

**INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF HUMAN RIGHTS**  
**UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**  
**COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT No. LAG-A-00-02-00001-00**

**PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS THROUGH INCLUSION, CONFLICT PREVENTION AND  
DEMOCRATIZATION IN LATIN AMERICA**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) approved the IIHR's request to amend cooperation agreement LAG-A-00-02-00001-00, extending it through September 2007. Consequently, the IIHR is submitting its report on the activities carried out between **1 June and 31 December 2005** under the projects that were due to conclude on 20 May 2005 (Promoting a Culture of Inclusion, Citizen Security in Latin America: Developing a National and Local Approach, and Strengthening the Ombudsman in Latin America), and between **1 October and 31 December 2005** under the projects scheduled to be completed by the end of the year (Rapid Response System, Strengthening Electoral Institutions and Equal Representation and Political Party Reform), for which quarterly reports were also submitted covering the period July-September 2005.

Following the approval of the amendment, implementation of all the projects covered by the agreement will continue through September 2007.

**II. THE MISSION AND NATURE OF THE IIHR**

The Inter-American Institute of Human Rights (IIHR) is an independent international institution, created in 1980 under an international agreement that mandates it to engage in educational and research activities related to human rights, and to promote the observance of these rights and of democracy throughout the Americas.

The IIHR's Statute defines it as an academic institution, which means that it refrains from investigating cases, presenting or supporting formal complaints against States, or monitoring the compliance of States with their international human rights obligations. This self-imposed limitation has proven to be an effective tool for the IIHR, as it has permitted the Institute to serve as a facilitator of dialogue among the different actors in the human rights movement, and between them and government representatives.

Politically, the work of the IIHR is predicated on the idea that the effective exercise of human rights is only possible within the framework of pluralist and representative democracy. In other words, the IIHR maintains that there is a close link between the full exercise of political democracy and the effective exercise of human rights.

To achieve this, democracy must transcend merely formal considerations and must incorporate excluded and disadvantaged sectors of the population. The indigenous peoples of the Americas, and women as a social group, are perhaps the most important examples. For this reason, the IIHR focuses especially on these segments of the population.

In methodological terms, the work of the IIHR is based on three premises:

- An integrated approach is essential for human rights work. Human rights constitute an integrated system, in which no single right, group of rights, or so-called 'generation' of human rights, takes precedence. Economic, social and cultural rights are as important for the effective exercise of human rights as civil and political rights.
- An interdisciplinary approach is essential for human rights work. As human rights cut across the entire social fabric, no single academic discipline can adequately address their complexity. The issues involved include those of a legal, political, historical, anthropological and philosophical nature. Only an approach that incorporates all these perspectives can deal with such a complex phenomenon.
- A multisectoral approach is essential for human rights work. Human rights issues concern different agents and sectors of society. Activists, government officials, political leaders and representatives of minorities all have a stake and share a common interest in human rights, which have attained a political consensus and which allow for different perspectives and are a source of strong internal tensions.

### III. CURRENT STRUCTURE

The General Assembly, the Institute's highest governing body, is responsible for setting policies and the general parameters for the work of the IIHR. It is made up of renowned human rights experts from all parts of the hemisphere. The Assembly meets biannually but has created a Steering Committee that advises the Executive Director throughout the year.

The Executive Director, Roberto Cuéllar, from El Salvador, is responsible for carrying out the IIHR's mission as set out in its Statute, and for implementing institutional policy. He is also in charge of efforts to secure financial resources, overseeing the use of the funds and rendering accounts. The Executive Director, the Directors of the three Operating Departments and the Administrative-Financial Coordinator make up the team of the General Directorate.

A special office assists the Executive Director in implementing Institute policy related to the cooperation agencies, and the special programs for Cuba and Colombia.

For operational purposes, responsibility for implementing the IIHR's activities is assigned to the following:

**Department of Civil Society Entities.** This area carries out activities of human rights training and promotion with organized sectors of civil society (organizations devoted to human rights in general, and the rights of women, migrant and indigenous peoples in particular); organizes specialized fora for the discussion of emerging issues in the field of human rights; and gathers, publishes and distributes specialized materials.

**Department of Public Institutions.** This area is responsible for activities of human rights promotion and training with the judicial, legislative and executive branches of governments, the military, the police and the prison system; promotes legislative reform designed to improve access by members of the public to their fundamental rights; promotes the institution of the ombudsman throughout the hemisphere and provides advisory assistance to existing

ombudsmen's offices; provides advisory assistance to ministries of education for the modernization of academic programs; and gathers, publishes and distributes specialized materials.

**Center for Electoral Promotion and Assistance (CAPEL).** Among its activities, CAPEL provides advisory and technical assistance to organizations responsible for carrying out electoral processes; holds fora for discussions and promotion with different political sectors; analyzes and discusses the issue of governance with political actors; provides advisory assistance and training and conducts research aimed at strengthening political parties; sends missions to observe elections in all parts of the hemisphere; and gathers, publishes and distributes specialized materials.

The units, on the other hand, are responsible for proposing and implementing Institute policies related to their respective fields of action, based on the guidelines established by the Board and the Executive Directorate.

**Administrative-Accounting and General Services Unit:** comprised of the following sections: treasury, accounting, informatics, human resources and general services.

**Applied Research Unit:** responsible for the Institute's policy in the areas of thematic research, integrated plans, special programs and topics that cut across all the Institute's areas of work. It oversees the "active promotion" approach, particularly as regards the three core topics (political participation, education and access to justice) and their impact in the countries on which the IIHR places special emphasis.

**Educational Unit:** designs, tests and implements the methodologies, teaching aids and educational and evaluative techniques that the IIHR uses in its training activities. It is creating and will maintain a data base on educational policies for primary, secondary and higher education in Latin America, and proposes ways of harmonizing the IIHR's action with educational reform projects in the region.

**Information and Editorial Service Unit:** responsible for the IIHR's editorial policy, for incorporating the use of Internet into the Institute's work of promoting human rights, for meeting the information needs of the target population, and for strengthening the IIHR's formal and informal networks.

## **A. PROMOTING A CULTURE OF INCLUSION**

### **1. PROJECT: INCLUSION THROUGH NON-GOVERNMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS**

#### **1.1. GENERAL FRAMEWORK**

Following approval of the Amendment to Cooperation Agreement LAG-A-00-02-00001-00 and the corresponding Work Plan for June-December 2005, the staff laid the groundwork for the applied research on the impact of legislation designed to foster gender equality and the application of the quota mechanism in Latin America.

The situation in Colombia remains extremely difficult due to the internal armed conflict, particularly for the Afro-descendant population. The armed actors continue to perpetrate serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law (disappearances, murders, harassment, etc.). Due to the IIHR/CAPEL's workload, its contribution to the project during this quarter was limited. Consequently, the Afro-descendant counterpart asked the project to postpone the technical mission planned for December 2005 (under the approved Amendment to Cooperation Agreement LAG-A-00-02-00001-00 and the corresponding Work Plan for June-December 2005) until February 2006. This, in turn, led to the cancellation of the technical mission programmed for April 2006 (according to the Work Plan for January-June 2006).

The designation of the counterparts was also postponed until January 2006.

The round table to assess the political participation of Colombia's Afro-descendant population will take place in June 2006.

An updated schedule of activities for 2006 is attached.

#### **1.2. GOALS**

**Goal 1:** To determine the impact that equal opportunity legislation has had on public policies and the institutional fabric.

**Goal 2:** To consolidate knowledge and capabilities for monitoring and influencing specific legislation designed to encourage women to take part in political life.

**Goal 3:** To help indigenous peoples and Afro-descendant populations and their organizations, and CSOs that provide follow-up to political-electoral processes and carry out advocacy activities, to enhance their expertise and capabilities for monitoring and influencing specific legislation intended to encourage the target populations to participate in political life.

### **1.3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT**

#### **1.3.1. Diagnostic evaluations of the impact of legislation designed to advance gender equality**

##### **1.3.1.1. Description**

The objective of the project is to foster the production of specialized knowledge about the impact of legislation implemented to create equal opportunities for women and men. Legislation of this kind exists in Costa Rica, Colombia, Honduras, Panama and Venezuela. Research will be carried out in these five countries, as described below.

Between June and December 2005, the project took the steps required to begin the research process in each country. These were:

- a) The design of the terms of reference for the research, to provide a common general framework for the formulation of the specific methodology for each counterpart in each country.

It was decided that the data gathering exercise should focus on the legislation's impact on three major aspects:

- other legislation,
- public policies, and
- the institutionalization of gender equality and equity.

The analysis of the data will focus on:

- difficulties and weaknesses found,
- good practices, and
- lessons learned.

The research methodology calls for information to be garnered from primary sources (meetings with key officials of state agencies and non-governmental organizations) and secondary sources (assorted documentation).

It was decided that in the final stage of the research, when a working document is available, the counterparts will identify state and non-governmental actors in order to socialize the information and obtain feedback.

- b) The search for, and identification of, experts or organizations in each country that could serve as counterparts for the research. The selection criteria used were: work experience and knowledge related to women's rights and gender equality; recognized expertise in the development and implementation of research processes; work experience involving interaction with national organizations or networks devoted to the promotion of women's rights, and with parliamentary or state actors; and, previous links with the IIHR.
- c) After selecting the counterparts, contacts were made to determine who the members of the team would be in four of the five countries. The results were as follows:

Country	Counterpart
Costa Rica	Ana Hidalgo, consultant of the IIHR, UNFPA, the Judiciary and the Ombudsman's Office and a former official of the National Women's Institute.
Colombia	To be decided. The contacts made with the SISAMUJER and PROFAMILIA organizations, and a woman expert, did not produce positive results. They could not conduct the research due to prior commitments. The project then contacted three other experts but no replies have been received yet.
Honduras	María Elena Méndez, Executive Director of the Center for Women's Studies of Honduras (CEM-H)
Panama	Urania Ungo, Director of the Women's Institute of the University of Panama (UPAN)
Venezuela	Evangelina García Prince, a consultant for the IIHR and various agencies of the United Nations system

- d) The counterparts chosen prepared the corresponding specific methodologies and work plan, pursuant to the general terms of reference prepared by the IIHR.
- e) Materials related to gender equality and equity were updated and incorporated into the *DerechosMujer* specialized section of the IIHR website. As of 15 December 2005, 4052 items were available in its different subsections (Acerca de nosotros, Para compartir, Documentos, Protección de derechos), as well as a directory of 417 organizations devoted to the advancement of women's rights. The specialized section received a total of 48,131 visits between 1 July and 30 December 2005 - an average of 285.5 per day that lasted an average of 09:48 minutes each (statistics compiled using WebTrends software).

#### 1.3.1.2. Method

This activity is a continuation of the actions with regard to positive legislation aimed at creating equal opportunities for women and men, designed to generate and disseminate knowledge about the impact that such legislation has had in the five countries where it has been enacted (Costa Rica, Colombia, Honduras, Panama and Venezuela).

The information is being compiled using an action-research methodology, based on terms of reference that provide a framework for the research and common elements of analysis for all the countries. Experts or women's organizations in the five countries serve as counterparts, garnering the information from primary sources (interviews and semi-structured questionnaires) and secondary sources (assorted documentation). The documents prepared will subsequently be socialized with the women's organizations and public institutions, to obtain feedback.

Materials related to gender equality and equity are posted in the *DerechosMujer* specialized section of the IIHR's website, to disseminate them widely and permit visitors to study them. As the project progresses, the actions carried out and the outputs produced will be disseminated in the same way.

### 1.3.1.3. Background / rationale

Between 2002 and 2005, the USAID project compiled information about successful advocacy experiences of women's CSOs related to the enactment of legislation on equal opportunities for women and men in Costa Rica, Honduras, Panama and Venezuela. Subsequently, the work focused on Peru, where the project helped pave the way for a law on the subject. A bill before Congress had been bogged down until the project stepped in. It was eventually placed on the agenda of the 2004-2005 legislature and given priority status in the area of equity and social justice.

Furthermore, various UN and ECLAC diagnostic studies have found that laws on equality help states determine their policies in this area. They also serve as a mechanism for implementing the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), although difficulties and problems arise that are an obstacle to its full implementation.

The current project is facilitating the production and dissemination of knowledge about an issue that hitherto has been little explored, determining the impact that equal opportunity laws have had on legislation, public policies and the institutionalization of gender equality and equity. This complements the initial approach of advocacy with results-based action. Colombia was added to the original group of countries as it approved similar legislation in July 2003.

### 1.3.1.4. Institution(s) responsible and coordination

During this stage of the project, the counterpart individuals or organizations in each country were responsible for drawing up and implementing the specific methodologies required and then proceeding to compile the information, pursuant to the terms of reference that the IIHR established for the research.

Country	Counterpart
Costa Rica	Ana Hidalgo
Honduras	María Elena Méndez, Center for Women's Studies of Honduras (CEM-H)
Panama	Urania Ungo, Women's Institute of the University of Panama (UPAN)
Venezuela	Evangelina García Prince

The IIHR was responsible for establishing the general terms of reference, including the areas of research and analysis; identifying, contacting and selecting the counterparts; studying, providing feedback and then approving the specific methodologies proposed; and, updating the contents of the specialized section of the IIHR website (*DerechosMujer*).

### 1.3.1.5. Intermediate steps

- Possible counterparts were sought and identified in each country
- Contact was made with possible counterparts
- Counterparts were selected and the team was organized
- General terms of reference were formulated for the research
- Specific methodologies and a work plan were prepared and approved for each country, and
- Materials were prepared for posting online and the content of the *DerechosMujer* specialized section of the website was updated continuously

### 1.3.1.6. Results or outputs

- Counterparts were chosen in four countries (Costa Rica, Honduras, Panama, and Venezuela).
- General terms of reference were designed to provide a framework for the research and the core areas of analysis, and common ways of collecting the information for all the countries, to facilitate the subsequent comparative analysis
- Specific methodologies and work plans were designed for gathering the information in four countries
- The number of visits to the specialized section continues to increase. The data compiled using the Webtrends software can be seen in the following comparative table for 2004-2005:

Quarter	Number of visits	Daily average	Average length of visits
1 January - 30 March 2004	5330	58	10:55'
1 April - 30 June 2004	6971	76	09:06'
1 July - 30 September 2004	8414	91	11:00'
1 October – 9 December 2004	8189	115	11:40'
1 January - 30 March 2005	15,344	170	12:12'
1 April - 30 June 2005	22,407	246	10:43'
1 July - 30 September 2005	26,817	291	09:31
1 October - 15 December	21,314	280	10:05
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>114,786</b>	<b>165.87</b>	<b>10:39'</b>

### 1.3.1.7. Impact indicators

***“More information available, making it possible to assess and monitor the impact of specific legislation for equality between women and men”***

The process that began with the design of common terms of reference and specific methodologies for collecting data, using expert counterparts in the countries, is paving the way for the production of specialized knowledge.

#### **Means of verification:**

- general terms of reference for the research,
- specific methodologies and work plan for four countries,
- contracts drawn up, and
- specialized section of the IIHR website and the Webtrends software

### 1.3.2. Research on the application of the quota mechanism

#### 1.3.2.1. Description

The objective of the project is to facilitate the production of specialized knowledge about the effects of legislation designed to encourage women to take part in political life. Eleven countries in the region have specific legislation or electoral laws that establish minimum quotas for the political participation of women (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico, Peru, Panama and Paraguay). The project is conducting research in these countries regarding the implementation of their various quota mechanisms with a view to disseminating the findings.

