

COVID-19



International Specialized Virtual Course for Latin America Holding Elections During Periods of Emergencies (Health)

October 26th - 30th, 2020



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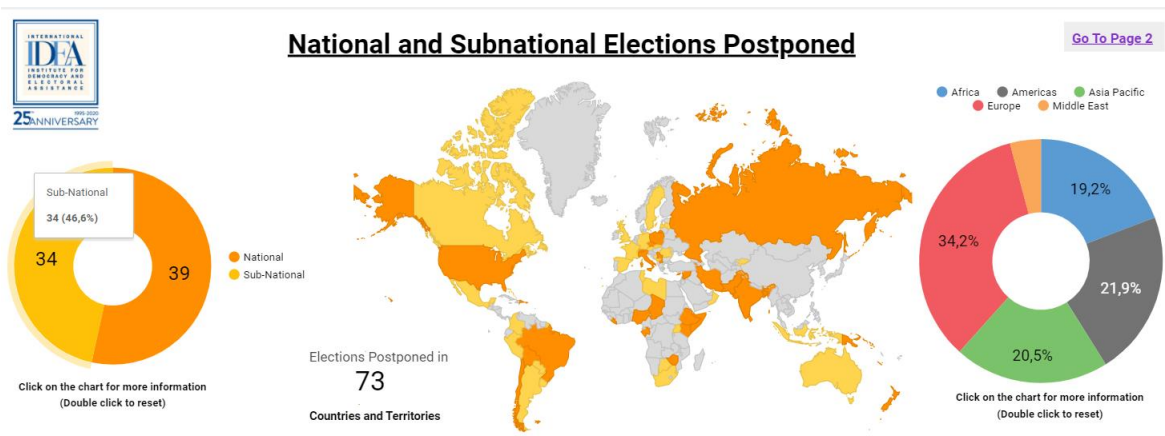
I. CONTEXT

The importance of conducting regular, fair, reliable, and competitive elections is recognized as one of the main procedural instruments in contemporary democracies. Although democracy is not reduced only to electoral processes, these are the means for citizens to exercise their power to intervene in political decisions by selecting their leaders and representatives, by renewing or revoking their mandate and reaffirming or rejecting the development and objectives of their actions to make way for other types of government proposals and policies.

Holding of elections has helped to lay the foundations for the transition towards the establishment of democratic regimes, as well as to depose governments or, to expand mechanisms for citizen participation in government decision-making, such as, plebiscites, referendums and citizen consultations. However, their periodicity and the certainty of the results are elements that consolidate democracy, not only as a form of government, but also as a way of life of a society founded on the rule of law and respect for human rights.

The pandemic caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus has caused that at least 73 countries and territories to postpone or cancel their electoral processes, scheduled to take place between the period of February 21 to October 18, 2020. Some of them have even been postponed twice due to the rising number of infections in certain countries.

The following map created by International IDEA, presents the countries and territories that have postponed their elections, both national and local:



Source: International IDEA. <https://www.idea.int/es/news-media/multimedia-reports/global-overview-covid-19-impact-elections?fbclid=IwAR3CZWK-qSodDBoC8VcAaC4RUCb5puQenm3hdMVnp8y5gztjug6lR-hHzhQ>

Specifically, for the American continent case, the following table shows in detail the information on the country or territory that would carry out some type of election.

Table. Countries of the American continent that will carry out some type of electoral process

AMERICA			
Country	Type of election	Initial date	New date
Guyana	General	March 2 nd	No change
Canada	Local	March 26 th	No change
United States	Electoral primaries	March – June	New York (June 23 rd), Puerto Rico (July 12 th), New Jersey (July 7 th), Georgia (May 19 th), Connecticut (August 11 th), Delaware (July 7 th), Indiana, Maryland, Rhode Island (June 2 nd), Louisiana (July 11 th), and Kentucky (June 23 rd)
	Local Elections in South Carolina	March	
Falkland Islands*	Local referendum	March 26 th	
Colombia	Community board	March 29 th	
Perú	Local and Municipal	March 29 th	
Argentina	Municipal	March 29 th	
Brazil	Bye-elections for local Senate	April 26 th	15 and 29 of November
Chile	Constitutional referendum	April 26 th	October 25 th November 29 th
	Primaries		
Bolivia	Presidential and Congress	May 3 rd	October 18 th
Uruguay	Local and Municipal	May 10 th	September 27 th
Dominican Republic**	Presidential and Congress	May 17 th	July 5 th
Surinam	Congress	May 31 st	
El Salvador	Political party internal election	June-July	
San Kits and Nevis	Congress	June 6 th	
México	Local	June 7 th	October 18 th
Belize	General		November 1 st
Paraguay	Congress	July 12 th	June 22 nd , 2021 October 10 th , 2021
	Municipal	November 8 th	
Trinidad y Tobago	General		August 10 th
Venezuela	General		December 6 th

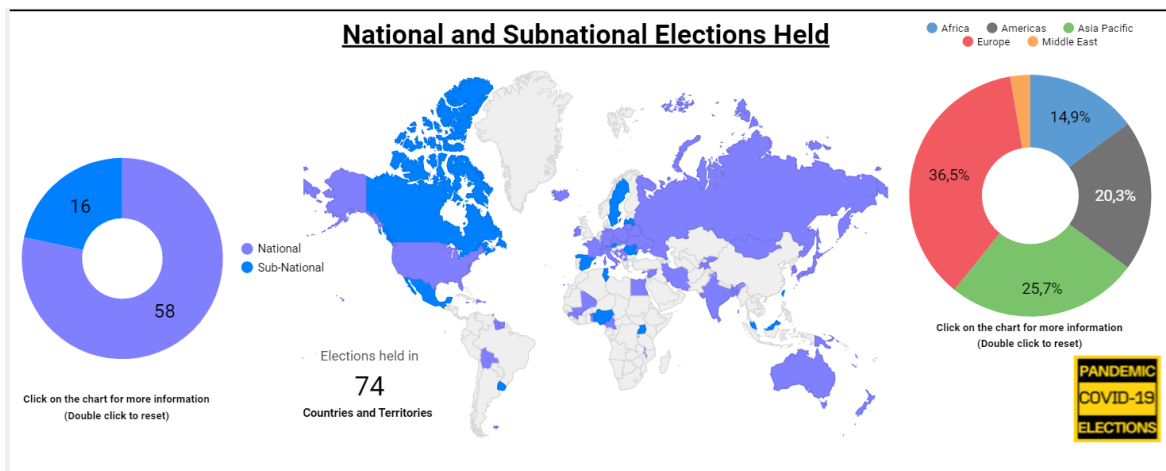
* Non-self-governing territory administered by the United Kingdom.

** So far, the government continues preparations for the elections.

Source: SINE/ISEN of Panama and International IDEA: <https://www.idea.int/news-media/multimedia-reports/global-overview-covid-19-impact-elections>.

