

2017

DECO YEAR IN REVIEW



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2017 YEAR IN REVIEW OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTORAL
COOPERATION AND OBSERVATION (DECO) OF THE OAS

2017 YEAR IN REVIEW OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTORAL COOPERATION AND OBSERVATION (DECO) OF THE OAS

General Secretariat of the Organization of American States



Luis Almagro

Secretary General

Nestor Méndez

Assistant Secretary General

Gerardo de Icaza

Acting Secretary for Strengthening Democracy

Brenda Santamaría

Acting Director, Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation

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Prepared and published by the OAS Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation (deco@oas.org).

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INTRODUCTION DECO 2017 YEAR IN REVIEW

This document summarizes the work of the Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation (DECO) of the Secretariat for Strengthening Democracy of the Organization of American States during 2017. It reviews the Electoral Observation Missions (EOMs) deployed to the region and the activities developed throughout the year in order to support the Organization's Member States in strengthening their electoral processes and, in so doing, contributing to democracy in the Americas.

In 2017, the OAS deployed six Electoral Observation Missions in five countries in three of the sub-regions of the Americas -South America, Central America and the Caribbean- to observe presidential, legislative, municipal, local and parliamentary elections. With the financial support of 22 donor countries, a total of 373 experts and international observers were deployed, ensuring the presence of the OAS in more than 2000 polling centers. In addition, an Electoral Experts Mission accompanied the election of judicial authorities of Bolivia, a unique model at the international level, and technical delegations were deployed for the primary elections in Honduras and Paraguay.

To bring the experience of participating in an Electoral Observation Mission closer to more people and to facilitate the application process for being an electoral observer, DECO launched a tool for the online registration of observers and trained 122 participants who registered for the third edition of the Online Course for Electoral Observers, delivered in coordination with the School of Government of the OAS.

As follow-up to the recommendations made by the Electoral Observation Missions deployed to Bolivia in previous years, in 2017 DECO implemented a technical cooperation project in the Andean country to carry out an integral audit to its biometric electoral registry. Likewise, OAS/DECO promoted inter-institutional exchanges with its electoral counterparts both in the region and globally, including hosting the Twelfth Meeting of the Signatory Organizations of the Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation, which brought together 64 participants in Washington DC from 21 organizations around the world dedicated to international election observation.

The year 2018 will be of enormous importance for Latin America in the electoral field. Eleven countries, including the two most populated countries in the region, Brazil and Mexico, will hold elections. Several of them have already requested the OAS to deploy an Electoral Observation Mission to support the strengthening of their electoral processes. In 2018 DECO is already working to make this possible and will continue to contribute to democracy in the Americas.





1.

Professionalizing Electoral Observation

“Democracy is a task of continuous improvement based on the protection of human rights and individual liberties. The OAS has a role to play in this.” –

Luis Almagro,
OAS Secretary General

TWELFTH INTER-AMERICAN MEETING OF ELECTORAL MANAGEMENT BODIES (RAE)

What is RAE?: The RAE is a regular meeting of high-level authorities of electoral bodies. It is organized by the OAS Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation.

Date: October 26 and 27, 2017

Location: Cartagena, Colombia

Co-organized with: National Electoral Council and National Registry of the Civil State

Main topics: Mechanisms of Direct Democracy, Citizen Education and Electoral Training, Internal Democracy of Political Parties and Registration of Affiliates, Use of Social Networks by Electoral Authorities

Participants: Representatives of 28 electoral bodies from 20 countries of the region

What was achieved?:

- Sharing of experiences and successful practices in the areas addressed in the meeting.
- A strengthened relationship between DECO and the electoral authorities of the region.
- Facilitation of horizontal cooperation among the electoral authorities of the region.
- Agreement that the Dominican Republic will host the XIII edition of the RAE in 2018.
- Participants decided to work on a Code of Electoral Good Practices.