Between June and December 2005, the project implemented the following activities to begin the research process:

- f) The design of the terms of reference for the research, to provide guidelines for the women experts who will be members of the team

A single, semi-structured questionnaire will be used to gather the information from the electoral bodies of the 11 countries mentioned above. The questionnaire will be accompanied by guidelines explaining the objective of the research and the type of information sought, to obtain the best possible replies and materials from the organizations involved. The questionnaire will form the basis of the research and the subsequent analysis.

It was decided that both the questions asked and the other information requested should be related to the following areas of analysis:

- existing legislation;
  - the implementation and monitoring mechanisms;
  - the organizations' experiences and practices for guaranteeing, establishing rules regarding, implementing, regulating, rectifying or imposing penalties related to quotas; and,
  - resolutions on the subject issued by the electoral tribunals or general courts (jurisprudence).
- g) The search for, and identification of, experts or organizations to devise the core questionnaire that will be used to gather the information. The selection criteria used were: work experience and knowledge related to women's rights, political rights and quotas; recognized expertise in the development and implementation of research processes; work experience involving interaction with various state and civil society actors, and with electoral bodies; and, previous links with the IIHR.
- h) The counterpart was selected (Line Bareiro, of the Documentation and Studies Center - CDE - of Paraguay) and work got under way on the preliminary version of the questionnaire, pursuant to the terms of reference for the research drawn up by the IIHR.
- i) Materials related to political rights, affirmative actions and quota mechanisms were updated and uploaded to the *DerechosMujer* specialized section of the IIHR's website.

### **1.3.2.2. Method**

The project involves the production and dissemination of knowledge about the implementation, by the respective electoral organizations, of the quota mechanism established in the electoral legislation of 11 countries (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico, Peru, Panama and Paraguay).

The applied research will be carried out using a single, semi-structured questionnaire (accompanied by guidelines) that the 11 electoral organizations will fill out. The questionnaire will provide information about current legislation, the implementation and monitoring mechanisms, and the organizations' experiences in guaranteeing, establishing rules regarding, implementing, regulating, rectifying or imposing penalties related to quotas, including their practices and resolutions (jurisprudence).

This questionnaire will form the basis of the research and the subsequent comparative analysis. The analysis will be complemented with information from secondary sources (sundry documentation) and primary sources (meetings and semi-structured questionnaires). The documents produced will subsequently be disseminated among the women's organizations and public institutions involved, to obtain feedback.

Materials related to the subject matter are uploaded to the *DerechosMujer* specialized section of the IIHR's website, to disseminate them widely and permit visitors to study them. As the project progresses, the project's activities and outputs will be disseminated in the same way.

#### **1.3.2.3. Background / rationale**

The minimum quotas for the political participation of women established in specific legislation or electoral laws are designed to correct discrimination and inequality and ensure that equal numbers of women and men run for, and hold, elected office.

Quotas are obligatory and the simplest way of gauging their success is by counting the number of women elected to parliament or local government. For example, since quota mechanisms were introduced, 35% of lawmakers in Costa Rica are women, and 31% in Argentina. The studies carried out so far suggest that, although women have become more involved in politics in recent years, the percentage of women lawmakers is still low - an average of around 15% in 33 countries of the region (CEPAL:2004).

Quota mechanisms exist in 11 Latin America countries but no comparative analysis has been carried out of the electoral bodies' experiences and the difficulties they have encountered in interpreting and implementing legislation of this kind. Having such knowledge will enable CSOs and electoral organizations to monitor the situation better.

The electoral bodies are not familiar with the difficulties faced or the good practices being developed, and CSOs are even less aware of them - particularly organizations involved in women's rights and in monitoring women's political participation. One of the aims of this project is to address this lack of information about the issue.

#### **1.3.2.4. Institution(s) responsible and coordination**

During this stage of the project, the counterpart expert (Line Bareiro, of the Documentation and Studies Center - CDE - of Paraguay) began to prepare the draft version of the core questionnaire for collecting the data, pursuant to the terms of reference established for the research.

The IIHR drew up the terms of reference for the research; identified, contacted and selected the counterpart; provided technical assistance and supervised the preparation of the questionnaire; and, updated the contents of the *DerechosMujer* specialized section of the IIHR website.

#### **1.3.2.5. Intermediate steps**

- Possible counterparts were sought and identified.
- The counterparts was selected and hired.
- General terms of reference were formulated for the research.
- A draft version of the core questionnaire to be used to collect the data was prepared.
- Materials were prepared for posting online and the content of the *DerechosMujer* specialized section of the website was updated continuously.

### **1.3.2.6. Results or outputs**

- General terms of reference were designed for the research, including the core areas of analysis, as a guide for the women experts involved in the process.
- Draft version (content outline) of basic questionnaire for collecting data.
- The number of visits to the specialized section continues to increase. The data compiled using the WebTrends software can be seen in the comparative table for 2004-2005.

### **1.3.2.7. Impact indicators**

#### ***“More information available about the experiences of electoral bodies in implementing quota legislation”***

The process begun by designing the general terms of reference and the outline of the contents of the draft version of the questionnaire, with a qualified counterpart expert, paves the way for the process of producing specialized knowledge.

#### **Means of verification:**

- General terms of reference for the research
- Outline of the content of the core questionnaire for collecting the data
- Contract drawn up
- Specialized section of the IIHR website and the WebTrends software

### **1.3.3. Strengthening the political and citizen participation of indigenous peoples to consolidate democracy and governability in the region**

#### **1.3.3.1. Description**

The purpose of the project is to document the actions of electoral organizations in six countries (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama and Peru) in implementing affirmative action and administrative measures, in order to disseminate information about problems and good practices for increasing the participation of indigenous peoples in political life. Between June and December 2005, the project undertook the actions needed to kick off the research process in each country. These were:

- a) The design of terms of reference for the applied research, to make it possible to develop a common methodology for the six counterparts and compare the trends in the variables selected in each country. The aim is to detect the similarities and differences in the variables, which are listed in the next section (“Method”).
- b) The proposed methodologies and work plans for each country, to prepare a common methodology so that the results in the six countries can be compared. The project will identify recurrent trends in the relationship between the regulatory-institutional framework and the performance of indigenous candidates in elections, and determine the best conditions for achieving greater inclusion.
- c) The identification of individual consultants or organizations that fulfilled the criteria established by the IIHR for its counterparts in the research. The criteria included work experience and knowledge of/experience in working with indigenous peoples and ethnic and cultural diversity; recognized expertise in the development and implementation of research processes; work experience involving interaction with national organizations or networks devoted to the promotion of indigenous rights, and with parliamentary or state actors; and, previous links with the IIHR.
- d) The foregoing led to contacts being made and the following people being chosen as members of the research team:

Country	Counterpart
Bolivia	Alfonso Alem. Bolivian. International consultant. Former Director of the Rigoberto Menchú Tum Foundation, in Mexico. 25 years' experience in the defense and promotion of human rights and indigenous rights, international politics, strategic planning and sustainable development.
Colombia	Camila Moreno. Anthropologist, master's degree in Territorial Planning. International consultant with broad experience in work with public institutions and international and national organizations, as well as research on indigenous issues, human rights, indigenous rights, internal displacement, the environment.
Ecuador	Josefina Aguilar. Master's degree in Political Sciences and Public Admin. Coordinator of programs for the Q'ellkaj Foundation. Broad experience in the design and execution of proposals for research on electoral matters related to indigenous groups and women in Ecuador.
Mexico	Francois Lartigue. Anthropologist. Head of Technical Affairs of the Center for Research and Advanced Studies in Social Anthropology (CIESAS), broad experience in researching issues related to the political participation of indigenous peoples in Mexico
Panama	Bernal Castillo. Master's degree in Anthropology. Currently coordinating the Study of Socioeconomic Conditions and Land Tenure among the Bri Bri People in Panama. AIDECOSS. Has undertaken numerous research efforts on indigenous matters in Panama and Latin America
Peru	Adda Chuecas. Lawyer, diploma in Governability and Political Management from the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru, and George Washington University, with a master's degree in Political Science. Broad experience in promotion the human rights of indigenous peoples. Director of the Amazonian Center for Anthropology and its Practical Application

(CAAAP).
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e) As mentioned in point a), once the counterparts had been hired they set prepared their proposed methodologies and work plans, pursuant to the terms of reference established by the IIHR; and,

f) Materials related to indigenous peoples were updated and posted in the *Diversidades* specialized section of the IIHR website.

#### **1.3.3.2. Method**

The project consists of three components: 1) production of specialized knowledge (applied research); 2) training and information (training workshop-course); 3) dissemination (publication, CD-Rom, specialized section of the IIHR's website - *Diversidades*). Specialized material for conducting the research will be made available via the specialized section of the IIHR website (*Diversidades*).

The research in each country (under the first component) will include at least one of the selected variables:

a) Electoral legislation and regulations regarding the participation of indigenous peoples and communities in political life and, in particular, in elections;

b) Electoral, administrative and practical models and mechanisms with regard to the active and passive exercise of the right to vote by the indigenous population (issuing of identity cards, registration, etc.);

c) Use, by indigenous movements, organizations and candidates, of legal remedies and regulations and administrative and practical electoral models and mechanisms to increase the opportunities for indigenous people to participate (as voters and candidates); and,

d) The results of indigenous peoples' participation in electoral processes.

Between June and December 2005, contacts were made and consultants or organizations were identified that are involved in indigenous issues in Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama and Peru, to take charge of the applied research process (preliminary diagnostic evaluation) and collect and analyze the data in the six countries. The core elements of the research and analysis were prepared and implemented, along with the methodology and data collection methods. The specialized section of the IIHR website (*Diversidades*) was updated continuously with new materials.

#### **1.3.3.3. Background / rationale**

The activities form part of the work plan for June-December 2005 of the Promoting a Culture of Inclusion Project. They consist of efforts to monitor the impact of specific legislation intended to foster the political participation of indigenous peoples. The IIHR's Maps of Progress in Human Rights ([www.iidh.ed.cr/mapas](http://www.iidh.ed.cr/mapas)) showed the need for a comprehensive study and a comparative analysis of the countries that have made most progress with indigenous political participation, with a view to strengthening existing mechanisms for participation or creating broader ones. The aim is also to share good practices, the difficulties and weaknesses encountered and the lessons learned with other countries in the region that are relatively less developed in this area. The research includes six experiences of indigenous electoral participation in Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama and Peru, where different degrees of legal and administrative support exist. As well as contributing to one of the IIHR's strategic goals - the promotion of inclusive and transparent political systems and the dissemination of information about them - this project will make it possible to strengthen the incorporation of ethnic diversity as a crosscutting element of the work of other departments

(e.g., the IIHR/CAPEL). The results will also be used as input for indicators of political participation for the Maps of Progress in Human Rights (updated through 2002).

The knowledge that the electoral bodies acquire from the research will provide feedback for their work and contribute to the institutionalization of the political and citizen participation of indigenous peoples, in line with national legislation on the subject. Information about the specific action taken by the electoral organizations on this issue will also be disseminated widely among indigenous and other civil society organizations involved with the rights of indigenous peoples and that monitor political participation.

#### 1.3.3.4. Institution(s) responsible and coordination

The IIHR was responsible for making contacts and identifying and hiring the individual consultants or organizations to carry out the applied research (preliminary diagnostic evaluation) and collect and analyze the data in the six countries (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama and Peru). Working with the Center for Electoral Promotion and Assistance (IIHR/CAPEL), the IIHR's Applied Research Unit and a consultant, project staff prepared and implemented the core elements of the research and analysis, and the methodology and data collection methods. The use of similar parameters for all the research will make it possible to conduct a comparative analysis. The IIHR also posted new materials on the *Diversidades* specialized section of the website.

#### 1.3.3.5. Intermediate steps

- Variables were identified for the preliminary diagnostic evaluation.
- Possible counterparts in each country were sought, identified and contacted.
- The counterparts were selected and the team was set up.
- The project coordinated the implementation of the project with the IIHR/CAPEL and the IIHR Applied Research Unit.
- General terms of reference were formulated for the research.
- Specific and general proposed methodologies and work plans were prepared and approved for each country.
- Materials were prepared for posting on line and the content of the *Diversidades* specialized section of the IIHR website was updated continuously.

#### 1.3.3.6. Results or outputs

- Counterparts were chosen in each country (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama and Peru)
- The terms of reference were designed (core elements of research and analysis, methodology, data collection methods, work plans and schedule)
- Record kept of visitors to the *Diversidades* specialized section, using the WebTrends software, as shown in the following comparative table for 2004-2005:

Quarter	Number of visits	Daily average	Average length of visits
1 January - 30 March 2004	15,172	166	08:41
1 April - 30 June 2004	13,130	144	08:02
1 July - 30 September 2004	12,728	138	10:02
1 October - 09 December 2004	12,072	131	12:57
1 January - 30 March 2005	15,753	175	13:24
1 April - 30 June 2005	24,908	273	13:35
1 July - 30 September 2005	32,375	351	12:46

1 October - 15 December 2005	27,178	357	15:10
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>153,316</b>	<b>216.875</b>	<b>11:50</b>

As of 15 December 2005, 5325 items were available in the different subsections (Acerca de nosotros, Documentos, Normativa, Vocabulario), as well as a directory of 270 organizations devoted to the promotion of the rights of indigenous peoples, Afro-descendants and migrants. The specialized section was visited 59,553 times between 1 July and 15 December 2005 - an average of 354 visits per day that lasted an average 13:58 minutes each (statistics compiled using WebTrends software).

### 1.3.3.7. Impact indicators

***“More information available about the actions of electoral organizations with respect to measures that encourage or hinder the participation of indigenous peoples in political and electoral processes in six countries in the region”***

The process that began with the design of common terms of reference and specific methodologies for collecting information, using expert counterparts in the countries, paves the way for the production of specialized knowledge.

#### **Means of verification:**

- General terms of reference for the research
- Research proposals, methodologies and work plans of the research team (six countries) and the IIHR
- Contracts drawn up
- Information available online in the *Diversidades* specialized section of the Institute’s website
- Reports and statistics compiled using the WebTrends software, confirming the number of hits and visits to the specialized section

### **1.3.4. Promoting access to citizenship and political participation for the Afro-descendant population**

#### **1.3.4.1. Description**

The objective of the project is to enhance the expertise and capabilities of the Afro-descendant population and their organizations, and of advocacy organizations that monitor political-electoral processes. This will enable them to influence and monitor specific proposed legislation designed to promote the inclusion and political participation of the Afro-descendant population. Project staff are working closely with the IIHR/CAPEL and the IIHR’s support units, drawing on the experience of Colombia’s electoral organization in implementing the affirmative action mechanisms created under electoral legislation and administrative measures targeted at the Afro-Colombian community. The aim is to make other countries that have made relatively less progress with regard to the political participation of Afro-descendants aware of the good practices developed in Colombia and the lessons learned from the experience. Authoritative knowledge will be passed on to the Afro-descendant population and its organizations, CSOs that focus on the rights of this population and electoral and related institutions, both in countries that have more advanced electoral systems and those that have not yet developed legislation, jurisprudence, doctrine and/or administrative arrangements to foster greater participation.

