





# **VIRTUAL WORKSHOP ON**

# ELECTORAL REGISTRATION, TRAINING, AND POLITICAL PARTIES' REGIME FOR ELECTORAL AUTHORITIES AND POLITICAL PARTIES OF SURINAME.

April 25 to 28, 2022





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# 1. INTRODUCTION

Electoral democracy requires constant improvement and updating to meet the demands of a modern society, of citizens demanding their rights and of strong political parties intensely disputing access to political power.

Against this backdrop, the organization of elections has gradually become an object of specialized knowledge and practice. Today, those of us involved in the organization of elections are not only faced with a very widespread and diversified practice, but also a very complex one in its conduct in order to meet universally recognized international standards for free, clean, fair, equitable and reliable elections.

The classic standards of electoral democracy have not changed, what has changed are the parameters that are set to satisfy those attributes. Currently, the conditions in which electoral competitions are developed demand a higher quality performance from the electoral authority in order to comply with those standards. A training effort is required for electoral officials, in accordance with the new context of political demands.

The changes registered in the constant evolution of the electoral agenda demand new aptitudes (knowledge, skills and abilities) and new attitudes (values and behaviors) from those responsible for organizing elections in the world.

It is necessary to periodically review and adjust issues such as: the integration and updating of electoral registries; voting and counting mechanisms; voter information campaigns; special attention to unprotected groups; policies for the acquisition or production and distribution of electoral documentation and materials; and mechanisms to preserve the secrecy of the vote, among others.

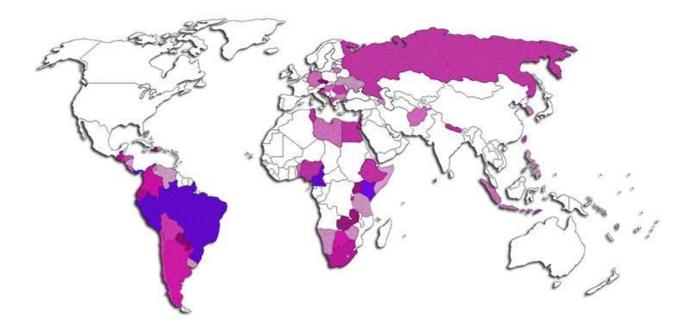
Therefore, the training, specialization and updating of the human resources that make up the electoral bodies have become a strategic imperative. Electoral training is a fundamental part of the electoral bodies for several reasons:

- > Promotes the specialization of knowledge on functions and topics of interest to them.
- Generates an institutional memory that makes procedures more efficient.
- Promotes research to deepen aspects of institutional interest or fosters knowledge about best practices.

#### International cooperation in the area of capacity building

Since 2004, the federal electoral authorities of Mexico, the National Electoral Institute (INE) (formerly the Federal Electoral Institute, IFE) and the Electoral Tribunal of the Judiciary of the Federation (TEPJF), together with the office in this country of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) have been carrying out a series of activities aimed at the authorities of electoral bodies in other countries, through workshops in which comparative experiences on specific topics of electoral administration and dispute resolution in the field are presented. It is from May 2008 that they are inserted under a new horizontal international cooperation scheme called International Program for Electoral Training and Research (PICIE), which would carry out pilot projects and, thanks to the results obtained, in September 2010, the Electoral Council approves the creation of the International Center for Electoral Training and Research (CICIE) which, until December 2021 has developed the following programs for the exchange of knowledge and experiences:

- ➤ 23 International Specialized Courses, of which 3 have been exclusively for INE officials and 4 of them in virtual mode.
- ➤ 8 Inter-American Electoral Seminars in partnership with the OAS.
- > 33 International Internships
- > 57 International Workshops



Among the various impacts caused by the SARS COV 2 pandemic, CICIE's face-to-face programs had been suspended. In this sense and adapting to the current requirements, the international cooperation programs have migrated to INE's technological infrastructure for online knowledge management. Thus, CICIE in 2020 and 2021 has developed four virtual internships on various topics such as: public financing and oversight of political actors' money; gender equality and the Protocol for transgender people. In addition, two international specialization courses were developed on the organization of elections in the context of health emergencies with electoral officials from Latin America and Africa and two courses on mechanisms of inclusion and direct democracy that promote greater citizen participation.

#### 2. INE - MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS COLLABORATION

#### 2.1 Current initiative

In September 2021, the Ministry of Home Affairs of Suriname asked the National Electoral Institute of Mexico for a horizontal cooperation program, in the virtual modality implemented by CICIE, in which the topics of electoral registration and training, as well as the political party regime and auditing will be addressed. It was agreed that the ideal date to carry it out would be the first four months of the year 2022.

On the part of the Ministry of Home Affairs of Suriname, the General Secretariat for Elections will participate, as well as the Bureau for Civil Registry. Also, given the relevance and

specificity of the topics, the Ministry opened the invitation to representatives of the country's political parties.

