

AG/RES. 2528 (XXXIX-O/09)

MODERNIZATION AND USE OF ELECTORAL TECHNOLOGIES IN THE HEMISPHERE

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 4, 2009)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN resolutions AG/RES. 2254 (XXXVI-O/06), AG/RES. 2337 (XXXVII-O/07), and AG/RES. 2428 (XXXVIII-O/08), “Modernization and Use of Electoral Technologies in the Hemisphere”;

BEARING IN MIND the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS), which establishes in its preamble that representative democracy is an indispensable condition for the stability, peace, and development of the region, and that one of the essential purposes of the Organization is to promote and consolidate representative democracy, with due respect for the principle of nonintervention;

CONSIDERING that, according to the Inter-American Democratic Charter, the essential elements of representative democracy include, *inter alia*, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, access to and the exercise of power in accordance with the rule of law, and the holding of periodic, free, and fair elections based on universal suffrage and secret balloting as an expression of the sovereignty of the people;

RECALLING that, in the Plan of Action of the Third Summit of the Americas, the Heads of State and Government stated that they would “[c]ontinue to enhance electoral mechanisms, using information and communications technologies where possible, to effectively guarantee the impartiality, promptness and independent action of agencies, tribunals or other bodies responsible for the conduct, supervision and verification of elections at national and sub-national levels”;

CONSIDERING the reports of the various electoral observation and technical assistance missions, in particular their diverse recommendations on the need to improve electoral processes, which constitute an important contribution to strengthening democratic institutional systems, and the “Report: Best Practices in OAS Electoral Observation, 2004-2007” (CP/CG-1739/08 corr. 1), prepared by the General Secretariat;

UNDERSCORING the advisability of reinforcing hemispheric cooperation and the exchange of experiences in the area of electoral technologies and related legislation;

NOTING the Conclusions and Recommendations of the Inter-American Meeting of Experts and Representatives of Electoral Bodies of the OAS member states, held in Caracas, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, on April 4, 2008 (ROEL/doc.3/08);

BEARING IN MIND that the Fifth Inter-American Meeting of Electoral Authorities, held in Quito, Ecuador, on April 23 and 24, 2008, underscored the role played by electoral authorities in the application and implementation of political funding rules in election campaigns, as well as new tools for regulating political funding;

BEARING IN MIND ALSO that the Second Inter-American Meeting of Experts and Representatives of Electoral Bodies of the OAS member states will be held in Caracas, Bolivarian

Republic of Venezuela, on June 11 and 12, 2009, where there will be an exchange of experiences on standards and procedures applicable to electoral bodies of the countries of the region for management and control of electoral processes;

BEARING IN MIND ALSO FURTHER that the Sixth Inter-American Meeting of Electoral Management Bodies, to be held in Ottawa, Canada, on June 22 and 23, 2009, will consider the issues of electoral registers, international electoral observation, and the role of electoral bodies between elections; and

RECOGNIZING the role of the OAS and the General Secretariat in the strengthening, transparency, and deepening of the region's democratic processes,

RESOLVES:

1. To underscore the efforts made by election officials in the member states to organize and administer elections, for the purpose of increasing the quality and transparency of their electoral processes, including the incorporation of new electoral technologies.

2. To underscore the decisive contribution by the Organization of American States (OAS), through electoral observation missions, advice, and assistance, to the holding of elections and the strengthening and development of electoral institutions and processes in the member states.

3. To urge the General Secretariat to support member states that so request, in such a way as to enable their electoral bodies to join together in a horizontal cooperation effort to adopt new electoral technologies under the auspices of the OAS, within the resources available.

4. To request the Secretariat for Political Affairs to maintain ongoing consultations with the member states on the priorities of their electoral bodies with respect to elections and the promotion of democracy.

5. To instruct the General Secretariat to do more, through the Secretariat for Political Affairs, to foster the generation of horizontal cooperation mechanisms for organizing electoral processes, including the adoption of new technologies, in order to assist member states that request such assistance.

6. To instruct the General Secretariat to work with member states that so request in training human resources in international electoral observation.

7. To underscore the advisability of promoting, for these purposes, cooperation and the exchange of experiences in the areas of electoral legislation and technologies, with other international and regional organizations.

8. To call upon member states, permanent observers, and other donors to make voluntary contributions to the activities proposed to implement and follow up on this resolution.

9. To instruct the General Secretariat to include in its activity reports on the promotion of democracy the progress made in carrying out this mandate.

10. To thank the National Electoral Council of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela for organizing the Second Inter-American Meeting of Experts and Representatives of Electoral Bodies of the OAS member states.

11. To request the Permanent Council to convene the Third Inter-American Meeting of Experts and Representatives of Electoral Bodies, to be held in Caracas, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, in 2010, for the purpose of producing a compendium of best practices and common approaches used by electoral bodies and authorities to manage and control electoral processes. Its conclusions are to be referred to the Seventh Inter-American Meeting of Electoral Authorities.

12. To instruct the Secretariat for Political Affairs to coordinate with the National Electoral Council of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, through the Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation, the preparation and holding of the Third Inter-American Meeting of Experts and Representatives of Electoral Bodies, referred to in the preceding paragraph.

13. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its fortieth regular session on the implementation of this resolution, the execution of which shall be subject to the availability of financial resources in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.