

INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF HUMAN RIGHTS

**COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT USAID No. LAG-A-00-02-00001-00
PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS THROUGH INCLUSION, CONFLICT PREVENTION AND DEMOCRATIZATION LATIN AMERICA**

**QUARTERLY REPORT
1 October-31 December 2006**

I. INTRODUCTION

Following is Inter-American Institute of Human Rights' Quarterly Report for the period covering 1 October to 31 December 2006, for Cooperative Agreement No. LAG-A-00-02-00001-00 with USAID. This report describes activities that were funded, in whole or in part, by USAID over this time. The Agreement consists of the following three components:

- A. Promoting a Culture of Inclusion
- B. Conflict Prevention
- C. Democratization of Political Processes.

This report is also organized along this three lines of work. And **IHR Organigram, Overview** and **budget summary** for the Agreement can all be found at the end of this document.

A. PROMOTING A CULTURE OF INCLUSION

1. PROJECT: PROMOTING A CULTURE OF INCLUSION

1.1 GENERAL FRAMEWORK

During the reporting period (**October-December 2006**) the project continued to conduct research and gather data about:

a) The impact of legislation designed to foster gender equality in five countries of the region (Costa Rica, Honduras, Panama, Venezuela and Colombia). Four final reports (for Costa Rica, Honduras, Panama and Venezuela) are now available on line, having been uploaded to the *DerechosMujer* specialized section of the IIHR website. The research in Colombia has yet to be completed. As pointed out in previous reports, the work got under way later than in the other countries and comparatively less progress has been made.

b) The application of quota mechanisms in eleven Latin American countries (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico, Peru, Panama and Paraguay). The 11 electoral bodies have received the instrument (questionnaire) and will begin collecting data in January 2007. The electoral bodies found it impossible to perform the task in 2006 due to their heavy workload (many countries held elections during the year) and the complexity of the various tasks involved in completing the questionnaire.

Between October and December 2006, the project also continued to implement the activities programmed for the other subprojects: a) Applied research on the participation of indigenous peoples in political and civic life; and, b) Applied research on access to citizenship and political participation for the Afro-descendant population in Colombia and Panama. The actions carried out were related to the following components: **a)** production of specialized knowledge (applied research). The IIHR held a workshop with the consultants **in Mexico from October 15-19**, to share their experiences and the findings of the six ongoing studies on the political participation of members of indigenous communities (**Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama and Peru**). The findings were also presented at the Congress of the Latin American Legal Anthropology Network (RELAJU), as a result of which modifications were made to the research that the IIHR will be publishing and disseminating during the first half of 2007; **b)** training and information; and, **c)** dissemination. The IIHR organized a course-workshop on the political participation of indigenous peoples that took place at its Inter-American Hall of Human Rights in San Jose, Costa Rica, in December 2006.

Work also continued with regard to the **Afro-descendant population**. Guidelines were drafted for the **creation of a system of indicators of progress vis-à-vis their inclusion in society and political participation**. The guidelines were based on follow-up to the implementation of the main proposals related to the human rights and democratic participation of these communities set forth in the Declaration and Action Plan of the World Conference against Racism (Durban 2002) and in the platforms of the Afro-descendant movements of eight countries (**Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru and Uruguay**), wherever documented evidence of such platforms could be identified and obtained that contained relevant data. The research/action on the inclusive electoral legislation that exists in **Panama** also got under way. Ultimately, this could lead to a bill being drafted for affirmative action or minimum quotas for the political participation of Afro-Panamanians. The

project had proposed that at least two Afro-Panamanians take part in the *Panel of Experts to Assess the Situation regarding the Political Participation of the Afro-descendant Population in Colombia*, which was held in **Cali on 25 July 2006**. Unfortunately, the funds from USAID were not received until 27 July, which made this impossible. Furthermore, it proved extremely difficult to find a suitable consultant to carry out the research (an expert was not hired until the beginning of October). As a result, the activity is behind schedule and will not be completed until the first quarter of 2007. Before the papers prepared for the *Panel of Experts* could be published, they had to be revised and returned to the consultants so they could make the respective adjustments. The subsequent process of editing the papers took longer than originally planned. However, given the complex situation in the country, it was essential that the greatest possible care be taken with the publication, which will be circulated throughout the region. This made it necessary to postpone the training activities originally proposed in the eight countries mentioned above.

1.2 GENERAL OBJECTIVE OF THE PROJECT

1.2.1 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE:

To enhance the capacity of women, indigenous peoples and Afro-descendant populations to exercise their citizens' rights based on the principles of equality, nondiscrimination and full political participation, and thereby strengthen inclusive democracy, governability and the Rule of Law.

1.2.2 PERFORMANCE INDICATOR:

Conditions created for women, indigenous peoples and Afro-descendant populations in the region to be aware of their political and electoral rights and exercise them fully on an equal footing.

1.3 TARGET POPULATION

Research on the impact of legislation designed to foster gender equality and on the application of quota mechanisms: The specific target population are **civil society women's organizations in the countries that have legislation on equality or electoral quotas**, particularly organizations involved in follow-up or advocacy efforts related to legislation of this kind. Other targets are **public institutions involved in these issues and responsible for making decisions about them**, such as institutes or ministries in charge of women's affairs, ombudsman offices, electoral bodies and lawmakers who sit on legislative committees that deal with women's issues. The countries chosen for the research either have laws intended to foster equal opportunities for women and men (five - **Costa Rica, Honduras, Panama, Venezuela and Colombia**) or electoral legislation that establishes minimum quotas for the political participation of women (eleven - **Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico, Peru, Panama and Paraguay**).

Applied research on the participation of indigenous peoples in political and civic life: representatives of indigenous organizations and peoples (leaders, middle managers and grassroots staff, men and women) and civil society organizations involved in follow-up or advocacy efforts in political-electoral processes in fourteen countries of the region, with the research and analysis focusing on six of them (**Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama and Peru**), public entities related to the rights of these communities (e.g.,

ombudsman offices), electoral bodies of countries in the region, political parties and social movements involved with the issue. The six countries were selected based on the experience of the IIHR's Indigenous Peoples Program and Applied Research Unit. Few of the younger members of indigenous communities in the region have benefited from training of this kind, which is intended to have a multiplier effect on their communities and organizations. Furthermore, the indigenous organizations were asked specifically to submit applications for similar numbers of women and men (50-50, if possible). Invitations were also sent to indigenous women's organizations.

Applied research on access to citizenship and political participation for the Afro-descendant population in Colombia and Panama: Afro-descendant organizations and populations and civil society organizations involved in follow-up or advocacy efforts in political-electoral processes and public entities whose work has to do with the rights of these communities (e.g., ombudsman offices), electoral bodies of countries in the region, political parties and social movements involved with the issue.

1.4 GENERAL APPRAISAL OF THE PROJECT

Lessons Learned:

Women/Gender. The findings of the research on the **impact of equal opportunity laws** reveal that the effectiveness of the legislation concerned varies considerably. This is due to a number of variables, such as the time that has elapsed since each law was passed, the particular content in each case and the different situations in the countries. The research process itself has also varied from one country to another, with different levels of study and analysis being required on account of the complexity and quantity of the information processed. The information for the research on **quotas** is being compiled by the electoral bodies. The effort confirmed the need for flexible timeframes, as electoral processes took place in many countries of the region during 2006 and completing the questionnaire involved a considerable amount of work.