It was also agreed to invite other electoral bodies of the Americas with experience in these topics, with the objective of learning about different models and complementing the development of the workshop with their experiences.

# 2.2 INE – Ministry of Home Affairs

Cooperation between the electoral bodies of Mexico and Suriname has been carried out within the framework of multilateral programs. The first of these took place in 2008 in the I Inter-American Electoral Day, which was replicated from 2009 to 2014 in the II, III, IV, V, VI and VII Inter-American Electoral Day.

They addressed various topics such as the improvement of electoral registries, the relationship between the electoral authority and the media, georeferencing for electoral purposes, voting abroad, transparency mechanisms, among many others.

## 3. OBJECTIVE AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

The purpose of this Workshop is for the participants to:

- Exchange information on the electoral systems they have; as well as examine and discuss the attributions and functions of both electoral bodies.
- Explain and compare the ways in which electoral registration is carried out in the participating countries. Mechanisms and challenges.
- ➤ Detail the manner in which they conduct the electoral training of the officials at the polling stations.
- Become familiar with the political party system: financing and oversight.

The Virtual Workshop will take place from April 25 to 28, 2022, in an online modality, supporting its activities with videoconferencing platforms (Zoom), e-learning (Blackboard) and web tools (forms, file sharing, messaging) that facilitate the participation and dissemination of materials and experiences among participants. In response to the topics of interest requested by the electoral authorities of the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Workshop will be developed as follows: daily sessions lasting three hours (from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Mexico City time; from 12:00 to 3:00 p.m., Suriname time) in which INE experts, Surinamese participants and experts from the invited countries will interact in real time, through the Zoom platform.

After each presentation there will be a space for discussion and exchange of questions and answers.

#### 4. PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS



The **National Electoral Institute (INE)** is the autonomous public agency in charge of organizing federal elections, i.e., the election of the President of the Republic, Deputies and Senators that make up the Congress of the Union, as well as organizing, in coordination with the electoral agencies of the states, local elections in the states of the Republic and Mexico City.



The **Ministry of Home Affairs**, as a central service provider within the Surinamese government and society, is jointly responsible for the effective and efficient functioning of the public sector.

Among its responsibilities are ensuring quality civil administration; organizing plebiscites and elections, ensuring transparency of processes and procedures; further developing, implementing and disseminating the national gender policy, among others.



The **General Secretariat for Elections** ensures that the preparation and organization of elections is carried out on the basis of transparent processes and procedures, using updated and reliable citizen information. The active participation of society is encouraged for the benefit of the democratic process.



**Elections Canada** is an independent, non-partisan agency of Parliament. Its primary task is to be prepared at all times to administer an electoral event and referendums. The mission is ensure that Canadians can exercise their democratic rights to vote and be a candidate.



The Electoral Tribunal of Panama is an entity committed to provide quality services and confidentiality in the registration of vital facts, legal acts and identification of persons, guaranteeing the defense of democratic and ethical principles, subordinated to compliance with the Constitution and the Law.



The Supreme Electoral Tribunal of Costa Rica (TSE) is the highest Costa Rican electoral body; it was one of the main institutional innovations of the Political Constitution of 1949, since the TSE acquired the status of the fourth power of the State, equaling the Legislative, Executive and Judicial Powers. Currently, this organism performs four functions: electoral administration (it includes the organization, direction and control of all acts related to suffrage), civil registry (this also includes the elaboration of the electoral roll and the issuance of the identity card), jurisdictional and training in democracy.

# 5. PROGRAM (SURINAME'S TIME ZONE)

# Monday, April 25th

# POLITICAL-ELECTORAL SYSTEMS: SURINAME / MEXICO / COSTA RICA

RICA				
12:00 – 12:10	Welcome Session  Manuel Carrillo Poblano, Coordinator of International Affairs, INE			
12:10 – 12:15	Introductory message from the Ministerie van Binnenlandse Zaken Rihanto Hardjopawiro, Head of the General Secretariat for Elections, Suriname			
12:15 - 12:45	The political-electoral system of Suriname Mohamad N. Eskak, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Suriname			
12:45 – 13:15	Costa Rica's political-electoral system  Héctor Fernández Masís, General Director of the Electoral Registry and Financing of Political Parties, Superior Tribunal of Elections, Costa Rica.			
13:15 – 13:30	Mexico's political-electoral system  Carlos Navarro, Director of International Studies and Projects, INE, Mexico			
13:30 – 13:45	Questions & Answers The political-electoral system of Canada			
13:45 – 14:15	Laura Bosse, Analyst in the International, Interprovincial and Territorial Division of Elections Canada			
14:15 – 14:45	The political-electoral system of Panama Carlos H. Díaz, Deputy Director of the Institute for Democratic Studies (INED).			
14:45 - 15:00	Questions & Answers			

