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ANNUAL REPORT



THE OSLO CENTER
for Peace and Human Rights

A world consisting of stable
democracies respecting equality,
human dignity and human rights.

Our vision

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OUR VISION: STABLE DEMOCRACIES



2013 has been a year for enlarging and strengthening the Oslo Center's Democracy Assistance Program. Our vision is a world consisting of stable democracies respecting equality, human dignity and human rights.

The Oslo Center has developed its role as an independent, non-partisan democracy assistance center assisting fragile states and vulnerable democracies in strengthening democratic political institutions and processes. In this annual report, you can read more about our democracy projects and activities in several countries.

Human rights issues are seen as an integral part of our democracy assistance program. In addition, the Oslo Center is engaged in specialized human rights projects, such as the Child Rights project in Kenya and Freedom of Religion or Belief in Kyrgyzstan.

We also participate in a project aiming to improve protection of holy sites, and promote inter-religious trust and reconciliation.

When I founded the Oslo Center in 2006 together with my colleague Einar Steensnæs, it was difficult to foresee how the center would develop. I am pleased to observe that the Oslo Center now is well established and that there is a growing interest in our assistance. We are grateful for the support we receive from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well as from private sponsors.

I want to thank our international partners, our members of the Board of Directors and the Board of Trustees, all of whom are of crucial importance to our work.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kjell Magne Bondevik". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mr. Kjell Magne Bondevik
President of the Oslo Center



NEW STRATEGY MARKS THE WAY FORWARD



In 2013, the Oslo Center developed a new Strategy for 2013 – 2017. The Strategy strengthens the Center's focus on providing democracy assistance to fragile states and vulnerable

democracies through dialogue. The work is based on the Oslo Center's extensive leadership experience, its staff with diverse professional backgrounds, and our access to political leaders, governments and grassroots organizations. As an independent organization, the Oslo Center can play a role that might be difficult for state authorities to fill.

The main countries in the Oslo Center's projects are Somalia, Kenya, South Sudan, Burma/Myanmar and Kyrgyzstan. We have established a field office in Somalia with a project coordinator based in Mogadishu. In this way, the Oslo Center strengthens its support to the parliament and its legislative work, and its assistance with the establishment of political parties. Both in Burma/Myanmar and in South Sudan we have been able to assist in youth dialogue across ethnic and religious divides.

In Kenya, the Oslo Center has continued to provide assistance to the political institutions at national and county level. A pilot project on Juvenile Justice has been established in Kisumu.

The Oslo Center has been working in close partnership with our main international democracy assistance partners – the International IDEA and the National Democratic Institute (NDI). The Oslo Center US Foundation continues to be an important partner in the USA.

A major achievement was the publication of the Political Party Dialogue: A Facilitator's Guide, published in co-operation with the Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy and International IDEA.

We are delighted to thank our sponsors for all support provided for the Oslo Center's work in 2013. We will continue to strengthen our position as an independent and professional democracy assistance center.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tove Strand". The script is cursive and fluid.

Ms. Tove Strand

Chairman of the Board





DEMOCRACY ASSISTANCE

SOMALIA

After the inauguration of Somalia's new government and parliament in 2012, the state institutions began their work of identifying their role and responsibility, jointly listing legislative priorities, and developing time schedules. The implementation of this work plan has met with varying success: much has depended on the leadership and its ability to unify the members of the state institutions.

The parliament created 15 committees with targeted responsibility for issues of great importance for the nation. The Oslo Center supported their work by providing a secondment program. Local technical advisers were assigned to support the preparatory work in terms of planning, and the implementation of the work plan agreed upon.

At the end of October 2013, the Prime Minister was removed from his post, which led to the resignation of the cabinet in accordance with the constitution. This led to a period of vacuum due to the absence of a key figure in the Somali structure. In December 2013, a new Prime Minister was appointed by the President and approved by parliament. Hon. Abdiweli Sheikh Ahmed then started to form his government and presented the cabinet, expanded from 10 to 25 ministers and 25 assistant ministers in January 2014, and the new government was sworn in and started its duties immediately.

Throughout the year of 2013, the Oslo Center has continued its work with the aspiring political parties in Somalia and hosted several workshops resulting in joint statements regarding the upcoming political party registration process and the legislation for

political parties. The group has hosted several meetings with the political leaders to inform them about their views on the coming legislation, to help to realize the multi-party system in accordance with the constitution.

