PROGRAM SUMMARY

Election Day: 02/25/16

The OAS Electoral Observation Mission for the Jamaican General Parliamentary Elections was headed by Janet G. Bostwick, former Foreign Minister and Attorney General of the Bahamas.

The EOM was composed of 23 international observers from 15 nationalities, who observed the voting procedure and counting of votes in 13 districts of the country, visiting a total of 367 polling stations. The Mission had specialists in electoral organization, electoral technology, political financing, gender and political analysis.

As a result of the Electoral Process, the Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) holds the majority of the seats in Parliament with 32 representatives; while the Peoples National Party (PNP) holds 31 seats.

OBJECTIVES

An international election observation can be defined as a process whereby an organized group of individuals from outside the host country systematically carries out a series of complex actions and activities to observe an electoral process in a direct, complete, and precise manner. The subject of the observation is the process.

The specific objectives of OAS/EOMs are as follows: 1. To observe the performance of the principal actors in the electoral process in order to verify compliance with election laws and regulations in place in the host country; to analyze the development of the electoral process in the context of standards adopted by the OAS Member States; and to take note of what is observed and inform the Secretary General and the Permanent Council. 2. To work with governmental and electoral authorities, and with citizens in general, to ensure the impartiality, transparency, and reliability of the electoral process. 3. To help create an atmosphere of public trust and encourage citizen participation. 4. To serve as a channel to seek and build consensus in situations of conflict among the different participants in the electoral process, as requested. 5. To make recommendations in order to help improve the electoral system. 6. To demonstrate international support and Inter-American solidarity for the development of an electoral process that is impartial, transparent, and reliable.

RESULTS

The OAS/EOM recommended promoting efforts on civic education and public awareness campaigns to promote electoral participation. It also proposed the consideration of guidelines to facilitate voting for eligible voters who cannot attend their polling place on Election Day because they are at a hospital or a geriatric clinic or in preventive detention. Among other recommendations, the Mission suggested to implement an Amendment to the Representation of the People Act of 2015, which extends the regulation regarding campaign financing. Another recommendation was to take affirmative action measures to help increase women’s participation in the electoral process.
PROGRAM SUMMARY

With the purpose of supporting Member States in the process of preparation and presentation of national reports, the Summits of the Americas Secretariat conducted two Webinar sessions addressed to National Coordinator and Summits contacts officials from Permanents Missions to the OAS. An online workshop sessions under the format of “Webinars sessions” presented the online tool, the Summits of the Americas Follow-up System (SISCA); it access and use and additional information to support the preparation of national reports.

OBJECTIVES

To present and train Member States in the use of the reporting system SISCA, and encourage Member States to report on activities in follow-up of Summits mandates and initiatives.

RESULTS

15 Member States attended the webinar sessions and were trained in the use of SISCA.
2 Member States additionally, requested a face-to-face Workshop
PROGRAM SUMMARY

SUMMITS 101, “Informative session with civil society organizations and other social actors in Jamaica on the Summits of the Americas Process”

To achieve a successful Summit, all actors involved need to have comprehensive knowledge of the Summits Process. Therefore, the Summits Secretariat held an informative session with civil society and social actors of Jamaica to provide information on implementation of the Process and participation mechanisms.

This informative session was held by videoconference simultaneously with other countries of the Hemisphere and consisted of: (i) a presentation on the Summits Process, its evolution over the years, and its components, the different actors involved, and the participation mechanisms available to civil society and social actors; (ii) a Q&A session that enabled participants to engage in dialogue with Summits Secretariat representatives and other actors involved.

OBJECTIVES

The Summits Secretariat conducted a survey of civil society and social actors of the Hemisphere, whose findings were that a basic level of knowledge of the Summits Process exists, resulting from the lack of effective participation by civil society and social actors in the preparations for and follow-up to the Summits. Therefore, the Summits Secretariat organized the Summits 101 informative session with civil society and social actors of Jamaica to increase their knowledge of and active participation in the Summits Process.

