234874.001.0001›

Mufti, M., 'What do we know about hybrid regimes after two decades of scholarship?', *Politics and Governance*, 6/2 (2018), pp. 112–19, ‹https://doi.org/10.17645/pag.v6i2.1400›

Schedler, A., *The Politics of Uncertainty: Sustaining and Subverting Electoral Authoritarianism* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013), ‹https://doi.org/10.1093/acprof:oso/9780199680320.001.0001›

Skaaning, S.-E., Gerring, J. and Bartusevičius, H., 'A Lexical Index of Electoral Democracy', *Comparative Political Studies*, 48/12 (2015), pp. 1491–525, ‹https://doi.org/10.1177/0010414015581050›

United Nations, Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 10 December 1948, ‹https://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/›, accessed 3 September 2019

About International IDEA

The International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA) is an intergovernmental organization that supports sustainable democracy institutions and processes worldwide. International IDEA acts as a catalyst for democracy-building by providing knowledge resources and policy proposals, and supporting democratic reforms in response to specific national requests. It works with policymakers, governments, international organizations and agencies, as well as regional organizations engaged in the field of democracy-building.

What does International IDEA do?

The Institute's work is organized at the global, regional and country levels, focusing on the citizen as the driver of change. International IDEA produces comparative knowledge in its key areas of expertise: electoral processes, constitution-building, and political participation and representation, as well as democracy as it relates to gender, diversity, and conflict and security.

International IDEA brings this knowledge to national and local representatives who are working for democratic reform, and facilitates dialogue in support of democratic change.

In its work, International IDEA aims for:

- increased capacity, legitimacy and credibility of democracy;
- more inclusive participation and accountable representation; and
- more effective and legitimate democracy cooperation.

Where does International IDEA work?

International IDEA works worldwide. Based in Stockholm, Sweden, the Institute has offices in Africa, the Asia-Pacific, Europe, and Latin America and the Caribbean.

International IDEA is a Permanent Observer to the United Nations.

<http://www.idea.int>