



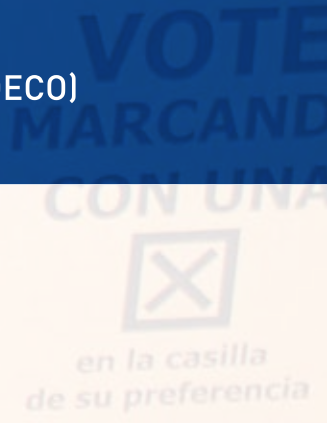
# YEAR IN REVIEW | 2016

DEPARTMENT OF ELECTORAL COOPERATION AND OBSERVATION (DECO)  
SECRETARIAT FOR STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY (SSD)



# OAS

More rights  
for more people



# 2016 YEAR IN REVIEW OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTORAL COOPERATION AND OBSERVATION (DECO) OF THE SECRETARIAT FOR STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY (SSD)



## OAS GENERAL SECRETARIAT

**Luis Almagro**  
Secretary General

**Nestor Méndez**  
Assistant Secretary General

**Francisco Guerrero**  
Secretary for Strengthening Democracy

**Gerardo de Icaza**  
Director, Department of Electoral Cooperation  
and Observation

The opinions expressed in this document do not necessarily  
represent the views of the Organization of American States (OAS)  
and/or its Member States.

### OAS Cataloging-in-Publication Data

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

Memoria de Labores 2016 del Departamento para la Cooperación y Observación Electoral (DECO) de la Secretaría para el Fortalecimiento de la Democracia (SFD) = 2016 Year in review of the Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation (DECO) of the Secretariat for Strengthening Democracy (SSD).

p. ; cm. (OAS. Documentos oficiales ; OEA/Ser.D/XX SG/SFD/III.43)

ISBN 978-0-8270-6647-2

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

OEA/Ser.D/XX SG/SFD/III.43

# Contents

<b>5</b>	<b>Introduction</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>1) Professionalizing Electoral Observation</b>
8	Eleventh Inter-American Meeting of Electoral Management Bodies (RAE)
8	Seventh Meeting of the Working Group on American Electoral Jurisprudence
9	Exchanges and Agreements
<b>13</b>	<b>2) Observing Electoral Processes</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>Electoral Observation Missions</b>
14	OAS/EOM Keywords and Icons
15	Electoral Observation Mission Costa Rica - Municipal Elections
16	Electoral Observation Mission Bolivia - Constitutional Referendum
17	Electoral Observation Mission Jamaica - General Parliamentary Elections
18	Electoral Observation Mission Peru - General Elections and Presidential Second Round
20	Electoral Observation Mission Dominican Republic - General Elections: Presidential, Parliamentary, Municipal, and Representatives of the Dominican Community Abroad
21	Electoral Observation Mission Colombia - Plebiscite
22	Electoral Observation Mission United States - General Elections
23	Electoral Observation Mission Haiti - Presidential and Legislative Elections
<b>24</b>	<b>Electoral Accompaniment and Electoral Delegations</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>3) Follow-up to OAS/EOM Recommendations</b>
26	Implementation of a Quality Management System in the Nacional Electoral Council (CNE) in Ecuador
26	Workshop for Lead Auditors in ISO Electoral Standards, Belgium
27	Workshop for Lead Auditors in ISO Electoral Standards, United States
27	Workshop for Lead Auditors in ISO Electoral Standards, Costa Rica
<b>29</b>	<b>4) Allocation of Funds</b>
30	Allocation of voluntary contributions DECO-2016
31	Acknowledgments



## INTRODUCTION 2016 YEAR IN REVIEW DECO

This document summarizes the work of the Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation (DECO) of the Secretariat for Strengthening Democracy of the Organization of American States during 2016. It reviews the Electoral Observation Missions deployed to the region and the activities developed throughout the year in order to support the Organization's Member States in strengthening their electoral processes and, in so doing, contribute to democracy in the Americas.

In 2016, the OAS deployed nine Electoral Observation Missions in eight countries of the region, including the United States, which for the first time in history invited the OAS to observe its elections. In total 539 experts and international observers were deployed, with the financial support of 22 donor countries. Various types of electoral processes were observed: presidential, legislative, municipal, and parliamentary elections, as well as two processes of direct democracy.

