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Final Progress Report

October 1999 – April 9, 2000

**Program for Citizen Participation in the Legislative Process
-El Salvador-**

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USAID Mission: El Salvador

Contractor: State University of New York International Development Group

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- El Salvador -**

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for
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In September of 1999, the International Development Group of the State University of New York (SUNY/IDG) and the University of Texas at Austin (UT) began a joint effort under a cooperative agreement with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to implement a program that would increase public knowledge of and interaction with the Legislative Assembly of El Salvador. The Program for Citizen Participation in the Legislative Process (PCPLP) was designed to meet USAID/El Salvador Mission's strategic objective of "*more inclusive and effective democratic processes by achieving a more politically active civil society.*" To accomplish this result, four specific objectives have been identified:

1. *Policy and Strategy on Civil Society Participation;*
2. *Constituent Services Office in El Salvador;*
3. *Greater Participation of Civil Society from other Departments in the Legislative Process; and*
4. *Increased Participation of the Academic Community in the Legislative Analyses.*

The Final Progress Report for the PCPLP provides information on progress within an outline that includes the plans of the Program. The information has been arranged by Citizen Participation Program Unit and Area based on the four specific objectives outlined above. Details under each Unit are organized as follows:

- **Proposed Activities:** Planned activities according to the Work Plan for October 1999 – April 9, 2000.
- **Results Achieved:** Accomplishments or progress made in relation to the proposed activities.
- **Performance Indicators:** These define the parameters of quantitative and qualitative evaluation in order to objectively reflect the true level of operations in each area.
- **Comments:** A narration of some of the most relevant accomplishments during this quarter.

Please note that as this is the final report, the results achieved, performance indicators and comments from the first report are included in *italics* to provide a complete listing.

Program Setup Results Achieved:

September 1999 to January 2000:

1. *Adjusted the SUNY/IDG-UT proposal to the needs and context of the Legislative Assembly and translated it into Spanish.*
2. *Development of a Work Plan for the PCPLP.*
3. *The Modernization Committee (MC) and subsequently the Governing Board of the Legislative Assembly (GBLA) approved and signed a resolution giving its complete support to the SUNY/IDG-UT proposal and the Work Plan for the PCPLP.*
4. *The MC and the GBLA have agreed that the Legislative Assembly is willing to provide paid staff members for positions within the PCPLP.*
5. *Established periodical meetings with the MC and the GBLA.*
6. *The Chief of Party of the Citizen Participation Program (COP) has met with the Human Resources, Administrative/Finances and Legislative Managers as well as with the Press Director, Training Director, Protocol Director and many others to explain the PCPLP and secure their support and integration into Program activities.*
7. *In early October, Mr. Reginald Todd, COP of the UT/USAID Legislative Modernization Program in Guatemala, visited El Salvador to provide training and orientation for Program setup and administration. He returned at the end of October to introduce the UT Austin Program Coordinator, Mr. Tom McCowen and the Director of the International Office at UT, Mr. Jerry Wilcox. The Administrator of the Jutiapa, Guatemala Regional Office for the Congress, Lic. Manuel Martínez, was also in this group of visitors and he provided ideas for administration of the El Salvador Departmental Offices. Three legislative interns from the Guatemala Program also came and shared their experiences.*
8. *Study tour to the Congress of Guatemala in November.*
9. *Study tour to Texas State Capitol and the University of Texas at Austin in December.*
10. *Negotiations with the GBLA resulted in provision of space for the PCPLP on the third floor of the "New" legislative building.*
11. *The COP has been incorporated into the weekly meetings of the MC.*
12. *In October, the consultants, Sofía Vasquez, Anibal Barillas and Yonith González from the UT/USAID Legislative Modernization Program in Guatemala came to El Salvador to support the process of proposal adjustment and the creation of the Work Plan.*
13. *In January, the Consultant, Mary Lenore Gruver from the UT/USAID Legislative Modernization Program in Guatemala, came to El Salvador to work with the PCPLP in the development of the first quarterly report and to train staff members on its format.*
14. *In January, Mr. J. Brady Anderson, Administrator of USAID visited the Legislative Assembly and attended a formal meeting of MC in which he pledged his full support of the Modernization Plan including all aspects of the PCPLP.*

Commentary:

September 1999 to January 2000:

These initial accomplishments are extremely significant because they are indicative of a highly supportive environment for the institutionalization of the PCPLP. The provision of office space within the Legislative Building and the provision of staff members for positions within the program are two of the strongest indicators of this tendency.

