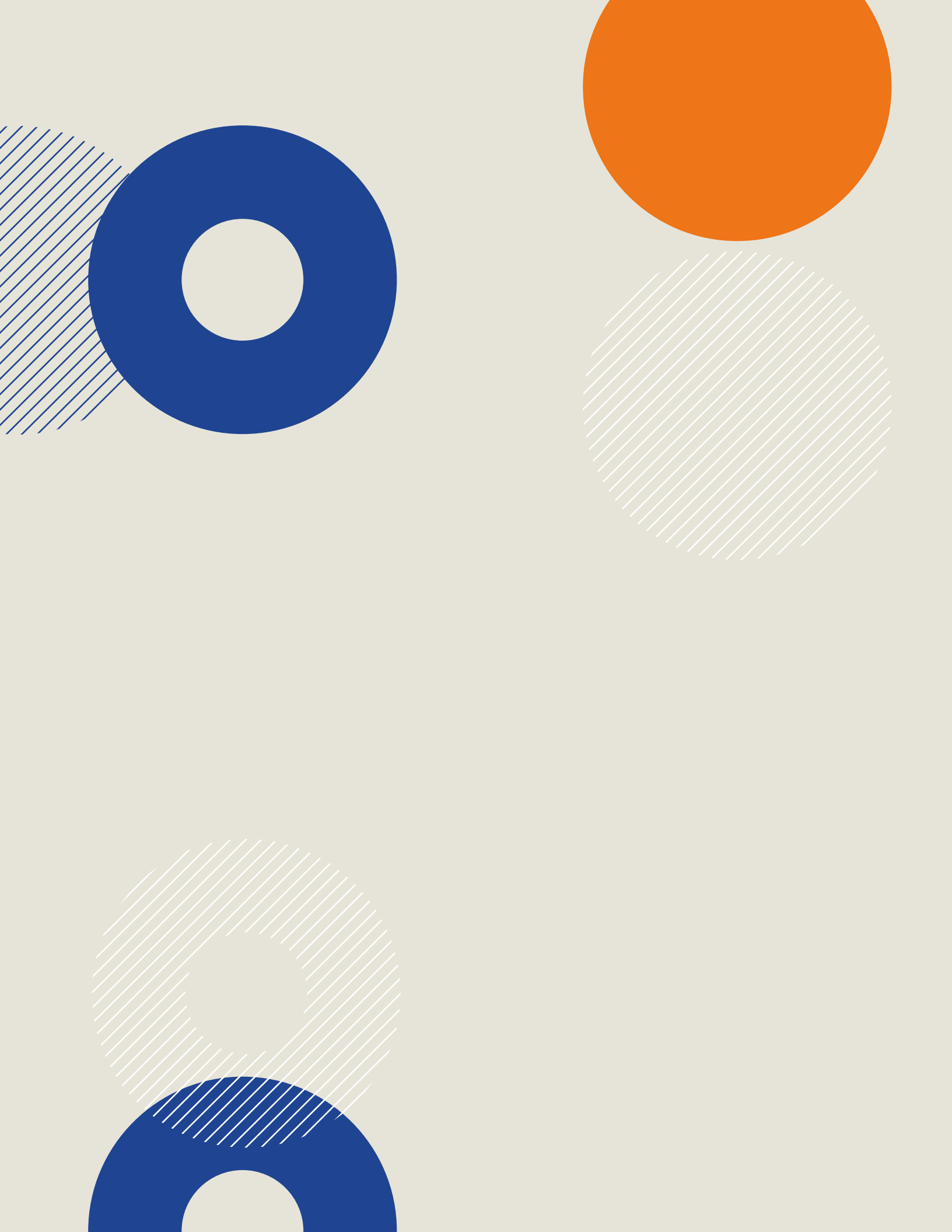


2018 DECO YEAR IN REVIEW

2018 YEAR IN REVIEW OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF ELECTORAL
COOPERATION AND OBSERVATION
(DECO) OF THE OAS



OAS | More rights
for more people



When asked if the OAS is prepared to be on the ground at short notice, Secretary General Luis Almagro said:

“WE BETTER BE ... BECAUSE WE ARE THE BEST

ORGANIZATION RELATED TO ELECTORAL OBSERVATION

IN THE WORLD, BETTER THAN ANY OTHER... SO YES,

IF WE'RE NOT PREPARED, WHO?”

2018 DECO YEAR IN REVIEW



OAS | More rights
for more people

2018 YEAR IN REVIEW OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTORAL COOPERATION AND OBSERVATION (DECO) OF THE OAS

OAS General Secretariat



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

The contents expressed in this document are presented exclusively for informational purposes and do not necessarily represent the opinion or official position of the Organization of American States, its General Secretariat or its member states.

OAS Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Organization of American States. Secretariat for Strengthening Democracy. Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation.