In addition to its Electoral Observation Missions, DECO continued its efforts in 2016 to generate knowledge and exchange experiences in electoral administration by nurturing inter-institutional cooperation. To this end, DECO collaborated in convening events that brought together the electoral authorities of the hemisphere, and participated in conferences and meetings with international organizations that work in the field of electoral observation.

Through the International Electoral Accreditation Body (IEAB), DECO delivered training courses to professionals in Belgium, Costa Rica and the United States on quality management and the ISO Electoral norm, which will help electoral management bodies manage their processes more efficiently.

In 2017, DECO will continue supporting democracy in the Americas through its Electoral Observation Missions and technical cooperation projects which seek to help modernize and enhance the quality of the services offered by electoral management bodies.



TRIBUNAL ELECTORAL DEL DEPARTAMENTO DE PASO DE LA SIERRA

PAZ

IA:

0

IO:

LTO

LECTORAL DE

LECTORAL DE

ESTADO PLURINACIONAL DE BOLIVIA  
PRESENDO CONSTITUCIONAL

*Behind the electoral observers of the Organization of American States lies more than half a century of experience, lessons learned, and an internationally recognized level of excellence.*

- Luis Almagro, OAS Secretary General

1

# PROFESSIONALIZING ELECTORAL OBSERVATION

## Eleventh Inter-American Meeting of Electoral Management Bodies (RAE)



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

**Date** October 20 and 21, 2016

**Location** Mexico City

**Co-organized with** Nacional Electoral Institute (INE), Electoral Tribunal of the Federal Judiciary (TEPJF), Attorney's Office for Electoral Crimes (FEPADE)

**Main topics** Internal democracy of political parties, Voting abroad, Districting

**Participants** 23 representatives of electoral bodies from 17 countries, and special guests

### What was achieved?

- Sharing of experiences and successful practices in the areas addressed in the meeting
- A strengthened relationship between DECO and the electoral authorities of the region
- Facilitation of horizontal cooperation among the electoral authorities of the region
- Presentation of technological innovations implemented in Mexico related to the accountability of political party spending as a result of 2014 legal reforms
- Agreement that Colombia will host the XII edition of the RAE

## Seventh Meeting of the Working Group on American Electoral Jurisprudence



**What is the Working Group?** A group of ten electoral management bodies that carry out initiatives to systematize and disseminate electoral jurisprudence and develop activities related to the application of electoral justice.

**Date** October 19, 2016

**Location** Mexico City

**Co-organized with** Superior Electoral Tribunal (TSE) of the Dominican Republic



**Central topic** Internal democracy of political parties

**Participants** Representatives from the electoral management bodies of Brazil, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Uruguay.

**What was achieved?**

- Presentation of the third edition of The Latin American Yearbook on Electoral Jurisprudence
- Discussion on protecting and guaranteeing the legal rights of the members of political parties and political organizations to participate in popular elections for internal management positions
- Presentation of indicators in a preliminary draft methodology to observe electoral justice during OAS Electoral Observation Missions



[www.jurisprudenciaelectoral.org](http://www.jurisprudenciaelectoral.org)

## EXCHANGES AND AGREEMENTS

### The OAS participated in...

01

- The **11th Meeting of the Signatory Organizations of the Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation (DoP)**, which was held in Johannesburg, South Africa, on October 18 and 19. The meeting addressed topics on which DECO had been working and on which OAS Electoral Observation Missions have issued recommendations. Among these topics were electoral financing, the participation of people with disabilities, and electoral violence. Brenda Santamaria, DECO's Section Chief for Electoral Observation, delivered a presentation on how campaign financing affects the way female candidates are nominated and eventually elected. During the event, it was announced that the OAS will organize and host the next DoP meeting in 2017 in Washington DC, USA.

02

- The **event, *The Electoral Path of Female Candidates***, organized by ParIAmericas and the OAS with the support of the Spanish Agency for International Development and Cooperation in La Antigua, Guatemala, on September 12 and 13. The meeting addressed the challenges that female candidates face during each stage of the electoral cycle. The Section Chief for Electoral Observation, Brenda Santamaria, discussed the inclusion of a gender perspective in OAS Electoral Observation Missions.

03

- The **Second Seminar of Subnational Electoral Observation *Practices of Direct Democracy***, organized by the Electoral Institute of Mexico City (IEDF), the OAS and the Technological Institute of Monterrey on December 9 in Mexico City. DECO's Director, Gerardo de Icaza, shared the experience of the OAS in observing direct democracy mechanisms in the region.