Between June and December 2005, the project began to make preparations for a panel discussion to evaluate the political participation of Colombia's Afro-descendant population, based on four variables:

- a) Electoral legislation and regulations targeted at the Afro-descendant population;
- b) Administrative arrangements (issuing of identity cards, voter registration);
- c) The Afro-descendant population's use of (local, national and regional) judicial and administrative remedies; and,
- d) The participation of Afro-Colombians in electoral processes

During the quarter under review, progress was made with:

- a) The design of the activity, working with the IIHR/CAPEL;
- b) The identification of the counterpart by the target population, based on the IIHR's selection criteria (which included work experience and expertise/experience in working with the Afro-Colombian population and ethnic and cultural diversity; experience of work involving interaction with national organizations or networks that promote the rights of the Afro-descendant population, and with parliamentary or state actors; and, previous links with the IIHR), as a result of which the National Afro-Colombian Conference was identified and initial contacts were made;
- c) The work of identifying the people who will represent the two Colombian electoral bodies that will be taking part in the activity (the National Registry and the National Electoral Council); and,
- d) Specialized material on the subject, which was made available via the specialized section of the IIHR's website (*Diversidades*).

#### **1.3.4.2. Method**

The project consists of applied research and is divided into three components: 1) production of specialized knowledge (applied research); 2) training and information (training workshop-course); 3) dissemination (publication, CD-Rom, *Diversidades* - specialized section of the IIHR's website). The first component is currently being implemented. Specialized material for the research has been made available via the specialized section of the Institute's website (*Diversidades*).

Between June and December 2005, the project identified the counterparts who will take part in the panel discussion to evaluate the situation in Colombia. The IIHR/CAPEL's involvement was crucial, given the Center's vast experience of electoral processes in Colombia and its links with the National Registry and the National Electoral Council, whose participation in the project is of key importance.

#### **1.3.4.3. Background / rationale**

The activities are part of the work plan (June-Dec 2005) of a new stage of the Promoting a Culture of Inclusion Project (2003-2005). The aim is to familiarize other countries that have made relatively less progress with regard to the political participation of Afro-descendants with the good practices developed in Colombia and the lessons learned from the experience. Authoritative knowledge will be passed on to the Afro-descendant population and its organizations, CSOs that focus on the rights of this population and electoral and related institutions, both in countries that have advanced electoral systems and those that have not yet developed legislation, jurisprudence, doctrine and/or administrative arrangements to foster greater participation. Both the strategies and the activities were designed to form part of a process, encompassing all the actions required to achieve the results.

#### 1.3.4.4. Institution(s) responsible and coordination

The work plan will be implemented by the counterpart selected in Colombia. The IIHR will monitor and evaluate the implementation of the work plan, carry out a technical assistance mission, update the contents of the specialized section of the IIHR's website (*Diversidades*), coordinate the impact assessment on the project and prepare the semiannual report. USAID will be informed of open activities included in the work plan. Whenever necessary, the Program to Combat Racism coordinates its efforts with the IIHR/CAPEL and the IIHR's Applied Research Unit.

#### 1.3.4.5. Intermediate steps

- Possible individuals/organizations who could serve as counterparts were identified.
- The individuals/ organizations were contacted.
- Terms of reference were drawn up for the panel discussion on the situation in Colombia (topics, core areas of analysis, methodology).
- Project staff worked with the IIHR/CAPEL and the IIHR Applied Research Unit in developing the project.
- Materials were prepared for posting online and the content of the specialized section of the IIHR's website (*Diversidades*) was updated continuously.

#### 1.3.4.6. Results or outputs

- The counterparts in Colombia were identified.
- Terms of reference were designed for the panel discussion.
- There was a sustained increase in the number of visitors, verified by the WebTrends software, as shown in the comparative table for 2004-2005:

Quarter	Number of visits	Daily average	Average length of visits
1 January - 30 March 2004	15,172	166	08:41
1 April - 30 June 2004	13,130	144	08:02
1 July - 30 September 2004	12,728	138	10:02
1 October - 9 December 2004	12,072	131	12:57
1 January - 30 March 2005	15,753	175	13:24
1 April - 30 June 2005	24,908	273	13:35
1 July - 30 September 2005	32,375	351	12:46
1 October - 15 December 2005	27,178	357	15:10
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>153,316</b>	<b>216.875</b>	<b>11:50</b>

#### 1.3.4.7. Impact indicators

***“Relatively less developed countries have more knowledge about the progress made and obstacles encountered in the efforts to increase the political participation of Colombia’s Afro-descendant population by NGOs and CSOs, electoral tribunals and stakeholders and decision-makers involved with the issue”***

Once the project gets under way, the groundwork will be laid for the process of producing specialized knowledge that will lead to the attainment of the impact indicator.

#### Means of verification:

- Terms of reference for the panel discussion

- Counterparts identified
- Information available online in the *Diversidades* specialized section of the Institute's website
- Reports and statistics compiled using the WebTrends software, confirming the number of hits and visits to the specialized section

#### **1.4. LESSONS LEARNED**

The level of expertise required for the project activities - knowledge of the subject matter and of research processes and techniques - meant that the number of suitable counterparts (experts or organizations) was limited. The identification and selection process took a little longer than envisaged.

As proved to be the case in previous projects in Colombia involving indigenous or Afro-descendant populations, flexibility is a key factor. The situation in the country is very complex, particularly with respect to the internal armed conflict and the serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law perpetrated against both populations. In this case, the situation affected the implementation of the panel discussion to evaluate the political participation of the Afro-Colombian population. Two electoral processes will take place in 2006 and this made the participation of the Colombian electoral bodies more difficult.



## CONFLICT PREVENTION

### 1. PROJECT: CITIZEN SECURITY IN LATIN AMERICA: DEVELOPING A NATIONAL AND LOCAL APPROACH

#### 1.1. GENERAL FRAMEWORK

The objective of this project is to assist public institutions and civil society organizations (CSOs) with the design and implementation of citizen security policies; and to strengthen community involvement in security. This, in turn, will help reduce insecurity and guarantee citizen security as a human right.

Between June and December 2005 (following the approval of the Amendment to Cooperation Agreement LAG-A-00-02-00001-00 and the corresponding Work Plan for June - December 2005), the staff continued to work on the same lines of action as in previous quarters. The activities focused on two countries in the region (the Dominican Republic and Argentina), but adopting different strategies.

In the case of Argentina, the work concentrated on strengthening community participation in the social prevention of crime and juvenile violence by holding the *Training Seminar-Workshop for Neighborhood Leaders - Community Prevention of Violence*, in the city of La Plata from 24-25 November.

Project staff carried out a mission to the Dominican Republic 5-10 December under the subproject "Developing a Citizen Security Policy in the Dominican Republic." This (largely political) mission was used to analyze the political and institutional situation and evaluate the prospects for continuing the IIHR's technical assistance following the changes that took place in the police force (Maj. Gen. Bernardo Santana Páez was appointed as the new Chief of Police).

As will be seen below, the mission produced highly positive results. The staff saw first-hand that the desire for change within the police and in the security sector remains undiminished. The authorities also want the IIHR, with assistance from USAID, to continue to support the reform process in 2006. Demonstrating the country's commitment, the President adopted and issued the *Democratic Security Plan*, in which our institution was officially assigned to provide cooperation and specialized assistance in different areas of the reform.

The activity described under Goal 3 of the amended Work Plan for 2005 was "Support the definition of democratic public citizen security policies at the regional level," with a "meeting of experts" scheduled for the second week of December. This meeting had to be reprogrammed for 30-31 January 2006 because the experts involved could not fit it into their schedules at the end of 2005 due to prior commitments.

The schedule of activities for January - June 2006, updated through January, is attached to this report.

#### 1.2. GOALS

**Goal 1:** To support the process of security sector reform by helping to implement a public citizen security policy in the Dominican Republic

**Goal 2:** To enhance the capacity of citizens' organizations to prevent juvenile violence in Buenos Aires Province

**Goal 3:** To enhance institutional capabilities for developing and implementing democratic citizen security policies and for cooperation between the subregions of Latin America (Central America and South America)

### **1.3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT**

#### **1.3.1 Technical assistance in implementing the Public Citizen Security Policy in the Dominican Republic**

##### **1.3.1.1 Description**

The Police Modernization Plan (“Strategy for the Modernization of the National Police of the Dominican Republic”) was approved in December 2004 and the President then adopted the Democratic Security Plan, which incorporated the strategy. Since then, our work has consisted of providing the constant advisory assistance needed to implement the gamut of actions called for in the plan.

A political mission to the country was scheduled for **June - December 2005**, to determine whether the institutions involved were keen to continue the reform process and, if they were, to identify the actions to be implemented in 2006.

The mission to the country was carried out 5-10 December. The mission members were the Director of the Department of Public Institutions, Juan Navarrete, Security and Human Rights Program Officer Isabel Albaladejo and expert consultant Róbinson Pérez (Chile).

The mission followed a change in the country’s security hierarchy. In July 2005, the man who had been Chief of Police for over a year, Maj. Gen. Manuel de Jesús Pérez Sánchez, was appointed Presidential Adviser for Police Affairs. The new Police Chief, Maj. Gen. Bernardo Santana Páez, took over at a time when all sectors of the citizenry were demanding efficient police operations with respect for due process.

As has been mentioned, in February 2005 President Leonel Fernández signed into law a decree containing the Democratic Security Plan, designed to tackle crime and the growing insecurity in the country. The decree was drafted following a recommendation from the IIHR team that a legal provision of this kind was needed to underpin the restructuring process. In addition to establishing the background, rationale and objectives of the reform, the decree focuses on six key areas: a) the development of an effective preventive police force; b) sweeping academic reform to produce better police officers; c) the development and implementation of a criminal investigation system; d) the creation of a community police force to enable the National Police to forge closer ties with society; e) the design of a management and organizational structure; and, f) the development of an effective internal affairs program: to strengthen the police as an institution; incorporate the concept of community policing; and define the relationship between the police and the armed forces.

This security plan, which has been published and disseminated widely, establishes the areas in which the IIHR will be providing technical assistance, plus areas in which other national and international agencies will collaborate as part of a process.

The many meetings in which the team was involved during the mission highlighted the opportunities, demand and growing need for our continued support between January and August 2006. As has been explained many times, the aim is to consolidate the ongoing reform process - which is already proving to be a success - that has enabled us to position the IIHR as an “advisory” institution in this field, despite the changes in personnel that have taken place in the hierarchy since the start of the process.

### **1.3.1.2. Method**

The security sector reform process continues to be a three-pronged effort involving the Minister of the Interior and the Police, Franklin Almeyda; the Attorney General, Francisco Domínguez Brito; and, now, the new Chief of the National Police, Bernardo Santana Páez. This initiative enjoys strong support from President Leonel Fernández.

This demonstrates the firmly held conviction, from the President down, that the issue of security needs to be addressed from a comprehensive standpoint that encompasses much more than just the question of the police. A comprehensive strategy for controlling crime is needed involving various government agencies, plus a strategy designed to establish better social, economic and educational conditions, the absence of which is a structural factor in violence and crime.

During their week's stay in Santo Domingo (5-10 December) the team focused on holding meetings with various actors involved in the reform process, namely:

- The Attorney General
- The Minister of the Interior and the Police
- The Chief of the National Police
- Senior National Police officers, in particular the National Director of Preventive Security and the National Director of Criminal Investigations
- Civil society organizations: FLACSO, FINJUS, Human Rights Institute of Santo Domingo

All the stakeholders consulted said that the reform of the Police continues to be a national priority and that the IIHR should continue to cooperate in its areas of expertise, i.e., the strengthening of the Preventive Police, disciplinary and ethical controls (Internal Affairs), the organizational-operational restructuring, the new education and training system, and communication in the management of security.

At present, both the police force and other institutions are heavily involved in implementing a local security plan in one of the "most dangerous" neighborhoods (Capotillo). However, a bigger police presence on the streets does not reduce crime; it simply shifts the focus of crime. As the operation has been extended to twelve other neighborhoods in the capital, the IIHR team will also press for a more comprehensive approach to these efforts.

### **1.3.1.3. Background / rationale**

The Democratic Security Plan is the result of teamwork involving the Ministry of the Interior and the Police, the Attorney General's Office and the National Police. As stated in the introduction to the plan itself, these institutions received advisory assistance from several agencies in preparing it, particularly the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights. The IIHR was also asked to support the implementation of several areas of the Plan in 2006.

This work and the changes in the police hierarchy warranted a mission to determine what would be done in the months ahead and whether the police leadership was keen to proceed as planned.

The Democratic Security Plan has two basic objectives. The first is to reestablish the authority of the Dominican State by means of a sweeping reform of the National Police. The aim is not only to put police on the streets of the countries' cities and towns but also to restore the citizenry's confidence in the institution. The second objective is to guarantee the basic civil rights of the population, making the citizenry the principal actor in democratic security in the Dominican Republic.

As stated in previous reports, the Strategy for Modernizing the National Police of the Dominican Republic provides a roadmap for the assistance that is being given. It is a cornerstone of the country's new citizen security policy and, more specifically, of the institutional strategy that needs to be implemented prior or parallel to a comprehensive crime control strategy. Thus, it forms part of the reform and modernization of the citizen security system and is designed specifically to enable the police to carry out efficient crime prevention and control strategies and criminal investigations, doing away with the anachronisms and weaknesses that exist.

#### **1.3.1.4. Institution(s) responsible and coordination**

Juan Navarrete, Director of the IIHR's Department of Public Institutions, and Security and Human Rights Program Officer Isabel Albaladejo are responsible for implementing and coordinating the strategy developed.

The members of the technical mission carried out in December were Juan Navarrete, Isabel Albaladejo and Chilean consultant Robinson Pérez.

#### **1.3.1.5. Intermediate steps**

Project staff:

- Coordinated with the counterparts, i.e., the Ministry of the Interior and the Police and senior police officers
- Maintained permanent contact with the counterparts, to monitor any developments in the country that could have a bearing on citizen security and offer pertinent advice
- Hired the consultant to take part in the mission and consultation process, and coordinate the work with the other consultants who form part of the team and will continue to do so in 2006
- Identified and contacted the police officers and senior officials that the team met with during the technical mission in December, and
- Coordinated the meetings of the team taking part in the mission

#### **1.3.1.6 Results or outputs**

- A political mission was carried out to evaluate the situation within the institutions and determine what technical assistance actions should be carried out in the months ahead
- Various working meetings were held with senior Dominican police officers, to verify the situation, the progress made since the previous mission and the desire to continue
- Coordination of the activities of the various institutions involved, to achieve the objectives set (Ministry of the Interior, National Police, Attorney General's Office)
- Continuation of the strategy for monitoring, overseeing and supervising the implementation of the priority actions called for in the Democratic Security Plan and the Modernization Strategy

### 1.3.1.7 Impact indicators

#### ***“Enhanced institutional capabilities for designing and implementing measures to guarantee people’s security, as part of a public security policy”***

The main indicator of the results of the efforts to strengthen the institutional capabilities for determining and implementing measures that guarantee citizen security is the approval of the **Democratic Security Plan**. The plan establishes the responsibilities of each of the agencies involved in security matters, particularly the National Police. The respective actions are now being implemented and further advisory assistance from the IIHR is required.

#### **Means of verification:**

- A copy of the **Democratic Security Plan** is attached as a means of verification.
- Mission report

### 1.3.2 Training workshop on the social prevention of juvenile violence in Buenos Aires

#### 1.3.2.1 Description

On 24-25 November, the project held the training seminar-workshop for members of citizens’ organizations currently executing projects aimed at the social prevention of crime (projects targeted at young offenders). Most of the organizations concerned focus on young people at risk in psychosocial terms.

The Multiple Response Program (MRP) comprises projects that are going to be implemented in Buenos Aires Province, targeted at young people at risk and young offenders. The Program includes: a) actions aimed at integrating young people into society through the arts, sports, education and training in trades; b) institution building actions for grassroots organizations, security forums and NGOs that work with young people and adolescents; and, c) the creation of Local Rights Promotion Units (ULPDs) to afford young people access to the full exercise of their citizen’s and human rights.

