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**REPORT OF THE ELECTORAL OBSERVATION MISSION IN BOLIVIA
PRESIDENTIAL AND PREFECTS ELECTIONS 2005**

This document is being distributed to the permanent missions and
will be presented to the Permanent Council of the Organization



Organización de los Estados Americanos
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May 2, 2006

Mr. Chairman:

I have the honor to address Your Excellency to request your kind assistance in arranging for the distribution to the members of the Permanent Council, the attached report of the OAS Electoral Observation Mission held in Bolivia in 2005.

This report reflects the activities of the Mission during the observation of the Presidential and Prefects Elections in Bolivia held on December 18, 2005.

Accept, Excellency, renewed assurances of my highest and most distinguished consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Insulza', enclosed within a large, stylized oval flourish.

José Miguel Insulza
Secretary General

His Excellency
Ellsworth I. A. John
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Chairman of the Permanent Council of the
Organization of American States
Washington, D.C.

ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

REPORT OF THE
ELECTORAL OBSERVATION MISSION IN BOLIVIA
PRESIDENTIAL AND PREFECTS ELECTIONS 2005

Secretariat for Political Affairs

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MAIN ABBREVIATIONS

CDE:	Corte Departamental Electoral (Departmental Electoral Court)
CNE:	Corte Nacional Electoral (National Electoral Court)
CPE:	Constitución Política del Estado (Political Constitution of the State)
EOM:	Electoral Observer Mission
FREPAB:	Frente Patriótico Agropecuario de Bolivia (Agricultural Patriotic Front of Bolivia)
MAS:	Movimiento al Socialismo (Movement to Socialism)
MIP:	Movimiento Indígena Pachakuti (Pachakuti Indigenous Movement)
MNR:	Movimiento Nacionalista Revolucionario (Nationalist Revolutionary Movement)
NFR:	Nueva Fuerza Republicana (New Republican Force)
OAS:	Organization of American States
PODEMOS:	Poder Democrático y Social (Democratic and Social Power)
QR:	Quick count
UN:	Unidad Nacional (National Unity)
UN-MAR:	Unidad Nacional-Movimiento Amazónico de Renovación (National Unity-Amazon Movement for Renewal)
USTB:	Unión Social de Trabajadores de Bolivia (Workers Social Union of Bolivia)

CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION

Supporting the governments of the Americas in promoting and defending democratic institutions and values is a central concern of the Organization of American States (OAS).

Article I of the Inter-American Democratic Charter provides that democracy is essential for the social, political, and economic development of the peoples of the Americas and that "the peoples of the Americas have a right to democracy and their governments have an obligation to promote and defend it."

Democracy is above all reflected in the capacity of citizens to freely elect their representatives and to have real authority to take decisions and steer public authorities. Because of this, the electoral observation is a fundamental instrument to support the building of solid long-lasting democracies.

It must be clearly established that the responsibility for electoral processes pertain to the States that conduct them. The Electoral Observation Mission (EOM) does not interfere with, nor does it replace, local electoral institutions. Its work is aimed at providing impartial and transparent advisory services and assistance, technically supporting the process and collaborating through all of its phases.

Regarding the present Electoral Observation Mission, its immediate background can be found in Resolution CP/RES. 855 (1499/05) "Supporting Democracy in Bolivia," adopted July 26, 2005 by the special meeting of the Permanent Council and which endorsed the democratic process in Bolivia after Chief Justice Rodríguez Veltzé came into office as President of the Republic. Another major antecedent has been the request made by the Government of the Republic of Bolivia on August 8, 2005, through an official communication from its Permanent Mission to the OAS, for technical cooperation in electoral matters.

In this context, the Organization of American States, through its Department of Democratic and Political Affairs, dispatched an Electoral Observation Mission aimed at supporting the development of the electoral process that was conducted in the country and that ended with the coming into office of new executive and legislative authorities and the selection of departmental prefects.

The deployment, development and success of the Observation Mission was largely possible, first of all, because of the support it received from Bolivia's electoral and government authorities and also because of the economic and logistic support it received from the U.S., Canadian, Swedish, Dutch, Danish, Spanish, Argentine, Brazilian, and Japanese governments.

A. ELECTORAL PROCESS OF DECEMBER 2005

From February 2003 to June 2005, Bolivia experienced a complex political situation which led to the resignation of two constitutionally elected Presidents, Gonzalo Sánchez de Lozada and Carlos Mesa, the subsequent waiver of constitutional succession by the Presidents of Congress and House of Representatives, and the swearing in of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Justice, Dr. Eduardo Rodríguez Veltzé, as

President of the Republic.

In compliance with the Political Constitution of the Republic, President Rodríguez Veltzé called for early general elections and upheld the existing call for the election of prefects.

On December 18, 2005, Bolivians turned out massively to elect the President of the Republic, the Vice-President, 27 Senators, 130 Congressmen, and 9 Prefects. Except for the latter, who shall be concluding their term of office in the year 2009, the others shall be discharging their duties for a five-year constitutional term of office between 2005 and 2010.

The tremendous damage done to the political system over the past years led the citizenry to focus special attention on this electoral process. Furthermore, it was evident that the public was disappointed with traditional parties and political leaders, but it was also possible to observe deep interest on the part of society in contributing actively to the political process, an interest that was manifest in the extraordinarily high turnout for the elections.

Because of this overall context, the electoral process was marked by various situations that had not been observed in previous elections:

- Greater participation of new political instruments, especially citizen groups. Inversely, the so-called “historical parties”¹ did not participate with their own ballots, except for the Nationalist Revolutionary Movement (Movimiento Nacionalista Revolucionario).
- Greater trend toward polarization of the political campaign.
- The presentation of highly differentiated proposals, focusing on topics of the Constitutional Assembly and Autonomies.
- The extraordinarily high turnout of the population in the elections (84.5%). According to the CNE, this has been the highest participation in general elections since the reinstatement of democracy in 1982.
- A clear choice by the voters for one of the candidates. This choice gave the Movement to Socialism (Movimiento al Socialismo—MAS) the absolute majority of the votes. It must be recalled that this is the first absolute majority in an election in the country since the reinstatement of democracy in 1982.

¹ By “historical” parties we mean those that have participated in general and municipal elections since the reinstatement of democracy in 1982, namely, the Nationalist Revolutionary Movement (Movimiento Nacionalista Revolucionario—MNR), the Nationalist Left Movement (Movimiento de la Izquierda Nacionalista—MIR), and the Nationalist Democratic Action (Acción Democrática Nacionalista—ADN). The MIR did participate with their own candidates in the election of prefects.

- Vote concentration. Whereas the historical trend in Bolivian elections has been toward dispersion, in these elections the two candidates with the highest number of ballots accounted for 82.2% of the voting.

There were eight political parties participating in the general elections, with the following presidential candidates: Evo Morales, Movement to Socialism (Movimiento al Socialismo—MAS); Jorge “Tuto” Quiroga, Democratic and Social Power (Poder Democrático y Social—PODEMOS); Samuel Doria Medina, National Unity (Unidad Nacional—UN); Felipe Quispe, Pachakuti Indigenous Movement (Movimiento Indígena Pachakuti—MIP); Michiaki Nagatani, Nationalist Revolutionary Movement (Movimiento Nacionalista Revolucionario—MNR); Gildo Angulo, New Republican Force (Nueva Fuerza Republicana—NFR); Eliseo Rodríguez, Agricultural Patriotic Front of Bolivia (Frente Patriótico Agropecuario de Bolivia—FREPAB); and Néstor García Rojas, Social Union of Workers of Bolivia (Unión Social de los Trabajadores de Bolivia—USTB).

B. LEGAL AND ELECTORAL FRAMEWORK

Bolivia’s political and electoral activities are governed by three laws: the Electoral Code, the Political Parties Act, and the Law for Citizen Groups and Indigenous Peoples. They regulate both electoral activities and political instruments.

Bolivia’s electoral system is based on the Electoral Code (Act 1984 of June 25, 1999), which regulates the procedure, development, surveillance, and monitoring of electoral processes in the country. According to the Electoral Code, the elections in Bolivia are based on nine principles: 1) The *principle of sovereignty of the people* which provides that the elections express the will of the people and constitute a mechanism to renew State authorities and to conduct referendums; 2) the *principle of equality*, whereby all citizens enjoy the same rights and guarantees; 3) the *principle of participation*, which entitles all citizens to participate freely in the elections; 4) the *principle of transparency*, which guarantees the public nature of electoral events; 5) the *principle of public disclosure*, which provides that all players involved in the electoral process must be fully apprised of any and all steps taken in the elections; 6) the *principle of preclusion (res judicata)*, whereby the phases of the electoral process shall not be repeated or revised; 7) the *principle of autonomy and independence*, which establishes the autonomous nature of the Court to administer the electoral process and its operational independence from branches of government; 8) the *principle of impartiality*, whereby the electoral body is impartial and its actions and decisions only observe the rules set forth in the Political Constitution of the State and the Laws of the Republic; and 9) the *principle of due process of law*, whereby the actions of the members of the electoral bodies are governed by, and are exercised in accordance with, the Political Constitution of the State, the Electoral College, and the country’s legal system.

Representation of the people is exercised by means of universal, direct, free, mandatory and secret voting. The election is established by Articles 86 and following of the Electoral Code, which provides that the President, Vice-President, Senators and Congressmen shall be elected for a five-year term from the lists of candidates presented by political parties, citizen groups, indigenous peoples or alliances with legal status in force. For the purpose of general elections, the territory of the Republic is divided into one national electoral district, nine departmental districts, and 68 single-member

districts.

Article 90 of the CPE provides that the election of the President and Vice-President of the Republic shall take place in the single national district by absolute majority of the ballots. In the event that none of the candidates for President and Vice-President were to obtain the absolute majority of the valid ballots, it would be Congress that would have to elect, on the basis of the absolute majority of the valid votes, in an oral voting process by name, from among the two candidates that obtained the highest number of valid ballots. Likewise, it provides that, in the case of a tie, the voting should be repeated two consecutive times and if the tie persists, the President and Vice-President shall be those candidates that obtained the simple majority of valid ballots in the general election.

Furthermore, in each one of the departmental districts, three senators are elected along with their respective alternates. Two senators shall pertain to the majority and one to the first minority. Likewise, in each one of the departmental districts, the congressmen are elected by multi-member district. For the election of congressmen in single-member districts, the National Electoral Court divides the country's territory into 68 electoral districts on the basis of the population and on the basis of territorial geographical continuity, affinity and harmony. In each one of these districts, one congressman and his/her respective alternate is elected by a simple majority of the valid ballots.

1. Electoral Officers

According to the Electoral Code, the Electoral Body is structured on the basis of the following hierarchy: a) National Electoral Court; b) Departmental Courts; c) Electoral Judges; d) electoral board members of the polling stations; e) Electoral Notaries; f) other officials.

The *National Electoral Court* is the supreme body for electoral matters, with jurisdiction and competence over the entire territory of the Republic. Its decisions are mandatory and cannot be reviewed or appealed, except within the framework of the jurisdiction and competence of the Constitutional Court. A resolution issued by the National Electoral Court can only be reviewed when it undermines the rights legitimately acquired by a citizen, political party, citizen group or indigenous people.

The fundamental duties of the CNE include scheduling, organizing, directing, coordinating, implementing, monitoring and evaluating the technical and administrative activities of the electoral process and guaranteeing its adequate and transparent functioning. In addition, the CNE recognizes or annuls the legal status or record of political instruments that, according to Bolivia law, are entitled to present their candidacies to elections (political parties, citizen groups, and indigenous peoples). In addition, among other attributions, it proposes to National Congress legislative initiatives in the framework of its competence and confers upon the President and Vice-President of the Republic, as well as upon Senators, Congressmen, and Constituents, their letters of credence.

The *Departmental Electoral Courts* (there is one in each Department capital) must comply with and enforce the Electoral Code and the resolutions and regulations issued by the National Electoral Court, as well as schedule, organize, direct, coordinate, implement, monitor and evaluate technical and administrative techniques of the

electoral process in their jurisdiction. Therefore, the Departmental Courts are in charge of conducting electoral processes, directing and administering the Vital Statistics Office and the Voter Registration Records, appointing (or removing if necessary) electoral judges, notaries, and inspectors, carrying out the drawing for the appointment of the electoral boards, conducting the departmental vote count, etc.

2. Political Parties

The Political Parties Act (No. 1983, June 25, 1999) sets the principles for the use of these political instruments. According to Article 3 of the Act, *Political Parties* are non-profit legal entities governed by public law, which are established to participate, by licit and democratic means, in the political activities of the Republic, in conformity with public authorities and in the formation and manifestation of the people's will.

Every party is subject to the Political Constitution of the State and must be aimed at defending human rights, rejecting all forms of discrimination, establishing democratic procedures for their organization and functioning, and guaranteeing the full participation of women. So that the CNE shall grant them legal status enabling them to participate in electoral processes, the parties must present ledgers with the registration of party members confirming membership registration equal to or greater than 2% of the total valid ballots in the immediately preceding presidential elections.

If the parties do not obtain, in the elections they present candidates, more than 3% of the total votes, the CNE removes their legal status and fines them. To recover their status, they must once again complete regular procedures.

3. Citizen Groups and Indigenous Peoples

Citizen groups are organizations established to participate in political activities and national, prefecture, and municipal elections, on the same basis as the political parties and indigenous peoples. Their structure, functioning, etc., is based on the Citizen Groups and Indigenous Peoples Act (Law 2771 of July 7, 2004). This Act was adopted as an effort to open up and loosen Bolivia's political system and to dismantle the monopoly over representation held by political parties.

According to Article 4 of this Act, citizen groups are non-profit legal entities governed by public law, established exclusively to participate by legal and democratic means in the country's political activities, through different electoral processes for public authorities.