# 04

- A **Follow-up Meeting on the Electoral Observation Missions of the European Union and OSCE/ODIHR**, organized by the European External Action Service in Brussels on November 28. DECO specialist Yerutí Méndez discussed the work of the Department to follow up on recommendations made by OAS Electoral Observation Missions.

# 05

- The **Workshop on Human Rights and Election Standards**, organized by the Office of the High Commissioner of United Nations Human Rights (ACNUDH) and by the Carter Center in Geneva on June 16 and 17. During the meeting, DECO’s Director, Gerardo de Icaza, shared the experience of the OAS in integrating a human rights approach in its electoral observation activities. Earlier in the year, DECO participated in two preparation meetings for this event in Atlanta.



## The OAS signed agreements with ...



- **Mexico’s National Electoral Institute:** The Framework Cooperation Agreement signed by the OAS and the INE aims at strengthening cooperation between both institutions and providing continuity to the bilateral projects that have been developed. In addition, it will serve as a framework for future Electoral Observation Missions deployed to Mexico.



- **Electoral Institute of Puebla:** The Memorandum of Understanding between the OAS and the Electoral Institute of Puebla establishes a framework for cooperation in areas of mutual interest and provides opportunities to share information, technology and experiences related to the administration of elections.



- **Attorney General’s Office of Mexico:** The Agreement establishes a framework for cooperation between the Attorney General’s Office and the OAS with the purpose of identifying, promoting and executing projects to promote exchanges, cooperation, training, information sharing

and technical assistance that contribute to strengthening institutional capacities in the area of electoral crimes.



- **European Centre for Electoral Support (ECES):** The objective of the agreement signed by the OAS and the ECES, a non-profit organization located in Brussels, is to cooperate on subjects related to the implementation of quality management systems within electoral management bodies.

*Event The Electoral Path of Female Candidates Guatemala, September 2016 »*



**11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Members of the Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation (DoP) South Africa, October 2016 »**

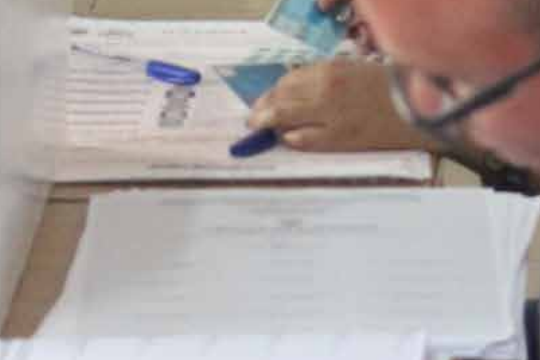


Yay Yay

12345  
67890



CABINA DE VOTACIÓN  
MESA N° 037864





*OAS electoral observation is, in fact, a hemispheric public good.*



- Luis Almagro, OAS Secretary General

2

# OBSERVING ELECTORAL PROCESSES

## EOMs 2016






- » Costa Rica ..... February 7<sup>th</sup>
- » Bolivia ..... February 21<sup>st</sup>
- » Jamaica ..... February 25<sup>th</sup>
- » Peru 1<sup>st</sup> round ..... April 10<sup>th</sup>
- » Dominican Republic ..... May 15<sup>th</sup>
- » Peru 2<sup>nd</sup> round ..... June 5<sup>th</sup>
- » Colombia ..... October 2<sup>nd</sup>
- » United States of America .. November 8<sup>th</sup>
- » Haiti ..... November 20<sup>th</sup>

**All about OAS/EOMs at:**

 <http://www.oas.org/eomdatabase/default.aspx?lang=en>

# OAS/EOM KEYWORDS AND ICONS

## Type of Election

 Presidential	 Legislative	 Municipal / Local
 Parliamentary	 Referendum	

## Observation Methodologies Implemented

 Political-Electoral Financing	 Electoral Security	 Electoral Justice	 Media
 Gender Equity	 Indigenous Groups and Afro-descendants	 Electoral Organization	 Electoral Technology
 Dispute Resolution	 Direct Democracy	 Voting Abroad	 Electoral Registration

