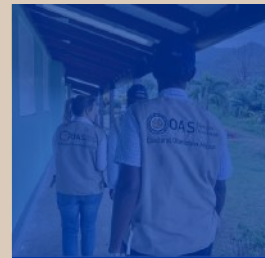
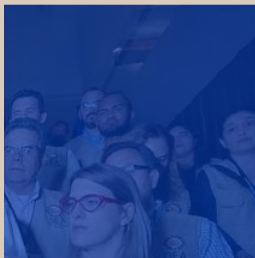
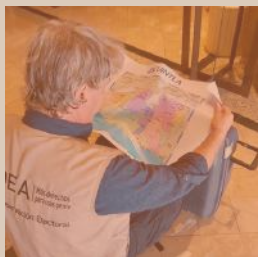
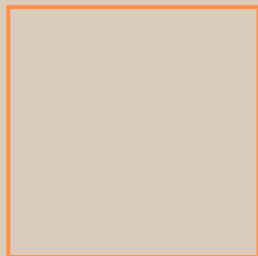


2019 DECO YEAR IN REVIEW



2019 YEAR IN REVIEW OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF ELECTORAL
COOPERATION AND OBSERVATION
OF THE OAS



2019 DECO YEAR IN REVIEW

“The expertise of the OAS is recognized throughout the Americas and the world for its professionalism, independence and adherence to democratic standards. Our Missions have achieved such a high level of technical capacity that they are able to identify surgical electoral fraud. And they have the courage to report it.”

LUIS ALMAGRO,
OAS SECRETARY GENERAL



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“2019 YEAR IN REVIEW OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTORAL COOPERATION AND OBSERVATION (DECO) OF THE SECRETARIAT FOR STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY (SSD)”

OAS General Secretariat



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INTRODUCTION DECO 2019 YEAR IN REVIEW


This document summarizes the work of the Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation (DECO) of the Secretariat for Strengthening Democracy in 2019. It highlights key aspects of the Electoral Observation Missions deployed by the OAS in the Americas, as well as cooperation projects and other activities developed by DECO throughout the year to support the improvement of electoral processes in the region.

In 2019, DECO deployed eight Electoral Observation Missions in seven countries: El Salvador (Presidential Elections), Guatemala (General Elections and Presidential Runoff), Ecuador (Local Elections and Elections to the Council for Citizen Participation and Social Control), Panama (General Elections), Colombia (Local Elections), Bolivia (General Elections) and Dominica (General Elections). With the financial support of 22 donors, a total of 494 experts and international observers were deployed to ensure the presence of the OAS in more than 3,600 voting centers in the hemisphere.

In terms of Electoral Cooperation, DECO worked in three countries: Honduras, Dominica and Bolivia. In Honduras, the department collaborated with the National Congress on reforms to secondary electoral legislation, which included the delivery of a report on electoral reforms and the preparation of two draft bills. In Dominica, DECO participated in a Joint Special Mission with CARICOM and the Commonwealth in order to support the country's efforts to implement electoral reform. Finally, DECO carried out an Analysis of the Electoral Integrity of the General Elections held on October 20, 2019 in Bolivia.

The department also pursued inter-institutional exchanges with its electoral counterparts in the region and globally. In November, the OAS brought together more than 30 authorities from 17 countries for the XIV Inter-American Meeting of Electoral Management Bodies (RAE, for its Spanish acronym). The meeting, which took place in Panama City, sought to encourage cooperation among the authorities of the region and the exchange of good practices around topics such as electoral reforms, political strategies in digital media, political communication and electoral violence.





OBSERVING ELECTORAL PROCESSES



I. ELECTORAL OBSERVATION MISSIONS

EOMs 2019

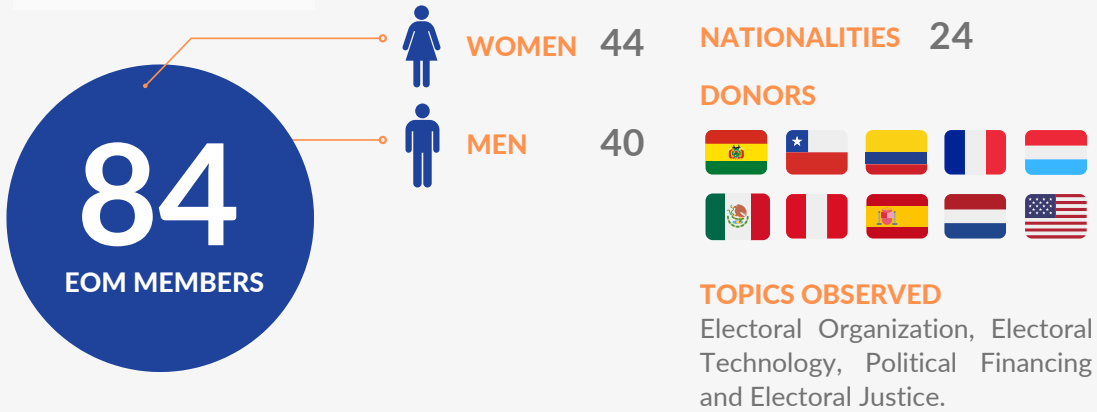
- El Salvador, Presidential Elections - February 3
- Ecuador, Local Elections and Elections to the Council for Citizen Participation and Social Control - March 24
- Panama, General Elections - May 05
- Guatemala, General Elections - June 16
- Guatemala, Presidential Runoff - August 11
- Bolivia, General Elections - October 20
- Colombia, Local Elections - October 27
- Dominica, General Elections - December 6





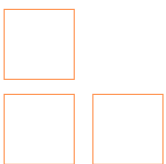
EL SALVADOR

Presidential Elections
February 3, 2019.



