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Statement from the OAS Mission to Support the Fight against Corruption and Impunity in Honduras (MACCIH) on the Election of TSC Judges

On Tuesday, November 8, 2016, the National Congress elected the three members of the High Court of Auditors (TSC) who will begin their seven-year mandate in December.

The MACCIH-OAS respects the constitutional competency of the National Congress to elect the judges of said comptroller body responsible for the protection of the public resources of the country. However, it should be pointed out that this election did not take into account the recommendations made by this Mission concerning the guarantee of autonomy and independence of the TSC on October 10 in a special report.

The MACCIH-OAS presented these recommendations to the deputies that made up the committee responsible for the selection process on October 24, and requested that the President of the Republic to oversee the management of this important decision for the country, as it corresponds to the fulfilment of international commitments that are watched over by the leader of the nation.

"The MACCIH-OAS recommendations were based on the international commitments that Honduras has acquired as a State part to the Inter-American Convention against Corruption and its monitoring mechanism, MESICIC, which emphasize the need for independent and effective comptroller bodies," said the Spokesman for the Mission, Juan Jimenez Mayor.

The MACCIH-OAS wishes to recall that Honduras has also signed the United Nations Convention against Corruption, is part of the Open Government Alliance and has committed itself to meeting standards of transparency in the framework of the Partnership for Prosperity. In this sense, a process in which neither the selection criteria nor the qualifications of the candidates in any of the stages were known would be contrary to the principles established in these international instruments, as would the withdrawal of a civil society organization that was making important contributions to the transparency and objectivity of the process.

"It would also have been important in this process to take into account the role that professional women could have played in combating corruption and impunity over the next seven years, but there was not gender-based focus," said Jiménez Mayor.

Pursuant to Article 1 of its mandate, the MACCIH-OAS will continue to work with the objective of achieving in Honduras a supervisory body that complies with the international commitments acquired through the Inter-American Convention against Corruption and the MESICIC, as well as the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

More information on MACCIH is available at www.oas.org/maccih.