However, some countries such as Guinea, Mali, Burundi, Malawi and Egypt (in Africa); South Korea, Mongolia, Singapore, Syria and Sri Lanka (in Asia); Kiribati and Niue (in Oceania); France, Serbia, Russia, Poland, Croatia, Spain, North Macedonia and Belarus (in Europe); and Suriname, the Dominican Republic and Trinidad and Tobago (in America) have held their respective elections either in the midst of strict sanitary measures or following minimal protocols justified by a low registry in the proportion infected-deaths in their countries.

The following map created by International IDEA shows the countries and territories that did celebrate elections, both national and local, in the context of the pandemic:



Source: International IDEA. <https://www.idea.int/es/news-media/multimedia-reports/global-overview-covid-19-impact-elections?fbclid=IwAR3CZWK-qSodDBoC8VcAaC4RUCb5puQenm3hdMVnp8y5gztjug6lR-hHzhQ>

Some countries have begun to experiment with new alternatives to traditional face-to-face voting, such as postal voting, or proposals made in other states to initiate the transition to a digital democracy with electronic voting (e-voting)¹.

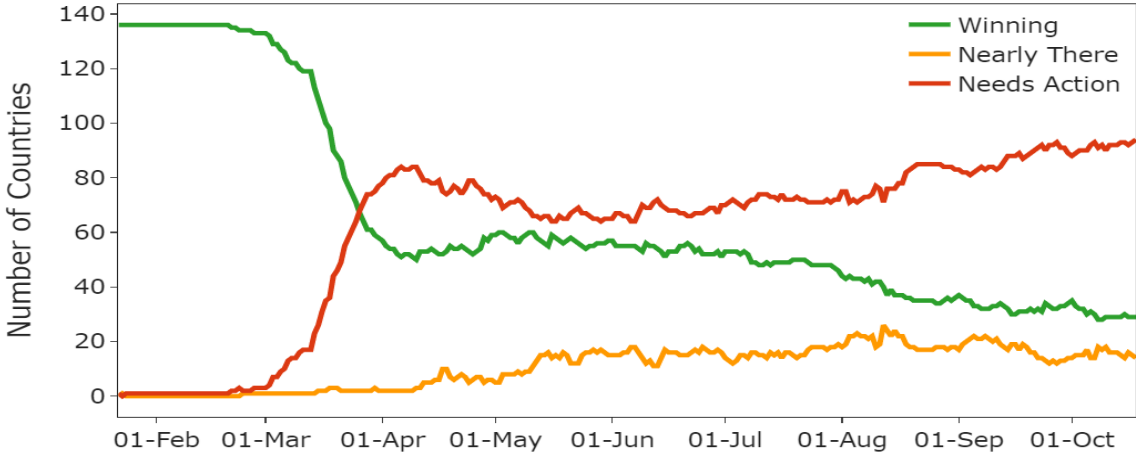
When emergencies hinder the conduction of any of the phases of an electoral process, they can widely affect a country's democratic life and may question the credibility of its government or electoral institutions. Likewise, emergency situations could come as an excuse for governments to approve extreme policies that could result in human rights violations or have antidemocratic tendencies.

¹ Considering online voting and electronic ballots.

Thus, nowadays it is important to establish alternative plans that assist electoral bodies in delivering and defending their fundamental attributions and to protect citizens' political rights, so that political transitions may occur accordingly to what is established in their legislations.

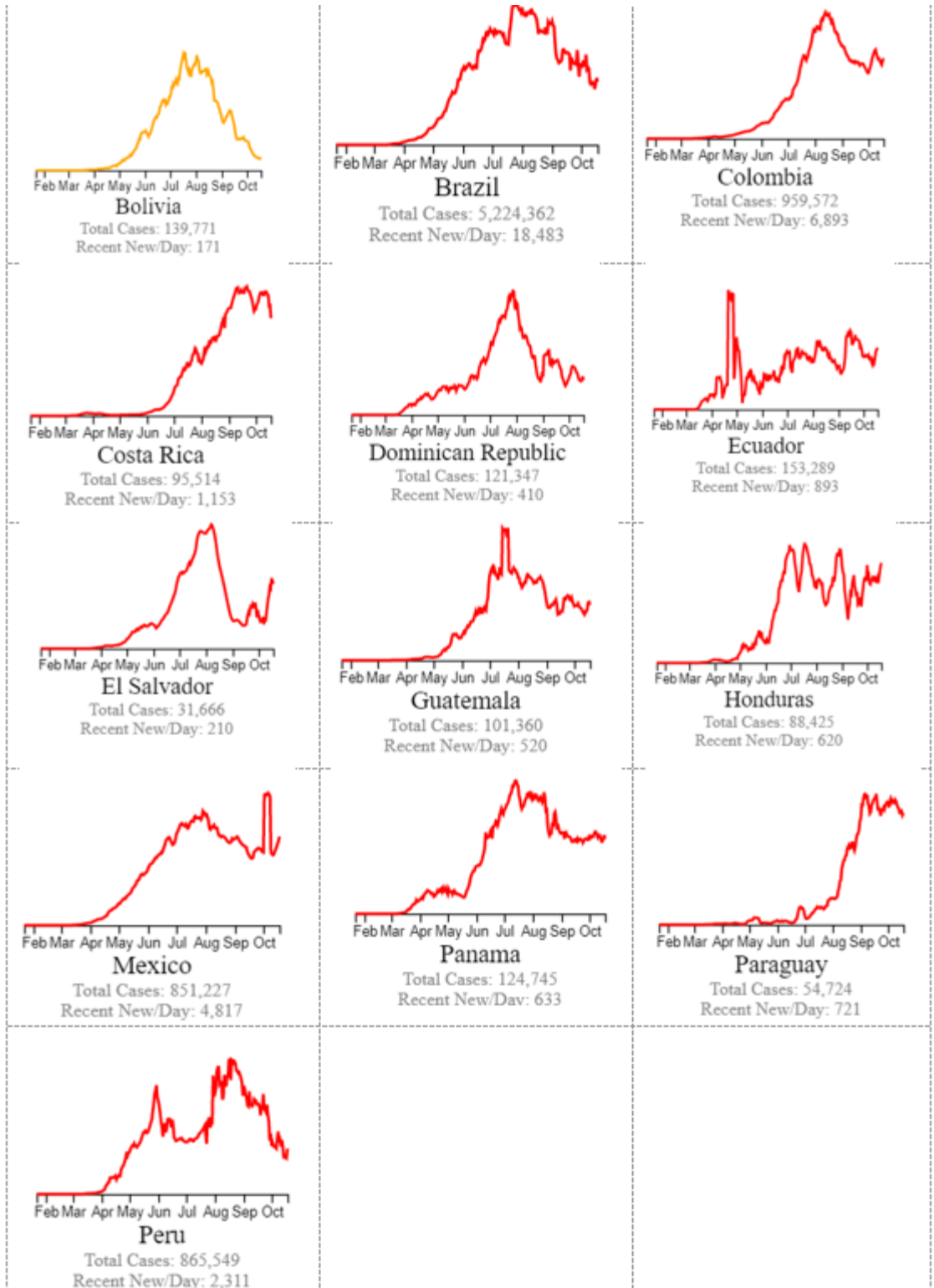
The following graphs present the situation in which countries are with respect to COVID according to Endcoronavirus, an international multidisciplinary coalition of volunteers that develops and promotes community-based solutions for policy makers, companies and individuals, have been graphing the situation of the countries according to the active cases reported, based on the information provided by the Coronavirus Resource Center of Johns Hopkins University. In these graphs, three classifications are made regarding the degree of control that countries are achieving: countries that are winning (green color); countries that are close to achieving it (yellow color) and those that need action (red color).

