



**CONCLUSIONS WORKING GROUP**  
**Second Inter-American Meeting of Experts and**  
**Representatives of Electoral Organizations**

***“Towards the construction of a referential framework of procedures to manage and control electoral processes”***

*Caracas, June 11th and 12th, 2009*

**WORKING GROUP 1**  
**TOPIC A: ELECTORAL REGISTRY**

- 1) *The electoral registry is created as per the legal, political, social and geographical aspects of each country, the correspondence of the civil data possessed about the citizens; it is the result of its structure of organization, and the execution times, inherent to each country.*

*The synchronization of the civil data depends on the reality and particularities of each country; this ought to be understood as a natural element of this data base, and not as an element of lack of reliability on the system.*

*However, there is a common objective in the participating nations, and it is the fact that they desire to adopt the best possible practices, for the purpose of promoting and guaranteeing the registration of the voters, and a better service, thus increasing political participation and the trustworthiness on the electoral system.*

*With the exception of:*



*2) We must strive so that voters, political organizations and the population as a whole raise their level of awareness, get to know and assess the value of the different processes that the elaboration of the electoral registry brings along.*

*With the exception of:*

*3) Improving the exogenous processes of the Electoral registry, through the legal framework, by raising the citizens' awareness on the importance of updating their personal data, as, for example, the domicile.*

*With the exception of:*

*4) Facilitating the processes of inclusion of populations traditionally excluded from the civil and electoral registry in the nations that have this reality.*

*With the exception of:*

## **TOPIC B: MANAGEMENT SYSTEM IN THE POLLING STATIONS**

*1) As fundamental criteria for the definition of the place where the voting act takes place accessibility must be included, defined by demographic, geographic and cultural characteristics.*

*With the exception of:*

*2) It is important to spread the information related to the location of the place where people are to vote. Furthermore, the training of the people is necessary, in order to speed up the process of voting.*

*With the exception of:*



3) *The appointing of the place where the voting is going to take place must guarantee the free access of the voters and must not be linked in any fashion to any interest not related to the act of voting itself.*

*With the exception of:*

4) *We identified, as a common criteria, that there shall be minimum or minimum limits that allow for the opening and the adequate functioning of the electoral places, considering and respecting the special characteristics that the communities of each country may define.*

*With the exception of:*

*Additional aspect: Apart from the aforesaid topics, and given the importance of the processes of settlement of disputes within electoral processes, we recommend this issue to be included so that it can be analyzed in the issue of electoral justice.*

**TABLE # 2: NOMINATIONS // SELECTION OF THE POLLING STATION MEMBERS**

<b>Subject A: Nominations</b>				
<b>Speaking Country</b>	<b>Procedures</b>	<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Other relevant considerations on the subject</b>	<b>General Remarks</b>
Venezuela	<i>Automated: Process executed via internet. The candidates are responsible for registering their nominations from</i>	<i>Efficient despite the complexity of the electoral system and the number of nominating</i>	<i>Accepted by the nominating organizations and citizens.</i>	



<p>Venezuela</p>	<p>anywhere in the country. Reception through the electoral subordinate organizations. Electoral Boards: Executed in real time. A data base is built with electronic nominations. The process is distributed to the Boards. Responsibilities are assigned to the Boards. The electoral tools are made with the data captured. Conditions for eligibility are established. Candidate substitutions are allowed within the legal framework, taking into account public awareness about changes in the electoral offer.</p>	<p>organizations. Facilitates the nomination of candidates. Financial savings. Security: There is information about the nominations and the discretion of the Boards is eliminated. The system is auditable. Own technology.</p>	<p>The software is developed by the technicians of the electoral organization.</p>	
<p>Colombia</p>	<p>Electronic registration system for nominations through internet. It requires future approval. Afterwards, the</p>	<p>Financial savings. Capacity of immediate response. Efficient, the preparation time for electoral tools is reduced.</p>		



<p>AG/ONU</p> <p>Saint Lucia</p>	<p><i>electoral ballot is prepared including the electronic data compiled. There is a data refinement process through the judicial and control bodies. In case of death of a candidate, there are no new elections, but a reprinting of the electoral ballot excluding the deceased candidate, if time allows so. Enough time is given for the creation of new alliances in case of rupture.</i></p>	<p><i>Not concentrated. Ethics: Ethics is important because it allows reducing financial costs to avoid repeating elections.</i></p>		<p><i>Expresses the importance of the subject and the need to collect the information produced in this forum in order to share it with other countries of the region.</i></p>
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<p>Fice/CNE Venezuela</p>	<p><i>It starts with the presentation of candidates at a municipal level. Refinement of nominations to avoid claims after the electoral process. Similar to the processes of Nicaragua, El Salvador. Procedures are established for the substitution of candidates. There are no consequences from the rupture of alliances, since it has only occurred in the island once without consequences.</i></p>			<p><i>Supports information exchange between the Electoral Organizations of each country to facilitate the improvement of the nomination processes and the construction of electoral rules and laws.</i></p>
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**WORKING GROUP 3**