In addition, the Oslo Center has been involved in supporting the development of legislation to facilitate a multi-party system and later an election. The Oslo Center has worked in close contact with the institutions working to realize this system, and has provided them with comparative experiences and practical solutions, to facilitate discussion in parliament and other venues.

To be able to better support Somalia, the Oslo Center has established a field office in Mogadishu in an area close to Villa Somalia. The office has been developed to become an information hub where the partners and the public can host meetings and discussions on issues of great relevance to democracy and the ongoing processes. The office has been running since January 2014 and will be the prime location for the Oslo Center's activities in Mogadishu.

The Oslo Center will continue to support the Somali process by providing technical advice to the government, parliament and civil society, responding to requests from Somali stakeholders. The Oslo Center is planning to establish monthly thematic meetings on issues related to democracy, joint technical meetings for the secondees, and to increase its direct advisory support to the state institutions with a mandate to develop the multi-party system.





SOUTH SUDAN

The Oslo Center's main focus in South Sudan is youth participation. For democracy to take root in the country, we believe the youth need to be included and engaged in political processes.

Since 2012 the Oslo Center has worked to develop a permanent dialogue forum for young people in South Sudan. In March 2013 we conducted a Youth Dialogue Conference in Juba with the aim of establishing the National Youth Dialogue Forum. The three-day conference gathered 28 young people from all the states of South Sudan and produced a resolution on the challenging situation for young people in the country.

In the autumn 2013, state-level youth dialogue forums have been held in Jonglei and Eastern Equatoria. Two representatives from each of the counties of the states, and representatives of all the tribes, attended the workshops. The dialogue forums were the first of their kind for young people in the states and saw immediate results in terms of dialogue among traditionally segregated groups. The report and resolutions from the forums have been presented to the Ministry of Youth and Sports, the

Office of the President, the National Constitutional Review Commission, the Peace and Reconciliation Committee and UNMISS. In summary, the signals from all stakeholders were positive and encouraging as to the need to continue the dialogue forums.

The Oslo Center has also had meetings and consultations with several of the most important actors within the constitutional review process, from the President of the republic to the grassroots of civil society, in order to press for broader inclusion and widespread consultation in the review process.

The Oslo Center has had meetings with the National Committee for Healing, Peace and Reconciliation about the framework and process for a national agenda for peace and reconciliation in South Sudan.

The outbreak of armed conflict between the Government and the main opposition group in December 2013 is a discouraging development in South Sudan. The Oslo Center, and the international community, encourage the parties to resolve the political differences through dialogue.



KENYA

Kenya held its first election under the new Constitution in March 2013. For the first time six elections were to be conducted on the same day, which presented a significant logistical challenge for all involved. On the election day Kenyans turned out in huge numbers and peacefully cast their votes late into the night. The election result was disputed but the electoral violence experienced after the disputed election in 2007 was not repeated.

The Oslo Center has been supporting political institutions and political processes in Kenya with a specific focus on the legislative framework. In partnership with International IDEA, the Oslo Center has worked with the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) and the Office of the Registrar of Political Parties (ORPP) in developing statutes, regulations, rules and procedures for the implementation of the new legislation. In particular the Oslo Center assisted in the implementation of the

newly-introduced six party lists, using a proportional system in Kenya for the very first time. The Oslo Center has also assisted in the development of the campaign financing legislation which was approved by Parliament in December.

In partnership with the ORPP and with the National Democratic Institute (NDI) the Oslo Center has continued to support the Political Parties Liaison Committee (PPLC) mechanism, which includes all political parties in Kenya. The Oslo Center has continued assisting political parties to comply with the legislation.

In partnership with international and national partners the Oslo Center will continue to assist political parties, the IEBC and the ORPP, as they further strengthen the democratic framework, structures, rules, procedures and political culture.



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BURMA / MYANMAR

The process of building a democracy is crucial in Burma/Myanmar. After decades of conflict and underdevelopment, enormous steps in the right direction have been taken in recent years. However, the situation between the ethnic minorities and the majority is tense. There are ceasefires in all major states, but scattered clashes are still continuing in several areas. At the time of writing there have been attempts to establish a National Cease Fire Agreement, but it is not signed yet. With the election coming up in 2015 there is a need to address these challenges and support the state-building process.

