



YEAR IN REVIEW DECO 2022

2022 YEAR IN REVIEW OF THE DEPARTMENT
OF ELECTORAL COOPERATION AND
OBSERVATION OF THE OAS



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2022 YEAR IN REVIEW OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTORAL COOPERATION AND OBSERVATION (DECO)
OF THE SECRETARIAT FOR STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY (SSD).

General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (GS/OAS)



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INTRODUCTION

This document summarizes the work carried out in 2022 by the Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation (DECO) of the Secretariat for Strengthening Democracy (SSD). It is a review of the Electoral Observation Missions deployed in the region, the various cooperation projects implemented, and the activities developed by DECO during the year to contribute to the strengthening of electoral processes, institutions, and democracy in the Americas.

In 2022, the OAS deployed 12 Electoral Observation Missions in eight countries of the hemisphere: Costa Rica (General Elections and Presidential Runoff), Grenada (General Elections), Mexico (Presidential Recall Referendum), Colombia (Legislative Elections, Presidential Election and Presidential Runoff), Saint Kitts and Nevis (General Elections), Brazil (General Elections and Presidential Runoff), Peru (Regional and Municipal Elections), and Dominica (General Elections).

Due to the global health context, the OAS continued to employ both on-site and virtual approaches to its observation tasks, which ensured a comprehensive and complete analysis of all electoral processes. Thanks to the support of 13 donors, a total of 425 specialists and international observers (214 women and 211 men) participated in the EOMs in person or online.

In an effort to continue strengthening the electoral observation capacities of the OAS, in 2022 DECO published a methodology to observe direct democracy mechanisms. Likewise, in compliance with the mandate of the 2021 General Assembly, DECO began its review of the Manual for OAS Electoral Observation Missions.

In terms of Electoral Technical Cooperation, DECO implemented numerous projects, including: 1) monitoring and diagnosis of processes for the implementation of Telematic Voting in Ecuador, 2) diagnosis of the incorporation of the gender approach in the Superior Electoral Tribunal of the Dominican Republic, 3) accompaniment in the development of Colombia's national vote tally software of Colombia, 4) strengthening the capacities of Peru's National Elections Board in combating disinformation. DECO also held two workshops on disinformation for representatives of electoral management bodies and a training activity for the organization *Transparência Eleitoral Brasil*.

Finally, in 2022, DECO hosted the XV Inter-American Meeting of Electoral Management Bodies, in Quito, which was organized jointly with the National Electoral Council and the Electoral Disputes Tribunal of Ecuador. The meeting brought together 46 authorities and representatives of 30 electoral management bodies from 22 countries.

This document reflects the permanent commitment of the Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation to the consolidation and strengthening of democracy in the Americas, which will continue in 2023 with the observation of electoral processes in Antigua and Barbuda, Ecuador, Guatemala and Paraguay, among other countries, along with the implementation of various cooperation projects, and with the generation of cutting-edge tools and content, which will allow Member States to further improve their electoral processes and institutions.





OAS
Election Observation Mission



OEA

Misión de Observación
Missão de Observação
Mission d'Observation
Electoral Observation

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1.

Observing Electoral Processes

“The level of excellence with which the DECO team carries out its work has placed OAS Missions at the top of electoral observation organizations in the world. It is a patrimony of the Americas, a patrimony of the inter-American electoral observation system. It’s the best in the world.”

**LUIS ALMAGRO, SECRETARY GENERAL
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES**



ELECTORAL OBSERVATION MISSIONS

EOMs 2022

- Costa Rica, General Elections and Presidential Runoff — February 6th, April 3rd
- Colombia, Legislative Elections, Presidential Elections and Presidential Runoff — March 13th, May 29th, June 19th
- Mexico, Presidential Recall Referendum — April 10th
- Grenada, General Elections — June 23rd
- St. Kitts and Nevis, General Elections — August 5th
- Brazil, General Elections and Presidential Runoff — October 2nd, October 30th
- Peru, Regional and Municipal Elections — October 2nd
- Dominica, General Elections — December 6th





MESA RECEPCION
PRESIDENTE

FAMILIA

Smartphone screen showing a profile picture and text.

EDUA - 11:00 A 15H
AMIRIAN - 12:00 A 14H
DULIAN - 14H A 16H
ISABELE - 13H A 15:00





COSTA RICA

GENERAL ELECTIONS AND PRESIDENTIAL RUNOFF

February 6th, April 3rd

• DONORS:



GENERAL ELECTIONS

• NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF THE EOM:



• NATIONALITIES:

9 Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, and Paraguay.

PRESIDENTIAL RUNOFF

• NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF THE EOM:



• NATIONALITIES:

10 Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay and Venezuela.

• DEPLOYED IN:

Alajuela, Cartago, Heredia and San José.

• TOPICS OBSERVED:

Political financing, electoral justice, electoral organization and technology, political participation of women and campaigns and freedom of expression.

The Missions (OAS/EOMs) deployed for the General Elections and the Presidential Runoff in Costa Rica were led by Isabel de Saint Malo, former Vice President and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Panama.

On February 6th and April 3rd, the observers visited polling stations in four provinces and observed the day from the opening of the polls to the vote counting and transmission of results.

The Mission highlighted the strength of the Costa Rican electoral system, whose good practices serve as an example for other countries in the region. It also underscored the level of professionalism and technical expertise with which the Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE)

organized the elections, as well as the commitment of Costa Ricans in this democratic exercise. For the presidential runoff, the TSE conducted a legal certification of the database that received the electoral results. The Mission welcomed the implementation of this recommendation that had been presented by the EOM at the end of the first round. This implementation demonstrates the TSE's commitment to further improving electoral procedures.

The OAS has deployed 15 Electoral Observation Missions in Costa Rica since 1962.

Some of the recommendations of the EOM:

- Reviewing the model of partisan composition of the JRVs, as suggested by previous OAS missions.
- Recording virtual and in-person training data for JRV members, in order to evaluate the impact of the new type of training on the electoral process.
- Moving towards a scheme for reporting party income and expenses in real time, through a technological platform that allows citizens to consult this information, as well as to access aggregate data and visual material that facilitate its interpretation.
- Strengthening IFED's strategic communication, so that its training and electoral information resources may reach a wider public and, thus, be more easily used.
- Establishing advance funding mechanisms for parity training, so that the parties have stable resources to carry out these activities.
- Establishing more specific rules governing the procedural and evidentiary rules, the processing of appeals, and grounds for their inadmissibility.