Therefore, these organizations need to be equipped with the tools they need (content and methods) for the work they will be carrying out with young people, through training workshops.

During the event, it was reported that an amendment to Law 12,154 had been submitted to the provincial legislature, specifically regarding the article that states that the forums are a mechanism for monitoring the work of the police. The amendment would extend the forums’ remit to include the administration of justice.

The reasons given for seeking the amendment are that justice is a public service and, as such, should be effective and tailored to citizens’ needs. The National Constitution and international treaties with constitutional status guarantee, among other principles, due process and the right to a defense of individuals involved in all types of administrative and judicial processes. Furthermore, the Provincial Constitution establishes the principles of support for justice, continuous judicial protection and unrestricted access to justice for all citizens. The Province’s Supreme Court of Justice also has a duty to take steps to protect the efficacy of judicial operations, in order to improve the justice system. Another justification for the amendment is the fact that different legal operators are responsible for a series of irregularities in the administration of justice. Forum members, local residents and social organizations constantly lobby the Department of Community Participation for improved oversight of the justice system.

The seminar-workshop brought together around fourteen hundred (1400) people from 326 forums. The media reported that the topics addressed and the workshops held were essential to improve the execution of the tasks that are of concern to the entire community and form part of the forums' remit.

### **1.3.2.2. Method**

The IIHR carried out a three-day mission (7-9 November) to Buenos Aires prior to the seminar-workshop to determine the scope, content and methodology of the seminar and coordinate logistical aspects of the activity, which took place 24-25 November 2005 in the city of La Plata.

The Under Secretary for Community Participation, Marta Arriola, officially opened the Congress on Thursday, 24 November. Senior officials attended the entire activity, including Security Minister León Arslanián, the Attorney General of the Supreme Court of Justice of the Province of Buenos Aires, María del Carmen Falbo and the Director of the IIHR's Department of Public Institutions, Juan Navarrete.

The methodology used for the training was as follows:

#### **Day 1:**

**Participants:** Representatives of the security forums, representatives of organizations selected to implement projects, young people taking part in the projects.

**Core topics:** Multiple Response Program, strategies for integrating young people into society to prevent community violence, and the strengthening and reorganization of the security forums.

The participants worked on the core topics in workshops. The representatives of the different organizations described their experiences in implementing prevention projects for young people at risk, with a view to developing, with the security forums, lines of joint action to improve the territorial approach to the problems faced.

The outputs of the different groups were then shared in a plenary session.

#### **Day 2:**

**Participants:** Representatives of organizations selected to implement projects, young people taking part in the projects.

**Core topics:** Methodology of the "Training handbook for neighborhood leaders;" Workshop 1: Community Prevention of Violence; Workshop 2: Citizenship and Rights; Workshop 3: Young offenders; Workshop 4: Profile of the Community Operator; Workshop 5: Learning and Institutional Adaptation.

The participants again worked in workshops. They shared the content and methodologies proposed in the manual, to facilitate their replication at the local level.

The various groups then shared the results of their efforts in a plenary session, discussing the strong points and difficulties that exist for disseminating the proposed material.

### **1.3.2.3. Rationale**

Training is a permanent tool for strengthening grassroots organizations. As they are close to, and have first-hand knowledge of, the situation in each area, these organizations are the ones best placed to promote specific actions in their immediate area, such as the community prevention of violence.

Such citizen participation should also create opportunities for integrating young people into society, e.g., possibilities of employment, education and protection, so they can exercise their citizens' rights to the full.

Relations between local residents and the police are very poor and the lack of confidence in the police is a very difficult obstacle to overcome. Therefore, the work of the local security forums is essential to forge closer ties between the security forces and local residents.

Finally, it is also vital that these organizations be trained to oversee judicial activities, especially following the recent presentation of a bill in which it is stated that justice is a public service and, as such, should be effective and tailored to citizens' needs. The National Constitution and international treaties with constitutional status guarantee, among other principles, due process and the right to a defense of individuals involved in all kinds of administrative and judicial processes. Furthermore, the Provincial Constitution establishes the principles of support for justice, continuous judicial protection and unrestricted access to justice for all citizens.

### **1.3.2.4. Institution(s) responsible and coordination**

IIHR Security and Human Rights Program officer Isabel Albaladejo coordinated these activities, supervised by Juan Navarrete, Director of the IIHR's Department of Public Institutions.

The Department of Community Participation of the Ministry of Security of Buenos Aires Province helped identify the citizen organizations and invite them to take part in the activity.

### **1.3.2.5. Intermediate steps**

Project staff:

- Designed the thematic program and methodology used in the training activities
- Identified the people who took part in the training activities as facilitators
- Identified the Province's Security Forums and neighborhood organizations that are a priority due to the problems they face
- Advertised the activity and sent out invitations to all the participants
- Designed and printed the programs for the participants
- Prepared anthologies of educational materials on the topics covered by the training and printed and photocopied them
- Coordinated aspects of the activity with the personnel of the Department of Community Participation (invitations, logistical and organizational matters)

### **1.3.2.6. Results or outputs**

Seminar-workshop involving 1400 people: neighborhood leaders, representatives of security forums and citizen organizations, young people participating in the projects for the community prevention of violence

Organizations identified that face critical problems of insecurity  
Anthologies containing educational materials on the topics addressed in the training activities

#### **1.3.2.7. Impact indicators**

***“The grassroots organizations implementing projects under the Multiple Response Program have improved capabilities for work with young offenders”***

***“Reenergized local network for work with adolescents and young people who are at risk or are offenders, strengthening the coordination and joint efforts of neighborhood organizations and security forums”***

As at the two previous events, the participation of large numbers of organizations in the training demonstrates the level of interest in, and demand for, opportunities to acquire the expertise needed to take part in citizen security and help reduce insecurity, mainly through social work with groups that are at risk. Many of the participants traveled 1000 kilometers to take part, under their own steam.

The evaluations presented by all the participants and the comments expressed show that the seminars more than satisfied their expectations in terms of the expertise they acquired. They also revealed a keen interest in continuing this strategy through a variety of actions related to the social prevention of crime.

The above helped:

- Improve the capabilities of civil society and the citizenry for the design and implementation of actions to prevent violence and juvenile crime and monitor the police's activities
- Enhance the capabilities of civil society for monitoring justice administration
- Increase the opportunities for community participation, as a new democratic model in the construction of security
- Direct the authorities' attention to security matters to focus efforts, provide tools and strengthen organizations, in order to prevent crime and criminality at the local level, adopting an integrated approach and with the emphasis on social prevention

#### **Means of verification:**

- List of participants in the Seminar- Workshop
- Program of the Seminar-Workshop
- Educational materials

### **1.4. LESSONS LEARNED**

Since 2003, the IIHR has been involved in different stages of the design and management of a democratic public security policy in the Dominican Republic and, as part of this effort, in the process of restructuring the National Police.

A change of government took place during this process, which was followed by the appointment of new officials with responsibility for security and, recently, a new Chief of the National Police. Fortunately, the caliber of the IIHR team and the consultants, allied to the prestige and reputation that the Institute enjoys, made it possible for the project to overcome the obstacles created by the changes and not be affected by the political situation.

Proof of the above is the fact that the President asked the IIHR to continue to advise the authorities on the security reform process, under the Democratic Security Plan, while the new Chief of Police was keen to see the ongoing efforts to modernize and professionalize the police force continue.

In addition to the prestige that it enjoys, the reason for the Institute's solid position is that it has always supported institutional reform (supporting institutions, not the heads of institutions). In other words, it has provided technical assistance for the reform of the State, not the government.

Furthermore, the IIHR has learned how important it is to involve different state actors (not simply the police agenda) in security issues. As well as the coordinated participation of state agencies, civil society as a whole must be involved, especially grassroots organizations and NGOs whose work and areas of concern include conflict resolution and efforts to reduce the scale of violence in the country.

With regard to Argentina, without a doubt, one of the most obvious and direct consequences of the social exclusion that young people suffer, at all levels, is their growing involvement in different forms of violence (both as victims and victimizers) and in the commission of various types of criminal acts. Citizens of all political, social and cultural persuasions and social classes are becoming increasingly alarmed, even though, logically enough, these problems affect them in many different ways. In some cases, the data available is very fragmentary and hardly scientific. Nevertheless, in the most worrying cases it reflects a highly complex situation that needs to be tackled as a matter of urgency, with determination and firmness but also with absolute respect for human rights and with solutions that facilitate and promote prosperity and democracy for all members of society.

The "get tough" policies and "zero tolerance" programs being implemented have failed to have a positive impact and have actually made many problems worse. They have not achieved significant results because they only tackle the most visible manifestations of the problem. As various studies have shown, what we need to do is recognize that the problem is structural, highly complex and rooted in the very cultures of our countries. The simplistic approaches employed to date are of little use, limited as they are to punishment, the implementation of "moralizing" campaigns and the automatic association of poverty with crime. The eradication of poverty is viewed as the panacea, even though there are poor cities that have little violence and not-so-poor cities that are very violent, which categorically refutes such simplistic notions.

In recent years, we have undertaken innovative efforts to address these complex situations. They are beginning to produce good results and should be replicated and expanded in very diverse areas, if the aim is to reduce violence and crime rates, while at the same time improving social integration and inclusive human development in our societies.

In Argentina, many grassroots organizations help young people at risk on a daily basis but they cannot find the tools and approaches needed to deal with their client's problems.

Hence, the need to provide the citizenry with tools that will enable them to address the problem of violence comprehensively, broadening the approach to the subject as violence has many causes.

**PROJECT: CITIZEN SECURITY IN LATIN AMERICA: DEVELOPING A NATIONAL AND LOCAL APPROACH**

**SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES JANUARY-JUNE 2006**

**Updated January 2006**

ACTIVITIES	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Technical Mission to Dominican Republic												
Technical Mission to Dominican Republic												
Validation and Evaluation Seminar Dominican Republic												
Preparatory Meeting of Experts for Citizen Security Summits												
Regional Meeting - Summit on Citizen Security - Central America												
Regional Meeting - Summit on Citizen Security - South America												
Coordination Regional Meetings												

## **2. PROJECT: STRENGTHENING THE OMBUDSMAN IN LATIN AMERICA**

### **2.1. GENERAL FRAMEWORK**

The goal set for this project is to make ombudsman's offices more accessible and independent, enhance their capabilities and increase the number of them in Latin America as a mechanism for protecting human rights and denouncing violations. **Following the approval of the Amendment to Cooperation Agreement LAG-A-00-02-00001-00 and the corresponding Work Plan for June - December 2005**, a number of activities were carried out between **June and December 2005**. Project staff updated the Integrated Information and Communication System, presented the results of a regional diagnostic study and a proposal concerning the role of ombudsman institutions in protecting the rights of indigenous peoples (12-15 October), and helped organize and took part in the Tenth Congress of the Ibero-American Federation of Ombudsman (FIO), held 14-17 November. Prior to this last activity, the IIHR's Board of Directors and Executive Directorate discussed the Institute's role as the Technical Secretariat of the FIO. At the Congress, the IIHR submitted a letter to the new FIO Governing Council in which it asked to be relieved of this responsibility.

### **2.2. GOALS**

**Goal 1:** To coordinate efforts to tackle common concerns of ombudsman's offices in the region and help design a regional horizontal cooperation strategy for monitoring and providing follow-up to public citizen security policies

**Goal 2:** To enhance the capabilities of ombudsman's offices in Latin America and the Caribbean by means of an integrated information and communication system

**Goal 3:** To present the results of a regional diagnostic study and a proposal concerning the role of ombudsman institutions in protecting the rights of indigenous peoples

### **2.3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT**

#### **2.3.1. Support for the organization of the Tenth FIO Congress**

##### **2.3.1.1. Description**

The participants in the Tenth FIO Congress and Annual Assembly included 17 national ombudsman, three representatives of state, provincial and autonomous ombudsman's offices and specially invited guests.

At the Ninth FIO Congress and Annual Assembly, held in Quito, Ecuador in 2004, the members decided to reform the Federation's statute by means of a carefully planned process. However, FIO President Germán Mundaraín convened only one meeting to discuss the reform prior to the Tenth Congress and Annual Assembly. Held in Caracas, Venezuela on 3 October 2005, the participants were Ramón Custodio López, the President of the CCPDH, and Beatrice Alamanni de Carillo, the Vice President of the FIO. The IIHR's Juan Navarrete M. also took part, as the representative of the Technical Secretariat.

The IIHR supported the creation of the FIO. Subsequently, in its capacity as the Technical Secretariat following the body's first Assembly, it implemented actions and programs and

invested resources in the FIO's consolidation. All this effort was recognized in resolutions adopted at the various Annual Assemblies.

The IIHR has always respected the ombudsman's sphere of activity, recognizing that these institutions play an important role in building democracy and ensuring respect for human rights in the Americas. Since 1995, it has actively supported their work.

However, at the Tenth FIO Congress and Annual Assembly, the IIHR's Executive Director, Roberto Cuéllar presented a document to the FIO Governing Council in which he asked it to relieve the Institute of its responsibilities as the Technical Secretariat. The IIHR had been performing this task since the Federation's creation in 1995, pursuant to Article 18 of the FIO statute.

The IIHR did not take this decision lightly. After discussing the matter in depth, the Institute's Board of Directors and Executive Directorate decided that the minimum conditions required for it to serve as the Technical Secretariat no longer existed. Certain developments had created conditions that were incompatible with the IIHR's principles and standards. These conditions are: a) the way in which the FIO elects its vice presidents (the Governing Council often elects a person to represent a region against the wishes of all the other ombudsman in that region, meaning that the person concerned enjoys no legitimacy whatsoever); b) some FIO ombudsman refuse to allow ombudsman from the Caribbean Region to join the Federation, thus making it an exclusive body; and, c) the outgoing FIO President, the Ombudsman of Venezuela, refused to allow the IIHR to carry out its statutory mandate as the Technical Secretariat.

The IIHR took this decision to allow the Governing Council to assume full responsibility for the FIO Technical Secretariat. It intends to continue to support and collaborate with the ombudsman's offices under bilateral and regional projects via its departments and specialized programs, given the special regard it has for these institutions.

#### **2.3.1.2. Method**

The IIHR tried to assist the country chosen to host the Congress (Paraguay) with the organization of the event and suggested a series of topics for discussion, based on the proposals made by the ombudsman themselves. It also attempted to enhance the technical expertise of the ombudsman's offices by incorporating a training component into the methodological design of the Congress, but this was rejected by the FIO President. Efforts to schedule sessions to enable the participants to share their experiences and update the human rights agenda met with a similar response. Since the Congress would not be trying to devise and develop strategies for joint activities, nor providing an opportunity to discuss the work of national institutions in promoting and protecting human rights, the IIHR decided not to finance the participation of an expert.

#### **2.3.1.3. Background / rationale**

Many years ago, the IIHR decided to support institutions like ombudsman's offices that satisfactorily meet the needs of the population and demand respect for their human rights and effective guarantees for enforcing them, particularly in the case of vulnerable segments of the population. In this context, ombudsman institutions fill a gap in human rights protection and play a key role in establishing and bolstering strong, stable democracies in the western hemisphere.

The IIHR was designated to serve as the Secretariat of the FIO in 1995. Over the years, it has implemented academic activities and specific projects, organized technical missions, held training courses and prepared informational documents. Each year the IIHR also helps the host ombudsman to organize the FIO Congress, the biggest international event of its kind. The Federation's annual meetings play an important role in integrating the different ombudsman's offices, as they permit them to share experiences and knowledge. The members also discuss new approaches to human rights and mechanisms for dealing with specific issues.