## OAS/EOM Members

 = 4 Observers	 = 4 Observers
---	---

## Donors

 Argentina	 Bolivia	 Canadá	 Chile	 China
 Dominican Rep.	 France	 Germany	 Israel	 Italy
 Kazakhstan	 Korea	 Luxembourg	 Mexico	 Netherlands
 Peru	 Spain	 Sweden	 Switzerland	 Turkey
 United Kingdom	 United States of America			



Electoral Observation Mission • OAS/EOM

## COSTA RICA

February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016 | Municipal Elections

Type of Election:



Number of nationalities  
among EOM members:

12

OAS/EOM Members:

20

Topics observed:



Disaggregated by gender:



Donors:



The OAS/EOM for the municipal elections in Costa Rica was led by Edgardo Ortuño, former vice Minister of Uruguay.

On Election Day, 20 observers were deployed in seven provinces across the country. In addition, political financing, gender equality during the electoral process and conflict resolution mechanisms were observed in a more specific manner.

### Some of the OAS/EOM recommendations:

- Consider the possibility of an early allocation of public funding to political parties for municipal elections.
- Dedicate space in radio and TV for free electoral programming that contributes to providing political parties with equal access to mass media.
- Strengthen electoral participation through civic education campaigns.

The verbal Report was presented to the OAS Permanent Council on April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016, and can be found at:



<http://www.oas.org/documents/spa/press/MOE.CostaRica.2016final.pdf>

### Election Day in Costa Rica »









Electoral Observation Mission • OAS/EOM

# BOLIVIA

February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016 | Constitutional Referendum

Type of Election: 	Number of nationalities among EOM members:	<b>20</b>
Topics observed: 	OAS/EOM Members:	<b>60</b>
Donors: 	Disaggregated by gender: 	

The OAS/EOM for the constitutional referendum of Bolivia was led by Leonel Fernandez, former President of the Dominican Republic.

On Election Day, 60 international observers were deployed in nine departments across the country while two people observed the voting in Virginia and Washington DC, in the United States. The EOM also specifically analyzed the role of the media and the specificities of the mechanism of direct democracy implemented during this election.

**Some of the OAS/EOM recommendations:**

- Conduct an extensive audit of the voter registry.
- Consider drafting legislation for political organizations that addresses the issues of inclusive access to media and the public funding of campaigns, with the aim of improving competitive conditions.
- Make the relevant legal changes and implement the programs necessary so that authorities can transmit the preliminary electoral results in a faster and more precise manner.

The verbal report was presented to the OAS Permanent Council on July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016, and can be found at:



<http://www.oas.org/fpdb/press/Informe-CP-MOE-Bolivia-SPA.pdf>

**Polling Stations in Bolivia »**







Electoral Observation Mission • OAS/EOM

## JAMAICA

February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016 | General Parliamentary Elections

Type of Election:

Number of nationalities  
among EOM members:

17

OAS/EOM Members:

23

Topics observed:



Disaggregated by gender:



Donors:



The OAS/MOE for the general parliamentary elections of Jamaica was led by Janet G. Bostwick, former Minister of Foreign Affairs and Attorney General of The Bahamas.

The Mission analyzed issues related to electoral organization and technology, women's participation in the electoral process and political financing. On Election Day, the Mission observed the voting and vote counting in 13 constituencies.

### Some of the OAS/EOM recommendations:

- Increase civic education and public awareness campaigns in order to enhance electoral participation.
- Consider ways to facilitate voting by electors who cannot commute to their polling center on Election Day due to hospitalization, residence in a geriatric home, or imprisonment.
- Implement the Act to Amend the Representation of the People Act 2015 which addresses the regulation of campaign financing.
- Take affirmative actions that support women's increased participation in the electoral process.

The verbal report was presented to the OAS Permanent Council on July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016, and can be found at:

[http://www.oas.org/docs/MOE/InformeCP\\_MOE\\_Jamaica\\_2016\\_ENG.pdf](http://www.oas.org/docs/MOE/InformeCP_MOE_Jamaica_2016_ENG.pdf)



### Election Day in Jamaica »



Electoral Observation Mission • OAS/EOM



# PERU

April 10<sup>th</sup> and June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016 | General Elections and Presidential Second Round

<b>Type of Election:</b> 		<b>Topics observed:</b> 	
<b>Donors:</b> 			
Number of nationalities among EOM members:	23	Number of nationalities among EOM members:	21
OAS/EOM Members:	81	OAS/EOM Members:	74
Disaggregated by gender: 		Disaggregated by gender: 	

The OAS/EOM for the general elections in Peru was led by Sergio Abreu, former Senator of Uruguay.