# Tuesday, April 26th

# **ELECTORAL REGISTRATION: SURINAME / MEXICO**

12:00 – 12:45	Voter registration and voting credentials in Suriname  Anastatia Kanape-Pokie, Director of Central Bureau for Civil		
	Registry, Suriname		
12:45 - 13:00	Questions & Answers		
	Electoral registration in Panama		
13:00 – 13:45	Magda Ceballos, Head of the Political Parties Department,		
	National Directorate of Electoral Organization.		
13:45 – 14:00	Questions & Answers		
	The Electoral Registry in Mexico		
14:00 – 14:45	Alejandro Andrade Jaimes, Coordinator of Technological		
	Processes at DERFE-INE		
14:45 - 15:00	Questions & Answers		

# Wednesday, Apil 27th

# ELECTORAL TRAINING: SURINAME / MEXICO

12:00 - 12:45	Election training in Sirunam		
	Sabitrie Gangapersad, Policy Officer of the General Secretariat		
	for Elections, Suriname		
12:45 – 13:00	Questions & Answers		
13:00 - 13:45	Electoral training in Mexico		
	Roberto Heycher Cardiel Soto, Executive Director of Electoral		
	Training and Civic Education To be confirmed, INE, México		
13:45 – 14:00	Questions & Answers		

# Thursday, April 28th

## POLITICAL PARTY REGIME AND OVERSIGHT: SURINAME / MEXICO / COSTA RICA

SURINAME / MEXICO / COSTA RICA				
13:00 – 13:20	The political parties' regime in Costa Rica Héctor Fernández, General Director of the Electoral Registry and Financing of Political Parties, Superior Tribunal of Elections,			
	Costa Rica			
13:20 – 13:40	Political Parties, Candidates and Campaign Funds Oversight in Costa Rica			
	Ronald Chacón Badilla, Head of the Political Party Financing			
	Department, Superior Tribunal of Elections, Costa Rica			
13:40 - 14:00	Questions & Answers			
14:00 – 14:40	Political Parties' Regime in Mexico: Public Financing Claudia Urbina, Head of Political Party Prerogatives Executive Office			
14:40 - 15:00	Questions & Answers			
15:00 – 15:40	Political Parties, Candidates and Campaign Funds Oversight in Mexico			
	Jacqueline Vargas, Executive Director of the Technical Unit of Oversight, INE, Mexico			
<b>15:40 – 16:00</b>	Questions & Answers			
16:00 – 16:20	Closure and conclusions			

#### 6. SPEAKERS PROFILES

# **National Electoral Institute (INE)**



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.



Alejandro Andrade Jaimes has been the Coordinator of Technological Processes at DERFE-INE since 2011. Previously he served as Deputy Director of Analytical Database Administration (from July 2008 to September 2011) and as Program Leader (August 2002 to June 2008). He holds a Master's Degree in High Business Management from the IPADE Business School and a Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical and Electrical Engineering from the Iberoamerican University.



Roberto Heycher Cardiel Soto, is Executive Director at the National Electoral Institute's (INE) Electoral Training and Civic Education Office; Technical Secretary at the Electoral Training and Civic Education Commission and the Institute's Editorial Committee. He is member of the Electoral Professional Service since 2003, being president of District and Local Councils in the states of Coahuila and Oaxaca. He holds a Master's in Electoral Affairs granted by the Autonomous University of Spain in Durango, and a PhD candidate in Strategic Planning and Technical Management by the Public Autonomous University of Puebla. He is a professor of post-graduate studies in various higher education institutions and has been a key-note speaker in





Claudia Urbina Esparza, Head of the Office of the Executive Directorate of Prerogatives and Political Parties since 2003. She holds a Law Degree and a Master's degree in Electoral Processes and Institutions. She has been a member of INE's National Electoral Professional Service since 1999.

From 1999 to 2002 she worked as Deputy Director of Political Parties at the DEPPP. She has been a pioneer in the implementation of various procedures of the political electoral system, in matters of: Independent candidacies, gender parity, affirmative actions for vulnerable groups and measures to eradicate gender-based political violence.



Jacqueline Vargas Arellanes, Executive Director of the Oversight Technical Unit. She holds a degree in Economics from the Autonomous Technological Institute of Mexico, a Master of Arts in Economics from the Catholic University of Leuven (Belgium) and a certification in International Taxation from Duke University and the Autonomous Technological Institute of Mexico. In the World Bank Group (WBG) she collaborated as an Advisor on tax matters; from 2004 to 2020 she worked at the Tax Administration Service (SAT), where she was Central Administrator of Legal Support and International Regulations, Central Administrator of International Tax Audit and Administrator of Advance Pricing Agreements on Transfer Pricing. She was also Head of the Directorate of Tax Policy and International Affairs at the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit.

#### SURINAME SPEAKERS PROFILES



Mohamad Nasier Eskak, Permanent Secretary of Home Affairs. He holds a Master in Public Administration (MPA) FHR Lim A Po Institut, School of Governance (2013 - 2015), he also has a Master of Science (MSc) in Public Administration for the University of Gadjah Mada (UGM), Yogyakarta-Indonesia (2006 - 2009). He completed a 2nd year student at the Institute for Education of Teachers (IOL), English Program, MOA (2004 - 2005). He has a Bachelor of Art (BA) in "Arabic Language, Literature and Islamic Sciences"; Faculty of Islamic Call, Tripoli-Libya (1998 - 2002).