#### **2.3.1.4. Institution(s) responsible and coordination**

The President of the Ibero-American Federation of Ombudsman (the Ombudsman of Venezuela, Germán Mundaraín) and the Ombudsman of Paraguay, Manuel María Páez Monges, as the host of the Congress and Annual Meeting, were responsible for organizing the event. The IIHR's Ombudsman and Human Rights Program made every effort to support the Congress but the outgoing President refused to allow the IIHR to carry out its statutory mandate as the FIO Technical Secretariat.

#### **2.3.1.5. Intermediate steps**

The IIHR:

- maintained communication with the Ombudsman of Paraguay (the host of the Congress) and the FIO Governing Council and President regarding technical and methodological aspects of the Federation's Congress and Assembly
- sent the organizers a list of special guests who could be invited to take part in the activity
- suggested a series of topics that could be important for the FIO given the social/political/economic situation in the Ibero-American region
- took part in the meeting held 3 October in Caracas, Venezuela, which focused on the reform of the FIO statute

#### **2.3.1.6. Results or outputs**

- Document containing the conclusions of the meeting (03/10/05) of the committee set up at the Ninth Annual Assembly to study and analyze the reform of the FIO statute. The document was presented and distributed at the Tenth FIO Congress
- Two declarations adopted at the Tenth FIO Congress and Annual Assembly: the Declaration of Asuncion and the Declaration of the Ibero-American Network of Women's Advocates to the Tenth Congress of the Ibero-American Federation of Ombudsman (FIO)
- A resolution adopted at the Tenth FIO Congress and Annual Assembly supporting the proposal put forth by the Guatemalan community residing in the United States of America that they be granted Temporary Protection Status (TPS)
- Election of the officers of the Federation during the Tenth Congress and Annual Assembly. Spain's Ombudsman, Enrique Mújica Herzog, was elected to serve as President until 2007.

### **2.3.1.7. Impact indicators**

#### ***“Technical and academic level of the FIO’s agenda enhanced”***

During the Tenth FIO Congress, the ombudsman discussed the situation of children and adolescents in Ibero-America, with a view to the Federation assuming a position on this issue.

As a result of the Tenth Congress and Annual Assembly, the Federation adopted two declarations - the Declaration of Asuncion and the Declaration of the Ibero-American Network of Women Advocates to the Tenth Congress of the Ibero-American Federation of Ombudsmen (FIO).

Finally, the FIO adopted a resolution supporting the proposal made by the Guatemalan community living in the United States of America that they be granted Temporary Protection Status (TPS). Two key paragraphs of this document are as follows:

- In October 2005, Hurricane Stan had a serious impact on Guatemala. According to official figures, the disaster affected 1158 communities in 15 of the country’s 22 departments, causing the deaths of 669 people and the disappearance of a further 844. The total number of people affected was 474,928, plus collapsed infrastructure and lost agricultural production that has left thousands of Guatemalans unemployed and created a serious risk of food insecurity
- [The signatories] call on the illustrious government of the United States of America to grant Temporary Protection Status to the Guatemalan community residing in its territory

#### ***“Ombudsman’s offices strengthened through the joint actions agreed on at the FIO congress”***

During the Tenth FIO Congress, the members were emphatic in asking the Government of El Salvador to take the steps required to safeguard the physical and moral integrity of the country’s Ombudsman and the personnel of his institution, and to adopt mechanisms to allow the institution to operate properly, allocating sufficient resources to enable it to perform the duties assigned to it under El Salvador’s Constitution.

The FIO also called on the State and Government of Guatemala to take urgent steps to guarantee the life and integrity of the Ombudsman of Guatemala and ensure that he can perform his duties in defense of human rights to the full.

Furthermore, it asked the states and governments of Brazil and Chile to continue to make efforts to set up ombudsman’s offices in those countries.

Finally, the FIO urged the State to facilitate the process of appointing an ombudsman in the Dominican Republic.

#### ***“FIO strengthened by revising and updating its Statute”***

The committee set up at the Ninth Annual Assembly to study and analyze the reform of the FIO statute met on 3 October 2005. Following its deliberations, it issued a document containing its conclusions regarding the progress of the reform process and the proposals made, which was distributed at the FIO Annual Assembly. While this document undoubtedly

constituted progress in reforming the FIO statute (a key item on the agenda of the Tenth Congress and Annual Assembly), the procedure that is to be used to update the statute remains unclear.

**Means of verification:**

- Declaration of Asuncion (see Annex 1)
- Declaration of the Ibero-American Network of Women's Advocates to the Tenth FIO Assembly (see Annex 2)
- Resolution supporting the proposal made by the Guatemalan community living in the United States of America that it be granted Temporary Protection Status (TPS) (see Annex 3)
- Program of the Tenth FIO Congress and Annual Assembly (see Annex 4)
- FIO Governing Council report on activities 2003-2005 (see Annex 5)
- Report from the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights (see Annex 6)
- Conclusions of the meeting of the committee set up at the Ninth Annual Assembly to study and analyze the reform of the FIO statute (see Annex 7)
- Letter from the IIHR asking the FIO Governing Council to relieve it of its responsibilities as the FIO Technical Secretariat (see Annex 8)

**2.3.2. Updating of the Integrated Information and Communication System**

**2.3.2.1. Description**

The integrated information system is a useful tool that the ombudsman offices can utilize to find and post information. The IIHR constantly updates the data in the system.

All the national and international legislation on human rights and ombudsman offices has been systematized and made available via this system, including complete, up-to-date details of every (national, provincial and municipal) ombudsman's office in the region - their street addresses, phone and fax numbers, Web page addresses, contact persons and specialized and subject-specific units.

Two discussion lists were set up, one for Spanish-speaking ombudsman institutions and another for English-speaking agencies. Both lists are used to distribute news items, the jurisprudence of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, resolutions adopted by ombudsman offices and other information.

**2.3.2.2. Method**

The information and communication system has become a useful tool for ombudsman offices in Latin America and the Caribbean, as national agents that contribute to the progress of human rights and democracy, the coordination of proposals, the sharing of experiences and the strengthening of national and regional ombudsman offices.

The IIHR constantly investigates the sources and checks the information posted on the site to confirm its relevance. It also posted new information, thus keeping the specialized section permanently up-to-date.

### **2.3.2.3. Background / rationale**

The IIHR has developed a complete, integrated and specialized information and communication system for the ombudsman institutions called Ombudsnet. Other visitors to the website can also obtain detailed information about ombudsman offices in the region.

The system is used to share the latest information and news about human rights and ombudsman institutions.

It also provides a means of sharing experiences and operates as an early warning system.

### **2.3.2.4. Institution(s) responsible and coordination**

The IIHR's Ombudsman and Human Rights Program coordinated the support for the integrated information and communication system, working with the Institute's Information Unit and the ombudsman offices in Latin America and the Caribbean, which constantly forward new, pertinent information.

### **2.3.2.5. Intermediate steps**

- Data and news from different sources was systematized and analyzed
- The latest information was then requested from the ombudsman offices

### **2.3.2.6. Results or outputs**

- Updating of the different subsections of the Ombudsnet
- Creation of a directory containing information about all the ombudsman offices in the region
- Implementation of an early warning system to respond to situations requiring urgent action
- Development of a culture of interinstitutional cooperation among the ombudsman offices, and between them and the IIHR
- Distribution of 11 bulletins in English and 28 in Spanish via the two discussion lists set up so far (for the members of the Caribbean Ombudsman Association - CAROA - and the FIO-Ombudsnet, respectively)

### **2.3.2.7. Impact indicators**

***“Capabilities of ombudsman offices in Latin America and the Caribbean enhanced by means of an integrated information and communication system”***

The specialized section offers a complete compendium of up-to-date information about all of the ombudsman offices in Latin America and the Caribbean, doctrine, legislation and human rights jurisprudence. Ombudsman offices that visit the specialized section have access to the documentation they need to carry out their mandate and information about counterpart institutions.

The institutions also have immediate access to important information and news about human rights, an issue closely related to the work they perform.

***“Ombudsman institutions better equipped to respond quickly to crises, conflicts and internal disturbances”***

The early warning system did not need to be activated. However, the Ombudsnet continued to be an important tool for notifying the ombudsman offices of critical situations affecting their counterparts and circulating news about their activities and the human rights situation throughout Latin America.

***“More visitors to the different subsections and services available in the specialized section”***

More people visited the Ombudsnet this quarter and spent more time studying the information available. Between July and September, the section received 4396 hits (an average of 47 per day). The figure for 1 October - 15 December was 29,934 (an average of 393 per day).

**Means of verification:**

Log of hits/visitors to the specialized section

**2.3.3. Presentation of the results of a regional diagnostic study and the proposal concerning the role of ombudsman institutions in protecting the rights of indigenous peoples**

**2.3.3.1. Description**

A symposium of UN experts was held 12-15 October at the University of Arizona in Tucson, USA, on the implementation of legislation and jurisprudence at the national level related to the rights of indigenous peoples.

Around 50 people took part in the symposium, representing indigenous peoples in the United States, Latin America, Norway, The Philippines, New Zealand and Canada. All the participants had experience as litigators, researchers or promoters of the rights of indigenous peoples.

The objective of the symposium was to evaluate the international and domestic legal mechanisms available for protecting the rights of indigenous peoples, and identify the most effective strategies for ensuring they are implemented effectively in the national arena.

The IIHR facilitated the participation of three ombudsman officials who specialize in indigenous matters, drawn from the countries involved in the project “Access to Justice for Indigenous Peoples and the Institution of the Ombudsman in Latin America,” which the IIHR executed in 2004 and 2005. These ombudsmen were:

- Narciso Cojtí, First Assistant of the Indigenous Peoples Department of the Ombudsman’s Office of Guatemala
- Luis Alberto Anrango, Head of the National Directorate for the Protection of Indigenous Peoples of the Ombudsman’s Office of Ecuador
- Eugenio Mullucundo, Expert on Access to Justice for Indigenous Peoples of the Ombudsman’s Office of Bolivia

The coordinator of the project also took part.

- Amílcar Castañeda, Coordinator of the project Access to Justice for Indigenous Peoples (implemented by the Ombudsman and Human Rights Program of the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights)

Owing to circumstances beyond the project's control, Gabriel Muyuy, Director of the Indigenous Peoples and Ethnic Minorities Department of the Ombudsman's Office of Colombia, was unable to take part.

The IHR expert who took part in the activity:

- provided support to the participants both before and after the event, to ensure they played a leading role
- coordinated the forum held during the symposium on Latin American experiences with regard to the protection of indigenous rights by public institutions
- visited to two territories of the Tohono O'odham Nation

### **2.3.3.2. Method**

*The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the University of Arizona and the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights organized a symposium of UN experts on the implementation of legislation and jurisprudence at the national level related to the rights of indigenous peoples.*

Before deciding who would represent the region's ombudsman offices and present the findings of the research on access to justice for indigenous peoples and the role of ombudsman institutions, the project took advantage of a meeting that was held in August 2005 in San Jose, Costa Rica, to validate the research results.

The staff felt that the representatives to the symposium should be people from countries with a sizeable indigenous population and whose research was the most complete. After consulting the participants at the San Jose meeting, it was decided that the most suitable candidates to take part in the symposium were José Luis Anrango (National Directorate of Indigenous Peoples/DINAPIN of the Ombudsman's Office of Ecuador), Narciso Cojtí (Indigenous Department of the Ombudsman's Office of Guatemala) and Eugenio Mullucundo, an expert on the experience of the Ombudsman of Bolivia), and the coordinator of the project, Amílcar Castañeda, who was totally familiar with the research carried out.

The symposium included two panel discussions on the international development of legislation and policies related to indigenous peoples. The first focused on the experiences of the United States, New Zealand, Belize and Canada, and the second on the experiences of Nicaragua, South Africa and The Philippines.

There were also three panel discussions on Latin American experiences with national legislation and jurisprudence related to the rights of indigenous peoples, one of which looked at the experiences of the ombudsman.

The national experiences of Canada and the USA were discussed in two roundtables involving delegates from Alaska, British Columbia and the indigenous peoples of Arizona.

The U.N. Rapporteur on Indigenous Peoples, Rodolfo Stavenhagen, collected the inputs contributed by the various thematic forums on the experiences of different regions and actors and will be using them in preparing his next report.

#### **2.3.3.3. Background / rationale**

Since 2002, the IIHR has been supporting the work of the U.N. Special Rapporteur on the Situation of the Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of Indigenous Peoples, Rodolfo Stavenhagen. Thus far, the Institute has provided its support via several of its programs and projects in this field. An IIHR official has also taken part in the visits to the countries of the region and in the preparation of the Rapporteur's respective reports.

The Special Rapporteur's next report to the U.N. Human Rights Committee will focus on the problems and difficulties involved in effectively implementing legislation to enforce the rights of indigenous peoples and, in particular, on the legal procedures, mechanisms and institutions that exist for protecting those rights.

The IIHR executed a project entitled "Access to Justice for Indigenous Peoples and the Ombudsman Institution in Latin America." This focused on the ombudsman's role in protecting the rights of indigenous peoples that have already been included in the constitutions or legislation of the different countries. The aim of the project was to generate proposals and consensus on the role of the ombudsman to ensure that indigenous peoples have access to justice, and to support actions and efforts aimed at enacting and enforcing legislation guaranteeing such rights.

In Latin America, at least two factors are undermining the political system: the lack of governability and the increasingly inequitable distribution of wealth.

These factors pose a threat to democratic stability and deny the citizenry the possibility of living a decent life. This is why efforts to make economic, social and cultural rights effective and actionable are so urgently needed. Input from several disciplines is required. In addition to legal experts, social scientists and economists need to contribute, to afford men and women a better quality of life. The ombudsman offices should also play an active role, as the constitutional bodies responsible for safeguarding the comprehensive protection of human rights.

Consequently, it was deemed important to present the findings of the research on Access to Justice for Indigenous Peoples and the Ombudsman Institution in Latin America at an activity involving 50 representatives of peoples in the United States, Latin America, Norway, The Philippines, New Zealand and Canada, all of whom had experience of litigating, researching or promoting the rights of indigenous peoples, and the U.N. Rapporteur on Indigenous Peoples.

#### **2.3.3.4. Institution(s) responsible and coordination**

The IIHR's Ombudsman and Human Rights Program coordinated the activity. The counterpart officials were James Amaya and Luis Rodríguez Piñero, the co-director and assistant, respectively, of the Indigenous Peoples Law and Policy Program of Arizona University's Law School.

### **2.3.3.5. Intermediate steps**

The staff working on the project:

- decided which three experts should take part in the symposium after consulting other stakeholders
- consulted other stakeholders and decided that the IIHR should be represented by the coordinator of the project Access to Justice for Indigenous Peoples and the Ombudsman Institution in Latin America
- asked the participants to prepare the documents they would be presenting at the symposium
- provided the participants with technical and academic assistance in preparing their academic documents

### **2.3.3.6. Results or outputs**

- Four academic documents, one per participant in the symposium, on the following subjects:
  - Guatemala's experience in implementing legislation on indigenous issues, by Narciso Cojtí
  - The experience of Ecuador's DINAPIN, by Luis Alberto Anrango
  - The implementation of legislation and jurisprudence related to indigenous peoples in Bolivia
  - The ombudsman institution in Latin America and its role in enabling indigenous peoples to gain access to justice
- 50 participants, from indigenous peoples in the United States, Latin America, Norway, The Philippines, New Zealand and Canada

### **Impact indicators**

#### ***“More information about the role of ombudsman institutions in protecting the rights of indigenous peoples”***

The delegates from the indigenous ombudsman offices answered many questions and concerns raised by the participants.