For its establishment, a citizen group must have an express declaration of its founders: name, acronym, symbols, and colors it will be adopting; an internal bylaw specifying the form of election of its candidates and government platform. So that citizen groups can participate in the election of President and Vice-President of the Republic, multimember senators and congressmen, it must show a minimum registration of signatures equivalent to 2% of the total of valid ballots at the most recent national election. To present candidates for single-member congressmen, the registration of signatures equivalent to 2% of total valid ballots in the electoral district is needed. This is also valid for the municipal elections and elections of prefects.

Just like political parties, citizen groups must comply with the Political

Constitution of the State, the laws of the Republic, and their internal regulations. They must preserve, develop, and consolidate the democratic system, and must be accountable.

Furthermore, the *Indigenous Peoples* are native organizations recognized by the State and who can participate in national, prefecture, and municipal electoral processes. Article 6 of the Law of Citizen Groups and Indigenous Peoples points out that the Indigenous Peoples are organizations with their own legal status recognized by the State, whose structure, organization and functioning are governed by ancestral practices and customs, which shall be recognized by the National Electoral Court.

Indigenous peoples can participate in shaping the will of the people and present candidates in electoral processes in the framework of the provisions of the Law, and they must obtain their registration from the electoral body. To be established as a political instrument, the indigenous peoples must present a certification of their status and a nominal listing of community authorities and/or leaders, in accordance with their traditional rules and symbols. No citizen can be made to participate in elections; likewise, no authority can oblige its members to sign registration ledgers.

4. Selection of Prefects

In the elections of December 18, 2005, for the first time in Bolivia, there has been the election for "selection of prefects."

To understand this process, it is necessary, first of all, to consider Article 109.I of the Political Constitution of the State, which provides that: "In each department, the Executive Branch is in charge and is administered by a Prefect designated by the President of the Republic." This provision is repeated in Article 4 of the Law for Administrative Decentralization (Law 1654 of July 28, 1995). The term "designation" implies the constitutional power of the President of the Republic to appoint persons who must hold the post of Prefect in each one of the departments.

During the administration of President Carlos Mesa (2003-2005), D.S. 27988 of January 28, 2005 was issued ("Call to elections of prefects for the term 2002–2007), which provides, in Article 1, that. "Elections are being called for the selection of one Prefect for each Department" and in Article 2 that "The citizens elected in each Department by universal, direct, free, mandatory and secret voting shall be designated as prefects by the President of the Republic, in compliance with the provisions of the Political Constitution of the State, five days after issuance of the final report by the National Electoral Court (...). The President of the Republic shall designate as Departmental Prefect that candidate who, in the voting, has obtained the simple majority of the valid ballots that have been cast."

On April 8, 2005, Congress adopted Law No. 3015 (Special Law, supplement to the Electoral Code, the Political Parties Act, and the Law of Citizen Groups and Indigenous Peoples, for the election and selection of Departmental Prefects), where, in addition to modifying the rules that were mentioned to carry out the election process, authorization is granted to the National Electoral Court to conduct the election process for the selection of Departmental Prefects by means of universal, direct, free, mandatory, and secret vote.

Likewise, on July 6, 2005, Congress adopted Law No. 3090 (Law Interpreting Article 109 of the Political Constitution of the State), which in its only article interprets "Article 109 of the Political Constitution of the State, establishing that the presidential designation of Departmental Prefects shall take place following an election process by universal and direct vote by simple majority. In this case, the Prefects shall fulfill five-year terms of office coinciding with municipal elections" and in its transitory article which "this once only, the Prefects designated as a result of the first election by universal and direct suffrage shall remain in office until the termination of the current municipal administration, scheduled for the year 2009."

Therefore, according to Bolivian law, the voters select one citizen who, afterwards, in compliance with the Political Constitution of the State, must be designated directly by the President of the Republic. In case of resignation, incompetence or death of the selected Prefect, the one substituting the Prefect shall be designated directly by the President of the Republic, without the need for a new selection process.

CHAPTER II: MISSION BACKGROUND, OBJECTIVES AND CHARACTERISTICS

After the call for General Elections and Election of Prefects by the President of the Republic, Dr. Rodríguez Veltzé, the Bolivian Government invited the Organization of American States to organize and head an Electoral Observation Mission aimed at monitoring the electoral process.

The Organization of American States accepted the invitation and, through its Department of Democratic and Political Affairs, started, in November 2005, to deploy the Mission.

A. MISSION OBJECTIVES

In the framework of the mandate of the Organization of American States to provide support and assistance to member states for holding democratic elections, the objectives of the Electoral Observation Mission were the following:

- Observing the development of the electoral process to confirm compliance of the entire process with legal standards currently in force in Bolivia.
- Serving as a deterrent to any attempt to manipulate the elections or commit fraud in the electoral process.
- Cooperating with government and electoral authorities, with Political Parties, Citizen Groups and Indigenous Peoples and with the population in general to ensure transparency, impartiality, and integrity of all the phases of the electoral process.
- Contributing to compliance with the procedures as provided for by Bolivia's legal and regulatory framework and to fostering their use in the resolution of conflicts.
- Serving, at the request of the players of the electoral process, as an informal channel for reaching a consensus in the event of disputes or conflicts.

- Drawing up recommendations to contribute to fine-tuning Bolivia's electoral system.
- Reporting the results of the Mission to the Secretary General of the Organization of American States, the Permanent Council of OAS, and the authorities and population of Bolivia.

B. PRELIMINARY ACTIVITIES

The EOM installed its headquarters in the Radisson Hotel of the city of La Paz two months before the elections, scheduled for December 18. Initially, a Baseline Group was established, comprised of two specialists from the OAS Department of Democratic and Political Affairs and international experts in electoral, logistic, computer, administrative, and media-related matters.

The objective of the Baseline Group was to provide the conditions for the subsequent deployment of all Mission observers. To this end, a broad and diverse series of technical and political contacts were established, making it possible to set forth the objectives of the Mission, obtain further information on the political and electoral environment, and coordinate mechanisms needed for collaboration.

On the one hand, the Mission worked in a coordinated and permanent fashion with Bolivian electoral organizations (both the National Electoral Court and the Departmental Electoral Courts) and government institutions. Likewise, there was continuous contact with the authorities of the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry for the Office of the President, as well as with the Presidential Delegate for Political Affairs. Likewise, with regard to the electoral process, coordination meetings were held with the Armed Forces and the National Police Force.

Regarding electoral authorities, it is important to emphasize that, on November 16, 2005, the EOM signed an Agreement with the National Electoral Court, whereby the CNE pledged to provide the Mission with all the information referring to the organization, conduct, and supervision of the elections. Likewise, the electoral body guaranteed the freedom of movement of the observers before, during, and after the elections, full access to the vote count, copies of the results of vote count records, etc.

In addition, meetings were held with virtually all the candidates for President, Vice-President, and a large number of the candidates for Prefect. To this end, the members of the Baseline Group traveled to various cities of the interior to establish contacts and learn about the opinion that the candidates and the members of the Departmental Courts had about the electoral process.

The members of the Baseline Group also met with representatives of political parties, with the members of the campaign teams of the various candidacies, and with specialists, commentators and the media. Likewise, meetings were held with representatives of the Church and civil society. Finally, working and coordination meetings were held with all national and international institutions involved in the electoral process, especially the diplomatic representatives of countries and international organizations.

C. ESTABLISHMENT OF MISSION

The Electoral Observation Mission of the Organization of American States was headed by Mission Chief, Ambassador Horacio Serpa (Colombia), and Mr. Steven Griner (USA) acted as the Deputy Chief. The Mission Chiefs also benefited from the participation of D. Gustavo Beliz (Argentina), National Coordinator of the Political Support Mission, which was a mission conducted alongside the EOM, but aimed at examining the process over the longer term and cooperating in the country's political transition and in the set of reforms that were already agreed upon between political forces, such as the process of establishing a Constitutional Assembly. In addition, the Mission had persons in charge of electoral, logistic, computer, administrative and media coordination.

In addition to the Baseline Group, a group of 166 international observers coming from 26 countries were incorporated into the Mission. All of these observers had similar activities and responsibilities, but they can be classified under three specific categories:

- The first group was comprised of 81 electoral observers from the Organization of American States. These observers had previous experience in observing elections and came from 14 countries of the entire continent. Part of this group collaborated with the national coordination and was also in charge of coordinating the regions, departments and liaisons with the political parties.
- The second group of 65 observers was comprised of volunteers from diplomatic missions and cooperation organizations with representatives in Bolivia. These observers came from Argentina, Germany, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, South Korea, Denmark, Spain, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Japan, Sweden, and Paraguay.
- The third group was comprised of observers who arrived in the country as part of the bilateral delegations of governments and institutions friendly to Bolivia. The observers of this group came from the Senate and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Spain, the Congress of Brazil, the Andean Community of Nations, and the Technical Secretariat of MERCOSUR.

All the observers received, before being posted throughout the country, one-day training on the following aspects:

- Electoral training by members of the National Electoral Court and the Departmental Electoral Court: The CDE provided training on the regulatory framework and electoral procedures, whereas the authorities of the National Informatics Department of the CNE explained in detail how the computer system worked, the model for the distribution of congressional seats, etc.

As part of this series of electoral matters, training on National Voter Registration Records, the Transmission of Results, and the Quick Count was provided to the observers.

- Training regarding National Security Plans for election day. This explanation was given by the authorities from the Vice-Ministry of the Interior and the National Planning Department of the National Police Force.
- Training in internal coordination, communication, logistic and administration of the Mission.

D. MISSION DEPLOYMENT

For the purpose of covering as large a part of Bolivian territory as possible, the Mission organized three different levels of coordination several weeks ahead of time. First of all, it installed the National Coordination Office in the city of La Paz; created four Regional Coordination Offices; and finally designated nine Departmental Coordinators. For each one of these coordination offices, a working office was installed in their respective territories.

Using a pyramidal structure, the National Coordination Office supervised the mission through the four regional coordination offices: La Paz, Santa Cruz, Cochabamba, and Oruro. The first Regional Coordination Office was in charge of the department of La Paz (Murillo province and the other provinces); the second region was in charge of the departments of Santa Cruz, Beni, and Pando; the third, Cochabamba, Sucre, and Tarija; and finally the fourth, the departments of Oruro and Potosí. Each department took responsibility for organizing and steering the work of the observers assigned to the electoral precincts in its territory.

As of December 7, the regional and departmental coordinators were sent to their destinations. The only exception was Region IV (Oruro), whose observer group was unable to travel until December 10 because of the road blocks on the La Paz-Oruro and Potosí-Oruro highways.

Once they reached their respective cities and after installing the EOM office, they started carrying out their activities.

First of all, they established contact with the authorities of the respective Departmental Electoral Courts, as well as with the political parties and the candidates. Likewise, they established ties with the media and, when necessary, they responded to their requests for information. In addition, they participated in both training activities and the coordination meetings that the Departmental Courts held with the General Commanding Office of the Police Force and members of the Armed Forces, and they observed the logistic arrangements made by the Court to distribute, on time, all the electoral materials. Finally, they attended the campaign activities of the candidates.

To the extent possible, they tried to visit the principal localities of each department, especially those that the political groups themselves and the CDEs identified as areas of concern after the municipal elections of 2004. In these localities, they visited a large number of urban and rural electoral precincts. In addition, they established contact with the local representatives of the Court, the political parties, and the electoral notaries.

Likewise, the observers prepared and organized the working mechanisms for

election day. In this regard, they visited the localities where polling stations were assigned so that they could examine, sufficiently ahead of time, road conditions and the time required to reach the stations, and communications were tested.

E. MISSION OBSERVERS IN POLITICAL PARTIES

In addition to the observers sent out by the different Departments, a group of observers was established to follow up on the activities of the electoral candidates and to serve as a liaison between the political parties and the Mission.

The extraordinary welcome given to these observers by the political parties and candidates must be highlighted. Everyone testified to how their work was facilitated, the transparency with which the campaign teams were handled, and the observers' permanent and direct access to the candidates.

F. REPORTING OFFICE

Finally, the EOM empowered a reporting official to receive, monitor, and inform about the various complaints about the electoral process that were filed. The reports that were received were channeled to the relevant authorities, and afterwards they were the target of permanent follow-up.

It is important to point out that the EOM did not have the power to investigate or resolve complaints and that the competent body for this was the national electoral authority.

CHAPTER III: OBSERVATION OF PROCESS

A. ELECTORAL CALENDAR

The National Electoral Court draws up a calendar of activities that sets a date for all the steps, time-limits, and procedures that must be carried out for the successful holding of elections.

This calendar had to be changed for various reasons.

As we have already mentioned in the introduction, once Dr. Eduardo Rodríguez Veltzé was sworn in as Constitutional President of the Republic and in view of the constitutional mandate to call for elections, on July 6, 2005, by means of Supreme Decrees 28228 and 28229, the Government announced that General Elections and Elections for Departmental Prefects would be held on Sunday, December 4, 2005.

Nevertheless, afterwards, Constitutional Ruling 0066/1005 of September 22, 2005, provided that the distribution of congressional seats would have to be changed by Congress, because the current distribution did not taken into account, as instructed by Article 60, paragraph VI of the Political Constitution of the State, the latest National Population and Housing Census.

Congress started the negotiations that would lead to a consensus permitting the new distribution of seats. Nevertheless, it was unable to reach a consensus and the

Executive, through Supreme Decree 28429 of November 1, 2005, redistributed the seats to ensure the equitable allocation in terms of population and economic development. In view of the lags that had occurred because of this matter and which affected some of the phases of the electoral calendar, this Decree ordered that the General Elections be postponed from December 4 to December 18, 2005.

Since the date of the elections had been changed, the National Electoral Court, by means of Resolution 207/2005 of November 3, 2005, reformulated the Electoral Calendar. This new calendar did not undergo any new changes and has been observed to the fullest.

The work of the CNE was permanently aimed at limiting changes and the transfer of dates and at preventing, as much as possible, any changes to the normal development of the political campaigns.

B. ELECTORAL TRAINING

1. Training for Electoral Judges, Notaries, and Board Members

The National Electoral Court and the Departmental Courts made considerable efforts to provide training in electoral matters to electoral judges, notaries and board members.

