



INNOVATIONS FOR SUCCESSFUL SOCIETIES

Leaders of power-sharing or unity governments face special challenges in identifying and implementing policy priorities. Two new ISS case studies profile executive power-sharing arrangements and show how leaders tried to foster coherent policies, effective governance, and conflict management. This series evaluates the pros and cons of several approaches.

A Year of Calm: Tunisia's Independent Government

In August 2013, Tunisia was at a tipping point. Following the assassination of a secularist politician—the second such killing that year—opposition parties demanded the government's resignation and the dissolution of the National Constituent Assembly. In October, four civil society organizations intervened and mediated talks between the two sides, leading to the appointment of Mehdi Jomaa as the new prime minister. This case study shows how Jomaa managed a temporary government in a challenging time and led the country to peaceful, credible elections in October 2014—winning Jomaa high popular approval and the civil society mediators the 2015 Nobel Peace Prize.

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Protest in Tunisia, August 2013. Photo by Robert Joyce.

Making Power Sharing Work: Kenya's Grand Coalition Cabinet

Following Kenya's disputed 2007 presidential election, fighting broke out between supporters of incumbent President Mwai Kibaki and supporters of opposition leader Raila Odinga, ultimately claiming 1,300 lives and displacing more than 350,000 people. A power-sharing agreement between the two leaders in February 2008 helped restore order and created a framework for shared leadership that included a dialogue mechanism and an independent monitoring system. The leaders drew on some past cabinet management practices and also agreed on several innovations. Despite the odds, Kenya's Grand Coalition cabinet managed to govern according to a unified policy agenda and adopt a new constitution.

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ISS Featured Interview

In a recent interview with ISS, **Mugo Kibati**, discusses his role in implementing [Kenya's Vision 2030](#), a long-term development plan that details specific political, economic, and social guidelines designed to transform Kenya into a competitive, middle-income country. Kibati is a former Director-General of the Vision 2030 Delivery Board. The Vision 2030 plan, which had been developed with civil society consultation beginning in 2005, proved to be an important element in forging consensus around a shared policy agenda among members of the [Grand Coalition cabinet](#).

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