Reports presented by the Mission:

- Preliminary Report – General Elections:
<https://www.oas.org/EOMDatabase/GetFileA.aspx?id=440-1325-37-0>
- Preliminary Report – Presidential Runoff:
<https://www.oas.org/EOMDatabase/GetFileA.aspx?id=440-1332-37-0>





COLOMBIA

LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS, PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION AND PRESIDENTIAL RUNOFF

March 13th, May 29th and June 19th

• DONORS:



LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS

• NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF THE EOM:



• NATIONALITIES:

9 Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Spain and Uruguay.

• DEPLOYED IN:

Bogotá, DC.

• TOPICS OBSERVED:

Electoral organization, electoral technology, information security, electoral justice, campaigns and freedom of expression, electoral violence, political-electoral financing, political participation of women and, political participation of indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples.

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

• NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF THE EOM:



• NATIONALITIES:

29 Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Finland, France, Germany, Haiti, Honduras, Italy, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States and Uruguay.

• DEPLOYED IN:

Antioquia, Atlántico, Bogotá (DC), Bolívar, Boyacá, Caldas, Cauca, Casanare, Caquetá, César, Chocó, Córdoba, Cundinamarca, Huila, La Guajira, Magdalena, Meta, Nariño, Norte de Santander, Putumayo, Quindío, Risaralda, Santander, Sucre, Tolima and Valle del Cauca.

• TOPICS OBSERVED:

Organization of the elections, voting abroad, voting technology, electoral justice, campaigns and freedom of expression, and electoral violence.

PRESIDENTIAL RUNOFF

• NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF THE EOM:



• NATIONALITIES:

27 Argentina, Belgium, Bolivia, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Germany, Guatemala, Honduras, Italy, Kingdom, Mexico, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United States, Uruguay and Venezuela.

• DEPLOYED IN:

Antioquia, Atlántico, Bogotá (DC), Bolívar, Boyacá, Caldas, Cauca, Casanare, Caquetá, César, Chocó, Córdoba, Cundinamarca, Huila, La Guajira, Magdalena, Meta, Nariño, Norte de Santander, Putumayo, Quindío, Risaralda, Santander, Sucre, Tolima and Valle del Cauca. In addition, two cities abroad: Washington, DC (USA) and Madrid, Spain.

• TOPICS OBSERVED:

Electoral organization and voting abroad, electoral technology, information security, electoral justice, campaigns and freedom of expression, and electoral violence.

The Electoral Oversight Mission (OAS/EOM)¹ for the Legislative Elections, Presidential Election and Presidential Runoff were headed by Eladio Loizaga, former foreign minister of Paraguay.

During the Presidential Election and Presidential Runoff, observers visited a total of 885 polling centers and 2,579 polling stations, monitoring the day from the opening to the counting and transmission of results.

The EOM highlighted the biometric electoral census to enable polling station members to identify voters visually, the inclusion of youth on electoral juries, adding training materials to the election kits to guide the work of those responsible for polling stations, a new box on the general voter registers for voters to sign their names after voting, and more accurate records of electoral juror training.

The OAS has deployed 18 Electoral Oversight Missions in Colombia since 1994.

Some of the recommendations of the EOM:

- As part of the process of switching from yellow ID cards with holograms to digital ID cards with a polycarbonate physical version, assess the possibility of establishing a replacement protocol by which, as new digital ID cards are issued, the old ones are cancelled, and the entire identification system can be properly renewed.
- Assess the advisability of keeping the requirement that all voters fix their fingerprints and signatures on the E-11.

¹ In Colombia, the OAS Electoral Observation Mission (*Misión de Observación Electoral*) is officially called the Electoral Oversight Mission (*Misión de Veeduría Electoral*), due to the existence of *Misión de Observación Electoral Colombia*, an organization that observes the country's elections.

- That the electoral authority acquires for itself and have complete control over the software used for all levels of the counting process as well as for the pre-count. Among other advances, this will allow parties to have greater access to the system and to carry out more thorough tests.
- Establish reasonable time limits for the filing and decision of remedies, especially in relation to applications for revocation of candidacies and the requests for nullity, so as to ensure their effectiveness.
- Strengthen the CNE by ensuring that it has full control over the execution of its budget, so that it is in a position to meet any expenditure or enter into any contracts that it needs to carry out its functions.
- Use fictitious names of parties and candidates during tests and simulations, in order to avoid any misuse of images that may emerge from such exercises.

Reports presented by the Mission:

- Preliminary Statement for the Legislatives elections:
<https://www.oas.org/eomdatabase/GetFileA.aspx?id=442-1393-37-0>
- Preliminary Report for the Presidential Election:
<https://www.oas.org/eomdatabase/GetFileA.aspx?id=443-1407-37-0>
- Preliminary Report for the Presidential Runoff:
<https://www.oas.org/eomdatabase/GetFileA.aspx?id=443-1409-37-0>



Misión de Veeduría Electoral (MVE/OEA) en Colombia
Elecciones Presidenciales - 29 de mayo de 2022





MEXICO

PRESIDENTIAL RECALL REFERENDUM

April 10th

• DONORS:



• NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF THE MFV:



• NATIONALITIES:



• DEPLOYED IN:

Mexico City

• TOPICS OBSERVED: :

Electoral organization, technology and information security, electoral justice, voting abroad, access to information and freedom of expression and direct democracy.

The Foreign Visitors Mission (OAS/FVM)² deployed for the Presidential Recall Referendum on April 10th in Mexico, was led by the Peruvian academic and electoral expert Fernando Tuesta Solvedilla.

The Mission was made up of 14 specialists of 8 nationalities, who carried out a comprehensive analysis of the key aspects of the Presidential Recall Referendum. On election day, members of the Mission visited different polling places in Mexico City and collected data reported at the national level through the Information System on the Development of the Recall Referendum (SIRM) of the National Electoral Institute (INE).