In its first phase, this training was aimed at training electoral trainers and promoters, who could in turn replicate this knowledge obtained for the benefit of the electoral judges, notaries, board members and guides. The basis of the strategy involved a mobile training team from the CNE providing training to 538 multiplier agents—110 trainers and 428 electoral promoters—, who then had the task of training 3,041 notaries, 110 judges, 96,000 electoral board members, and 6,000 electoral guides.

Furthermore, the electoral trainers and promoters were in charge of training the Delegates of the Political Parties, Citizen Groups, and Indigenous Peoples on electoral matters and the role that they would have to perform on December 18 at the polling stations. Likewise, training was provided to accredited journalists throughout the country thereby guaranteeing public access to reliable information.

The Electoral Observation Mission observed several training sessions both in La Paz and in the cities and rural areas of the country's interior. As a rule, the training was well organized, with adequate material and sound knowledge, and the trainers displayed teaching skills.

Nevertheless, in many departments of the country, basically in rural areas, several training problems became evident. At some places in the country, the observers noticed that, despite efforts, the number of electoral board members who were not trained accounted for up to 40% of total board members. This situation led to problems when it was time to conduct the process, but it was resolved thanks to the good will of the members of the polling stations and the ad hoc training provided by the polling station members who had been trained to their colleagues who had received no training.

2. Disseminating and Strengthening Democratic Values

Likewise, the CNE has conducted an intense campaign, aimed at the general population, on matters such as electoral rights and duties, the registration of citizens in the public notary offices, how to mark the ballots, etc.

In addition, the CNE organized various important programs aimed at building up democratic values, such as the Civic Education and Citizenship Program, which intended to raise the awareness of political players and the Bolivian population, especially the indigenous peoples, about democratic values and practices. To this end, plans were developed to provide information on individual and collective rights and obligations, as well as strategies to include democratic contents and values in the study plans of the Armed Forces, the National Police Force, and the National Education System.

On the basis of the implementation of the Civic Education and Citizenship Program, various government and nongovernmental institutions started up or pursued civic education actions involving different fields of action and aimed at various population groups.

Thus, government institutions such as the Ministry of the Office of the President, the Ministry of People's Participation, the Ministry of Defense or the Office of the Human Rights Ombudsman carried out various activities for training in democracy, dialogue forums, political coordination or the issuance of birth certificates. Likewise, nongovernmental organizations conducted activities along this line. It is worth while to highlight the actions conducted by the Catholic Church of Bolivia, through its Episcopal Commission for Education, which has been working for decades developing programs that involve groups from the entire country in projects aimed at strengthening their mechanisms for participation and disseminating the human rights of persons.

C. COMPUTER SYSTEM

The CNE has a computer system (SIRENA) to process and consolidate official results. This program was built by Bolivian professionals of the National Informatics Department of the CNE and is designed, above all, to guarantee transparency and reliability of the electoral process.

The system is based on the use of a scanned image of the Vote Count Report for the transcription of the data into the system. The Report coming into the computer room of the Departmental Electoral Court is ratified by the Plenary Session in the presence of the delegates from the political parties before being scanned and transcribed into the computer system. Afterwards, these digitalized images are transferred and sent to the query pages of the Court's web site (www.cne.org.bo), along with the results by polling station. In addition, the System has the capacity to transmit electoral results online from the Departmental Electoral Courts to the National Electoral Court through a nationwide network infrastructure and it also has a parallel system for transmitting results in the event of an emergency.

The OAS, on the occasion of previous observation missions, issued a series of 16 suggestions and recommendations to improve the computer system. A summary of these recommendations are provided below:

- Change of BD manager and development tools.
- Identification of the tools to administer changes.
- New counting systems.
- Training of technical staff.
- Development of a global data model.
- Amending the Electoral Code regarding parallel counts.
- Drafting documentation regarding the infrastructure of the systems and procedures involved.
- Hybrid communication network.
- Providing security resources for the communication network.
- Studying the computers and operators needed for each process.
- Designing a testing system.
- Developing progressive simulations.
- Publishing total counts by polling station on the web site.
- Conducting an audit of the different counting phases.
- Developing a new computer system.
- Permanent administrative management of elections.

In this regard, it is important to point out that the National Electoral Court sent an official note to the Mission (December 9, 2005) pointing out that all the recommendations were adopted and that they had helped to achieve a faster and safer computer system.

It is important to point out that the system was revised and monitored by the computer specialists of the EOM, who confirmed its quality and the soundness of its operation. Likewise, at the request of the representatives of the political parties, a copy of the computer program was locked in the safety box of the Office of the Representative of the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States in Bolivia.

D. MONITORING ELECTORAL SPENDING AND CAMPAIGNING

Public funding of political parties, citizen groups, and indigenous peoples is based on the Political Parties Act (Number II, Article 53), modified by Article 6 of Law No. 3153 of August 25, 2005.

According to the Act, political groups benefit from two forms of public funding. The first type of funding, provided during years when no elections are held, are exclusively aimed at funding political party programs for citizen education and the dissemination of political platform documents. The overall amount is equivalent to one half thousandth ($1/2 \times 1,000$) of the Nation's Consolidated Budget and is distributed to the political parties in proportion to the number of votes obtained by each party, either alone or as part of an alliance, at the most recent general, prefect or municipal elections.

The second type of public funding for public groups is available on election years to fund the spending of electoral campaigning and the dissemination of government proposals and programs of political parties, citizen groups and indigenous peoples through the media and print. The budget item is equivalent to one and a quarter thousandth ($1.25 \times 1,000$) of the Nation's Consolidated Budget, for general elections,

and one thousandth (1 x 1,000) when dealing with prefect and municipal elections. Likewise, each political group is given the amount that is proportional to the number of votes that it obtains in the most recent General Elections. The total of this amount is disbursed 60 days before the election and the political parties, citizen groups, and indigenous peoples return these funds to the Nation's General Treasury when their electoral share does not amount to three percent (3%) of the total valid ballots cast.

According to Article 6 of Law No. 3153, amending Article 53 of the Political Parties Act, it is the National Electoral Court that hires media services for the benefit of the political organizations participating in the elections. The political organization entitled to state funding is completely responsible for conducting the process of selecting the media prior to the hiring. Therefore, the authorized representatives of political parties, citizen groups, and indigenous peoples shall decide in what media and in what forums they wish to conduct their electoral campaign and shall also negotiate rates (which cannot be over those stipulated by the National Electoral Court), the ad runs, and number of passes with the legal representatives of each media.

The media are obliged to register in the National Electoral Court the programming, time slots, and schedules, as well as corresponding rates, that will be in force during the campaigning for the elections. These rates cannot in any way be over the average commercial rates effectively charged the first half-year before the election and they should be registered 180 days before the date of the national election.

E. SECURITY

The Ministry of the Prime Minister and the General Commanding Office of the National Police Force carried out a Plan of Operations (010-05) aimed at ensuring that all institutional, political, and social players involved in the elections would benefit from adequate security conditions to guarantee the entire process.

The National Police Force enlisted the support of all of its troops to keep law and order, enforce electoral regulations and the Prefecture Ordinance for Good Governance, protect the voting facilities, guaranteeing exercise of the right to vote, and overseeing the transfer of electoral materials. The Mission had a sound relationship with the forces of law and order, received information on a permanent basis about the development of the police operative, and was able to observe its sound functioning throughout the entire electoral process, for the safeguarding of materials, precinct security, the protection of the players intervening in the campaign, support to OAS observers, etc.

CHAPTER IV: PRE-ELECTION STAGE

According to Chapter VII of the Electoral Code, the electoral campaign started the day after the official publication of the call for elections and came to an end 48 hours before the day of the elections themselves (that is, December 16, 2005), whereas electoral campaigning started 60 days before the elections. The lack of consensus on the part of the legislature regarding the distribution of seats (and the resulting delay) produced a certain amount of uncertainty that had repercussions for the electoral campaign, but in any case the campaign was not stopped and continued relatively normally throughout the process.

As a rule, despite minor problems, the Mission observed that the political campaigning, the debates held with the candidates, the moving of electoral teams, the distribution of campaign materials, etc., took place in an environment of peace, without confrontations or the any severe restrictions on the movement of the candidates or their supporters.

A. CONCERNS OF POLITICAL PARTIES

As is customary during the pre-election period, the political parties approached the Observation Mission to express a series of concerns about the development of the campaign and about problems that could possible emerge on December 18. The most important concerns are indicated below:

1. National Electoral Court

In some departments, especially the leaders of the Movement to Socialism (Movimiento al Socialismo—MAS), they expressed their distrust of the Departmental Courts and their officials. They also expressed distrust of the process for selecting Court notaries and board members. They pointed out the lack of support and verification of the process for selecting notaries and board members.

Nevertheless, the Mission did not receive any formal reports regarding this, nor did it find any evidence of possible bias on the part of the members of the Departmental Courts or the members of the polling stations in favor of one electoral option or another, other than the expression of concern.

2. Critical Points

The different political parties indicated that, in the different areas of the country, problems might emerge on election day. The main fears focused on potential fraud (cross balloting, wagon vote,² vote buying, transferring persons, etc.), as well as the

² The so-called “voto cruzado” (cross balloting) is an electoral practice that was apparently common in trade union circles; it consisted of having one of the voters show his vote to one or more of his fellow workers. The original intention of this practice was to uphold trade union discipline in voting. As for the so-called “voto carretilla” (wagon vote), it is a type of electoral fraud in which the voter is given a marked ballot and uses it to cast his/her vote. But when it is time to vote, this voter keeps the clean ballot slip given to him by the electoral board members at the polling station and, when he leaves the voting precinct, he hands it over, for a sum of money, to the person who gave him the first ballot slip. With this new ballot, the fraud will

possible coercion exerted on delegates of minority political parties in these areas.

The political groups identified zones of concern in each department. The Mission, on the basis of concerns expressed by the parties and in consultation with electoral bodies and the National Police Force, gave priority to a series of potentially problematic areas where they felt they should be present. A consensus was subsequently reached with the representatives of the political groups regarding the identification of these areas, which were as follows:

DEPARTMENT	LOCALITY
La Paz	El Alto, Achacachi, Huarisata, Patacamaya
Cochabamba	Villa Anillo, Altamachi, Morochata, Calientes, Cocapata
Santa Cruz	San Julián, Puerto Suárez, San Matías, San Ignacio de Velasco
Tarija	Bermejo
Chuquisaca	Huancaya, Tiguipa, Carretera a Santa Cruz, Monteagudo, Hernando Siles, Azurduy, Culpini, Incahuasi
Oruro	Huanuni, Popó, Challapata, Caracollo, Orinoca
Potosí	Tacobamba, Betanzos, Pocoata, Piquiri, Villazón
Pando	Porvenir, Filadelfia, Purísima, Puerto Rico, Conquista, Sena, San Martín, Empresinha, Bioceánica, Nauranden.

On the basis of this definition of critical points, the Mission pledged to lend special attention to observation of the electoral proceedings of these localities. In this regard, preventive work was conducted the preceding days (especially the night of Saturday, December 17) and on election day. The Mission considers that this concern was duly addressed and, in fact, there was no indication of severe or exceptional problems in these places.

3. Car Traffic

The representatives of the parties indicated to the EOM that they were concerned about what they considered to be an excessive distribution of permits for car traffic on election day, as well as reports about the possible illegal copying of these permits. The EOM, at the appropriate time, consulted departmental electoral authorities about the policy for delivering these car traffic permits.

4. Sealing of Ballot Boxes

The Movement to Socialism suggested to the CNE the sealing of the specific ballot boxes where the security envelopes containing the tallying of the votes and vote count records would be deposited, in the nine Departmental Electoral Courts. The sealing would have to be signed by the delegates of the political parties and benefit from police custody. The EOM supported the request and the CNE took this concern into account.

5. Media

The Movement to Socialism expressed, on repeated occasions, that the regular

once again be perpetrated.

media, especially television, were against the MAS and that they were conducting campaigns that were hostile to this party.

The EOM felt that it should not make any comments regarding this. Any attempt to establish the existence, by the press in general or any specific media, of any bias toward a candidate, would have involved a review of the media's activities, which was not part of this Mission's objectives and did not come under its purview.

B. COMPLAINTS AND REPORTS

The principal complaints and reports made prior to the elections are indicated below:

1. Voter Registration Rolls

The Movement to Socialism filed a complaint regarding possible duplications in voter registration rolls, especially in the departments of Beni and Pando, and requested access to a voter registration rolls that included the identity card number of the registered voters. The CNE explained the technical reason for not including the identity numbers of the voters and sent the MAS the voter registration roll it requested, thus addressing this difficulty. The Mission followed up on this matter and felt that the parties concerned resolved it rapidly and positively.

2. Disqualification

During the period prior to the elections, 17 petitions for disqualifying candidates were filed with the CNE. Of these petitions, seven (7) were admissible and ten (10) were turned down.

3. Polling Stations without any Assigned Precinct

The political parties, especially the Movement to Socialism, expressed concern about the situation of 950 polling stations (522 in Chuquisaca and 428 in Oruro) which did not have any precincts.

The official explanation that was given by Mr. Miguel Serrano López, National Informatics Director of the CNE (Report DNI N. 768/05), was that 950 polling stations appeared listed "without precincts" because they were small localities where there were no assigned precincts and where usually the precincts, in line with the practices and customs of the locality, were a previously established place like "a street, the road or a soccer field." Nevertheless, the Departmental Courts were instructed to address this problem.

The Electoral Observation Mission followed up on this topic and observed that the parties were satisfied with the CNE's response.

4. Dispute Regarding Campaigning

The political parties, especially the Movement to Socialism and National Unity, expressed their concern about the repeated broadcasting of electoral campaigning

focusing on the personal lives of the candidates or, in their opinion, on aspects that distorted reality.

The political parties and the media themselves referred to this situation as the "dirty war." According to data provided by the CNE, close to 20 petitions for suspending television and radio spots were filed. The CNE did not act officially in this matter but confined itself to processing and acting on the petitions that were received. In any case, the discontinuances did take place and no overly serious problem arose from this matter.

