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DECO

YEAR IN REVIEW



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2024

YEAR IN REVIEW

OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
ELECTORAL COOPERATION AND
OBSERVATION (DECO)





General Secretariat of the Organization of American States

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INTRODUCTION

This document summarizes the work carried out in 2024 by the Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation (DECO) of the Secretariat for Strengthening Democracy (SSD). It provides an overview of the Electoral Observation Missions deployed in the region, the various cooperation projects implemented, and the activities undertaken by DECO throughout the year to contribute to the strengthening of electoral processes, institutions, and democracy in the Americas.

In 2024, the OAS deployed 12 Electoral Observation Missions across 9 countries in the hemisphere: Bolivia (Judicial Elections), Brazil (Municipal Elections; Municipal Elections Runoff), Costa Rica (Municipal Elections), Ecuador (Referendum and Popular Consultation), El Salvador (Presidential and Legislative Elections; Municipal and PARLACEN Elections), United States (General Elections), Mexico (Federal and Local Elections), Panama (General Elections), and the Dominican Republic (Municipal Elections; Presidential and Legislative Elections).

The OAS conducted a comprehensive and exhaustive analysis of all the electoral processes observed. Thanks to the financial contributions of 13 donors (Brazil, Canada, Korea, the United States, Spain, France, Italy, Morocco, the Netherlands, Panama, Peru, the Dominican Republic, and Switzerland), the OAS was able to deploy a total of 496 specialists and international observers (261 women and 235 men).

In the field of Technical Cooperation, DECO implemented numerous initiatives, including: a workshop on cybersecurity and elections; a project to strengthen the institutional capacities of Ecuador's National Electoral Council (CNE) in the field of technology; visits by the OAS High-Level Group for the Strengthening of Women's Political Participation to Ecuador, Paraguay, Jamaica, and Guatemala; a workshop in Ecuador to strengthen the capacities of Ecuador's National Electoral Council in countering disinformation; a project to strengthen the technological capacities of the National Office for Electoral Processes (ONPE) in Peru; workshops on the recommendations of the EOMs regarding women's political participation in Ecuador, Paraguay, and Jamaica; a visit to the OAS by the Haitian high-level delegation and the Venice Commission to discuss electoral processes and governance in Haiti; and training in electoral observation for organizations in Ecuador.

DECO also presented the "Manual for OAS Electoral Observation Missions - 2024 Edition," which, among others, develops the theoretical framework for electoral observation, the standards and instruments of the Inter-American System, and methodologies for international electoral observation.

Finally, in 2024, DECO organized the XVII Inter-American Meeting of Electoral Management Bodies in Asunción, Paraguay. The meeting, organized by the OAS General Secretariat, through DECO as the technical secretariat, and the Superior Court of Electoral Justice (TSJE) of Paraguay, brought together 44 delegates from 30 electoral management bodies representing 23 OAS Member States.

This document reflects the permanent commitment of the Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation to the consolidation and strengthening of democracy in the Americas. This work will continue in 2025 with the observation of electoral processes in Ecuador, Suriname, Honduras, and Belize, among other countries, along with the implementation of various cooperation projects, and the development of innovative tools and content to support Member States in further improving their electoral processes and institutions.



01

Observing electoral processes



“

The OAS Electoral Observation Missions are fundamental tools for the promotion and defense of democracy in the Western Hemisphere. Through their work, the OAS reaffirms its commitment to the consolidation of democracy as an essential pillar for the development and stability of the region."

Luis Almagro
OAS Secretary General

2024 Electoral Observation Missions



EL SALVADOR

Presidential and
Legislative Elections
February 4, 2024



COSTA RICA

Municipal Elections
February 4, 2024



DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Municipal Elections
February 18, 2024



EL SALVADOR

Municipal and PARLACEN
Elections
March 3, 2024



ECUADOR

Referendum and Popular
Consultation
April 21, 2024



PANAMA

General Elections
May 5, 2024



DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

General Election for the
Presidency, Senate and
Chamber of Deputies
May 19, 2024



MEXICO

Federal and Local
Elections
June 2, 2024



BRAZIL

Municipal Elections
October 6, 2024



BRAZIL

Municipal Elections
Runoff
October 27, 2024



UNITED STATES

General Elections
November 5, 2024



BOLIVIA

Judicial Elections
December 15, 2024



EL SALVADOR

Presidential and Legislative Elections

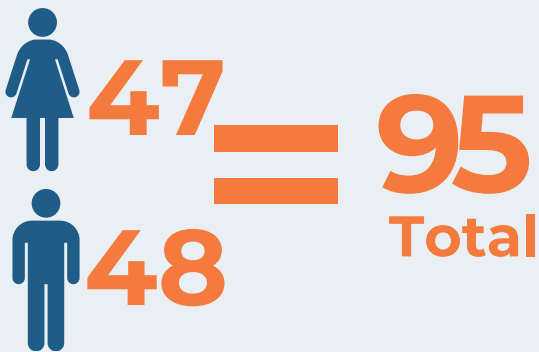
February 4, 2024



Donors



Number of Members of the EOM



Nationalities



Deployed in:

The 14 departments of El Salvador, as well as in Barcelona, Guatemala City, Mexico City and Washington, D.C.

Topics observed:

Election organization; electoral technology; electoral justice; political-electoral financing; women's political participation; campaigns, media and digital communication; political-electoral violence; and voting from abroad.

The Electoral Observation Mission for the Organization of American States (OAS/EOM) for the Presidential and Legislative Elections in El Salvador was led by the former Vice-President and former Foreign Affairs Minister of Panama, Isabel de Saint Malo.

On election day, the Mission visited 1,143 polling stations in 387 voting centers in the 14 departments of the country, as well as in Barcelona, Spain; Guatemala City, Guatemala; Mexico City, Mexico and Washington D.C., United States, from their installation to the vote counting and transmission of the results. The Mission reported that the elections were held under unprecedented conditions for El Salvador. One of the main reasons is that this was the first election held under a state of exception since the signing of the 1992 Peace Accords. The second reason is that, for the first time since the 1983 National Constitution came into force, a sitting President ran for an immediate second presidential term.

This was the seventeenth (17) time that the OAS has deployed an Electoral Observation Mission to El Salvador.

Some of the recommendations of the EOM:

- That those in charge of the voting centers of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE) make sure that there are no persons exercising roles that do not correspond to them and that they enforce the provisions established in the instructions.
- Establishing a procedure for accreditation and delivery of credentials in an agile, orderly, and predictable manner, with the objective of generating certainty for the actors in the process and guaranteeing maximum participation.
- Planning an audit that contemplates all software artifacts and strengthening the TSE's control over the entire process. Timely detection of software defects, design problems, and/or implementation deficiencies is vital.
- That the TSE issue a regulation that clearly establishes the procedure and requirements for requesting advances on the public debt, in line with the simplified procedure set forth in the Political Constitution, along with responsibilities of the various State bodies in this matter.
- Describing in greater detail the rules applicable to filing challenges in the electoral legislation, ideally through the approval of an electoral procedural law that contemplates that issue.
- Creating an Observatory on Political Violence against Women that will keep records and follow up on complaints, generate statistics, analysis, and information that will allow the development of public policies and concrete actions to combat this problem.



Reports presented by the Mission:



[Preliminary Report of the OAS Electoral Observation Mission in El Salvador](#)



[Second Preliminary Report of the OAS Electoral Observation Mission in El Salvador](#)

EOM public statements:



[OAS Electoral Mission deploys to El Salvador to observe the February 4 elections](#)



COSTA RICA

Municipal Elections

February 4, 2024



Donors



Number of Members of the EOM



Nationalities



Deployed in:

Alajuela, Heredia and San José

Topics observed:

Electoral organization and technology, electoral justice, political-electoral financing and women's political participation.

The Electoral Observation Mission of the Organization of American States (OAS/EOM) for the Municipal Elections in Costa Rica was led by Uruguayan sociologist Juan Pablo Corlazzoli.

The Mission congratulated the Costa Rican people, the Supreme Electoral Tribunal and the political parties for their commitment to democracy and for holding a successful Election Day. However, the OAS/EOM was concerned that participation in the elections was lower than in the previous municipal elections, with only around 31% of the population voting. The OAS/EOM emphasized the importance of considering each electoral process an opportunity for citizens to make their voices heard. In this sense, given the magnitude of the challenge, it urged the stakeholders to join forces to reverse this disconnect between representatives and constituents.