Rihanto Jusuf Hardjopawiro is the Head of the General Secretariat for Elections Department of the Ministry of Home Affairs. He took part in the Management Team and the Policy Committee for Elections 2020 and has worked as Policy Adviser. Had a membership of the 2015 Elections Management Team. In June 2013, he worked as coordinator for the working groups "Recruitment Polling station staff Education and Training". From July 2010 – December 2013 he was a Junior Employee Personnel administration at the Personnel Policy Sub directorate.

After that, he held a position of Staff Officer General Service. Was a member of the 2011-2012 National Service Counting Committee. Membership of the General Secretariat for Elections Support Team during the 2010 Elections, (September 2009 – July 2010).



Anastatia Kanapé-Pokie is the Director of Central Bureau for Civil Registry (CBB in Dutch). She has been working at the Ministry in the CBB Office since 2004. She has also given her support to the Surveillance Department of the CTA, has worked as Deputy Coordinator of the Internal Affairs Department. Since 2012, she has been in charge of the Monitoring Department of the Central Population Administration. Also, she has successfully completed the I.M.E.A.O. and is currently in the final phase of her Pedagogy studies at the Teacher Training Institute.

In addition to her studies, she has experience in the electoral framework of Institutional Strengthening, Time Management and Gender Skills and Training.

**Sabitrie Gangapersad,** Policy Officer of the General Secretariat for Elections, Suriname

### **International representatives**



**Héctor E. Fernández Masis** is the General Director of the Electoral Registry and Financing of Political Parties of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal of Costa Rica.



Ronald Chacón Badilla, Head of the Political Party Financing Department of the TSE of Costa Rica. Certified Professional in Government Auditing. Bachelor's Degree in Accounting, with a Master's Degree in Public Accounting. He has experience in tasks related to the direction and coordination of the review processes of the liquidation of expenses presented by the political parties.



Laura Bosse has been an analyst in the International, Interprovincial and Territorial Division of Elections Canada since 2020. Before that, she held different positions in the federal and the provincial governments and worked for over two years at Lawyers Without Borders in Guatemala. She holds a Bachelor of Law (LLB), as well as a bachelor degree in business administration and a master degree in international studies from the University of Montreal. She is a member of the Quebec bar since 2019.



Carlos H. Díaz, Deputy Director of the Institute for Democratic Studies (INED). Lawyer for 26 years and university professor at Catholic University Santa María La Antigua for 23 years, among others. He has a Master's Degree in Maritime Law and Electoral Studies. He has been a trial lawyer, assistant magistrate in the Judiciary, Electoral Prosecutor in the First Judicial District. He has represented the Electoral Tribunal of Panama internationally as an International Observer in elections in other Latin American countries (El Salvador, Ecuador, Colombia, Mexico), as well as a speaker and participant in international congresses, workshops and seminars on Democracy and Elections.

He has several publications as a professor in the legal journal of the USMA and in the journal of the Electoral Tribunal *Electoral World*. He was the first director of the Center for Democratic Studies (CED) of the Electoral Tribunal since its creation in 2014 until August 2019, when it evolves into the Institute for Democratic Studies (INED).



**Magda Ceballos** is Head of the Political Parties Department, National Directorate of Electoral Organization of the TE of Panama.

She has a degree in Law and Political Science and a specialization in Higher Education from the Istmo University, a postgraduate degree in Political Communication from the Catholic University of Argentina (UCA in spanish) and an Expert Degree in Political Psychology from the Camilo José Cela University (Spain). She holds three Master's Degrees: Master's Degree in Electoral Studies from Specialized University of the Americas (UDELAS in spanish); Master's Degree in Higher Education with emphasis in Administration of Educational Centers from Istmo University (UDI) and Master's Degree in Commercial Law from University Santa María La Antigua (USMA).

She has also completed several diploma courses and has published the article "How representative is our electoral system?" in the CIDEM Magazine in 2011. As a teacher, she has been professor of the subject "Planning and Development of Political Parties" within the Master's Degree in Government and Public Opinion" at Hosanna University.

### 7. INFORMATION ON POLITICAL-ELECTORAL SYSTEMS



CANADA **OTTAWA** 

**OFFICIAL NAME** 

Canada

STATE

Federation



Canada is a federation composed of 10 provinces and 3 territories: Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Saskatchewan, Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut.

**POPULATION** 

38'246.108 (2021). The country's largest self-reported ethnic origin is Canadian (32%), followed by English (18.3%), Scottish (13.9%), French (13.6%), Irish (13.4%), German (9.6%), Chinese (5.1%), Italian (4.6%), First Nations (4.4%), Indian (4%), and Ukrainian (3.9%).