The ads that were suspended are indicated below:

Resolution No.	Date	Contents
262/2005	December 9, 2005	<u>Discontinuance of the television spot "SANTA CRUZ SAYS NO TO EVO MORALES"</u>
257/2005	December 8, 2005	<u>Discontinuance of the television spot "DEPARTMENT FEDERATION OF MICRO AND SMALL BUSINESSES"</u>
256/2005	December 8, 2005	<u>Discontinuance of all TV spots broadcasting images of children and adolescents for political campaigning purposes.</u>
246/2005	December 5, 2005	<u>Discontinuance of the TV spot called "TURNCOATING AND OPPORTUNISM WISH TO CONTINUE RULING"</u>
Auto	December 3, 2005	<u>Discontinuance of the TV spot "SAMUEL CHARGES HIGH PRICES FOR CEMENT"</u>
Auto	December 2, 2005	<u>Discontinuance of the TV spot called "IF COCA LEAVES ARE LEGALIZED"</u>
Auto	December 2, 2005	<u>Discontinuance of the radio spot called "MY HUSBAND LEFT ME MANY YEARS AGO"</u>
244/2005	December 1, 2005	<u>Discontinuance of the campaigning spot called "SEMAPA"</u>
240/2005	November 29, 2005	<u>Discontinuance of the TV spot called "SAMUEL WILL NOT PUT HIMSELF ON THE LINE FOR HIS COUNTRY"</u>
239/2005	November 29, 2005	<u>Discontinuance of the TV spot called "MY HUSBAND LEFT ME MANY YEARS AGO"</u>
238/2005	November 25, 2005	<u>Discontinuance of the TV spot called "SAMUEL WILL NOT STAND UP FOR HIS COUNTRY"</u>
231/2005	November 18, 2005	<u>Discontinuance of the radio spots called "EVO PRESIDENT" and "TUTO PRESIDENT"</u>
230/2005	November 18, 2005	<u>Discontinuance of the TV spot called "SAMUEL WON'T BE PAYING THE BONOSOL?"</u>
226/2005	November 17, 2005	<u>Discontinuance of the TV spot called "TUTO AND EVO ARE AFRAID OF DEBATING"</u>
225/2005	November 17, 2005	<u>Discontinuance of the TV spot called "ARE WE GOING TO CHANGE THIS COUNTRY OR NOT?"</u>
212/2005	November 7, 2005	<u>Discontinuance of the TV spot called "IS IT POSSIBLE TO BELIEVE THAT SAMUEL DORIA</u>

		MEDINA WILL BE PAYING THE BONOSOL?"
202/2005	October 31, 2005	Discontinuance of the TV spot "THIS IS SAMUEL'S PLAN"

The discontinuance was carried out in observance of the following articles of the Electoral Code:

- *Article 120:* Anonymous campaigning by any means, campaigning aimed at producing electoral abstentions, campaigning undermining public ethics and dignity of persons shall not be permitted. Nor shall any campaigning that involves bribes or favors of any kind be allowed. Campaigning that is pre-recorded or requested from public works is forbidden during electoral campaigning. Campaigning that is harmful to hygiene and urban esthetics and infringes municipal ordinances is also forbidden. The National Electoral Court and/or Departmental Electoral Courts shall order the immediate discontinuance of any campaigning that infringes the above-mentioned prohibitions.
- *Article 121:* Any candidate who believes he may have been wronged by any political campaigning must file a complaint with the relevant Departmental Electoral Court, through his political party, citizen group, indigenous people or alliance for the immediate discontinuance of said campaigning. Personal offenses against the honor and dignity of the candidates are considered to be wrongs.

The position of the Electoral Observation Mission with respect to this "dirty war" phenomenon was reported in the Pre-electoral Report. The Mission considered that respect and tolerance should be the principles underlying any electoral campaign and that debates should preferably focus on political issues and platform proposals and not on personal issues. Nevertheless, the Mission considered that it was not competent to rule on the legitimacy of the campaigning or on whether a "dirty war" was involved or not. Regarding this, the EOM referred to the decisions taken by the CNE by virtue of its jurisdiction.

Likewise, the National Electoral Court issued Resolution No. 256/2005, discontinuing campaigns using images of children and adolescents, in compliance with the provisions of the Political Constitution of the State, the Code for Children and Adolescents, the Electoral Code, and the Civil Code. The EOM commended this decision, because it felt that, over and above any other consideration, the rights of the child should be respected.

The discontinuance took place on the basis of the following articles:

- *Article 6 of the Political Constitution of the State:* The dignity and reputation of persons are inviolable, and respecting and protecting them is a primary duty of the State.
- *Article 105 of the Code for Children and Adolescents:* The physical, psychological, and moral safety of children is inviolable, and it encompasses safeguarding their image, identity, values, opinions, personal and working space and objects.

- *Article 158 of the Code for Children and Adolescents:* The State and society have the obligation to give priority to preventing situations that might bring harm to the personal integrity of children.
- *Article 162 of the Code for Children and Adolescents:* No person, company or organization may use images of children or adolescents in their ads.
- *Article 16 of the Civil Code:* The fact of advertising, publishing, exhibiting or exposing the image of a person when it is against that person's reputation or decorum constitutes a harmful act.
- *Article 120 of the Electoral Code:* Anonymous campaigning by any media, campaigning aimed at encouraging abstention from elections or campaigning harmful to public morals and the dignity of persons shall not be permitted.

5. Use of the Pseudonym "Tuto"

The Movement to Socialism filed a claim for the presumably irregular use, on the ballot, of the pseudonym "Tuto" by the candidate of PODEMOS, Mr. Jorge Quiroga.

According to the Movement to Socialism, the judicial proceedings of a public order and nature that Jorge Quiroga used to add the pseudonym Tuto to his name concluded on November 9, 2005 although the time-limits for the presentation of documents to comply with Articles 104 and 105 (requirements) of the Electoral Code concluded on October 15. Because of this, MAS requested clarification from the Court on this matter, so as to guarantee the transparency and equality of the electoral process.

6. Acts of Intimidation and Violence

As mentioned earlier, the mood of the campaign was not characterized by the predominance of acts of violence; nevertheless, there were reports filed on aggressions, attempts to intimidate, and violent situations. The most noteworthy are indicated below:

- In Cochabamba, Esteban Ramírez, Department Chief of MAS, filed a report on aggression committed against an active member of MAS by an active member of PODEMOS.
- Attack against the campaign house of PODEMOS in La Paz using firearms and robbing a computer in the house of the single-member candidate of PODEMOS, Mr. Mauricio Jardín. The report was filed by the attorney Karina Calderón.
- Dr. Marcelo Ostría filed a report for damage done to the headquarters of "Independientes con PODEMOS" (Independents with PODEMOS) by alleged MAS party members, who broke into headquarters.
- Attack on PODEMOS party members in the Plaza del Estudiante of La Paz, by alleged MAS party members.
- Report of violence occurring in Caracollo (Oruro) against a campaigning caravan of PODEMOS, which included the candidate Jorge Quiroga.
- MAS delivered to the Mission a report on violence that occurred in San Ignacio de Velasco. According to the report, during a protest, its members and sympathizers were attacked by alleged members of the Youth Union of Santa Cruz (Unión Juvenil Cruceñista) and the political group PODEMOS.

- Report of violence occurring in San Javier (Santa Cruz) against the campaigning caravan of MAS.
- The MAS candidate to the prefecture, Hugo Salvatierra, reported by telephone to the EOM that his car was assaulted in San Miguel (Santa Cruz), by alleged members of the political group PODEMOS.

7. Other

In San Borja (Beni), the MAS reported that PODEMOS was transporting indigenous peoples, locking them up and giving them food as long as they voted for PODEMOS. The Mission, along with the police and one of the electoral judges, was able to observe the inadequate conditions in which these persons were housed, but there was no evidence of mistreatment or that the persons were there against their will.

In Riberalta (Beni), in the course of the elections, the representatives of various political groups transmitted to the Mission various verbal complaints on vote buying, voter transfers, distribution of groceries, etc. In all cases, the Mission traveled to corroborate the information and did not find any information that might confirm the facts that were reported. Some of these rumors were broadcast over local radio. The Mission approached Radio San Miguel to request the journalists to provide proof or sources on which they based the information they were broadcasting on transfer of voters or vote buying. Since they had no reliable evidence or sources, they were requested to explain this to their listeners.

In regions with a high share of indigenous population, some members of PODEMOS and UN expressed their concern over collective vote practices. According to these declarations (which were not reported formally), in the *ayllus* (tribal communities) the vote is chosen collectively and afterwards all voters are obliged to vote for the formula that is adopted, which limits the confidentiality and voluntary character of the vote.

Finally, although no evidence was brought forth, it was indicated that in some of the border departments (Tarija, Beni, and Pando, fundamentally), the political parties were introducing foreigners (Brazilians and Argentineans) to vote fraudulently on December 18th.

C. MEDIA COVERAGE

According to local press reports, during this campaign more than 220 political campaigning spots were viewed, and according to CNE, television was the most widely used medium for national political campaigns.

The media reserved special slots dedicated to the electoral campaign, and all the candidates had the opportunity to express their platforms. The newspapers established special supplements, prime-time television programs focusing on the elections proliferated on all channels, and TV newscasts and radio stations provided wide coverage of the electoral campaigns of all the majority and minority political parties, including announcements and closing statements of the principal candidates.

D. INCIDENTS

As we have already mentioned (item 4.2.6), there were some incidents of political violence, but they were isolated and did not cause any substantial personal damage, although some of them were of highly troubling.

The first of these incidents, which involved the most violence, was the assault on the electoral team of PODEMOS in Caracollo (Department of Oruro). According to the report of this Citizen Group, when the presidential candidate Jorge "Tuto" Quiroga started his campaign speech in the square of Feria Mayor of Caracollo, a group of apparently drunk persons appeared, exploded cartridges of dynamite, and assaulted the candidate's supporters and those attending the political event with sticks and stones. One person was injured, albeit not severely.

Another situation of violence which had repercussions and was a matter of concern for the Mission was the aggression against MAS in San Javier (Department of Santa Cruz). Apparently, a group of persons opposing the MAS candidate attempted to block the caravan of this political party and aggression broke out and, afterwards, there was a confrontation between both parties, which ended with eight injured persons, including a woman with a gunshot wound.

There were other minor incidents, which fortunately did not involve any injured persons. The EOM stated in its pre-electoral report that it regretted and rejected all kinds of violence; however, it felt that these were minor, localized incidents and that they were in no way representative of the general electoral mood.

1. Road Blocking

Another element that we believe must be emphasized is the difficulties that were experienced during the weeks prior to the elections because of the road blocks by groups of teaching school students (studying to become teachers) on the main highway of La Paz-Oruro. This road block was a cause of concern for the Mission as it was felt that, in some way, it could hamper the normal conduct of the elections. Nevertheless, we wish to point out that the conflict had no direct or indirect connection with the electoral process, but rather was motivated by domestic matters that this Mission is not competent to assess. In any case, the conflict was finally resolved by the competent authorities and it did not affect the conduct of the elections.

CHAPTER V: ELECTION DAY

As a rule, it may be said that the elections of December 18th were held in a framework of perfect normalcy. Bolivians voted freely and democratically elected the candidates they believed were the most suitable.

Therefore, peacefulness and participation were the two most noteworthy features of the elections: there were no incidents of violence that were especially noteworthy and all the players who were called upon to intervene, that is, electoral authorities, political parties, national police force, and voters, performed their respective roles peacefully and displayed tolerance.

The largest problem of the entire process was caused by the high number of persons who were unable to vote (purged from voter registration rolls). We shall explain this matter in greater detail.

A. ORGANIZATION OF THE ELECTORAL OBSERVATION MISSION

On election day, every observer sent at least three reports about the situation of the voting, both at the polling station they had been assigned to and in the electoral precincts they were able to visit. These reports considered the conditions of the opening of the polling stations, the incidence of voting, the development of the closing of the elections and the subsequent tallying of the votes.

Thus, the Mission received about 500 situation reports throughout the day. These reports came from all corners of the country, including some from the most remote spots of the country's territory. In addition, special attention was focused on those places considered to be areas of concern.

All the observers provided local, departmental, and regional reports. The result was a complete and reliable vision of the electoral situation of the entire country.

B. PARTICIPATION

According to the official data provided by the National Electoral Court, for the elections held in the country of December 18th, there were 3,671,152 citizens eligible to vote. Of these, 3,102,417 Bolivians voted, that is, 84.508% of those eligible, which points to a very high degree of participation in the elections, the highest in the last 25 years of the country's electoral history.

Distribution of the vote (valid, blank and null vote) was as follows:

Votes	Total	Percentage
Valid	2,873,801	92.631%
Blank	124,046	3.998%
Null	104,570	3.371%
Ballots cast	3,102,417	100%

Source: CNE (www.cne.gov.bo)

C. CRITICAL AREAS

According to the Mission's organizational plan, on election day, special attention was focused on the geographical spots which, in agreement with the authorities and representatives of the political parties, were considered critical. The Mission tried to place OAS observers at these spots and focus on the normal development of everything, in close compliance with the standards in force in the country.

In all the pre-established places, a sound deployment of the security forces was observed and in none of them were there any substantial problems or alterations of law and order, nor was any kind of fraud detected.

D. SECURITY PLAN

The Operations Plan (010-05) implemented by the Ministry of the Interior and the General Commanding Office of the National Police Force functioned adequately and guaranteed that all institutional, political, and social players involved in the elections would benefit from the necessary security conditions.

The safeguarding of the precincts and the safety of the voters, delegates, and members of the polling stations, as well as the transfer of vote count records and their permanent safekeeping, were at all times ensured. Likewise, the Police cooperated to ensure the security of the members of the EOM.

The few incidents that took place on election day fundamentally involved failure to comply with the "Good Governance Ordinance" that prohibited the consumption of alcoholic beverages and motor traffic unauthorized by electoral authorities.