Group picture, XII Inter-American Meeting of Electoral Management Bodies. Cartagena, Colombia – October 2017

THE 12TH IMPLEMENTATION MEETING OF THE DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES FOR INTERNATIONAL ELECTION OBSERVATION

What is the Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation?: It is a document signed in 2005 by the main organizations dedicated to international electoral observation that establishes the bases for observing electoral processes. Since 2005, the signatory organizations of the Declaration, which now number 53, meet annually to discuss the challenges facing electoral observation and strategies to improve and harmonize the methodologies used. In 2017, the OAS hosted this meeting, which it had also organized in 2007. The meeting started with a panel in which Chiefs of Mission of electoral observation missions of the OAS, the European Parliament and the OSCE shared their experiences and discussed the role of electoral observation in the promotion of democracy. The event was preceded by a presentation to the Permanent Council of the OAS on the Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation.

Date: December 13, 14 and 15, 2017

Location: Washington DC, United States

Main topics: The role of the Internet in Electoral Campaigns, Tools to Observe Processes of Direct Democracy and Electoral Justice, the Future of Electoral Observation

Participants: 64 participants from 21 signatory organizations of the Declaration of Principles

What was achieved?:

- The OAS Permanent Council was informed about the efforts made by the OAS and the other signatory organizations of the Declaration of Principles to strengthen electoral processes.
- New challenges and opportunities faced by international electoral observation were analyzed.
- The capacities of the participating organizations to observe processes of direct democracy, electoral justice and the impact of the internet on electoral campaigns were strengthened.
- It was agreed that The Commonwealth will organize the XIII Implementation Meeting of the Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation in 2018.



XII Implementation Meeting of the Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation. Washington DC, United States – December 2017

ONLINE REGISTRY FOR ELECTORAL OBSERVERS

On June 12, DECO launched a tool for the online registration of international election observers. Through this new portal, those interested in participating as observers can register in the database through which members of OAS Electoral Observation Missions are selected.

- What was achieved?:**
- The process to apply to OAS/EOMs was facilitated.
 - The selection of international observers was made more transparent.
 - Integration of new observers to OAS/EOM teams was achieved.
 - 3.183 people (as of June 25, 2018) were registered as OAS International Observer candidates.



Presentation of the new Online Registry for Electoral Observers by the Ambassador of Italy to the OAS. Washington DC, United States – June 2017

ONLINE COURSE FOR ELECTORAL OBSERVERS (3RD ED.)

The 3rd edition of the Online Course for Electoral Observers was developed through the OAS School of Government. It allowed participants to develop a comprehensive vision of OAS Electoral Observation Missions and improve their knowledge of the Organization's electoral observation methodology.

- What was achieved?:**
- 122 participants from the public sector and civil society from 20 OAS member countries plus Spain, Comoros and South Korea were trained in the conceptual, technical and logistical aspects of OAS Electoral Observation Missions.



EXCHANGES AND AGREEMENTS

DECO participated in...

1

The seminar **Methodological and Organizational challenges of the European Union Electoral Observation**, held in Brussels on April 26. DECO director Gerardo de Icaza was invited to share the experience of the OAS in observing electoral-political financing.

2

The **2017 Seoul Elections International Forum**, organized by the National Elections Commission of Korea and the Association of World Election Bodies (AWEB) in the South Korean capital. On May 7, the director of DECO made a presentation on freedom of the press and elections.

3

The conference **Resisting Women's Political Leadership: Theories, Data, Solutions**, organized by Rutgers University (New Jersey) in New Brunswick, United States, from May 22 through May 26. The chief of DECO's Electoral Observation Section, Brenda Santamaría, made a presentation on women candidates' campaign financing.

4

Democracy and Elections 2018, a workshop on democracy and electoral observation organized on June 20 by the Elections and Citizen Participation Institute of Chiapas, Mexico, for civil society organizations, political parties and citizens. DECO specialist Gerardo Sánchez spoke about the influence and effects of electoral opinion polls.

5

The seminar **Coahuila, Estado de México, Nayarit, Veracruz: Lessons learned in the run-up to 2018**, organized by the Institute of Judicial Investigations of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) in Mexico City on June 22. DECO director Gerardo de Icaza participated in a round table about the democratic responsibility of parties regarding results.