The following graph summarizes the situation worldwide:



Source: Endcoronavirus <https://es.endcoronavirus.org/countries> consulted on October 19, 2020.

The graphs prepared by Endcoronavirus on the Latin American countries that will be represented in the virtual course have been selected below:



Source: Encoronavirus: <https://es.endcoronavirus.org/countries>. Consulted on October 19th, 2020.

Each country's efforts to adapt measures to face emergencies must be tailored to their legal, economic, technical, and human possibilities; the exchange of experiences and study cases will improve the decision-making processes.

The Course's objective is based upon analyzing cases where electoral processes have taken place during the SARS-CoV2-2 emergency, in the context of its categorization as a global pandemic; comparing tools and procedures used to conduct electoral processes; faced challenges and possible solutions that could be of assistance in other countries.

II. OBJECTIVE:

Analyze experiences, exchange knowledge and best practices to boost new ideas for specific goals.

III. TERMS OF REFERENCE:

- ✓ How to guarantee citizens' political and electoral rights while providing health security in every phase of the electoral process?
- ✓ How to conduct dissemination campaigns and citizen participation in emergency periods?
- ✓ How to tackle fake news?
- ✓ How could electoral bodies support their activities on digital platforms and social media to keep communication with voters during an emergency?
- ✓ What measures or precaution steps should be followed to conduct in-person voting during a health emergency?
- ✓ Citizen participation in elections during an emergency.
- ✓ Roles, attributions and use of budget of the electoral body for making decisions during an emergency.
- ✓ Could determining to postpone the date of the election on the grounds of an emergency be considered a fracture in democracy?
- ✓ Local and international electoral observation: importance, feasibility, mechanisms to guarantee the right and provide confidence about the legality of the electoral processes and integrity.

IV. METHODOLOGY:

The course is dynamic and requires an active participation from the electoral bodies' representatives. The course will be developed throughout five phases:

Phase 1. After being registered, the participant will receive a username and password to access the virtual platform for this course. This platform will contain a series of documents and information such as videos, texts, infographics, Power Point presentations, etc.

DESPEN members will be able to use the username and password that they use for the training platform.

Phase 2. The link to access the virtual conference session in real time (videocall) will be sent via e-mail. Each specialist will make a presentation in these virtual sessions, highlighting the topic's main aspects while answering questions related to the topic. In these sessions, participants may interact by making questions and sharing experiences.


Phase 3. Participants will conduct interactive presentations (according to the topics in the agenda and their institutional field of specialization). Officials of those countries that have already conducted elections will be asked to make a specific presentation on their experience regarding this topic.

Phase 4. A final balance of the sessions is made.

Phase 5. Participants will answer evaluation and feedback questionnaires.





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V. ORGANIZING INSTITUTION

	<p>The National Electoral Institute (INE for its acronym in Spanish) is the autonomous public body in charge of organizing the federal elections which include the election of the President of the Mexican Republic and the Deputies and Senators that make up the Union Congress. Also, the Institute oversees organizing in coordination with the electoral bodies of the different federative entities the local elections in the states of the Mexican Republic.</p>
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COLLABORATING INSTITUTIONS

	<p>The International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) is an international organization dedicated to support the construction, maintenance and strengthening of democracy and whose areas of specialization are electoral administration, civic education, and rights for the disabled, among others. Its main activities are carried out through technical assistance, the participation of experts or with specific tools. This Foundation has collaborated in the strengthening and consolidation of democracy in 135 countries with diverse electoral and democratic systems.</p>
	<p>The Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa (EISA) is a non-profit organization established in 1996 in Johannesburg (South Africa). It is dedicated to promoting credible elections (through the application of electoral principles and good practices) and citizen participation. Furthermore, it strengthens the political institutions for sustainable democracy in the continent by developing the functional capacity of political parties and fostering good relations between them.</p>
	<p>The Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA) promotes democracy around the world by supporting the construction, strengthening and protection of democratic institutions and political processes at all levels. It compiles the different types of experiences of democracy from around the world and develops comparative knowledge in this regard, which it is available to everyone, thus facilitating the processes to make changes, formulate policies or promote reform processes. This institute also conducts research that records the way in which economic dynamics and technological change affect democracy.</p>

	<p>The Organization of American States (OAS) constitutes the main political, legal, and social governmental forum in the American continent. Its main pillars are democracy, human rights, security, and development. Among its main objectives are: strengthen the peace and security on the continent; promote and consolidate representative democracy while respecting the principle of non-intervention; ensure the peaceful settlement of disputes that may arise between member states and organize the action in solidarity between them in case of an aggression. These goals are achieved through political dialogue, inclusion, cooperation, and various legal and monitoring instruments.</p>
	<p>The Central Electoral Board (JCE for its acronym in Spanish) is an autonomous body with legal personality and technical, administrative, budgetary and financial independence, which is in charge of organizing and directing the elections and the mechanisms of popular participation, thus guaranteeing the real exercise of citizenship in the Dominican Republic. Another important function of this body is to manage and regulate the acts of the Civil Status of the Dominican men and women. The current composition of the Board consists in one president four members and their alternates which are elected for a period of four years by the Senate of the Republic.</p>
	<p>The Electoral Advisory and Promotion Center (CAPEL) is a specialized program of the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights (IIHR). It was created in 1983 and began its work in 1985. Later it established in the Executive Secretariat of the Associations of Electoral Organizations of Central America and the Caribbean (Tikal Protocol), South America (Quito Protocol) in 1989 and in the Inter-American Union of Electoral Organizations since 1991. Its main objectives are electoral technical advice and the promotion of elections from a multidisciplinary approach, tasks that the Center has carried out in collaboration with electoral bodies, legislative powers, civil society organizations and political parties.</p>
	<p>The Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE for its acronym in Spanish) is the highest Costa Rica electoral body; It constituted one of the main institutional innovations of the Political Constitution of 1949 since the TSE acquired the condition of fourth power of the State, equating itself to the Legislative, Executive and Judicial branches. Currently this body has four functions: 1) electoral administration (which includes the organization, direction and control of all acts related to suffrage), 2) civil registry (this includes the preparation of the electoral roll), 3) jurisdictional and 4) democratic training.</p>



Central Election Commission
of the Russian Federation

The Central Election Commission (CEC) is the body responsible for conducting and overseeing the elections in Russia as well for organizing referendums in the 85 legal entities of the country. This Commission was founded in September 1993 and since March 22, 2016 is composed by 15 members, of which five of these are appointed by the State Duma of the Federal Assembly, other five are appointed by the Council of the Federation of the Federal Assembly and the last five are elected by the President of the Russian Federation. Those selected hold the position for a period of five years. The current composition of the Central Election Commission expresses a wide range of political views and represents both parliamentary and non-parliamentary political parties.