The Mission highlighted the fact that voting was carried out peacefully and congratulated the National Electoral Institute (INE) for organizing the process despite the challenges it faced. Likewise, the Mission highlighted the civic commitment of the thousands of citizens who served as members of polling stations.

The OAS has deployed 6 Foreign Visitors Missions in Mexico since 2009.

² The term "Foreign Visitors Mission" is, for all intents and purposes, understood as "electoral observation", in accordance with the provisions of the OAS legal system, including the Inter-American Democratic Charter (IADC).

Some recommendations of the FVM:

- Reforming the regulations applicable to any recall or direct democracy mechanism, in order to adapt them to the nature of this type of exercise and incorporate aspects that the current regulation does not contemplate.
- Increasing the percentage of signatures required for activation of the recall of the incumbent President of the Republic.
- Reformulating the question established in the mandate revocation law so that it is strictly compatible with the nature of this mechanism.
- Basing the communication model on the free flow of ideas and information, so as to stimulate debate, foster plurality in public opinion, and facilitate materialization of the right to cast an informed vote, respecting the principle of equity. All restrictions on freedom of expression applied during election periods must meet the international legal requirements of the tripartite test of legality, legitimacy of purpose, and necessity.
- That the INE be guaranteed the resources it needs to fulfill its functions.
- Updating encryption algorithms to strengthen data protection and integrity during the signature collection process.

Reports presented by the Mission:

- Preliminary Report:

<https://www.oas.org/EOMDatabase/GetFileA.aspx?id=441-1334-37-0>





GRENADA

GENERAL ELECTIONS

June 23rd

• DONORS:



NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF THE EOM:



• NATIONALITIES:

11 Argentina, Barbados, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago and the United States.

• DEPLOYED IN:

Carriacou, St. Andrew South East, St. Andrew South West, St. Andrew North East, St. Andrew North West, St. David, St. George, St. George North East, St. George North West, St. George South East, St. George South, St. John, St. Mark, St. Patrick East and St. Patrick West.

• TOPICS OBSERVED:

Electoral organization and technology, political participation of women, political-electoral financing, and electoral registries.

The Mission (OAS/EOM) deployed for the Grenada General Elections was led by the international expert in development and gender equality from Barbados, Dr. Rosina Wiltshire.

On election day, members of the Mission were present in the 15 constituencies of Grenada, from the opening of the polling stations to the vote counting and transmission of the preliminary results. Observers visited 190 polling stations in 86 polling centers during the day and reported that the process was carried out in a well-organized.

The OAS/EOM congratulated citizens and residents on their strong democratic commitment, which was amply demonstrated in their enthusiastic and peaceful participation in the 2022 poll. Likewise, the Mission congratulated the country's electoral authorities, who had to carry out their work in a complex context, created by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The OAS has deployed 7 Electoral Observation Missions in Grenada since 1984.

Some recommendations of the EOM:

- Strengthening standardized training programmes for all poll workers, to ensure the efficient and accurate delivery of voting procedures across all constituencies in Grenada.
- Formalizing and enforcing policies to ensure access to and expedite the voting process for pregnant women, women with young children, the elderly and people with disabilities.
- Considering the implementation of an effective gender quota for political parties, which seeks to encourage gender parity and increase the number of women candidates across all parties.
- Including the picture of each elector in the Voters' List, in order to improve the control and verification of electors' identity and increase transparency in the process.
- Collecting and publishing the images of the statement of poll at a constituency level, so that citizens are able to examine, compare and audit election results.
- Establishing limits on private donations from individuals, businesses, and the media, and prohibiting both anonymous and foreign donations.

Reports presented by the Mission:

- Preliminary report:

<https://www.oas.org/eomdatabase/GetFileA.aspx?id=445-1352-25-0>





SAINT KITTS Y NEVIS

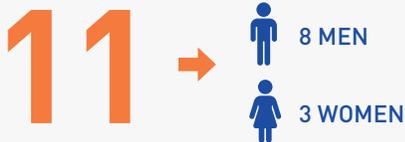
GENERAL ELECTIONS

August 5th

• DONORS:



• NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF THE EOM:



• NATIONALITIES:



• DEPLOYED IN:

11 Constituencies of Saint Kitts and Nevis.

• TOPICS OBSERVED:

Electoral organization and technology, political-electoral financing and political participation of women.

The Mission deployed to the Saint Kitts and Nevis General Election was headed by Bruce Golding, former Prime Minister of Jamaica.

On election day, OAS observers were present in all 11 Constituencies, from the installation and opening of the polling stations to the counting of votes and transmission of results. The members of the Mission visited 100% of the 128 polling stations established in both Saint Kitts and Nevis during the day and reported that in general terms the process was carried out in an orderly and peaceful manner.

The Mission welcomed the congratulatory statements issued to the Saint Kitts and Nevis Labour Party (SKNLP) by former Prime Minister and political leader of the People's Labour Party (PLP), Dr. Timothy Harris, and by the political leaders of the People Action's Movement and Concerned Citizens Movement, following the declaration of the results.

The OAS has deployed 4 Electoral Observation Missions in Saint Kitts and Nevis since 2010.

Some recommendations of the EOM:

- Strengthening both the technical and human capacity of the Electoral Office in order to increase its efficiency and agility in the organization and implementation of electoral processes.
- Amending the Elections Act to allow a preliminary count of ballots to be made by the Presiding Officer at each polling station, in the presence of party agents, immediately following the close of polls, both to expedite the count and to enhance confidence and security.
- Creating a protocol for the announcement and publication of results by the Electoral Office, including posting results on an Internet platform to provide actors with alternative means of receiving this information.
- Ensuring that the provisions of the Elections Act are strictly complied with at all times, especially during pre-electoral periods.
- Establishing limits on private donations and contributions from individuals, businesses, and the media, and prohibiting anonymous donations.
- Considering the implementation of an effective gender quota in order to encourage gender parity and increase the number of women candidates across all parties.