RESULTS

At the end of the informative session in Jamaica, a survey of civil society and social actors was conducted in which they indicated that their knowledge of the Summits Process had risen from a basic-intermediate level to an intermediate-advanced level.

Owing to the success of the informative session held in Jamaica, the interest of civil society and social actors of this country in becoming involved in the preparations and follow-up activities of the Summits Process increased. This was reflected as greater demand for dissemination of information on the VIII Summit and for the organization of national consultations in Jamaica.
PROGRAM SUMMARY

Within the framework of the Follow-up Mechanism on the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (MESICIC), the implementation of the recommendations made to Jamaica in the Second Round of Review will be analyzed, referring to: i) systems of government hiring; ii) procurement of goods and services; iii) protecting public servants and private citizens who in good faith report acts of corruption; and iv) criminalization acts of corruption.

Likewise an analysis of the implementation of the provisions of the Convention selected by the Committee for the Fifth Round was carried out, related to: i) training to public servants to ensure an adequate understanding of their responsibilities and the ethical standards that govern them; and ii) the study of preventive measures that take into account the relationship between equitable compensation and probity in public service.

As part of this analysis, with the consent of Jamaica, an on-site visit took place from September 26 to 28, 2017. The representatives of Colombia and Trinidad and Tobago in their capacity as members of the review subgroup participated, with the support of the MESICIC Technical Secretariat. This on-site visit gathered information from government officials, civil society organizations, the private sector and academics on the issues under review.

OBJECTIVES

That Jamaica strengthen its legal and institutional tools in the areas of the Convention mentioned above, through concrete recommendations formulated to it, which will result in greater effectiveness in the prevention, detection, investigation, punishment of acts of corruption and in the protection of the people that report them.

RESULTS

At the Thirtieth Meeting of the MESICIC Committee of Experts that will be held from March 12 - 16, 2018, a country report will be adopted regarding how Jamaica is implementing each of the aforementioned provisions of the Convention and containing concrete recommendations on how to fill the gaps and correct inadequacies detected. In this respect, it can take the corresponding corrective measures and obtain better results.

The approved report will be published in the Anti-Corruption Portal of the Americas.
PROGRAM SUMMARY

Since 2005, the Youth Forum of the Americas has served as an official platform for young people to take the lead in initiating activities that generate spaces to proactively contribute to the definition of priorities and mandates for states.

As a result of each Forum, the youth adopt a declaration of commitment related to the mandates of each Summit. This is how young people make concrete proposals to governments, while at the same time setting their own agenda for action and follow-up to the agreements reached at the Forum.

From each statement, the youths themselves will take action and present recommendations to the actors involved in the forum and delegations of the participating governments. Young people undertake not only to demand actions from governments, but also to take on responsibilities to meet the challenges of each region.

OBJECTIVES

The forum is a process based on face-to-face and virtual consultations as well as regional and local events in OAS Member States. This is constituted as the participatory component of the Forum; youth have the opportunity to express opinions on a platform created by YABT for them.

The forum has been consolidated as a hemispheric platform and official channel to express its recommendations, suggestions and actions to the leaders responsible for the continent’s policies. The youth thus contributes to the definition of the priorities and mandates of the Summits.

SDG: 1, 5, 8, 10, 13, 16, 17.

RESULTS

The IV Youth Forum of the Americas took place in Panama. As a result of each Forum, the Youth adopt a declaration of commitment related to the mandates of each Summit. This is how young people make concrete proposals to governments, while at the same time setting their own agenda for action and follow-up to the agreements reached at the Forum.

From each statement, the youths themselves will take action and present recommendations to the actors involved in the forum and delegations of the participating governments. Young people undertake not only to demand actions from governments, but also to take on responsibilities to meet the challenges of each region.

As part of the Forum process, national dialogues and virtual meetings have been held in Haiti as a follow-up to the declaration and keeping in mind the next Forum to be held in Peru in 2018. This program involves an active network of more than 5,000 young leaders.