This was the first municipal election in which gender parity was applied in both dimensions (horizontal and vertical) in the compilation of listas, and for all positions (multiple-member or single-member offices). It was also the first time the immediate and indefinite reelection of municipal authorities was prohibited. The Mission was pleased to note that these two new elements address recommendations previously made by the OAS.

This was the nineteenth (19) time that the OAS had deployed an Electoral Observation Mission to Costa Rica.

Some of the recommendations of the EOM:

- Ensuring that all candidate lists ultimately submitted comply quantitatively with the requirement of parity in both dimensions (vertical and horizontal) and for all offices (multi-member and single-member).
- Setting a deadline for the resolution of electoral disputes, so appeals are adjudicated promptly, well before election day.
- Creating incentives for the participation of party-nominated polling station committee members, such as compensating them for their services, as is done with election assistants.
- Set individual limits on individual campaign contributions and on the value of campaigns.
- Adopting a pre-election public financing system, based on objective and equitable criteria, to ensure that all political parties (national, provincial, and canton-level) have timely access to resources to run their campaigns, thus reducing dependence on private financing.



Reports presented by the Mission:



[OAS Electoral Observation Mission Congratulates Costa Rica on a Democratic and Peaceful Election Day](#)

EOM public statements:



[OAS deploys Electoral Observation Mission for the Municipal Elections in Costa Rica](#)



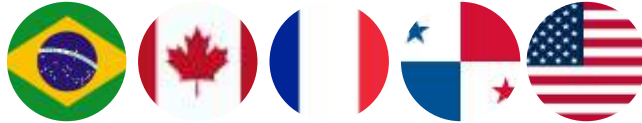
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Municipal Elections

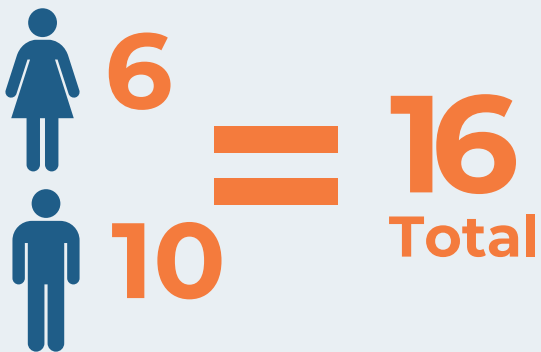
February 18, 2024



Donors



Number of Members of the EOM



Nationalities



Deployed in:

National District and the province of Santo Domingo

Topics observed:

Electoral organization; electoral technology; electoral justice; political-electoral financing and women's political participation.

The Electoral Observation Mission (EOM) of the Organization of American States (OAS) for the Municipal Elections in the Dominican Republic was led by the former Foreign Minister of Paraguay, Eladio Loizaga.

In its preliminary report, the OAS/EOM recognized that given the cancellation of the elections in 2020, electoral authorities faced a major challenge in terms of the organization of the poll and the need to bolster the confidence of citizens and political actors in the electoral process. The Mission highlighted the work of the Central Electoral Board (JCE), which adopted timely measures, provided guarantees for transparent elections, and organized a successful process, allowing the country to continue working toward strengthening its democratic system.

Likewise, the OAS/EOM highlighted the work of the Superior Electoral Court (TSE) in the performance of its duties. The Mission was also concerned that participation in the electoral process declined in comparison with previous municipal elections in the Dominican Republic.

This was the twenty-first (21) time that the OAS has deployed an Electoral Observation Mission to the Dominican Republic.

Some of the recommendations of the EOM:

- Developing a written protocol establishing, according to updated guidelines, the distribution and chain of custody of election material from the JCE to the voting precincts.
- Publishing consolidated results by district for council members and board members, along with totals by party.
- Making an outreach effort to inform political organizations and the general public about who the provincial prosecutors appointed to serve during the electoral process will be, as well as educational material that includes complaint procedures and the location of the offices where complaints can be filed.
- Providing greater certainty to the legal framework related to the allocation of public resources for political financing.
- Designing protocols for action in cases of violence against women in politics, including clear guidelines on procedures, institutions involved, and deadlines.



Reports presented by the Mission:



[Preliminary Report of the OAS Electoral Observation Mission to the Dominican Republic](#)

EOM public statements:



[OAS Deploys Electoral Observation Mission for Municipal Elections in the Dominican Republic](#)



EL SALVADOR

Municipal and PARLACEN Elections

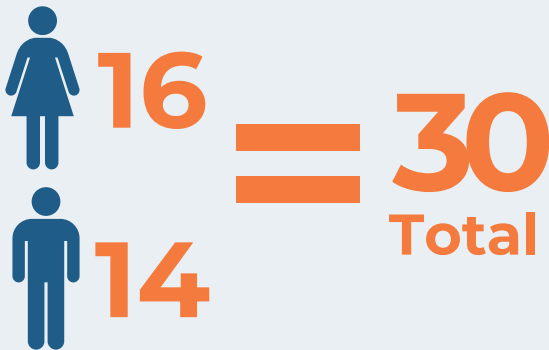
March 3, 2024



Donors



Number of Members of the EOM



Nationalities



Deployed in:

The 14 departments of El Salvador

Topics observed:

Electoral organization; electoral technology; electoral justice and women's political participation.

The Electoral Observation Mission of the Organization of American States (OAS/EOM) for the Municipal Elections in El Salvador was led by the former Vice-President and former Foreign Affairs Minister of Panama, Isabel de Saint Malo.

After the presidential elections that same year, the Mission noted that the Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE) implemented some recommendations made by the OAS, which resulted in a substantial improvement in the procedures for tallying and transmitting the vote, compared with the elections of February 4. It also emphasized that the day of the election unfolded without violence, and recognized the work done by the members of the polling stations or JRV (Juntas Receptoras de Votos). However, it lamented the low electoral participation.

This was the eighteenth (18) time that the OAS has deployed an Electoral Observation Mission to El Salvador.

Some of the recommendations of the EOM:

- That the TSE, in conjunction with the political groups, strengthen the institutional mechanisms for electoral oversight, particularly by providing the Electoral Oversight Boards (JVE: Junta de Vigilancia Electoral) the resources needed to operate.
- That the TSE establish with greater clarity which functions correspond to the Tribunal, and which correspond to the political parties in the electoral process.
- Standardizing procedures for packaging, securing, and distributing electoral material and technological equipment in order to save institutional resources.
- Conducting stress and load tests, as well as functional tests, of all components of the system (including verifying the control of data and information entered and the correct tallying and dissemination of the results) in order to evaluate its operation with sufficient lead time to make corrections before election day.
- That the TSE strengthen the procedures for responding to complaints and other submissions made by candidates and political groups.
- Carry out the pertinent reforms to move promptly towards vertical and horizontal parity, applicable to the lists of titular candidacies and establishing a position mandate.
- Fully implementing the “Protocol for Prevention and Attention to Women Victims of Political Violence” through inter-institutional coordination and harmonization and the establishment of specific assistance guidelines.



Reports presented by the Mission:



[Third Preliminary Report of the OAS Electoral Observation Mission in El Salvador](#)

EOM public statements:



[OAS Observation Mission in El Salvador for Municipal and PARLACEN Elections Begins Deployment](#)



ECUADOR

Referendum and Popular Consultation

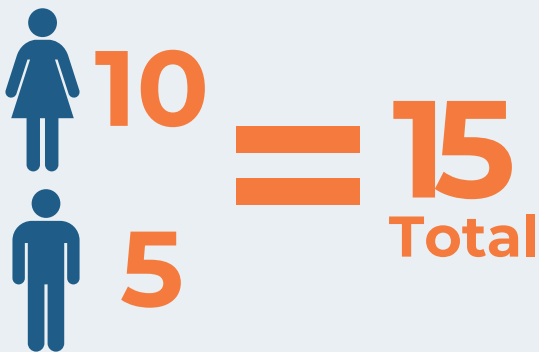
April 21, 2024



Donors



Number of Members of the EOM



Nationalities



Deployed in:

Metropolitan District of Quito

Topics observed:

Electoral organization; voting abroad; electoral technology; electoral justice; political-electoral financing; and specific elements of the direct democracy mechanism.

The Electoral Observation Mission (EOM) of the Organization of American States (OAS) for the Referendum and Popular Consultation in Ecuador was led by Patricio Santamaría, former President of the Board of Directors of the Electoral Service of Chile.

During its work, the OAS/EOM recognized the work of the National Electoral Council (CNE), taking into account, on one hand, the short preparation period legally established for this type of mechanism and, on the other, the budgetary limitations it experienced for the organization of this electoral process. The Mission also considered it important to bear in mind that this Referendum and Popular Consultation took place in a complex context. The process took place in a context of organized crime, increased violence and the assassination of politicians. In addition to the above, the Mission noted that voter turnout in the election was lower than in previous elections in Ecuador.