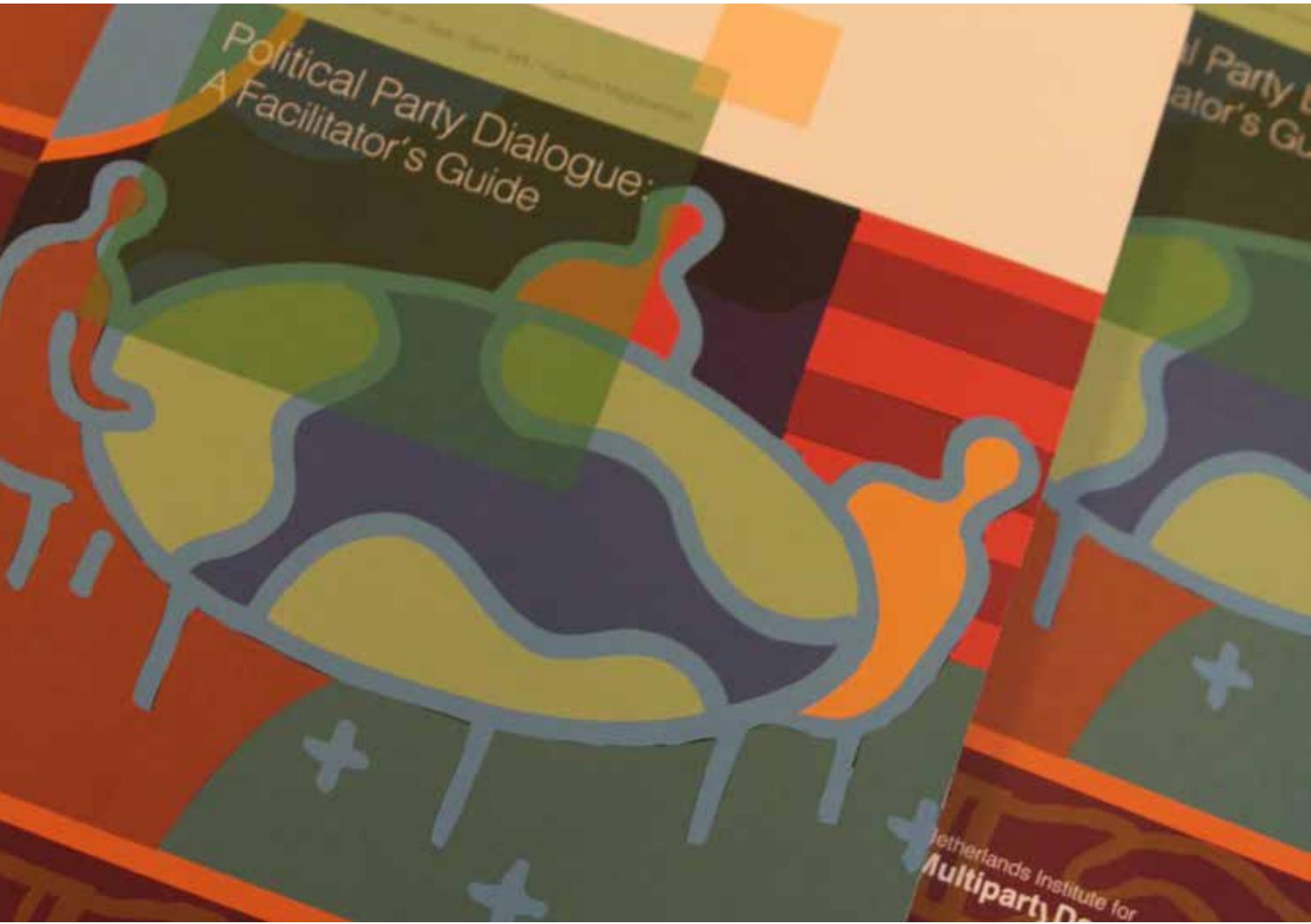
Burma/Myanmar is fragile when it comes to trust between the different ethnic communities. There is a huge need for reconciliation.

Therefore, the Oslo Center has started developing a Youth Dialogue forum for different ethnic minorities. We organized the first one in October 2013 together with local partners. Our aim is to contribute to creating a forum where young people can come together and discuss their future, in a way that hopefully will create a foundation for building trust and stability when

these young people later take on political positions. All ethnic groups in the country should be able to express themselves fully in the coming election campaign in 2015.

