Session 2: Democracy and Governance in Post-Authoritarian Transitions

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Authoritarianism

• **Authoritarianism** is a government system that values order and control over personal freedom.

• An authoritarian government is typically headed by a dictator.
Post-Authoritarian Transition

- A post-authoritarian transition is the period following the end of a dictatorship or an authoritarian regime. This transition is typically characterized by the re-establishment of democratic institutions, restoration of a transparent and accountable management of resources, opening of political space, and the promotion and defense of civil liberties and human rights.

- The transition happens through either a coup, a revolution or war, among others.

- Failure of this transition can lead to conflict or return to dictatorship.
Governance in Post-Authoritarian Transitions

• Nation-Building
• Centralized vs. Decentralized Power
• Mismanagement vs. Good Governance of Resources
• Dictatorship vs. Rule of law
Reconstruction, Security Sector Reform and Justice

• Consolidating the Peace
• Rebuilding Institutions: Courts, Security, Law Enforcement, Schools, etc.
• Reaffirmation of State Authority
• The ICC as Source of Instability?
Risks and Challenges of Post-Authoritarian Transitions

- Adieu, Strongman, Long Live the Dictator
- Liberation, the Constitution and Democracy
- Institutional Failure
- Ethnic Leadership, Regionalism, and National Unity
- State as Source of Instability
- Privatization and Criminalization of the Public Space
Elections, Governance and Legitimacy

• Voting for Change in 2006 (DRC)
• The Mirage of Democracy in 2011 (DRC)
• Legitimacy and Leadership (or lack thereof) and the consequences for security
• Constitutional revisions, Term limits, Protests and Repression (Central Africa)
Post-Authoritarian Transition Failure

The failure of post-authoritarian transition leads to instability and conflict. Cases of DRC, CAR, Burundi and South Sudan.

• State Collapse
• Conflict Creates Refugees and Refugees Create Conflict
• The Emergence of Militias
• Regional Actors and their Influence on Peace and Stability
• The Role of International Actors and Donors
Peacemaking and Peacekeeping

• The United Nations: Part of the Problem or Part of the Solution?
• The Emergence of a Strong Civil Society and its Impact on Peacemaking and Governance
• What is the alternative to the United Nations?
• Case of Force Intervention Brigade in DR Congo?
QUESTIONS/COMMENTS?