The observation work involved making an integral analysis of the electoral process on key topics such as electoral organization and technology, political-electoral financing, gender, Afro-descendant and Indigenous peoples' participation, media access, conflict resolution and voting abroad.

On Election Day, the OAS/EOM deployed 81 international experts and observers who visited 463 centers across the country. In addition, two observers followed voting abroad in Virginia and Washington, DC.

Given that none of the presidential tickets received more than half of the valid votes, a Second Round was called for June 5 in order to elect the president. On this occasion, the Mission deployed 74 international experts and observers from 21 countries.

**Some of the OAS/EOM recommendations:**

- To study mechanisms that ensure the principles of estoppel and definiteness during the process of declaring candidacy, in such a manner that, once candidacies are registered, they cannot be modified unless there is an evident breach of the Constitution or of criminal law.
- To open more voting centers abroad and to assess the possibility of implementing postal voting, which is contemplated in existing legislation, but not practiced.
- To reinforce affirmative actions in order to propitiate a greater participation of women, and to resume delayed efforts to incorporate gender alternation

in the creation of candidates lists.

- To regularize public funding in order to ensure its allocation to political parties and to assess the necessity of expanding it to the electoral campaign.
- To evaluate the possibility of incorporating limits to political parties' income and spending during elections, as well as adding mechanisms to dissuade and punish actions that go against these norms.

The verbal report was presented to the OAS Permanent Council on July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016, and can be found at:



[http://www.oas.org/fpdb/press/Informe-CP-MOE-Per%C3%83%C2%BA-2016\\_-ESPA%C3%83%E2%80%98OL-FINAL.pdf](http://www.oas.org/fpdb/press/Informe-CP-MOE-Per%C3%83%C2%BA-2016_-ESPA%C3%83%E2%80%98OL-FINAL.pdf)

### Election Day in Peru »





Electoral Observation Mission • OAS/EOM

# DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016 | General Elections: Presidential, Parliamentary, Municipal, and Representatives of the Dominican Community Abroad

Type of Election:	Number of nationalities among EOM members:	<b>15</b>
	OAS/EOM Members:	<b>38</b>
Topics observed:	Disaggregated by gender:	
	Donors:	

**Election Day in Dominican Republic** ≡



The OAS/EOM for the general elections in Dominican Republic was led by Andres Pastrana, former president of Colombia.

On Election Day, 38 observers visited 292 centers in 18 provinces across the country. Observers also witnessed the voting process in Washington, DC, and Maryland, in the United States of America. A team of specialists observed key aspects of the electoral process, including campaign financing, technology and organization, the role of media in the electoral process, women’s participation and electoral justice.

**Some of the OAS/EOM recommendations:**

- To undertake deep structural reform of the laws regulating the electoral process.
- To define the procedures for vote counting more clearly within the legal structure.
- To implement technological innovations in a more gradual and consensual manner, with trial runs being carried out sufficiently in advance.
- To develop legislation that promotes greater equity in the distribution of public funding, and establish limits on funds that come from the private sector.
- To establish a regulatory legal framework that establishes equal access to private and public media, and that guarantees the right to information.

The verbal report was presented to the OAS Permanent Council on September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016, and can be found at:



<http://www.oas.org/documents/spa/press/MOE-al-consejo-republica-dominicana-sep7.pdf>



Electoral Observation Mission • OAS/EOM

## COLOMBIA

October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016 | Plebiscite

Type of Election:



Number of nationalities  
among EOM members:

20

OAS/EOM Members:

75

Topics observed:



Disaggregated by gender:



Donors:



Election Day  
in Colombia ≈



Some of the OAS/EOM  
recommendations:

The OAS/EOM for the plebiscite was led by Álvaro Colom, former President of Guatemala.

The Mission conducted a comprehensive analysis of key topics, such as direct democracy mechanisms, electoral technology and organization, campaign financing, media access and electoral justice. On Election Day, the OAS/EOM deployed 75 international experts and observers who visited 420 centers in 25 departments around the country and in the Capital District.