Tensions are also escalating between different religious groups. In a country that is principally Buddhist, Muslims and Christians are falling behind when it comes to equal rights. Sectarian and inter-ethnic violence has set back fragile political reforms introduced last year. Anti-Muslim riots threaten Burma/Myanmar's opening up to the world. For a large number of people, the security situation is unsafe. The Oslo Center will carry out further assessments of whether it is possible to establish a forum for inter-religious dialogue.

The Oslo Center has access to the President, other ministers, opposition leaders, ethnic minority leaders and other high-level key actors in Burma/Myanmar. This gives us a unique opportunity to address important issues related to democracy and nation building. In 2013 we have arranged high-level meetings in co-operation with Club de Madrid.



CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT

The Oslo Center believes in dialogue as an important mechanism in inclusive democracies combining political competition and political co-operation. Processes involving dialogue, consensus building and compromise are of great relevance for strengthening political trust and stability, and for agreeing on issues of national importance and/or pursuing a reform agenda.

In partnership with International IDEA and the Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD), the Oslo Center has developed a guide focusing on political party dialogue to assist practitioners in their work on political development.

The Political Party Dialogue: A Facilitator's Guide was launched in Stockholm and Nairobi in June, and in Brussels, Washington DC and the UN in New York in October.

The Oslo Center believes that issue based political parties are important for the democratic processes delivering services to the people. In close collaboration with the National Democratic Institute (NDI), the Oslo Center has therefore contributed to a research paper, "Political Parties and Democracy in Theoretical and Practical Perspectives: Developing Party Policies". The publication was launched in July.





FREEDOM OF RELIGION OR BELIEF

THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

The Oslo Center is working with the Norwegian Helsinki Committee and the Stefanus Alliance, among others, in a project focusing on freedom of religion or belief in Central Asia.

A strict law concerning freedom of religion or belief was adopted in Kyrgyzstan in 2009, with amendments representing further restrictions being passed in 2012. The provisions of this law restrict freedom of religion or belief in the country, in particular through state control of religious material belonging to religious communities as well as strict registration procedures for new religious organizations.

During 2013, the Oslo Center conducted fruitful dialogue meetings with the authorities in Bishkek. These meetings were constructive and we were

invited to find further means of co-operation. As a result, ten Kyrgyzstani bureaucrats from the President's Office and the State Commission on Religious Affairs visited Oslo on a study visit in October 2013. The purpose of the visit was for the delegation to learn more about the Norwegian model of inter-religious dialogue and co-operation and our experience in general on questions related to religion and politics, religious/ethnic minorities, and fighting against terror.

The delegation expressed a wish to continue the co-operation with the Oslo Center and the Helsinki Committee. The two organizations have offered to hold workshops for parliamentarians in Bishkek in spring 2014.





CHILD RIGHTS

Since early 2012 the Oslo Center has been actively involved in promoting the rights of the child in Kenya. In 2013 the Oslo Center further strengthened its role in this area by establishing a pilot project on juvenile justice in Kisumu.

The pilot project will focus on the issues of diversion, issues affecting street children and the reintegration of children who have come into contact with the law. More specifically, the Oslo Center will, in collaboration with our local partners the Undugu Society of Kenya, the West Kenya Law Society and the county administration, organize training workshops for police officers working with and for children in the county police stations. In addition, we aim to strengthen and support the work of the Undugu Society on the rescue and reintegration of children living on the streets and children who have come into contact with the law. Based on a Baseline Study

conducted on behalf of the Oslo Center in April/May 2013, Kisumu was chosen due to the high number of children living on its streets.

The Oslo Center has also strengthened its co-operation with the Children's Department in Kisumu, and will, in collaboration with the county administration, organize a roundtable with key actors on issues relating to children's rights and juvenile justice.

The Oslo Center has continued its co-operation with the National Democratic Institute (NDI) and the Inter-Party Youth Forum (IPYF) on raising awareness among youth politicians on child rights. The main aim of this co-operation is to place children's rights higher on the political agenda, and to ensure that the youth politicians take a child-sensitive approach in their political work.