Reports presented by the Mission:

- Preliminary Report:

<https://www.oas.org/eomdatabase/GetFileA.aspx?id=446-1359-37-0>





BRAZIL

GENERAL ELECTIONS AND PRESIDENTIAL RUNOFF
October 2nd and 30th

• DONORS:



GENERAL ELECTIONS

• NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF THE EOM:



• NATIONALITIES:

17 Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, the United States, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

• DEPLOYED IN:

Deployed in: Amazonas, Bahía, Brasília, DF, Ceará, Goiás, Maranhão, Minas Gerais, Rio de Janeiro, Rio Grande del Sur, São Paulo, Santa Catarina, Pará, Paraná, Paraíba, Pernambuco and Piauí. Also, 3 cities abroad: Porto (Portugal), Miami and Washington, DC (USA).

PRESIDENTIAL RUNOFF

• NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF THE EOM:



• NATIONALITIES:

17 Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, the United States, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

• DEPLOYED IN:

Deployed in: Amazonas, Bahía, Brasília, DF, Ceará, Goiás, Maranhão, Minas Gerais, Rio de Janeiro, Rio Grande del Sur, São Paulo, Santa Catarina, Pará, Paraná, Paraíba, Pernambuco y Piauí. In addition, four cities abroad in: Porto (Portugal), Paris (France), Miami and Washington, DC (USA).

• TOPICS OBSERVED:

Electoral organization and technology, political financing, political participation of women, indigenous and Afro-descendant participation, campaigns and freedom of expression, voting abroad, political violence, and electoral justice.

The OAS Electoral Observation Missions (EOMs) were led by Rubén Ramírez Lezcano, diplomat and former foreign minister of Paraguay.

In total, between the general elections and the presidential runoff, the OAS deployed 111 persons, who observed the process from the opening of the polling stations to the vote tabulation and transmission of the results. Taking both days into account, the observers visited a total of 1,024 electoral polling places. They reported that the process was carried out in an organized and peaceful manner.

The Mission recognized the effort of the Superior Electoral Tribunal (TSE) to promptly follow up on the recommendations of past OAS/EOMs. The Mission also underscored the high level of professionalism evident in the work of the TSE and the Regional Electoral Tribunals (TREs), which allowed them to successfully carry out an electoral process in a complex context, marked by polarization, disinformation and attacks on electoral institutions.

The OAS has deployed 5 Electoral Observation Missions in Brazil since 2018.

Some recommendations of the EOM:

- Institutionalizing the results verification exercises carried out by the Court of Accounts of the Union, in order to continue strengthening the system's transparency.
- Increasing the number of polling stations available, including the use of additional locations in addition to consular offices.
- Strengthening civic education and media and digital literacy actions to raise awareness and build the population's ability to recognize disinformation and to avoid consuming and spreading it
- Strengthening the working groups charged with examining and coordinating measures against political violence in the medium term, beyond the immediate dates of electoral periods.
- Exploring new mechanisms that favor a more equitable distribution of public financing among political parties.
- Establishing mechanisms that allow the 30% quota to be a minimum limit for women candidates, rather than a maximum limit, and considering the adoption of a legal framework to move towards political parity.

Reports presented by the Mission:

- Preliminary Report of the General Elections:
<https://www.oas.org/eomdatabase/GetFileA.aspx?id=447-1372-37-0>
- Preliminary Report following the Presidential Runoff:
<https://www.oas.org/eomdatabase/GetFileA.aspx?id=447-1378-37-0>





PERU

REGIONAL AND MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

October 2nd

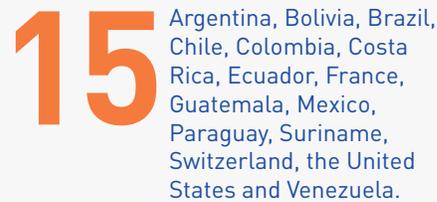
• DONORS:



• NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF THE EOMS:



• NATIONALITIES:



• DEPLOYED IN:

Arequipa, Cajamarca, Callao, Cusco, Ica, La Libertad, Lima, Lambayeque, Junín, Piura and San Martín.

• TOPICS OBSERVED:

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

The OAS Electoral Observation Mission for the Regional and Municipal Elections in Peru was led by the Argentine academic María Alejandra Perícola.

On election day, OAS observers visited 153 voting centers, observing 596 polling stations from their opening to the closing and counting. The Mission highlighted the high presence of personnel from the National Office of Electoral Processes (ONPE), the National Elections Board (JNE) and other public institutions in the voting centers.

The OAS/EOM recognized the professionalism and capacity of the Peruvian electoral authorities, who carried out their functions with determination and efficiency, in an environment of political tension in which there were cases of harassment, threats, and even violence against administrative and judicial electoral personnel.

The OAS has deployed 23 Electoral Observation Missions in Peru since 1992.

Some recommendations of the EOM:

- Conduct a rigorous diagnosis of the reasons why polling table members failed to attend in order to design more effective incentives and, where necessary, change the selection criteria for the members chosen.
- Combining the databases of persons with disabilities into a single database so preventative measures could be designed for more efficiently attending to this group. Also, consider including category (type) of disability in the combined list.
- Having a contingency plan in place to mitigate any technical difficulties with the computer system and avoid frustrating the right to participation for reasons of formalities.
- Implementing the reforms needed to incorporate horizontal parity or other measures to increase the participation of women, especially as municipal executives.
- Passing the reforms necessary to close the gaps in Law 31,155 so its regulations can be fully established and implemented, such that women candidates and women elected to office have legal backing and to ensure the reports they file are investigated and the corresponding sanctions issue. The OAS/EOM was informed that there is already a bill that would do this.
- Include an optional field for ethnic/racial self-identification in the candidacy registration form.

Reports presented by the Mission:

- Preliminary report:

<https://www.oas.org/eomdatabase/GetFileA.aspx?id=449-1376-37-0>





DOMINICA

GENERAL ELECTIONS

December 6th

• DONORS:



• NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF THE EOM:



• NATIONALITIES:

11 Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guyana, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, United States, and Venezuela.

• DEPLOYED IN:

Portsmouth, Roseau Central, Roseau North, Roseau South, Mahaunt, St. Joseph, Castle Bruce, Salisbury, Salybia, Grandbay, Soufriere, La Plaine, Morne Jaune, Riviere Cyrique, Marigot and Wesley.

• TOPICS OBSERVED:

Electoral organization and registries, electoral technology, electoral justice, political-electoral financing and political participation of women.

The Mission (OAS/EOM) for the General Elections in Dominica was led by Perry Christie, former Prime Minister of the Bahamas.