In this regard, complaints were filed regarding cars that were circulating illegally; nevertheless, the National Police Force discharged its duties and impounded the cars that were found circulating without a permit. The same occurred with the persons who, infringing the Ordinance, drank alcoholic beverages in public areas or were caught drunk.

E. OBSERVATION OF TECHNICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE ASPECTS

As is evident from the reading of the following points, there were no substantial problems (except for the purging of voters from the voter registration rolls) and the process took place in a peaceful and orderly fashion. A summary of the observations of the technical aspects of the voting is as follows:

1. General Conditions of Precincts

It was observed that, in general, there was enough room for installing the polling stations, adequate conditions to look after the voters and sound security measures. Nevertheless, it was observed that few voter rolls were published and that posters informing citizens about the procedures to vote were missing.

This problem regarding the voter rolls was appreciated in the precincts of all of the country's departments, although in some places, for example, in some areas of Beni, the observers reported the absence of voter rolls in 81% of the polling stations observed. The failure to post voter rolls at the entranceway of the voter precincts produced a certain amount of congestion and disorder in the voting process. The voters who did not know their polling station number were obliged to look for the notary, which led to an overload of work for the notary and generated moments of confusion which, in general, were resolved.

In some places, such as Oruro, the polling stations were installed outside the classrooms so that the latter could be used as the place for marking the ballots and thus guaranteeing the confidentiality of the vote. This was a difficulty. In addition to being dysfunctional, in rural areas the rainfall forced the polling stations to be installed inside once again, involving a waste of time and preventing the smooth conduct of the election.

2. Opening the Polling Stations

The polling stations were opened and the process took place normally. Nevertheless, there was a large number of stations that did not open at the time stipulated because of the absence (or tardiness) of the electoral board members.

3. Distance of Polling Stations

Although the Court calculated that the average distance between the precincts and voters amounted to 600 meters, for a large number of polling stations, especially in the rural areas, this distance was much greater.

In various cases, the EOM listened to the testimony of persons who had to travel up to 15 km to vote. It is important to emphasize that, since on election day there were car traffic restrictions, voters had to walk to the electoral precincts; this hampered citizen participation and obliged some voters to make considerable physical efforts.

4. Materials

Regarding the materials, in the large majority of the cases, the distribution took place adequately.

In some places, for example in Oruro, there were reports on fears about the materials, although the origin of these fears involved opposite meanings. On the one hand, the materials for rural areas were distributed a couple of days before and the notaries took them to their homes, and therefore they did not benefit from any security. On the other hand, the materials for the urban areas were distributed only a couple of hours before the election and the Notaries were concerned because it jeopardized opening the polling stations on time. Finally, everything took place as stipulated and, as a rule, there was no lack of materials at the polling stations.

Another matter that was observed regarding this item is that not all the notaries inspected the electoral materials that were delivered to them; thus they did not count the number of ballots nor did they check to see if all the materials needed for election day would be inside the package that was being delivered.

5. Political Party Delegates

A positive aspect to be noted was that many observers reported that the presence of political party delegates at the polling stations was massive and contributed to the success of the election.

6. Campaigning

In most polling stations observed, there were no major difficulties regarding campaigning. Nevertheless, it was observed that there were many persons wearing the clothes, hats, and emblems of the different political parties, although there is a regulation governing this matter. In various places in the country, reports were made regarding this (see section 5.6) and, in some cases, as in Pando, problems of this kind were observed in 42% of the polling stations observed. Nevertheless, the electoral notaries of the precincts, with the support of the security forces, were able to manage this matter adequately.

7. Closing the Polling Stations

The closing of the polling stations and termination of the voting process took place without any problems; the process took place as expected.

8. Tallying the Votes

As of the night of December 18, the Mission was constantly present in the installations of the Departmental Electoral Courts of the nine departments. The voting reports from the cities were sent quickly but the arrival of voting reports from the provinces was slower.

In Pando, there was a singular incident because the results of the election of Prefects were very tight, and as a result a large number of persons appeared in the

Departmental Court for the tallying of the votes and there were moments of stress among the supporters of the different candidates. Fortunately, there were only a few minor incidents (attempts to turn off the electricity, small arguments, etc.) which were adequately handled by law enforcement officers and electoral authorities.

9. Car Traffic

It was apparent that, in general, car traffic restrictions were respected although in some places there was talk about a possible excess in the granting of traffic permits, but the EOM did not detect any evidence of irregularity.

Logically, in the capitals of the smaller Departments, for example, in Cobija, the impression of greater car traffic was more evident than in the large cities; the Mission did not detect the commitment of any irregularities in the distribution of traffic permits.

In La Paz, PODEMOS reported to the EOM that a car of the Mayor's Office was illicitly carrying party members, supposedly of the MAS. The report, with a video recording, was sent to the electoral authorities (see section 5.6).

F. ELECTORAL COMPLAINTS AND REPORTS

The Mission received a series of complaints and reports, most of which were processed with the electoral authorities, with different outcomes. The most important was the many persons who were unable to vote because of the purging of voters from the Voter Registration Rolls.

Regarding the rest, they were all minor incidents and none involved severe cases of electoral fraud or irregularity, and they generally concerned bad practices rather than severe problems. The most important complaints are presented below:

1. Election Campaigning

As we mentioned earlier, there were isolated incidents regarding the inadequate use of campaigning on election day. Various complaints were filed about this. Among the most important the following are noteworthy:

- In district 54 of Santa Cruz, a complaint was made regarding the presence of four motor vehicles that were throwing out leaflets with propaganda for the New Republic Force (Nueva Fuerza Republicana).
- In La Paz, various complaints were filed with the OAS for the distribution of pamphlets in voting precincts: the distribution, in district 9, of leaflets against National Union, for PODEMOS in various districts of the Southern Zone and for both MAS and PODEMOS in the Eva Perón School.
- In Tarija, the presence of electoral campaigning and the use of emblems by the representatives of the Road to Change Group ("Camino al cambio") were reported.
- In Beni, the Mission received a verbal report by MNR and MAS about the unfairness regarding political campaigning, arguing that there was a high concentration of financial resources, logistics, and media coverage for the

candidate and representatives of PODEMOS, as well as the infringement of regulations regarding the campaign broadcasting.

2. Possible Electoral Fraud

The representatives of political groups verbally reported to the observers possible fraud by the contenders, emphasizing practices such as the "wagon vote," "cross balloting," etc.

In general, no relevant evidence was provided nor were the reports officially filed, except for the report presented by Mr. Juan Chamba, of MAS, regarding attempted fraud by PODEMOS in Polling Station 1130 (La Paz).

3. Intimidation by Notaries

Reports were received about possible intimidation by notaries. Thus, a report was made about possible intimidation aimed at MAS delegates by the notary of Polling Station 27790 (La Paz) and other isolated complaints about mistreatment.

The Mission processed the complaints and reports with the CNE, which is the competent authority to investigate and resolve them.

G. PURGING VOTER REGISTRATION ROLLS

The most noteworthy problem that occurred on election day was the huge number of complaints that were made about the purging of names from voter registration rolls or, in other words, the existence of a high number of persons who wanted to vote and found that they had been removed from the rolls because they had not voted in the previous elections and had not re-registered.

The Mission considers that the problem did not occur because of the purging itself, but because the number of voters who were purged was very high. In fact, before the purging, the National Voter Registration Roll amounted to 4,544,171 persons, whereas after purging and re-registration, the Voter Registration Roll was comprised of 3,671,152 eligible citizens. In other words, 872,285 voters were purged.

On election day, this matter was the permanent target of comments by the media, political groups, candidates and the population in general, to such an extent that the problem had considerable repercussions and, at some time, it generated confusion and certain social unrest. Likewise, all the members of the Mission reported cases of purging at the polling stations assigned to them.

Many of the persons who were purged said that they had voted and that they were duly registered and, in many cases, they even carried proof of having voted in the preceding elections. Nevertheless, the Electoral Observation Mission checked the follow-up of the purging by the CNE and was a witness to the fact that, in the large majority of cases, the signatures of these persons did not appear on the registers of the municipal elections. The Mission, however, wants to point out that there were many persons who were not checked by the Court.

The Electoral Observation mission in its Press Release No. 3 (issued on December 18th at night, once the elections had concluded) stated that: *"We have taken note of the situations in which citizens have claimed that it was impossible to vote because they did not appear on the voter registration rolls. It is important to point out that the process of purging voter registration rolls conducted by the CNE before the elections was in observance of the law. The Court will have to specify the number of citizens who were legally entitled to vote today but were unable to exercise their right to vote."*

In this regard, we believe it is relevant to express some thoughts on this matter of purging.

First of all, purging of voter registration rolls by the National Electoral Courts was in compliance with the Law. Let us recall that Article 70 of the Electoral Code (Updated) provides that "updating Voter Registration Records is an ongoing process" and is aimed at including the data of new citizens being registered; ensuring that, in the database, there is no more than one valid registration for every citizen; screening existing records for change of address; removing from the voter registration roll those citizens who have been disqualified or who have deceased. Likewise, paragraph f) reads as follows: "Those citizens who did not vote in the past general or municipal election shall be purged by the National Electoral Court."

In 2005, purged citizens had two opportunities to re-register on the National Voter Registration Rolls. The first registration period took place between April 23 and May 14 (after the first call for elections to elect the Prefects). On this occasion, 419,549 citizens registered, among new voters and re-registered voters. Subsequently, between August 15 and September 5 (as a result of the call for General Elections) registration on the National Voter Rolls was once again opened. On that occasion, 561,094 citizens registered as voters.

Likewise, the Mission observed that, during the period when re-registration was open, the CNE had developed a wide range of promotional material aimed at warning those persons who had not voted in the preceding elections that they should go the electoral notary offices if they wanted to be eligible to vote. Nevertheless, complaints were received regarding the biased character of this campaign, in the sense that a broad dissemination strategy was missing, one that would include the various languages spoken in the country.

Those harmed in the process were the thousands of citizens who wanted to vote on December 18 and could not do so, in particular those who were incorrectly purged.

Some political parties interpreted the purging as an effort to reduce or hamper their victory. Nevertheless, this Mission considers the matter to be too complex to be able to clarify, with total certainty, whether one of the candidates was specifically more harmed than the others.

The MAS considers that a large number of the purged persons belonged to middle-class and low-income social strata and that, therefore, it involved their natural voter base. Because these persons were unable to exercise their right to vote, they believed that it notably reduced the overall ballots for the candidacy of Evo Morales.

As for PODEMOS, it inferred that the purging was aimed entirely at persons who could have voted in the preceding elections (in which MAS did have a candidate) but did not, and therefore it was PODEMOS, as a political party presenting candidates for the first time, that suffered the most for its candidate.

Both considerations may be valid and it does not pertain to the present Mission to determine which is the truest. The Mission wishes to point out that, neither during the days prior to the election or during the days after the elections, did the political parties participating in the process file formal judicial reports on irregularities in the purging mechanism, which does not display any elements or evidence to judge the problem adequately.

Nevertheless, this Mission reiterates the advisability pointed out in the communiqué issued on the same day as the election, regarding the importance of having the highest electoral court provide a detailed report on the characteristics of the purging that took place, the result of the reports received, and timely investigations to learn about the magnitude and proportion of the problem and the solutions provided.

It seems evident that the matter of the purging involves a serious political debate about the best way to universalize the right to vote in the country, in terms of whether those persons who did not vote in the previous election must be required or not to re-register on the voter registration roll. This topic, which was addressed in due time by Congress and was the object of legislative reforms that led to the purging, shall surely lead to a broader democratic discussion on the regulatory framework for elections in general and the new reforms that might be necessary, referring to the possibility of facilitating the right to vote of the population (especially those with the least schooling, economic and social potential, living in areas far from major urban centers, and lacking access to traditional channels of information).

H. QUICK COUNT

One of the most important instruments of electoral observation is the implementation of the Quick Count (QR), that is, a statistical process to audit the official vote counting of an election. The quick count involves the use of a sample of polling stations where OAS observers accompany the tallying of the votes.

By means of statistical methods, results are forecast for the universe of all the country's polling stations. Afterwards, the official results of the election are compared with the results of the projection estimated by the QR method: if there are differences in the figures, within a certain margin of error, it is assumed that there are problems in the official count. On that basis, it is important to clarify that the function of the QR is not to predict the outcome of the election but rather to indicate, in accordance with a range of possibilities in the results, if the official count shows any variance.

EOM projection and final results

Identification	Percentage projected (OAS)	Official results (CNE)
MAS	56.4%	53.7%
PODEMOS	26.2%	28.5%
UN	7.5%	7.7%

MNR	6.8%	6.4%
MIP	1.7%	2.1%
NFR	0.7%	0.6%
FREPAB	0.2%	0.3%
USTB	0.2%	0.2%
Blank votes	4.9%	3.9%
Null votes	3.5%	3.3%
PARTICIPATION	84.4%	84.5%

I. ELECTORAL OBSERVATION BY REGION

As mentioned earlier, the EOM divided the country into four regions for the purposes of observation. In short, the situation in the regions was as follows:

1. Region I

Because of its importance as the seat of government, its geographical size, and its demographic weight, Region I encompassed exclusively the department of La Paz. To this end, it was divided into two parts, on the one hand Murillo province (La Paz, El Alto and neighboring areas) and the remaining provinces.³

By December 12, the regional coordinator, two departmental coordinators, and 14 electoral observers were already working. To the latter were subsequently added 34 volunteer observers, in addition to the group of observers belonging to the legislatures of Spain and Brazil.

During the previous phase of the elections, in addition to the general activities of EOM, the observers gave priority to the work in the provinces: visits to the Departmental Court, observation of the delivery of materials, and visits to an average of 20 electoral precincts in the field. On election day, the observers were sent to the entire department, carrying out observation activities and those who were instructed to do so implemented the quick count in eight electoral precincts of Murillo province and in five provinces (some of which were very remote).

Finally, after the elections, the observers were divided into groups for shifts to cover the entire 24-hour day and attend all the vote recounting in the Departmental Courts.