The OAS/EOM for the Presidential Elections in El Salvador was headed by Juan Pablo Corlazzoli. The Mission made a preliminary visit and observed the preparations of the electoral process from December 2018.

The work of the Mission consisted of a substantive analysis of topics such as: electoral organization and technology, political financing and electoral justice. The EOM had a team of 84 observers and specialists from 24 countries. On the day of the election, they were present and observing in the 14 departments of the country from before the opening of the polling stations (JRV) to the moment of the vote count and the transmission of results. In total, OAS observers visited more than 400 voting centers and 1,177 polling stations.



Some recommendations of the OAS/EOM:

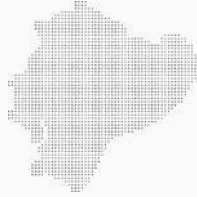
- Establish a legal obligation for political parties to periodically provide the TSE with updated records of their affiliates
- Develop ongoing programs to bolster the training of election officials, as well as education in election civics.
- Prioritize the development of a general calendar of activities that allows modifications to the results transmission system to be staggered, without interrupting or altering prior stages.
- Undertake the necessary reforms so that the legal framework includes a more exact system of legal remedies, either through the Electoral Code or a new election procedural law.
- Strengthening campaign finance rules in order to encourage an environment in which accountability is a key part of the electoral process.



Visit to Polling Stations. San Salvador, El Salvador.

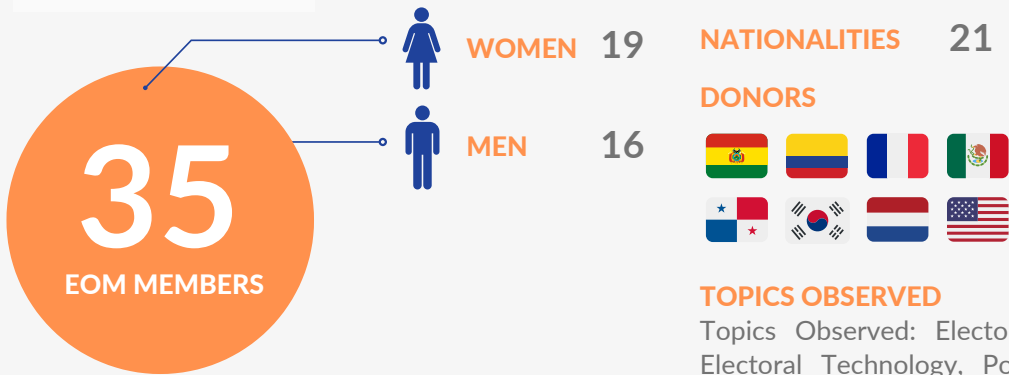
The final report was presented on September 18, 2019 and is available at the following link:

<http://www.oas.org/eomdatabase/GetFileA.aspx?id=412-1166-27-0>



ECUADOR

Local Elections and Elections to the Council for Citizen Participation and Social Control (CPCCS)
March 24, 2019.



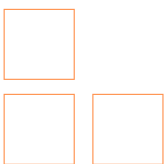
TOPICS OBSERVED

Topics Observed: Electoral Organization, Electoral Technology, Political Financing, Electoral Justice, Political Participation of Women and Political Participation of Indigenous and Afrodescendant Peoples.

The OAS/EOM for the Local and CPCCS elections in Ecuador was headed by the former vice president of Costa Rica, Kevin Casas-Zamora.

The OAS deployed a team of 35 specialists and observers from 21 countries, who carried out a substantive analysis of electoral organization and technology, political financing, electoral justice, women's political participation, and the participation of indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples.

On Election Day, the Mission was deployed in 18 provinces of Ecuador from the opening of the polling stations (JRV for its Spanish acronym) to the counting of ballots and the transmission of results, visiting a total of 192 voting centers and 869 JRV.



Some recommendations of the OAS/EOM:

- Include in the electoral calendar, the time established by law for complaints, appeals and challenges to administrative actions and court rulings.
- That Ecuadorian legislation ensures that the mechanisms for objections or challenges are truly effective and efficient, and the TCE is firmly established as the organ of last appeal in electoral matters.
- That the CNE take steps to ensure that its website transmits uninterrupted information from the beginning of the vote tabulation process until all tabulation processes are complete.
- Adopt measures to speed up the voting process. Consideration could also be given to legislative reform which allows persons waiting in line at the time centers close to cast their votes, as is the case in other countries in the region.
- Include an ethnicity variable in the electoral roll, in coordination with the Civil Registry, in order to make the political participation of Ecuador's various nationalities, peoples, and ethnicities more visible.

In its Final Report, the Mission recognized the efforts of the Republic of Ecuador to improve its electoral system. The EOM highlighted the reforms aligned to recommendations made by the OAS/EOM in its Preliminary Report, which had to do with the political participation of women, the inclusion of indigenous and afrodescendant populations, and the strengthening of equity and transparency in their political finance regulations.



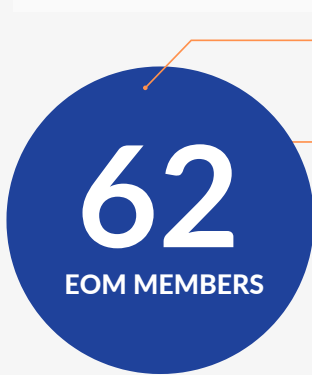
Election Day. Quito, Ecuador.

The final report was presented on June 19, 2020 and is available at:
<http://www.oas.org/eomdatabase/GetFileA.aspx?id=413-1222-27-0>



PANAMA

General Elections
May 5, 2019.