**TOPIC A: ELECTORAL FINANCING**



*The general topic that brought about the participation of different delegates was the problem arising by the need to control the electoral financing from organizations with political ends and other fund receptors, both during the electoral campaign as well as during its annual operative expenses.*

*In this regard, the delegates from the following countries participated in the debate: Argentina, Colombia, Haiti, El Salvador, Honduras, Jamaica, Mali, Mexico, Nicaragua and Peru, under the coordination of the General Director of the National Financing Office of the National Electoral Council from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.*

*At a general level, we could conclude that there is a great concern for attaining the proper electoral level of electoral financing. However, there is a lack of mechanisms that minimize the risk of irregularities when obtaining and using resources, such as automated systems that improve the surveillance of control organisms by rendering the necessary information collection process easier in order to carry out the appropriate evaluations.*

*Considering the aforementioned aspects, control should be focused on the legal aspects directed to the financing limitations and regulations regarding amounts, time periods and beneficiaries. However, in most of the cases a sanctioning level that allows persuading the resource receivers from complying with the legal framework established for that end has not been attained.*

*In several cases, the controlling organism is exogenous to the electoral body and, therefore, its situation does not depend on its internal planning.*

*In general terms, private financing is very difficult to control and the strategy should be based on making possible that the state can finance most of these expenses.*

**Paragraph:**



*The general topic that brought about the participation of the different delegates in the electoral financing topic was the need to control the origin and use of resources received by the political parties and other fund receivers both during the electoral campaign and its annual operative expenses. As a conclusion, there is a general concern in achieving the proper electoral financing control. However, there is a lack of mechanisms that minimize the risk of irregularities when obtaining and using these resources, especially those from private sources. In addition, there are no automated systems that optimize the surveillance of control organisms focusing the control on the legal aspect directed at the limitation and regulation of financing amounts, time periods and beneficiaries without attaining an efficient sanction level that persuades the possible offender.*

**TOPIC B:  
CREATION, MOTIVATION TO PARTICIPATE AND REGULATION OF ELECTORAL CAMPAIGNS**

*Most participants expressed that in their countries there are regulating mechanisms for electoral campaigns which are difficult for the organizations in charge to comply. There are periods for campaign monitoring, supervision and sanctions. The periods for campaigns, financing origins and their development are, in general, clearly established in the regulations, but the organizations in charge to enforce them have limitations of taxation and sanction compliance.*

*They also expressed the concern for the violation of these regulations through the use of messages by the candidates, parties and communication media that cannot be qualified as propaganda but clearly support a political trend. In this dynamic, the information and opinion programs are used to favor candidate options, but strictly speaking they cannot be sanctioned. Big parties are favored in this dynamic because they count with the greatest resources. In some cases there are candidates that are also owners of the communication media, which presents an unbalance with respect to other options.*





*Based on these considerations, we propose the establishment of an exchange mechanism that allows us to review general definitions taking into account the different realities, identify the common weaknesses and work in a platform that helps to establish processes that respect the democratic principles of equal conditions and the right of voters to receive equal information about the participating options.*

## **WORKING GROUP 4 VOTING, BALLOT COUNT AND TOTALING // SUBMISSION OF ELECTORAL RESULTS**

### **TOPIC B: SUBMISSION OF ELECTORAL RESULTS**

#### **Conclusion:**

*Automation of ballot submission: In all countries where the process of the submission of votes is automated, there is a notable improvement in the time the results are totaled. In this submission of results we should consider the following criteria:*

- *Security: The guarantee that the data is not modified, nor intercepted by external entities before arriving to its destination.*
- *High availability: This is due to the technical trials that guarantee the redundancy and continuity of the service.*
- *The ability to be audited: These are the revision processes before, during, and after the electoral event conducted to verify the correct configuration of all the mechanisms, with the participation of the different political actors.*
- *High performance: The capacity of the network to operate large simultaneous amounts of submitted ballots.*
- *The management of networks: Throughout the result submission network there has to be adequate supervision and management, in order to monitor the data network.*



### **Recommendation:**

*So that the totaling times of the results improve and the integrity of the information is guaranteed, it is important to automate the process of submitting results, both in automated and manual voting.*

### **WORKING GROUP # 5:**

#### **GENERATION AND PRODUCTION OF ELECTORAL INSTRUMENTS // DEPLOYMENT AND REMOVAL OF ELECTORAL MATERIAL AND EQUIPMENT**

#### **Summary**

*Acknowledging that each participant country expressed ideas about their electoral processes in a different manner, and paying attention to their geographical, cultural, political diversity, it has been possible to identify common criteria, but with particular procedures, according to the parameters of each country. We have been able to highlight that distribution of material is performed through private companies of transport services, the custody of material is in the hands of the military or law enforcement agents, and the material is received and verified by the electoral authority (delegate), then codified and labeled with a serial, and the identification of the electoral material is done through labels and check lists aiming to guarantee the precise location. The electoral instruments are practical, simple, and verifiable, and the production and distribution shall follow criteria of reliability, transparency, and rational use of resources.*