2018 DECO year in review : 2018 Year in review of the Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation of the OAS.

p. ; cm. (OAS. Official records ; OEA/Ser.D/XX SG/SFD/III.46)

ISBN 978-0-8270-6867-4

1. Democracy--America. 2. Election monitoring--America. 3. Elections--America. I. Title.

II. Title: 2018 Year in review of the Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation of the OAS.

III. Series.

OEA/Ser.D/XX SG/SFD/III.46

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INTRODUCTION DECO 2018 YEAR IN REVIEW

This document summarizes the work of the Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation (DECO) of the Secretariat for Strengthening Democracy in 2018. It highlights key aspects of the Electoral Observation Missions, Electoral Experts Missions and Technical Delegations 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.

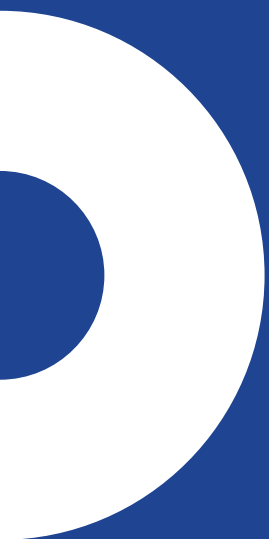
2018 was a year of tremendous significance for Latin American elections. Eleven countries, including the two most populous in the region, Brazil and Mexico, held elections. To accompany these processes, the OAS deployed ten Electoral Observation Missions in six countries: Costa Rica (General Elections and Second Presidential Round), Colombia (Legislative Elections, First and Second Presidential Rounds), Brazil (General Elections and Second Presidential Round), Mexico (Federal and Local Elections), Paraguay (General Elections) and El Salvador (Legislative and Municipal Elections). Experts Missions were also deployed for Ecuador's Referendum and Popular Consultation, General Elections in Grenada and the Constitutional Referendum in Peru. A High-Level Delegation also attended the General Elections in Antigua and Barbuda. With the financial support of 22 donors, a total of 404 experts and international observers were deployed to ensure the presence of the OAS in more than 2000 voting centers.

Following the observations and recommendations of the OAS Electoral Observation Mission (EOM) deployed for the 2017 General Elections in Honduras, DECO gathered a group of international experts to prepare a proposal to reform the country's electoral legislation. In December 2018, the experts' report was submitted to the Honduran National Congress, with key guidelines for advancing regulatory reform that would improve the Honduran electoral processes.

The department also pursued inter-institutional exchanges with its electoral counterparts in the region and globally. In November, the OAS gathered representatives of 29 electoral bodies from 22 countries of the hemisphere at the thirteenth Inter-American Meeting of Electoral Authorities. The meeting, which took place in the Dominican Republic, sought to promote cooperation among the region's authorities and the exchange of good practices on topics such as the political participation of women, the use of opinion polls and social networks in elections, and political financing.

2019 will also be very important for Latin America, with elections in El Salvador, Panama, Guatemala, Bolivia, Argentina, Colombia, Ecuador and Uruguay. Several of these countries have already asked the OAS to deploy an Electoral Observation Mission to support the strengthening of their electoral processes. DECO is already working to make this possible, thereby contributing, for one more year, to democracy in the Americas.





PROFESSIONALIZING ELECTORAL OBSERVATION

“WITH ALL ITS FAULTS, DEMOCRACY IS-BY FAR-THE BEST SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT WE KNOW. WE COULD SAY THAT IT IS THE ONLY POSSIBLE SYSTEM, IN WHICH FREEDOM AND FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS PROVIDE THE FRAMEWORK FOR PARTICIPATION AND POLITICAL DISCUSSION.”

– LUIS ALMAGRO, OAS SECRETARY GENERAL



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

What is the RAE? It is an annual meeting of the high-level authorities of electoral bodies. In 2018, the OAS Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation became the official technical secretariat of the meeting.

Date November 7th- 9th, 2018.

Location Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

Co-organized with Central Electoral Board and Superior Electoral Tribunal.

Main topics Political participation of women, financing of campaigns, equity of access to the media, the use of social media in electoral campaigns.

Participants 51 authorities and representatives of 29 electoral bodies from 22 countries.

What was achieved?

- Sharing of challenges and successful practices in the areas addressed by the meeting.
- Dissemination of the first draft of a document compiling good electoral practices in the region.
- 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 Panama would host the XIV RAE



EXCHANGES

DECO PARTICIPATED IN...

