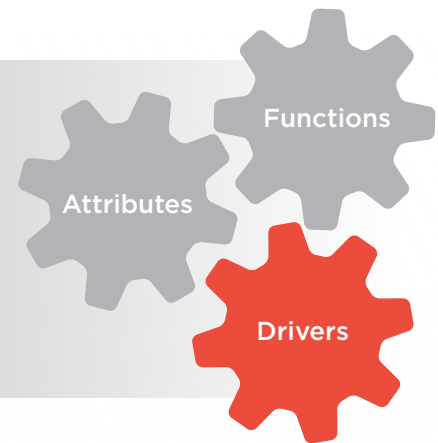# THE WILL, SPACE, CAPACITY FRAMEWORK

A NEW WAY TO IMPROVE DEMOCRACY SUPPORT

The, Will, Space, Capacity Framework outlines a new approach to help assistance providers improve the effectiveness of party assistance.

> *"Finally after decades of international assistance for political party development, here is a guide to the subject well-informed by the lessons of extensive practical experience, the recognized need for better contextual analysis, and attention to the rigors of monitoring and evaluation. Certain to be useful to practitioners and party activists everywhere engaged in this challenging but vital enterprise."*
>
> ~ ***Thomas Carothers***, *Vice President for Studies, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace*

Consistent With the Latest Thinking in Development Assistance

The Will, Space, Capacity Framework is designed to help assistance providers examine a range of social, economic and political factors – formal and informal – that affect political parties. This emphasis on incentives and political economy analysis is consistent with the latest thinking on improving the effectiveness of development assistance. The Framework provides a structured approach for examining three types of factors that influence prospects for more democratic political parties:

- ⚙ **Political space:** the environment in which political parties operate and how they interact with it;

- ⚙ **Political will:** the incentives that influence political parties and the individual actors within them; and

- ⚙ **Capacity:** the skills and resources that parties need to compete in elections, propose policies and contribute to governance.

Multipurpose

The Framework focuses on broad principles and competencies that political parties require in order to contribute to democratic governance. It is multipurpose and:

- ⚙ Flexible enough to be applied in diverse environments and to different types of parties;

- ⚙ Can be used to analyze party systems as well as internal party processes.
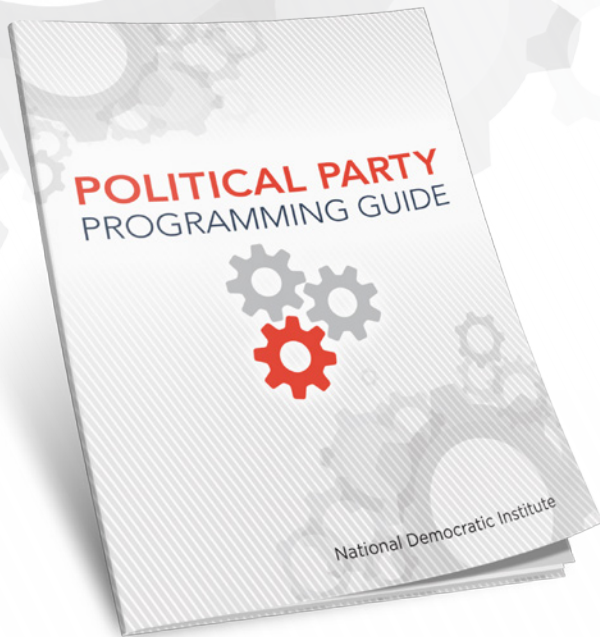
Better Analysis for Better Programs

Most existing frameworks for party assessments focus on mapping the formal institutions and rules that affect political parties as well as understanding current party organizing practices. The Will, Space, Capacity Framework emphasizes the importance of understanding not only how parties behave in a given context, but why they behave the way they do. This should lead to:

- ⚙ More Insightful Context Analysis;

- ⚙ More Strategic Interventions; and
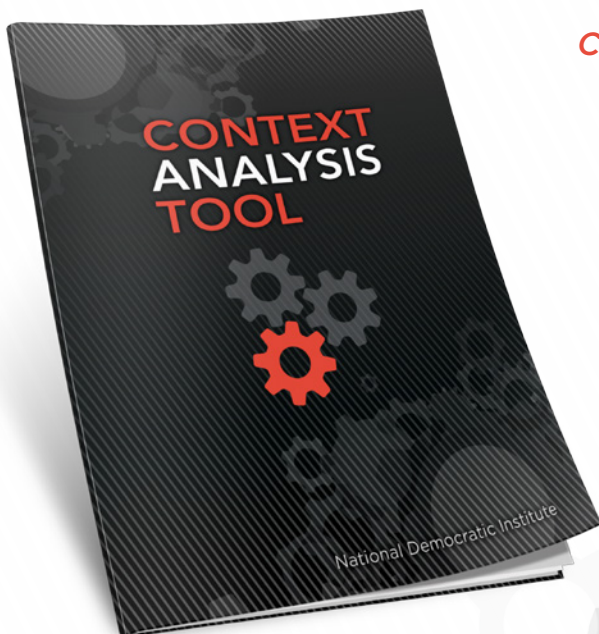
- ⚙ Improved Monitoring and Evaluations.

PRACTICAL TOOLKIT

The Will, Space, Capacity Toolkit includes a Political Party Programming Guide and a Context Analysis Tool.

Political Party Programming Guide

⚙ Defines the key functions through which political parties fulfill their representative role in democracies;

⚙ Outlines the democratic principles and competencies that enable political parties to fulfill their roles effectively and democratically;

⚙ Describes three key drivers of party behavior – political space, political will, and capacity;

⚙ Discusses research and analysis that should be conducted prior to designing a program;

⚙ Raises issues to consider in determining program goals, objectives, theories of change, and activities;

⚙ Outlines common challenges in monitoring and evaluating political party programs, and some potential solutions; and

⚙ Includes guidance on selecting parties for assistance and working with program stakeholders.

Context Analysis Tool

⚙ Describes the types of information needed for a context analysis informed by the Will, Space, Capacity Framework;

⚙ Can be used in different environments;

⚙ Scalable to match the resources available;

⚙ Includes a framework of research questions and a guide for key informant interviews;

⚙ Outlines suggested methods for collecting the information; and

⚙ Provides tips for analyzing the data gathered.

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