WOMEN 27



MEN 35

NATIONALITIES 18

DONORS

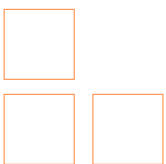


TOPICS OBSERVED

Electoral Organization, Electoral Technology, Political Financing, Electoral Justice, Political Participation of Women, Political Participation of Indigenous Peoples and Social Media.

The OAS/EOM led by the former President of Colombia, Andrés Pastrana, comprised 62 international observers and experts from 18 countries, who were deployed in the 10 states of the country. The EOM arrived in Panama on April 21. In the days before the election, the members of the Mission held meetings with electoral and government authorities, civil society, and political parties.

On Election Day, the EOM was present at 1,067 polling stations in 303 voting centers, from their opening through to the counting and transmission of results. The Mission also observed a pilot test for the implementation of electronic voting at the ATLAPA Convention Center. In total, 10 polling stations used this modality.



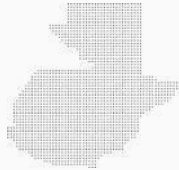
Some recommendations of the OAS/EOM:

- Establish a competitive mechanism for the selection and appointment of first-instance electoral judges, and of guarantee judges, trial judges, and compliance judges, and ensuring the autonomy of their actions with respect to the higher courts.
- Equip the Office of the Attorney for Elections with sufficient economic and human resources so that it can fully discharge its constitutional and legal duties.
- Review the formula for distributing pre-electoral public financing, in order to enhance the equity of the electoral competition.
- Eliminate the clause that allows parties to bypass the parity requirement when presenting lists.
- Incorporate the ethnic variable in the electoral roll in order to ensure availability of the information needed to improve registration and identification policies for indigenous and Afro-descendant populations.
- Review current regulations so that decisions to remove content from social networks are made after an authority with judicial jurisdiction determines there has been a violation of regulations.



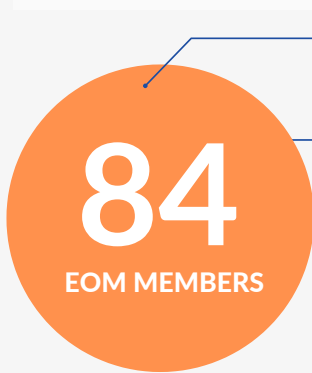
Election Day, Panamá.

The Final Report was presented on February 19, 2020 and is available at:
<http://www.oas.org/eomdatabase/GetFileA.aspx?id=414-1207-5-0>



GUATEMALA

General Elections
June 16, 2019



WOMEN 39

MEN 45

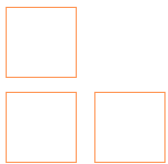
NATIONALITIES 23

DONORS



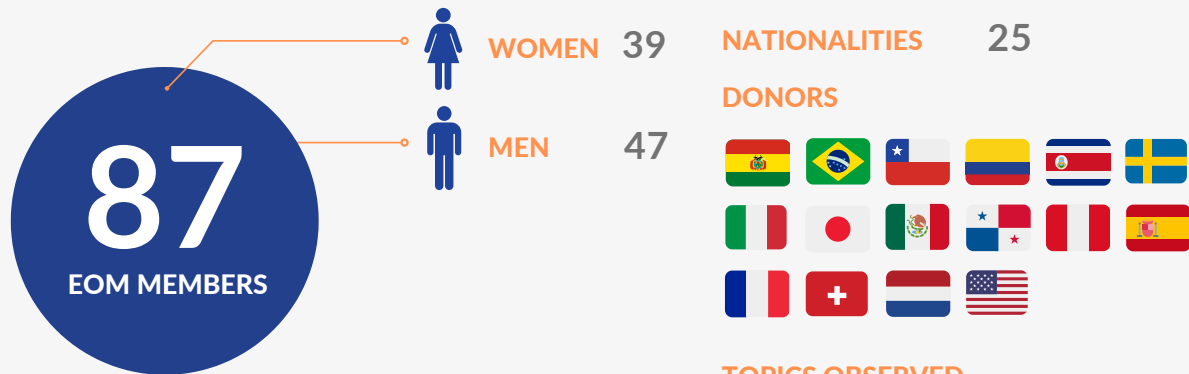
TOPICS OBSERVED

Electoral Organization, Electoral Technology, Political Financing, Electoral Justice, Political Participation of Women, Political Participation of Indigenous and Afro-descendant Peoples, Electoral Violence and Voting Abroad.



GUATEMALA

Presidential Runoff
August 11, 2019



TOPICS OBSERVED

Electoral Organization, Electoral Technology, Political Financing, Electoral Justice, Political Participation of Women, Political Participation of Indigenous and Afro-descendant Peoples, Electoral Violence and Voting Abroad.



The OAS/EOMS for the General Elections and the Presidential Runoff in Guatemala were headed by Luis Guillermo Solís, former President of Costa Rica.

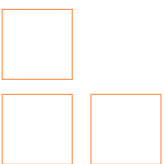
For the General Elections, the OAS/EOM deployed 84 observers and specialists from 23 countries. The Mission’s specialists conducted a substantive analysis of: Electoral Organization and Technology, Political Financing, Electoral Justice, Political Participation of Women, Political Participation of Indigenous and Afro-descendant Peoples, Electoral Violence and Voting Abroad.

On Election Day, the Mission was deployed in the 22 departments of the country, as well as in two of the four cities where voting abroad was implemented for the first time. Observers were present from the opening of the polling stations, through to the tabulation of votes and transmission of results. In total, the observers visited 1,132 polling stations in 333 voting centers.

Since no presidential formula obtained the votes required to win in the first round, the Supreme Electoral Tribunal announced that there would be a second round on Sunday, August 11, 2019. On this occasion, the OAS deployed a team of 87 specialists and observers from 25 countries. The Mission was present in 2,058 polling stations in 665 centers in the country.