- More comprehensively and specifically regulate the legal framework surrounding the announcement and holding of direct democracy mechanisms.
- To extend campaign deadlines when an executive policy is submitted for voting in order to promote higher levels of deliberation among citizens and a greater geographic access to information. This must be accompanied by a stronger pedagogic effort to explain the positions for and against the proposal.
- To strengthen the electoral authority's control and auditing capacities, to have more efficient mechanisms of public accountability, to provide direct public funding to the positions in competition, and to limit private contributions.
- To develop initiatives that lead to the reinforcement of the role of citizens within the democratic system, including a broad debate to identify and address the issues that provoke societal apathy towards the electoral processes, which is reflected in low levels of participation.

The verbal report was presented to the Permanent Council of the OAS on September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016 and can be found at:

<http://www.oas.org/documents/spa/press/Informe-MVE-Colombia-2016%20vFinal.pdf>









Electoral Observation Mission • OAS/EOM

# UNITED STATES

November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016 | General Elections

Type of Election: 	Number of nationalities among EOM members:	<b>18</b>
Topics observed: 	OAS/EOM Members:	<b>41</b>
Donors: 	Disaggregated by gender: 	

**Election Day in USA** ≈



This was the first time that the OAS has deployed an Electoral Observation Mission in the United States, making it the 27th Member State that has received an OAS/EOM. The Mission was led by Laura Chinchilla, former President of Costa Rica.

Due to the decentralized nature of the United States’ electoral system, the Mission made arrangements with several states in order to observe their voting process. On Election Day, the Mission deployed observers in 12 states and in the District of Columbia. The Mission also undertook a preliminary visit to Georgia and Pennsylvania.

The EOM systematically observed specific areas of the electoral process, such as electoral organization, the use of technology in elections, political participation, districting, gender, financing and media coverage.

**Some of the OAS/EOM recommendations:**

- To examine the possibility of having independent commissions design electoral districts in those states which have not done so in order to guarantee the clearest standards in their design and to avoid a politically-biased creation.
- To adopt new laws related to the private donations of Political Action Committees (PACs and Super PACs) in order to increase transparency in the financing system and to minimize their influential power and conflict of interests.
- With regard to political participation, these elections were the first since 1965 that were held without the complete protection of the Voting Rights Act. The Mission recommends that the effects of that decision are analyzed with hard data.
- To adopt proactive strategies within political parties in order to increase the number of female candidates in political positions.

The verbal report was presented to the OAS Permanent Council on January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017, and can be found at:



<http://www.oas.org/documents/eng/press/OAS-EOM-USA-Report-to-PC-FINAL.pdf>



Electoral Observation Mission • OAS/EOM

# HAITI

November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016 | Presidential and Legislative Elections

Type of Election: 	Number of nationalities among EOM members: <b>24</b>
Topics observed: 	OAS/EOM Members: <b>127</b>
Donors: 	Disaggregated by gender: 

The OAS/EOM for the presidential and legislative elections in Haiti was led by Juan Raul Ferreira, former Senator of Uruguay.

On Election Day, the EOM observed the electoral process in the ten departments of the country and visited 474 voting centers. The Mission remained in the country during the tabulation of the preliminary results and throughout the contestation phase, when challenges to the results were presented.

**Some of the OAS/EOM recommendations:**

Given that the electoral process was ongoing, the OAS/EOM did not issue recommendations. A detailed report of the EOM’s observation, with conclusions and recommendations, will be presented to the Permanent Council of the OAS and delivered to Haitian authorities once the electoral process is concluded. At the time this document was printed, the report had not yet been presented.

**Election Day in Haiti »**



## ELECTORAL ACCOMPANIMENT AND ELECTORAL DELEGATIONS

### Electoral Accompaniment



## MEXICO

Election of 60 deputies to the Constitutional Assembly of Mexico City

**June 5, 2016**

On June 5, citizens living in the Mexican capital were called to the polls in order to elect 60 of the 100 deputies that would be part of the Constitutional Assembly, in charge of creating and approving the first Political Constitution of Mexico City. The Constitution was approved in January 2017.

Two DECO specialists accompanied the electoral process.

### Electoral Delegation



## GRENADA

Referendum on Constitutional Reform

**November 24, 2016**

In response to an invitation from the Government of Grenada, the OAS, through its Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation, accompanied the Constitutional Reform Referendum held on November 24. It was the first referendum held in Grenada and the first time that an attempt at Constitutional Reform made it to the referendum stage. The OAS has observed four general elections in Grenada to date. The OAS delegation acknowledged the efforts of the authorities and other actors to advance constitutional reform, but noted little interest and low participation rates by citizens during the electoral process.