A UNIVERSAL CODE OF CONDUCT ON HOLY SITES

In co-operation with One World in Dialogue (OWD), Religions for Peace (RfP) and Search for Common Ground (SFCG), the Oslo Center has developed a universal code of conduct on holy sites. During 2011, 2012 and 2013, a number of endorsements for the code have been obtained from religious leaders, interfaith networks and religious communities worldwide. The overall vision of the code of conduct is a world where adherents of all religions and traditions can freely and safely visit their holy sites, while the objective is to improve the protection of holy sites and to build trust and promote inter-religious reconciliation.

The working group is now in the process of exploring support within some key countries for developing a UN resolution in the spirit of the code of conduct. This work will proceed in 2014.

The work on implementing pilots of the code of conduct also continues. The pilot project in Bosnia-Herzegovina (BiH), supervised by the Oslo Center during its first year, is now moving into its fourth year of implementation. The overall goal of this project is enhanced trust and improved

relations across religious and ethnic communities in BiH, while the main objective is to improve the protection of religious objects and holy sites in BiH. The project's achievements include systematic reporting and recording of desecrations, joint public condemnations by religious leaders at the sites of the incidents, and the active engagement of other stakeholders like police, media and municipal administrations. The Inter-Religious Council in BiH is now working towards making this project permanent.

Another pilot began in Israel and Palestine in the autumn of 2012, in partnership with the Council of Religious Institutions of the Holy Land (CRIHL) and the Council of Religious Leaders in Israel. It includes research, monitoring, and educational activities to promote the protection of holy sites, as well as joint activities by religious leaders and the building of co-operation between relevant bodies. This pilot is being supervised by Search for Common Ground.

Two new pilots based on the code of conduct will begin in Indonesia and Nigeria in 2014.







US FOUNDATION



The Oslo Center US Foundation, established in 2008 and based in Minnesota, supports the ideals and goals of the international peace building work of the Oslo Center. Inspired by the success of the Oslo Center in Norway, the Oslo Center US Foundation envisions a world consisting of stable democracies respecting human dignity and human rights.

The OCUSF Board of Directors and Advisors engage professionals from their network of business, legal, non-profit and philanthropic areas to forge connections with other NGOs, foundations,

corporations and US governmental agencies in order to build capacity for the Oslo Center in Norway. OCUSF also engages local diaspora communities in local and global support for Oslo Center initiatives in their home countries.

A major initiative of OCUSF is developing partnerships with international business and development organizations who understand that stable democracies make their investments and development projects safer, more secure and sustainable.



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STAFF



Kjell Magne Bondevik, President

Mr. Bondevik is the founder and president of the Oslo Center for Peace and Human Rights. He was Prime Minister of Norway 1997-2000 and 2001-2005. He has also been Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of Church and Education. He was a member of the Norwegian Parliament from 1973-2005. Mr. Bondevik served as the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy to the Horn of Africa in 2006-2007. Mr. Bondevik holds the degree of Cand.Theol. and was ordained as a priest in the Lutheran Church of Norway in 1979.



Tore Torstad, Executive Director

Mr. Tore Torstad is the Executive Director of the Oslo Center. He has long and diverse experience within leadership and project management in Norway as well as internationally. Mr. Torstad has worked for the International Red Cross in Bosnia-Herzegovina and he was the Secretary-General of the Norwegian Guide and Scout Association from 2002 to 2007. From 2007-2012 he worked for Norwegian Church Aid in Sudan and South Sudan, three of these years as the Executive Director of their program.



Einar Steensnæs, Senior Advisor

Mr. Steensnæs is the former Executive Director at the Oslo Center. From 2009 he has had a supporting role in different projects and represents the Oslo Center in some cooperating organizations. Mr. Steensnæs had a long career in Norwegian politics, having been Minister of Education and Research (1989-90) and Minister of Petroleum and Energy (2001-2004). Since 2005 he has been a member of the Executive Board of UNESCO, Paris.



Cecilia Bylesjö, Special Advisor

Ms. Bylesjö is a Special Advisor with focus on program design, monitoring and evaluation, democratic processes and gender equality. She has previously worked for International IDEA, the National Democratic Institute, and the Carter Center, with a particular focus on institution building, elections, constitutions and gender in Asia, Africa and Europe. She holds a Masters degree in Political Science and Development Studies from Umeå University and the University of Malaysia.



Anne Hushagen, Special Advisor

Ms. Hushagen is Special Advisor at the Oslo Center. She has a Master's degree in Sociology, specializing in international migration and ethnic relations. Previously she has held different positions in the OSCE. Ms. Hushagen has also worked on Kosovo in the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on minority issues in the Ministry of Justice, and has also been Advisor and Project Coordinator for Norwegian Church Aid and the Nansen Dialogue Network in Kosovo.