Indigenous Peoples. The research on **indigenous political participation in Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama and Peru** has shown that, in spite of the important efforts made in some countries of the region, indigenous peoples continue to experience major difficulties with regard to the enjoyment of their civil and political rights, such as nondiscrimination on the grounds of race and ethnicity, participation in political life and the exercise of citizens' rights. Systematizing these studies has provided important input for strengthening the development of legislation, jurisprudence, doctrine and regulations aimed at promoting the broad participation of this population. Going forward, this will require an important effort by both indigenous organizations and civil society - drawing on their first-hand knowledge of the situation - to influence and provide follow-up to proposals for specific legislation to increase the inclusion and political participation of this segment of the population. The **Training course-workshop on indigenous political participation**, held by the IIHR in **December 2006**, made a significant contribution to the appropriation of the research findings by young indigenous leaders (at the local, regional and national levels) in their countries of origin (those studied, plus **Argentina, Costa Rica, Chile, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Paraguay and Venezuela**), who could become multiplier agents of the knowledge they acquired. It is essential to provide training in advocacy strategies for the enactment of legislation and regulations intended to increase the political and electoral participation of indigenous communities in countries where insufficient progress has been made. The limited amount of research currently being conducted on the subject and the enormous interest generated when the course was announced show the relevance of the project and its potential, particularly as it is an applied research effort.

Afro-descendant population. In drafting guidelines for creating a system of indicators of progress of the social inclusion and political participation of the Afro-descendant population, the weakness of the movement that represents this population was confirmed. The information available on the political platforms of Afro-descendant organizations and movements in **Bolivia, Colombia, Honduras, Nicaragua, Peru and Uruguay** is, for the most part, scattered. There are no national programs or platforms, much less integrated, regional ones, only a wide variety of organizations, ideas and short-term alliances. This highlights not only the need to continue conducting research on the issue, but also the importance of further education/information/training activities to strengthen the organization and advocacy activities of these populations. Consolidating the knowledge and capabilities of the Afro-descendant population and its organizations, and of civil society organizations that engage in follow-up and advocacy in political-electoral processes, will make it possible to influence and monitor specific parliamentary bills designed to foster the inclusion and political participation of the Afro-descendant population, which is one of the objectives of this project.

Conclusion:

The progress of the research on the impact that the only five laws on equality that exist in the region have had on legislation, public policies and the institutionalization of gender equality and equity is helping to generate knowledge and fill in the gaps where this issue is concerned.

The research is providing information and tools that will allow both civil society women's organizations and public institutions to provide better follow-up to the legislation in each country and make it more useful for exercising rights and generating public policies. The usefulness of this information to other Latin American countries depends on how much the organizations and institutions learn from previous initiatives to develop better practices for monitoring or developing similar legislative efforts.

The research and activities being carried out under the projects for indigenous peoples and the Afro-descendant population are creating a body of knowledge that will be used to strengthen the installed capacity of individual members and the organizations of the target population, civil society groups and public institutions involved in the issue. This, in turn, will make it possible to secure new legislation and public policies and the establishment of observatories to provide follow-up, leading to more inclusive democratic practices and broader political and electoral participation, and the incorporation of the ethnic and multicultural diversity that is essential for governability.

1.5 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT

Annual goal 1: To determine the impact that equal opportunity legislation has had on public policies and the institutional fabric					
Activities Implemented	Description	Background / Rationale	Institution(s) Responsible / Coordination	Outcomes	Assessment of Impact
<p>Assessments of the impact of legislation designed to advance gender equality</p> <p>Objective:</p> <p>To foster the production of specialized knowledge about the impact of legislation designed to create equal opportunities for women and men</p>	<p>Between October and December 2006, the IIHR carried out the final revision of the documents containing the findings of the research in four countries (Costa Rica, Honduras, Panama and Venezuela) on the impact of the implementation of legislation designed to create equal opportunities for women and men.</p> <p>This research focused specifically on three areas: legislation, public policies and the institutionalization of gender equality. The IIHR hired an external consultant to systematize the information and perform a comparative analysis of the research carried out in the different countries.</p>	<p>Various UN and ECLAC studies have concluded 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 exist that constitute an obstacle to the full implementation of the instrument. Hence the research and the importance of disseminating the findings of the four projects completed so far, to provide analysis and information regarding the impact of legislation of this kind, which exists in only five Latin American countries.</p>	<p>The research in Colombia has not yet been completed and consultant Beatriz Quintero is continuing to perform the work. The specific tasks are: continue implementing the research methodology, based on the IIHR's terms of reference; systematize the information and produce a second preliminary analytical document; disseminate the preliminary results among IIHR staff and national specialists; incorporate recommendations and observations; and, produce a final document. Consultant Roxana Volio (Costa Rica) was hired to systematize the information and perform a comparative analysis of the findings of the four national research</p>	<p>Intermediate:</p> <p>The IIHR studied and approved the final documents from four countries (Costa Rica, Honduras, Panama and Venezuela).</p> <p>The IIHR coordinated the editing of the four documents by an external specialist.</p> <p>The IIHR established the profile of the external consultant (Roxana Volio of Costa Rica) for the systematization and comparative analysis of the results of the national research. The Institute selected the consultant, drafted the terms of reference, signed the contract and held a coordination meeting with her in December.</p> <p>The IIHR provided follow-up to the implementation of the</p>	<p>Impact indicator:</p> <p>More information available, making it possible to assess and monitor the impact of specific legislation for equality between women and men</p> <p>The progress of the research is facilitating the production and dissemination of knowledge in an area of analysis that hitherto has been little explored: the impact that the five equality opportunity laws that exist in Latin America have had on legislation, public policies and the institutionalization of gender equality and equity. Posting the information on line makes it possible for nongovernmental and governmental organizations in the four countries concerned, and in Latin America in general, to ascertain the results of the research and facilitate assessment and monitoring</p>

	<p>The analysis is looking at the following key aspects: approach adopted to assess the situation; difficulties and weaknesses identified; good practices; and lessons learned.</p> <p>As the research in Colombia has still not been completed, a progress report was prepared that the IIHR studied in order to provide feedback. The consultant in that country is now incorporating the observations and winding up the research process. The IIHR decided that the first strategy for disseminating the research would be to upload it to the <i>DerechosMujer</i> specialized section of the IIHR website. The IIHR continued to update the specialized section regularly, posting other materials related to gender equality and equity (see data in</p>		<p>projects. She was selected based on her expertise in the area of gender and human rights, her recognized research skills and her experience in formulating, implementing and evaluating public equality policies in Latin America and Spain.</p> <p>The IIHR is responsible for coordinating the work of the consultants. It has been called upon to monitor the implementation of the work plans by email and phone, provide technical assistance, study documents and offer feedback, define the dissemination strategy, draft documents and update the content of the <i>DerechosMujer</i> specialized section of the IIHR website.</p>	<p>work plan in Colombia; and studied the progress report on the research in Colombia and provided feedback.</p> <p>The IIHR produced materials based on the four national research projects for uploading to the <i>DerechosMujer</i> specialized section of the IIHR website. To do so, the IIHR established guidelines for the presentation of the information and prepared it for the Internet.</p> <p>Follow-up:</p> <p>The IIHR will be providing follow-up to the ongoing research in Colombia, the systematization/comparative analysis and the review of the preliminary documents.</p> <p>Final:</p> <p>Four documents containing final research findings (Costa Rica, Honduras, Panama and Venezuela)</p> <p>Dissemination of the outputs via the Web</p>	<p>actions at the national level, and learn from experiences that are useful for developing similar legislative initiatives and monitoring the application of laws on the subject.</p> <p>Means of verification:</p> <p>Documents containing research findings available on line at http://www.iidh.ed.cr (IIHR Documents-Publications)*; <i>DerechosMujer</i> specialized section of IIHR website and Webtrends software</p>
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	outcomes).			<p>The IHR updated the <i>DerechosMujer</i> specialized section of its website (as of 15 December 2006, 4738 items were available in its different subsections, plus a directory of 510 organizations devoted to the advancement of women's rights). The number of visits to the specialized section continued to rise steadily (there were 51,979 between 1 October and 15 December 2006, an average of 683 per day that lasted an average of 13:10 minutes each (statistics compiled using WebTrends software).</p>
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[*http://www.iidh.ed.cr/comunidades/DerechosMujer/publicaciones_doc.htm](http://www.iidh.ed.cr/comunidades/DerechosMujer/publicaciones_doc.htm)

Annual goal 2: To consolidate knowledge and capabilities for providing follow-up to specific legislation designed to encourage women to take part in political life and undertaking advocacy efforts related to such legislation