On December 6th, the Mission visited the 15 constituencies in which elections were held³ and observed the process from the opening of the polling stations to the tabulation of the votes and the transmission of the results. The Mission welcomed the participation of citizens and congratulated the authorities on organizing the elections.

The Mission noted that, while the process of modernizing Dominica’s electoral framework is now at an advanced stage, it hopes that the recommendations provided by the OAS will be considered in the continued strengthening of the country’s electoral systems and processes.

The OAS has deployed 4 Electoral Observation Missions in Dominica since 2009.

³ In six constituencies the candidates were elected at the end of Nomination Day, November 18th, 2022, as they were the only persons nominated for election in those constituencies.

Some recommendations of the EOM:

- Considering the issuance of photo ID Cards to voters and the use of tools, to assist with the identification of voters.
- Developing a training syllabus for Election Day workers, that includes the form, duration and content of training, and which establishes a set number of mandatory sessions for recruits.
- Revising and updating registration forms to collect relevant demographic information from applicants and voters.
- Considering the introduction of a computerized results transmission system and the implementation of a central computerized results receiving center in order to enhance quality controls and ensure greater security at the preliminary results stage.
- Amending the existing rules on election petitions to provide administrative review and determination of appropriate election challenges prior to the holding of elections.
- Considering positive measures, including the adoption of gender quotas, to progressively enhance and codify gender parity and support the increased political participation of women candidates across all parties.

Reports presented by the Mission:

- Preliminary report:

<https://www.oas.org/eomdatabase/GetFileA.aspx?id=450-1380-37-0>





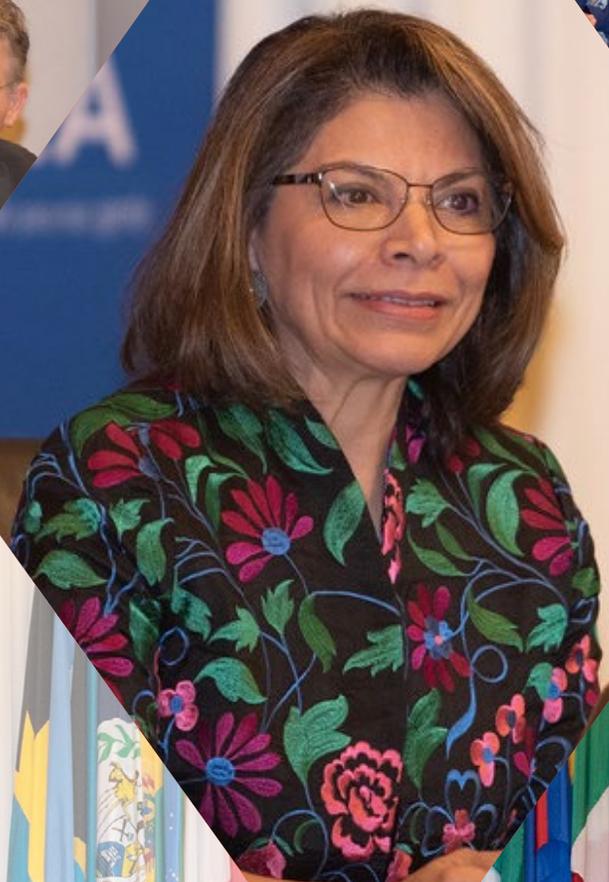


2.

Technical Cooperation and follow-up on the recommendations of the OAS/EOM

“The professionalism, technical capacity, and experience of DECO translates into technical cooperation projects and initiatives that contribute to the implementation of the recommendations of the EOMs, to the study and analysis of the new challenges that arise from the elections and to the strengthening of the electoral management bodies of the region”.

**LUIS ALMAGRO, SECRETARY GENERAL
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES**



HIGH-LEVEL GROUP TO PROMOTE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EOMs ON THE POLITICAL PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN

In March 2022, DECO officially launched the High-Level Group for Strengthening the Political Participation of Women. This initiative has the support of the Inter-American Commission of Women.

The purpose of the Group is to disseminate the recommendations of OAS/EOMs in terms of women's political participation and promote a dialogue between relevant actors, which would allow progress in their implementation in the countries that voluntarily accept this initiative.

The group is headed by the former President of Costa Rica Laura Chinchilla and includes Diana Atamaint, Chair of the National Electoral Council of Ecuador; Gabriela Cuevas, former President of the Interparliamentary Union and former Mexican legislator; Isabel de Saint Malo, former Vice President and Foreign Minister of Panama; María Ángela Holguín, former Foreign Minister of Colombia; Luciana Lossio, former Minister of the Superior Electoral Court of Brazil; and Rosina Wiltshire, international expert in development and gender equality, from Barbados.

During the launch, the Dominican Republic was the first country to issue an invitation to the High-Level Group to visit the country. This visit took place in May 2022, and included an agenda with government representatives, electoral authorities and other public entities, representatives of the legislative body and civil society organizations. The Group shared a document with an analysis of recommendations on political participation formulated by OAS/EOMs in the last ten years in the Dominican Republic. In 2023, a workshop will be held with various actors to delve into this matter and promote a dialogue that allows progress in the implementation of the recommendations.

Donor: 



TECHNICAL SUPPORT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATIONAL VOTE TALLY SOFTWARE OF THE NATIONAL ELECTORAL COUNCIL (CNE) OF COLOMBIA

At the request of the National Electoral Council (CNE) and the National Civil Status Registry of Colombia, a DECO technical team accompanied a period of consultations and the development of Colombia's national electoral vote tally software, intended for the 2022 electoral processes. Two visits were made during the month of February, which concluded in the formulation of a diagnostic with recommendations for the improvement of security and processes related to the abovementioned system.

This diagnostic included an analysis of the feasibility and requirements for developing a cloud-based contingency computing architecture, which would guarantee the continuity of operations in the CNE's main data center for future elections.

OAS technical cooperation focused on strengthening the management of the equipment and reducing the risks associated with the investment of human and financial resources in the modernization of the information infrastructure.

DECO delivered two preliminary reports and a final report, which describe the diagnostic, monitoring and technical development of the vote tally software developed for the electoral authority's technological infrastructure.