This was the twenty-seventh (27) time that the OAS has deployed an Electoral Observation Mission to Ecuador.

Some of the recommendations of the EOM:

- Explore the possibility of introducing a regulation limiting the number of questions that may be asked in a given referendum and/or popular consultation.
- Extend the campaign period for referendums and popular consultations so that society has more time and opportunities to become informed and decide how to vote and that the various actors involved, especially the CNE, increase communication products aimed at disseminating substantive information about the content of the consultation.
- Ensure the availability of funds for the expenses required to carry out direct democracy exercises.
- Increase the number of personnel and infrastructure in the Electoral Processing Centers (CPE) to speed up the verification processes carried out by operators.
- Consider the possibility of ensuring that each organization registered to campaign in a direct democracy process, regardless of the number of questions or options to be promoted, obtains a minimum amount of resources to access the main media outlets allowed.
- Both the CNE and the TCE should propose the necessary reforms to the relevant regulations to control paid advertising on social networks and digital platforms, as well as to impose the respective penalties



Reports presented by the Mission:



[Preliminary Report of the OAS Electoral Observation Mission in Ecuador for the Referendum and Public Consultation of April 21, 2024](#)

EOM public statements:



[OAS Electoral Observation Mission in Ecuador Began Activities for the April 21 Referendum and Popular Consultation](#)



PANAMA

General Elections

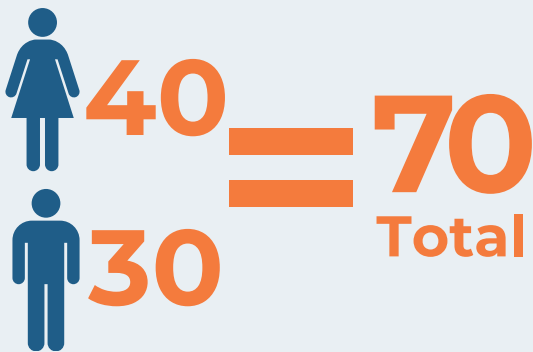
May 5, 2024



Donors



Number of Members of the EOM



Nationalities



Deployed in:

All the provinces of Panama and the Kuna Yala and Ngabe Buglé regions

Topics observed:

Electoral organization; electoral technology; political-electoral financing; electoral justice, women's political participation; political participation of indigenous peoples and Afrodescendants; campaigns, media and digital communication.

The Electoral Observation Mission of the Organization of American States (OAS/EOM) for the General Elections in Panama was led by the former Foreign Affairs Minister of Argentina, Susana Malcorra.

The Mission recognized the work of the Electoral Tribunal (TE), which guaranteed citizens a well-organized voting day, in the context of an atypical electoral contest, marked until the last moment by uncertainty surrounding the candidacy of the person who ended up being elected President of the Republic. It also highlighted the work of the polling station officials and other electoral bodies, who contributed to the successful holding of these elections.

The OAS/EOM welcomed the substantive amendments to the Panamanian Electoral Code, many of which address recommendations made by previous OAS Missions. The Mission also highlighted the efforts of the Panamanian authorities to continuously improve electoral legislation. The Mission once again emphasized the importance of the National Commission on Electoral Reforms (CNRE), the body responsible for reviewing electoral regulations after each process and proposing any adjustments deemed necessary for the next elections.

This was the twelfth (12) time that the OAS has deployed an Electoral Observation Mission to Panama.

Some of the recommendations of the EOM:

- Establish requirements to prove electoral residence in the procedures before the TE, such as the presentation of: tax and/or service payment receipts, bank statements, a recent lease contract, certified copy of deeds, among others.
- Review the methods and procedures for registration, changes of residence, and enhancing the accuracy of the Electoral Registry and Roll.
- Establish a time limit in the legislation that prohibits making changes to the Electoral Code close to the elections.
- Strengthen the mechanisms for the dissemination of electoral regulations and limit changes to them during the campaign, so that citizens and actors involved in the contest have security and certainty with respect to the applicable legal framework
- Include aggregated statistics on the processing and resolution of disputes, as well as case files, on the TE website.
- Eliminate the clause that allows parties to fail to comply with the parity requirement in the lists and establish a position mandate that provides greater guarantees of equality of outcome.
- Promote a national debate on other measures needed to increase the political participation of women in Panama, for which the OAS has a High-Level Group that offers its collaboration and advice.



Reports presented by the Mission:



[Preliminary Report of the OAS Electoral Observation Mission in Panama](#)

EOM public statements:



[OAS Electoral Mission in Panama Begins Deployment for General Elections](#)



DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

General Elections for the Presidency, Senate and Chamber of Deputies

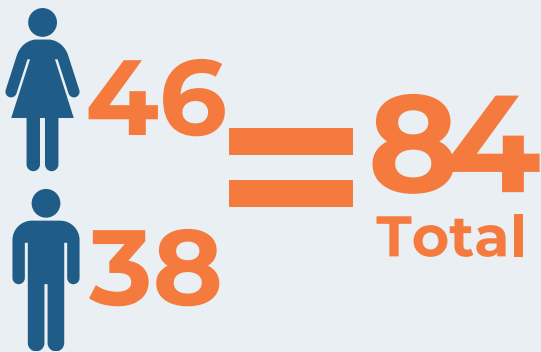
May 19, 2024



Donors



Number of Members of the EOM



Nationalities



Deployed in:

23 provinces in the country, the National District, and in San José, Costa Rica; New York and Washington, D.C., United States

Topics observed:

Electoral organization; voting abroad; electoral technology; electoral justice; political-electoral financing; women's political participation; electoral violence; and campaigns, media and digital communication.

The Electoral Observation Mission of the Organization of American States (OAS/EOM) for the Presidential, Senatorial and Chamber of Deputies election in the Dominican Republic was led by the former President of Chile, Eduardo Frei Ruiz-Tagle.

The OAS/EOM congratulated the Central Electoral Board (JCE) for its great work in successfully organizing the elections and welcomed the contribution of the Superior Electoral Tribunal (TSE) to the smooth running of the process. The Mission especially recognized the JCE's strong commitment to implementing the recommendations made by the OAS after the February municipal elections. The JCE even systematized those recommendations and provided the Mission with a detailed response on the improvements made in different areas. This constitutes a good practice that the OAS respectfully encourages other countries to emulate.

Although challenges remain for future elections, including structural issues such as vote buying, the Mission noted significant improvements in the conduct of the elections on Sunday, May 19. The country's electoral institutional framework has been strengthened, and, with it, Dominican democracy.

This was the twenty-second (22) time that the OAS has deployed an Electoral Observation Mission to the Dominican Republic.

Some of the recommendations of the EOM:

- Maintain and institutionalize the position of voting center coordinator for future elections.
- Develop spaces for training and coordination between the electoral and criminal courts, which should also include the body in charge of criminal investigations and prosecutions, in order to ensure the highest possible degree of knowledge and institutionalization in the investigation, trial, and punishment of electoral crimes.
- Move forward with the adoption of parity legislation on both multicandidate and single-candidate positions (in the case of mayoral and senatorial offices, through horizontal parity).
- Enact legal reforms to clarify limitations and eliminate ambiguities from existing legislation on state advertising during electoral periods
- Amend the rules on polls to ensure that all parties subject to an obligation are also liable to penalties for non-compliance.



Reports presented by the Mission:



OAS hails substantial improvement in Dominican Republic electoral process and institutions

EOM public statements:



OAS Begins Electoral Observation Work ahead of Presidential and Congressional Elections in the Dominican Republic



MEXICO

Federal and Local Elections

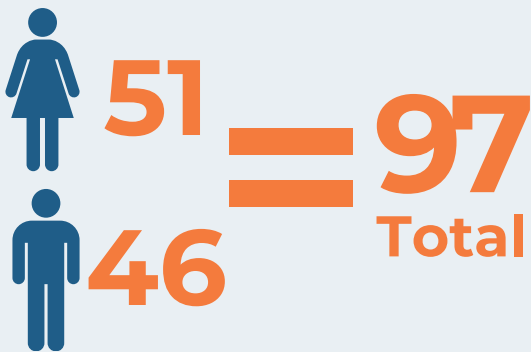
June 2, 2024



Donors



Number of Members of the EOM



Nationalities



Deployed in:

The 32 federal entities of Mexico and abroad in: Dallas, Los Angeles, and Washington, D.C., United States; Madrid, Spain; and Montreal, Canada.