**GOVERNMENT** 

Federal parliamentary constitutional monarch

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

The **Governor General** acts as head of state and is the representative of the British monarch (currently Elizabeth II). A citizen with a distinguished record of public service to the nation may be nominated to the post by the Prime Minister and appointed by the monarch. Mary **Simon** currently holds the position.

The **Prime Minister** is the head of government and leader of the party with the majority of seats in the Lower House. There is no fixed term of office, since it is based on obtaining a vote of confidence from the Lower House. Since 2015, the Canadian Prime Minister has been Justin Trudeau.

**LEGISLATIVE** BRANCH

The **House of Commons** (*Lower House*) is composed of 338 members elected by direct vote for a five-year term. Usually, the leader of the political party holding the majority of seats is selected as prime minister.

The **Senate** (*Upper House*) consists of 105 members appointed by the governor general on the advice of the prime minister.

ELECTORAL **MANAGEMENT BODIES** 

Headed by the Chief Electoral Officer of Canada, **Elections Canada** is an independent, non-partisan agency of Parliament. Its primary task is to be prepared at all times to administer an electoral event.electoral.

Elections Canada



#### COSTA RICA SAN JOSÉ

**OFFICIAL NAME** 

Republic of Costa Rica

STATE

Unitary

ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION

Costa Rica is composed of 7 provinces -Alajuela, Cartago, Guanacaste, Heredia, Limón, Puntarenas and San José- which in turn are divided into 82 cantons and 488 districts. In Costa Rica there are 24 indigenous territories duly delimited by the central government and have limited autonomy.

**POPULATION** 

**5'163,038** (2021). The 2011 census classified 83.6% of the population as white or mestizo; the latter are persons of combined European and Amerindian descent. The Mulatto segment (mix of white and black) represented 6.7% and indigenous people made up 2.4% of the population.

**GOVERNMENT** 

Presidential republic

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

The executive power is vested in the **President** of the Republic, who is the Head of State and Government. He is elected for a term of 4 years (without the possibility of immediate reelection) by direct vote of the citizens in a specific majority system (40% of the valid votes). In case of failure to obtain this percentage, a second round is held. It should be noted that there are two vice presidencies.

The newly elected president is **Rodrigo Chaves**, the first vice-presidency is occupied by **Stephan Brunner Neibig** and the second by **Mary Munive Angermüller**.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

It is a *unicameral* system. The **Legislative Assembly** is composed of 57 deputies who are elected by direct vote for a term of 4 years (without the possibility of immediate reelection). The election system is by closed list proportional representation. The number of deputies for each province is assigned according to population density. The Supreme Electoral Tribunal reviews and redistributes the seats after each general population census.

ELECTORAL MANAGEMENT BODIES The **Supreme Electoral Court (TSE)**, with the rank and independence of any other power, is exclusively in charge of the organization, management and supervision of elections.





JAMAICA KINGSTON

**OFFICIAL NAME** 

Jamaica

STATE

Unitary

ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION

It is divided into 14 parishes, which are divided into 3 historical counties without administrative importance: Cornwall County- Hanover, Saint Elizabeth, Saint James, Trelawny, Westmoreland. Middlesex County-Claredon, Manchester, Saint Ann, Saint Catherine, Saint Mary. Surrey County- Kingston, Portland, Saint Andrew, Saint Thomas.

**POPULATION** 

**2′961,161** (2022).

**GOVERNMENT** 

Parliamentary monarchy

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

Executive power is exercised by the British monarch (Queen Elizabeth II) who is head of state and is represented by a general governor, appointed on the advice of the prime minister, who plays a mainly ceremonial role. The current governor is Patrick L. Allen since February 2009. The leader of the majority party in the House of Representatives is appointed prime minister. The current head of government has been the Prime Minister Andrew Holness since March 2016.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH It's bicameral and consists of the Senate and the House of Representatives. The **Senate** has 21 senators – thirteen appointed by the General Governor on the advice of the Prime Minister and eight appointed on the advice of the leader of the opposition party. The House of Representatives has **63** members elected by the people – trough single-member constituencies; by simple majority and their term of office is for a maximum of 5 years.<sup>1</sup>

ELECTORAL MANAGEMENT BODIES The **Electoral Commission of Jamaica** conducts legislative, municipal and referendum elections. It is also in charge of the Electoral Registry, Parties and Candidates, and the electoral financial administration.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> In Jamaica, the maximum duration of the elected Parliament is five years, after that time, it must be dissolved and a vote held within six months, although the Prime Minister could advise the General Governor at any time during that period and until new elections are held. In addition, Parliament will be dissolved and general elections will be called when a majority of the members of the House of Representatives support a motion of censure against the government (https://www.studycountry.com/es/guia-paises/JM-government.htm).