Activities Implemented	Description	Background / Rationale	Institution(s) Responsible / Coordination	Outcomes	Assessment of Impact
<p>Research on the application of the quota mechanism</p> <p>Objective:</p> <p>To promote specialized knowledge for monitoring the implementation of legislation intended to encourage women to participate in political life</p>	<p>During the quarter under review (October-December 2006), the project continued to facilitate the production of specialized knowledge about the impact of legislation designed to encourage the participation of women in political life. Specifically, the Institute finished distributing the questionnaire for gathering data and then provided follow-up to the electoral bodies. 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 aim of</p>	<p>The minimum quotas for women's political participation established in specific or electoral legislation are intended to correct discrimination and inequality and ensure that equal numbers of women and men hold political office. Existing studies suggest that, although such participation has increased in recent years, it continues to be insufficient, bearing in mind that women account for an average of around 15% of lawmakers in 33 countries of the region (ECLAC: 2004). The research is designed to rectify the absence of a comparative analysis of the electoral bodies' experiences and difficulties in this area. The findings of this</p>	<p>The electoral bodies of the eleven countries under study are responsible for collecting the data and other documentation requested. Each organization has designated an official who is liaising with the IIHR and overseeing the data gathering process personally. The electoral bodies are working closely with the IIHR-CAPEL via the IIHR's electronic network (Technical Secretariat of the Union of Electoral Bodies - UNIORE). External consultant Line Bareiro (Documentation and Studies Center-Paraguay) is continuing to provide advisory assistance on political rights and quotas. She is responsible for fielding the electoral bodies' questions and will subsequently systematize the information.</p>	<p>Intermediate:</p> <p>Questionnaire distributed among electoral bodies and work coordinated internally with IIHR/CAPEL.</p> <p>Profile established for external consultant Rocío Villanueva (Peru) to obtain information about the Inter-American System; preparation of terms of reference, selection and hiring process; meeting to coordinate the work, in November 2006.</p> <p>Materials prepared for uploading to the <i>DerechosMujer</i> specialized section of the IIHR website</p> <p>Follow-up:</p> <p>The IIHR is providing follow-up to the electoral bodies, to ensure they</p>	<p>Impact indicator:</p> <p>“More information available about the experiences of electoral bodies in implementing quota legislation, to assess and monitor its impact”</p> <p>The data gathering process is helping to achieve the objective of this activity and the impact indicator. The strategy of involving the electoral bodies themselves in the data collection process is contributing to the appropriation of the issue under study and its validation among the bodies. The internal coordination between the Women's Human Rights Program of the Department of Civil Society Entities and the Center for Electoral Promotion and Assistance (IIHR/CAPEL) is strengthening the working relationship and the incorporation of gender equality as a crosscutting</p>

	<p>the research is to explore, as an area for analysis and dissemination, the efforts of the electoral bodies to implement the quota mechanism. This is being done by means of a single semi-structured questionnaire that is being used to garner information about: current legislation; implementation and monitoring mechanisms; and experiences in implementing the quota system - enforcement, issuing of regulations, regulatory activities, modifications and the application of sanctions, including practices and resolutions (jurisprudence).</p> <p>The electoral bodies of the eleven countries have three months to answer the questionnaire and compile the documentation requested (the goal is for everything to be ready by the end of</p>	<p>research will provide a better understanding of the situation and permit better monitoring by civil society organizations and the electoral bodies themselves.</p>	<p>External consultant Rocío Villanueva (Peru) was hired to gather information about the protection standards of the Inter-American System with regard to quotas. She was selected on account of her expertise in the field of gender and human rights and her knowledge of the Inter-American System. She is studying the two cases that have been brought on this issue (in Argentina and Peru) and will then summarize them and determine the level of protection and the impact at the national level in the two countries.</p> <p>The IIHR is coordinating the work of the consultants. It monitored implementation of the work plans by email and phone, provided technical assistance, coordinated internally with the IIHR/CAPEL, distributed and monitored the questionnaires among the electoral bodies, prepared documents and updated the content of the</p>	<p>meet the deadline for collecting the data and returning the questionnaires and other documents; providing technical assistance and monitoring the people currently under contract; and studying the draft document on the analysis of cases brought before the Inter-American System.</p> <p>Final:</p> <p>The IIHR updated the <i>DerechosMujer</i> specialized section of its website (as of 15 December 2006, 4738 items were available in its different subsections, plus a directory of 510 organizations devoted to the advancement of women's rights). The number of visits to the specialized section continues to rise steadily (there were 51,979 between 1 October and 15 December 2006, an average of 683 per day that lasted an average of 13:10 minutes each (statistics compiled using</p>	<p>issue.</p> <p>Means of verification:</p> <p>Final version of the core questionnaire for collecting data and the corresponding instructions. <i>DerechosMujer</i> specialized section of the IIHR website and WebTrends system.</p>
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	<p>the first quarter of 2007). An external consultant will be providing continuous advisory assistance to the electoral bodies and will systematize the research findings. The IIHR hired another external consultant to study and gather information about the protection standards of the Inter-American Human Rights Protection System with regard to quotas (two complaints have been lodged, in Argentina and Peru). This study will also make it possible to obtain information about the impact of these standards at the national level, with a view to rectifying the situations that gave rise to the complaints. The IIHR continued to regularly update the <i>DerechosMujer</i> specialized section of the IIHR website with materials related to political rights and</p>		<p><i>DerechosMujer</i> specialized section of the IIHR website.</p>	<p>WebTrends software).</p>	
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	quotas (see data in outcomes).				
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Annual goal 3: To help indigenous peoples and Afro-descendant populations and their organizations, and CSOs that provide follow-up to political-electoral processes and engage in advocacy, enhance their expertise and capabilities for monitoring and influencing specific legislation intended to encourage the aforesaid populations to participate in political life

Activities Implemented	Description	Background/ Rationale	Institution(s) Responsible / Coordination	Outcomes	Assessment of Impact
<p>Applied research on the participation of indigenous peoples in political and civic life</p> <p>Objective:</p> <p>To explore the actions of electoral organizations in selected countries (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama and Peru) with regard to the implementation of affirmative actions and regulations, in order to disseminate information about the difficulty of, and good practices for, increasing the</p>	<p>During the period under review (October-December 2006), the IIHR carried out the following activities:</p> <p>1) Mexico City, 16 October: Workshop to share experiences and findings with the consultants in charge of the studies carried out in six countries of the region (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama and Peru) and CIESAS of Mexico (also acting as a consultant in charge of conducting the research).</p> <p>2) Oaxtepec, Morelos, Mexico, 17-19 October: continuation</p>	<p>Based on its experience in regard to this issue (the work of its Indigenous Peoples Program and Maps of Progress in Human Rights), the IIHR realized there was a 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. It is also important to share good practices, the difficulties and weaknesses encountered and the</p>	<p>Consultants in each country: 1) Alfonso Alem, Bolivia; 2) Camila Moreno, Colombia; 3) Josefina Aguilar, Ecuador; 4) Francisco García-Olsina, Mexico; 5) Bernal Castillo, Panama; and, 6) Adda Chuecas, Peru. Specialized technical consultant and joint executor of the research: CIESAS (Mexico). The IIHR selected the consultants and the institution based on their extensive experience in studying and researching indigenous issues. The consultants in Peru and Ecuador, and CIESAS,</p>	<p>Intermediate:</p> <p>1) IIHR. Monitoring of, and follow-up to, the systematization of the research findings in the six countries included in the study; 2) IIHR-CIESAS. Financial, logistical and academic organization (preparation of guidelines and oversight) of the workshop to share experiences and participation in RELAJU (Mexico, 16-19 October 2006).</p> <p>3) IIHR-CIESAS. Revision and approval of the presentations made at RELAJU and the systematization of the results; progress in systematizing information for proposed indicators of</p>	<p>Impact indicator:</p> <p>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</p> <p>Little academic work has been done on the issue of indigenous political and electoral participation in Latin America. Consequently, few publications and specialized training activities are available and information about the issue has not been widely disseminated. The IIHR studies have looked at the issue from a qualitative perspective, making both a theoretical and practical</p>