In November, there was a study tour to visit the UT/USAID Legislative Modernization Program in Guatemala. Participants in this visit included the Chief Committee Clerk who is in charge of the technical staff of the MC and 10 out of the 13 technical advisors. They were able to learn about the Guatemalan process of the law and to see how the Modernization Program works in Guatemala. They were able to observe Units of the Program similar in function to the Units to be implemented in El Salvador. This visit resulted in Technical Advisors forming a positive opinion of the plans for the PCPLP.

The study tour to the Texas State Capitol and the University of Texas at Austin in December was partially funded by the Legislative Assembly. The goal of this tour was to observe and learn about constituent services and citizen participation in the United States. The President of the Legislative Assembly, six members of the MC and the Technical Advisor of the Committee participated. One of the results of this visit was that the participants became aware of the high degree of technical support that the SUNY/IDG and UT Program would be able to provide and this became one of the primary reasons that they pledged their full support for the implementation of the PCPLP.

The GBLA invited the COP to present and discuss program implementation issues and maintains an interest in receiving program reports. The COP has also been included in the weekly meetings of the MC and discusses program events as they are developing.

Results 1, 2 and 3:

- 1. Policy and Strategy on Civil Society Participation;**
- 2. Constituent Services Office in El Salvador;**
- 3. Greater Participation of Civil Society from other Departments in the Legislative Process**

I. The implementation of a **Constituent Services Unit** which will strengthen the relationship between Congressional Deputies and their constituents as well as promote an increase in effective participation of civil society in the development of public policy.

Proposed Activities

1. Execute the approved work plan, which includes implementation of a Constituent Hotline, Civic Education Area, Public Participation Area and Departmental Office Support Area (Ongoing).

Results Achieved

September 1999 to January 2000:

1. *A work plan was completed for the PCPLP that describes the procedures for each area.*
2. *A second Departmental Office of the Legislative Assembly was opened in San Miguel, El Salvador. PCPLP provided technical assistance in the development of the office work plan, staff selection, design of services to be provided, etc. Adjusted future activities of the Constituent Services Unit to incorporate the needs of this office.*
3. *Work visit to the Departmental Office of the Legislative Assembly in Chalatenango to assist in a reorganization of information collection and provision of services methods. Incorporated activities of the PCPLP in the work plan for this office.*
4. *Two brochures were published by the Program:*
The Modernization Plan of the Legislative Assembly
The Information Guide of the Legislative Assembly

February to April 2000:

5. *Furnishing and installation of office equipment for the new CSO/LIP office space in the LAES building. This included the purchase of desks, chairs, computers, module divisions, a central telephone systems, one photocopier, laser printers, a fax machine, a conference desk with chairs, whiteboard, and other items so that the office was fully furnished and ready for immediate use by the follow-on program.*

Performance Indicators

1. **The number of publicity announcements about the Program on the radio and in other media.**
 - Ten spots.
2. **Creation of a brochure that explains the Citizen Participation Program.**
 - *Two student interns have begun writing a brochure.*
 - Brochure continues in production.
3. **Number of deputies that participated in the March/April 2000 Study Tour.**
 - Three deputies

4. **Number of legislative staff that participated in the March/April 2000 Study Tour.**

- Director of Press Unit
- Director of Training Unit
- Director of Computer Systems
- Staff of the Protocol Unit

Commentary

September 1999 to January 2000:

The two published brochures will be distributed to citizens attending public hearings and seminars, and will also be used as teaching tools for civic education activities and such other uses as the legislative Assembly may determine. They will also serve to train legislative staff members about the Modernization Program and the Legislative Assembly.

One highlight of this quarter was the inauguration of a second Departmental Office in November. During this event, the Coordinator of the MC of the Legislative Assembly mentioned the Public Participation Program as he thanked USAID for their support of the Legislative Assembly's Modernization and introduced the COP as a "person whose enthusiasm is motivating them."

February to April 2000:

One highlight of this quarter was the re-inauguration of the "*Programa de Divulgación del Quehacer Legislativo*" through out the country in early March. During this event, the Coordinator of the MC of the Legislative Assembly mentioned the Public Participation Program as he thanked USAID for their support of the Legislative Assembly's Modernization.