Topics observed:

Electoral organization; voting abroad; electoral technology; electoral justice; political-electoral financing; women's political participation; electoral violence; participation of indigenous peoples and Afrodescendants; and campaigns, media and digital communication.

The Electoral Observation Mission of the Organization of American States (OAS/EOM) for the Federal and Local Elections in Mexico was led by the former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Chile, Heraldo Muñoz.

The OAS/EOM highlighted the historic result of this election given that, for the first time in 200 years, a woman will be the President of the Republic in Mexico. It also positively emphasized that the presidential contenders who were not favored at the polls accepted the official results once published by the National Electoral Institute (INE), which reflects the maturity and commitment to democratic principles that characterize the political systems. The Mission highlighted the professionalism and technical soundness of the INE and the Electoral Tribunal of the Judiciary of the Federation (TEPJF), institutions that enabled the successful development of the elections.

This was the seventh (7) time that the OAS has deployed an Electoral Observation Mission to Mexico.

Some of the recommendations of the EOM:

- Drawing up a list of varying degrees of penalties in the electoral justice system so that those public servants who commit infractions during an election process can be sanctioned by the electoral authorities.
- Strengthening the autonomy of INE and the OPLs through provisions that guarantee a sufficient budget and the timely receipt of funds.
- Convening polling station officials earlier, bearing in mind the time needed to complete all the operations for their installation, as recommended by the OAS Mission in 2018 and 2021.
- Strengthening the technical and infrastructural capacities for voting abroad in person, in order to guarantee the right to vote of Mexicans in the diaspora.
- To strategically strengthen INE's auditing work and guarantee the synergies that should be derived from the collaboration between State entities, especially those with mandates and competence to conduct financial investigations, in order to facilitate the detection and issuance of early warnings regarding illicit funds in electoral campaigns.
- Implement an early warning system on political violence, devoted full time to the collection and analysis of risks, with a view to preventing this type of violence.



Reports presented by the Mission:



[Preliminary Report of the OAS Electoral Observation Mission in Mexico](#)

EOM public statements:



[OAS Electoral Observation Mission Begins Deployment for the June 2 Elections in Mexico](#)



BRAZIL

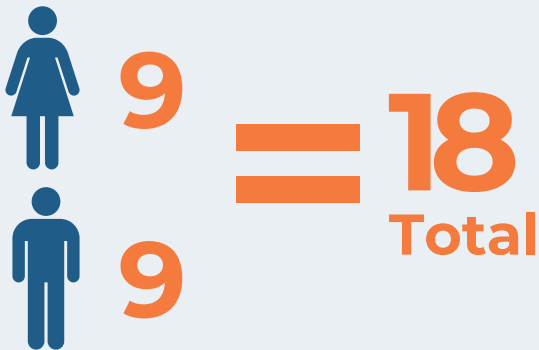
Municipal Elections and Municipal Runoff
October 6 and 27, 2024



Donors



Number of Members of the EOM



Nationalities



Deployed in:

The states of São Paulo and Goiás, and the Federal District.

Topics observed:

Electoral organization; electoral technology; political-electoral financing; electoral justice; electoral violence; women's political participation; political participation of indigenous peoples and Afrodescendants; and campaigns, media and digital communication.

The Electoral Observation Mission of the Organization of American States (OAS/EOM) for the Municipal Elections in Brazil was led by former Uruguayan Ambassador, Agustín Espinosa.

In its Preliminary Report, the Mission highlighted that the election day was carried out calmly and that the candidates accepted the results peacefully.

The Mission emphasized the work of the Superior Electoral Court (TSE) and the Regional Electoral Courts (TRE) in successfully organizing these elections. Once again, the Brazilian electoral authorities demonstrated their professionalism and ability to overcome the logistical challenges of conducting an election with more than 450,000 electronic voting machines, which was also affected by weather phenomena.

This was the fourth (4) time that the OAS has deployed an Electoral Observation Mission to Brazil.

Some of the recommendations of the EOM:

- Expanding data collection programs targeting voters who have yet to complete their biometric registration.
- Consolidating the election rules into a single framework, considering the technical advice of the TSE and its working group.
- Creating a public registry of data on political violence, consolidating data at the federal and state levels, disaggregated by race and gender, to diagnose and formulate preventive and punitive policies to promote a more preventive public security policy that guarantees rights.
- Incorporating contributions from social and academic organizations specialized in monitoring and analyzing political violence into the analysis of political violence, as well as coordinating efforts to continue developing and disseminating guidelines on how to respond to political violence.
- Developing analytical platforms to understand the scope of the organized crime problem and its potential influence on electoral processes at the federal, state, and municipal levels.



Reports presented by the Mission:



[Preliminary report of the OAS Electoral Observation Mission in Brazil](#)

EOM public statements:



[OAS Electoral Mission in Brazil Begins Deployment for Municipal Elections](#)



[OAS Electoral Observation Mission congratulates Brazil on the successful holding of the second round of the municipal elections](#)



UNITED STATES

General Elections

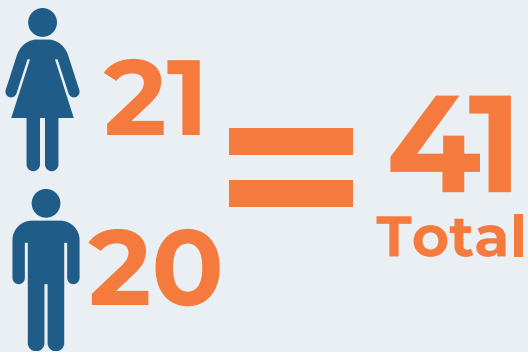
November 5, 2024



Donors



Number of Members of the EOM



Nationalities



Deployed in:

The states of California, Colorado, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Nebraska, Nevada, Virginia, Wisconsin and the District of Columbia.

Topics observed:

Electoral organization, electoral technology, postal voting, electoral justice, electoral boundaries, political-electoral financing, women's political participation, political participation of indigenous peoples and Afrodescendants, and campaigns, media and digital communication.

The Electoral Observation Mission (EOM) of the Organization of American States (OAS) for the General Elections in the United States of America was led by Secretary General, Luis Almagro.

The Mission noted that the campaign took place in a highly polarized political context, with frequent use of divisive rhetoric and personal attacks by different actors in the process, even at the highest level of political competition. Two assassination attempts were made on the life of the Republican candidate, now President Donald J. Trump, demonstrating that citizen polarization transcended rhetoric and that the rationality of the political debate was seriously affected. The Mission observed that the increase in violence and threats coincided with a fabricated narrative that questioned the integrity of the elections. In part, this rhetoric led to the enactment of legislation aimed at addressing unfounded concerns of electoral fraud.

This was the third (3) time that the OAS has observed an electoral process in the United States.

Some of the recommendations of the EOM:

- Increasing the amount and stability of funds disbursed to states and to election officials to support the enhancement of their electoral security, improve electoral administration, and educate voters.
- Encouraging jurisdictions to update their voting system certifications to the latest standards before each round of elections, in order to increase security and accessibility requirements, mitigate risk and address preventable vulnerabilities. This implies improved budgeting and procurement planning for electoral technology.
- All states and counties still using Direct Recording Electronic (DRE) machines that only store votes electronically, analyze the possibility of replacing them with voting systems that produce a voter-verifiable paper trail of each voter's selections.
- Undertaking greater federal-level efforts and continuing state-level efforts at enhancing transparency and accountability in the political finance system, including more stringent disclosure regulations and limiting the loopholes that allow for undisclosed donations through outside groups.
- Political parties and other relevant organizations should offer specialized tools and training to women candidates, on the one hand covering such topics as digital communication or financing and, on the other hand, addressing the particular challenges that women continue to face in running for office, including gender-based violence and gendered disinformation.
- To open a public and intense debate on the use of social media platforms in electoral campaigns. Norms should be enacted that safeguard the fairness of competition and the right to an informed vote, without infringing upon the right to freedom of expression.



Reports presented by the Mission:



[Preliminary Report of the OAS Electoral Observation Mission for the General Elections of November 5, 2024, in the United States](#)

EOM public statements:



[OAS to observe General Elections in the United States](#)



BOLIVIA

Judicial Elections

December 15, 2024



Donors



Number of Members of the EOM



Nationalities



Deployed in:

The departments of La Paz, Santa Cruz and Chuquisaca.

Topics observed:

Electoral organization, electoral technology, the process of pre-selection and election of judicial candidates, electoral justice and women's political participation.