6

The **XXVIII International Congress of Electoral Studies: The Global Challenges of Electoral Governance**, organized by the Mexican Society of Electoral Studies AC, the Electoral Institute of the Federal District and the Postgraduate Program of Political and Social Sciences of the UNAM in Mexico City on August 24. DECO director Gerardo de Icaza presented what he called the "Triad of Electoral Transparency", specifically how the oversight of observers, the press and political parties contributes to electoral transparency. In the context of the conference, De Icaza participated in the presentation of the book "Citizen Perspective. Reports of the 2016 Observer Network", during which he addressed the importance of electoral observation at the subnational level.

7

The workshop **International Electoral Observation in the Americas Region**, organized on August 25 by the Mexican Association of State Electoral Ministers AC. The director of DECO explained the work of OAS Electoral Observation Missions in the region to the staff of the association.

8

The seminar **Campaign Financing and Electoral Results: Challenges to National and Subnational Electoral Integrity in Federal Countries**, organized by Flacso Mexico, the Electoral Tribunal of the Federal Judiciary, and the Attorney's Office for Electoral Crimes on September 13 in Cancun. The chief of DECO's Electoral Observation Section, Brenda Santamaría, spoke about the challenges faced by the electoral democracies of the region and about the OAS methodology to observe the quality of electoral processes.

9

The **Meeting of MERCOSUR's Electoral Authorities**, organized on September 15 by the Superior Electoral Tribunal of Brazil in Foz do Iguaçu. The director of DECO was part of the panel 'International Cooperation for the Strengthening of Democracy and Electoral Systems'.

10

The **First Conference of the Association of Women Electoral Judges of the Americas**, which gathered 35 women authorities of regional electoral bodies, academics and representatives of international organizations to promote and make visible the role of women in democratic systems and in decision-making positions. DECO specialist Yerutí Mendez represented the OAS in the event, which was held in Bogotá, Colombia, on September 28 and 29.

11

The **112 Plenary Session of the Venice Commission**, celebrated in that city between October 5 and 7. A delegation of the OAS, composed of Secretary General Luis Almagro, Secretary for Strengthening Democracy Francisco Guerrero and DECO Director Gerardo de Icaza, presented a report about the situation in Venezuela in the plenary session and participated in the meeting of the Sub Commission for Latin America.

12

The **fourth public security test of the electronic vote system** carried out on November 29 in Brasilia by the Superior Electoral Tribunal of Brazil in the run-up to the 2018 elections, for which the OAS will deploy for the first time an Electoral Observation Mission. DECO specialist Alex Bravo observed the test.



First Conference of the Association of Women Electoral Judges of the Americas. Bogotá, Colombia - September 2017



Meeting of MERCOSUR's Electoral Authorities. Foz do Iguaçu, Brazil - September 2017

DECO signed agreements of cooperation and information and knowledge exchange with:





2.

Observing Electoral Processes

“We observe, above all, a growing need to extend inclusive spaces that facilitate more significant citizen participation, which allows us to improve the mechanisms for political representation.” –

**Luis Almagro,
OAS Secretary General**

2017 EOMs

HAITI – JANUARY 29

ECUADOR 1ST ROUND – FEBRUARY 19

ECUADOR 2ND ROUND – APRIL 2

BAHAMAS – MAY 10

NICARAGUA – NOVEMBER 5

HONDURAS – NOVEMBER 26



 **CSE**
Consejo Supremo Electoral
Fortaleciendo la Democracia

FE
- 100 votos 100 - 100 100
- 100 votos 100 - 100 100
- 100 votos 100 - 100 100
- 100 votos 100 - 100 100

OBSERVING ELECTORAL PROCESSES

TYPE OF ELECTION



Presidential



Municipal / Local



Legislative



Parliamentary



Referendum



Judicial

EOM MEMBERS



Women



Men

DONORS



Argentina



Bolivia



Canada



Chile



Dominican Republic



France



Germany



Honduras



Israel



Italy



Jamaica



Kazakhstan



Korea



Luxembourg



Mexico



Paraguay



Peru



Philippines



Serbia



Spain



Sweden



Switzerland



United States

HAITI

| January 29, 2017 · Local and Legislative Elections



TYPE OF ELECTION



NUMBER OF NATIONALITIES

21

EOM MEMBERS

77



36



41

TOPICS OBSERVED

ELECTORAL ORGANIZATION, ELECTORAL TECHNOLOGY, GENDER, ELECTORAL JUSTICE

DONORS



The OAS/EOM for the local and legislative elections in Haiti was headed by Juan Raúl Ferreira, former Senator and Ambassador of Uruguay.