<p>political participation of indigenous peoples</p>	<p>of the workshop and presentation of papers by the consultants at the Congress of the Latin American Legal Anthropology Network (RELAJU). Method: the research in each country included at least one of the following variables: a) indigenous electoral legislation and regulations; b) administrative arrangements; c) use of legal resources and regulations by indigenous peoples; and, d) performance of indigenous candidates in elections. Guidelines were drawn up for both activities. In the case of the workshop, a SWOT was used; and, for the RELAJU event, presentations were prepared following the guidelines issued by the organizing committee. 3) Course-workshop on indigenous political participation. San Jose, Costa Rica,</p>	<p>lessons learned with other countries in the region that are relatively less developed in this area. Based on the above, six pieces of research have been carried out in countries with varying levels of legal and regulatory support in place (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama and Peru). As well as contributing to one of the IIHR's strategic goals - the promotion of inclusive and transparent political systems - this exercise is especially important because it facilitates not only specific knowledge but the wide dissemination of that knowledge through training, information-sharing and diffusion activities involving young representatives of organizations of indigenous peoples in fourteen countries (the six studied plus Argentina, Costa Rica, Chile, Guatemala,</p>	<p>also have publications on indigenous political and electoral participation. During the technical mission to Panama (September 2006), project staff visited USAID to meet with the official in charge of Democratic Initiatives, who was out of the country. However, the mission was able to talk with another official (Felipe Frederick) with respect to the research and its objectives, and the IIHR's expectations.</p>	<p>progress. Follow-up: 1) IIHR/CIESAS. Monitoring of the revision and correction of presentations by the consultants for the training module at the Course-workshop on indigenous political participation; 2) IIHR/CIESAS. Review and approval of extension of research in Ecuador and Peru, based on significant progress on the issue in the 2006 elections and results of workshop to share experiences and RELAJU. Final: 1) IIHR-CIESAS. Two training modules prepared to disseminate the research findings and the conclusions of the comparison (preliminary publication of papers six countries) and training in advocacy strategies aimed at the adoption of legislation and regulations to strengthen indigenous political and electoral participation in countries that have not made sufficient, significant progress in this area;</p>	<p>contribution through the training activities of the indigenous organizations (involving men and women). This is enhancing the exercise of rights and inclusive democracy, and fostering governability in the region. These studies are also intended to lead to improvements in electoral legislation, so that ethnic diversity is made a crosscutting element. In this regard, the project has strengthened the work between the IIHR's departments (Civil Society-CAPEL) and with its Applied Research Unit. Means of verification: Research documents, training modules and workshop materials and training course. <i>Diversidades</i> specialized section and WebTrends software.</p>
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	<p>4-6 December. Participants: 35 indigenous young men and women from 14 countries in the region (Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Chile, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru and Venezuela).</p> <p>Method: invitations were issued to all the indigenous organizations listed in the database of <i>Diversidades</i>, the specialized section of the IIHR's website. The invitations were also distributed electronically. The participants were selected using a previously established profile (age, amount of school, training, experience of participating in elections, interest, possibility of multiplying knowledge, gender), a method of verifying the candidates' profiles and a scoring system. The</p>	<p>Honduras, Nicaragua, Paraguay and Venezuela). The results of this study are expected to help strengthen the integration of ethnic diversity as a crosscutting element of the work of other departments such as the Center for Electoral Promotion and Assistance (IIHR/CAPEL). The results will also be used as input for indicators of political participation for the Maps of Progress in Human Rights (last updated in 2002). This will contribute to the continuous development of a research model that is helping to improve access to the rights, the close coordination of social action and political participation, especially of groups traditionally subject to discrimination like indigenous peoples.</p>		<p>2) IIHR-CIESAS. Course-workshop held on indigenous political participation. 35 participants from fourteen countries in the region (indigenous young men and women from the six countries studied plus Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Venezuela, Paraguay, Chile and Argentina).</p> <p>3) IIHR/CIESAS. Database containing up-to-date legislation indigenous political participation in 6 countries of the region (<i>Diversidades</i> specialized section of IIHR website).</p> <p>4) IIHR. During all stages: dissemination of activities and specialized information posted on <i>Diversidades</i>, on the IIHR website, which is updated continually. As of 18 December 2006, 7430 new items were available in the different subsections (<i>Acerca de nosotros, Documentos, Normativa, Vocabulario, Otros sitios, Preguntas frecuentes</i>), as well as an up-to-date directory of 380 indigenous</p>	
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	<p>academic design of the activity was also mapped out (objectives, content, methodology, program) and two modules were prepared containing: a) dissemination of the research findings and the conclusions of the comparison; and, b) training in advocacy strategies aimed at the adoption of legislation and regulations to strengthen indigenous political and electoral participation, led by two educators from CIESAS (Mexico) who specialize in the subject and guest speakers.</p>			<p>and Afro-descendant organizations. The specialized section was visited 54,238 times between 1 October and 15 December 2006 - an average of 713 visits per day that lasted an average 16:34 minutes each (statistics compiled using WebTrends software).</p>	
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Activities Implemented	Description	Background/ Rationale	Institution(s) Responsible / Coordination	Outcomes	Assessment of Impact
<p>Applied research on the extent to which the Afro-descendant populations in Colombia and Panama are able to exercise their citizens' rights and participate in political life</p> <p>Objective:</p> <p>To enhance the capabilities of the Afro-descendant population and organizations that monitor and engage in advocacy efforts in political-electoral processes</p>	<p>During the period under review (October-December 2006), the following activities were carried out: 1) preparation of the preliminary version of the publication containing the research carried out for the Panel of experts to assess the situation regarding the political participation of the Afro-descendant population in Colombia (Cali, Colombia, 25 July 2006), on the variables: a) electoral legislation and regulations concerning Afro-descendants; b) administrative arrangements (issuing of identity cards, voter registration); c) use of legal remedies and regulations by the Afro-descendant population (at the local, national and regional levels);</p>	<p>Some 30% of the inhabitants of Latin America and the Caribbean are Afro-descendants. Nevertheless, ECLAC studies suggest that the Afro-descendant population has the lowest economic and social indicators and enjoys limited cultural recognition and access to decision-making bodies. Specifically in regard to political participation and representation, which is key to reducing the inequalities that exist, this population is underrepresented in government policy. Few countries have developed legislation, public policies and mechanisms aimed at improving the situation (e.g., affirmative action). Initiatives of this kind foster the equitable inclusion of this segment of the</p>	<p>The IIHR hired consultant Jacinta Escudos, who has a great deal of experience in this area and has worked for the IIHR many times, to draft the preliminary document on the Panel of Experts. In Panama, Afro-descendant consultant Alberto Barrow was hired for the research/action. He also has a lot of experience in these issues and took part in the previous stage of the Inclusion Project (USAID). CIESAS of Mexico has been responsible for preparing the guidelines for the creation of a system of indicators of progress on the social inclusion and political participation of the Afro-descendant population. In September 2006, an IIHR technical mission visited the offices of USAID in Panama but</p>	<p>Intermediate:</p> <p>1) IIHR. Revised, corrected and edited the preliminary version of the publication containing the research carried out for the <i>Panel of Experts</i>;</p> <p>2) IIHR. Prepared terms of reference, selected and hired consultant for research/action in Panama;</p> <p>3) IIHR. Prepared terms of reference for the preparation of guidelines for creating a system of indicators of progress on the social inclusion and political participation of the Afro-descendant population; and hired CIESAS.</p> <p>Follow-up:</p> <p>1) IIHR. Prepare final publication of Panel of Experts (layout, cover, identification and selection of print-shop).</p> <p>2) Monitor ongoing research activities</p> <p>3) Review progress reports</p> <p>Final:</p>	<p>Impact indicators:</p> <p>NGOs, CSOs, electoral tribunals and stakeholders and decision-makers involved with the issue are more knowledgeable about the progress made and obstacles encountered in the efforts to increase the political participation of Colombia's Afro-descendant population</p> <p>The <i>Panel of Experts</i> gave the various NGOs and CSOs, members of the electoral tribunal and other stakeholders an opportunity to familiarize themselves with, study and discuss the progress made and obstacles encountered. The fact that two of the researchers were the Vice President of the National Electoral Board of Colombia and an adviser to the Board helped interest certain senior government officials in the issue. Within the IIHR, the coordination of the work with the IIHR/CAPEL proved to be crucial. CAPEL now wishes to incorporate this perspective</p>