The Electoral Observation Mission (EOM) of the Organization of American States (OAS) for the judicial elections in Bolivia was led by the former Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression (RELE) of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) of the OAS, Edison Lanza.

The OAS/EOM highlighted the efforts made by the Supreme Electoral Court (TSE) and the Departmental Electoral Courts (TED) for the successful organization of the elections. Despite facing numerous challenges, such as the need to reschedule the date of the elections due to social unrest, as well as the decision of the Fourth Specialized Chamber of the Plurinational Constitutional Court (TCP) to declare void the calls for magistrates for the Supreme Court of Justice (TSJ) in the departments of Beni and Pando, and for the TCP in the departments of Pando, Cochabamba, Santa Cruz, Beni, and Tarija.

In its Preliminary Report, the OAS/EOM emphasized that, despite numerous improvements, major challenges and structural deficiencies persist in the Bolivian system for selecting and electing high-level judicial authorities.

This was the third (3) election of the Authorities of the Judicial Branch and the Plurinational Constitutional Court observed by the OAS, and the twenty-second (22) time that the OAS has deployed an Electoral Observation Mission to Bolivia.

Some of the recommendations of the EOM:

- Enacting a comprehensive framework law that clearly, precisely, harmoniously, and comprehensively regulates the pre-selection process of top judicial authorities. Such law should describe the stages, criteria, appeal mechanisms, and responsibilities of the authorities involved to reduce discretion and avoid issuing ad hoc laws for each process. This does not preclude the possibility that operational aspects may be developed through regulatory measures.
- Explicitly establishing in the law, that the Plurinational Legislative Assembly must prepare a list with a ranking order based on the merits and scores obtained during the process to reduce discretion and reinforce transparency and citizen trust in the process. Similarly, ensuring that— when creating the final list of candidates—legislators' votes are properly justified.
- Establishing the necessary mechanisms to generate timely and public statistical data and ensure the updated publication of the resolutions by the Supreme Electoral Court (TSE).
- Using a security tape bearing an institutional marking (such as the one used for the cases) to seal the ballot boxes when setting up the polling stations, ensuring it leaves a trace when removed for vote counting.
- Incorporate a preliminary results system into election laws to reduce the margins of discretion in its implementation.



Reports presented by the Mission:



[Preliminary Report of the OAS Electoral Observation Mission in Bolivia](#)

EOM public statements:



[OAS Electoral Observation Mission for the Judicial Elections Deploys in Bolivia](#)

CENTRO DE VOTACIÓN

TSE
ELECCIONES
XOQ

RADA

Escuela de Educación Parvularia de Occulto
Calle 1142

OEA CAS

Misión de Observación Electoral
Misión de Observación Electoral
Misión de Observación Electoral
Misión de Observación Electoral



02

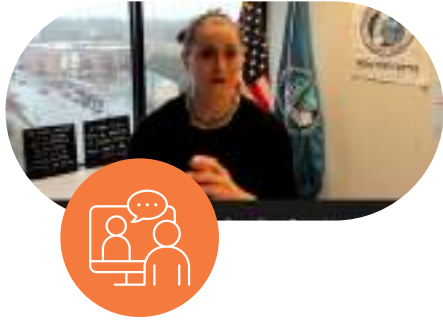
Technical Cooperation and Follow-up to the recommendations of the OAS/EOMs



“

DECO's technical assistance, based on democratic principles, strengthens regional electoral systems by analyzing processes, identifying good practices, and recommending improvements for a stronger democracy in each nation and throughout the Hemisphere. This is the mission of the OAS."

Luis Almagro
OAS Secretary General



WORKSHOP ON CYBERSECURITY AND ELECTIONS: NEW CHALLENGES AND GOOD PRACTICES FOR DEMOCRACY

April 3-4, 2024



On April 3 and 4, 2024, DECO held this virtual workshop to foster a participatory dialogue between different actors in the region. During three plenary presentation sessions, a discussion room for participants and a panel of case studies, attendees shared information on global cybercrime trends, exchanged views on the impact of this issue on elections, discussed how to counter these threats and strengthen the capacities of electoral bodies, and addressed strategic opportunities to promote integrity and digital security in democracy.

The workshop featured prominent speakers from the Americas and Europe and brought together more than 80 representatives of electoral management bodies in the region and organizations linked to the promotion of democracy.



STRENGTHENING THE INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES OF ECUADOR'S NATIONAL ELECTORAL COUNCIL IN THE FIELD OF TECHNOLOGY

July-December, 2024



At the request of the National Electoral Council (CNE) of Ecuador, a technical team from DECO provided cooperation to the electoral management body to strengthen its technological capacities, ahead of the implementation of the Computerized Counting and Results System (SIER) for the 2025 General Elections.

The DECO team made four visits to the country between July and December 2024, and organized various virtual workshops on cybersecurity matters. During the course of the cooperation, DECO provided recommendations to the CNE for its consideration on issues such as information management systems management, cybersecurity, among others.



VISIT OF THE OAS HIGH-LEVEL GROUP FOR THE STRENGTHENING OF WOMEN'S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION TO ECUADOR

July 15 - 16, 2024



In partnership with
Canada



Ministero degli Affari Esteri
e della Cooperazione Internazionale



At the invitation of the National Electoral Council, the OAS High-Level Group (GAN for its Spanish acronym) to promote the implementation of the recommendations of the Electoral Observation Missions (EOMs) on women's political participation made a working visit to Ecuador from July 15 to 16, 2024.

The delegation, led by the former President of Costa Rica and coordinator of the High-Level Group, Laura Chinchilla, met with various government authorities, electoral bodies, and political and social actors in Ecuador to discuss initiatives that facilitate the implementation of the recommendations of the OAS Electoral Missions and to learn about the work that various institutions are promoting in this area.

Press Releases



[OAS High Level Group to Strengthen Women's Political Participation Visits Ecuador](#)



WORKSHOP TO STRENGTHEN THE CAPACITIES OF ECUADOR'S NATIONAL ELECTORAL COUNCIL IN COUNTERING DISINFORMATION

August 13 - 14, 2024



The Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation (DECO) held the workshop “Strengthening the capacities of the National Electoral Council of Ecuador in countering disinformation” on August 13 and 14, 2024 in Quito. The aim was to address the phenomenon of disinformation, learn about experiences in the electoral field in this area, highlight characteristic elements and provide tools to deal with it.

The workshop, which had a theoretical-practical approach, included presentations and activities on disinformation and its possible effects, the challenges faced by electoral management bodies in this area, the use of Artificial Intelligence to combat disinformation, strategic communication, among others. More than 45 members of the CNE of Ecuador participated in the workshop.



VISIT OF THE OAS HIGH-LEVEL GROUP FOR THE STRENGTHENING OF WOMEN'S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION TO PARAGUAY

August 21-23, 2024



In partnership with
Canada



Ministero degli Affari Esteri
e della Cooperazione Internazionale



The OAS High-Level Group (GAN for its Spanish acronym) for the Strengthening of Women's Political Participation made a working visit to Paraguay from August 21 to 23, 2024. The delegation, led by the former President of Costa Rica and coordinator of the High-Level Group, Laura Chinchilla, met with authorities from the Superior Tribunal of Electoral Justice (TSJE), the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Women's Affairs, senators and representatives of the legislative branch and members of civil society.

The High-Level Group will collaborate with Paraguayan institutions and civil society to continue strengthening the implementation of the recommendations of the EOMs on women's political participation in the country.

Press Releases



[OAS High-Level Group for Strengthening Women's Political Participation Concluded Visit to Paraguay](#)



VISIT OF THE OAS HIGH-LEVEL GROUP FOR THE STRENGTHENING OF WOMEN'S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION TO JAMAICA

September 12-13, 2024



The OAS High-Level Group (GAN for its Spanish acronym) to promote the implementation of the recommendations of the Electoral Observation Missions (EOMs) on women's political participation, made a working visit to Jamaica from September 12 to 13, 2024, at the invitation of the Electoral Commission of the Caribbean country.

The delegation, led by Rosina Wiltshire, an international expert on development and gender equality from Barbados and a member of the High-Level Group, met with various government and electoral authorities, political and social actors and the international community accredited in the country to discuss initiatives that facilitate the implementation of the recommendations of the OAS/EOMs and to learn about the work that various institutions are promoting in this area. During the visit, the Group sought to contribute to the dialogue among diverse actors to continue advancing towards greater equality and the closing of existing gaps that prevent or limit women from fully exercising their political rights.