On election day the OAS/EOM deployed 77 observers from 21 countries that visited 285 voting centers across the country's 10 departments. The January 29 elections marked the end of an election cycle that began in 2015 and that the OAS had accompanied since then, deploying a total of 504 observers in the process.

SOME OF THE OAS/EOM RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Undertake a comprehensive reform of the laws that regulate Haiti's electoral system, which would lend greater legal certainty to future electoral processes.
- Create two standing electoral bodies in which there is a clear separation between election organization functions and election jurisdictional functions.
- Bearing in mind the need to have an accurate voter roll and that the ID cards are set to expire in 2017, the EOM recommends that the ID cards be replaced with new ones; this would translate directly into an update of the civil registry and, consequently, of the voter roll.
- Develop a reliable and transparent preliminary results mechanism by means of which the CEP can notify the public of the results in a reasonable timeframe.

The Final Report was presented to the OAS Permanent Council on September 12, 2017 and is available at:

* <http://www.oas.org/documents/eng/press/Informe-Final-Haiti-CP-2017-ENG.pdf>



Election Day. Port-au-Prince, Haiti

ECUADOR

February 19 and April 2, 2017 · General Elections and Referendum
Presidential Second Round



TYPE OF ELECTION



First Round

EOM MEMBERS 66 | 35 31 NUMBER OF NATIONALITIES 17

Second Round

EOM MEMBERS 77 | 34 43 NUMBER OF NATIONALITIES 19

DONORS



OBSERVED TOPICS

ELECTORAL ORGANIZATION, ELECTORAL TECHNOLOGY, GENDER, CAMPAIGN FINANCING, ELECTORAL JUSTICE

The OAS/EOM for Ecuador's general elections was headed by Leonel Fernandez, former President of the Dominican Republic.

The observation work consisted of an integral analysis of the process in key topics, including electoral organization and technology, campaign financing, the political participation of women, and electoral justice. On election day, OAS observers visited 375 voting centers in 17 provinces of the country.

Taking into account that no presidential ticket obtained the necessary votes to win in first round, on February 22 the National Electoral Council announced a second round for Sunday April 2, 2017.

For the second presidential round, the OAS/EOM was comprised of 77 experts and observers of 19 nationalities that were deployed in 19 provinces of the country. For this election, the Mission increased its territorial deployment and resumed its observation work regarding electoral organization and technology.

SOME OF THE OAS/EOM RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Strengthen and promote the active participation of representatives of the political organizations at the National Electoral Council's Advisory Councils so that the debates and claims can be resolved in institutional spaces.

- Conduct reinforcement training sessions in the days leading up to the election so members of polling stations can refresh and strengthen the concepts and complete their tasks as established in the training manuals.
- Evaluate the possibility of using self-copying paper for the tally sheets, to produce one original and three copies and thus avoid human error in the transcription and possible discrepancies in results.
- Consider the establishment of periodic mechanisms for auditing and updating the Civil Registry, and reinforce public outreach efforts to keep people duly informed about the various procedures and basic requirements for registering a person's death.
- Extend parity to the top of the candidate lists to help to overcome the gap between the numbers of women candidates and women elected to office, improving conditions to surpass the goal of 40 percent of elected offices held by women.

The Final Report was presented to the OAS Permanent Council on July 26, 2017 and is available at:

* <http://www.oas.org/documents/eng/press/informe-moe-ecuador-2017-en.pdf>



Election Day. Quito, Ecuador



Election Day. Quito, Ecuador

BAHAMAS

| May 10, 2017 · General Elections



TYPE OF ELECTION



NUMBER OF NATIONALITIES **8**

EOM MEMBERS

11 |  **6**  **5**

OBSERVED TOPICS

ELECTORAL ORGANIZATION, ELECTORAL TECHNOLOGY, GENDER, CAMPAIGN FINANCING, DISTRICTING

DONORS



The OAS/EOM for the general elections in Bahamas was headed by Sherry Tross, OAS Ombudsman and former Chief of Staff of the Assistant Secretary General.