- **2018 Presidential Elections in Latin America: A Time of Reckoning**, a panel discussion organized by the Latin American Studies Program of George Washington University in Washington, DC on February 15th. The OAS Acting Secretary for Strengthening Democracy, Gerardo de Icaza, spoke about the upcoming legislative and presidential elections in Colombia.
- A panel discussion on the **Presidential Elections of Venezuela** organized by the Atlantic Council in Washington, DC on February 21st. The Acting Secretary for Strengthening Democracy, Gerardo de Icaza, participated in this meeting, along with other experts from the region.
- The **UN Forum, International Election Observation, and Global Support for Democratic Elections** organized by the United Nations Association of the U.S. National Capital Area (UNA-NCA) on February 28th in Washington DC. The Chief of the Technical Cooperation Section, Cristobal Fernández, shared the experience of the OAS in electoral observation and spoke about the electoral challenges facing the region.
- **Elections in a Changing Context. A Guide to 2018 Latin American and Caribbean Elections**, an event organized by the Association of Latin American Students (LAPA) and the Center for Latin American Studies on March 21st at Georgetown University in Washington DC. Director a.i of DECO, Brenda Santamaría, reviewed the main electoral challenges in the region in 2018 and spoke about the Electoral Observation Missions deployed by the OAS across the continent.
- The 2018 **Seoul International Forum on Elections** organized by the National Election Commission of Korea, in Seoul on June 11th. DECO specialist Melene Glynn participated in the panel “Ways to Promote Cooperation between Election-related Organizations from Around the World”, which was attended by electoral authorities, ambassadors and representatives of international organizations from 24 countries around the world.
- A dialogue on **The challenges democracy is facing in Latin America**, which took place in the city of San Pablo on August 20th. DECO Director, Gerardo de Icaza, spoke with the students of Public International Law of the Institute of International Relations of the University of San Pablo, along with the former President of Costa Rica Laura Chinchilla, holder of **the José Bonifácio Chair**.
- The **Latin America and the Caribbean Global Forum 2018**, organized by the Global Foundation for Democracy and Development (GFDD), ECLAC and International IDEA on September 26th in New York. DECO Director Gerardo de Icaza participated in the panel “Latin America’s Electoral Super Cycle 2018” and spoke about the trends that OAS/EOMs are observing and the challenges electoral processes are facing in the Americas.
- The international seminar on **Political Reforms to Representation in Latin America**, which took place in Mexico City, September 27th-28th. The Director of the department Gerardo de Icaza and specialist Yerutí Mendez were invited to present the essay “*Identifying the electoral reforms needed in the region through analysis of the recommendations of the Electoral Observation Missions of the Organization of American States.*”

- The international seminar on **Transformations, Contributions and Challenges of Electoral Observation**, which was held on October 8th in Mexico City. DECO specialist Gerardo Sánchez participated in the panel “Innovations in electoral observation: approaches and methodologies” and in the discussion “Observation in the digital era, opportunities and challenges”.
- The **Electoral Integrity and Constitutional Democracy in Latin America** conference, organized by the Boston College Clough Center for the Study of Constitutional Democracy on November 2nd. The Chief of DECO’s Electoral Observation Section, Brenda Santamaría, spoke about the progress in and challenges for electoral integrity and constitutional democracy in the region.
- The **13th Meeting of the Signatory Organizations of the Declaration of Principles for International Electoral Observation**, which was held in London, United Kingdom, on November 28th-30th. The meeting focused on topics of special interest for DECO and other organizations engaged in international observation. Gerardo de Icaza, DECO Director, participated in a high-level panel in which he reflected on changes in the role of electoral observation missions, and their greater participation in mediating post-electoral conflicts. Also, the Chief of DECO’s Electoral Observation Section, Brenda Santamaria, delivered a presentation on how to mainstream the gender perspective within electoral observation missions, including the selection of personnel according to the principles of parity, incorporation of the gender perspective in reports and the enforcement of harassment prevention policies within the Missions.
- The **BRIDGE Workshop on Election Observation and Roundtable Discussion on Gender and Elections** organized by the Electoral Assistance Division of the United Nations and CARICOM in Guyana between December 3rd- 6th. DECO Specialist Melene Glynn delivered presentations on the work of the OAS in electoral observation in the Americas and the OAS approach to incorporating a gender perspective in electoral observation.



Meeting of the Signatory Organizations of the Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation. London, United Kingdom - November 2018



REPÚBLICA DEL PARAGUAY
Justicia Electoral

DIPUTADOS
DEPOSITAR
AQUÍ

REPÚBLICA DEL PARAGUAY
Justicia Electoral



Comisión Nacional Electoral Popular

2.

OBSERVING ELECTORAL PROCESSES

“SINCE 1962 THE OAS HAS DEPLOYED MORE THAN 250 ELECTORAL OBSERVATION MISSIONS (...) THIS IS ONE OF THE MAIN TOOLS AVAILABLE TO THE ORGANIZATION TO PROMOTE THE STRENGTHENING OF DEMOCRACY IN THE REGION.”

