



# Independent Diplomat

the diplomatic advisory group

## Independent Diplomat Communiqué: December 2009

### 2009 In Review

Independent Diplomat celebrated its fifth anniversary in 2009. In that time ID has demonstrated the value of an approach that had never been tried before: an outside actor inside the “closed box” of diplomacy. ID has had a marked impact on the diplomatic performance of even the most marginalised clients. For example, in the last twelve months, ID:

- Successfully led the National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma (NCGUB) in uniting the Burmese opposition for the first time in recent history around a plan for transition to democracy;
- Provided direct and strategic support, advice and assistance to the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Alliance of Small Island States in advancing long-term targets to prevent the most catastrophic of climate impacts; and
- Made a significant impact on the effectiveness of the foreign policy of the POLISARIO Front, which as a result has generated increased attention for human rights abuses and exploitation of Western Sahara’s natural resources by Morocco.

### Looking Ahead to 2010

In 2010, many of ID’s clients will face complex diplomatic situations that, without assistance, could lead to violence and repression.

- The NCGUB needs assistance in 2010 to encourage the international community to endorse their Proposal as a platform to participate in the Burmese national elections scheduled for 2010 if basic conditions for free and fair elections are met.
- The Copenhagen Climate Summit produced the weakest of outcomes, with nothing of substance to protect the most vulnerable states from the intensifying impacts of climate change. In 2010, ID will continue its work to enhance the voice and diplomatic influence of the Alliance of Small Island States in a formidably difficult process dominated by the world’s biggest polluters.
- The POLISARIO Front of Western Sahara has an urgent need for assistance to launch a public relations

campaign to secure a human rights monitoring capacity as part of the UN’s mandate in 2010.

- ID’s newest client, the Government of Southern Sudan, will be navigating with ID’s help, the complex international discussion of the Sudanese North-South Comprehensive Peace Agreement that ended the 22-year civil war.

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