The Mission was comprised of 11 experts and international observers from 8 OAS Member States.

On May 3, the overseas poll was held in nine countries. The Chief of Mission, along with the EOM's Political Advisor and the Expert in Electoral Organization and Technology, observed the voting at the Embassy of The Bahamas in Washington DC, United States. On election day, OAS observers were present in 29 of the country's 39 constituencies and visited 157 polling stations.

SOME OAS/EOM RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Modernize electoral processes by digitizing registration procedures and moving towards the use of biometric voter cards.
- Enhance the impartiality and independence of the boundary drawing process, including the introduction of standardized legal and technical criteria in the drawing of constituencies and the inclusion of uniform criteria in the selection of Boundary Commissioners.
- Introduce legislation to regulate political-campaign financing.
- Develop training programs and awareness-raising campaigns to promote women's participation and leadership in politics.

The Final Report was presented to the OAS Permanent Council on December 20, 2017 and is available at:

* <http://scm.oas.org/pdfs/2017/CP38494EREPORTMOAS.pdf>



Election Day.
Nassau, Bahamas

NICARAGUA

| November 5, 2017 · Municipal Elections



TYPE OF ELECTION



NUMBER OF NATIONALITIES **19**

EOM MEMBERS

60 |  **26**  **34**

TOPICS OBSERVED

ELECTORAL ORGANIZATION, ELECTORAL TECHNOLOGY, GENDER, CAMPAIGN FINANCING, ELECTORAL JUSTICE

DONORS



**According to the Agreement with the Government of Nicaragua, the term "Electoral Accompaniment Mission" was established, but for all intents and purposes the term is understood as "electoral observation" as stipulated in the OAS legal system, including the Inter-American Democratic Charter.*

The Electoral Observation Mission* of the Organization of American States to Nicaragua's municipal elections was headed by Wilfredo Penco, Vice President of the Electoral Court of Uruguay. A team of 60 observers, regional coordinators and experts was deployed to observe the elections in 15 departments and the two autonomous regions of the country. On election day, they visited 787 polling stations in 393 voting centers.

SOME OAS/EOM RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Carry out a comprehensive electoral reform that addresses various topics and allows for strengthening the legal, technical, procedural, technological and human aspects of Nicaraguan electoral processes in order to instill greater confidence and security to political forces and the citizenry.
- Use different ballots for each election in order to speed up the counting of votes and facilitate the precise registering of votes, and as such reduce the number of mathematical errors.
- Carry out an integral audit of the electoral registry that will allow for the implementation of various verification and control exercises.
- Amend the Electoral Law or approve a regulation that defines the procedure for the designation of members of the CED/CER, CEM, and JRV in order to establish a mechanism that guarantees the participation of all or the majority of political organizations active in the electoral process.
- Draft a political party law that takes into account a permanent financing mechanism and rules for choosing and nominating party candidates.

The Final Report was presented to the OAS Permanent Council on December 20, 2017 and is available at:

* <http://scm.oas.org/Pdfs/2017/CP38536S.pdf>



Distribution of electoral material. Jinotega, Nicaragua

HONDURAS

| November 26, 2017 · General Elections



TYPE OF ELECTION



NUMBER OF NATIONALITIES **25**

EOM MEMBERS

82 | **36** **46**

TOPICS OBSERVED

ELECTORAL ORGANIZATION, ELECTORAL TECHNOLOGY, GENDER, CAMPAIGN FINANCING, ELECTORAL JUSTICE

DONORS



The OAS/EOM for the general elections in Honduras was headed by former President of Bolivia Jorge Tuto Quiroga, who was accompanied by former president of Guatemala Álvaro Colom in the role of Special Advisor to the EOM.

A team of 82 experts and observers from 25 nationalities was deployed in 17 departments of the country. The Mission was deployed to Honduras on October 30 with the arrival of an advance technical team, which was joined by a mobile group of observers, who traveled to the different departments of the country to observe in situ the progress of the elections and to meet the actors involved. The observation in the field was completed with an integral analysis of the electoral process in key aspects, including electoral organization and technology, campaign financing, electoral justice and women's political participation.

