



Concept Paper
Third Inter-American Meeting of Experts and Representatives
of Electoral Bodies of the Member Countries
of the Organization of American States (OAS)

**“Approach towards a Reference Framework of common criteria
and optimal procedures for electoral processes management
and control”.**

Caracas, Thursday 29 and Friday 30 of July 2010

Participants

Experts and Representatives of the Electoral Bodies of the Member Countries of the Organization of American States (OAS)

Background and Justification

The General Assembly of the Organization of American States, on its fourth plenary session held in June 5th 2007, in the Republic of Panama, on the “Modernization and Use of Electoral Technologies in the Hemisphere,” through resolution AG/RES. 2337 (XXXVII-0/07), approved with satisfaction the offer of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to host the “Inter-American Meeting of Experts and Representatives of Electoral Bodies.” Likewise, it agreed to request the Permanent Council to convene this Meeting, to be held in Caracas, Venezuela, during the last quarter of 2007, in order to exchange experiences and better practices in the countries of the Hemisphere, on voters identification systems, voters’ registration processes, and automated electoral systems.

The OAS Permanent Council, through resolution CP/931 (1634/08), in its session of March 12th, 2008, in compliance with AG/RES 2337 (XXXVII-0/07) related to the calling, in Caracas, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the Inter-American Meeting of Experts and Representatives of Electoral Bodies, decided to call the Meeting for April 4th, 2008.

Conclusions drawn from this Meeting, in accordance with the abovementioned resolution of the Permanent Council, would be taken to the Fifth Inter-American Meeting of Electoral Authorities.

In compliance with the Permanent Council, the Electoral Power, through its top body, the National Electoral Council, organized the “1st Inter-American Meeting of Experts and Representatives of Electoral Bodies,”



held in Caracas, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, on April 3rd and 4th, 2008.

During the 1st Meeting, the importance of continuing the improvement of the electoral processes in the Hemisphere was reaffirmed, as a significant support for the credibility, transparency, and strengthening of the democratic institutionalality. It was highlighted that the automation, in a proper legal context, improves the process quality, and allows for publishing quick results that assure the trust and peace of mind of political actors and citizens in general. Likewise, participants acknowledged the high technological capability, in the electoral area, of the countries of the region, Venezuela's in particular, and agreed to encourage the countries in the Hemisphere that are moving towards the modernization and the use of electoral technologies.

The General Assembly of the Organization of American States, in its fourth plenary session, held in June 3rd, 2008, in the city of Medellin, Colombia, on "Modernization and Use of Electoral Technologies in the Hemisphere," through resolution AG/RES. 2428 (XXXVIII-O/08), when thanking the National Electoral Council for hosting the 1st Inter-American Meeting of Experts and Representatives of Electoral Bodies, agreed to ask the Permanent Council to convene a 2nd Meeting, to be held in Caracas, Venezuela, in 2009, with the objective of having a new exchange of experiences and better practices in the countries of the Hemisphere, on voters identification systems, voters registration processes, and automated electoral systems.

The conclusions from this Meeting, in accordance with the abovementioned resolution of the Permanent Council, would be taken to the 6th Inter-American Meeting of Electoral Authorities.

The Electoral Power, through its top body, the National Electoral Council, organized the 2nd Inter-American Meeting of Experts and Representatives of Electoral Bodies, held in Caracas, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, on June 11th and 12th, 2009.

During the 2nd Meeting it became evident that the electoral bodies and authorities apply common criteria and procedures to all the electoral processes that intend to guarantee the exercise and inalienability of the vote. Likewise, there are safety and auditability guarantees in each phase of the electoral process that ensure trust and transparency, a condition that is reinforced by the participation of the political actors and is disseminated among citizens.



In this sense, emphasis was made on the importance of creating a reference framework of optimal procedures for the management and control of manual or automated electoral processes, which would allow for complying with the criteria that guarantees the expression of the people's will.

In summary, the First and Second Inter-American Meetings of Experts and Representatives of Electoral Bodies, held in Caracas, on April 2008 and June 2009 respectively, provided for a venue to open a series of debates on fundamental subjects geared to deepen Latin American democracies, based on the voting process as one of its substantive procedures. There was progress in the systematization of such optimal criteria and procedures that improve the quality in managing and controlling the different electoral processes, considering that the technical knowledge accumulated by electoral bodies and authorities in the Hemisphere may be shared, systematized and improved, observing the singularities of the voting systems, and of the peoples and cultures in which they are taking place.

The General Assembly of the Organization of American States, in its fourth plenary session, held in June 4th, 2009, in San Pedro de Sula, Republic of Honduras, on "Modernization and Use of Electoral Technologies in the Hemisphere", through resolution AG/RES. 2528 (XXXIX-0/09), approved to request the Permanent Council to convene the "Third Inter-American Meeting of Experts and Representatives of Electoral Bodies," to be held in Caracas, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, in 2010, with the objective of collecting the common criteria and optimal procedures that the electoral bodies and authorities use to guarantee the management and control of the electoral processes, which conclusions would be taken to the 7th Inter-American Meeting of Electoral Authorities.

The Permanent Council of the OAS, through resolution CP/RES973 (1761/10), in its July 7th, 2010 session, and in compliance with AG/RES. 2528 (XXXIX-0/09)), related to the calling, in Caracas, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, of the 3rd Inter-American Meeting of Experts and Representatives of Electoral Bodies, decided to call this Meeting for July 29th and 30th, 2010.

In compliance with the calling of the Permanent Council, the Electoral Power, through its top body, the National Electoral Council has organized this "3rd Inter-American Meeting of Experts and Representatives of Electoral Bodies, in Caracas, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, on July 29th and 30th, 2010.



For this 3rd Meeting, the mandate of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States is “to collect the common criteria and optimal procedures electoral bodies and authorities use to guarantee the management and control of electoral processes,” which is why the following main processes have been identified:

- 1. Electoral Roll*
- 2. Polling Center Management System*
- 3. Nomination and Ballot Production*
- 4. Operation of Polling Stations*
- 5. Electoral Financing*
- 6. Training, Motivation to Participate, and Regulation of Electoral Campaigns*
- 7. Voting, Counting, Tally-up and Dissemination of Electoral Results*
- 8. Transmission of Electoral Results*
- 9. Electoral Logistics: Generation and Production of Electoral Instruments;*
- 10. Electoral Logistics: Deployment and Removal of electoral materials and equipment.*

General Objective

To compile the common criteria and optimal procedures that the electoral bodies and authorities apply to guarantee electoral process management and control.

Expected result

Approach towards a Reference Framework of common criteria and optimal procedures for electoral processes management and control.