Another highlight was the receipt of final approval from the LAES for the PCPLP to set up the CSO/LIP offices in the LAES building. By the end of this program, the office space was fully furnished, equipped, and ready for immediate use. The process for selecting and reassigning LAES staff to the new CSO/LIP had begun.

- A. Promote and facilitate an increase in participation of civil society in public policy through the **Public Participation Area**.

Proposed Activities

1. Establish communication links with governmental institutions and non-governmental organizations by establishing a liaison in each entity to facilitate the information needs of the Constituent Hotline (January 2000 - ongoing).
2. Systematically investigate and interview the public on themes of legislative interest (January 2000 - ongoing).

3. Organize public hearings, forums, town meetings and special events solicited by the GBLA (January 2000 - ongoing).
4. Conduct two activities or breakfast meetings, in which the GBLA and the Deputies will discuss themes of national interest (January 2000 - ongoing).
5. Unit Coordinator will develop a plan that describes the basic procedures for this area (February 2000).

Results Achieved this Quarter

September 1999 to January 2000:

1. *A Public Hearing was held on January 31, 2000.*

February to April 2000:

2. The COP gave an in depth presentation on the LIP and Modernization Program to the Vice Presidents of the following universities: Universidad "Dr. Matías Delgado", Universidad de El Salvador, Universidad "Albert Einstein", and Universidad "Tecnológica".
3. During February and March many meetings were held with the Modernization Committee, the Image and Divulgence Committee, LAES staff and the press.
4. Students from Universidad "Evangélica" were trained.

Performance Indicators

1. **The number of governmental and non-governmental organizations or agencies contacted.**
 - *A liaison has been established within the Ministry of Education.*
2. **The number of volunteer interns working in this area.**
3. **The number of legislative activities conducted by other units that this area supports.**
4. **The number of breakfast meetings conducted.**

A breakfast meeting was held on February 3, 2000, with the Modernization Committee and the press.

Three breakfast meetings were held with the Image and Institutional Divulgence Committee.

5. **The creation of a Legislative Liaison Manual.**
6. **The number of people who attend activities coordinated by this area.**

7. The number of public hearings, forums, town meetings and special events organized by this area.

- *A Public Hearing was held in January.*
- Five meetings were held, two in February and three in March, with the Image and Divulgence Committee.
- One meeting was held in February with the Modernization Committee.
- Five meetings were held in February with the Ministry of Education.
- Two meetings were held in March with universities.
- Two meetings were held in March with LAES staff members.

Commentary

September 1999 to January 2000:

During the study tour to Texas in December the Deputies who participated received training on how to conduct public hearings through visits to the Texas State Legislature and the Austin City Hall. The Coordinator of the MC was one of the participants on this study tour. He is also a member of a Special Subcommittee established to study Extradition Law issues and on January 31, 2000, that Committee held the first public hearing in El Salvador that used components from a US observation visit. The COP was invited to the hearing and will be asked to provide feedback and ongoing technical support for future hearings.

February to April 2000:

During the March/April 2000 study tour, the Deputies and staff who participated received training on how to conduct public hearings through visits to the Texas State Legislature and the University of Texas at Austin.

B. Develop a Civic Education Area to disseminate information on the Legislative Assembly and the process of creation of laws.

Proposed Activities

1. Develop civic education activities with schools and other sectors of civil society (January 2000 - ongoing).
2. Publish and distribute the children's booklet on the Legislative Assembly as well as recordings and other educational materials (January 2000 - ongoing).
3. Develop an annual Student Deputy for a Day Event with sixth grade students focused on learning about the Legislative Assembly (Ongoing).
4. Unit Coordinator will development a plan that describes the basic procedures for this area (February 2000).
5. Conduct a large-scale training program for school principals, teachers and elementary and junior high students (February 2000 – ongoing).

Results Achieved this Quarter

September 1999 to January 2000:

1. *The inauguration and consolidation of the Civic Education Program was planned and organized.*
2. *Provided technical support on an educational tape with general information about the Legislative Assembly.*

February to April 2000:

3. Re-inauguration events and further consolidation of the Civic Education Program were planned and organized.

Performance Indicators

1. **The number of presentations and the number of students that participate in presentations on the functions of the Legislative Assembly.**

14 presentations – over 1,000 have been trained

2. **The number and type of educational materials (Overhead projector slides, posters, etc.) developed for civic education.**

3. **The attendance at the seminar for directors of schools.**

260

4. **The number of Deputies that attend field trips.**

Five deputies

5. **The quantity of materials distributed at schools.**

800 illustrated guidebooks (*guías ilustradas*)

6. **The number of participants that attend the Student Deputy for a Day Event.**

7. **The number of schools that benefit from presentations.**

Ten elementary schools and two universities

Commentary

September 1999 to January 2000:

After six meetings with representatives of the Ministry of Education, a training program has been designed for school principals, teachers, and elementary and junior high students. The inauguration of these activities is scheduled for February 7, 2000. The

Ministry of Education has pledged their full support and plans to implement this as a permanent program.