	<p>and, d) the outcome of the participation of Afro-Colombians in elections. Colombia was selected as it is the country that has made the most progress with constitutional, legislative and administrative measures (quotas) for the political participation of Afro-descendants.</p> <p>2) The IIHR identified and hired a consultant for the research/action in Panama on the country's inclusive electoral legislation. Panama was chosen to promote the progress that the Afro-Panamanian population achieved by implementing a national project under the Promoting a Culture of Inclusion project (USAID).</p> <p>3) CIESAS of Mexico continued the process (which got under way on 1 September 2006, see</p>	<p>population in political and citizen participation processes that help strengthen governability, inclusive democracy and the Rule of Law.</p> <p>The IIHR regards CSOs as essential for democratic participation within the constitutional framework of each country, a core element of pluralism. Therefore, ascertaining and disseminating knowledge about the success or otherwise of legislative and administrative measures established to encourage the political participation of the Afro-Colombian community is an important step. 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. The information will be made available to both countries that have advanced electoral systems and others that</p>	<p>the official in charge of Democracy Initiatives was out of the country. The IIHR has been monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the project; carried out a technical assistance mission; reviewed the materials and the design of the preliminary publication on the Panel of Experts; prepared the terms of reference and identified the consultant for the research/action in Panama; coordinated the work with the IIHR/CAPEL and the Applied Research Unit; and continually updated the content of the <i>Diversidades</i> specialized section of the IIHR website.</p>	<p>1) During all stages: disseminate the activities and specialized information posted on the Diversidades section of the IIHR website, which is updated continually. As of 18 December 2006, 7430 new items were available in the different subsections (<i>Acerca de nosotros, Documentos, Normativa, Vocabulario, Otros sitios, Preguntas frecuentes</i>), plus an up-to-date directory of 380 organizations devoted to the promotion of the rights of indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants. The specialized section was visited 54,238 times between 1 October and 15 December 2006 - an average of 713 visits per day that lasted an average 16:34 minutes each (statistics compiled using WebTrends software).</p> <p>2) IIHR. Review final CIESAS report on preparation of guidelines for creating a system of indicators of progress.</p>	<p>into its platform of work. The Applied Research Unit also supported the development of indicators of progress based on the Colombian experience.</p> <p>Relatively less developed countries have more knowledge about the efforts to increase the political participation of Colombia's Afro-descendant population</p> <p>Once the final document containing the results of the Panel of Experts is published and disseminated widely by means of training/information activities, the impact will be enhanced both in Colombia and in the 8 countries that are relatively less developed in this area that have been selected for the dissemination efforts.</p> <p>Means of verification: Publication containing research carried out for the Panel of Experts. Research documents <i>Diversidades</i> specialized section of the IIHR website and WebTrends software.</p>
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	<p>Quarterly Report for July-September 2006) of preparing guidelines for the creation of a system of indicators of progress on the social inclusion and political participation of the Afro-descendant population, based on the Declaration and the Action Plan of Durban (World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination and Xenophobia, 2001), in the eight countries included in the project (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru and Uruguay). Material related to the issue was disseminated through the <i>Diversidades</i> specialized section of the IIHR website.</p>	<p>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. This, in turn, will enable them to influence and monitor proposed specific legislation to foster the inclusion and political participation of the population concerned. Based on its extensive experience, the IIHR also believes that the proposed drafting of guidelines for the creation of a system of indicators of the progress made with the legal protection of the Afro-descendant population's right to political participation, based on the methodology designed for the indicators of progress of the IIHR's Maps of Progress in Human Rights, could make a major contribution to the work of Afro-descendant</p>			
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		organizations and CSOs involved in the issue.			
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PROJECT: PROMOTING A CULTURE OF INCLUSION

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES FOR JANUARY-SEPTEMBER 2007 - Updated January 2007

ACTIVITIES	COUNTRY	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP
Applied research and training/information/dissemination on the participation of indigenous peoples in political and civic life	Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Chile, Ecuador, Honduras, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru and Venezuela									
Applied research and training/information/dissemination on the Afro-descendant populations in Colombia and Panama and their capacity to exercise their citizens' rights and participate in political life	Panama, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Peru and Uruguay									
Technical Assistance Mission	To be decided									
Technical Assistance Mission	To be decided									
Assessments of impact of equal opportunity laws	Costa Rica, Honduras, Panama, Venezuela and Colombia									
Research on the application of the quota mechanism	Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico, Peru, Panama and Paraguay									

B. CONFLICT PREVENTION

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

1.1. GENERAL FRAMEWORK

As part of the ongoing security sector reform process in the Dominican Republic, between October and December 2006 the project continued to provide technical assistance to that country, with a **seminar being held 27-28 November in Santo Domingo**. Against the political backdrop of the constitutional amendment proposed by the nation's President, the purpose of the **seminar "Citizen Security in the Dominican Constitution: Challenges posed and opportunities offered by the proposed Constitutional Amendment"** was to draft recommendations for the reform of the Dominican Constitution to incorporate the subject of citizen security.

The **technical mission scheduled for September 2006** was not carried out because the team felt that the institutional and political conditions were not conducive to a successful outcome. At the time of writing, the repeated public confrontations between the Minister for Home Affairs and the current Chief of Police have made the conditions for the ongoing reform process difficult.

The purpose of the Meeting of Experts that took place 30-31 January 2006, in San Jose, Costa Rica, was to continue to draft recommendations for the implementation of public citizen security policies. Following several month's work, the final document, **entitled "Citizen Security in Latin America: A proposal prepared by the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights,"** was presented at the **Regional Meeting on Citizen Security held 6-7 December at the headquarters of ECLAC, in Santiago, Chile**.

The Regional Meeting brought together senior citizen security officials from the Member States and Associate Members of MERCOSUR (**Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay, Uruguay, Chile, Bolivia, Peru, Colombia, Ecuador and Venezuela**).

For political considerations, the **Regional Meeting for the Central American subregion** could not be held. Instead, **it will take place 1-2 March 2007, in San Jose, sponsored by the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Justice of Costa Rica**.

1.2 GENERAL OBJECTIVE OF THE PROJECT

1.2.1. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE: To design and promote the implementation of citizen security plans and policies in the countries of the region.

1.2.2 PERFORMANCE INDICATOR: Institutions and civil society better equipped to tackle the problem of insecurity from a human rights perspective.

1.3 TARGET POPULATION

The direct beneficiaries have been **senior government officials and the individuals responsible for implementing the public security policy** (Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Security; lawmakers' representatives; and national police chiefs) in the Dominican Republic, the Central American Region and MERCOSUR, who are better equipped to design and implement public citizen security policies that guarantee human rights.

The indirect beneficiaries of the activities carried out are the citizenry in general. Since citizen insecurity is one of the biggest concerns of citizens throughout the hemisphere, any action that helps reduce the prevailing levels of violence is bound to improve the quality of life and general wellbeing of the population.

1.4 GENERAL APPRAISAL OF THE PROJECT

Lessons Learned:

Citizen security is one of the State's basic responsibilities and should be assumed as a public policy that commits it to integrated action. The policy should not depend on short-term political contingencies and should have clear, verifiable short, medium and long-term objectives. For this reason, the IIHR believes that all the states in the region should design and implement a national citizen security policy to establish clearly the responsibilities of the local authorities and the national agencies in charge of security, justice and defense. Enormous political will and commitment from the authorities is required, and also from political parties that are not in power, civil society and the mass media.