Donor: 



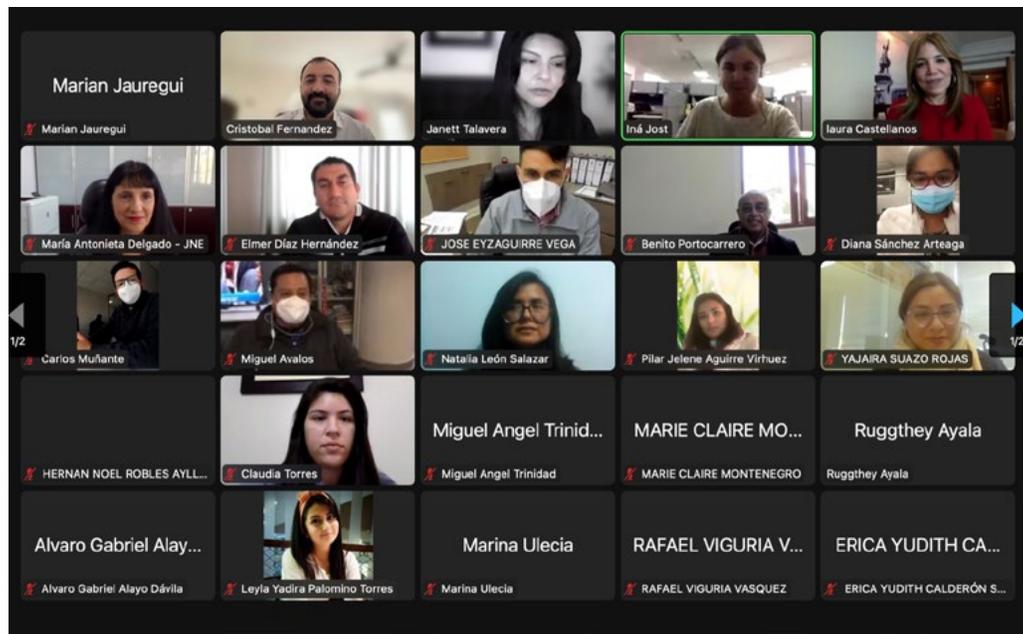
STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITIES OF THE NATIONAL ELECTORAL BOARD (JNE)⁴ OF PERU IN COMBATING DISINFORMATION

A technical team from DECO collaborated with the National Electoral Board of Peru (JNE) to strengthen the institution's capacities in combating disinformation, through a workshop and a compilation of information on the subject.

This initiative included a workshop for staff of the JNE communications area, which addressed the central components of a communication strategy on electoral matters, reviewed the experience of other international entities on the matter, and studied the tools available to strengthen JNE's capacities in combating disinformation.

DECO also provided the electoral body with a document of recommendations to be taken into consideration for the upcoming electoral processes in Peru.

Donor: 



⁴ JNE is the acronym in Spanish for Jurado Nacional de Elecciones.

TECHNICAL COOPERATION FOR THE DIAGNOSIS OF THE PROCESSES DEFINED BY THE NATIONAL ELECTORAL COUNCIL OF ECUADOR FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TELEMATIC VOTING

A DECO technical team collaborated with the National Electoral Council of Ecuador (CNE) to provide recommendations on information technology for the implementation of telematic voting in special constituencies overseas for the 2023 Local elections and election of the Council for Citizen Participation and Social Control (CPCCS).

The technical support was provided from August 10th to December 16th, 2022, with remote assistance and a visit in December to learn about progress in the development of the voting module and to observe a partial test of it.

The collaboration included a review of documentation and delivery of a preliminary report, as well as a final report, with recommendations to strengthen various components of the system.

Donor: 



DIAGNOSTIC ON THE INCORPORATION OF THE GENDER APPROACH IN THE SUPERIOR ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

At the request of the Superior Electoral Tribunal (TSE) of the Dominican Republic, a technical team was formed to conduct a diagnostic for the electoral body that allows for the design of a plan to strengthen the political participation of women, within the framework of the duties of the TSE in this area.

The project, in addition to research and documentary analysis of the TSE's work on this issue, included virtual meetings with members of the collegiate body of the electoral management body and with the directors of various areas of the institution. In the month of December, members of the DECO technical team carried out a visit to the country to meet with the collegiate body and the technical areas of the TSE.

The final diagnostic report will be delivered during the first quarter of 2023.

Donor: 



THE IMPACT OF DISINFORMATION ON ELECTORAL PROCESSES

In 2021, DECO began a process to address the issue of disinformation in elections. Through this initiative, two disinformation workshops were held during 2022, in which representatives of electoral management bodies of the continent participated.

The first workshop titled “Electoral Bodies and disinformation: good practices, successful experiences and challenges in the field of strategic communication”, was held on May 3rd, 5th and 6th. 47 officials from different electoral management bodies from Latin America and the Caribbean received this training.

The workshop participants analyzed good practices that should be incorporated when planning the actions of electoral bodies facing disinformation, including the challenges and lessons learned in recent electoral processes in the region. Opportunities for cooperation to counteract this threat and possible measures to strengthen the capacities of electoral management bodies to combat electoral disinformation were also discussed.

The second disinformation workshop was held in Ecuador during the XV Meeting of Electoral Management Authorities (RAE), on November 29th and 30th and December 1st, and was attended by authorities from the region’s electoral management bodies, as well as by invited international institutions.

Donor: 



TRAINING TO NATIONAL ELECTORAL OBSERVATION GROUPS

DECO provided virtual training on electoral observation methodologies for Transparência Eleitoral Brasil (Electoral Transparency Brazil), an organization that formed an observation team for the 2022 elections in Brazil. The training was carried out virtually on July 21st and 22nd.

With the participation of more than 70 people, the training addressed elections and the Inter-American system, the theoretical framework of electoral observation, the OAS methodology for observing on election day, as well as the methodologies for incorporating the gender perspective in EOMs and the methodology to observe political-electoral financing systems. A special session was also held for regional coordinators.

The training included participation by a representative of the Superior Electoral Court of Brazil, who facilitated a session on the electoral process. Representatives of the University of São Paulo also participated and presented their electoral observatory.

Donor: 





3.