The Inter-American Institute of Human Rights (IIHR) was created in 1980 by an agreement between the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and the Republic of Costa Rica. This Institute is an autonomous, academic, international entity dedicated to the teaching, research, and promotion of human rights. It facilitates dialogue between the various actors of the human rights movement and the state authorities. Its mission is to promote respect to the human rights to contribute to the consolidation of democracy and justice in the Inter-American sphere, in coordination with the organs of the Inter-American system, actors from civil society, the academy and the States.

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VI. PROGRAM

Monday, October 26th

Overview and implications	
9:30 to 10:00	Welcome remarks <i>Lorenzo Córdova Vianello, INE's President Councilor</i>
10:00 to 10:50	Presentation and methodology <i>Carlos Navarro Fierro, Director of International Studies and Projects -CAI-INE</i>
11:00 to 11:50	Pandemic, democracy, and human rights <i>Joseph Thompson,</i>
12:00 to 12:50	Risks to democracy and governance <i>Staffan Darnolf</i>
13:00 to 13:50	Regional overview <i>Alejandro Tullio,</i>
14:00 to 14:45	Adjustments and findings of electoral observation missions in Latin America <i>Gerardo de Icaza, Director of the Department for Electoral Cooperation and Observation-OAS</i>

Tuesday, October 27th

Electoral and institutional campaigns	
10:00 to 10:50	Impact considerations on institutional campaigns <i>Hugo Picado, Director of the Institute for Training and Studies in Democracy -TSE</i>
11:00 to 11:50	The Dominican Republic experience <i>Luis Núñez, Central Electoral Board of the Dominican Republic</i>
12:00 to 12:50	Overview on Africa <i>Justin Doua, Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa</i>
13:00 to 13:50	Findings from the International IDEA project with emphasis on electoral campaigns <i>Eric Asplund, Program Officer from International IDEA</i>

Wednesday, October 28th

Organization and logistics of the process	
10:00 to 10:50	The Bolivia / Ecuador experience <i>To be confirmed</i>
11:00 to 11:50	Adjustments and innovations in electoral organization and logistics <i>Sofía Vincenzi, Operations Coordinator of the Center for Electoral Promotion and Advisory</i>
12:00 to 13:50	First block of participants' presentations <i>To be confirmed</i>

Thursday, October 29th

Voting and vote counting	
10:00 to 10:50	The Bolivia/Ecuador experience <i>To be confirmed</i>
11:00 to 11:50	Civil society and its role in electoral processes <i>To be confirmed</i>
12:00 to 13:50	Second block of participants' presentations <i>To be confirmed</i>

Friday, October 30th

Use of new technologies and foresight	
10:00 to 10:50	Technological implications <i>Peter Wolf, Senior Expert of International IDEA</i>
11:00 to 11:50	Southeast Asia Outlook <i>Antonio Spinelli, Senior Councilor of International IDEA</i>
12:00 to 12:50	The Russian experience <i>Yulia Kudeneeva, Senior Councilor of the Central Elections Commission of Russia</i>
13:00 to 13:50	Offset and closure <i>Plenary session</i>

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VII. SPEAKERS' PROFILES



Lorenzo Córdova Vianello is President of the General Council of the National Electoral Institute (INE) since April 2014. Doctor in Political Theory by the University of Turin, Italy. He is a researcher at the Institute of Legal Research of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) and member of the National System of Researchers, level III. Also, he is the author of several texts on electoral, constitutional, and political theory issues and has a substantial participation in electronic and printed media. He is a member of the Governing Board of the Institute for the Study of the Democratic Transition. He served as Technical Secretary of the working group that processed the Political Reform in the Senate of the Republic of Mexico during 2010 and was Electoral Councilor of the former IFE from December 2011 to April 2014.



Manuel Carrillo Poblano holds a bachelor's degree in Political Sciences and Public Administration granted by the National Autonomous University of Mexico's (UNAM) Faculty for Political and Social Sciences. He has a Master's degree in Political Sciences by the El Colegio de Mexico's Center for International Studies. He was Deputy Director for Political Analysis of the Ministry of State's National Security and Research Department. Since 1993 he has been the Head of INE's (former IFE) Foreign Affairs Unit.



Carlos Navarro Fierro is the Director of International Electoral Projects and Studies in International Affairs section of the National Electoral Institute (INE). He has a bachelor's degree in International Relations and a Master's in Latin American Studies from National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM). He is the author of various comparative studies on electoral politics and many publications that give insights to the Federal Electoral Institute on the international community. He has participated in international missions of technical assistance on topics such as regulation, control and supervision of the financing of political parties and electoral campaigns, electoral systems, voting abroad and electoral organization. He has been a representative of the institute in international election observation missions, as well as a speaker in different forums at various institutions and associations of electoral bodies



Antonio Spinelli is a Senior Advisor for Electoral Processes and Political Participation and Representation for the International IDEA's Asia and the Pacific Regional Program. He has a bachelor's degree in Political Science and International Relations at Guglielmo Marconi University of Rome (Italy) and a MA in Electoral Policy and Administration (ongoing) at Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies, Institute of Law, Politics and Development in Pisa, Italy. Since 1992, he has primarily engaged in the management of large-scale electoral assistance projects, mostly in transitional political and democratic settings, conflict and post-conflict environments and peacekeeping operations for numerous organizations. From 2003 to 2007

he worked as a Senior Program Officer for the Electoral Processes Program at International IDEA's headquarters and from 2017 to 2019, Spinelli managed International IDEA's Office and programs in Nepal and South Asia. Additionally, he conceptualized and led the transformation of the ACE Project from a static online repository of electoral knowledge to the multidimensional and interactive global electoral knowledge management network that ACE is today.