One of the most positive and important aspects identified is the recognition at the highest levels of government of the importance of developing a citizen security policy. In places like Latin America, however, where the situation is critical and there is strong public pressure for immediate, effective and forceful action, short-term quick fixes of the "iron fist" variety are finding favor once again. The most visible result is the failure to coordinate activities undertaken in this field. Initiatives compete with one another and the resulting fragmentation of efforts and resources ends up being a serious obstacle to the implementation of a citizen security policy in most countries, where multidimensional actions are required.

An integrated institutional citizen security system designed to check crime-related problems can achieve socially acceptable levels of success in preventing and fighting many types of crime. For this to happen, the State must formulate, implement and successfully evaluate citizen security policies and strategies.

Therefore, the **IIHR advocates efforts to develop citizen security policies based on general guidelines that should be agreed on and validated at the regional level.**

Conclusion:

With respect to the project “**Technical assistance to support the implementation of the Public Citizen Security Policy in Dominican Republic**”, since 2003 the IIHR has been involved in different stages of the design and implementation of a democratic public security policy in the Dominican Republic and, as part of that effort, in the process of restructuring the National Police. A change of government took place after this process began, which was followed by the appointment of new security officials and, recently, a new Chief of the National Police. Fortunately, the caliber of the IIHR’s 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.

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**. Under the plan, specific responsibilities are assigned to 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. The Democratic Security Plan has **two basic objectives**. The first is to **reestablish the authority of the Dominican State** by means of a sweeping overhaul 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 population’s basic civil rights, making the citizenry the principal actor in democratic security in the Dominican Republic**.

Holding the *seminar “Citizen Security in the Dominican Constitution: Challenges posed and opportunities offered by the proposed Constitutional Amendment”* and drafting a variety of proposed constitutional amendments with regard to citizen security were big steps forward. Once enacted, the amendment will provide a regulatory framework that underpins and reflects the security policies now being implemented, in particular the Democratic Security Plan. The fact that the Executive Branch asked the IIHR to make recommendations is a conformation of the esteem in which the Institute is held after providing technical assistance in all areas of citizen security.

The **Police Report, published in the Diario Digital de República Dominicana on Monday, 29 January 2007**, stated that “the results of the Democratic Security Plan and its Barrio Seguro program have been extraordinary, far exceeding the expectations of the people responsible for implementing it.” The evaluation issued by the National Police highlights the advisory assistance provided by the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights in the security sector reform process, which has led to a fall in crime rates over the last two years.

In the case of the activities designed to “Support the definition of democratic public citizen security policies at the regional level”, the meeting in Chile of senior citizen security officials from the MERCOSUR countries is a clear example of the progress made on the issue and what has already been achieved. The meeting was important because it led to a regional consensus on certain citizen security guidelines, based on a document prepared by the IIHR that was described as “the first international instrument on the issue.” The Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Justice of Costa Rica are keen to sponsor the Regional Meeting of Senior Central American Security Officials, which will be held 1-2 March 2007.

1.5 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT

Annual goal 1: To consolidate the process of security sector reform, as part of the implementation of a public citizen security policy in the Dominican Republic					
Activities Implemented	Description	Background / Rationale	Institution(s) Responsible/ Coordination	Outcomes	Assessment of Impact
<p>Technical assistance to support the implementation of the Public Citizen Security Policy in the Dominican Republic</p> <p>Objective:</p> <p>To consolidate the implementation of the Public Citizen Security Policy in the Dominican Republic, by providing specialized technical assistance to the institutional actors responsible for security matters</p>	<p>In the last quarter of 2006, the project decided to hold a seminar related to the Constitutional Amendment proposed by the Government. Entitled “Citizen Security in the Dominican Constitution: Challenges posed and opportunities offered by the proposed Constitutional Amendment,” the seminar took place 27-28 November in Santo Domingo. The participants included senior officers from the National Police, legal experts, leaders of social and neighborhood organizations linked to the Safe Neighborhood Plan, and representatives of NGOs and international agencies in the country. The topics addressed at the seminar were: citizen security and human rights; legal globalization of human rights in the</p>	<p>A proposed Constitutional Amendment is currently under discussion in the Dominican Republic. However, the approach to citizen security in the proposed amendment is very traditional and, as such, inadequate. Therefore, the project decided to hold a seminar entitled “Citizen Security in the Dominican Constitution: Challenges posed and opportunities offered by the proposed Constitutional Amendment,” in Santo Domingo. The objective was to draft proposed amendments to the Constitution with regard to citizen</p>	<p>Juan Navarrete, Director of the IIHR’s Department of Public Institutions, and IIHR Security and Human Rights Program Officer Isabel Albaladejo were responsible for coordinating the preparation and implementation of the activity. The arrangements for the seminar was coordinated with the Ministry of Home Affairs, working through the Institute for Human Dignity of the National Police of the Dominican Republic.</p>	<p>Intermediate: The thematic and methodological program for the seminar was drawn up. A comparative study of the topic of security in Latin American constitutions was carried out.</p> <p>Follow-up: Monitoring of actions related to the <i>seminar “Citizen Security in the Dominican Constitution: Challenges posed and opportunities offered by the proposed Constitutional Amendment”</i></p> <p>Final: The seminar took place. 50 institutional actors and representatives of civil society took part.</p> <p>Proposal containing recommendations for the constitutional amendment</p>	<p>Impact indicators:</p> <p>“Enhanced institutional capabilities for designing and implementing measures to guarantee personal security, as part of a public security policy”</p> <p>“Improved grassroots and civil society participation in the design, monitoring and evaluation of public citizen security policies, and in the control of the police”</p> <p>The Police Report, published in the Diario Digital de República Dominicana on Monday, 29 January 2007, stated that “the results of the Democratic Security Plan and its Safe Neighborhood program have been extraordinary, far exceeding the expectations of those for implementing it.” The evaluation issued by the National Police highlights the advisory assistance provided by the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights in the security sector reform process, which has led to a fall in crime rates</p>

	<p>region; citizen security in the Dominican Republic; and, constitutional reform and citizen security in Latin America and Santo Domingo. The speakers on the different topics were: Isabel Albaladejo (IIHR), Fabián Salvioli (Argentina), Robinson Pérez (Chile); Lilian Bobea (Dominican Republic) and Luisa Arévalo (El Salvador). The ensuing discussions drew on the material presented and distributed, and the participants' knowledge and experience. They focused on the role, legality and responsibilities of the supranational human rights agencies in the Dominican Republic; the importance of making citizen security a human right in the new Constitution; the powers of the President set forth in Article 52 in regard to citizen security and the National Police; the militarization of public security and the jurisdiction of the Armed Forces; the validity and importance of defining the National Police in the Constitution, taking into</p>	<p>security, in a setting that was conducive to consensus being reached on the issue. To this end, before the event the project conducted a comparative study of constitutions in Latin America. The seminar took place 27-28 November. It was so successful that, before the end of the mission, the IIHR received requests from the Adviser to the President and a lawmaker for copies of the recommendations made at the event, so they could be taken into account in the process of enacting the proposed amendment.</p>		<p>on security was delivered to the Executive and Legislative Branches of the Dominican Republic.</p>	<p>over the last two years. Holding a seminar and drafting a variety of proposed constitutional amendments with regard to citizen security were big steps forward. Once enacted, the amendment will provide a regulatory framework that will underpin and reflect the security policies now being implemented, in particular the Democratic Security Plan. The fact that the Executive Branch asked the IIHR to make recommendations is a confirmation of the esteem in which the Institute is held after providing technical assistance in all areas of citizen security.</p> <p>Means of verification:</p> <p>List of participants in the seminar</p> <p>Proposal containing recommendations for the constitutional amendment on security</p> <p>Police Report published in the Diario Digital de República Dominicana, Monday, 29 January 2007. See Annex 1</p>
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	<p>account the definitions included in the constitutions of other countries in the region; and citizen participation as the key to crime prevention and its validation in the Constitution.</p> <p>A proposal, containing recommendations for the constitutional amendment on the subject of security was submitted to the Executive Branch and the Legislative Assembly for their consideration.</p>				
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Annual goal 2: To enhance institutional capabilities for developing and implementing democratic citizen security policies and for cooperation between the sub-regions of Latin America (Central America and MERCOSUR)