February to April 2000:

The inauguration of the “*Programa de Divulgación del Quehacer Legislativo*” was held as planned on February 7, 2000. The Ministry of Education has pledged their full support and plans to implement this as a permanent program.

- C. Provide a direct channel for communication with the Legislative Assembly through the establishment of a **Constituent Hotline** that will provide fast and efficient information and support with government agencies for citizens.

Proposed Activities

1. Train and implement a technical team to respond to callers (February 2000 - ongoing).
2. Train support personnel involved in the project (February 2000 - ongoing).
3. Create and maintain a database with information on governmental institutions (February 2000 - ongoing).
4. Unit Coordinator will develop a plan that describes the basic procedures for this area (February 2000).

Results Achieved this Quarter

September 1999 to January 2000:

The Constituent Hotline and proposed activities are currently under development.

February to April 2000:

The new CSO/LIP office space at the LAES, which will house the Constituent Hotline, was furnished and a central phone system was purchased and installed.

Performance Indicators

1. **The number, type and origin of cases received.**
2. **The average number of working days to respond to cases.**
3. **The number of cases referred to other governmental agencies or institutions.**
4. **The number of cases that have been responded to.**
5. **The number of cases referred to Committees.**

Commentary

September 1999 to January 2000:

The Constituent Hotline and proposed activities are currently under development.

February to April 2000:

The LAES provided office space for the CSO/LIP offices where the Constituent Hotline is housed. The office space is furnished and the central phone system installed and ready for use.

- D. Implement a **Departmental Offices Technical Support Area** that will provide technical support and follow up on casework for the Departmental Offices:

Proposed Activities

1. Provide technical and administrative support in the consolidation and establishment of the Departmental Offices (November 1999 - ongoing).
2. Support the activities of the Civic Education Area and provide input of civic interest to the Departmental Offices (January 2000 - ongoing).
3. Respond to requests from the Departmental Offices for general information and information needed from other governmental agencies (January 2000 – ongoing).
4. Develop and distribute brochures and materials (January 2000 - ongoing).
5. Unit Coordinator will develop a plan that describes the basic procedures for this area (February 2000).

Results Achieved this Quarter

September 1999 to January 2000:

1. *Created a database for the Departmental Offices and the Legislative Assembly in San Salvador.*
2. *Forms for information collection have been designed.*
3. *The Departmental Offices have received copies of The Modernization Plan of the Legislative Assembly and The Information Guide of the Legislative Assembly brochures to distribute to citizens of San Miguel and Chalatenango.*
4. *Technical support was provided to the Departmental Offices in regards to the development of their Work Plan and office procedures.*

February to April 2000:

5. Continued technical support has been provided to the Departmental Offices in regards to the development of their Work Plan and office procedures.

Performance Indicators

- 1. The number of visits to the Departmental Offices for the purpose of providing technical support.**
 - *There have been five visits to the Departmental Offices for technical support.*
 - *There have been four visits to the Departmental Offices for technical support since February 1, 2000. Ms. Long-Velasquez of SUNY/IDG accompanied one visit to the San Miguel office.*
- 2. The variety of materials received by the Departmental offices.**
 - *The Departmental Offices have received the following materials:*
 - *The Modernization Plan of the Legislative Assembly brochure.*
 - *The Information Guide of the Legislative Assembly brochure.*
- 3. The number and percent of contacts established by the Constituent Hotline that came from the Departments of Chalatenango or San Miguel compared to those coming from the rest of the country.**
- 4. The number of public participation activities that took place in Santa Ana, San Miguel, and San Salvador, and the number of citizens that participate in them.**
 - *Inauguration event for the Departmental Office in San Miguel (November)*
 - *Re-inauguration event for the Departmental Office in San Miguel (March 2, 2000): 71 people attended the event.*
 - *Re-inauguration event for the Departmental Office in Santa Ana (March 7, 2000): 50 people attended the event.*
 - *Re-inauguration event for the Departmental Office in San Salvador (March 9, 2000): 139 people attended the event.*
- 5. The number of civic education presentations in Chalatenango and San Miguel.**
- 6. The number of students participating in visits to the Legislative Assembly.**
- 7. The number of studies prepared by civic groups in Chalatenango and San Miguel and the number of bills that result from these studies.**
- 8. Development of a feasibility study and recommendations for the establishment of more departmental offices of the Legislative Assembly.**