MEXICO CITY



OFFICIAL NAME

**United Mexican States** 

STATE

Federation

ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION

Mexico is organized as a federation comprising 32 states: Aguascalientes, Baja California, Baja California Sur, Campeche, Coahuila, Colima, Chiapas, Chihuahua, Mexico City, Durango, Guanajuato, Guerrero, Hidalgo, Jalisco, State of Mexico, Michoacán, Morelos, Nayarit, Nuevo León, Oaxaca, Puebla, Querétaro, Quintana Roo, San Luis Potosí, Sinaloa, Sonora, Tabasco, Tamaulipas, Tlaxcala, Veracruz, Yucatán and Zacatecas.

**POPULATION** 

**128'649,565** (2020).

**GOVERNMENT** 

Federal presidential republic

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

The executive power is vested in the **President** of the Republic, who is the head of State and Government. He is elected for a 6-year term (without the possibility of reelection) through direct vote of the citizens in a simple majority system.

The current president is **Andrés Manuel López Obrador**, elected in 2018.

It is a *bicameral* system. The **Chamber of Deputies** is composed of 500 members: 300 are elected by plurality vote in single-member districts (one for each federal electoral district); and 200 are elected by proportional representation in five electoral constituencies. The term of office is three years and they may be elected for up to four consecutive terms.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

The **Senate** consists of 128 members: 64 senators are elected by plurality (two per state); 32 are assigned through the principle of "first minority" (second place in the election, one for each state); and 32 are elected by proportional representation. The term of office is six years and they may be elected for up to two consecutive terms.

ELECTORAL MANAGEMENT BODIES The **National Electoral Institute (INE)** is an autonomous, public agency responsible for organizing federal elections and issuing the Voting Credential, among other activities for citizens.



The Electoral Tribunal of the Federal Judiciary (TEPJF) is a venue within the judiciary of Mexico that specialises in electoral matters. Among its functions are resolving disputes arising within federal elections and certifying the validity of those elections.

The **Specialized Prosecutor's Office for Electoral Crimes (FEDE)** is the institution that seeks justice in criminal-electoral matters.



### PANAMA PANAMA CITY

**OFFICIAL NAME** 

Republic of Panama

STATE

Unitary

ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION

The territory consists of 10 Provinces (Panama, Panamá Oeste, Colón, Bocas del Toro, Chiriquí, Darién, Veraguas, Los Santos, Coclé, Herrera) and by six indigenous regions (Kuna Yala, Emberá-Wounaan, Ngöbe-Buglé, Kuna de Wargandí, Kuna de Madungandí and Naso Naso Tjër Di since 2020). Politically, the Provinces are divided into Districts and Corregimientos (townships).

**POPULATION** 

**4'278,500** (2020).

**GOVERNMENT** 

Representative Democracy

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

It consists of the **President of the Republic** and the Ministers of State. The President of the Republic is elected by direct popular suffrage and by majority vote, for a period of 5 years. In the same way, a Vice President is elected. Both cannot be re-elected to the same office in the following two presidential terms. The current President is **Laurentino Cortizo** and the Vice President is **José Gabriel Carrizo**. His constitutional term is from 2019 to 2024.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH It is *unicameral*. The legislature consists of a **National Assembly**, whose members are elected by party or independent nomination, by direct popular vote for a 5-year term. Re-election is not currently prohibited for deputies or mayors, so re-election is indefinite. The Assembly is composed of 71 Deputies elected by single-member and multi-member circuits.

ELECTORAL MANAGEMENT BODIES The **Electoral Tribunal** is an autonomous, independent body with legal personality and its own assets. Interprets and applies the Electoral Law; directs, monitors, and supervises all



processes related to marital status, the issuance of the identity card and all phases of the electoral process.



#### DOMINICAN REPUBLIC SANTO DOMINGO



**OFFICIAL NAME** 

Dominican Republic

STATE

Unitary

ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION

It is divided territorially into 31 Provinces headed by a governor appointed by the executive power and 1 National District- the capital Santo Domingo, which is outside the provincial regime since the mayor's office is elective. It has 158 Municipalities and 232 Municipal Districts.

**POPULATION** 

**10,448,499** (2020).

**GOVERNMENT** 

Presidential republic

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

It is headed by the **President of the Republic** in his capacity as head of state and government. He is elected by direct vote for a term of 4 years and may only run for a second consecutive constitutional term. The law mandates a second round for the presidential election<sup>2</sup>. There is also a **Vice President** elected under the same conditions as the Chief Executive. The current President is **Luis Abinader** and the Vice President is **Raquel Peña**, both elected in 2020.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH It is *bicameral*. It is composed of the **Senate**, with 32 members (1 for each province and one more for the National District), and the **Chamber of Deputies**, made up of 190 deputies (a variable number in proportion to the population). The members of both chambers are elected by direct vote and under a proportional representation system, or by simple majority in the case of senators. The constitutional term of both officials is for 4 years.

ELECTORAL MANAGEMENT BODIES The **Central Electoral Board** is an autonomous body and is the highest authority in matters of administration and organization of the electoral processes.