– LUIS ALMAGRO, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE OAS



I. ELECTORAL OBSERVATION MISSIONS

EOMs 2018

- Costa Rica, General Elections - February 4th
- El Salvador, Legislative and Municipal Elections - March 4th
- Colombia, Legislative Elections - March 11th
- Costa Rica, Presidential Second Round - April 1st
- Paraguay, General Elections - April 22nd
- Colombia, Presidential Elections - May 27th
- Colombia, Presidential Second Round - June 17th
- Mexico, Federal and Local Elections - July 1st
- Brazil, General Elections - October 7th
- Brazil, Presidential Second Round - October 28th

COSTA RICA

General Elections | Presidential Second Round

FIRST ROUND: FEBRUARY 4TH, 2018

EOM Members:

15 →  6  9

Nationalities:

11

Donors:



SECOND ROUND: APRIL 1ST, 2018

EOM Members:

4 →  2  2

Nationalities:

4

Donors:



Topics observed:

ELECTORAL JUSTICE, ELECTORAL ORGANIZATION, ELECTORAL TECHNOLOGY, POLITICAL-ELECTORAL FINANCING AND WOMEN'S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION.

The OAS/EOM for Costa Rica's national elections was headed by Andrés Pastrana, former President of Colombia. The Mission's observation work consisted of a substantive analysis of the process in key areas: electoral organization and technology, campaign financing, electoral justice, and gender. On Election Day, the Mission visited polling stations (JRV) in San José, Alajuela, Cartago and Heredia, from the opening of the polling stations to the scrutiny and transmission of results. The overseas vote was also observed at the Costa Rican consulate in Washington DC, United States.

Since none of the candidates achieved the votes required to win in the first round, a second presidential round was held on Sunday April 1st 2018. The EOM sent a follow-up team, which met with the TSE magistrates, the two candidates, representatives of civil society and academics to hear their perspectives on the process. On the day of the election, the team visited voting centers in San José to observe the elections.

SOME RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE OAS/EOM:

- Add a TSE member to the JRVs, given the inability of political parties to register and mobilize enough board members.
- Analyze the role that polls play within the country's electoral system, since - despite being inaccurate - these studies are used to decide who participates in debates and influence the access of candidates to credit lines.
- Simplify access to direct public financing during the campaign period so that political parties can count on public resources before the election and reduce dependence on the private sector.
- Implement a free electoral space in the media in order to guarantee all political parties the opportunity to explain their proposals.
- Review the design and presentation of the preliminary results, so that citizens can see the data flow at the Voting Board (JRV) level and view the tabulation of results as well as the image of each JRV's Results Certificate, on the same platform.

The Final Report was presented to the OAS Permanent Council on February 6th, 2019 and is available at:

<http://www.oas.org/eomdatabase/GetFileA.aspx?id=401-1135-27-0>



Meeting at the Supreme Electoral Tribunal. San Jose, Costa Rica

EL SALVADOR

Legislative and Municipal Elections

MARCH 4TH, 2018

EOM Members:

29 →  14  15

Nationalities:

18

Donors:



Topics observed:

ELECTORAL JUSTICE, ELECTORAL ORGANIZATION, ELECTORAL TECHNOLOGY, GENDER, POLITICAL-ELECTORAL FINANCING

The OAS/EOM for the legislative and municipal elections in El Salvador was led by the Uruguayan diplomat Juan Pablo Corlazzoli.

The OAS deployed a team of 29 experts and observers from 18 countries, who conducted a substantive analysis of issues relating to electoral organization and technology, campaign financing, women's political participation and electoral justice.

On Election Day, the Mission was deployed in the country's 14 departments from the opening of the JRVs to the scrutiny and transmission of results, visiting a total of 117 voting centers.

SOME RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE OAS/EOM:

- Implement a unique and centralized platform for the registration of citizens proposed by the parties to integrate the JRVs, which would allow greater control of this process by party foundations and the TSE.
- Conduct a comprehensive audit of the electoral roll in order to verify its status and perform various verification and control exercises.
- Create a schedule for the results transmission tests that would gradually increase coverage until one hundred percent of the JRVs are covered.
- Guarantee timely access to political parties' financial information and accounts, and provide institutions with human and financial resources to carry out their audits.
- Apply the 30% gender quota to the list of principal candidates and adopt a policy position on top positions to give women more visibility and to normalize their capability.

The Final Report was presented to the OAS Permanent Council on September 27th, 2018 and is available at:

<http://www.oas.org/eomdatabase/GetFileA.aspx?id=402-1125-27-0>



Election Day, San Salvador, El Salvador

COLOMBIA

Legislative Elections*

MARCH 11TH, 2018

EOM Members:

20 → 9 11

Nationalities:

11

Donors:



Topics observed:

ELECTORAL JUSTICE, ELECTORAL ORGANIZATION, ELECTORAL TECHNOLOGY, GENDER, INDIGENOUS AND AFRO-DESCENDANT POPULATIONS, POLITICAL-ELECTORAL FINANCING

* In Colombia, the OAS Electoral Observation Mission uses a different name in Spanish (Misión de Veeduría Electoral, MVE) than observation mission in other countries (Misión de Observación Electoral, MOE), given that the name MOE Colombia refers to a platform of civil society organizations that promotes exercise of citizens' right to participate in the formation, exercise, and oversight of public power.