Several organizations and experts expressed interest in the publications being produced by the project, with a view to drawing on the experiences they describe to strengthen their local processes.

The Legal Research Institute of the Autonomous National University of Mexico wishes to establish a partnership with the IIHR for the implementation of the 16<sup>th</sup> Lascasian Seminars in 2006, which will focus on indigenous ombudsman offices.

The symposium provided an opportunity to learn about the various ways of bridging the gap between constitutional and legislative progress on indigenous rights and the enforcement of rights at the national level.

***“Consensus reached on proposals regarding the role of the ombudsman in ensuring that indigenous peoples have access to justice and in supporting actions and efforts aimed at enacting and enforcing legislation guaranteeing such rights”***

The presentations on the experiences of the indigenous ombudsman offices aroused interest even during the preparations for the seminar. There was the only thematic forum that dealt with the experience of public entities empowered to take legal action to enforce the rights of indigenous individuals and peoples.

The participants recognized the potential role of ombudsman offices in achieving greater access to justice for indigenous peoples and influencing the formulation of public policies on indigenous issues.

**Means of verification:**

- Program of the UN Seminar of Experts (see Annex 9)
- List of panelists and participants (see Annex 10)
- Conclusions and proposals
- Proceedings of the symposium (see Annex 11)

**2.4. LESSONS LEARNED**

Each of the counterparts demonstrated a willingness to cooperate and a high level of commitment in the activities carried out between June and December 2005.

The IIHR has operated the Technical Secretariat of the Ibero-American Federation of Ombudsmen since 1995. After discussing the matter in depth, the Institute's Board of Directors and Executive Directorate decided that the minimum conditions required for it to serve as the Technical Secretariat no longer existed. The IIHR therefore asked the FIO Governing Council to relieve it of its responsibilities as the Technical Secretariat.

Certain developments have created conditions that are incompatible with the IIHR's principles and standards. These conditions are: a) the way in which the FIO elects its vice presidents (the Governing Council often elects a person to represent a region against the wishes of all the other ombudsmen in that region, so that the person concerned enjoys no legitimacy whatsoever); b) some FIO ombudsmen refuse to allow ombudsmen from the Caribbean Region to join the Federation, thus making it an exclusive body; and, c) the outgoing FIO President, the Ombudsman of Venezuela, refused to allow the IIHR to carry out its statutory mandate as the Technical Secretariat.

However, it is worth pointing out that, despite the complex situation facing the regional body, the IIHR maintained close, constant contact with most of the ombudsman offices, even implementing specialized training activities and processes for their personnel and, in many instances, regional activities. This demonstrates the IIHR's capacity to undertake and complete tasks, thanks to the support it receives from USAID.

In view of the sensitive situation facing the FIO, the IIHR felt that the best course of action was for it to relinquish its responsibilities and allow the organization's elected officers to determine the role, scope and limitations of the Technical Secretariat. Despite the difficulties and obstacles encountered in the process of reforming the statute, the IIHR still managed to

execute activities and provide some support for the Tenth FIO Congress and Annual Assembly in its capacity as an academic institution.

The Ombudsnet is proving to be an important strategic tool for promoting communication among the ombudsman institutions, making it possible to swap information, news, successful experiences and other information.

## **PROJECT: RAPID RESPONSE SYSTEM**

### **3.1. GENERAL FRAMEWORK**

This report covers the period October-December 2005 (pursuant to the approved Amendment to Cooperation Agreement LAG-A-00-02-00001-00 and its corresponding Work Plan for June-December 2005).

The IIHR implements projects throughout the Americas with a variety of sectors and enjoys a great deal of credibility and legitimacy. Combined with its technical expertise, this allows it to offer case-specific, direct advisory services and assistance both to government agencies and non-governmental organizations, and to act as a mediator. This, in turn, makes it easier to respond rapidly to situations that require urgent action. The results of the two occasions on which the IIHR has so far had cause to take action under this project (Guatemala, between September and December 2003, and Colombia, in August 2005) confirmed this, as described in the respective quarterly reports.

### **3.2 ANNUAL GOAL**

To provide a technical and academic response, from a human rights perspective, to unforeseen, critical situations that pose a threat to the rule of law and democratic governability, in at least one country in the region, when both USAID and the IIHR are in favor of such action

### **3.3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT**

#### **3.3.1 Description**

During the reporting period (October-December 2005), the IIHR did not identify any country where action was needed of the kind envisaged under this project. When it does, it will draft a work plan targeted at and/or incorporating the strategically important players and governmental and civil institutions involved. (The objectives proposed in the plan will vary according to the country and situation, given that this is a "rapid response" project). The work plan will specify the activities to be implemented, the objectives, the schedule, the places where implementation will take place, the beneficiaries and the budget.

#### **3.3.2 Method**

The method proposed in the annual plan approved for 2005 was that USAID and the IIHR would identify a country where a specific situation called for an immediate technical response from the Institute. If USAID and the IIHR agreed that such an intervention were necessary, USAID would authorize the IIHR to take action under the aegis of this project.

### **3.3.3 Background / rationale**

As mentioned in the annual plan for 2005, the original objective under the USAID-IIHR general cooperation agreement was to develop a regional system to detect and remedy institutional weaknesses that posed a threat to human rights and democratic governance, paying special attention to the human rights situation.

The changeable situation in the Latin American and Caribbean countries was originally cited as the justification for this project. However, the information gathered by the IIHR while implementing its activities, and specific requests from various beneficiaries, USAID and other international cooperation agencies also confirmed how important it is to be able to provide a rapid, qualified response to different situations. As a result, in August 2003 the IIHR asked USAID to approve an amendment to the original design of the project, reducing it to a system for monitoring threats to human rights, in the specific field of citizen security. The funds allocated in the budget that had not been executed were reassigned to a “rapid response” project to tackle situations that both USAID and the IIHR feel require urgent action, for the remainder of the agreement (2005).

Between September and December 2003, the first activity was implemented under this rapid response system. Targeted at the pre-electoral and electoral process in Guatemala, the direct beneficiaries were the local Elections Tribunal and the Office of the Ombudsman.

In the quarterly report for July-September 2005, the IIHR described the results of the second action carried out under this project - a mission to analyze the pre-electoral conditions in Colombia, from 15-20 August.

### **3.3.4 Institution(s) responsible and coordination**

The IIHR's Executive Director is responsible for identifying the target country and situation. He then asks the corresponding operating department to prepare and implement the action required. This is coordinated directly with USAID-Washington.

### **3.3.5 Intermediate Steps**

According to the plan approved for 2005, the intermediate steps continue to be:

- Identify a country and a situation that warrant a rapid technical response from a human rights perspective
- Reach agreement with USAID-Washington, obtaining authorization to act
- Draft a work plan

### **3.3.6 Results or outputs**

There are no results or outputs to report for this quarter.

### **3.3.7 Impact indicators**

#### ***“Implementation of a rapid response plan of action in a specific country to reduce threats to the effective exercise of human rights”***

Since no short-term, specialized assistance activity was carried out, the progress achieved with regard to this performance indicator cannot yet be evaluated.

### **3.4 LESSONS LEARNED**

As no activities were carried out between October and December 2005, it is too soon to evaluate the lessons learned.

## **C. DEMOCRATIZATION OF POLITICAL PROCESSES**

### **1. PROJECT: STRENGTHENING ELECTORAL INSTITUTIONS**

#### **1.1. GENERAL FRAMEWORK**

Important presidential elections were held in the region between October and December 2005 - in Honduras (27 November), Chile (11 December) and Bolivia (18 December). The referendum in Ecuador scheduled for 11 December was canceled due to domestic political developments.

During the quarter under review, the staff began redesigning the Electoral Network's Web page. The information and services that the site provides will be presented in a simpler, more uniform way. Users will be offered membership and personalized services.

The database ([red-electoral@iidh.ed.cr](mailto:red-electoral@iidh.ed.cr)) includes information about 576 people. The list continues to grow, albeit slowly as entries are also deleted due to changes in the composition of the electoral bodies.

Originally programmed for October, the exploratory mission to Peru was rescheduled for December. The Peruvian electoral bodies will have more time for meetings with project representatives and the agenda for the April 2006 elections will be better defined by then.

The staff continued to provide technical assistance to the Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE) of Honduras during the reporting period, as it prepared for the General Elections in November. The assistance focused mainly on the areas of training and electoral administration and logistics. The IIHR/CAPEL mission carried out this quarter recommended strengthening the TSE's monitoring and supervision activities with regard to training.

In relation to the project Technical Assistance to Ecuador, following the impasse caused the changes in the composition of the country's electoral organization, the staff renewed contact with senior TSE officials and, in particular, with the Training Committee. With the consent of, and in coordination with, USAID/Ecuador, this made it possible to use the resources of the assistance project executed in 2004 that were not spent. During the reporting period, the project helped plan the activities of the Training Committee's operating unit and produce eight civic education booklets for Ecuadorian primary and secondary school students. For further information, see Annexes 7-9.

Finally, it is worth pointing out that this project does not appear in the 2005 Work Plan because it was requested by USAID and the Supreme Electoral Tribunal of Ecuador in the first quarter of 2005. It was extended through December when the staff was authorized to use the unspent resources already mentioned, to provide follow-up to the progress made in 2004.

## **1.2. ANNUAL GOALS**

The Strengthening Electoral Institutions project has two annual goals:

- To consolidate the activities of the Inter-American Electoral Network aimed at strengthening electoral organizations
- To strengthen selected electoral organizations and those involved in electoral and political reform processes in 2005

## **1.3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT**

### **1.3.1. INTER-AMERICAN ELECTORAL NETWORK**

#### **1.3.1.1. Description**

Composed of UNIORE's member organizations, the Network provides links for regular communication and information sharing. Civil society organizations (CSOs) with a stake in electoral issues (Lima Agreement), academics and members of political parties are also involved in this activity.

The Network operates year-round. During this quarter, it continued to facilitate information sharing and communication among its members, particularly during the observation missions to Honduras, Chile and Bolivia.

#### **1.3.1.2. Method**

The Network's most concrete activities take place via the IIHR/CAPEL Web page, whose address was changed to [www.iidh.ed.cr/cape](http://www.iidh.ed.cr/cape) to make it easier for users to access it. The organizations that make up the network of networks contributed information such as current national political and electoral legislation and details of changes in the composition of the electoral bodies - the Supreme Electoral Tribunal of Ecuador is a case in point. In its capacity as the Executive Secretariat, the IIHR/CAPEL produced the UNIORE newsletters for October and November 2005 (in both languages) and the December issue is in preparation. The Network continued to provide virtual communication tools, such as the International Electoral News Service (SINE). The Electoral Tribunal of Panama prepares the information and it is then disseminated widely via email.

#### **1.3.1.3. Background / rationale**

The IIHR/CAPEL continued to systematize information in its capacity as the Executive Secretariat of the Association of Electoral Bodies of Central America and the Caribbean (Tikal Protocol, 1985), the Association of Electoral Bodies of South America (Quito Protocol, 1989) and the Inter-American Union of Electoral Bodies (UNIORE, 1991). The latter comprises the two associations plus the electoral bodies of Canada, the USA and Mexico.

The continuity of the electoral network made it possible to keep all the members abreast of the latest developments. They often express their appreciation for the political-electoral data and information from the hemisphere they receive, both in conversations and via email.

#### **1.3.1.4. Institution(s) responsible and coordination**

The IIHR/CAPEL team of specialists, working with the associations of electoral organizations and the Electoral Tribunal of Panama (SINE). Communication and contact with members of electoral bodies and CSOs involved in political and electoral issues, and with local USAID offices, for informational purposes or to identify joint initiatives.

#### **1.3.1.5. Intermediate steps**

- The Election Calendar and the Directory of Electoral Organizations were updated and new papers sent in by electoral judges were uploaded to the Web page
- The IIHR/CAPEL and other institutions provided continuous input for SINE news items

#### **1.3.1.6. Results or outputs:**

The following work was done on the Electoral Network's Web page during this quarter:

#### **Associations of Electoral Organizations**

##### **a. Tikal Protocol**

The agreements adopted at the following conferences were scanned and incorporated (all in English):

- V Conference of the Association of Electoral Organizations of Central America and the Caribbean
- VI Conference of the Association of Electoral Organizations of Central America and the Caribbean
- VII Conference of the Association of Electoral Organizations of Central America and the Caribbean
- VIII Conference of the Association of Electoral Organizations of Central America and the Caribbean
- IX Conference of the Association of Electoral Organizations of Central America and the Caribbean
- X Conference of the Association of Electoral Organizations of Central America and the Caribbean
- XI Conference of the Association of Electoral Organizations of Central America and the Caribbean
- XII Conference of the Association of Electoral Organizations of Central America and the Caribbean

##### **b. Directory of Electoral Organizations**

The data on the following electoral organizations was updated:

- a. National Electoral Council, Colombia

- b. Supreme Electoral Council, Nicaragua
- c. National Electoral Court, Bolivia
- d. Electoral Commission, Antigua and Barbuda
- e. Federal Election Commission, United States
- f. Federal Electoral Institute, Mexico
- g. National Elections Board, Peru
- h. National Office of Electoral Processes, Peru
- i. Electoral Tribunal of the Federal Judicial Branch, Mexico
- j. Higher Electoral Court, Brazil
- k. Supreme Elections Tribunal, Honduras
- l. Supreme Electoral Tribunal, Ecuador
- m. Supreme Electoral Tribunal, Guatemala

### **c. UNIORE newsletters**

- Spanish and English versions of the September newsletter were uploaded to the Web page
- Spanish and English versions of the October newsletter were uploaded to the Web page
- Spanish and English versions of the November newsletter were uploaded to the Web page

### **Electoral Legislation**

#### **a. Constitutions**

The Political Constitution of El Salvador was updated.

### **Election Calendar**

- The list of electoral events in 2005 and 2006 was updated and new information added

### **Redesign of the website**

E-Novat was the company hired to do the work. It was then decided that the new Web page should take the form of a portal. Portals make it possible to present the information and services that the site offers in a simpler, more uniform way. They also make it possible to offer membership and personalized services.

During this quarter, the IIHR officials involved in this project maintained constant contact with the company and decisions were taken regarding the new sections of the page and the graphic design. The specifications were also given for transferring the documents from the current page to the new one.

### **1.3.1.7. Impact indicators:**

***“Network of electoral organizations in the region expanded and strengthened”***

***“More documentation and comparative experiences, which will be used as input for the work of the associations and research projects”***

***“Electoral organizations and other members of the Electoral Network have more up-to-date knowledge”***

***“Easier access to up-to-date political and electoral information”***

During this quarter, the staff continued to upload the agreements of the Tikal Protocol in English and update data on several of the region’s electoral bodies. The most important work done during the reporting period was the redesign of CAPEL’s Web page, in the form of a portal. A portal is a transparent directory of content located elsewhere. It presents both information and services in an organized, uniform format. The thematic organization of the content is simple; users are unaware of the complexity of the location and format of the information sources available. Users can also sign up for personalized services when they visit the page. The aim in redesigning the page is to offer information and services, and disseminate specialized knowledge, in a more integrated and uniform way.