The **Superior Electoral Tribunal** is an autonomous constitutional body and the highest authority in electoral litigation; his decisions are not subject to any appeal.





<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> 178 deputies elected by territorial constituency in proportion to population density; 5 deputies elected at the national level by accumulation of votes, preferably from parties or alliances that have not won seats; and 7 deputies elected representing the Dominican community abroad.



#### SURINAME PARAMARIBO



**OFFICIAL NAME** 

Republic of Suriname

STATE

Unitary

ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION

The country is divided into 10 administrative districts: Brokopondo, Commewijne, Coronie, Marowijne, Nickerie, Para, Paramaribo, Saramacca, Sipaliwini and Wanica.

**POPULATION** 

**595,000** (2021). The largest ethnic group are the East Indians which form about 27.4% of the population. However, the largest group of people are the Afro-Surinamese, at around 37.4%. They are usually divided into two cultural/ethnic groups: the Creoles (15.7%) and the Maroons (21.7%). Javanese make up 14% of the population.

**GOVERNMENT** 

Unitary assembly-independent republic

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

The **president** and **vice-president** are elected for a five-year term (with the possibility of immediate re-election) by a two-thirds majority of the National Assembly.

The current president is **Chandrikapersad Santokhi**, in office since 2020.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH It is a *unicameral* system. The **National Assembly** is composed of 51 members elected for a 5-year term by open list proportional representation. The Assembly is also in charge of electing the President of the Republic, for which a qualified majority of 2/3 of the members is required. If this majority is not achieved, the People's Assembly, which is an institution composed of 340 members, the members of the National Assembly and various regional representatives, is called upon to elect the President of the Republic.

ELECTORAL MANAGEMENT BODIES The **Independent Electoral Council**, collaborates with the Ministry of Home Affairs regarding the elections, oversees the general



elections and declares the election results legally binding for the country.

# 8. COMPARATIVE TABLES ON WORKSHOP TOPICS

Country	Electoral Roll	Election Training	Political parties and financial reporting
Canada	<ul> <li>Permanent through Elections Canada.</li> <li>The required age to vote is 18 years old.</li> <li>The procedure for electoral registration can be done by mail, at the local office or on the same day of voting at the polling station.</li> <li>The process can also be done automatically through the Canada Revenue Agency tax return, by checking "Yes" to the questions in the Elections Canada section.</li> <li>Any federal, provincial or local identification containing the voter's photograph, name and address is required to vote.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Elections Canada provides election officials with a series of manuals with information related to each position, as well as training videos to form a comprehensive program.</li> <li>The materials detail the protective measures currently in place at polling places due to the COVID19 pandemic.</li> </ul>	Political parties may be national and provincial. They are entitled to receive permanent public funding (a subsidy payable to a registered party will be determined for each quarter) and for campaign expenses.
Costa Rica	<ul> <li>Permanent.</li> <li>Since 1949, the Civil Registry was attached to the TSE to guarantee, from that moment on, the elaboration of the voters list and the identity card on the solid basis of civil data.</li> <li>The required age to vote is 18 years old.</li> <li>An identity card is required to vote.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>The TSE considers of vital importance the education and training of the people who actively collaborate with the organization and execution of the electoral processes.</li> <li>Electoral training for officials is one of the priority tasks of the Institute for Training and Studies in Democracy (IFED) and the Department of Electoral Programs in pre-electoral periods.</li> </ul>	the national, provincial and cantonal levels.  Public financing will contribute to cover the parties' expenses in electoral processes and will cover the parties' needs related to training and political organization in electoral and non-electoral periods.

Country	Electoral Roll	Election Training	Political parties and financial reporting
			scheme before the TSE for reimbursement.  • Parties must report quarterly on donations, contributions or contributions received.  • During the campaign, reports must be submitted
Jamaica	<ul> <li>Permanent.</li> <li>The Electoral Commission is the EMB in charge of managing and updating the electoral registry.</li> <li>Any citizen over the age of 18 can register on the voter's list and obtain their national identification card.</li> <li>The law does not make voter registration mandatory, however, as there is no national identification card, voter ID is used as a national ID and citizenship must be registered to receive it.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>For the conduct of Election Day, the Election Commission trains Election Day Workers (EDWs) and their Group Supervisors through a Training Manual reformulated in 2020.</li> <li>Each Election Day Worker receives a minimum of four 3-hour training sessions over a two-to-three-week period from trained Election Commission staff.</li> <li>All Workers may repeat their role in each electoral process in which they wish to participate, as long as they register and complete the training course for each occasion.</li> <li>The Election Commission has a General Administrator for each Parish, who will be in charge of receiving the application to be a Worker on Election Day, will give a general training and will make a</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>on a monthly basis.</li> <li>The Commission, through the Office of Registration of Political Parties, is responsible for the control, monitoring of financing, financial reports and budgetary declarations of political parties and electoral campaigns.</li> <li>Political parties with registration are entitled to receive in each budget year, state funding (in equal parts and no more than 40% of their income of the previous year). If they do not comply with their obligations, the Electoral Commission may suspend such payment.</li> <li>The law allows political parties to obtain money or benefits from sources other than the State.</li> </ul>