Some recommendations of the OAS/EOM:

- Establish judicial and legal mechanisms to enable all documents issued during the different stages of an election to be resolved in time, so that there is a full guarantee for the exercise of fundamental rights and at the same time the electoral process is endowed with legal certainty and security.
- Consider automatically registering all citizens who obtain their PID, in order to simplify and automate their inclusion in the voter register. Implementing this procedure would require cooperation between RENAP and TSE, and would not affect their individual areas of competence.
- Redesign the preliminary results transmission system and include technologies that guarantee greater security for the results.
- Establish affirmative action measures to increase the number of women represented in political bodies, on the basis of a quota that is gradually increased to parity.
- Include the ethnic variable in the voter register in order to have official data on their electoral behavior. This would make it possible to design and implement public policies oriented to the full political participation of indigenous people in democratic processes.
- Make campaign advertising obligatory for all licensed media or media using state assets.





Election Day. Chimaltenango, Guatemala.

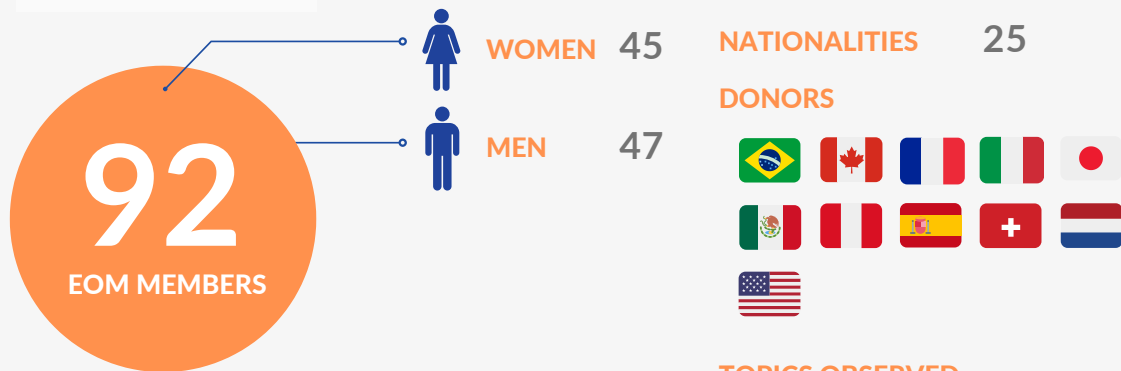
The Preliminary Report was presented on August 12, 2019 and is available at the following link: <http://www.oas.org/eomdatabase/GetFileA.aspx?id=415-1165-37-0>





BOLIVIA

General Elections
October 20, 2019.



TOPICS OBSERVED

Electoral Organization, Electoral Technology, Political Financing, Electoral Justice, Political Participation of Women, Political Participation of Indigenous and Afrodescendant Peoples, Social Media and Voting Abroad.

Observation activities for the General Elections began with the deployment of a technical delegation of five specialists for the Primary Elections that were held on January 27.

The Electoral Observation Mission arrived in the country on October 7. It was headed by the former Foreign Minister of Costa Rica, Manuel González Sanz and comprised 92 observers and specialists from 25 countries.

In the days before the election, the members of the Mission held meetings at the national and local levels, with authorities and technicians of the Plurinational Electoral Body (EPO), government authorities, political parties, candidates, and representatives of civil society, the academia and the diplomatic community, among others.

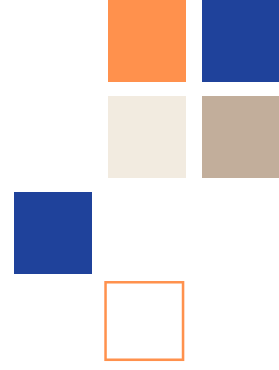
On Election Day, OAS observers were deployed in the nine departments of the country. They visited 991 polling stations in 352 voting centers, from set-up and opening to the counting of votes and transmission of results.

Some recommendations of the OAS/EOM:

- Select the new authorities of both the Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE) and the departmental courts (TED), under the criteria established by law, establishing clear and transparent procedures that ensure confidence at each of the stages. It will be essential that the result reflect the political and social plurality of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, as well as the technical capacity of the selected people.
- Control of and responsibility for the rapid results transmission system and official tabulation must remain with staff of the OEP at all times.
- Take the necessary actions to ensure that electoral materials include sufficient security measures in their design and production in order to eliminate the possibility of duplication or falsification.
- Prioritize measures for the safekeeping, custody and traceability of all sensitive electoral materials.
- In the interest of equity in the competition, it is suggested that the participation of candidates in the inauguration of public works throughout the campaign and especially during the period of the electoral ban, be limited by legislation.
- Establish the necessary mechanisms so that the lists that arrive at the polling stations have parity.
- That all requirements imposed on the free circulation of opinion polls must respect the criteria of proportionality and legality.

The **Preliminary Report** was presented on October 23, 2019 and is available at:
<http://www.oas.org/eomdatabase/GetFileA.aspx?id=418-1209-25-0>

The **recommendations** presented by the Electoral Observation Mission on December 11, 2019, are available at:
http://www.oas.org/documents/eng/press/Recommendations-EOM-Bolivia-2019_MG.pdf

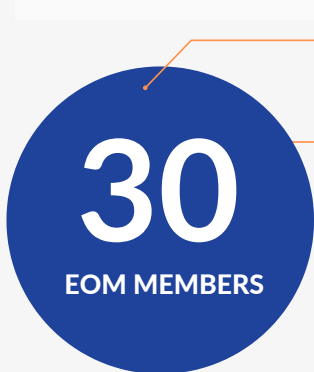


Election Day. La Paz, Bolivia.



