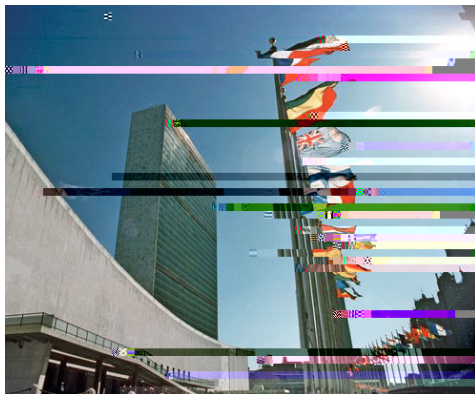
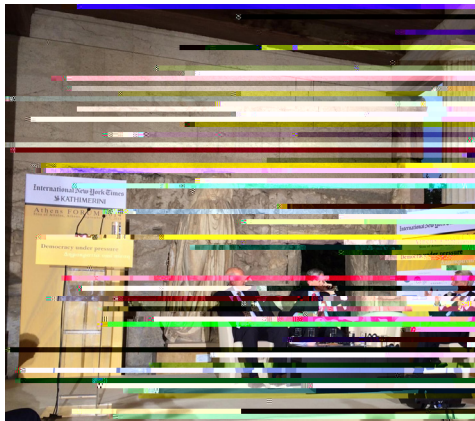


Secretary-General approves UNDEF short list of over 50 new projects

The UN Secretary-General has approved a short list of 52 project proposals for UNDEF's Ninth Round of Funding, following recommendations by the United Nations Democracy Fund Advisory Board. UNDEF has contacted those short-listed. Given the large volume of proposals, UNDEF is not able to contact all applicants individually. Inclusion in the short list is a significant achievement, but it does not in itself mean that the project proposal will be approved for funding. Short-listed applicants are now required to complete the final stage of the selection process -- negotiating a Project Document with UNDEF, which is in effect a contract between the grantor and the grantee. Only on the satisfactory conclusion of a project document, and its approval by the United Nations Controller, will the proposed project be formally approved for funds disbursement. The next window for project proposals is expected to open in mid-November. We encourage future applicants to start preparing now by going to the UNDEF website and reading project proposal guidelines, lessons learned for applicants, frequently asked questions and summaries of existing projects.



UNDEF to celebrate International Day of Democracy in Athens and New York



To mark the International Day of Democracy on 15 September, the **Athens Democracy Forum 2015** will be held for the third year by the International New York Times in cooperation with the UN Democracy Fund. The three-day programme will include discussions at the Acropolis Museum, the Old Athenian Parliament Building, the Megaron Conference Centre and the Ancient Agora of Athens -- the birthplace of democracy. Speakers will include His Highness the Aga Khan; Sir Richard Dearlove; Kishore Mahbubani; Paula Dobriansky; Giorgis Kaminis, Mayor of Athens; Paul Krugman and Roger Cohen of the New York Times; and Annika Savill, Executive Head of the UN Democracy Fund. Themes will include the question of whether liberal democracy is universally applicable; how the widening wealth gap impacts democratic governance; the

Democracy Forum provide the much-needed oxygen of dialogue... I am encouraged that you will discuss many complex issues that are at the heart of today's democratic debate -- from multiculturalism to modern media and the role money plays in politics."

At UN headquarters in New York, UNDEF and its partners in the UN Working Group on Democracy will host a discussion event on the theme "Space for Civil Society", in light of the growing restrictions on civil society organizations in a range of countries.

Speakers will include the Permanent Representatives of Bhutan, Chile, Poland, Sierra Leone and Sweden, as well as representatives from ActionAid International and the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law. The discussion will be

moderated by James Traub, columnist for Foreign Policy and author of *The Freedom Agenda*.