SOME OAS/EOM RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Conduct a comprehensive audit of the electoral register, with a view to cleansing and updating it, and consider permanent screening and updating procedures for registry maintenance.
- Implement a hybrid system in which the polling stations are manned by citizens appointed by the TSE and representatives of the political parties.
- Personalize the credentials of polling station members.
- Select and hire the companies used for the transmission, processing and dissemination of results well in advance of the elections to allow ample time to develop a work plan that includes several types of tests and levels of trials, as well as contingency plans.
- Consider amending current rules to include 1-on-1 alternation (one man followed by one woman, or vice-versa) in candidate lists containing several names and in single name local candidacies in order to guarantee compliance with gender parity.

The Final Report was delivered on December 24, 2017 to the Honduran Ambassador to the OAS and sent to the Organization's Permanent Council for distribution to Member States. The report is available at:

* <http://scm.oas.org/pdfs/2017/CP38551SMOEH.pdf>



Election Day.
Tegucigalpa,
Honduras

Electoral Experts Missions and Technical Delegations

Electoral Experts Mission

BOLIVIA

| December 3, 2017 · Judicial Elections



TYPE OF ELECTION



NUMBER OF NATIONALITIES **7**

EOM MEMBERS

9 |  **3**  **6**

TOPICS OBSERVED

ELECTORAL ORGANIZATION, ELECTORAL TECHNOLOGY, ELECTORAL JUSTICE

DONORS



The Electoral Experts Mission of the Organization of American States to the judicial elections in Bolivia was headed by Ecuador's former Foreign Minister Guillaume Long.

The Mission's experts conducted a substantive analysis of the entire electoral process, starting with the candidate pre-selection stage and the assessment of their merits through election day, in terms of electoral organization and technology and electoral justice.

SOME RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ELECTORAL EXPERTS MISSION:

- Increase the budget allocated to programs and strategies designed to provide information about the candidates and seats up for election to ensure equity in the race and reduce misinformation and/or citizen disinterest.
- Implement actions to enable all information about the candidate pre-selection process to be consulted online until the conclusion of the electoral process.
- Include the Rapid and Secure Results Dissemination System in the electoral legislation.
- Develop training and leadership programs for women working in the judiciary in order to guarantee the effectiveness of the parity norms that regulate the judicial elections.

At the time this document was printed the Final Report had not yet been presented to the OAS Permanent Council.



Election Day. La Paz, Bolivia



Technical Delegation

HONDURAS

| March 12, 2017 · Primary Elections

On March 12, three political parties (Libre, Nacional and Liberal) held primary elections to decide which candidates would compete in the November general elections. In the context of the OAS Electoral Observation Mission for the general elections, the Organization's Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation deployed a technical delegation of five experts to Honduras. The team held meetings with the different actors of the electoral process and observed the voting on election day. The information gathered during the primary elections served as input to the Mission deployed in November.



Election Day. Tegucigalpa, Honduras



PARAGUAY

| December 17, 2017 · Internal Simultaneous Elections of Parties, Political Movements and Electoral Coalitions

In the run-up to the 2018 general and departmental elections, on December 17 political parties that comprise coalitions held internal elections to choose their candidates for the 728 seats up for election in 2018. DECO/OAS deployed a team of electoral specialists that held meetings with the Superior Tribunal of Electoral Justice, the electoral tribunals of the political parties Asociación Nacional Republicana (ANR) and Partido Liberal Radical Auténtico (PLRA), and with the presidential candidates of each of the coalitions. On election day, the delegation visited voting centers in Asunción.



Election Day. Asunción, Paraguay



4

4





3.

Follow-up to OAS/EOM Recommendations

“Democracy develops to the extent that the citizens participate and play a leading role at the moment of making decisions that affect their future.” –

Luis Almagro,
OAS Secretary General



BOLIVIA

I Comprehensive Audit of the Biometric Electoral Registry

On April 14, 2016, the Plurinational Electoral Body (OEP) of Bolivia and the OAS General Secretariat signed a technical cooperation agreement to develop a comprehensive audit of the national biometric electoral registry. This action had been recommended by a number of OAS Electoral Observation Missions deployed to Bolivia.