COLOMBIA

Local Elections
October 27, 2019.



WOMEN 13



MEN 17

NATIONALITIES 18

DONORS



TOPICS OBSERVED

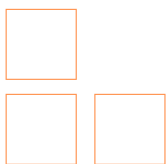
Electoral Organization and Technology, Political Financing, Electoral Justice, Political Participation of Women and Electoral Violence.

The OAS Electoral Observation Mission for the Local Elections in Colombia was headed by Leonardo Valdés Zurita, Former President of the Federal Electoral Institute of Mexico.

The Mission arrived in the country on October 18 and in the days prior to the election held meetings with electoral and government authorities, political parties and movements, and representatives of academia and civil society organizations, in order to hear their impressions about the electoral process.

The OAS/EOM had 30 specialists and international observers from 18 countries, who were deployed in 15 departments of the country and in Bogotá. On Election Day, the Mission visited a total of 390 polling stations and 119 voting centers in 41 different counties.

The specialists conducted a substantive analysis of key aspects of the electoral process, related to electoral organization and technology, political financing, electoral justice, women's political participation and electoral violence.



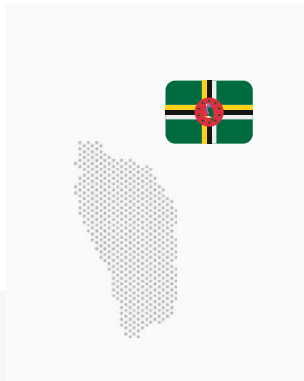
Some recommendations of the OAS/EOM:

- Close the Electoral Census further in advance of the election in order to allow enough time for the electoral authorities to conduct a proper review.
- Start Plan Agora – an initiative focused on combatting political violence, electoral crimes, illegal financing of campaigns, among others – as soon as the elections are announced (one year before Election Day) such that potential candidates can receive support before announcing their candidacy, without fearing for their safety.
- Adopt a parity law in the terms established by the Constitution.
- Simplify the E-14 counting forms and produce a copy document that feeds into the preliminary count system and the Counting Committees.
- Institute legal reforms that acknowledge gender-based violence and assign clear mandates to the government institutions in charge of preventing, punishing, and eradicating this violence through an approach that includes both punitive and administrative sanctions.
- Unify the rules regulating elections and the system of electoral justice into a single electoral code, which would facilitate certainty. Create incentives and accelerate the procedures for accessing public financing. This will reduce the influence of private contributions on election campaigns.



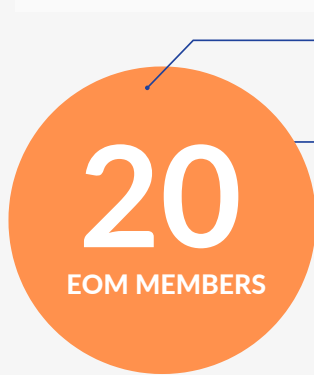
Visit to Suárez, Cauca

The Preliminary Report was presented on October 29, 2019 and is available at the following link:
<http://www.oas.org/eomdatabase/GetFileA.aspx?id=416-1173-37-0>



DOMINICA

General Elections
December 6, 2019



WOMEN 9

MEN 11

NATIONALITIES 14

DONORS



TOPICS OBSERVED

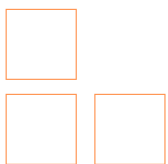
Electoral Organization, Electoral Technology, Electoral Registries, Political Financing, Electoral Justice, Political Participation of Women and Voting Abroad.

The OAS/EOM for the General Elections in Dominica was led by Hubert Ingraham, former Prime Minister of the Bahamas.

The Mission arrived in the country on November 30. In the days leading up to the election, the Mission's leadership held meetings with electoral and government authorities, political parties, representatives of civil society and other international observation missions.

The Mission included 20 observers and specialists from 14 countries, who deployed throughout the 21 constituencies of Dominica to observe the elections. On Election Day, OAS observers visited a total of 190 polling stations, from their opening to the tallying and transmission of preliminary results.

The OAS/EOM conducted a substantive analysis of issues related to Electoral Organization and Technology, Electoral Registries, Political Financing, Electoral Justice, the Political Participation of Women and Voting Abroad.



Some recommendations of the OAS/EOM:

Amend the Registration of Electors Act to provide for a full enumeration exercise to be conducted to replace the voters list in existence and thereafter allow for periodic verification of the voters' list.

Coordination and data-sharing between the Offices of the Chief Elections Officer, the Registrar General and the Immigration Office to better coordinate the information required to update the voter list, including formats for submission, the use of a unique identifier (i.e. birth registration number), and the frequency and method of submission.

Explore options for a voting abroad mechanism, taking into account the size and economic contributions of Dominicans abroad. Initial steps in this regard could include a comprehensive review of current practices in countries of similar size and diaspora.

Consider initiatives, including adoption of gender quotas, intended to enhance women's participation in the electoral process.

Consider the introduction of legislation to regulate political party and campaign financing, including clear limits on campaign spending, the identification of the sources of funding, the prevention of anonymous donations, and the limitation of private and in-kind donations to political and electoral campaigns. In this regard, the OAS model legislation on campaign financing may provide a useful point of departure.



Core Group, Observers and Specialists. Roseau, Dominica.

The Preliminary Report was presented on December 7, 2019 and is available at the following link:

<http://www.oas.org/eomdatabase/GetFileA.aspx?id=419-1181-37-0>

2019 DECO YEAR IN REVIEW



2019 DECO YEAR IN REVIEW



2

TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND FOLLOW UP TO OAS/EOM RECOMMENDATIONS





HONDURAS

Electoral Reform

In October 2018, on the request of the President of the National Congress of Honduras, the General Secretariat of the OAS formed a group of international experts to prepare a diagnosis and a proposal on electoral reform, which were to be based on the observations and recommendations of the Electoral Observation Mission (EOM) deployed for the 2017 General Elections.

