

# SECURITY COUNCIL

ELECTION  
MANIPULATION AND  
FRAUD



# SECURITY COUNCIL

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# Security Council

## Web sites and Glossary

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### WEB SITES :

- Election Investigation
- Public Trust in Manipulated Elections
- History of Elections
- Covering Electoral Manipulation
- Desinformation and Electoral Fraud

### GLOSSARY :

1. **Electoral fraud:** Illegal interference with the election process to alter results.
2. **Electoral integrity:** The adherence to democratic principles and fairness in the conduct of elections, including transparency, accuracy, and freedom from fraud or coercion.
3. **Voter Suppression :** Any measure or strategy, whether legal or extralegal, whose purpose or practical effect is to reduce voter turnout.
4. **Sanctions:** A strong action taken in order to make people obey a law or rule, or a punishment given when they do not obey.
5. **Civil liberties:** the rights of a person to do, think, and say what they want if this does not harm other people.
6. **Disinformation :** False information deliberately and often covertly spread (as by the planting of rumors) in order to influence public opinion or obscure the truth.
7. **Voter Intimidation:** Illegal behavior that uses threats, coercion, or pressure to interfere with a person's right to vote for their chosen candidate.
8. **vote buying:** The activity of giving money or support to people, groups, businesses, etc., or of making promises to them, in order to influence their choice or opinion in an election.
9. **Electoral Corruption:** unethical or illegal practices that compromise the integrity of the electoral process. This can occur at various stages of an election, including campaigning, voting, and counting of votes.
10. **Repression:** The use of force or violence to control a group of people.

### WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF SECURITY COUNCIL ?

The United Nations Charter established six main organs of the United Nations, including the Security Council. It gives primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security to the Security Council, which may meet whenever peace is threatened.

According to the Charter, the United Nations has four purposes:

- To maintain international peace and security;
- To develop friendly relations among nations;
- To cooperate in solving international problems and in promoting respect for human rights;
- and to be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations.

All members of the United Nations agree to accept and carry out the decisions of the Security Council. While other organs of the United Nations make recommendations to member states, only the Security Council has the power to make decisions that member states are then obligated to implement under the Charter. (United Nations, S.f.)



### GENERAL DATA AND INFORMATION

Electoral fraud "can be defined as any purposeful action taken to tamper with electoral activities and election-related materials in order to affect the results of an election, which may interfere with or thwart the will of the voters". (López-Pintor, 2010, p. 9)

Voter fraud, electoral fraud or vote rigging are intentional, illegal actions aimed at changing, influencing or forcing the results of an election – by either depressing or increasing a candidate's vote share, voting or registering to vote when a person is ineligible to do so under state or federal law, or forging ballots or other election-related documents. Different types of fraud occur at different stages of the election process, from voter registration and petition signature gathering to ballot tallying. (Ballotpedia, s.f.)

Some countries have laws that criminalize the distribution of false information that could influence voter behaviour and election results, and other forms of electoral fraud. Other countries that have laws that criminalize false information and fake news have used these laws to prosecute journalists and other individuals who criticize or otherwise challenge the government. Despite these regulations, many political groups and actors continue to push the envelope in attempts to manipulate public opinions, often taking advantage of loopholes or omissions in the legislation. (Cybercrime Module Disinformation And Electoral Fraud, s. f.)

# PROBLEMS

The issues discussed in this background paper are supported by academic research and international organizations. Birch (2011) explains that election manipulation can occur in different ways, including changing electoral rules, influencing voters through bribery or coercion, and manipulating the counting of votes. These practices can give unfair advantages to political actors and weaken electoral integrity.

Another important problem is the spread of misinformation and false claims about elections. International IDEA (2025) reports that electoral malpractice remains a problem in many countries, including vote buying, financial irregularities, and manipulation of electoral rules. It also warns that misleading information about election fraud can reduce public trust in electoral institutions and democratic processes.

Finally, strong and independent electoral institutions are important for preventing election fraud and manipulation. International IDEA emphasizes the need for transparency, oversight, and effective systems for resolving electoral disputes. However, weak institutions and political pressure can make elections more vulnerable to manipulation, which can damage public confidence in democracy.

# SECURITY COUNCIL

## Points to Discuss

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### POINTS TO DISCUSS

#### 1. **Vote buying in elections**

How can offering benefits to voters affect their decision in an election?

