The Policy Breakfast series, pioneered by IID in Bangladesh, promotes evidence-informed and solution-driven policy debate among key influencers of policy community. It follows Chatham House rule for candid discussion where discussions during the event remain private without the presence of media and comments are not quoted outside. National Democratic Institute (NDI) and the High Commission of Canada in Bangladesh have been the major partners of this series. For more on the event, visit www.iidbd.org/pb

### The Context

Bangladesh is approaching an important juncture as the country prepares for the National Elections 2018, which will involve all major political parties. With Bangladesh on its journey towards middle income country status, much is at stake when it comes to sustaining the economic growth and job creation required for successful graduation.

From a public policy perspective, Bangladesh’s ability to attract foreign investments, brand itself and enhance its image in a global context will therefore, be more crucial than ever.

In this context, the Policy Breakfast proposes a facilitated discussion on how the political parties, government institutions, civil society organizations, media and development partners can play a role to ensure that in the aftermath of the election campaign, and with the whole world watching, Bangladesh will emerge in a strong position to achieve its goals.

### The Scope

It is recognized that the upcoming election is the culmination of long political debates and discussions. It is also recognized that this policy breakfast is happening only three weeks before the election.

So the Policy Breakfast would keep the focus of the discussion primarily on suggestions and actions that would be useful in the short term that can be addressed before the 2018 election.

The discussion, from a public policy perspective, may also include suggestions that will not only help the next election but will also pave the way to broader reform initiatives for future elections.

### The Question

How would the National Election 2018 impact on Bangladesh’s international brand?