Activities Implemented	Description	Background / Rationale	Institution(s) Responsible/ Coordination	Outcomes	Assessment of Impact
<p>Support the definition of democratic public citizen security policies at the regional level</p> <p>Objective:</p> <p>To enhance the institutional capabilities for devising and implementing democratic public citizen security policies, and cooperation and consensus-building among the sub-regions of Latin America to prevent organized transnational crime</p>	<p>The Regional Meeting on Citizen Security was held 6-7 December. Organized by the IIHR and sponsored by Chile's Ministry of Home Affairs, it took place at the headquarters of ECLAC. The meeting brought together senior citizen security officials from the Member States and Associate Members of MERCOSUR (Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, Venezuela, Paraguay, Chile, Bolivia, Peru, and Colombia). The participants included ministers of national or public security, the chairs of congressional security committees and national police chiefs and deputy chiefs of the aforementioned countries. The meeting was used to present and validate the document "Citizen Security in Latin America: A proposal prepared by the Inter-American Institute of</p>	<p>The Meeting of Experts to prepare for the Ministerial Meetings on Public Security took place 30-31 January, in San Jose, Costa Rica. The objective was to draw up a document containing a series of recommendations and guidelines for the design and formulation of citizen security policies that guarantee respect for human rights. During the months that followed, the project worked on the Recommendations document, which is intended to provide a set of basics standards regarding an issue that is now a government priority, as the problem of insecurity is one of the greatest concerns of citizens throughout the hemisphere. This</p>	<p>The work was coordinated by Security Program Officer Isabel Albaladejo and Juan Navarrete, Director of the IIHR's Department of Public Institutions. They worked closely with the expert consultants.</p> <p>In Chile, the work was coordinated with the Corporación Proyectamérica, which supported the negotiations with the Chilean authorities and the logistical aspects involved. The project reached agreement on all the political aspects with the Ministry of Home Affairs of Chile (working directly with Minister Belisario Velasco).</p>	<p>Intermediate:</p> <p>Preparatory Meeting, also used to negotiate with the Minister of Home Affairs of Chile</p> <p>Preparatory Mission to Chile</p> <p>Preparation of Regional Document</p> <p>Design and conceptualization of the meetings, working with the group of experts in charge of preparing the Manual</p> <p>Agreement reached with Secretaries and Ministers of Home Affairs for the events to be held and for them to participate.</p> <p>Identification of other participants in the different countries and issuing of invitations to them.</p> <p>Final:</p>	<p>Impact indicators:</p> <p>"Enhanced institutional capabilities for devising and implementing democratic citizen security policies"</p> <p>"A regional coordination mechanism established to tackle the problem of insecurity, based on comprehensive democratic strategies that guarantee human rights"</p> <p>"Enhanced cooperation and consensus among the sub-regions of Latin America in a collective effort to prevent organized transnational crime"</p> <p>The meeting in Chile of top citizen security officials from the MERCOSUR countries is a clear example of the progress made on the issue and what has already been achieved. The meeting was important because it led to a regional consensus on certain citizen security guidelines, based on a document prepared by the IIHR that was described as "the first</p>

	<p>Human Rights” was described by the participants as the “first regional instrument to establishes guidelines with regard to public citizen security policies and human rights, synthesizing a regional consensus.” The activity was inaugurated by Belisario Velasco, Minister of Home Affairs of Chile; Sandra Morelli, a member of the IIHR Board of Directors; and José Antonio Viera-Gallo, a former Chilean senator and currently the President of Corporación Proyectamérica. The meeting provided an opportunity to discuss the main elements of the proposal, namely: a qualitative assessment of the problem of insecurity; prevention; the efficacy of the law and the operation of institutions; and regional cooperation. The speakers included Felipe Harboe, Undersecretary of Home Affairs of Chile; Juan Faroppa, Deputy Minister of Home Affairs of Uruguay; Arturo Herrera, Director of</p>	<p>made it possible to activate a network of experts on security in Latin America. For the MERCOSUR Meeting on Security, through July 2006 the project negotiated with the Secretariat of Human Rights and the Secretariat of Domestic Security of Argentina, the country that currently holds the Presidency Pro Tempore of MERCOSUR. The negotiations were unsuccessful and the project began negotiating with the Office of the President of Chile, through the Minister of Home Affairs Belisario Velasco. The meeting was then scheduled for 6-7 December 2006.</p>		<p>Subregional Meeting on Security held with 20 top officials from the MERCOSUR countries</p> <p>Manual for Defining Public Citizen Security Policies was endorsed and validated for the region</p>	<p>international instrument on the issue.”</p> <p>The project achieved greater articulation of the institutions involved in the issue at the regional level (Judicial Branch, Penitentiary System, National Police).</p> <p>Furthermore, the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Justice of Costa Rica are keen to sponsor the Regional Meeting of High-level Central American Security Officials, which will be held 1-2 March 2007.</p> <p>Means of verification:</p> <p>Document on “Citizen Security in Latin America: A proposal prepared by the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights” See Annex 2.</p> <p>Report on meetings</p> <p>Report on mission to Chile</p> <p>Manual for Defining Public Citizen Security Policies</p> <p>Photographs of the Regional Citizen Security Meeting. See Annex 3.</p>
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	<p>Chile's Detective Police and current Vice President of INTERPOL; and foreign experts Carlos Basombrio (Peru), Hugo Acero (Colombia), Héctor Masquelet (Argentina), and Guaracy Mingardi (Brazil) and national experts Hugo Frühling, Lucia Dammert and Gonzalo Vargas. This meeting was the first stage in a regional process related to citizen security and will be followed by the Central American Meeting, due to take place in San Jose in February 2007.</p>				
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PROJECT: CITIZEN SECURITY IN LATIN AMERICA: DEVELOPING A NATIONAL AND LOCAL APPROACH

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES FOR JANUARY–SEPTEMBER 2007 - Updated January 2007

ACTIVITIES	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Technical mission to Dominican Republic												
Seminal Dominican Republic												
Regional Summit Meeting on Citizen Security - Central American Subregion - Costa Rica												
Publication and Distribution of the "Manual on Public Citizen Security Policies"												

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 their number in Latin America as a mechanism for protecting human rights and denouncing violations. Between **October and December 2006** (in accordance with Cooperation Agreement LAG-A-00-02-00001-00 and the corresponding Work Plan for July-December 2006), project staff updated the Integrated Information and Communication System for **ombudsman offices in Latin America and the Caribbean** and planned the joint meeting of the **Central American Council of Human Rights Ombudsman (CCPDH) and the Caribbean Ombudsman Association (CAROA)**.

The only problem encountered during the reporting period concerned the implementation of the joint meeting of the CCPDH and CAROA. Originally, this was scheduled for November 2006, to coincide with the regular sessions of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and thus permit the ombudsman to take part in the public hearings of the Court and see how the Inter-American System operates first hand. However, when it emerged that the Court would not be holding public hearings during its sessions in November, the members of CCPDH and CAROA decided it would be better to postpone the activity until the Court's next period of sessions, in **January 2007**. They felt it was essential for them to attend the hearings in order to gain a better understanding of the Inter-American System and speak with the judges. As a result, the activity is now scheduled to take place **29-31 January 2007, in San Jose, Costa Rica**.

2.2 GENERAL OBJECTIVE OF THE PROJECT

2.2.1 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE: To make ombudsman's offices more accessible, independent and better equipped to solve and channel citizens' problems, and implement actions that have a positive impact on their development

2.2.2 PERFORMANCE INDICATOR: Increase in the number of ombudsman's offices in Latin America or their consolidation as a mechanism for protecting human rights and denouncing violations

2.3 TARGET POPULATION

The direct beneficiaries of the project are the ombudsman and the members of their staff. The integrated communication system (Ombudsnet) is of benefit to all the ombudsman institutions in **Latin America and the Caribbean**, as it provides them with useful tools related to human rights and discussion forums via which they keep abreast of the latest developments in their field of specialization.