Gerardo de Icaza has been Director of the Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation since March 1, 2014. In his position as Director, he has led more than 50 Electoral Observation Missions in more than 20 countries. Between February and July 2018, he served as Secretary for Strengthening Democracy. Previously, at the INE he served as Deputy Director of Normativity in the Coordination of the Vote of Mexicans Residing Abroad and Coordinator of the Technical Committee of Specialists for the Vote of Mexicans Residing Abroad. He also was Head of the International Affairs Unit in the Electoral Tribunal of the Federal Judicial Branch. He has a Law Degree and a master's degree in International Relations and Communication. He has been a visiting professor at Princeton, Georgetown, and Science Po Universities and has published numerous academic articles on democracy and electoral systems in various languages.



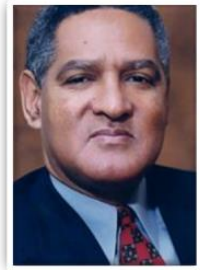
Joseph Thompson is the Executive Director and legal representative of the IIHR for the period 2017-2021, He is a lawyer and university professor, specialized in International Law. From 2000 to 2014 he was Director of the Center for Electoral Advice and Promotion (CAPEL) a specialized program of the IIHR for the promotion of democracy, political rights, and elections. Likewise, he was Deputy Director of the Institute until June 2013. Also, he is the author of various articles, books and specialized research on issues of justice, democracy, electoral systems, Human Rights and International Law.



Alejandro Tullio is the Director at the Institute of Legal Sciences of the National University of San Martín. He is a lawyer specializing in public affairs, with experience in electoral law and administration; he was the National Electoral Director from May 2001 to December 2015 and participated as an observer in numerous electoral processes in the region. He teaches the subjects of Human Rights, Public International Law, Constitutional Law, Electoral Law and Institutions, Regulation of Political Subjects. Also, he is a member of the Academic Council of the Master in Electoral Analysis, Regulation and Management at the School of Politics and Government. In addition, he is a founding member of the Electoral Council of UNASUR and is the author of numerous legal publications.



Hugo Picado León is a substitute Magistrate of the Supreme Court of Elections (TSE) and General Director of the Institute of Training and Studies in Democracy (IFED in Spanish). He has a bachelor's degree in Law from the University of Costa Rica, a master's degree in Latin American Studies from the University of Salamanca (Spain) and a Doctor's Degree in Rule of Law and Global Governance from the same university. Since 1993 he has been a TSE official, holding the positions of Legal Assistant, Electoral Inspector and Legal Advisor. During various electoral processes he has been Electoral Advisor (1994), Deputy Coordinator (1998) and Coordinator of the Electoral Advisors Program (2002), Supervisor of Electoral Programs (2007), spokesperson before the media (2010, 2014, 2016, 2018) and responsible for the Informed Voter program (2010, 2014, 2016, 2018). As well he has worked as a professor in several universities in Costa Rica and has several publications in his name.



Luis Arias Núñez is a renowned jurist, university professor, writer and diplomat. He has a Doctor's Degree in Law from the Autonomous University of Santo Domingo and another one in Legal Sciences from the University of Warsaw; he also has a specialty in International Law. He has been a professor at the Autonomous University of Santo Domingo and at the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO). He was an ambassador, first in Canada in 2007 and later in Uruguay (2017). He was also President of the Central Electoral Board, from 2002 to 2006. He held the positions of Dean of the Faculty of Legal Sciences of the Autonomous University of Santo Domingo, Director of the Department of Legal Sciences, was Director of the Law and Politics magazine and also was a columnist for the newspapers: "The sun and today" and "Free Journal of Santo Domingo."



Justin Doua is a Program Manager for Elections and Political Processes in the Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa (EISA). His areas of expertise focus on supporting electoral processes by facilitating consultations and meetings, supporting the establishment of elections conflict management panels, supporting civic and voter education, public outreach and the training of all the actors involved during an electoral process. In addition to this, he has experience in Governance and Human Security, Human Rights, Local Governance and Leadership. In the 7 years he has been working for EISA he has held the positions of: Country Director in Somalia (from 2016-2019), Country Representative in Mali (from 2013-2015) and in Chad (2012-2013), Field Director in Egypt (2011-2012) and Head of the Commercial and Marketing Division in Abidjan, Ivory Coast (from 2005-2011).



Erik Asplund is a Programme Officer in the Electoral Processes Program, International IDEA. He has a bachelor's degree in Modern History, Economic History and Politics (Royal Holloway University of London, UK) And a Master's in International Studies (Uppsala University, Sweden). He is currently managing *the Global Overview of COVID-19: Impact on Elections* project. Other of his focus areas include: Electoral Risk Management, Financing of Elections and Training in Electoral Administration with an emphasis on BRIDGE and Electoral Training Facilities. He also operated as the ACE Electoral Knowledge Network Coordinator from 2015 until 2016. He has worked directly with over two dozen election management bodies and civil society organizations in Latin America, Africa, Europe, and Asia on various electoral capacity development projects. Asplund has also worked with the Democracy Assessment and Analysis Program with a focus on the State of Democracy and State of Local Democracy citizen-led democracy assessments.



Sofia Vincenzi Guilá is the Operations Coordinator of the Electoral Advisory and Promotion Center (CAPEL, its acronym in Spanish). She studied Political Science in Costa Rica University. Since 1989, she has been an official of the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights (IHR) and CAPEL. Also, she has been present in an important number of observation missions in different countries of Latin America. She has extensive experience coordinating the Executive Secretariat of the Inter-American Union of Electoral Bodies, the Association of Electoral Bodies of Central America and the Caribbean and the Association of Electoral Bodies of South America. In addition, in September-October of 2011 she participated in the European Union Visitors Program (EUVP).



Yulia Kudeneeva is a Senior Consultant in the Department of Relations with Political Parties and International Cooperation. She has a PhD in Political Science. Since 2014 she has been working with various election observers. Likewise, she has participated as an electoral observer in several countries, thanks to bilateral invitations and as a member of international electoral observation missions.



Peter Wolf works for International IDEA's Electoral Processes team. He has a Master of Science (Graz University of Technology, Austria). His currently work focuses on the application of digital technologies in elections, emerging challenges, and the sustainable and trusted implementation of ICTs in electoral processes. He worked as a consultant and expert in election related ICT projects in Albania, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Iraq. He also has served in various international election observation missions as voter registration and electronic voting expert in France, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Philippines, and Venezuela. Wolf is responsible for International IDEA's databases and has authored numerous International IDEA publications focused on biometrics,





cybersecurity, certification, electronic voting, open data, open source technology and electoral management.






Staffan Darnolf is IFES Senior Global Electoral Operations and Administration Advisor. He holds a bachelor's degree in Public Administration granted by Goteborg University in Sweden and has a Doctorate in Political Science with a focus on elections in emerging democracies from the same university. He has over 30 years of experience as a scholar and practitioner in democratization and electoral processes. He specializes in electoral reform in emerging democracies and post-conflict societies and has published many books, chapters, and articles throughout his career. Currently, he is analyzing how the COVID-19 pandemic impacts election commissions' abilities to properly plan and organize elections during a public health crisis. Prior to this, he served as IFES' director of Program Development and Innovation and led IFES' office in Zimbabwe. From 2005-2010 he served as IFES' senior elections expert and country director in Moldova, Pakistan, Cambodia and Nepal. Also, Darnolf was involved in the transitional elections in Afghanistan between 2003-2005.