The OAS/EOM for the legislative elections in Colombia was headed by the former vice president of Costa Rica Kevin Casas Zamora. These were the first elections in the country after the signing of the Peace Accords and in which the FARC participated as a political force after more than half a century of armed conflict.

The Mission began its deployment on March 5th and had a team of 20 experts and observers, who conducted a substantive analysis of the legislative elections and the inter-party hearings. On Election Day, the members of the Mission visited 76 polling stations and 167 polling tables, observing the set up and opening of polling stations, the voting, and the vote count.

SOME RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE OAS/EOM:

- Establish realistic funding ceilings in order to avoid the under-reporting of income and expenses, in both cash and kind.
- Apply the gender quota for election to the House of Representatives to all departments in the country, and implement a gender-based mandate to both blocked lists and those that provide for a preferential vote.
- Include the ethnic and linguistic variable in the electoral roster, so that in the future, this information is considered in the development of programs and policies that promote the inclusion of indigenous and Afro-descendants in the electoral processes.
- Introduce a secure server, which is isolated from the tally system, which allows political parties real-time access to the 8 flat files and the images of the tally records, through links between the Data Processing Center and the political party headquarters.

The Final Report was presented to the OAS Permanent Council on March 6th, 2019 and is available at:

<http://www.oas.org/eomdatabase/GetFileA.aspx?id=406-1137-27-0>



Election Day. Bogota, Colombia

PARAGUAY

General Elections

APRIL 22ND, 2018

EOM Members:

41 →  21  20

Nationalities:

16

Donors:



Topics observed:

ELECTORAL JUSTICE, ELECTORAL ORGANIZATION, ELECTORAL TECHNOLOGY, GENDER, POLITICAL-ELECTORAL FINANCING

The OAS/EOM for the General Elections in Paraguay was led by former President of Costa Rica, Laura Chinchilla.

The OAS deployed a team of 41 experts and observers from 14 countries who conducted a substantive analysis of issues relating to electoral organization and technology, campaign financing, women's political participation and electoral justice.

On Election Day, the Mission deployed in 14 of the 17 departments in the country, as well as in the Capital District and visited 203 voting centers, observing the opening of the MRVs up to the tally and transmission of results.

SOME RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE OAS / EOM:

- Introduce a legal provision that establishes a precise and uniform standard for the set-up of the polls in order to avoid inequitable set-ups and strengthen confidence in the electoral bodies.
- Explore the possibility of implementing a biometric electoral roll.
- Increase the current minimum percentage for the gender quota and establish a position mandate that gives greater guarantees in the equality of results.
- Evaluate the delivery of public financing prior to the election so that the parties do not depend on private financing.
- Develop substantive and procedural legislation on electoral matters, which establishes the means of appeal, challenged actions, deadlines for filing, arguing and ruling on appeals, as well as the authorities that will be involved.

The Final Report was presented to the OAS Permanent Council on March 6th, 2019 and is available at:

<http://www.oas.org/eomdatabase/GetFileA.aspx?id=404-1147-27-0>



Election Day. Asuncion, Paraguay

COLOMBIA

First and second Presidential round*

FIRST ROUND: MAY 27TH, 2018

EOM Members:

79 →  37  42

Nationalities:

21

Donors:



SECOND ROUND: JUNE 17TH, 2018

EOM Members:

32 →  15  17

EOM Members:

12

Donors:



Topics observed:

ELECTORAL JUSTICE, ELECTORAL ORGANIZATION, ELECTORAL TECHNOLOGY, POLITICAL-ELECTORAL FINANCING

* In Colombia, the OAS Electoral Observation Mission uses a different name in Spanish (Misión de Veeduría Electoral, MVE) than observation mission in other countries (Misión de Observación Electoral, MOE), given that the name MOE Colombia refers to a platform of civil society organizations that promotes exercise of citizens' right to participate in the formation, exercise, and oversight of public power.

The OAS/EOM for the Presidential Elections in Colombia was led by the former Vice President of Costa Rica, Kevin Casas.

In the first round, the OAS/EOM deployed 79 experts and observers in 25 departments of Colombia and in the Capital District. The team commenced its deployment on May 15th, starting with the arrival of the experts in electoral organization and technology, who conducted a substantive analysis of the administration of the elections and the computer systems used at the different stages of the process. Specialists in electoral justice and campaign financing were also included in the group of experts.

During their stay in the country, the OAS/EOM met with the candidates, political and electoral authorities, and security forces, among others, to learn firsthand about their thoughts and concerns regarding the presidential elections. On Election Day OAS observers visited 1,374 voting tables in 428 polling stations.