Except for the problem of the purging, which was common to all the regions, the elections in Region I took place absolutely normally and without any major problems. The observers accepted specific complaints and reports that were submitted to Mission authorities for transmittal to electoral authorities.

2. Region II

The Mission of Region II had its regional headquarters in Santa Cruz and, in addition to this department, it provided coverage for the Departments of Pando and

³ The model of the Departmental Electoral Court of La Paz, which is divided in the Murillo Chamber and the Chamber of the Provinces, was followed

Beni. The first task of the Mission was to establish contacts with electoral authorities, political parties, candidates, law enforcement agencies, etc. By December 14, the group of observers was complete (18 persons) and coverage was given to activities involving the elections (campaign closing, visits to political party headquarters and local authorities) and preparations for the observation of election day were completed (mainly drawing up the observation routes).

Before the elections, the EOM observers lent special attention to visiting the principal localities of the departments and especially those where difficulties had been detected in previous municipal elections, the logistic arrangements made by the Court to distribute all the electoral materials on time were observed, and a review was conducted to ensure that all the materials were in the Courts the day before the elections.

In Region II, there was evidence of some problems with the training. Thus, the Mission was apprised of some sites where no training had been given by the Electoral Court. For example, in Tundy (Santa Cruz), the notary Elisa Aduariana from the precinct of Gabriel José Moreno reported that no electoral board member had been trained before the elections. In Yapacani (Santa Cruz), the notary reported that only 40% of the electoral board members had been trained. In Trinidad (Beni), it was possible to observe that, in the urban zones, the electoral boards members were trained whereas in the rural zones only one was trained.

As a rule, the electoral process took place peacefully and without any major problems. There were some reports, as in the province of Ñuflo de Chávez (Santa Cruz), that the "dry law" (prohibiting liquor sales and consumption) and traffic restrictions were not respected; it was also reported that, in Ichilo (Santa Cruz), a truck carrying persons from Chapare (Cochabamba) who were going to vote in Choré (Santa Cruz) had arrived at dawn. The Mission was present in some of the zones of conflict reported by the political parties; nevertheless, no severe conflict was observed.

In La Guardia (Santa Cruz), although all the ballots had been previously signed by the electoral board members of the polling station and by the party delegates, when doing the counting a ballot without any signature and marked for PODEMOS was found; it was annulled by the electoral board.

In Beni, on December 17, there were conflicts between the representatives of PODEMOS and those of MNR, leading to the injury of two persons. The representatives of these parties announced to the Mission that the voters would be going to vote bearing arms. The Mission suggested to the Court that it summon the leaders of these parties to a meeting. It was proposed that they should sign a non-aggression agreement, which was immediately supported by the Court and the police force, as well as the representatives of the political parties.

In Pando, no reports were received but remarks were made by MAS and Unidad Nacional-Movimiento Amazónico de Renovación (UN-MAR) complaining about the following: 1) Petition for an audit of the ballot boxes of the polling station: during the departmental tallying, a request was made to audit the ballot box of the polling station of Puerto América, a rural polling station, where PODEMOS won the election, with 177 votes versus 0 votes in the election for prefect. The Court was assaulted by the rank and file of UN-MAR. 2) Fraudulent granting of papers to Brazilian citizens: The Mission received the complaint that the police were granting identity cards to Brazilian nationals

in Beni. Nevertheless, no formal complaint has been filed regarding this. 3) No Vote Buying: The Mission received the complaint that, in some localities supporting PODEMOS, they will be preventing the vote of those who do not support their movement by retaining the document for money. There were no formal reports filed.

In addition, Unidad Nacional-Movimiento Amazónico de Renovación (UN-MAR) complained of campaigning by PODEMOS and the donation of goods and vote buying. For example, the complaints explained that, in certain rural localities, motorcycles, food, etc., had been displayed, with the promise that, if PODEMOS won the elections, these articles would be raffled. Nevertheless, no formal reports were filed regarding this.

Except for these problems, the elections took place normally. As of December 18th at night, the observer teams went to the respective Departmental Courts to monitor the counting. The principal problems occurred in the Department of Pando, in view of the huge rivalry between the candidate of PODEMOS and the one of UN-MAR, which led to certain problems inside the Court among the followers of these candidates, attempts to turn off the electricity during the count, etc., which nevertheless did not exert any major impact.

3. Region III

The Coordination of Region III had its base of operations in the city of Cochabamba, to cover this Department and those of Tarija and Chuquisaca. The group for this region was comprised of 16 observers.

Before the elections, the group of observers carried out the usual work (in particular, coordination with authorities, political parties, candidates, departmental police) and paid special attention to various specific matters of the region: the problem of polling stations without precincts in Chuquisaca and the existence of various localities considered critical points, fundamentally in some places of the tropical zone of Cochabamba. To guarantee that everything would go smoothly, special coordination work was done with the Departmental Courts and political groups.

Some difficulties with regard to the training of electoral board members were detected. Thus, according to the authorities of the Departmental Court, 70% of electoral board members from the interior and 76% from urban areas were trained.

On election day, everything took place without any trouble (except for the purging of names from voter registration rolls) and peaceful voting by the voters was observed. The displacement of the observers took place without any difficulty and adequate logistic arrangements were in place to reach all the pre-established points in line with the samples of the quick count. It must be highlighted that the central point of the sample was the center of a sphere of action that led to the visiting of 120 centers and 230 polling stations in the entire region.

4. Region IV

The Coordination Office of Region IV was headquartered in Oruro and, in addition to this department, it covered the department of Potosí. The EOM installed its facilities in the capital of the Department of Oruro on Saturday, December 10, several days after

the rest of the regional coordination offices. The roadblocks by students from teaching schools on the La Paz–Oruro and Potosí–Oruro highways were the cause for this delay. The mission was comprised of 11 observers.

Elections were held in a peaceful and calm environment, without any political campaigning and with the media focusing most of their programming on encouraging people to vote and once again clarifying procedures. It was noted that in urban precincts, the computer systems to advise voters regarding their polling station were slow.

A difficulty with the polling stations that were installed outside classrooms was observed as the classrooms were used for marking the ballots to ensure the confidentiality of the vote. This method did not turn out as expected because the voters could not walk through the hallways in the urban schools. Furthermore, in rural areas, the rain obliged the polling stations to be transferred inside, which led to a waste of time and prevented the smooth conduct of the electoral process.

Regarding the voting records, the EOM addressed the Electoral Courts of Oruro and Potosí regarding their concern about the subject of picking up the voting records (especially in remote rural areas). The CDE responded to this concern by setting up brigades for taking delivery of the voting records with pre-established routes and times. When this plan was implemented, it did not function adequately because of lack of funding. Until Monday afternoon, only 50% of the motor vehicles had arrived. The Court reported that they were unable to bring together the 16 units needed to implement their plan for lack of funding and that they were only able to count on six vehicles. The Army offered, for the next elections, to take charge of transferring the voting records (on the basis of a previously agreed budget) in coordination with the CDE.

Since December 18th, at night, the Mission was constantly present in the facilities of the Department Electoral Courts. No major problem was recorded.

Before and during the elections, there were complaints by the parties. Thus, PODEMOS expressed its concern about electoral practices and customs in rural areas (collective voting) and asserted that, in various areas, it was not allowed to campaign because it was unsafe for the delegates of its party. In any case, no formal report was filed regarding this. The concerns of MAS always focused on the voter registration rolls and those purged from the rolls.

CHAPTER VI: POST-ELECTION STAGE

The night of the 18th, in a demonstration of democratic spirit and in compliance with their commitment to respect the results of the elections, both Jorge Quiroga, candidate for PODEMOS, and Samuel Doria Medina, candidate for UN, accepted the victory of the MAS and publicly congratulated Evo Morales, the winning candidate.

The day after the elections, the EOM had the opportunity to meet with the principal candidates and summarize its impressions of the elections. As a rule, it was observed that the mood was of peace and trust in the electoral process and that the work of the OAS Electoral Observation Mission was viewed positively.

The initial forecast of the majority triumph of the MAS was confirmed the days following the election and promoted an environment of public quiet and tranquility. In any case, to ensure due follow-up on the entire electoral process, a small group of experts from the Mission remained in the country during the transmission of the results and even until after the presentation of the Official Count on January 6, 2006.

A. COMPLAINTS AND REPORTS

1. Report of Fraud in Pando

The candidate to prefect of National Unity (Unidad Nacional—UN-MAR) for the department of Pando, Miguel Becerra, accused his main opponent, Leopoldo Fernández of PODEMOS, of electoral fraud.

Initially, the representatives of UN-MAR filed a report on the commitment of electoral offenses and requested that the elections for prefect in some of the precincts of the Department of Pando be declared null and void. On December 21, 2005, the Departmental Electoral Court of Pando signed an order rejecting an investigation of the offenses that were reported and confirmed the application of the principle of preclusion (*res judicata*) in the case of the election of prefects and recommended that the procedure provided for in the Electoral Code be followed and referred to Article 236⁴ of the Electoral Code and Article 284⁵ of the Criminal Procedures Code.

Afterwards, in an appeal, the National Electoral Court in Resolution No. 1 of January 5, 2006, upheld the order of December 21, 2005 of the Departmental Court of Pando and ordered that the report that was made be referred to the Attorney General's Office of the District of Pando, so that it could conduct the investigation.

Likewise, the National Electoral Court (CNE), after a plenary session held on January 11, 2006, decided to send a commission to Pando to check the alleged fraud reported by National Unity (UN) and its candidate to the prefecture of the Department. The member of the Court, Mr. Salvador Romero, explained that the commission would review the administrative activities of the Departmental Electoral Court and check the reports made by the leaders of National Unity. The Commission returned from Pando without having found any indications of fraud. In any case, following the principle of preclusion (*res judicata*), the process that has now concluded cannot be repeated and, if there is proof that fraud was committed, this matter, in compliance with the already cited articles of the Electoral Code and the Penal Code, shall be resolved by regular judiciary remedies.

⁴ Article 236 of the Electoral Code (Procedures). Judging the offenses specified by the present Code pertains to the regular judiciary system, for which purpose the background files to the case must be sent to the Attorney General's Office by the authority apprised of them. The processing of these offenses shall be subject to criminal procedures.

⁵ Article 284 of the Penal Code (Report). All persons having knowledge of the commitment of a crime of public action shall be entitled to report it to the Attorney General's Office or the National Police Force.

B. OBJECTIONS

Article 171 of the Electoral Code provides that “In the polling stations that were cancelled as a result of the application of Article 169, voting shall be repeated a single time on the Sunday after the election.” In this case, the following Sunday was January 1, 2006. The list of polling stations where the voting had to be repeated is provided below:

Records of General Elections

No.	Polling Station No.	Department	Locality	Precincts
1	5187	Cochabamba	Cochabamba	Liceo Adela Zamudio
2	5427	Cochabamba	Cochabamba	Escuela José María Santivañez
3	5567	Cochabamba	Cochabamba	Unidad Educativa El Salvador San Javier
4	5911	Cochabamba	Machac Marca	Unidad Educativa Reino Unido
5	12385	Cochabamba	Morochata	Escuela Mariano Baptista-Morochata
6	13059	Cochabamba	Villa Tunari	Escuela San Antonio de Villa Tunari
7	13098	Cochabamba	Cochabamba	Colegio Federico Froebel
8	13996	Oruro	Cachi Cachi	Cachi Cachi
9	14120	Oruro	Oruro	Esc. Jacinto Rodríguez (La Aurora)

Records of Election for Prefect

No.	Polling Station No.	Department	Locality	Precinct
1	2792	La Paz	Nuestra Señora de La Paz	Esc. Japón
2	3553	La Paz	Chojña Collo	Col. Nal. Chojña Collo
3	6420	Cochabamba	Ayapampa	Escuela Dr. Demetrio Canelas
4	6734	Oruro	Oruro	U. Esc. José Ignacio De Sanjinés.-
5	12522	Cochabamba	Cochabamba	Escuela Fiscal Juan XXIII
6	13863	Cochabamba	Iluri Grande	Núcleo Escolar Iluri Grande
7	14120	Oruro	Oruro	Esc. Jacinto Rodríguez (La Aurora)

C. OFFICIAL ELECTION RESULTS

On Friday, January 6, 2006, the National Electoral Court (CNE) presented the official count of the elections in the framework of a plenary session attended by four Court members and the delegates of the political parties. The EOM-OAS was represented by the Director of the OAS Office in Bolivia, Mr. Bernhard Griesinger, and

by the Observers Rigoberto Zarza, Natalia Cabral, Axel Villa, and Víctor Contreras.

The results of the elections held in Bolivia on December 18, 2005 were as follows:

1. National Results

Acronym	Name	Voting	Percentage share
UN	Frente de Unidad Nacional	224,090	7.798%
FREPAB	Frente Patriótico Agropecuario de Bolivia	8,737	0.304%
MIP	Movimiento Indígena Pachakuti	61,948	2.156%
NFR	Nueva Fuerza Republicana	19,667	0.684%
MAS	Movimiento Al Socialismo	1,544,374	53.740%
MNR	Movimiento Nacionalista Revolucionario	185,859	6.467%
USTB	Unión Social De Los Trabajadores De Bolivia	7,381	0.257%
PODEMOS	Poder Democrático y Social	821,745	28.594%
Total valid ballots cast		2,873,801	100%

Source: CNE (www.cne.gov.bo)

2. Valid, Blank, and Null Votes

Votes	Total	Percentage
Valid	2,873,801	92.631%
Blank	124,046	3.998%
Null	104,570	3.371%
Votes cast	3,102,417	100%

Source: CNE (www.cne.gov.bo)

3. Participation

	Amount	Percentage
Total registered and eligible	3,671,152	
Votes counted	3,102,417	
Total		84.508%

participation		
Participation in the polling stations counted		84.509%

Source: CNE (www.cne.gov.bo)

4. Reports of the Polling Stations

	Number	Percentage
Polling stations reported	21,111	100% of qualifying polling stations
Polling stations not reported	0	0% of qualifying polling stations
Polling stations merged	39	
Polling stations that did not function	2	
Total qualifying polling stations	21,111	

Source: CNE (www.cne.gov.bo)

5. Prefects Selected

Acronym	Candidate	Department
MAS	David Sánchez Heredia	Chuquisaca
PODEMOS	José Luís Paredes Muñoz	La Paz
AUN	Manfred Reyes Villa Bacigalupi	Cochabamba
MAS	Alberto Luís Aguilar Calle	Oruro
MAS	Mario Virreira Iporre	Potosi
ER-CC	Mario Adel Cossío Cortez	Tarija
APB	Rubén Darío Costas Aguilera	Santa Cruz
PODEMOS	Ernesto Suárez Sattori	Beni
PODEMOS	Leopoldo Fernández Ferreira	Pando

Source: CNE (www.cne.gov.bo)

D. DELIVERY OF LETTERS OF CREDENCE

According to Article 182 of the Electoral Code, the letters of credence for President and Vice-President of the Republic, as well as for Senators and Congressmen, must be granted by the National Electoral Court after it has concluded the national count, as long as one of the candidates obtained half plus one of the valid votes.