Country	Electoral Roll	Election Training	Political parties and financial reporting
		selection; those who are chosen will be provided with all the necessary information to carry out their work on Election Day.	
Mexico	<ul> <li>Permanent.</li> <li>INE conducts the administration of the registry instruments, by defining strategies for updating and purging the electoral roll, nominal list, electoral cartography and voting credential, for the federal and local elections.</li> <li>The required age to vote is 18 years old.</li> <li>In order to cast the vote, a Voting Credential is required.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>INE designs and promotes strategies for the integration of polling stations and the electoral training of the officials who will operate them.</li> <li>INE directs and supervises the research, analysis and preparation of didactic material required for the electoral training and civic education programs, to train citizens for the installation and operation of the polling stations, in their different modalities.</li> <li>Training is conducted in person and, in view of the COVID19 pandemic situation, a virtual system has also been implemented.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Political parties may be national or local.</li> <li>They receive public financing for the support of their permanent ordinary activities, specific activities and campaign expenses.</li> <li>Parties are required to submit quarterly reports to the INE on the progress of the fiscal year and annual reports on ordinary expenses.</li> <li>During the campaign, they must submit pre-campaign reports no later than 10 days after the end of the campaign; and campaign reports, for periods of 30 days from the beginning of the campaign stage, which must be submitted within the following 3 days after the end of each period.</li> <li>The reports must contain the origin and specific amount of the income, as well as the expenses incurred.</li> </ul>
Panama	<ul> <li>Permanent.</li> <li>The Electoral Tribunal has the obligation to facilitate the issuance of personal identity cards and to include citizens in the Electoral Registry. It will do so through the</li> </ul>	The Electoral Officials     Training Unit of the     Electoral Tribunal     designing,     administering and     evaluating training the     programs for electoral     officials. In addition, it     must train, select, and	<ul> <li>The recognized political parties are autonomous and independent and can only be intervened or supervised in their internal regime, management of funds and expenses in electoral processes by the Electoral Tribunal.</li> </ul>

Country	Electoral Roll	Election Training	Political parties and financial reporting
	department of Registration and Census of the National Directorate of Electoral Organization.  • Every citizen over 18 years of age is obliged to register in the place of his or her residence.  • In order to exercise the right to vote, it is obligatory to be registered in the Electoral Registry.	assign the members of the voting table.  To achieve success in the electoral processes, this Unit designs a National Training Plan.  The citizens summoned to voluntarily participate as jurors of the voting tables and members of the scrutiny boards, must attend a seminar and a training workshop, in addition to passing a written knowledge test, to participate in the electoral process.  Citizens who pass the training are assigned a position according to their skills. Priority is given to citizens who have electoral experience and whose performance in previous electoral processes has been satisfactorily evaluated.	They receive public financing for permanent and campaign activities. The subsidy for campaign expenses corresponds to 1% of the State budget and is delivered within 30 days following the date in which they justify their expenses. There is no limit on the amount that a political party may spend in an electoral campaign. But it does have the obligation to render accounts on campaign income and expenses.
Dominican Republic	<ul> <li>Permanent.</li> <li>The Central Electoral Board is the EMB responsible.</li> <li>The electoral registry is done through an administrative procedure, is requested by the citizen over 18 years.</li> <li>The inscription of the citizens to the electoral registry is personal, obligatory and free of charge.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>To be an official of an electoral college it is necessary to have participated and approved different stages of training authorized and taught by the Central Electoral Board and the electoral boards, based on a Training Plan, administration and organization of the electoral process.</li> </ul>	registration are only of national character.  They receive public financing for permanent activities based on an annual budget submitted to the Central Electoral Board and according to the porcentage of valid votes obtained in the last election.

Country	Electoral Roll	Election Training	Political parties and financial reporting
	An Identity and Electoral Card shall be issued to Dominican citizens who are able to exercise their right to vote.	The Central Electoral Board will create and supervise the Overseas Polling Stations (OCLEE) for the recruitment, training and selection of the people who will make up the Electoral Colleges Abroad.	for the presentation of candidacies.  They have guaranteed free access to radio and tv during the electoral campaign.  40% of the State resources received by the political parties, groups and movements are for campaign expenses.
Suriname	<ul> <li>Permanent.</li> <li>The Central Bureau for Civil Registry, on behalf of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, shall keep and update daily a register of electors, which shall include the persons included in the Central Population Register, entitled to vote.</li> <li>The required age to vote is 18 years old.</li> <li>A Voter's Credential is required to vote.</li> </ul>	The chairperson and the other regular and alternate members of the polling station and of the main polling stations are obliged to provide the supervisors appointed by the Electoral Council with the information necessary for the performance of their duties.	receive public funding, only private funding.

#### Lunes 25 de septiembre