On December 12, 2018, the OAS delivered its “Final Report: electoral reform proposals” to the Honduran National Congress. The document included various reform proposals, grouped into three main areas: institutional design, electoral process and political party system. The report served as the basis for approval, in January 2019, of constitutional reform creating the National Electoral Council and the Electoral Justice Tribunal.

In order to provide technical advice on the reform of secondary legislation to implement the approved constitutional reform, the OAS Secretary General and the President of the National Congress agreed, in February 2019, to continue the technical cooperation project.



What was accomplished?

The technical group of international experts was reconstituted. Over several months the group met with political and social actors, and participated in a technical working group made up of representatives from the main political parties with representation in the Honduran Congress.

In July 2019 the group of experts presented a report with the key considerations to be taken into account in the new electoral laws, as well as a draft electoral and procedural law. The experts worked with a broad range of political sectors, maintaining fluid and constructive dialogue with the main political parties.

The proposals submitted to Congress seek to provide guarantees and balance in decision-making in electoral matters, guarantee access to an independent and impartial electoral justice system, have orderly electoral processes with trained electoral officials, standardized polling stations and transparent vote-counting mechanisms. Likewise, the draft laws seek to strengthen and improve regulation of the party system, with an emphasis on women's equal access to elected posts, and reiterate the importance of the Financing, Transparency and Inspection Unit in the new Honduran Electoral System.

The two draft laws presented by the OAS served as the basis for finalizing the country's electoral and procedural laws, which are being discussed in the National Congress and are pending approval.

On September 10, following the presentation of the OAS report, the National Congress of Honduras reached the necessary consensus to appoint the authorities of the new electoral bodies created through the January 2019 constitutional reform.

Donors: National Congress of the Republic of Honduras.



Meeting in Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

BOLIVIA

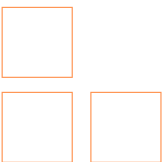
Analysis of the Electoral Integrity of the General Elections in Bolivia

Responding to a request from the Government of Bolivia, the OAS General Secretariat carried out an Analysis of the Electoral Integrity of the 2019 Bolivian General Elections, which included verification of the tabulation of results, statistical aspects, and verification of the process and chain of custody. In order to ensure the seriousness and rigor of this task, the Secretary General, Luis Almagro, requested that the audits' conclusions be binding on both parties.

On October 30, 2019, the OAS General Secretariat and the Government of Bolivia signed the agreements related to the Electoral Integrity Analysis. In these documents, it was established that the Government of Bolivia would guarantee all the facilities for the adequate fulfillment of the audit of the results of the Elections of October 20, 2019, as well as the verification of statements of poll, statistical aspects, as well as an overall verification of the process and chain custody.

Based on this objective, the scope was defined around four essential components of the electoral process:

- Infrastructure and operation of the computer systems used for the transmission of preliminary results and the official results.
- Authenticity and reliability of the tally sheets, as well as of the data entered into the system for the transmission of preliminary results and the official results system.
- Comprehensive custody plan of all electoral material (tally sheets, ballots, voter rolls, among others).
- Flow of the data load of the preliminary electoral results and the official results systems.



What was accomplished?

Just 11 days after the elections, a team of 36 specialists from 18 countries were deployed, including electoral lawyers, statisticians, computer experts, specialists in documents, calligraphy, chain of custody and electoral organization. The group of experts and auditors arrived in the country on October 31, 2019 and began their activities on November 1, 2019. The team worked without interruption collecting, systematizing and analyzing information until November 9.

The team presented a preliminary report on November 10, 2019, through which it indicated that it could not validate the results of the election. As a result it recommended another electoral process be held with new electoral authorities. A final report presented to the OAS Permanent Council provided detailed information on the findings of the audit team:

- Systems for the transmission of preliminary electoral results and official results were flawed.
- Existence of a pattern of manipulation, falsification and tampering with tally sheets.
- Poor chain of custody.
- Unreliable computing records.

The Final Report was presented on December 4, 2019 and is available at the following link:
<http://www.oas.org/en/spa/deco/Report-Bolivia-2019/>



Team of Auditors. La Paz, Bolivia

DOMINICA

Electoral Reform

The Government of Dominica requested the OAS General Secretariat participate in a Joint Special Mission with the CARICOM and Commonwealth Secretariats. The Mission's objective was to support the country's efforts in various areas of electoral reform.

The Mission comprised eight persons, who were present in Dominica from August 6 to 9, 2019. The OAS Secretary for Strengthening Democracy, Dr. Francisco Guerrero and DECO Specialist Melene Glynn represented the OAS. Prior to their arrival in Roseau, Dominica, members of the Mission held weekly teleconferences (commencing in July 2019) in order to develop the Mission's work plan and exchange information.

During its official visit, the Mission met with a wide range of actors to gather information and perspectives on issues related to possible electoral reform in Dominica, including the use of voter identification cards and updating the electoral register.

What was accomplished?

A final report with findings and recommendations was presented to the Government of Dominica on September 17, 2019. The report was based on the analysis of the experts and meetings with Dominica's authorities, political parties and civil society, and took into account information and recommendations emanating from previous visits.

The report was also delivered to the authorities and publicly disseminated so that both the political parties and the general public had access to the findings.

The Final Report was presented on September 17, 2019 and is available at the following link:

<http://www.oas.org/documents/eng/press/Report-of-the-Joint-Special-Reform-Mission-to-Dominica-2019.pdf>



Meeting with Mr. Lennox Linton, Leader of the Opposition in Dominica



Meeting with Hon. Prime Minister, Roosevelt Skerrit and his Cabinet.