Since no ticket received the required votes to win in the first round, the National Electoral Council announced that there would be a presidential runoff on Sunday, June 17th, 2018. For the runoff, the OAS deployed a team of 32 experts and international observers, belonging to 12 nationalities, in Colombia. Another 8 people observed the overseas vote in 8 cities of 7 countries.

SOME RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE OAS/EOM:

- Develop mechanisms that promote transparency and plurality in the recruitment of electoral jurors.
- Develop new initiatives that promote the role of electoral witnesses and facilitate their accreditation and training.
- Regulate audits and tests of the scrutiny software.
- Update and systematize the current electoral legislation in order to enhance understanding of the rules in force by candidates, political parties, the media and the general public.

The Final Report was presented to the OAS Permanent Council on March 6th, 2019 and is available at:

<http://www.oas.org/eomdatabase/GetFileA.aspx?id=406-1137-27-0>



Closing of the Mission. Bogota, Colombia

MEXICO

General Elections*

JULY 1ST, 2018

EOM Members:

65 →  31  34

Nationalities:

23

Donors:



Topics observed:

ELECTORAL JUSTICE, ELECTORAL ORGANIZATION, ELECTORAL SECURITY, ELECTORAL TECHNOLOGY, GENDER, INDIGENOUS AND AFRO-DESCENDANT POPULATIONS, POLITICAL-ELECTORAL FINANCING

The Electoral Observation Mission deployed in Mexico to observe the federal and local elections was led by Leonel Fernández, former president of the Dominican Republic.

The Mission, which was composed of 65 experts and observers from 23 countries, arrived in the country on June 21st, following a preliminary visit in mid-May. The Mission was present in 25 states and in held meetings at the federal and local levels with electoral and government authorities, political parties, candidates and civil society, in order to learn about the technical issues surrounding the electoral process and hear the concerns of the different actors in the process.

On the day of the election, OAS observers visited 676 voting stations, from their set-up and opening to the counting of votes and transmission of results.

SOME RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE OAS/EOM:

- Strengthen the capabilities of State security forces and protection mechanisms for political actors and representatives of civil society during the electoral period.
- Evaluate the possibility of making greater use of spaces such as school classrooms and precincts to set-up polling stations.
- Introduce a federal regulation that addresses the problem of gender-based political violence in a comprehensive fashion to ensure its prevention, as well as intervention, punishment and eradication.
- Promote greater political inclusion of Afro-descendant populations, a segment of the population that, thus far, has not benefited from affirmative action.

* According to the Agreement with the Government of Mexico, the term "Foreign Visitor 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.

- Strengthen the enforcement capabilities of the National Electoral Institute in coordination with other State entities, particularly with those bodies with better research tools and financial intelligence.

The Final Report was presented to the OAS Permanent Council on November 20th, 2018 and is available at:

<http://www.oas.org/eomdatabase/GetFileA.aspx?id=409-1117-27-0>



Election Day, Mexico City, Mexico

BRAZIL

General Elections | Second round

GENERAL ELECTIONS: **OCTOBER 7TH, 2018**

EOM Members:

47 →  **21**  **26**

Nationalities:

19

Donors:



SECOND ROUND: **OCTOBER 28TH, 2018**

EOM Members:

36 →  **13**  **23**

Nationalities:

18

Donors:



Topics observed:

ELECTORAL JUSTICE, ELECTORAL ORGANIZATION, ELECTORAL TECHNOLOGY, GENDER, INDIGENOUS AND AFRO-DESCENDANT POPULATIONS, MEDIA, POLITICAL-ELECTORAL FINANCING

The OAS/EOM for the General Elections in Brazil was led by former Costa Rican President Laura Chinchilla. This was the first time that the OAS observed an electoral process in Brazil.

In the first round, the OAS/EOM included 41 experts and observers who were deployed in 12 states of the country and in the Federal District, as well as six observers who monitored the overseas vote in Buenos Aires, Mexico City, Montreal, Paris, Santiago de Chile and Washington DC.

The Mission's experts analyzed key aspects of the electoral process, including electoral organization and technology, campaign financing, women's political participation, access to media and freedom of expression, electoral justice and the participation of indigenous and Afro-descendant populations.

On Election Day, OAS observers visited a total of 390 polling stations in 130 centers in 12 states of the country and the Federal District. The Mission was also present in the TSE's verification room and in the Electoral Center of Command and Control.

Given that none of the candidates reached 50% of the votes, the percentage required to win in the first round, the presidential run off was scheduled for October 28th. On this occasion, the Mission was composed of 30 experts and observers from 17 countries, and 6 members who observed voting overseas. On Election Day, OAS observers visited 392 polling stations in 121 electoral centers in 11 states of the country and the Federal District.

SOME RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE OAS/EOM:

- Review the deadlines established for the submission and approval of candidacies.
- Develop participatory and transparent initiatives that support a better understanding of the impact of disinformation on electoral processes, and craft suitable responses to these phenomena.
- Expand the duration and scope of the testing that makes up the public security test of the electronic voting system
- Increase the human and financial resources of the oversight unit that monitors party funds at the Superior Electoral Tribunal.
- Establish sanctions for parties that fail to comply with the female financing quota.

