WHY HEALTHY DEMOCRACY IS PART OF TRUE PROGRESS … AND HOW TO MEASURE IT.

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This paper provides a short overview of how measures of democratic health (including active citizenship, human rights and good governance) fit within the broader framework of progress (defined as equitable and sustainable wellbeing). It examines the critical links between democracy and progress; why democracy measures have not generally been included in broader progress measures, and why they should be integrated as a key dimension within this broader framework rather than developed separately. It then reviews some current ‘best practice’ models for measuring democracy, proposes a framework and key indicators for a healthy democracy embedded within a framework of broader societal progress, and suggests some directions for strategic change.