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VIII. PARTICIPANTS' PROFILES

Country	Name/Position	Profile	Electoral Body
<p>Bolivia</p> 	 <p>Alex Jaime Quispe Beltrán <i>Community Democracy Education First Professional</i></p>	<p>He is a Lawyer with work experience in the Electoral Court of Oruro as Electoral Inspector, Electoral Coordinator, General Coordinator, Digitizer, Electoral Trainer and Electoral Facilitator. He currently works as a Community Democracy Education First Professional in the Supreme Electoral Tribunal in the National SIFDE in the Electoral Education and Training section, where he is also responsible for electoral training at the national level in different electoral processes carried out by the OEP.</p>	 <p>Supreme Electoral Tribunal</p>
	 <p>José Antonio Orellana Aguilar <i>Electoral Logistics</i></p>	<p>He has a degree in Computer Science. He has 20 years of experience in the electoral field, in which he has served as Application Developer, Electoral Geography Operator and Head of Technologies in the Electoral Court of Cochabamba, as well as Database Officer in the Electoral Court of Tarija. He is currently in charge of Electoral Logistics in the National Directorate of Electoral Processes of the TSE of Bolivia.</p>	

Country	Name/Position	Profile	Electoral Body
Brazil 	Vitor Silva de Araujo <i>Special Advisor to the Presidency</i>		 Tribunal Superior Eleitoral Superior Electoral Court

Country	Name/Position	Profile	Electoral Body
Colombia 	 Judy Marcela Ulloa Beltrán <i>Strategic Communications Advisor</i>	<p>Es Comunicadora Social y Periodista con 19 años de experiencia en el sector público y en medios de comunicación. Actualmente cursa una maestría en Comunicación Política y Marketing Político y Electoral. Tiene experiencia en el manejo de crisis, campañas políticas, estrategia en comunicación política y electoral, cubrimientos nacionales e internacionales y en el reporte de acontecimientos en vivo y en directo. Actualmente es asesora de la oficina de Comunicaciones y prensa de la Dirección de Comunicaciones Estratégicas del Consejo Nacional Electoral de Colombia. She holds a bachelor's in Communication Studies and Journalism with 19 years of experience in the public sector and in the media. She is currently pursuing a master's degree in Political Communication and Political and Electoral Marketing. She has experience in crisis management, political campaigns, political and electoral communication strategy, national and international coverage and in live and direct reporting of events. She is currently an advisor to the Communications and Press Office of the Directorate of Strategic Communications of the National Electoral Council of Colombia.</p>	 National Electoral Council



José Antonio Vargas Yuncosa
*Inspection and Surveillance
Advisor*

He is an Administrator specialized in Public Management and Senior Management, as well as a Master in Economic Sciences.



Carlos Alberto Leyva Namen
Professional

He is a lawyer specialized in administrative law with a master's degree in Public International Law for peace, justice, and development. Professional of the electoral area of the National Registry of Colombia and international electoral observer on two occasions.



REGISTRADURÍA
NACIONAL DEL ESTADO CIVIL

National Civil Registry




**Juan Camilo
Ramírez Rodríguez**
Specialized Professional

He is a Professional in Finance and Foreign Trade and a Professional in Music, with a specialization in Direction and Project Management. With more than six years working in the National Civil Registry, he has experience in all electoral processes carried out in Colombia, as well as in the implementation of quality management systems ISO 9001: 2015 and ISO / TS 54001: 2019, in auditing and maintenance of the quality management system and electoral contractual matters and their supervision processes.



**Carlos Antonio
Coronel Hernández**
District Registrar

He is a lawyer, specialist in administrative law and has a master's in Political Science. He has extensive experience in operation, planning, analysis, litigation, and research in electoral matters. He has served as a legal advisor on partisan and presidential campaigns. He collaborates as a university professor in politics and democracy at undergraduate, specialization and master levels. He is the author of books on Mechanisms for Citizen Participation. Officer on a national leadership level of the electoral body in Colombia.

Country	Name/Position	Profile	Electoral Body
Costa Rica 		She has a Bachelor of Public Administration and a master's in Computer Science with an emphasis on information systems. She worked for seven years in the Operational and Evaluative Inspection Division of the Comptroller General of the Republic. In the Supreme Electoral Court, she oversaw the Expense Settlement	



Alejandra Peraza Retana
*Head of the Electoral
Programs Department*

Review Area, participating in the Electoral Observation Mission (EOM / OAS) of the Republic of Ecuador in 2019 as a financing specialist. She is currently the head of the Electoral Programs Department, where she oversees organizing the logistics of the electoral and consultative processes.








Ana Cristina Vinocour Vargas
*Head of the Electoral
Administration Area*





She holds a Bachelor of Political Science and a master's in Business Administration with an emphasis in Finance by the University of Costa Rica. She has 19 years of experience in the Supreme Electoral Court, occupying the positions of head of the Electoral Development area of the Electoral Programs Department and head of the Electoral Administration Area of the General Directorate of the Electoral Registry. In 2007 she enrolled in the Electoral Observer Service program for the Referendum held in that same year; she has participated in the supervision of plebiscites on a local level in different communities of the country.







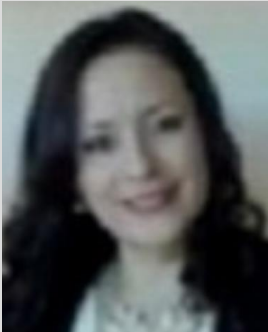

Supreme Electoral Court

Country	Name/Position	Profile	Electoral Body
Ecuador 	<p>Martín Santiago Pineda <i>National Director of Electoral Processes</i></p>		 Consejo Nacional Electoral
	 <p>María Fernanda Paredes Loza <i>Advisor to the presidency</i></p>	<p>She is a Doctor of Jurisprudence from the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador, a Master in Electoral Affairs from the University of Valencia, and the Adeit Foundation. She has worked in the private and public sectors in the National Anticorruption Commission, the Council for Children and Adolescents, the National Council for Women and in the Electoral Disputes Court since 2009.</p>	 Electoral Disputes Court
	 <p>Geoconda Alexandra</p>	<p>She holds a master's in International Sciences and is a Lawyer of the Courts of Appeals of the Republic of Ecuador from the Central University of Ecuador. He has a Diploma in Electoral Processes from the OAS-Flacso Chile. She served as a judicial officer in the Provincial Court of Justice of Pichincha-Juzgados de Niñez, public defender, member of the Provincial Electoral Board in Pichincha, El Oro, Carchi. She was the Director of Inspection and Control of Electoral Expenditure at the Ecuadorian CNE, advisor at the Postal Regulation and Control Agency, legal analyst at the Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion, and advisor to the Office of the Presiding Judge at the TCE-Ecuador.</p>	