The Final Report was presented to the OAS Permanent Council on March 6th, 2019 and is available at:

<http://www.oas.org/eomdatabase/GetFileA.aspx?id=410-1139-5-0>



Election Day, Brasilia, Brazil



II. ELECTORAL EXPERTS MISSIONS AND DELEGATIONS

ELECTORAL EXPERTS MISSION

ECUADOR

Popular Consultation | Referendum

FEBRUARY 4TH, 2018

Members of the Mission:

9 → 6 3

Nationalities:

6

Donors:



Topics observed:

ELECTORAL JUSTICE, ELECTORAL ORGANIZATION, ELECTORAL TECHNOLOGY, POLITICAL-ELECTORAL FINANCING AND DIRECT DEMOCRACY

The OAS Electoral Experts Mission for the Popular Consultation / Referendum in Ecuador was led by Leonardo Valdés Zurita, former president of the Federal Electoral Institute of Mexico. The Mission's experts conducted a substantive analysis of issues relating to electoral organization and technology, campaign financing, electoral justice and direct democracy.

SOME RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ELECTORAL EXPERTS MISSION:

- Guarantee clear rules that facilitate the accreditation of the various political and social organizations that participate in the campaign.
- Establish two committees (one for the YES option and one for the NO option), grouping the political and social organizations wishing to support either of the options, in order to enhance the impact of the campaigns, facilitate communication between actors and the electoral authorities, optimize the use of public resources and render it more transparent.
- Clearly define the criteria that govern the distribution of propaganda during electoral processes, and ensure timely remedies for social actors to defend their rights.
- Establish a protocol that contains the schedule for announcing the results of the elections in order to avoid generating false expectations regarding the possibility of accessing the results soon after the close of polling stations.

The Final Report was presented to the OAS Permanent Council on January 23rd, 2019 and is available at:

<http://www.oas.org/eomdatabase/GetFileA.aspx?id=398-1127-27-0>



Mission Specialists in a meeting with CNE officials. Quito, Ecuador

ELECTORAL EXPERTS MISSION

GRENA DA

General Elections

MARCH 13TH, 2018

EOM Members:

6 →  2  4

Nationalities:

5

Donors:



Topics observed:

ELECTORAL ORGANIZATION, ELECTORAL TECHNOLOGY, CAMPAIGN FINANCE

The OAS Electoral Experts Mission for the General Elections in Grenada was led by OAS Assistant Secretary General, Ambassador Nestor Méndez.

The Mission included six observers from five OAS Member States, including specialists in Electoral Registries, electoral organization and technology, and financing of electoral campaigns.

SOME RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ELECTORAL EXPERTS MISSION:

- Review the procedures that must be completed in order to prepare the voters' list, including claims, objections and appeals, in order to calculate the minimum amount of time that is reasonably required to do so.
- Parliamentary Election Offices at the constituency level should utilize available technological tools to submit an image of the Statement of Poll results to the Election Centre.
- Develop campaign financing legislation and regulations that establish clear funding and spending limits, require political parties to disclose their sources of funding, prohibit anonymous and foreign donations, and limit private and in-kind donations to political and electoral campaigns.
- Develop programs to promote the participation and leadership of women in the political sphere.

The Final Report was presented to the OAS Permanent Council on February 6th, 2019 and is available at:

<https://www.oas.org/eomdatabase/GetFileA.aspx?id=403-1155-5-0>



Election Day. Grand Anse, Grenada

ELECTORAL DELEGATION

ANTIGUA Y BARBUDA

General Elections

MARCH 23RD, 2018

EOM Members:

3 → 2 1

Nationalities:

3

Donors:



On the invitation of the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, the Organization of American States (OAS) sent a High Level Electoral Delegation to observe the General Elections on March 21st. The elections were held to elect the 17 members of the House of Representatives for a new five year term. The team held meetings with electoral authorities, representatives of political parties, government authorities, representatives of civil society and observer groups. On Election Day, the delegation visited voting centers established for all of the constituencies.



Election Day. Villa Area, Antigua and Barbuda

ELECTORAL EXPERTS MISSION

PERÚ

Referendum

DECEMBER 9TH, 2018

EOM Members:

14 →  7  7

Nationalities:

6

Donors:



Topics observed:

ELECTORAL ORGANIZATION, ELECTORAL TECHNOLOGY, POLITICAL FINANCING, DIRECT DEMOCRACY, ELECTORAL JUSTICE AND CIVIC EDUCATION.

The OAS Electoral Experts Mission for the Constitutional Referendum in Peru was led by former vice chancellor and former Dominican deputy Minou Tavárez Mirabal.

The Mission was composed of 14 experts from six OAS member states, who studied issues related to electoral organization and technology, campaign financing, electoral justice, civic education, and direct democracy.