#### 2. **The use of fake news in political campaigns**

How does misleading information influence what voters believe and choose?

#### 3. **Election interference via social media**

How is social media used to manipulate the public opinion in an election?

#### 4. **Foreign interference in democratic elections**

How can a foreign organization attempt to indirectly influence another country's elections?

#### 5. **Manipulation of election polls to influence voters**

How can false or biased polling results change the voters' perceptions?

#### 6. **Bots and fake accounts in political campaigns**

How can fake profiles create a false appearance about the popularity of a political opinion?

#### 7. **Intimidation and violence against voters**

How can threats to voters affect their ability to make their own choice?

#### 8. **Illegal campaign financing**

How can money give a political campaign an unfair advantage over its rivals?

#### 9. **Electoral manipulation in authoritarian regimes**

How can authoritarian governments manipulate elections and limit competition to stay in control?

#### 10. **Historical exclusion of minorities from voting**

What laws or practices historically have been used to prevent certain groups from having the same voting right as others?

### ORGANISATIONS

- **Transparency International:**

Tracks global political corruption via its Corruption Perceptions Index and campaigns rigorously against dark money, political party capture, and illicit lobbying.



- **International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES):**

Operates the specialized Center for Anti-Corruption and Democratic Trust to combat systemic political and electoral fraud that threatens democracy



International Foundation  
for Electoral Systems

- **Integrity Initiatives International (III):**

Spearheads a global campaign to establish an International Anti-Corruption Court (IACC) to prosecute corrupt heads of state who operate with domestic impunity.



European  
Commission

- **European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF):**

Investigates fraud, misconduct, and corruption within European Union institutions and monitors the misuse of the EU budget.





# SECURITY COUNCIL

## Measures Taken

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### MEASURES TAKEN

International observation by entities such as the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe assesses whether elections meet global standards. They also make recommendations on reforms, such as changes to elections laws and systems, to strengthen integrity and align with democratic principles. (Inglis, 2026)

Electoral assistance are international efforts to counter rigged elections and improve election integrity, they support societies to develop electoral systems that reflect the will of the people and adhere to democratic principles.

Early warning and community resilience: Early warning efforts track threats of violence and intimidation against election officials, candidates and voters. They seek to mitigate risks and prepare for crises. This happens from the early stages of an election through election day

Real-time disinformation and local media reaction: Real-time fact-checking and debunking of false or manipulative information has proven critical to election integrity. (Inglis, 2026)

Neutrality, transparency and systems reform: Amid efforts to sow doubt in elections, increasing transparency and ethical standards can help build awareness and deepen trust.

Broad-based mobilization and civic campaigns: Significant voter turnout that delivers large winning margins make efforts to manipulate results more difficult. (Inglis, 2026)

Strategic coalitions and nonpartisan monitoring: Nonpartisan monitoring and observation of an electoral process is a key tool in the electoral assistance tool kit. Effective monitoring often involves coalitions of nonpartisan civic groups, and faith-based organizations, to ensure adequate coverage of polling stations and consistent application of standards. Key tools, such as parallel vote tabulation, or “quick counts,” which provide independent and statistically accurate reports on the quality of voting and counting process, have helped verify official election results. (Inglis, 2026)

### IMPORTANCE

Citizen trust in elections is essential for the legitimacy of elected representatives and the regime, especially in regimes with less experience with multiparty elections. Despite the importance of public trust in elections for regime legitimacy, the link between electoral manipulation and public trust in elections has been theoretically and empirically underdeveloped in the existing literature. (Kerr. Lührmann, 2017)

### OBJECTIVE

It is our objective to try and fight against these actions and make those who are responsible for them accountable for their actions, to ensure that we have a better future for everyone's security and rights. We believe that it is important to work together with other countries and organizations to find solutions to these problems and to prevent these actions from continuing to affect people around the world. It is also our objective to protect the rights of all people and make sure that everyone can live in a safe environment without having to fear for their security or their future. We want to support actions that can help prevent these situations and encourage countries to take responsibility when these problems happen. By working together and sharing ideas, we can create better solutions and help make sure that people's rights are respected. We also believe that every country has a responsibility to help create a safer future and to take action when the security and rights of people are at risk. Through cooperation, communication, and responsible actions, we hope to make a positive change and create a better future for everyone

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