Commentary

September 1999 to January 2000:

The database that was developed for the Departmental Offices will keep track of contacts and cases for the dual purpose of providing statistical information and

facilitating follow-up on casework. The forms have been designed to collect information and are pending approval.

Result 4:

4. Increased Participation of the Academic Community in the Legislative Analyses.

II. Develop a permanent and sustainable **Legislative Internship Unit** to provide high quality professional technical to support Deputies and Committees of the Legislative Assembly in order to foment higher quality legislation.

Proposed Activities

1. Provide information about the Unit and tours of the Unit to Deputies so that they will understand its functions and the services that the Unit provides (February 2000 – ongoing).
2. Establish contacts within national universities and the Student Association to strengthen the Legislative Internship Unit (November 2000 - ongoing).
3. Train and assign research projects to university students who will initially serve as Interns in the Unit (January 2000 - ongoing).
4. Provide quality, non-partisan services to Deputies and Committees through the development of legislative studies, reports, analysis and possibly bills (February 2000 - ongoing).
5. Create a directory or database with the names of experts in different specialty areas (February 2000 – ongoing).

Results Achieved this Quarter

September 1999 to January 2000:

1. *A potential mentor was contacted and interviewed.*
2. *Four university students have begun the trial process to become interns.*
3. *Several working sessions have been conducted with the Chief Committee Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.*
4. *Several working sessions have been conducted with the 13 technical advisors of the Legislative Assembly.*
5. *Five Salvadorian universities have been contacted and their Vice Presidents were invited to a presentation of the Program on March 1, 2000.*

February to April 2000:

6. Individual presentations were held at the five Salvadoran universities between March 20 to April 13, 2000.
7. A letter of understanding was signed between the LAES and the same five universities regarding the establishment of the LIP at LAES.

Performance Indicators

- 1. The number of participants in the seminar for Deputies.**
- 2. The number of participants in the seminar for Committees.**
- 3. The number of universities (Administrators, Deans, Department Heads and Professors) contacted by the program.**
 - *Five universities have been contacted.*
 - Continued contact with Five universities.
- 4. The number of interns contacted and trained by the Unit.**
 - *Four university students have been recruited.*
- 5. The number of training workshops for the interns.**
- 6. The number of Legislative Studies developed.**
- 7. The number of workdays required to complete a legislative study.**
- 8. The number of organizations contacted for input in the research process.**
- 9. The number of national experts included in the database.**
- 10. Completion of the quarterly report.**

Commentary

September 1999 to January 2000:

After a series of interviews four interns were selected. Their training process has begun and is ongoing. On February 2, 2000 there will be a presentation for five university Presidents to introduce the Legislative Internship Unit. This meeting will initiate the formal process of intern recruitment for the Program.

The study tour to Guatemala in November was an opportunity for 10 of the 13 Technical Advisors to observe a similar Unit in the UT/USAID Legislative Modernization Program of Guatemala. As a result of this visit and subsequent meetings with the COP, the Advisors have evaluated positively the implementation of this Program in El Salvador and will support the Legislative Internship Unit.

February to April 2000:

Training for the four interns continues.

Lessons Learned, Possible Obstacles and Strategies for the Follow-on Program

Lessons Learned:

1. Be flexible and open to opportunities.

USAID/El Salvador is to be commended for their willingness to be flexible and open to unexpected opportunities. This task order originally anticipated rental space outside the LAES to house the new CSO and LIP offices, as well as the need to hire staff for these offices. Instead, the LAES, in a surprise decision, offered to house both offices in their own office space and staff the offices with LAES employees. While the immediate hiring of outside staff to carry out the activities of the CSO and LIP would have produced greater numerical performance indicator results, USAID/El Salvador recognized the potential impact of LAES' offer and agreed that the program should wait to open the offices in the LAES building. LAES' formal approval for these offices represents a larger leap toward permanent institutionalization than any of the originally planned activities could have achieved during this 6 1/2 month program.