Press Releases



[OAS High-Level Group for Strengthening Women's Political Participation Begins Visit to Jamaica](#)





STRENGTHENING THE INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES OF PERU'S NATIONAL OFFICE FOR ELECTORAL PROCESSES (ONPE) IN THE FIELD OF TECHNOLOGY

October-December, 2024



At the request of the National Office for Electoral Processes (ONPE) of Peru, a technical team from DECO provided technical cooperation to the electoral body to strengthen its institutional capacities in the field of technology, with an emphasis on cybersecurity and the processes associated with the Computerized Counting and Results System.

The DECO technical team made two visits to the country in October and December 2024, and recommendations were provided to the ONPE for its consideration. In addition, a virtual workshop was held in which officials from the Central Electoral Board of the Dominican Republic shared their experiences in the development of record transmission systems.



WORKSHOP ON THE EOMS RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING WOMEN'S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION IN ECUADOR

October 15 - 17, 2024



In partnership with
Canada



Ministero degli Affari Esteri
e della Cooperazione Internazionale



DECO, with the support of the National Electoral Council of Ecuador, organized the workshop as part of the activities of the High-Level Group for the Strengthening of Women's Political Participation.

The three-day meeting featured interventions from specialists and experts in the field, as well as international guests who presented the experiences of other countries in the region. Practical and participatory sessions were also held, during which people worked collaboratively to explore possible strategies and actions to promote and strengthen the agenda for the promotion of women's political participation and to generate cooperation networks for future initiatives.

The workshop was an opportunity to discuss about lessons learned and progress made at the regional level in the effort to improve the conditions that allow women to fully participate in decision-making spaces.



WORKSHOP ON THE EOMS RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING WOMEN'S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION IN PARAGUAY

November 12-14, 2024



In partnership with
Canada



Ministero degli Affari Esteri
e della Cooperazione Internazionale



DECO, with the support of the Ministry of Women, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Superior Tribunal of Electoral Justice of Paraguay, organized the workshop in Paraguay as part of the work of the High-Level Group for the Strengthening of Women's Political Participation.

The workshop was designed to share the EOM recommendations that promote women's political participation in Paraguay with social and political actors in the country, as well as to provide a space for the collective construction of a roadmap for action to advance their effective implementation. The workshop also provided the participants with knowledge and tools to make practical use of these recommendations and the course of action within the framework of their different roles, activities and daily work.



WORKSHOP ON THE EOMS RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING WOMEN'S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION IN JAMAICA

November 18-20, 2024



In partnership with
Canada



Ministero degli Affari Esteri
e della Cooperazione Internazionale



Following the visit to Jamaica of the OAS High-Level Group to promote the implementation of the recommendations of the Electoral Observation Missions (EOMs) on women's political participation, DECO organized the in-person workshop to share the recommendations of the EOMs that promote women's political participation in the Caribbean country with social and political actors.

The three-day workshop sought to create a space to collectively build an action plan to implement the OAS recommendations and provided participants with knowledge and tools to use these recommendations in their daily roles and activities.



VISIT OF THE OAS HIGH-LEVEL GROUP FOR THE STRENGTHENING OF WOMEN'S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION TO GUATEMALA

November 26-28, 2024



In partnership with
Canada



Ministero degli Affari Esteri
e della Cooperazione Internazionale



The OAS High-Level Group (GAN for its Spanish acronym) to promote the implementation of the recommendations of the OAS/EOMs on women's political participation made a two-day working visit to Guatemala, at the invitation of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE).

The delegation, led by the former President of Costa Rica and coordinator of the High-Level Group, Laura Chinchilla, met with the President of the Republic, Bernardo Arévalo, and other Guatemalan government authorities, electoral bodies, and political and social actors to discuss initiatives that facilitate the implementation of the recommendations of the OAS Electoral Missions and to learn about the work that various institutions are promoting in this area.

Press Releases



[OAS High-Level Group to Strengthen Women's Political Participation Begins Visit to Guatemala](#)



ELECTORAL OBSERVATION TRAINING IN ECUADOR

December 11-12, 2024



This DECO initiative provided a space to promote the strengthening of democracy in the region through citizen participation in elections and electoral observation.

The virtual workshop was aimed at Ecuadorian citizens from civil society and academic institutions, with the objective of transmitting technical knowledge of the OAS electoral observation methodology and improving the conceptual and logistical knowledge of potential national observers.



STRENGTHENING ELECTORAL CAPACITIES IN HAITI

2024



On November 17, 2023, the Permanent Council of the OAS adopted resolution CP/RES. 1237, “Providing integrated humanitarian electoral, democracy strengthening, human rights protection, and integral development assistance to Haiti in collaboration with the Multinational Security Support Mission and the CARICOM eminent persons group” which, among other things, mandated the OAS General Secretariat, through the Secretariat for Strengthening Democracy (SSD) and other areas, with “to facilitate the provision of assistance with the infrastructural, legal, security, and technical aspects of the preparation for inclusive, free, fair, and credible elections, as well as democratic transition in Haiti, as soon as conditions allow”.

In light of this mandate, the Secretariat for Strengthening Democracy, through the Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation, developed and facilitated a series of activities in support of and in collaboration with the Haitian authorities, including:

- March 4, 2024: The OAS Secretary General sent a request to the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission) to analyze the legislative framework for the Haitian elections, along with the relevant recommendations from past OAS Electoral Observation Missions and help identify legislative solutions that could serve as a basis for the conduct of the next and future electoral processes in Haiti. The request was accepted by the Venice Commission.
- May 13-15, 2024: A series of meetings were held in Washington, D.C. between the Venice Commission, OAS authorities and departments, Haitian stakeholders and experts, which allowed the experts of the Venice Commission to gather information and perspectives that served as the basis for their work on the legislative analysis.
- June 21, 2024: DECO officials participate in the 139th Plenary Session of the Venice Commission, which discussed and adopted Opinion No. 1193/2024, “Interim Opinion on Possible Constitutional and Legislative Solutions to Conduct Future Electoral Processes” in Haiti.
- September 6, 2024: A virtual meeting was held between the Venice Commission and the then President of the Presidential Council of Transition, Edgard Leblanc Fils, along with other members of the Council, to further discuss issues related to the “Interim Opinion”.
- October 28-30, 2024: Working meetings in Washington, D.C., between the Venice Commission, Haitian authorities, including a member of the Presidential Transition Council, Frinel Joseph, OAS authorities and departments, OAS Member and Observer States, electoral authorities from various OAS Member States, and other experts on constitutional, legislative, and technical issues related to the preparation of future elections in Haiti.
- On December 7, 2024: Secretary General Almagro and DECO officials participated in the 141st Plenary Session of the Venice Commission, along with a delegation of Haitian authorities, including Presidential Advisor Frinel Joseph, the Head of the CEP and the Head of the Constitutional Steering Committee, to receive the “Final Opinion on Possible Constitutional and Legislative Solutions to Conduct Future Electoral Processes” in Haiti.

Press Releases



[OAS Hosted High-Level Meetings with Haitian Authorities and the Venice Commission to Support Haiti's Constitutional and Electoral Preparation](#)



[OAS to Host High-Level Haitian Delegation and Venice Commission for Key Discussions on Electoral Processes and Governance in Haiti](#)



03

Professionalization of electoral observation



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"The continuous professionalization of electoral observation, particularly through the work of the OAS, is crucial to strengthening democracy in the region. Enhancing the training and specialization of observers ensures a more accurate and reliable evaluation of electoral processes."

Francisco Guerrero
Secretary for Strengthening Democracy



MANUAL FOR OAS ELECTORAL OBSERVATION MISSIONS - 2024 EDITION



The Manual for OAS Electoral Observation Missions integrates the content of the 2007 document *Criteria for Electoral Observation: A Manual for OAS Electoral Observation Missions* and the 2008 *Manual for Electoral Observation Missions of the Organization of American States*.

This new Manual also reflects an improved structure of OAS Electoral Observation Missions (OAS/EOMs) and updates observation procedures by incorporating elements of the security protocol developed by DECO with the support of the Department of Public Security (DSP) of the Secretariat of Multidimensional Security (SSM). These updates have been applied in recent years of electoral observation.

Additionally, this Manual includes new aspects of electoral observation introduced after the 2008 edition, such as monitoring disinformation in electoral processes. It also provides a deeper analysis of other areas of observation, including direct democracy exercises.