SOME RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ELECTORAL EXPERTS MISSION:

- Establish specific rules that govern the development of constitutional referendums, identifying who is authorized to convene, who formulates the questions, who may legitimately file appeals, among other matters.
- Establish a review mechanism through which a specialized body checks the text of the consultation prepared by the executive.
- Evaluate the scope and application of neutrality rules in this type of process in order to promote public debate and promote an informed vote.
- Regulate accountability mechanisms and the supervision of expenditure that should be applied in future referendum processes
- Conduct training courses on the functioning of the electronic voting system and laboratory sessions at which computer engineers (from political parties and/or citizens) can analyze and test the technological solutions developed by the electoral authority.

As of the date of printing this report, the Final Report had not yet been submitted to the OAS Permanent Council.



Election Day. Lima, Perú



Election Day. Lima, Perú

3.

FOLLOW-UP ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF OAS/EOMS

“DEMOCRACY DEMANDS GREATER POLITICAL TOLERANCE. IT IMPLIES PLURALISM, THE PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE OF DIVERSITY OF OPINIONS, DIALOGUE, NEGOTIATION AND AGREEMENTS. IN THIS CONTEXT, THE OAS HAS SHOWN THAT IT IS A RELEVANT ACTOR, AS AN HEMISPHERIC POLITICAL FORUM, AS THE TRUE HEMISPHERIC GUARDIAN OF THE PRINCIPLES AND VALUES OF DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN OUR CONTINENT. ”

– LUIS ALMAGRO, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE OAS



HONDURAS

Electoral reform

On September 20th, 2018, the President of the National Congress of the Republic of Honduras, Doctor Mauricio Oliva Herrera, sent an official communication to the General Secretariat requesting technical advice for the preparation of a proposal for electoral reform. Secretary General Almagro instructed the Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation to proceed to select a team of experts that would prepare a diagnosis of the Honduran electoral legislation, and subsequently submit a proposal for its reform.

In order to understand the different perspectives on the existing electoral legal framework, the group of experts traveled to Honduras to meet with political parties and groups, congressional caucuses, State authorities and civil society organizations. The first visit took place on October 24th-31st, 2018 and the second visit on November 12th- 17th of the same year.

The OAS experts conducted a comprehensive analysis of existing electoral regulations in Honduras, taking into account the observations and recommendations of the OAS Electoral Observation Mission deployed for the 2017 general elections. A range of topics were addressed in this study: the institutional design of the electoral body, procedures for the preparation of the electoral roll, the results transmission system, the rules to create political parties, rules about political financing and issues related to gender parity.

At the end of the project, an OAS delegation traveled to Honduras to deliver the Expert Group Report to the National Congress.

What was achieved?

The proposals were developed within a framework that allowed each of the observed problems to be treated individually, identifying its fundamental source in law and indicating the appropriate legal modifications for its resolution.

On January 29th, 2019, the Honduran Congress ratified a package of constitutional-electoral reforms. The document prepared by the Special Commission that worked on the bill to modify the constitution, cited the report presented by the OAS observers and some of the recommendations.

Donors: National Congress of Honduras



“Delivery of the Report”. Tegucigalpa, Honduras



“Delivery of the Report”. Tegucigalpa, Honduras



JRV No.

049



JRV No.

050



Misión de

4.

EXECUTION OF FUNDS

“THE EFFECTIVE EXERCISE OF DEMOCRACY DEPENDS ON THE PROBITY OF THE GOVERNORS BUT EVEN MORE ON THE FORMAL INSTITUTIONS, ORGANISMS AND SOCIAL NORMS THAT PROMOTE AND ENSURE TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY OF PUBLIC ACTION.”

– LUIS ALMAGRO, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE OAS



EXECUTION OF VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS DECO - 2018



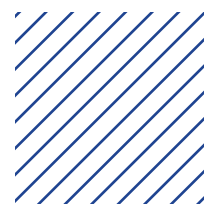
Electoral Observation Missions and Electoral Accompaniment

\$2,753,943

Follow-up to the recommendations of OAS/EOMs

\$249,047

\$3,002,990



Meeting with donors

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



Argentina



Japan



Bolivia



Korea



Canada



Luxembourg



Chile



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Peru



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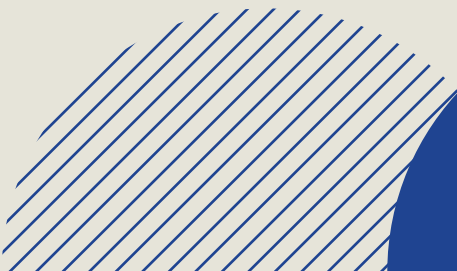


Italy



United States

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for more people

**DEPARTMENT OF ELECTORAL COOPERATION
AND OBSERVATION (DECO) OF THE OAS**

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ISBN 978-0-8270-6867-4