Professionalization of Election Observation

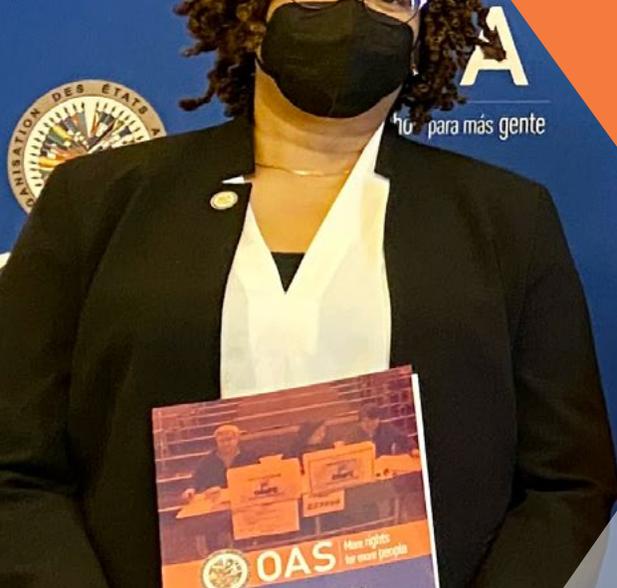
“The reports of the EOMs, the guides, methodologies and DECO’s publications have constituted an important input for electoral reforms in the countries of the region, facilitating the improvement of electoral practices. In addition, they are electoral guides to professionalize the democratic work of the region”

**FRANCISCO GUERRERO, SECRETARY FOR
STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES**



OEA

Mais direitos para mais pessoas



Mais direitos para mais gente



OEA

Plus de droits pour plus de



Mais direitos para



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para mais pessoas



Mais direitos para



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ERVANDO LOS MECANISMOS DE DEMOCRACIA DIRECTA. UN MANUAL PARA LAS MISIONES DE OBSERVACION ELECTORAL DE LA OEA

MANUAL TO OBSERVE DIRECT DEMOCRACY MECHANISMS

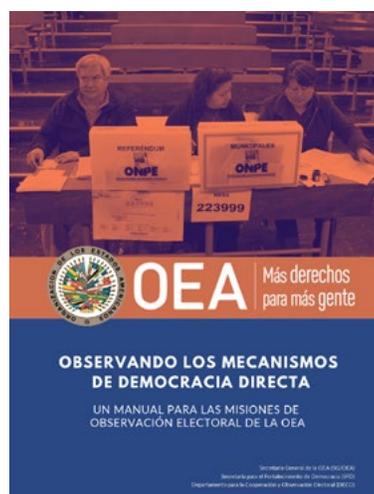
In keeping with the ongoing professionalization of electoral observation missions, DECO developed the Manual to Observe Direct Democracy Mechanisms, which was published in May 2022.

This manual constitutes a tool for specific and technical observation of the key aspects of direct democracy mechanisms, which have fundamental differences when compared with elections for public office. Thus, in order to ensure an observation process that can be adapted to the different characteristics of these cases, this manual covers specific aspects of direct democracy mechanisms, such as their activation mechanism, the formulation of questions, and the technical and constitutional controls in place in the host country, among others.

The manual is divided into four sections. The first offers a conceptual definition of direct democracy mechanisms and categorizes the different existing instruments. The second discusses how direct democracy mechanisms are recognized in different instruments of the Inter-American system, and their uses in the region. The third discusses the observable attributes and conditions of direct democracy mechanisms. The final section provides a methodological framework and tools for observation and presentation of information in the context of an electoral observation mission deployed for a direct democracy mechanism.

Donors:  Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

**Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC**



UPDATE OF THE MANUAL FOR OAS ELECTORAL OBSERVATION MISSIONS

In compliance with resolution AG/doc.5729/21 of the OAS General Assembly, DECO began the process of updating the Manual for Electoral Observation Missions. The revision of the Manual seeks to include the new tools used in the Missions, such as the security protocol. This new work tool will make it possible to have a solid document for use by members of future Missions.

Donor: 



4.

Institutional Exchanges



XV INTER-AMERICAN MEETING OF ELECTORAL MANAGEMENT BODIES

November 29th and 30th, and December 1st- Quito, Ecuador

In collaboration with the National Electoral Council (CNE) and the Electoral Disputes Tribunal (TCE) of Ecuador, DECO organized the XV Inter-American Meeting of Electoral Management Bodies (RAE for its Spanish acronym) in Quito, Ecuador. The XV RAE brought together 46 authorities and representatives of 30 electoral management bodies from 22 countries.

During the meeting, electoral authorities heard a keynote speech on how to combat disinformation and safeguard elections. The meeting also included workshops and panel discussions that addressed the following topics: “Impact and challenges of electoral bodies to combat disinformation”; “Communication tools on digital platforms”; “Assertive communication with a gender perspective”; and, “Trends and tools for electoral authorities to combat disinformation.” The representatives of the electoral management bodies were able to share their experiences with respect to disinformation campaigns they have suffered, and their lessons learned. Also, tools to promote the dissemination of quality electoral information and strategies to counter disinformation during electoral processes.

Donors: Canadá, CNE Ecuador, TCE Ecuador



PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL SEMINARS AND EVENTS

- The presentation “**Ranking of democratic governance in times of Covid-19**” organized by the Latin American Youth Network for Democracy (Youth LAC) was held on February 1 and included the participation of Gerardo de Icaza, Director of DECO; and Betilde Muñoz, Director of the OAS Department of Social Inclusion
- The **59th North American Annual Model of the United Nations (NAIMUN)** organized by the DISEC Committee, held on February 18 in person, featured a presentation by Gerardo de Icaza, Director of DECO, who spoke on the role of Observers and the Observation Missions.
- The program “**Your rights**” organized by the Supreme Court of Justice of the Nation of Mexico, held virtually on February 23, included the participation of Gerardo de Icaza, Director of DECO, who offered his perspectives on “Direct democratic participation and its mechanisms.
- The course “**Everyone Voting**” aimed at students of the Master’s program and organized by the Universidad de los Andes (Colombia), was held virtually on February 22 and included a presentation by Gerardo de Icaza, Director of DECO.
- The dialogue on the **Political Panorama of Latin America** organized by the Anahuac University of Querétaro (Mexico), took place on March 4 and included the participation of Gerardo de Icaza, Director of DECO, who also shared his personal career path and the challenges of his work in fostering a greater closeness with the students.
- The **information session on the electoral landscape of Latin America and the work of DECO**, held at OAS headquarters on March 10 for students of the Latin American Studies program at Ohio University, in which DECO specialists Melene Glynn and Yerutí Mendez made presentations.
- The online panel discussion on “**Elections in a Pandemic**” with students from the Caribbean Governance undergraduate class, organized by the University of the West Indies, (Barbados) was held on March 14 and featured the participation of DECO specialist Melene Glynn, as well as Sase Gunraj, Commissioner of the Guyana Electoral Commission and Cynthia Barrow-Giles, Professor of Political Science at UWI Jamaica.
- The talk on **Disinformation and Electoral Polarization**, organized by Prof. Cynthia McClintock of the George Washington University School of Political Science and International Relations, held on March 22 in person, included the participation of Gerardo de Icaza, Director of the DECO.