The national count terminated on January 6; nevertheless, considering that the President-elect, Mr. Evo Morales, had taken a trip abroad that kept him out of the country from January 3 to January 13, the Movement to Socialism requested that the delivery of the letters of credence be postponed until the President-elect returned from his trip, on Monday, January 13. The CNE accepted this request.

E. SWEARING IN OF PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT

Pursuant to Article 183 of the Electoral Code, the National Electoral Court sent to the National Congress, for the first preparatory session of the constitutional term of office, a detailed written report on the electoral process, along with the national count record and legalized copies of the departmental count records.

Since the Movement to Socialism obtained over 50%+1 of the votes, it was not necessary to resort to the procedure of voting in Congress, which confined itself, in accordance with its constitutional mandate, to check the tallying of the Records of the elections for President and Vice-President (Article 68 CPE) and to adopt the Proclamation Act (Article 90 CPE). The Proclamation Act was adopted on Friday, January 20, 2006. It is important to point out that this Act was adopted unanimously.

F. DESIGNATION OF PREFECTS

On Monday, January 23, 2006, in the Independence Hall of the Freedom House of Sucre, capital of the Republic, in a historically unprecedented public ceremony in Bolivia, since prefects had never been elected before by popular balloting, the Constitutional President, Mr. Evo Morales, designated the nine prefects who had obtained the highest votes in their respective departments in the elections of December 18, 2005.

The designation took place with the reading of Supreme Decree 28603, designating the Prefects. Afterwards, each of the nine departmental authorities received

a diploma bearing Morales's signature and the dry seal of the Office of the President of the Republic and quoting the regulatory framework for the designation.

CHAPTER VII: RECOMMENDATIONS

Bolivian electoral institutions have shown noteworthy capacity and efficiency in the orderly, transparent and clean management of the elections. We believe that the process has strengthened the Electoral Court and has given greater credibility to the Bolivian electoral system as a whole.

Nevertheless, we understand that one of the functions of the present Mission is to cooperate in building an increasingly efficient electoral system. Because of this, for the purpose of supporting improvement in the conditions in which electoral processes are conducted in Bolivia and fine-tuning the technical and logistic aspects of these processes, the Mission has drawn up a series of recommendations, some of which are specified in the report's present section.

For these recommendations, we start with the principle that democracy is based on the participation of citizens in taking important decisions for the life of a country. Regarding this, we believe that State authorities, especially electoral authorities, must facilitate the voter's participation in electoral processes and must eliminate any factor that might obstruct or hamper it.

The following fundamental suggestions and recommendations are made:

A. VOTER REGISTRATION ROLLS

The problems that arose on the day of the elections regarding the clean-up of voter registration rolls highlighted the weaknesses of the voter registration system. We believe that priority should be given to tackling its reform and modernization. It is suggested that the following matters be dealt with:

1. Purging

We believe that Bolivian authorities should examine the possibility of establishing alternative procedures that do not envisage the automatic purging of the names of citizens who did not vote in the previous election. The definition of what these procedures should be is a function pertaining to national authorities and should be adapted to the country's conditions and needs. Nevertheless, an alternative procedure could be, for example, to reduce the "purging for not voting" to those citizens who have not voted in a given number of consecutive elections and who have not reregistered throughout this period of time.

Likewise, we believe that it is important to find a way to facilitate the incorporation of the registration of those voters who were unable to vote specifically in these elections. The large number of persons whose names were purged and the social unrest it triggered could justify the establishment of some sort of exceptional mechanism so that the persons disqualified to vote in the elections of December 18 be given the facility to exercise their right to vote in the next elections.

2. Unification

The restructuring of voter registration records must be examined, unifying them with the Vital Statistics Office, so that a single, systematized, fine-tuned instrument can become available.

3. Voter Identity Cards

Another element of this reform should be the creation of a single universal voter identity card. At present, Bolivian citizens can present various papers when it comes time to vote: identity card, military service card, passport or RUN; this hampers electoral activities and may create unnecessary suspicion. The Mission understands that this is a highly complex problem involving the issuance of identity cards for all citizens; nevertheless, it understands that this work should eventually be undertaken.

4. Access to Voter Registration Records

It is also suggested that efforts be made to achieve greater clarity in the rules of the game regarding access to the Voter Registration Records, establishing with even greater clarity the dates for the delivery of Voter Registration Records to the political movements, as well as their characteristics and accessible formats, among others.

5. Computer Technology Representative to the Court

It is suggested that the political parties, public movements and indigenous peoples designate, in the same fashion as for the legal representative, a permanent computer technician to the CNE who would participate in the formation, update, purging, and reform of the Voter Registration Rolls.

B. FUNDING

Even though the public funding envisaged by Bolivian law is important because it guarantees a certain equality of opportunity for all candidates, it is also important to have legislation that ensures the transparency of the sources and use of private funding. It is considered essential to have transparent rules, equal for all, in the matter of funding of political instruments. Likewise, the entity that is in charge of enforcing this legislation must have the financial, human and computer resources to fulfill its responsibility.

C. NATIONAL OBSERVATION

The EOM believes that the organization of a National Observation Mission constitutes an important and meritorious effort because it generates trust and provides opportunities for young people to participate in the consolidation of their democracy. It is recommended that the national observation be envisaged by the Electoral Code and that national observers benefit from official accreditation by the National Electoral Court.

D. COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY

The OAS, through its "Area of Building up Electoral Systems and Processes," has

been working for some time now on the development and application of new technologies to different components of the electoral process. This work is reflected, among other things, in the progress made by the Inter-American Electoral Technology Network, whose objective has been to promote the use of efficient electoral technology for dealing with the problems occurring in the application of current technology.

Bolivia's electoral system has already achieved considerable soundness and reliability, but it should continue to be built up by means of mechanisms that can provide it with increasing security and reliability. In this regard, the electoral authority is recommended to review the possibility of progressively developing tools and programs that increasingly automate further phases of the electoral process.

E. INFORMATION

Although it was observed that the Electoral Court conducted information and education campaigns months before the elections, the lack of information that many of those who had been purged showed that the campaigns may have been insufficient. In this regard, the following is recommended:

1. Building Up the Information

It is suggested that information be strengthened, especially in rural areas, in native languages and that the use of non-traditional mechanisms for dissemination supported by local practices and customs be built up.

2. Information on Voter Registration Rolls

All the information on voter registration rolls, both in terms of purging, re-registration or any other related element, should be obtained sufficiently ahead of time and on the basis of a mass public campaign. Although prime responsibility for informing and instructing the public about the purging and re-registration pertains to the National Electoral Court and the Departmental Courts, it is also the responsibility of organized civil society, in particular the political parties and movements, to ensure that their rank and file and supporters are duly registered.

In any case, it is essential to prevent voter registration records from becoming a mechanism that might involuntarily or indirectly undermine access to voting by the most remote population or those who have the least economic, social, and education resources or those with the least access to information.

3. Improving the Publication of Voter Registration Rolls

The Mission observed drawbacks stemming from the limited publication of voter registration rolls in the precincts of the polling stations. In view of the harm that this matter may trigger among the voters and bearing in mind that this is a problem that is relatively easy to resolve, it is suggested that improvements be made to the mechanisms for the publication of voter rolls and their distribution in the polling station precincts.

F. TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS

Traffic restriction was aimed at preventing the political parties from moving

voters from one place to another and hindering unscrupulous citizens from voting in various electoral polling stations. Nevertheless, considering the modernization of computer technology for elections and the improvement in voter registration records, it is possible that this restriction may generate more drawbacks than it intends to resolve.

In this regard, the Mission recommends national authorities to consider the possibility of eliminating traffic restrictions or to establish partial restrictions.

CHAPTER VIII: CONCLUSIONS

On December 18, 2005, Bolivians turned out massively to vote in the elections for President, Vice-President, Congressmen, Senators and Prefects. In an authentically civic mood, a well organized and adequately managed electoral process enabled Bolivians to freely and democratically choose their authorities.

The most important problem occurred when there were protests from voters who wanted to cast their ballots but were unable to do so because their names had been purged from the voter registration rolls.

This matter, which arose for various reasons, shall surely lead to a debate in the country about the electoral reforms that are needed to facilitate access of the entire population to voting or else to strengthen the dissemination of drives promoting voter registration, so that no one is excluded when it comes time to vote. Regarding this election in particular, the EOM repeats that there were no formal judicial proceedings filed by the political parties involved in the election process with regard to complaints, reports or authentic proof of irregularities in the voter registration roll purging process which was implemented in compliance with the requirements of Article 70 of the Electoral Code.⁶

In any case, the fact that Bolivian citizens called for their right to vote shows the deep democratic and participatory spirit in which this process took place. The Bolivian people, who had just experienced troubled years of political instability, understood that they were living a historical turning point and responded accordingly with much enthusiasm.

We believe, without the shadow of a doubt, that the elections held in Bolivia on December 8, 2005 were peaceful, free, fair, and massively participatory. The elections showed once again the capacity and legitimacy of electoral bodies, the soundness of Bolivian institutions, the lucidity of political parties, the generous spirit of the candidates, and the Bolivian people's huge enthusiasm for democracy.

⁶ Article 70 (updated) of the Electoral Code (Act 1984 of June 25, 1999), literally provides for the following: "Updating the Voter Registration Records is ongoing and is aimed at: a) including the data of new citizens being registered; b) ensuring that, in the database, there is not more than one valid registration for every citizen; c) screening existing records for change of address of registered citizens; d) removing from the voter registration roll those citizens who have been disqualified from voting; e) deleting from the voter registration roll those voters who have deceased; **f) those citizens who did not vote in the past general or municipal election shall be purged by the National Electoral Court.**"

Because of this, the OAS Mission would like to extend its most sincere congratulations on how all phases of the process were carried out. Conducting the elections was not easy, nor were the obstacles few; each player involved had to put forward the best of him/herself to ultimately reach the success that was shown. This is the merit of each and every institution and person involved.

We must extend special thanks to the candidates of the different political parties. Their pledge to respect the results of the elections, which was expressed throughout the process, contributed fundamentally to keeping an environment of equanimity that would otherwise have been impossible to achieve. This commitment also facilitated, essentially, the work of the present Electoral Observation Mission. It is worth highlighting that, the night of the elections, the candidates of the other political parties acknowledged and commended the victory of the President-elect, Mr. Evo Morales.

We would like to conclude by encouraging all Bolivians to continue their firm support of the building of a country that is increasingly democratic and participatory. Democracy is not only a political system it is also a way of understanding peaceful, respectful and tolerant coexistence among individuals.

Appendix I
Members of the Electoral Observation Mission

A. OAS observers

NAME	POST	ORIGIN
<u>Baseline Group</u>		
Horacio Serpa	Chief of Mission	Colombia
Steven Griner	Deputy Chief	USA
Gustavo Beliz	Coordinator National Mission Political Support	Argentina
Betilde Muñoz	Political Advisor	Venezuela
Rigoberto Zarza	Electoral Coordinator	Paraguay
Víctor Contreras	Logistics Coordinator	Peru
Axel Villa	Informatics Coordinator	Ecuador
Dacia Aragón	OAS Administrative Officer	Guatemala
Natalia Cabral	Press Coordinator	Argentina
Antonio Amarante	Statistical Expert	Brazil
<u>Observers</u>		
First Region		
Medarda Castro	Department Coordinator	Guatemala
Cateryn Vucina	Department Coordinator	Venezuela
Ana Borjes	Observer	Brazil
Katalina Montaña	Observer	Colombia
Pedro Lizarzaburu	Observer	Peru
Juan Fernando Londoño	Observer	Colombia
Jenny Lindo	Observer	Colombia
Jorge León	Observer	Ecuador
Marcia Álvarez Melo	Observer	Ecuador
Laura Gil	Observer	Uruguay
Sandra Flores	Observer	French
Liliana Rodríguez	Observer	Colombia
Victoria Figueroa	Observer	Argentina
Iván Marulanda	Observer	Colombia
Nicolás Monroy	Observer	Colombia
Second Region		
Walter Galmarini	Regional Coordinator	Uruguay
Eric Jacobstein	Department Coordinator	United States
Rafaela Beauregard	Observer	Canada
Janet Murdock	Observer	United States
Diana Britto	Observer	Colombia
Fernando Bambarén	Observer	Peru
Evelyn Thornton	Observer	United States
Cathie Carpio	Observer	Ecuador
Marry Durran	Observer	Canada
Claudia Zambra	Observer	Venezuela
Angélica Cotes Pimiento	Observer	Colombia
Rita Delia Casco	Department Coordinator	Nicaragua
Magdalena Bermudez	Observer	Costa Rica
Javier Salked	Observer	Peru
Sergio Robles	Department Coordinator	Spain