Presentation of the project to conduct a Comprehensive Audit of the Biometric Electoral Registry

The technical activities of the project started in June 2017 and lasted until October of that year. A multidisciplinary team of experts carried out a thorough review of the electoral registry to determine its current state based on an analysis of the legal framework and of the processes of its configuration, update and cleansing, as well as on studies of the consistency of the registry database and the computer systems that are used for its configuration and maintenance.

The audit included a phase of fieldwork to learn about the level of coverage of the registry and to test how updated it was. Face-to-face interviews were carried out based on a national statistically representative sample to verify that the information comprised in the electoral registry matched the data provided by individual citizens. In this regard, it was a “two-way” verification: from the registry to the citizen and from the citizen to the registry.

Given the particular characteristics of Bolivia and the influence of the plurality of cultures that coexist in the country, the analysis of the legal framework included aspects related to the rights of inclusion of the native indigenous nations and peoples.



Training of the OAS team prior to its deployment to the 9 departments of the country to observe on the ground the registration processes



OAS experts observe the process of digitization of historic documents of the civil registry

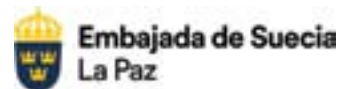
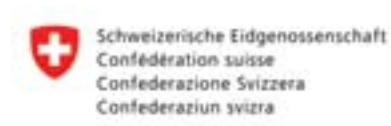
In the context of the audit and to promote the effective exchange of knowledge, experiences and good practices related to the electoral registry, on October 5, 2017, the seminar “Compared Experiences about Electoral Registry Management and Transparency” was held in La Paz. Experts from the National Electoral Institute (INE) of Mexico and from the National Registry of Identification and Civil Status (RENIEC) of Peru explained the challenges faced by electoral bodies and the citizenship in general to update and cleanse the registry.

At the conclusion of the project, the OAS submitted the report of the audit to the Plurinational Electoral Body of Bolivia, which included short, medium and long-term recommendations. Some of these relate to the promotion of a greater role for political organizations in the configuration of the registry, improving the electronic platform used for registration, and strengthening information exchange with the General Service of Personal Identification. In addition, the report suggests improving the process of self-identification and implementing mechanisms for permanent registration and for strengthening inclusion, particularly in consideration of indigenous peoples accessibility to registration.



Presentation of the report of the Audit of the Biometric Electoral Registry

What was achieved?: Through the audit, it was possible to review the Biometric Electoral Registry of Bolivia in depth in order to learn about its current level of coverage and accuracy, as well as to determine if the processes and systems associated with it work adequately and follow the legal framework and the procedures in place. Finally, the results of the audit produced a number of recommendations to the Plurinational Electoral Body of Bolivia aimed at strengthening the Bolivian electoral registry.





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ESCANEO DE CUADERNOS DE VOTACION



OEA | Más derechos para más gente

Misión de Observación Electoral

ACION
RAL

CAPACITACION
ELECTORAL

URAS
ELECTORAL



4.

Allocation of Funds

“Defending democracy becomes the central mandate of this institution and the main pillar of the Hemisphere’s international relations.” –

Luis Almagro,
OAS Secretary General

ALLOCATION OF VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS DECO – 2017

- Professionalizing electoral observation \$ 42,462*
- Observing electoral processes \$ 2,886,313**
- Follow-up to OAS/EOM recommendations \$ 325,731

\$ 3,254,506

* The contribution for the development of the Online Registry for Electoral Observers was made in 2016, when work on the platform started. The tool was completed and launched in 2017.

** Nearly all of the Electoral Observation Missions deployed in 2017 were funded with specific funds, but a percentage of the Electoral Experts Mission to Bolivia was covered with regular funds.



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**DEPARTMENT OF ELECTORAL COOPERATION
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<http://www.oas.org/en/spa/deco/default.asp>
deco@oas.org
(202) 370-4526
www.facebook.com/deco.oea/

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