	Silva Mozo <i>Advisor to the Office of the Presidency</i>		
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Country	Name/Position	Profile	Electoral Body
El Salvador 	 José Roberto Gómez Cruz <i>Electoral Organization Directorate</i>	<p>He oversees the administration of electoral processes and coordinating the implementation of special plans, as well as the National Registry of Natural Persons, managing the operations, processes, and procedures inherent to the Single Identity Document Registration System. He has served as a coordinating member and consultant-advisor in the area of Electoral Planning and Electoral Observer EOM Nicaragua and international coordinator and electoral observer EOM Ecuador; as well as consultant-advisor for the Electoral Logistics area and the area of planning and implementation of electoral processes in the Technical Assistance Program to the CSE of Nicaragua of IIHR / CAPEL.</p>	 Supreme Electoral Court
	 Jaime Edgardo Juárez <i>Director for Strengthening of Democratic Institutions</i>	<p>He has academic training in Computing and senior management. Since 2006, he has served as Director of Strengthening Democratic Institutions at the TSE, where he is in charge of creating, maintaining and developing relationships with different actors in electoral processes such as political parties, civil society organizations and institutions of the Salvadoran State. In addition, he has worked in national and international cooperation, as well as support in international relations.</p>	

Country	Name/Position	Profile	Electoral Body
Guatemala 	 Andrea Susana Morales Lémus <i>Head of the Research Department</i>	<p>She has a degree in International Relations with a master's in Development. She has ten years of experience in analysis of political phenomena in Guatemala, especially the electoral system; political participation and democracy. She is currently head of the Investigation Department of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal of Guatemala, specifically in the Civic-Political and Electoral Training and Training Institute. She has also worked at the Rafael Landívar University, in Public Advocacy, the ASIES think tank and the Central American Institute for Political Studies.</p>	 Supreme Electoral Court

Country	Name/Position	Profile	Electoral Body
Honduras 	 Blanca Cecilia Laínez Zelaya <i>Analyst of Internal Control</i>	<p>She has 22 years of experience in the Public Administration, occupying positions as auditor, technical analyst, and professional technician, with 20 years of seniority in the Superior Court of Audit of Honduras. Advisor to the Auditing Board of the National Registry of Persons and currently in the Expenditure Pre-Intervention Unit in the National Electoral Council.</p>	 National Electoral Council





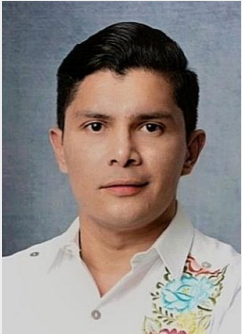
**Yolanda Carolina
Velásquez Gálvez**
Electoral Director Assistant

She is a lawyer from the National Autonomous University of Honduras and has a Master in Electoral Law from the University of Castilla-La Mancha. She has worked in the National Electoral Council since 2002.



**Félix Gerardo
Martínez Umanzor**
Legal Advisor

He has a Degree in Legal and Social Sciences and a Lawyer by Homologation from the National Autonomous University of Honduras. He has a Master in Electoral Law from the University of Castilla La Mancha in Spain, as well as a diploma in criminology. He has been a Notary Public since 2014 and legal advisor and procedural representative of the CNE by virtue of conferred powers in administrative and judicial matters. Conciliator and arbitrator for the Chamber of Commerce and Industries of Tegucigalpa D.C.

Country	Name/Position	Profile	Electoral Body
<p>México</p> 	 <p>Mayra Fabiola Bojórquez González <i>President Councilor</i></p>	<p>She is a PhD candidate in Electoral Law at the Electoral Research and Training Institute of the Electoral Tribunal of the State of Jalisco. She holds a master's degree in Electoral Law from the Electoral Research and Training Institute of the Jalisco State Electoral Tribunal, as well as in Administration of Educational Institutions from the Monterrey Institute of Technology and Higher Education. She served as president of the Observatory of Political Participation of Women in the State of Campeche, and since 2017 she has served as vice president of the Association of Electoral Institutions and Procedures. Member of the American Conference of Subnational Electoral Organizations for Electoral Transparency (CAOESTE). - Certified member of Women Leaders of the Americas, since 2019. - Member of the Mexican Association of Councilors and Former Electoral Councilors, A.C., since 2020.</p>	 <p>Electoral Institute of the State of Campeche</p>
	 <p>Abner Ronces Mex <i>Electoral Councilor</i></p>	<p>He holds a Ph.D. in Electoral Law at the Electoral Research and Training Institute of the State of Jalisco. Degree in Law from the Autonomous University of Campeche and Master in Electoral Law from the Electoral Research and Training Institute of the Electoral Tribunal of the State of Jalisco. He has a specialty in Electoral Justice from the Judicial School of the Electoral Tribunal of the Federal Judicial Power. In the public function he has held different positions in the administrative and jurisdictional electoral authorities of the State of Campeche. He is currently Electoral Counselor of the Electoral Institute of the State of Campeche.</p>	
		<p>She is a PhD candidate in Electoral Law. Degree in Law from the Autonomous University of Campeche and Master in Electoral Law from the Electoral Research and Training Institute of the Electoral Tribunal of the State of Jalisco. She studied specialties in Culture of Legality taught by the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences, as well as in Electoral Justice taught by the Electoral Tribunal of the</p>	



Miriam Margarita Rosas Uriostegui
Executive Director of Electoral Organization, Political Parties and Groups

Federal Judicial Branch. She has held various positions in the Electoral Institute of the State of Campeche, being appointed in 2011 as head of the Directorate of Electoral Organization, Parties and Political Groups.



Antonio Ortiz Hernández
Electoral Councilor

He is a Chemical Industrial Engineer from the Technological Institute of Celaya and a master's in public administration from the Universidad del Valle de México, Chapultepec campus. He has served as District Executive Member in District Executive Boards 17 and 24, in Cuajimalpa and Coyoacán respectively, in Mexico City. He was also President of the District Council for the 2012 and 2015 federal electoral processes, as well as for the electoral process of the Constituent Assembly of Mexico City in 2016. He is currently Electoral Counselor in the General Council of the Electoral Institute of the State of Guanajuato.

She has a Law Degree and a master's degree in Public Administration and Public Policies. He did a research stay on strategic planning and governance at the University of Deusto, Bilbao. She has several diplomas given by the University of Texas, the University of Guanajuato, the Center for Economic Research and Teaching, A.C., the Supreme Court of Justice of the Nation and the Organization of



Electoral Institute of the State of Guanajuato



Beatriz Tovar Guerrero
Electoral Councilor

American States. She belongs to the Mexican Society of State Electoral Counselors, to the National Network of Civic Education and to the National Network of Electoral Counselors and Counselors for an Inclusive Democracy. She is a specialist in public budget, strategic management, project management, public policy, political analysis, civic culture, and electoral strategy.