2. The importance of continuity when relating to the Legislature.

SUNY/IDG and UT began this program as a joint effort with SUNY/IDG as the prime contractor and UT as a sub-contractor. Unfortunately, SUNY/IDG was unable to negotiate a sub-contract with UT as their contracting office would not agree to some of the terms in SUNY/IDG's prime IQC contract with USAID. This resulted in the withdrawal of SUNY/IDG and UT's joint bid for the follow-on program. The LAES had publicly expressed strong satisfaction with both universities and had the members learned of these difficulties, the program might have suffered a setback. SUNY/IDG recognized the need for continuity in front of the legislature and continued the implementation and administration of the contract through the end date without allowing these issues to come to the attention of the legislature. SUNY/IDG supported two study tours planned at the University of Texas in Austin and facilitated a smooth transition between contractors as the follow-on program began so as not to lose the momentum for change developed within the LAES since September 1999.

Possible Obstacles and Strategies for the Follow-on Program:

Obstacle: Less interest in and/or support for modernization efforts after USAID-funded support stops.

Strategy #1: Continued support and investment in the Modernization Committee and expanded base of support for the LAES *Plan de Modernización*.

It has been SUNY/IDG's experience that the new offices within the LAES will not be sustainable nor successful if there is not strong, continuous support and training given to the members of the Modernization Committee and a proactive approach to identifying individual members and staff, both within and outside the Modernization Committee, who express interest in reform. Rules reform, integration of constituent relations offices into the LAES building, and mention in the Modernization Plan are not enough on their own. Efforts to incorporate, motivate and train the Modernization Committee members and other individuals need to be continued long after the CSO/LIP office activities are established and producing positive results. The fact that there is no specific activity which addresses this constitutes a weakness in the program.

USAID/El Salvador has done a very good job of supporting this type of activity over the past 10 years and SUNY/IDG strongly encourages the inclusion of specific, targeted activities to strengthen the Modernization Committee to ensure sustainability.

Strategy #2: Incorporation of a CSO to support LAES modernization efforts after the follow-on program.

It has also been SUNY/IDG's experience, particularly in the case of the *Fundación de Apoyo al Parlamento y a la Participación Ciudadana* (FUNDAPPAC) in Bolivia and the *Centro de Estudios y Asistencia Legislativa* (CEAL) in Chile, that one of the most effective methods of continuing legislative modernization efforts after the end of the program is to strengthen a local CSO which can offer support services to the legislature. USAID/El Salvador's follow-on program provides a unique opportunity to support CSOs through the grant giving activities described under Component I of RFA 519-00-A-001. SUNY/IDG strongly recommends that such support be given to a Salvadoran CSO through the follow-on program so that legislative support services will be available after program closeout.

Obstacle: Reliance on District (or Departmental) LAES Offices shared by multi-party members to respond to constituent needs.

Strategy #1: Provide basic training and casework tracking software to Members with private offices and their private office staff, and encourage District Office coordination with private office staff.

It is quite likely that not all LAES members will choose to use the multi-party District Offices. Some members will choose to use private offices to meet with their constituents and will have staff of their own to attend to constituent needs. For constituent needs to be properly handled, the members and the staff from private

offices will need training in the same areas as those of the district offices. Private office staff should be encouraged to interact with the district office staff. Some ways of achieving this interaction include:

- inviting the members and their private office staff to participate in meetings held at the district office to up-date all district representatives and staff on constituent casework
- sending any new LAES information available at the district offices to the private offices
- inviting the members and their private office staff to participate in public hearings hosted by the district office
- assigning casework request registered at the district office to members with a private offices and following-up with their private office staff regarding the progress made on the casework
- inviting private office staff to participate in training with the district office staff

LIST OF ACRONYMS

CEAL	<i>Centro de Estudios y Asistencia Legislativa</i> (Center for Legislative Assistance and Studies)
FUNDAPPAC	<i>Fundación de Apoyo al Parlamento y a la Participación Ciudadana</i> (Foundation for Support to the Parliament and for Citizen Participation)
GBLA	Governing Board of the LAES
LAES	Legislative Assembly of El Salvador
MC	Modernization Committee of the LAES
PCPLP	Program for Citizen Participation in the Legislative Process
SUNY/IDG	State University of New York, International Development Group
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
UT	University of Texas at Austin