Bjarte Tørå, Special Advisor

Mr. Tørå has more than 30 years of experience in democracy development and political party strengthening, working with political parties in countries such as Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Russia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. Mr. Tørå joined the National Democratic Institute (NDI) in 2001 and directed NDI's programs in Kenya for 8 years. He also extended his expertise to NDI's democracy assistance programs in Somalia and South Sudan. In January 2009 Mr. Tørå joined International IDEA, serving as the Head of the Political Party, Participation and Representation Program. At the Oslo Center Mr. Tørå works at the Democracy Assistance Program.



Håvard Kleppa, Communications Advisor

Mr. Kleppa is the press contact at the Oslo Center. Mr. Kleppa has worked as a radio and TV journalist for more than ten years in different national broadcasters in Norway. He is educated in journalism, social science and history. Mr. Kleppa is also working on the Oslo Center's Burma / Myanmar engagements.



Abdifatah Bashir Ahmed, Program Coordinator

Mr. Abdifatah is the program coordinator on the Somalia program based in Mogadishu. Mr. Abdifatah has previously worked with the National Democratic Institute (NDI) Somalia program in Nairobi, and has experience working on constitutional programs, legislative strengthening programs, civic education, focus group research and political parties. He holds a degree in Business Administration from Kampala International University.



Nikolai Hegertun, Project Coordinator

Mr. Hegertun is the project coordinator on Democracy Assistance, and has also been the project coordinator on the project "Religion and Development". He has experience of freelance journalism and worked for the Norwegian Church Aid on the West Bank. Mr. Hegertun has a Master's degree in Peace and Conflict Studies from the University of Oslo. His thesis analyzed the role of religious actors in conflict resolution. His first degree is in Culture and Communication Studies.



Sissel Fleischer Hauff, Administrative Assistant and Project Coordinator

Ms. Hauff is the administrative assistant at the Oslo Center and the project coordinator on the project "Child Rights in Kenya". She is a graduate of Queen Mary, University of London, and holds an LL.M. from the School of Oriental and African Studies in London. Her Masters dissertation focused on the international legal standards pertaining to child soldiers. She has previously been an intern with the United Nations Development Program in Cairo and worked for the Norwegian Church Aid on the West Bank.



OTHERS AFFILIATED TO THE OSLO CENTER

Student Interns in 2013: Bjørn Heger, Sunniva Hersir Sollid, Silje Belghaug Knarud, Lisa Govasli Nilsen and Edwin Mulimi.

Staff leaving in 2013: Tone Holme, Head of Administration.



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Ambassador

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

	2013	2012
INCOME		
Contribution	13 076 423	11 518 835
Other income	1 679 033	2 035 127
TOTAL INCOME	14 755 464	13 553 962
COST FROM OPERATIONS		
Compensation and social costs	6 396 322	7 001 630
Depreciation	27 906	32 122
Other operating expenses	8 450 145	5 210 642
TOTAL COST FROM OPERATIONS	14 874 373	12 244 394
PROFIT & LOSS FROM OPERATIONS	- 118 908	1 309 567
FINANCE		
Interest income	125 836	207 895
Financial income	276	10 108
Interest expenses	- 839	- 392
Financial expenses	2980	- 10 904
TOTAL FINANCE	128 253	206 707
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE	9 345	1 516 275
ALLOCATIONS		
Transferred to Other Equity	9 345	1 516 275
TOTAL ALLOCATIONS	9 345	1 516 275

PARTNERS 2013

Implementing Partners

- Club de Madrid
- International IDEA
- National Democratic Institute
- The Norwegian Helsinki Committee
- One World in Dialogue
- Religions for Peace
- Search for Common Ground
- South Sudan Youth Participation Agency Network

Strategic Partners

- The Carter Center
- The Crisis Management Initiative
- The Oslo Center US Foundation
- Partnership for Change
- The Stefanus Alliance
- University of Oslo



SPONSORS 2013

The Oslo Center is partly financed through agreements with private enterprises. These contributions have been given without preconditions other than those which follow from the Oslo Center's by-laws, strategic plan and good accounting practice.

The Democracy Assistance Program is supported by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and The Swedish Postcode Lottery.

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