2019 DECO YEAR IN REVIEW



3

EXCHANGES AND PROFESSIONALIZATION OF ELECTORAL OBSERVATION





I. EXCHANGES

FOURTEENTH INTER-AMERICAN MEETING OF ELECTORAL MANAGEMENT BODIES (RAE FOR ITS SPANISH ACRONYM)

WHAT IS THE RAE? It is a meeting among high-level authorities of electoral management bodies. Since 2018, the Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation has formally officiated as Technical Secretariat for the meeting, as mandated by the OAS General Assembly.

Date: November 13 and 14, 2019

Place: Panama City, Panama.

Coordinated with: Electoral Tribunal of Panama

Main topics: Good practices and lessons learned from the 2019 presidential elections, as well as the exchange of experiences on topics such as electoral reforms, political strategies in digital media and violence in electoral contexts. A Workshop on Political Communication for Electoral Authorities was also held.

Participants: 30 authorities and representatives of 29 electoral bodies from 17 countries.

What was accomplished?

- Exchanges on challenges and successful practices related to the meeting's topics.
- Establishment of working groups to prepare a "Guide of good practices in electoral matters" of the region.
- Strengthened relationship between DECO and the region's authorities.
- Facilitation of horizontal cooperation among the region's electoral authorities.





XIV Inter-American Meeting of Electoral Management Bodies

IN ADDITION, DURING 2019 DECO PARTICIPATED IN THE FOLLOWING EXCHANGES:

- The Workshop on **Cybersecurity and Strengthening Democratic Processes**, organized by the Secretariat of the OAS Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE), February 27 to 28, 2019 in Oxford, England. Electoral Technologies Specialist, Alex Bravo, participated in a panel that examined the experience of Latin America and the Caribbean in facing digital threats to the electoral and democratic process.
- The seminar **Uncertain Future: What awaits the Latin American and Caribbean region from the Political-Electoral Perspective**, held on April 4 in Washington, D.C. and organized by the Global Democracy and Development Foundation. Director of DECO, Gerardo de Icaza, spoke about the political-electoral panorama of the region.
- The International Seminar on **Politics and Elections in Times of Misinformation: Risks and Challenges for Democracy**, organized by the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) which was held on April 25. DECO Director, Gerardo de Icaza, was the chairman of the panel on the impact of the Internet and social media on political culture and political-electoral behavior.

- The panel on **International Election Observation in the US and Beyond: Why It Matters**, organized by the Helsinki Commission on June 19 in Washington, DC. DECO Director, Gerardo de Icaza, shared the benefits and challenges of observing elections internationally and emerging issues such as technology and electoral security.
- The **16th European Conference of Electoral Bodies which discussed the topic "Resolution of electoral disputes"** organized by the Council of Europe in Bratislava, Slovakia; was held on June 27 and 28. The event included participation by 100 electoral specialists and authorities from 37 countries, who addressed issues related to international and national jurisprudence regarding electoral disputes and recommendations for improvements in the area.
- The **Capacity Building Program for Electoral Bodies** organized by the World Association of Electoral Bodies (AWEB) was held in Seoul, South Korea in July 2019. The Chief of the Electoral Observation Section, Brenda Santamaría, presented on "Women, Money and Politics: Electoral Political Financing from the gender perspective".
- The **Expert Meeting for the Commonwealth Cybersecurity and Elections Guide**, held on July 30-31, 2019 in London, England. DECO Electoral Technology Specialist, Alex Bravo, was invited to participate to review and comment on the Commonwealth Good Practice Guide for Electoral Cyber Security.
- The seminar **Electoral Participation: How much Choice is Too Much Choice?**, held on August 29 at the headquarters of the University of Notre Dame in Washington, DC. The Director, Gerardo de Icaza, spoke with electoral specialists; on the various democratic electoral reforms taking place in Latin America and the world.



- The regional workshop on **Cybersecurity and Strengthening of Democratic Processes**, organized by the Secretariat of the OAS Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE), which was held on September 30 and October 1, 2019 in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. DECO specialist in Electoral Technology, Alex Bravo, presented an overview of threats to electoral technology in the region and gave a presentation on the manual “Observation of the use of electoral technology: A Manual for Electoral Observation Missions of the OAS”.
- **The delegation of international observers for the first round of the General Elections of Uruguay**, which was held on October 27, 2019. At the invitation of the Electoral Court of Uruguay, Cristóbal Fernández, Chief of Section for Technical Cooperation of DECO, was part of this delegation that was composed of representatives of various international organizations and electoral bodies of the region.
- The **Democracy, Governance and Political Communication** seminar, which was held in Miami, Florida, from December 2 to 6, organized by the OAS School of Government. The Department’s Director, Gerardo de Icaza, made a presentation on the Electoral Observation Missions carried out by DECO.
- The **14th Implementation Meeting of the Signatory Organizations of the Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation**, was held in Warsaw, Poland on November 20 and 21, 2019. Topics of special interest to DECO and the other organizations dedicated to international observation were addressed.



OEA

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para más gente

Misión de Observación Electoral

2. PROFESSIONALIZATION OF ELECTORAL OBSERVATION

OBSERVING ELECTORAL JUSTICE SYSTEMS:

A Manual for OAS Electoral Observation Missions.

This methodology began in 2014 and was successfully built on solid foundations thanks to the contribution of academics, magistrates, officials of electoral organizations and DECO specialists.