Donors:







*The OAS deploys Missions to help countries hold impartial, reliable and transparent elections.*




- Luis Almagro, OAS Secretary General

3

# FOLLOW-UP TO OAS/EOM RECOMMENDATIONS

## Implementation of a Quality Management System in the Nacional Electoral Council (CNE) in Ecuador



 Eight electoral processes organized by Ecuador’s National Electoral Council were audited by an accreditation agency certified by the OAS, and in collaboration with the OAS Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation. These processes are understood as fundamental for any election: voter registration, registration of political organizations and candidates, electoral logistics, vote casting, vote counting and declaration of results, electoral education, oversight of campaign financing, and resolution of electoral disputes.


**What was achieved?**

On July 7, 2016, after a two-year long effort, the CNE received ISO International Certification from the International Electoral Accreditation Body (IEAB), in its electoral technical specification ISO/TS/17582, for the processes mentioned above. As such, the CNE became the second electoral management body in the region to receive this certification.

## Workshop for Lead Auditors in ISO Electoral Standards, Belgium



**July 26-28, 2016**

 On the invitation of the European Center for Electoral Support (ECES), a team from DECO traveled to Brussels to train their personnel in the quality management of electoral processes. ECES personnel were instructed in the basic concepts of the electoral norm ISO/TS 17582:2014 and in the conduct of certification evaluations under the norm.

**What was achieved?**

15 members of the European Centre for Electoral Support were trained in quality management systems for electoral processes and in the electoral norm ISO/TS 17582:2014.



## Workshop for Lead Auditors in ISO Electoral Standards, United States

August 4-5, 2016



DECO organized an internal workshop at OAS headquarters in Washington, DC on quality management systems for electoral processes and the electoral norm ISO/TS 17582:2014 in order to train DECO personnel in the scope and enforcement of the norm.

### What was achieved?

DECO personnel were trained in ISO electoral standards and their enforcement in the implementation of quality management systems used by the electoral management bodies in the region.

## Workshop for Lead Auditors in ISO Electoral Standards, Costa Rica



November 16-17, 2016



DECO, in coordination with the Supreme Election Tribunal (TSE) of Costa Rica, delivered a two day workshop in San Jose on quality management systems under ISO electoral standards. The workshop trained 17 electoral officials in the enforcement of ISO/TS 17582:2014 and in the conduct of certification audits under the norm.

### What was achieved?

17 electoral experts from five countries that already have certified electoral processes or are currently transitioning to them received training. The experts were from the Supreme Election Tribunal of Costa Rica, National Electoral Institute of Mexico, National Electoral Council of Ecuador, Electoral Tribunal of Panama and the National identification and Civil State Registry of Peru.



PRESIDEN

ME

PREU

PREU



*Our vision of more rights for more people is more than a slogan, it is a way of thinking about democracy; the challenges of democracy are solved with more democracy, more participation, more inclusion.*



- Luis Almagro, OAS Secretary General



# ALLOCATION OF FUNDS

# Allocation of voluntary contributions DECO-2016

Professionalizing electoral observation	\$	13,647
Observing and accompanying electoral processes	\$	3,040,344
Follow-up of OAS/EOM recommendations	\$	24,568
	<b>\$</b>	<b>3,078,559</b>



**Follow us on Facebook!**

 [www.facebook.com/deco.oea/](http://www.facebook.com/deco.oea/)

# Acknowledgments

DECO extends a special thanks to its donors:



Argentina



Bolivia



Canada



Chile



China



Dominican Republic



France



Germany



Israel



Italy



Kazakhstan



Korea



Luxembourg



Mexico



Netherlands



Peru



Spain



Sweden



Switzerland



Turkey



United Kingdom



United States of  
America

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



---

**DEPARTMENT OF ELECTORAL COOPERATION  
AND OBSERVATION (DECO)**  
SECRETARIAT FOR STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY (SSD)

 [www.oas.org/en/spa/deco/](http://www.oas.org/en/spa/deco/)

 [deco@oas.org](mailto:deco@oas.org)

 (202) 370-4526

 [www.facebook.com/deco.oea/](https://www.facebook.com/deco.oea/)