The first chapter of the document outlines the theoretical framework of election observation and OAS/EOMs, including their specific objectives, principles, and the conditions for accepting an invitation from a Member State to deploy an OAS/EOM. The second chapter explains the legal framework that underpins and guides the work of OAS/EOMs, covering the norms and instruments of both the Inter-American System and the Universal System for the Protection of Human Rights. The third chapter presents the methodology for international electoral observation, defining democratic elections and their key attributes. It also briefly describes thematic standards, methodologies, and other international electoral observation tools.

The fourth chapter, in turn, covers the stages of the electoral cycle as an object of observation, with an emphasis on the three phases of the electoral process: the pre-electoral stage, voting day, and post-electoral stage. The fifth chapter outlines the general considerations, definitions, categories, requirements, and obligations of International Election Observers. Chapter six presents the structure of the OAS/EOM and the various roles of its permanent and temporary members. Finally, chapter seven details the observation process of the Missions, focusing on their initial phase, installation, and observation.

Publications



[Manual for OAS Electoral Observation Missions - 2024 Edition](#)



2024 Year in Review of the Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation (DECO)





04

Institutional exchanges





XVII INTER-AMERICAN MEETING OF ELECTORAL MANAGEMENT BODIES

August 20 - 21, 2024



In collaboration with the Superior Tribunal of Electoral Justice (TSJE) of Paraguay and with the support of the Canadian government, DECO, in its capacity as Technical Secretariat, organized the XVII Inter-American Meeting of Electoral Management Bodies (RAE for its Spanish acronym) in Asunción, Paraguay. The XVII RAE brought together 44 authorities and representatives from 30 electoral management bodies from 23 OAS Member States.

During the two-day meeting, electoral authorities addressed topics such as the impact of artificial intelligence on elections, tools to promote a secure and deliberative information ecosystem, the health of global and regional democracy, and the challenges of conducting elections in contexts of political-electoral violence.

Press Releases



[OAS Brings Together Electoral Authorities from the Hemisphere in Paraguay to Discuss Challenges and Best Practices in Electoral Matters](#)



COOPERATION BETWEEN THE OAS GENERAL SECRETARIAT AND THE VENICE COMMISSION

Cooperation between the OAS General Secretariat and the Venice Commission dates back to the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the GS/OAS and the Council of Europe in 2011, which was further strengthened in 2020 with a framework cooperation agreement. Since then, both institutions have collaborated on numerous issues, including limits on indefinite reelection and other matters of hemispheric relevance. In 2024, this strategic alliance once again yielded significant results.

In December 2024, the Venice Commission reviewed and adopted two issues on which the OAS Secretary General had requested an analysis.

A Final Opinion on possible constitutional and legislative solutions to conduct future electoral processes in Haiti

The Commission followed up on its Interim Opinion on the subject, adopted in June 2024, and provided a series of recommendations on the conditions, mechanisms, and steps necessary for holding elections. These recommendations should be implemented in phases prior to the constitutional referendum, as well as before and after the next elections. The Venice Commission also reiterated its willingness to assist Haiti, within the limits of its mandate, in preparing the necessary constitutional amendments and electoral legislation, to be available when the security environment required for elections is restored.



[Final Opinion on possible constitutional and legislative solutions to conduct future electoral processes](#)

A report that considers election observers to be human rights defenders

The Commission concluded that, in accordance with the broad concept of human rights defenders shared by the United Nations and the Council of Europe, election observers can qualify as human rights defenders, as they safeguard a wide range of fundamental rights, particularly the right to vote and to be elected, along with civic and political rights, such as freedom of assembly and association; freedom of expression; the right to access information; freedom of movement; the right to non-discrimination; and the right of access to the courts and to an effective remedy. The report states that election observers have the right to seek protection and promote human rights at the national and international level, with adequate protection under national law, both independently and collaboratively. It also urged states to include protections and guarantees of the rights of both national and international observers, as well as partisan election observers, in their national legislative framework.



[Election Observers as Human Rights Defenders](#)

DECO as an Observer Member of the Council for Democratic Elections of the Venice Commission

In recognition of its positive institutional collaboration with the OAS, the Venice Commission invited the OAS General Secretariat, through the Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation (DECO), to become an observer member of the Commission's Council for Democratic Elections.

The Council for Democratic Elections is the only tripartite body of the Council of Europe, composed of members of the Venice Commission, the Parliamentary Assembly, and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the European Council. It examines all opinions and documents of a general nature in the field of elections and political parties before they are submitted for adoption by the Venice Commission.





PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL SEMINARS AND EVENTS

- On March 20, Gerardo de Icaza participated as a panelist in the Webinar of the National Office for Electoral Processes (ONPE) of Peru “Using artificial intelligence intelligently.” In this space, de Icaza shared his perspectives on the impact of artificial intelligence on disinformation, especially in the context of electoral processes, and how this technology can be used responsibly and effectively.
- On April 12, 2024, a meeting was held between Gerardo de Icaza, Director of the Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation (DECO) of the OAS, and the Council Working Party on Transatlantic Relations (COTRA) of the European Council. During this meeting, they discussed DECO’s 2024 Work Plan, fostering an exchange of ideas between the OAS and the members of COTRA.



- On May 2, a roundtable on “Freedom of expression and elections in the digital age: challenges and opportunities in Latin America” was held in Santiago, Chile, with Irene Khan, United Nations Special Rapporteur on freedom of expression and opinion. The chief of the technical cooperation section, Cristóbal Fernández, was one of the experts who participated in the discussion.
- On May 9, DECO Director Gerardo de Icaza participated in the “Talk with Youth Delegates on Cyberspace and Democracy in the Americas” at Stanford University. During this meeting, topics such as the challenges and benefits that technology has brought to democracy and the holding of elections in the Americas were addressed. An analysis was made of how cyberspace, and social networks in particular, have modified electoral processes, and examples of these challenges and benefits were shared based on the experiences of the OAS.
- From May 13 to 15, the Organization of American States, through DECO, hosted representatives of the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission) to analyze the legislative framework for the Haitian elections. In this context, the Commission engaged in dialogue with stakeholders and experts in Haiti, gathering information and perspectives that can contribute to its work.

- The Venice Commission held its 139th Plenary Session on June 20-22, 2024, at the Scuola Grande di San Giovanni Evangelista, Venice. During this session, an exchange of views was held on possible legislative solutions for the conduct of future electoral processes in Haiti, with a view to the adoption of the Commission's Opinion on the matter. In addition, the second manual for OAS electoral observation missions will be presented to the Venice Commission. The Secretary for Strengthening Democracy, Francisco Guerrero, the Director of DECO, Gerardo de Icaza, and the specialist Melene Glynn participated.
- The city of Warsaw hosted the Annual Preparatory Meeting of the Convening Committee of the Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation (DoP), held on June 13 and 14, 2024. This event was attended by the Secretary for Strengthening Democracy, Francisco Guerrero, and the Director of DECO, Gerardo de Icaza.



- On July 3, DECO received a group of international visitors from the leadership program of the United States Department of State. The Chief of the Electoral Observation Section, Brenda Santamaría, explained the work carried out by DECO in the field of political participation of historically excluded groups. Specialists Melene Glynn and Yerutí Méndez presented the methodologies for observing the political participation of women and of indigenous peoples and Afrodescendants.
- Within the framework of the Postgraduate Course “Political and Electoral Rights” at the Faculty of Law of the University of Buenos Aires (UBA), a virtual seminar on “Artificial Intelligence in Elections” was held on August 5th. This event, which was attended by the Director of DECO, Gerardo de Icaza, brought together experts and academics to analyze the impact and challenges posed by AI in electoral processes.
- On September 4, the University of Guadalajara hosted the master conference “Law as a Link in Democracy: Case Studies”. The event was attended by Gerardo de Icaza, Director of DECO, who addressed the importance of the law in strengthening democratic systems through practical examples and analysis of relevant cases.

- On September 12, Gerardo de Icaza, Director of DECO, participated in the Atlantic Council event, “Elections under threat: priorities for 2024, 2025 and beyond,” where he shared his perspective on the challenges facing the upcoming elections in the region and his ideas for ensuring that electoral processes adhere to international standards of fairness and transparency.
- The Center for American Progress organized a delegation of leaders from across the continent to delve deeper into the issues of democratic resilience throughout the Western Hemisphere. On this occasion, Gerardo de Icaza, Director of DECO, shared his ideas and spoke about the OAS's work in electoral cooperation and observation.
- The OAS Diploma Course “Governance, Management and Public Leadership in the Inter-American System” was attended by the Director of DECO, Gerardo de Icaza, where he shared with public officials, political authorities, social leaders, academics and communication professionals about Electoral Observation Missions in the Americas.