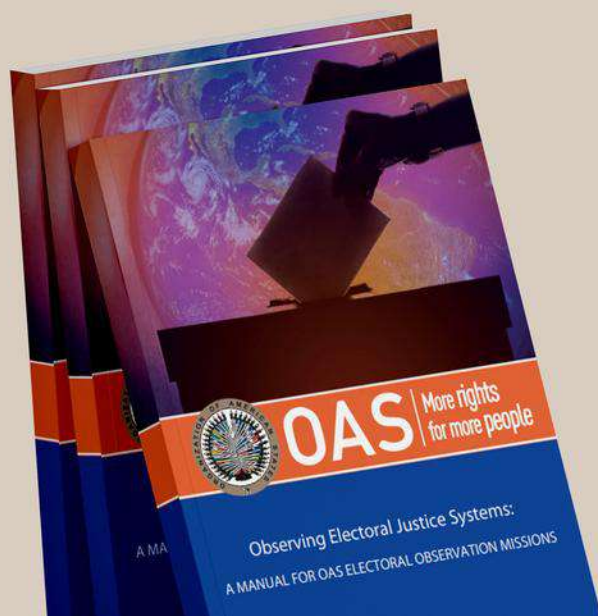
The document is a tool for the standardized observation of electoral justice systems. Furthermore, it provides DECO with the necessary instruments to carry out a comparative analysis between the different countries of the region and to evaluate the evolution of electoral justice.

The different indicators included in this manual make it possible to systematically evaluate key aspects of the timely resolution of electoral disputes.

The Methodology was presented on April 26, 2019 in Mexico City and was made possible thanks to the financial contribution of the Netherlands and the Electoral Tribunal of Mexico.

The methodology can be downloaded at:

<http://www.oas.org/es/sap/deco/Pubs/Manuales/Observing-Electoral-Justice-Systems-a-Manual-for-OAS-Electoral-Observation--Missions.pdf>



GUIDE TO GUARANTEE FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AGAINST DELIBERATE DISINFORMATION IN ELECTORAL CONTEXTS.

By mandate of the OAS General Assembly (AG/RES. 2928), the Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (RELE / IACHR) and the Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation of the OAS Secretariat for Strengthening Democracy (DECO/SSD) published the “Guide to guarantee freedom of expression against deliberate disinformation in electoral contexts.”

This document is the final product of a series of activities carried out to receive contributions and reflections regarding the dissemination of deliberately false information on social media networks, as well as the improper use of personal data during electoral periods. The OAS created a panel of experts that included the participation of civil society organizations, electoral authorities, specialists and independent academics, Internet service provider companies and information exchange platforms (Google, Facebook and Twitter), agencies that verify public discourse and research centers throughout the hemisphere.

The Guide is divided in three sections: description of the phenomenon of disinformation in electoral contexts, systematization of Inter-American Human Rights standards that should guide state responses on the matter, and recommendations, as requested by the OAS General Assembly.

The guide can be downloaded at:

https://www.oas.org/en/iachr/expression/publications/Guia_Desinformacion_VF%20ENG.pdf



MEDIA LITERACY AND DIGITAL SECURITY: TWITTER BEST PRACTICES

This guide aims to contribute to the development of the skills necessary to receive and process the information circulating on social networks, which, as the document describes, in the digital age is immediate and abundant.

The document was prepared by the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security, the Secretariat for Strengthening Democracy and the Rapporteurship for Freedom of Expression, together with the digital company Twitter.

The guide offers best practices for the security of digital accounts and for the monitoring, consumption and distribution of information. In addition, the document offers tips for privacy settings and use of virtual private networks.

The guide was published on September 18, 2019 in Washington, DC and can be downloaded at:
<https://www.oas.org/en/sms/cicte/docs/20190913-DIGITAL-ENG-Alfabetismo-y-seguridad-digital-Twitter.pdf>



EOMS SECURITY PROTOCOL

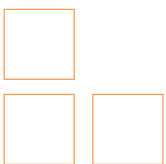
DECO, in collaboration with the OAS Department of Public Security, developed a Security Protocol for OAS Electoral Observation Missions. Experts from countries throughout the region met at OAS Headquarters in December 2019 to contribute to its development. Security officials and OAS staff received training in the correct application of the protocol within the different functions that they fulfill in the context of EOMS. This project was possible through financial contributions from Italy.



Security EOMs Team Meeting, Washington, DC, EEUU.

Elections Observatory of the OAS and the University of São Paulo

OAS/DECO and the University of São Paulo (USP) have inaugurated an Elections Observatory. This inter-institutional initiative aims to promote the values of democracy and the exercise of citizens' civil and political rights, through monitoring and observation of electoral processes in Brazil. As an initial event, they carried out an academic activity in which the former President of Costa Rica and Head of the first OAS Electoral Observation Mission in Brazil, Laura Chinchilla and the Director of DECO, Gerardo de Icaza, participated.



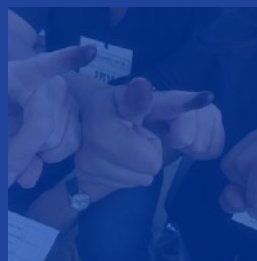


OAS (More rights for people)

Electoral Observation System

4

EXECUTION OF FUNDS





EXECUTION OF FUNDS DECO 2019*

Electoral Observation Missions

US \$3,066,848

Technical cooperation and follow-up on the
recommendations of OAS/EOMs

US \$559,246

US \$3,626,094

* This data is approximate and
amounts have not been audited.



Donors Meeting. Washington DC, USA.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



Bolivia



Japan



Brazil



Luxembourg



Canada



Mexico



Chile



Panamá



Colombia



Peru



Costa Rica



South Korea



France



Spain



Germany



Sweden



Guatemala



Switzerland



Honduras



the Netherlands



Italy



United States

¡Gracias! | Thank you! | Merci! | Obrigado!







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