Pedro Pablo Martínez Ortiz
Executive Secretary



Omar Said Tapia Cruz
Executive Director of Prerogatives and Electoral Organization

He has a Law Degree, a Master in Electoral Law and in Gender, Law and Criminal Procedure, as well as a Doctor of Political Science. He has attended academic research stays on electoral matters. He currently works as Executive Director of Prerogatives and Electoral Organization at the Electoral and Citizen Participation Institute of the State of Guerrero.



Electoral and Citizen Participation Institute of the State of Guerrero



Miguel Ángel García Onofre
President Councilor

César Huerta Méndez
Executive Secretary



Juan de Dios Álvarez Ortiz
Executive Secretary

He has a Law Degree from the National Autonomous University of Mexico. He served as Electoral Organization Member of the second Executive District Board of the then IFE in the Federal District, and later as Executive Member of the first Executive District Board in the State of Quintana Roo. In Puebla, he was Executive Member of the 14th Executive District Board in Izúcar de Matamoros and was later appointed to the seventh Executive District Board in Tepeaca. He has participated as a special guest and speaker at various courses, workshops, courses, and forums specialized in political and electoral life in our country.



Instituto Electoral del Estado

**Electoral Institute of the
State of Puebla**



INSTITUTO ELECTORAL DE TAMAULIPAS

**Electoral Institute of the
State of Tamaulipas**



**César Andrés Villalobos
Rangel**

*Executive Director of
Electoral Organization and
Logistics*

He served as Member of the District Electoral Organization of the National Electoral Institute from September 2011 to February 2020. As of March 2020, he is Executive Director of Electoral Organization and Logistics at the Electoral Institute of Tamaulipas.



**Delta Alejandra Pacheco
Puente**

Electoral Councilor

She is a PhD candidate in Criminal Sciences and Criminal Policy at INACIPE. Master's in education and in Procedural Law from the Marist University of Mérida. She is currently the Electoral Councilor of the State of Yucatán and a teacher at various universities. She was Director of the National Electoral Professional Service at the IEPAC and Academic Coordinator of the Law School of the Marist University of Mérida. She has several publications, including the collective book Victimology and Victim Hope in Ibero-America for a Humanity Based on the Universal Value of Life and Human Dignity, Victim Studies Collection.

He has a bachelor's degree in Marketing and International Business and a master's degree in Neuroeducation. Educational entrepreneur and founder of Digital Responsibility. Awarded by UNESCO for "You are what you publish", with which he has traveled Mexico and Latin America to combat the risks of social networks. He is currently an






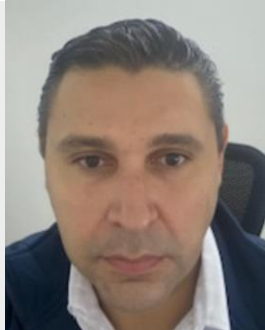
**Electoral and Citizen
Participation Institute of
the State of Yucatan**



Roberto Ruz Sahrur
Electoral Councilor




Electoral Counselor at the Yucatan Electoral and Citizen Participation Institute.





<i>Country</i>	<i>Name/Position</i>	<i>Profile</i>	<i>Electoral Body</i>
<p>Panama</p> 	 <p>Johanna Batista <i>Executive Assistant</i></p>	<p>She has experience in functions that involve logistics management, monitoring and controls of various processes.</p>	 <p>Electoral Court</p>







Juan Antonio Aversa B.
*Advisor to the Electoral
 Technical Unit*

He participated in the electoral and logistics organization of the 2017-2018 Internal Political Party Events, as well as in the 2019 General Elections of Panama. He is dedicated to the preparation of electoral budgets.

Country	Name/Position	Profile	Electoral Body
Paraguay 	Luis Alberto Salas <i>Director of Electoral Resources</i>	He has a degree in Philosophy. Specialized in electoral organization, cartography, and logistics. He has 24 years of experience in electoral matters.	 Supreme Electoral Court of Justice
 Christian Ruiz Díaz Gamarra <i>General Coordinator of Electoral Counseling</i>	He is a Lawyer and Notary Public. He has specializations in Electoral Law and University Teaching. He collaborates as a university professor in the chairs of Electoral, Political, Constitutional and Administrative Law. With 16 years of experience as a permanent civil servant, he currently works as General Coordinator of Electoral Counseling and member of the Special Commission for the implementation of technology in voting and tallying.		

Country	Name/Position	Profile	Electoral Body
Peru 	 Lila Esmeralda Villanueva Córdova <i>Specialist</i>	<p>She is an Industrial Engineer from UNT, with an MBA in Business Management from the Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos and an IRCA lead auditor. She has over 38 years of professional experience, the first ten years in the private sector in national and international companies and the rest in the public sector. Since 2000 she has specialized in the organization of electoral processes, attending to the planning process from programming, monitoring and evaluation, as well as modeling quality management and audit processes in the National Office of Electoral Processes ONPE.</p>	 National Office of Electoral Processes
	 Ida Dalila Carranza Rodríguez <i>Assistant manager</i>	<p>She has a degree in Statistics and a Master in Demography and Population. She was a teacher at the Ministry of Education and statistics at the Department of Statistics and Informatics. She held various positions in institutions such as the Ministry of Labor and the Social Security of Peru - ESSALUD. She has been working in the ONPE for 19 years, in the Management that oversees the organization and execution of the electoral process. She oversees formulating the budget of the Management, of the regional and decentralized offices.</p>	

Country	Name/Position	Profile	Electoral Body
Dominican Republic 	 Jorge Luis Capellán Amézquita <i>Technical Deputy Coordinator</i>	<p>He has a degree in Business Administration from the Universidad del Caribe. He completed a Diploma in Democracy, Governance and Political Leadership with a double degree from the Pontificia Universidad Madre y Maestra and the University of Granada. He has specialization in Administration, Modernization and Transparency in Public Administrations by the Ibero-American Union of Municipalists and EFEC. He attended the International Elections and Technology Seminar given by International IDEA and JCE, as well as the Course Workshop Understanding, Analysis and Application of the ISO 17582 / ISO 9001 standard requirements and Process Management given by the OAS.</p>	 Central Electoral Board
	 María de los Ángeles Llanes Amiama <i>Deputy Coordinator of Electoral Education</i>	<p>She has a degree in Business Administration and a Facilitator in Professional Training. She has conducted various courses and seminars, among which are Customer Service Management, Introduction to Total Quality for Executives, Financing of Political Parties and Perspectives for the Political Participation of Women, among others. As deputy coordinator of Electoral Education of the Central Electoral Board, she oversees training all the personnel involved in electoral processes, materials that are used, as well as budgeting and managing the resources of these training.</p>	

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