#### **Means of verification:**

- Inter-American Electoral Network
- Two UNIORE newsletters (issues 54 and 55), covering October (Spanish and English) and November (Spanish and English). The December newsletter is in preparation
- Distribution lists (total of 576 people)
- IIHR/CAPEL Web page: [www.iidh.ed.cr/capel](http://www.iidh.ed.cr/capel)

### **1.3.2. UNIORE NEWSLETTERS**

#### **1.3.2.1. Description**

Two newsletters were disseminated during this quarter, in English and in Spanish (issues 54 and 55, covering October and November, respectively). Work on the December newsletter is under way.

The newsletters were sent to the members of UNIORE, CSOs involved in electoral issues (particularly those of the Lima Agreement), certain organizations belonging to the Inter-American Network for Democracy (RID), academics, members of political parties, donors and local USAID offices.

#### **1.3.2.2. Method**

The monthly newsletters were disseminated electronically in November and December via the specialized section of the IIHR/CAPEL, the IIHR’s Web page and the SINE. These newsletters continue to increase horizontal cooperation among the electoral bodies, as they are a two-way communication tool. They include articles by UNIORE members who wish to share points of interest regarding specific national situations, or discuss emerging issues. The IIHR/CAPEL receives the information and produces the newsletters.

### **1.3.2.3. Background / rationale**

Produced in response to repeated requests from the electoral organizations for an expeditious means of disseminating information about important electoral developments in the western hemisphere, these newsletters have helped keep the target population informed of important matters related to political rights in the Americas. The newsletters are a permanent information strategy. Combined with the electronic links and electoral news service, they ensure that information circulates rapidly.

### **1.3.2.4. Institution(s) responsible and coordination**

The IIHR/CAPEL, working with the members of UNIORE. The information contained in the UNIORE newsletters is sent to, and shared with, USAID-Washington. The newsletters are emailed to the local USAID offices and to the members of the Inter-American Electoral Network.

### **1.3.2.5. Intermediate Steps**

- The project continued to compile information
- Graphic production and design of the material
- UNIORE newsletters posted on CAPEL's specialized section of the IIHR website and the SINE
- The October and November newsletters were translated into English

### **1.3.2.6. Results or outputs**

During this quarter, the project produced:

- Two monthly newsletters covering October (#54) and November (#55), both in English and Spanish-language versions
- The December newsletter is in preparation
- These newsletters are available in the SINE and the specialized section of CAPEL's Web page ([www.iidh.ed.cr/capel](http://www.iidh.ed.cr/capel))

### **1.3.2.7. Impact indicators**

***“Electoral information disseminated more widely in the Americas”***

***“More documents and experiences shared on electoral topics and processes in the region”***

***“Users of the Network more conversant with electoral topics and processes in the region”***

During this quarter, the UNIORE newsletters were well received both by old and new members of the Network. In emails received, they thanked the IIHR/CAPEL for sending them the information and endorsed the newsletters' content. This was the case especially in December, after press releases from the IIHR Executive Director were sent out via the distribution list of the UNIORE newsletter.

## **Means of verification:**

- Inter-American Electoral Network. Web page: [www.iidh.ed.cr/capel](http://www.iidh.ed.cr/capel)
- UNIORE newsletters (issues 54 and 55)
- Distribution list (576 people)
- Emails sent to the IIHR/CAPEL

### **1.3.3. HORIZONTAL COOPERATION MISSIONS**

#### **1.3.3.1. Description**

Three horizontal cooperation missions were carried out during this quarter that involved the members of the associations of electoral organizations and the Inter-American Electoral Network. Eleven international observers and three IIHR/CAPEL officials participated in a mission to Honduras, where presidential and legislative elections were held 27 November; 25 observers and two IIHR/CAPEL officials traveled to Chile, where presidential and legislative elections took place 11 December; and, 23 international observers and two IIHR/CAPEL officials took part in a mission to Bolivia, where general elections and elections for departmental prefects were held 18 December. A referendum scheduled for 11 December in Ecuador was canceled due to domestic political developments. The lists of observers (annexes 1-3) and the evaluation report on Bolivia (annex 4) are attached. The reports on Honduras and Chile are being prepared.

#### **1.3.3.2. Method**

The IIHR/CAPEL promotes and facilitates horizontal cooperation and technical support missions as a way of providing short-term support or sustained technical cooperation at the bilateral and multilateral levels.

Technical missions begin roughly four days prior to the voting and end one day after it, to allow the members to evaluate events on Election Day. This also makes it possible to recommend ways in which electoral processes could be improved in the host country. As much information as possible is garnered during the missions by meeting with representatives of the political parties involved in the elections and holding sessions to discuss the local situation and opinion polls.

The IIHR/CAPEL provided the documents necessary to organize the observation missions to the three electoral bodies involved this quarter: the Supreme Electoral Tribunal of Honduras, the Electoral Service of Chile and the National Electoral Court of Bolivia. The Chilean organization asked for a written evaluation of the electoral process, while in Bolivia the project helped the National Electoral Court hold an international seminar during the mission entitled "Challenges facing democracy in the next decade." The IIHR/CAPEL also worked with the host electoral bodies to plan the observation routes on Election Day and the respective evaluation form, and led the final meeting.

#### **1.3.3.3. Background / rationale**

The observation missions to Honduras, Chile and Bolivia enabled the members of the electoral associations to acquire and share technical knowledge in a specific situation. Missions of this kind serve a twofold purpose: to monitor the effective application of the basic international rules

governing political rights in a specific election; and to assess the need for possible technical assistance programs that could bolster the political system.

This quarter, all three processes involved presidential and legislative elections. In the case of Bolivia, departmental prefects were elected by popular vote for the first time. In Honduras, the closeness of the result and political problems created certain difficulties as far as declaring the winner was concerned (Liberal Party candidate Manuel Zelaya). Chile has a highly developed democratic culture. Ruling party candidate Michelle Bachelet obtained 45.96% of the votes, followed by Sebastián Piñera, with 25.41%. As neither achieved an absolute majority, they will have to take part in a run-off on 15 January 2006. In Bolivia, the election was a milestone in the development of the political system, as a leftist political party swept to power led by indigenous leader Evo Morales. It is the first time that an indigenous leader has been elected president in a Latin American country.

#### **1.3.3.4. Institution(s) responsible and coordination**

The IIHR/CAPEL, working with senior electoral officials of members of the Inter-American Electoral Network and local USAID missions

#### **1.3.3.5. Intermediate steps**

- Request from the host organization
- Invite members of the Inter-American Network to take part in the mission
- Identify priority areas
- Design the work program
- Send documentation to host organization

#### **1.3.3.6. Results or outputs**

In general, the turnout in the three electoral processes held during this quarter was good. Voting is mandatory in all three countries, with specific penalties for people who fail to do so.

Sets of technical recommendations were/are in the process of being drawn up, recognizing the high turnout and offering specific suggestions regarding organizational matters and electoral logistics.

The Summary of Conclusions for Bolivia is attached (Annex 4). The summaries for Honduras and Chile are in preparation.

#### **1.3.3.7. Impact indicators**

***“Electoral legislation or practices modified as a result of the implementation of recommendations or lessons learned from the missions”***

***“The members of the Inter-American Electoral Network have more comparative knowledge of electoral legislation and practices”***

During this quarter, and given the composition of the horizontal cooperation missions, the members made technical recommendations of a comparative nature on aspects of electoral logistics such as the location of the polling places and the ballot boxes, the number of voters per polling place and information for voters. In the case of Bolivia, the recommendations or

comments covered a number of areas. While recognizing that it is a long-standing practice, the mission stated that the lack of transportation and restrictions on individual travel on polling day limited people's right to cast their vote. Another recommendation concerned the updating of the voter lists. Over 20% of the electors were deleted and a sizable segment of the citizenry denounced the fact that they not been able to vote. This situation calls for measures such as a new, well-advertised registration period to allay the public's fears concerning the purpose of the updating of the voter lists.

No electoral reforms were enacted but the missions continue to provide local officials with plenty of ideas for possible reforms and specific improvements to electoral practices.

**Means of verification:**

- Summary of the conclusions of the session held to evaluate the elections in Bolivia (see Annex 4). The summaries for Honduras and Chile are being prepared
- UNIORE newsletters (#54 and #55)
- International Electoral News Service (SINE)

**1.3.4. EXPLORATORY MISSIONS**

**1.3.4.1 Description**

During this quarter, the Director of the IIHR/CAPEL carried out an exploratory mission to Peru from 12-14 December, to provide technical support with the preparations for the general elections slated for April 2006.

**1.3.4.2 Method**

An individual or a team visits a country identified as being a priority, either because elections are imminent or because an electoral or institutional reform process is under way. The mission meets with the respective organization, its technical staff and the local USAID mission (and, possibly, other international cooperation agencies) to determine the needs and the feasibility of providing technical assistance and securing the resources needed for a cooperation activity in the medium or long-term.

**1.3.4.3 Background / rationale**

In its capacity as the Executive Secretariat of the associations of electoral organizations, the IIHR/CAPEL provides short-term technical assistance to electoral organizations that request it and helps compile information on technical matters in areas that the mission decides need to be changed or improved. During these visits, the IIHR/CAPEL discusses priorities for work, assesses possible areas for technical assistance on topical issues or needs, and maintains close contact with local USAID missions (when projects they are funding are involved).

**1.3.4.4. Institution(s) responsible and coordination**

The IIHR/CAPEL team of specialists, working with specific advisers for each component. Communication, contact and coordination with the host electoral body

Communication and contact with local USAID missions, to keep them informed and coordinate the work

#### **1.3.4.5. Intermediate steps**

- Formal requests, if they have not yet been made
- Set up the respective teams for exploratory missions
- Review the needs assessment
- Communicate and coordinate with electoral organizations and local USAID missions, to decide dates and areas of interest

#### **1.3.4.6. Results or outputs**

- During this quarter, one status report was produced on the needs and opportunities for electoral technical assistance (in preparation)
- Preliminary agreements with the National Office of Electoral Processes (ONPE) and the National Elections Board (JNE) for the dissemination of their educational materials via the new CAPEL Web page, and information about the international observation mission to the elections scheduled for April 2006 and the possible run-off in May-June
- Evaluation of the difficulties faced by the local USAID mission in cooperating in electoral projects in Peru as a result of the restrictions placed on U.S. international cooperation with certain countries

#### **1.3.4.7. Impact indicators**

*“Updating of technical needs in the electoral field”*

*“Progress in identifying areas for technical assistance”*

A preliminary agreement was reached on the IIHR/CAPEL’s role in the 2006 electoral process. Given the nature of the mission, there is no immediate impact to report.

#### **Means of verification:**

- Report on exploratory mission to Peru (in preparation)

### **1.3.5. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE SUPREME ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL OF HONDURAS**

#### **1.3.5.1 Description**

The project consists of providing specialized advisory assistance to the TSE-Honduras and the Federation of Development Organizations of Honduras (FOPRIDEH) in the fields of electoral organization, training and citizen education. The activity was carried out between January and December 2005, as sufficient resources were available to cover the costs involved. The advisers were selected based on their availability and areas of specialization, with the staff drawing on the experiences in Costa Rica, Mexico, Peru and Uruguay. Each advisory assistance activity was planned following an evaluation of the preceding one.

During this quarter, the project continued to assist the TSE with the preparations for the general elections slated for November 2005, basically in the areas of training and electoral administration and logistics, verifying the TSE’s implementation of the proposed distance

education for polling officials and other actors involved, as well as departmental and municipal electoral tribunals. The project also continued to work with FOPRIDEH and other CSOs, to enhance the activities they will be carrying out, such as the national observation project for the elections. See the reports on the missions in October and November 2005 for further details (annexes 5 and 6).

#### **1.3.5.2. Method**

The advisory assistance was provided to the TSE-Honduras and the Federation of Development Organizations of Honduras (FOPRIDEH) by means of advisers specializing in educational matters and the design and implementation of electoral calendars.

During this quarter, the President of the TSE asked the IIHR/CAPEL to continue providing technical assistance to the Training Commission during forthcoming missions.

#### **1.3.5.3. Background / rationale**

The ongoing comprehensive reform in Honduras involves changes in voting procedures, the composition and duties of the TSE and the election of lawmakers. For this reason, support was needed for at least two components of the electoral process:

-Citizen education (with the participation of FOPRIDEH)

-Advisory assistance to the TSE regarding implementation of the activities scheduled, with emphasis on training

The IIHR/CAPEL had worked with the TSE on other occasions and used the mechanism of horizontal cooperation, based on the contribution of electoral officials.

#### **1.3.5.4. Institution(s) responsible and coordination**

The IIHR/CAPEL team of specialists, working with specific advisers for each component

Communication and contact with the local USAID office, to keep it informed and coordinate the work

Coordination with the TSE and FOPRIDEH

#### **1.3.5.5. Intermediate Steps**

During this quarter:

- The consultants of the team of specialists, Horacio Cánepa y Jaime Márquez, made regular visits
- IIHR Director Roberto Cuéllar, the Director of the IIHR/CAPEL, José Thompson, and the coordinator of the Executive Director's Office, Victoria Napky, took part in the election observation mission organized by the TSE

#### **1.3.5.6. Results or outputs**

During the reporting period:

- Two reports on technical visits were produced (attached as annexes 5 and 6)

#### **1.3.5.7. Impact indicators**

***“The NGO FOPRIDEH trained to implement the National Voter Education Plan”***

***“Updating training in the use of the electoral calendar to enable TSE-Honduras staff to guide the electoral process”***

FOPRIDEH played a key role in making people aware of the rules of the game for this electoral process. Members of the observation mission randomly interviewed voters in different urban and rural areas in the central region of the country and most said they understood the ballot paper and the voting procedure thanks to the FOPRIDEH campaigns. This indicator was achieved, as was clearly verified.

It will only be possible to gauge the extent to which the second indicator was achieved once the project has been completed and evaluated. It was evident to the observation mission that mistakes were made on Election Day, especially as regards the transmission of results, which reflected poorly on the electoral body’s image. However, this was not due to a problem related to the election calendar or a failure to follow it.

#### **Means of verification:**

Mission reports (annexes 5 and 6)

### **1.4 LESSONS LEARNED**

This was a busy quarter as far as electoral activities were concerned, especially in Honduras, Chile and Bolivia. The Inter-American Electoral Network was active in all three countries and helped prepare or analyze the respective processes. In the case of Honduras, the electoral community made a major effort via a number of projects (some of them not linked directly to the IIHR/CAPEL) to help the Supreme Electoral Tribunal of Honduras (TSE) rise to the challenges it faced. Although the evaluation of the process has not concluded, the observation mission provided an opportunity to analyze the TSE’s performance in the elections. The preparations for Election Day went well but political factors and divisions within the TSE had an adverse effect on the transmission of results and created an air of uncertainty nationwide. Clearly, international cooperation agencies can learn important lessons from this experience regarding the minimum institutional requirements that should be met to ensure the success of their technical assistance. The IIHR/CAPEL’s assistance and presence were not affected by this situation, because the transmission of results did not form part of this component but rather of the work of other institutions.

In the case of Chile, a large observation mission was carried out with relatively few resources. The members focused on the special features of the Chilean system (“bi-nominal” system of representation and voluntary registration mechanisms) and its advantages or disadvantages compared to the systems of other countries.

In Chile and Bolivia, the missions discussed in depth the political environment and its likely impact on the future work of electoral bodies. In the case of Bolivia, the mission noted that a

quite normal practice (updating of voter lists) had a negative effect on the turnout and the public perception of the work of the National Electoral Court (CNE).