- The **First Virtual OAS Model for Caribbean Universities and Historically Black Universities (HBCUs)**, organized by the OAS, was held virtually on March 22 with the participation of DECO Specialist, Melene Glynn, who gave a presentation on “Ensuring Inclusive and Transparent Electoral Processes.”
- The **IX Electoral Breakfast** organized by the Electoral Tribunal of the Federal Judiciary (Mexico), held virtually on March 31 and featured a presentation by Gerardo de Icaza, Director of DECO, on “The role of Electoral Observation Missions in the protection of political rights and democratic systems”.
- The discussion on **Latin American democracy**, organized by the Chairman of the Committee of the European Council (CoE), Ambassador Manuel Montobbio, was held virtually on April 4 and included the participation of the OAS Secretary General, Luis Almagro, and the Director of DECO, Gerardo de Icaza.
- The discussion on **Political Parties and Elections** for students, organized by the University of Los Andes, was held virtually on April 7 and included the participation of the Director of DECO, Gerardo de Icaza, as a panelist and expert on the issue.
- The **5th Round table on Freedom of the Press in Elections** and the fight against disinformation was organized by the OSCE Representative for Freedom of the Media, Teresa Ribeiro, and included the participation of the Head of the Electoral Observation Section, Brenda Santamaria. This meeting was held on April 29, 2022 and was also attended by representatives of the OSCE Member States as well as experts in the field.
- The **10th Annual Forum on Latin American Policies**, organized by the University of Chicago, was held on April 29 with the participation of the Director of DECO, Gerardo de Icaza, who gave a presentation on elections and electoral trends in Latin America
- The **1st Specialization Course on Elections, Electoral Systems and Political Parties**, was organized by the Legal Research Institute of UNAM, Mexico. The event held on June 16 included the participation of more than 30 students and a presentation by the Director of DECO, Gerardo de Icaza.
- The **Certificate in Electoral Observation offered by Electoral Transparency**, together with the University of Salamanca and the Center for Analysis, Leadership, Political Studies and Humanism (ALEPH), held virtually on June 28 with the participation of the Director of DECO, Gerardo de Icaza, who gave a class on “Introduction to Electoral Observation, Fundamentals and Criteria.”
- During the **Regional Forum for America during the Electoral Democracy Summit**, an initiative that was held virtually on June 30, the Director of DECO, Gerardo de Icaza, participated in the panel “New lessons on electoral fraud and its implications for the integrity of the elections”.

- The **“Miguelina Acosta Cárdenas” Capacity Building Course for Female Candidates** organized by the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM/OAS) and the OAS School of Governance (OAS/SoG), in conjunction with the National Elections Board of Peru. During this training carried out in July, the Chief of the Electoral Observation Section, Brenda Santamaría, spoke with the candidates about trends and challenges in electoral matters.
- The **Autumn Conference of the School of International Relations** of the George Washington University, held in person on September 3, included the participation of the Director of DECO, Gerardo de Icaza, as a panelist, where he shared about the work carried out by the department and the importance that the Missions have at the international level.
- The **OAS Diploma on Public Governance, Management and Leadership in the Inter-American System**, was held virtually on September 29 and featured Cristobal Fernandez, Chief of the Electoral Cooperation Section, as a panelist where he spoke about observation missions and their regional importance.
- The **4th Annual Summit of Youth and Democracy of the Americas**, was held in Washington, DC (USA) on October 21 in person and included the participation of Cristobal Fernández, Chief of the Electoral Cooperation Section of DECO.
- The **6th Edition of the Diploma in Elections, Political Representation and Electoral Governance**, organized by the Legal Research Institute of UNAM (Mexico), was held on November 17 and included the participation of Gerardo de Icaza, Director of DECO, as a speaker on “ The importance of international observation and the legitimacy of elections”.
- The **International Electoral Policy and Practice** course at Georgetown University, held virtually on November 28, featured a talk by the Chief of the Observation Section, Brenda Santamaría, with the students of this university.
- The meeting of the **Committee for the Declaration of Principles for the International Observation of Elections (DoP)** held from December 5 to 8 in Brussels, Belgium was attended by the Secretary for Strengthening Democracy, Francisco Guerrero, the Director of DECO, Gerardo de Icaza and the Chief of the Electoral Cooperation Section of DECO, Cristobal Fernández.





5.

Execution of Voluntary Funds



EXECUTION OF VOLUNTARY FUNDS DECO 2022

Election Observation Mission	USD 3,650,000
Technical Cooperation Projects and Monitoring of EOM Recommendations	USD 453,000
Professionalization of Electoral Observation	USD 74,000
Inter-institutional exchanges	USD 6,800
TOTAL	USD 4,183,800

The amounts provided are referential and correspond to the funds executed during the period January 1 to December 31, 2022 for the EOMs, projects and activities corresponding to the year 2022. The totals for each category are approximate since they have not yet been audited or certified.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

1.  Brazil
2.  Canada
3.  Dominican Republic
4.  Ecuador
5.  France
6.  Italy
7.  Netherlands
8.  Peru
9.  Portugal
10.  South Korea
11.  Spain
12.  Switzerland
13.  Sweden
14.  United States

Thank you!

¡Gracias!

Merci!

Obrigado!



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for more people

**DEPARTMENT OF ELECTORAL COOPERATION
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