- On September 19, DECO held a discussion with academic Larry Diamond to listen and dialogue with an outstanding academic in the study of Global Democracy.
- On September 30, the Latin American and The Caribbean Foreign Affairs Association (LAAFA) at Georgetown University held the event “The Current State of Democracy in Venezuela: Challenges and Prospects.” At the event, DECO Director Gerardo de Icaza shared his insights and DECO's experience with the students.
- After the presidential elections in Venezuela, the General Secretariat of the OAS, through DECO, hosted the event “Presentation of the 600K Network of the Command with VZLA” on October 15, where technical inputs related to the July 28 election were presented.
- -Between October 2 and 4, Alex Bravo, DECO's specialist in electoral technology, participated in the Ninth International E-Voting conference in Tarragona, Spain. The conference, which included panel discussions and case studies, addressed relevant topics related to the development and implementation of electronic voting technologies.

- Gerardo de Icaza, Director of DECO, participated in the event “Electoral Observation and its Challenges” of the Inter-American Masonic Confederation on October 21, sharing the work of the OAS in observation in the region and the OAS Manual for Electoral Observation Missions.
- On October 23rd, the 6th AWEB General Assembly and Democracy Week took place in Colombia. During his presentation, Director Gerardo de Icaza discussed the adoption of technologies and artificial intelligence in democracy.
- On October 21 and 23 in Buenos Aires, Argentina, the Director of DECO, Gerardo de Icaza, and Specialist Eduardo Rojas, made a working visit to the National Electoral Chamber (CNE) to explore modalities of cooperation for the access, development and use of artificial intelligence in the scope of the CNE’s functions.
- On October 27, DECO Director, Gerardo de Icaza participated as an international guest in the National Elections of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay.
- During the Annual Implementation Meeting of the Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation (DoP), held from November 20 to 22 in Gdańsk, Poland, Gerardo de Icaza, Director of DECO, Cristóbal Fernández, Chief of the Electoral Cooperation Section, and Brenda Santamaría, Chief of the Electoral Observation Section, shared experiences and good practices on the panel “Observer rights and the impact of intimidation and obstruction.”



- In the context of the US General Election, DECO Director, Gerardo de Icaza, participated as a panelist in the event: IFES 2024 Program in the session “Election Observation: Views from Practitioners” where he shared with more than 800 participants the work that the OAS has carried out in the field of observation since 1962.
- On November 6, the Secretary for Strengthening Democracy, Francisco Guerrero, and the Director of DECO, Gerardo de Icaza, received delegations from the Argentine American Dialogue and the Province of Misiones at the House of the Americas to exchange views on the topic: “DECO/OAS: History of Electoral Observation in Latin America”.

- The Conference on Electoral Cooperation and the Observation of Democratic Processes in the Americas, with the theme of Electoral Transparency and Democracy in the Americas, took place from November 12 to 15. At the meeting, DECO Director, Gerardo de Icaza shared his knowledge and experience in the field of electoral cooperation and observation of democratic processes in the region.
- DECO, through its Director, Gerardo de Icaza, participated in the presentation of the report entitled: “Transnational repression, political harassment beyond borders”, an event co-organized by the organizations Victims of Communism, the Coalition for Human Rights and Democracy and the OAS on December 2nd.
- The class “Democracy and Combating Disinformation” at the School of the Attorney General of the Union of Brazil was attended by the Director of DECO, Gerardo de Icaza. The aim of this class was to understand the phenomenon of disinformation and how it affects electoral processes, analyzing real cases of disinformation in elections and identifying tools and strategies to combat it.
- -On December 9, Cristóbal Fernández, chief of the technical cooperation section, participated as a panelist in the virtual event “The Challenges of Artificial Intelligence to the Rule of Law”, organized by the Inter-American Dialogue and Luminate, in which he spoke about the impact and risks of artificial intelligence in elections.





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05

Execution of voluntary funds





EXECUTION OF 2024 VOLUNTARY FUNDS*

Electoral Observation Missions and the Professionalization of Electoral Observation** USD \$3,613,000

Technical Cooperation Projects, Follow-up of EOM Recommendations and Inter-institutional Exchanges*** USD \$783,000

TOTAL USD \$4,396,000

* The amounts provided are for reference purposes and correspond to the funds executed during the period from January 1 to December 31, 2024. The totals in each category are approximate and should not be considered final, as they have not yet been audited or certified.

** Includes execution of funds related to the development and updating of tools for electoral observation, as well as publications of analysis and dissemination of recommendations.

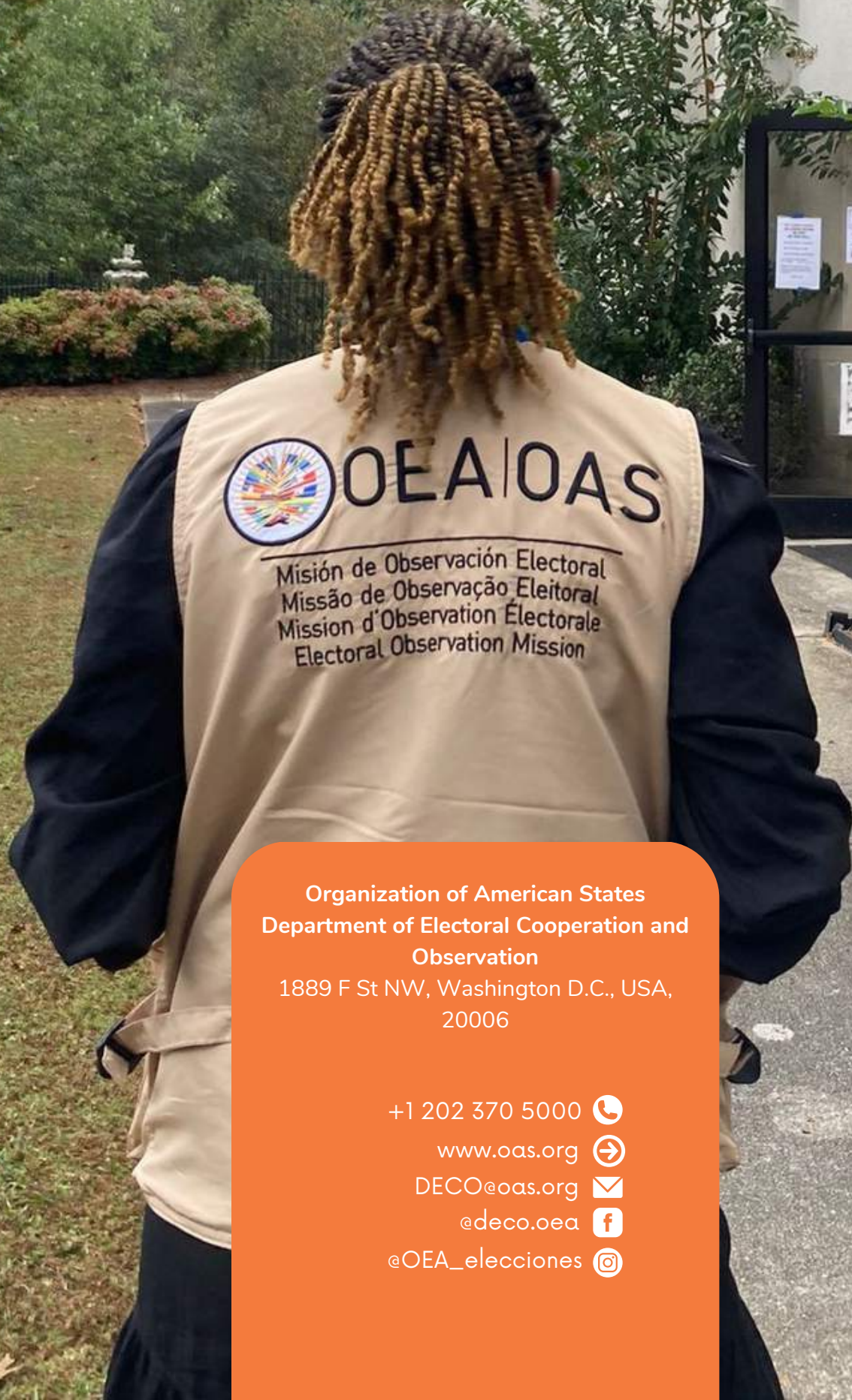
*** Includes technical cooperation activities and projects as well as capacity building of electoral bodies such as the Inter-American Meeting of Electoral Management Bodies and applicable institutional exchanges.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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