## **2. PROJECT: EQUAL REPRESENTATION AND POLITICAL PARTY REFORM**

### **2.1 GENERAL FRAMEWORK**

As reported previously, the draft strategic plan contained serious flaws as far as its reasoning, content and focus were concerned (see reports for April-June and July-September 2005). As a result, the staff had to prepare a new plan based on the strategic vision of the IIHR/CAPEL's work with political parties in recent years. This also meant that the meeting of experts programmed in the approved 2005 Annual Plan had to be rescheduled for January or February 2006 (the exact date has yet to be determined). The aim is to have a new version of the strategic plan ready by February 2006.

With respect to the Pilot Project with Political Parties in the Dominican Republic, due to conclude in May 2006, the IIHR/CAPEL carried out a mission to Santo Domingo from 6-9 November to provide follow-up to the training plans of the political parties in that country. Initially, contact was made with the Participación Ciudadana civic movement, the Governability Center of the Technological Institute of Santo Domingo and the Research and Social Studies Center of the Ibero-American University. The IIHR/CAPEL is implementing a permanent training program for political party leaders in collaboration with all three.

As reported in the previous quarter, the seminar scheduled for the second half of 2005 under the project *Workshops on the Reform of Political Campaigns in Chile* had to be postponed due to recent changes in the financing system. The IIHR/CAPEL is implementing this project with the Corporación Participa and the Electoral Service of Chile. The Director of the IIHR/CAPEL made a follow-up visit in October to analyze the impact of the reforms on the control of campaign spending between July and September 2005. The upshot was that, with the agreement of the Corporación Participa, the staff had to revise the schedule of activities, penciling in a **meeting-seminar in the first week of April 2006** for a comprehensive evaluation of the different stages of the system. The meeting will take into account the handling of funds by the political parties in the elections on 11 December 2005 and the presidential run-off on 15 January 2006.

The work in connection with these three projects (the Strategic Plan, the Pilot Project with Political Parties in the Dominican Republic and the Workshops on the Reform of Political Campaigns in Chile) consisted only of preparatory activities during the quarter under review. Therefore, the complete information will be presented in the next quarterly report (January-March 2006).

The report on the activity *"Development and dissemination of concrete proposals for the internal democratization of political parties"* - in Bolivia, Chile and the Dominican Republic during the last quarter - is nearly finished and will be submitted during the first quarter of 2006.

Project staff continued to work on the Web page with the IIHR's Information and Editorial Services Unit during this quarter. Together, they met with representatives of the firm awarded the contract (E-Novat) to determine the exact services and image that needed to be incorporated into the new portal. They collected visual information (photos, logos, designs) that E-Novat used to prepare several graphic design proposals. The staff also informed the company which documents from the current Web page needed to be included in the new portal. The graphic presentation of the portal was finally approved.

The layout work on the two specialized studies was completed during this quarter. The editors of the first publication are José Thompson and Fernando Sánchez. Entitled *Fortalecimiento de los Partidos Políticos en América Latina: Institucionalización, Democratización y Transparencia*, it contains three articles by three specialists on institutionalization (María de los Angeles Fernández), democratization (Flavia Freidenberg) and transparency (Delia Ferreira). This publication is currently at press and will be ready for distribution at the end of January 2006 as special issue #50 of the Cuadernos de CAPEL series. The other publication is also at press and is entitled *Agenda para el Fortalecimiento de los Partidos Políticos en América Latina. Memoria del Proceso de Consultas Regionales con Partidos Políticos*. It contains a summary of the work with political parties undertaken at the four regional workshops held between 2004 and 2005. This publication will also be ready at the end of January 2006. Both will be very useful inputs for promoting the national plans to strengthen political parties.

## **2.2. ANNUAL GOAL**

To implement national pilot projects in at least one country in the region, with the respective academic support, which could be replicated in other countries, based on the development of a Strategic Plan for the strengthening, democratization and transparency of political parties.

### **2.3.1. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT**

#### **DEVELOPMENT AND DISSEMINATION OF CONCRETE PROPOSALS FOR PROMOTING THE INTERNAL DEMOCRATIZATION OF POLITICAL PARTIES**

##### **2.3.1.1. Description**

During the reporting period, the staff systematized and sorted the comments made by the participants at the working meeting held 28-29 July 2005 in Costa Rica. The activity involved a group of 25 participants from Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Chile, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Honduras, Paraguay and Peru in San Jose, Costa Rica and from the IIHR/CAPEL.

##### **2.3.1.2. Method**

The IIHR/CAPEL team of specialists, aided by a specialized consultant, is working on the final version of the report, which will be used to stimulate an in-depth discussion of ways of democratizing and strengthening political parties in 2006.

##### **2.3.1.3. Background / rationale**

As already mentioned, the results compiled, systematized, validated and presented will be used to identify problems, gaps and good practices in the democratic life of the political parties of the countries selected. This, together with other publications on the same topic that the IIHR/CAPEL will be publishing in 2006, will ensure an in-depth theoretical and practical debate that will directly benefit Latin America's political parties and other institutions or organizations directly and indirectly involved or interested in the subject (e.g., the electoral bodies and certain citizen organizations working in the area of political rights and elections).

##### **2.3.1.4. Institution(s) responsible and coordination**

The IIHR/CAPEL team of specialists, working with a specialized consultant

### **2.3.1.5. Intermediate Steps**

- Convene working meetings
- Hold working meetings
- Publish printed and electronic versions of a document containing a summary
- Identify the multiplier agents in the countries selected

### **2.3.1.6. Results or outputs**

Draft of the updated report nearly ready for publication (printed version, CD-ROM, Web page - [www.iidh.ed.cr/capel](http://www.iidh.ed.cr/capel)) containing the comments and recommendations made at the validation meeting held in San Jose, Costa Rica.

### **2.3.1.7. Impact indicators**

***“The IIHR/CAPEL has more technical expertise for its strategic activities aimed at strengthening political parties”***

***“More validated proposals on ways of democratizing political parties in the countries selected, based on comparative experiences”***

***“Broadening of the public debate regarding proposals for democratizing political parties in the countries selected (Chile, Bolivia and Dominican Republic), plus Costa Rica”***

***“Appropriation of the debate by the political parties”***

This study is important because it has demonstrated the interest in this issue that exists among academics, politicians, civil society organizations and senior electoral officials. Its effect will be to expand and improve the work of strengthening political parties.

#### **Means of verification:**

- Files of the IIHR/CAPEL
- CD-ROM
- Web page ([www.iidh.ed.cr/capel](http://www.iidh.ed.cr/capel))

## **2.3.2 SPECIALIZED STUDIES**

### **2.3.2.1. Description**

The IIHR/CAPEL made the necessary contacts and established the thematic and editorial frame of reference for publishing specialized studies, working with experts on each issue (institutionalization, democratization and transparency). The strategic decision was made to publish a special issue of the Cuaderno de CAPEL series (#50) on the strengthening of political parties in Latin America, focusing on the three issues already mentioned, as well as the proceedings of the four regional workshops on this subject held between 2004 and 2005.

### **2.3.2.2. Method**

Based on the identification of experts and the findings of regional and local research, the project will produce specialized studies containing experiences and proposals in the areas of transparency, institutionalization and democratization, the thematic underpinnings of the agenda that the IIHR/CAPEL proposes for strengthening political parties. These studies will provide useful input for local efforts that will be revised as progress is made with new experiences at the local level. The studies will focus on the Latin American region and adopt a comparative academic approach.

### **2.3.2.3. Background / rationale**

Publishing comparative studies that systematize the findings in each of the thematic areas is an important way of supporting local actions, as each study paves the way for the eventual development of national agendas.

### **2.3.2.4. Institution(s) responsible and coordination**

The IIHR/CAPEL team of specialists, working with experts in each thematic area

#### **Intermediate Steps**

- Identify and hire experts in each thematic area: in the case of the Cuaderno de CAPEL, José Thompson and Fernando Sánchez (editors), María de los Ángeles Fernández (institutionalization), Flavia Freidenberg (democratization) and Delia Ferreira (transparency). The papers prepared by all the experts involved in the respective regional workshops were included in the proceedings of the regional workshops
- Systematize regional and local research findings
- Translate research findings into comparative proposals
- Produce and disseminate publications containing comparative studies

### **2.3.2.6. Results or outputs**

Two works at press containing analyses, the systematization of trends and specific proposals on transparency, institutionalization and democratization. The titles are:

1. *Fortalecimiento de los Partidos Políticos en América Latina: Institucionalización, Democratización y Transparencia (Cuaderno de CAPEL No. 50)*
2. *Agenda para el Fortalecimiento de los Partidos Políticos en América Latina. Memoria del Proceso de Consultas Regionales con Partidos Políticos*

### 2.3.2.7. Impact indicators

***“More comparative knowledge of each thematic area”***

***“More proposals for local or regional actions to strengthen political parties”***

***“Stronger bases for possible national agendas”***

Institutionalization, democratization and transparency are the core elements of the IIHR/CAPEL's current strategy with regard to political parties. These issues are the subject of the analyses by leading experts published in Cuaderno de CAPEL No. 50. The publication is intended to not only spark debate and contribute to political thinking, but also to serve as a tool for change that can be used by others involved in the efforts to strengthen political parties effectively in this part of the world. The Cuaderno de CAPEL No. 50 takes the analysis of each of these thematic areas a step further, increasing the reader's knowledge of them.

The publication containing the proceedings of the four regional workshops clearly demonstrates the interest that exists in developing ways of strengthening political parties. It also shows the commitment of members of political parties themselves to the key issues of institutionalization, democratization and transparency as important facets of the strategy being developed by the IIHR/CAPEL.

It is worth remembering that the proposed actions are endorsed by the members of political parties themselves throughout Latin America, including the Dominican Republic, to help strengthen democracy in the western hemisphere. The project is working *with* - not *on* - political parties.

The publication and dissemination of these works is important because we have learned that this material, which was used as the basis for the regional workshops, is already being disseminated and used by some parties for their own training and development processes. It was essential that the project produce an official final version of the work with the parties and another publication on the three core issues. In this way, the knowledge that is being disseminated informally will be recognized as the fruit of several years of work aimed at helping to strengthen political parties in the region.

With regard to the expanded proposals for local or regional actions to strengthen political parties and lay the groundwork for possible national agendas, the proceedings of the workshops will be used as the basis for national efforts because they incorporate the ideas put forward by the political parties themselves. The proceedings also provide a valid initial platform for the work with political parties because they encompass all of Latin America. The Cuaderno de CAPEL No. 50 is equally valid, because it is a comparative study of the three impact indicators. Both the proceedings and the Cuaderno contain proposals for regional actions, while the latter also makes recommendations and cautions the reader about things that should or should not be done in these areas.

Although the content of these publications is already making a contribution, it will only be possible to gauge their full impact once they are disseminated.

**Means of verification:**

- Works at press available in the files of the IIHR/CAPEL
- Printed publications available as of January 2006

**2.3.3 WEB PAGE****2.3.3.1. Description**

The objective was to create a cyber center for specialized information and communication that would provide additional support for a network of members of political parties in Latin America, complementing the work on the Web page on electoral topics. It was decided that the best way to combine the work on several different subjects would be by redesigning the Electoral Network Web page, turning it into a portal that presents the information and services available in a simpler, more uniform way. Users can also sign up and receive personalized services.

**2.3.3.2. Method**

The work was carried out via the IIHR/CAPEL Web page, linking the network of networks of political parties with electoral bodies, civil society, the media and academics that contribute information such as the current political-electoral legislation of each country, information about the membership of political parties, reforms and statutes. This network will provide virtual communication tools such as electronic forums and the International Electoral News Service (SINE). The Electoral Tribunal of Panama operates the SINE, preparing news items for broad dissemination via email.

**2.3.3.3. Background / rationale**

The activities with political parties need to be complemented with a virtual network that will: a) foster the formation of a network of agents of change within political parties that will operate in the form of a mailing list; b) disseminate experiences and models and facilitate the sharing of proposals with regard to institutionalization, democratization and transparency; and, c) provide feedback on the studies and research carried out at the regional and local levels.

**2.3.3.4. Institution(s) responsible and coordination**

The IIHR/CAPEL team of specialists, in coordination with the IIHR Information and Editorial Services Unit and the firm E-Novat

**2.3.3.5. Intermediate steps**

- Redesign the Web page in the form of a portal
- Update documents related to political parties: statutes, regulations, legislation, etc.
- The IIHR/CAPEL will continually input institutional news and reports from the SINE-Panama

### **2.3.3.6. Results or outputs**

- A concrete proposal from the supplier (E-Novat) hired to redesign the Web page
- Constant coordination between the supplier and the IIHR/CAPEL team to fine-tune and implement the proposal, providing all the information required to implement the redesign in the first quarter of 2006
- The graphic design of the new portal is ready

### **2.3.3.7. Impact indicators**

***“Agents of change within political parties who use the Cyber Center are better informed”***

***“More sharing of experiences and models for institutionalization, democratization and transparency in political parties”***

***“Better studies and comparative research on political parties at the regional and local levels”***

At the time of writing, the impact of the redesign cannot be gauged because it is not yet ready.

#### **Means of verification:**

- Internal files of the IIHR/CAPEL
- Graphic design of the new portal

## **2.4. LESSONS LEARNED**

Once again, the preparation of the strategic plan for political parties provide to be a much more complex and difficult task than originally envisaged and the specialized consulting services contracted for the purpose were insufficient. As a result, the date for concluding the plan had to be pushed back once again. In addition to the lessons learned by the institution, this situation showed that determining lines of action for strengthening political parties is a painstaking task that requires more time and greater effort than would at first appear.

If this is far from being a positive lesson, developments on other fronts were very encouraging. The research progressed smoothly and the two works about to be published (the Cuaderno de CAPEL No. 50 and the *Agenda para el Fortalecimiento de los Partidos Políticos en América Latina. Memoria del Proceso de Consultas Regionales con Partidos Políticos*) will be useful tools for developing the national plans envisaged in the future for strengthening political parties. The conditions in the first country selected for the next stage (the Dominican Republic) are extremely promising. Moreover, any action in that country will also benefit from the plans that the local USAID mission has promoted with local counterparts and with the support of international entities such as the IIHR/CAPEL itself.

Finally, it is worth noting that the academic debate, the presence of different countries and the production of new specialized materials has placed the IIHR/CAPEL in the forefront of the efforts to bolster political parties in Latin America, even though the strategic plan is not yet ready. If this puts the institution in an advantageous position as far as the implementation of national plans is concerned, careful reflection is needed before undertaking action in individual countries. The

progress made in the academic sphere and in disseminating the proposals made by the political parties in the consultations held by the IIHR/CAPEL coincided with the redesign of the Web page. This was opportune, as a complete portal is needed that does not limit the types or amount of information that can be stored. This will make it possible to incorporate all information produced in the future on the strengthening of political parties in the Americas.

**PROJECT: EQUAL REPRESENTATION AND POLITICAL PARTY REFORM**

**SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES JANUARY - DECEMBER 2006**

**UPDATED JANUARY 2006**

<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>COUNTRY</b>	<b>JAN</b>	<b>FEB</b>	<b>MAR</b>	<b>APR</b>	<b>MAY</b>	<b>JUN</b>	<b>JUL</b>	<b>AUG</b>	<b>SEP</b>	<b>OCT</b>	<b>NOV</b>	<b>DEC</b>
Publication Research Democratization in 3 countries: Bolivia, Chile and Dominican Republic	Costa Rica	█	█	█									
Preparation Strategic Plan. Meeting experts	Costa Rica	█	█	█	█								
Workshop on reform of political campaigns in Chile	Chile				█								