Martín Cáceres	Observer	Argentina
Third Region		
Ricardo Cohen	Regional Coordinator	Argentina
Jean-Pierre Ayotte	Department Coordinator	Canada
Daniel Olascoaga	Observer	Uruguay
Rafael Joseph	Observer	Grenada
David Swaney	Observer	USA
Montse Ferrer	Observer	Spain
Patrick Patiño	Observer	Grenada
Carolina Moreno	Observer	Guatemala
María José Verau	Observer	Peru
Caty Luz Zarate	Observer	Colombia
Francisco Espinoza	Observer	Nicaragua
Rosario Ramos	Department Coordinator	Panama
Iván Revolledo	Observer	United States
Félix Gottier	Observer	Canada
Euza Júnia Pereira Ramos	Department Coordinator	Brazil
Bárbara Braun	Observer	Germany
Fourth Region		
Fernanda Zavaleta	Regional Coordinator	Mexico
Marie Carolina Bernard	Observer	Mexico
María Emilia López	Observer	Venezuela
Jean Pierre Marchant	Observer	Canada
Clarise Araujo Simonek	Observer	Brazil
Melquíades Monzon	Department Coordinator	Peru
Roberto Azaretto	Observer	Argentina
María del Carmen Palau	Observer	Colombia
Angelina Sacbajá Tun de Lux	Observer	Guatemala
Miguel Quintana	Observer	Peru
María Antonia Sunuc Álvarez	Observer	Guatemala
Political Parties		
Edelma Gómez	Observer	Nicaragua
Matías Barroetaveña	Observer	Argentina
Ana Pérez	Observer	Guatemala
María Amelia León	Observer	Peru
Sidney Fisher	Observer	Canada
Adriana Piqueiro	Observer	Colombia
Bautista Logioco	Observer	Argentina
Nina Frankel	Observer	United States
Jorge Eduardo Srur	Observer	Argentina

B. Volunteer observers

<u>Volunteer observers</u>		
Itziar Gonzáles	Observer	Spanish Cooperation Agency
Ana Belén Villamil	Observer	Spanish Cooperation Agency
Consuelo Tomé	Observer	Spanish Cooperation Agency

Helena Morais Maceira	Observer	Spanish Cooperation Agency
Fernando Mudarra	Observer	Spanish Cooperation Agency
María Molina	Observer	Spanish Embassy
Marcelo Fuentes	Observer	Argentine Embassy
Alejandra Butti	Observer	Argentine Embassy
Aníbal Ianni	Observer	Argentine Embassy
Sebastián Negri	Observer	Argentine Embassy
José Luís Valenzuela	Observer	Argentine Embassy
Diego Sadofski	Observer	Argentine Embassy
Federico Gonzáles Perini	Observer	Argentine Embassy
Pablo Prosperi	Observer	Argentine Embassy
Miguel Borzi Romero	Observer	Argentine Embassy
Hernán Willemyns	Observer	Argentine Embassy
Gabriel Servetto	Observer	Argentine Embassy
Carlos Esteve	Observer	Argentine Embassy
Carlos Enrique Wyldler	Observer	Argentine Embassy
Elizardo Martínez Vergara	Observer	Paraguayan Embassy
Etelvina Ruiz Moudelle	Observer	Paraguayan Embassy
Lisa Sandberg	Observer	Swedish Technical Cooperation
Daniel Berggren	Observer	Swedish Technical Cooperation
Peter Sörbom	Observer	Swedish Association – Svalorna
Sofia Kloo	Observer	Swedish Association – Svalorna
Sofia Malmqvist	Observer	Swedish Ecumenical Action – Diakonia
Camilla Ottosson	Observer	Swedish Embassy
Anna Säaw	Observer	Swedish Embassy
Johanna Teague	Observer	Swedish Embassy
Orfelina Araya	Observer	Swedish Embassy
Johannes Lehne	Observer	German Embassy
Heinz Lauten	Observer	German Embassy
Sabine Paul	Observer	German Embassy
Anneli Elung Jensen	Observer	Danish Embassy
Annelise Grinsted	Observer	Danish Embassy
Susanne Martin Legene	Observer	Danish Embassy
Gloria P. Sierra Camacho	Observer	Danish Embassy
Mogens Pedersen	Observer	Danish Embassy
Charlotte Wichmann Sorensen	Observer	Danish Embassy
Anne Vagner Rasmussen	Observer	Danish Embassy
Chris Poole	Observer	British Embassy
Daniel Poole	Observer	British Embassy

Jan Willem Legramd	Observer	Dutch Embassy
Franska Hovintam	Observer	Dutch Embassy
Mamoru Fujita	Observer	Japanese Embassy
Tomomi Kosaki	Observer	Japanese Embassy
Frank Van de Craen	Observer	Belgian Embassy
Douglas Chacón	Observer	OAS Project
Jorge Mario Oroxon Popa	Observer	OAS Project
Nilla Ingstorp	Observer	Sweden
Fiona Clarck	Observer	NGO HelpAge
Osvaldo Ostertag	Observer	Consul General of Paraguay
Carlos Paredes Osuna	Observer	Consul of Paraguay
Nimia Oviedo de Torales	Observer	Paraguayan Ambassador
Danielle Vivado	Observer	European Commission

C. Delegations

Brazil	Senate of Spain
Vander Loubet	Luís Miguel Salvador Garcia
Joao Tota	Ramón Companys I Sanfeliú
Joao Correira	Rafael Bruguera Batalla
Francisco Rodríguez	Francisco Javier Maqueda Lafuente
Joao P. Gomes da Silva	Dionisio García Carneiro
Hamilton Casara	
Maria Do Socorro Gomes Coelho	
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Spain	
Agustín Santos Maraver	
Concha Campos Viejo	

Appendix II
Voter Registration Roll

A. Structure of the Voter Registration Roll used for voting on December 18, 2005

Dept.	Eligible	Minors	Deceased	Not voting	Polling stations not qualifying	Not eligible	Not valid	Total
Chuq.	214,409	64	3,655	78,418	0		270	296,816
La Paz	1,183,222	402	29,792	329,298	350		562	1,543,626
Cbba	648,643	234	14,774	240,975	0	4	426	905,056
Oruro	194,393	20	6,837	54,611	18		18	255,897
Potosí	281,590	191	3,520	122,615	0		1,044	408,960
Tarija	177,976	63	3,497	65,648	0		36	247,220
S. Cruz	810,591	969	10,444	347,745	0		1,476	1,171,225
Beni	134,721	100	559	54,675	0		91	190,146
Pando	25,607	13	88	7,451	53		13	33,225
Total	3,671,152	2,056	73,166	1,301,436	421	4	3,936	5,052,171

B. Voter Registration Roll: General Table

Dept.	Registered for the 2004 Elections	Ballots cast 2004 Election	Non voters	%	Eligible after purging nonvoters	Registered in April-May and August - September	Eligible for the 2005 Elections
Chuquisaca	274,729	178,857	95,872	34.90	180,613	47,218	214,409
La Paz	1,412,300	968,446	443,854	31.43	986,694	292,222	1,183,222
Cochabamba	791,802	492,163	299,639	37.84	497,974	187,501	648,643
Oruro	224,938	156,891	68,047	30.25	159,063	46,190	194,393

Potosí	376,070	221,313	154,757	41.1 5	233,671	64,003	281,590
Tarija	219,296	135,212	84,084	38.3 4	135,546	53,550	177,976
Santa Cruz	1,042,4 87	603,140	439,347	42.1 4	623,061	241,15 9	810,591
Beni	173,974	104,748	69,226	39.7 9	106,314	38,416	134,721
Pando	28,575	18,619	9,956	34.8 4	18,481	10,384	25,607
Total	4,544,1 71	2,879,38 9	1,664,7 82	36.6 4	2,941,41 7	980,64 3	3,671,15 2

Appendix III
Press Releases

Press Release No. 1

Elections in Bolivia.

Denmark shall participate in the OAS Electoral Observation Mission in Bolivia

November 27, 2005

LA PAZ, Bolivia. The Director of the Office of the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States in Bolivia, Bernhard Griesinger, and the Danish Ambassador to Bolivia, Mogens Pedersen, today signed a collaboration agreement whereby the Royal Danish Embassy in Bolivia shall collaborate with the implementation of the project "Electoral Observation Mission, General Elections and Elections of Prefects of the Republic of Bolivia."

The contribution of the Danish Government is aimed at supporting the task that the OAS Observation Mission in Bolivia has been carrying out for several weeks. Thanks to its collaboration, the Mission shall be present in the nine regions of the Republic of Bolivia throughout the electoral campaign.

The Danish Government shall also guarantee the presence of Danish Observers, who shall be working jointly with the members of the OAS Electoral Observation Mission in Bolivia.

The meeting was held in the OAS offices in the Radisson Hotel of the city of La Paz; the meeting was attended by the Deputy Chief of the Electoral Observation Mission in Bolivia, Steven Griner, and the National Coordinator of the Observation Mission in Bolivia, Gustavo Beliz.

Press Release No. 2

Elections in Bolivia

December 8, 2005. La Paz, Bolivia. At the invitation of the Government of the Republic of Bolivia, the Organization of American States, through its Department of Democratic and Political Affairs, has started to deploy the Electoral Observation Mission (EOM) aimed at observing the development of the electoral process, which shall culminate in the election of new executive and legislative representatives for the Republic of Bolivia, as well as department prefects.

The Electoral Observation Mission set up its headquarters in the Radisson Hotel in the city of La Paz on November 7, 2005. During this period, the Baseline Group was installed; it was comprised of specialists in informatics, electoral affairs, the press, logistics, among others. Likewise, two specialists from the Department of Democratic and Political Affairs have been living in Bolivia since that date.

Throughout this initial phase, contacts have been established with the representatives of the executive and legislative branches of government, electoral bodies (National Electoral Court and Departmental Electoral Courts), candidates to the offices of President, Vice-President and Prefect, political parties, the media and civil society organizations, and national and international institutions involved in the electoral process.

The purpose of these contacts has been to disseminate the objectives of the Mission, secure greater information about the political and electoral environment, and coordinate the necessary collaboration mechanisms for the successful completion of the Mission.

The first week of December, the first group of 15 observers, from Colombia, Argentina, Brazil, United States, Peru, Panama, Mexico, Nicaragua, Haiti, Canada, Peru, Paraguay, Venezuela, and Guatemala, arrived in the city of La Paz; they shall be acting as regional and departmental coordinators and as liaisons with the political parties that are presenting candidates.

On Monday, December 5, the first observer training session was held with the participation of the members of the National Electoral Court, the Departmental Electoral Courts, the Deputy Ministry of the Interior, and the National Planning Department of the National Police Force.

The second and last training session shall take place on Monday, December 12 in the facilities of the Radisson Hotel, with a new team of observers.

Among their observation activities, the EOM members, at the invitation of the CNE, had the opportunity to witness the Technical Testing of the Transmission of Voting Results, which took place on December 6.

It is important to highlight that the EOM, for the purpose of being present throughout the country, has set up offices in Bolivia's nine departments. The Observers, who have already reached their destinations, shall be instructed to travel to Bolivia's urban and rural areas.

Finally, the EOM wishes to highlight the important collaboration of the Governments of Denmark, Spain, the Netherlands, and Sweden, which have provided financial contributions and sent volunteers to participate as observers in the Mission. Without their support, it would have been difficult for OAS to conduct its observation activities and to establish a presence in the country so much in advance and with so large a number of observers.

Reference: MOE-Bolivia, December 8, 2005

Press Release No. 3

OAS Electoral Observation Mission

December 18, 2005.

The Electoral Observation Mission has sent out 166 observers, from 24 different countries, throughout Bolivia.

Each observer has sent us, throughout the day, at least three reports on the voting situation, both from the polling stations they were assigned to and from the electoral precincts they were able to visit. These reports considered the conditions for opening the polling stations, the incidence of voting, and the development of closing the balloting and subsequent count.

Our operating center has received 500 situation reports throughout the day. These reports came from all spots of the country, including some of the country's most geographically remote places.

Bearing in mind this information, the Electoral Observation Mission is able to publish its first conclusions:

Today, Bolivian men and women exercised their right to vote in a normal democratic environment.

There have been no reports of major incidents that might have significantly altered the voting process.

The work of the electoral board members to open and close the polling stations and comply with the regulations provided by the National Electoral Court has been satisfactory. Likewise, appropriate conduct of the Party Delegates who carried out their election testing work was observed.

The Security Plan programmed by the National Police Force has functioned appropriately. This has made it possible to provide security for the voters and satisfactory safeguards for the precincts, so that the voting could take place in a peaceful and orderly way.

The transfer of the minutes is taking place as planned and it is not expected that there will be any inconveniences.

The Departmental Courts are functioning smoothly to conduct the departmental count and we do not feel that there shall be any difficulty in carrying out the count in appropriate conditions.

We have taken note of the situations in which citizens have claimed that it was impossible to vote because they did not appear on the voter registration rolls. It is important to point out that the process of purging voter registration rolls conducted by the CNE before the elections was in observance of the law. The Court will have to specify the number of citizens who were legally entitled to vote today but were unable to exercise their right to vote.

The Mission shall be closely monitoring the remaining process until the CNE issues the definitive official results.

Finally, we wish to publicly extend our most sincere congratulations to all those who have made this successful election day possible. First of all, to the Bolivians who have gone to the electoral precincts to exercise their right to vote. They have been the major players in the election process and to them we express our esteem and respect.

We congratulate the parties and their candidates who have shown their commitment to democracy throughout the day. Their decision to accept the final results has introduced a factor of certainty in the entire electoral process.

We also congratulate the polling station members, party delegates, police officers, National Electoral Court and Departmental Court officials, the media, and domestic and international observers. All of them, from early in the day, carried out commendable work so that everything would turn out as best as possible.

The entire country has expressed itself with the utmost freedom, and abiding by the wish of the people shall be the most authentic expression of Bolivian democracy.

Gustavo Beliz	Steven Griner	Horacio Serpa
NATIONAL COORDINATOR	DEPUTY MISSION CHIEF	MISSION CHIEF

Reference: EOM-Bolivia, December 18, 2005

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