The general public is benefiting from the project indirectly, as it affords them a useful tool on issues related to human rights and the ombudsman.

2.4 GENERAL APPRAISAL OF THE PROJECT

Lessons learned:

During this quarter, project staff contacted the counterparts and designed the content for the different activities. Given the nature of the work, no particular lessons were learned and it is too soon to gauge the impact that the activities will have.

However, one achievement worth mentioning was the positive response and commitment of each of the counterparts that the IIHR selected.

Conclusion:

The capabilities of ombudsman offices in **Latin America and the Caribbean** were enhanced by means of an integrated information and communication system.

Ombudsman institutions are better equipped to respond quickly to crises, conflicts and internal disturbances.

There were more visitors to the different subsections and services available in the specialized section.

A culture of interinstitutional cooperation was developed among the ombudsman offices, and between them and the IIHR.

The regional networks began to establish closer ties with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

2.5 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT

Annual goal 1: To enhance the capabilities of ombudsman's offices in Latin America and the Caribbean by means of an integrated information and communication system					
Activities Implemented	Description	Background/ Rationale	Institution(s) Responsible/ Coordination	Outcomes	Assessment of Impact
Updating of the Integrated Information and Communication System (Ombudsnet) Objective:	Between October and December 2006 , the IIHR continued to work on the Ombudsnet and the electronic discussion forums, which are used to keep the ombudsman offices in Latin America and the Caribbean abreast of the latest developments in the region with regard to human rights. The Ombudsnet also serves	The IIHR has developed a complete, integrated and specialized information and communication system for the ombudsman	The IIHR's Ombudsman and Human Rights Program coordinated the support for the integrated information and communication	Intermediate: The project coordinated with the IIHR's Information Unit the work of reorganizing the Digital Library and preparing full-text versions of the publications of the	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 afforded ombudsman

<p>To consolidate and strengthen an information and communication system for the ombudsman's offices in Latin America and the Caribbean</p>	<p>as a mechanism for sharing experiences and as an early warning system. Between October and December 2006, the Ombudsnet was revamped. The Digital Library was reorganized to make it easier to find materials. The staff also worked on the preparation of publications produced by the Ombudsman and Human Rights Program for uploading to the Web page in a full-text format. The Digital Library was also complemented with materials from the IIHR Documentation Center that are of interest to ombudsman offices and the general public. These materials were digitized and classified for inclusion in the Library. Finally, the project prepared specialized bibliographies on topics of interest to ombudsman offices that can be accessed via the Ombudsnet.</p> <p>Continuously updating the integrated information system enabled the IIHR to provide technical assistance to the ombudsman's offices in Latin America and the Caribbean that required it, conducting searches and posting pertinent information. All the national and international legislation on human rights and ombudsman offices is systematized in the Ombudsnet, which also contains complete, up-to-date information about every ombudsman's office in the region</p>	<p>institutions, known as Ombudsnet. This system is used to share with visitors to the site information and up-to-date news concerning human rights and the ombudsman institutions. It also provides a means of sharing experiences and operates as an early warning system for the ombudsman offices in Latin America and the Caribbean.</p>	<p>system, working with the Institute's Information Unit, the Documentation Center (CEDOC) and the ombudsman offices in Latin America and the Caribbean, which are constantly forwarding new and pertinent information.</p>	<p>Ombudsman and Human Rights Program, in order to upload them to the Ombudsnet. The project coordinated with the Documentation Center (CEDOC) the work of digitizing books and articles for uploading to the Ombudsnet, and the preparation of specialized bibliographies on topics of interest to the ombudsman institutions. Information and news from different sources was systematized and analyzed. The ombudsman institutions were asked to contribute current information.</p> <p>Follow-up: The information was reviewed to ensure its currentness.</p> <p>Final: The Ombudsnet Digital Library was reorganized, making it easier to search for documents. Full-text versions of all the publications of the</p>	<p>institutions immediate access to important information and the latest news in the field of human rights that was closely related with their work. The section offers a wide range of up-to-date information about all of the ombudsman offices in Latin America and the Caribbean, and human rights doctrine, legislation and 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. <i>"Ombudsman institutions better equipped to respond quickly to crises, conflicts and internal disturbances"</i> The early warning system was activated to support the Human Rights Ombudsman of El Salvador, whose family received death threats. This demonstrates the system's effectiveness as a tool that the ombudsman institutions can use to inform their counterparts of complex situations and crises they face. "More visitors to the different subsections and the services available in the specialized section" Although there were fewer</p>
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	<p>(national, provincial and local), including street addresses, phone and fax numbers, Web page addresses and means of contact, and specialized units and units that focus on specific issues.</p> <p>Two discussion lists continue to operate, one for Spanish-speaking ombudsman institutions and another for their English-speaking counterparts. Both lists are used to circulate news updates, the jurisprudence of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, resolutions adopted by ombudsman's offices and other information.</p> <p>Finally, in December 2006 the early warning system was activated to denounce the harassment to which the Ombudsman of El Salvador and her family were subjected. Information about the death threats made against the Ombudsman and her family was circulated via the Ombudsnet discussion list and placed on the IIHR's home page. The Institute coordinated the support of the other Ombudsman in the region, who sent a communication to the President of El Salvador, Antonio Saca, and the pertinent bodies, in which they condemned such acts.</p> <p>Method: The IIHR constantly investigates the sources and checks the information posted on the site to confirm its relevance. It also posts new information, thus</p>			<p>Ombudsman and Human Rights Program were uploaded to the Ombudsnet.</p> <p>Some 280 books and 330 pages of articles on subjects that are relevant to the work of the ombudsman offices were digitized for uploading to the Ombudsnet.</p> <p>Specialized bibliographies were prepared on topics of interest to the ombudsman institutions.</p> <p>The different sections of the Ombudsnet specialized section were updated.</p> <p>A complete directory containing information about all the ombudsman offices in the region.</p> <p>An average of 24 bulletins in English and 30 in Spanish were distributed via the two discussion lists set up so far (for the members of the Caribbean Ombudsman Association - CAROA - and the Ombudsnet, respectively), related to the discussion forums.</p> <p>The early warning</p>	<p>visitors to the Ombudsnet specialized section than the previous quarter, the number continues to be very large.</p> <p>Means of verification: Log of hits/visitors to the Ombudsnet specialized section (http://www.iidh.ed.cr/Comunicaciones/Ombudsnet) Communications in support of the Human Rights Ombudsman of El Salvador, related to the harassment of her family, which was denounced via the early warning system of the Ombudsnet. Digital Library</p>
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	keeping the specialized section permanently up-to-date.			system was activated. The Ombudsnet was visited 38,587 times, or an average of 507 times per day.	
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Annual goal 2: To support the ombudsman's offices in Central America by consolidating cooperation between the Central American Council of Human Rights Ombudsman (CCPDH) and the Caribbean Ombudsman Association (CAROA)					
Activities Implemented	Description	Background/ Rationale	Institution(s) Responsible/ Coordination	Outcomes	Assessment of Impact
<p>Meeting between the members of the Central American Council of Human Rights Ombudsman (CCPDH) and the Caribbean Ombudsman Association (CAROA)</p> <p>Objective:</p> <p>To strengthen the ties and work of the CCPDH and CAROA by enabling them to share their experiences and discuss common concerns</p>	<p>Following the decision taken at the 29th Meeting of the CCPDH (22-23 February 2005), members of CAROA took part in the 32nd meeting of the CCPDH, held in Belize in March 2006, and invited members of the CCPDH to participate in their Biannual Meeting (15-19 May 2006, in Barbados). One of the agreements adopted at the meeting called for a meeting of the two organizations to be held to strengthen their ties and work by sharing experiences and discussing common concerns, and to develop stronger links with the inter-American human rights protection system.</p> <p>This meeting was due to be held in November 2006, to coincide with the regular sessions of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and thus enable the ombudsman to take part in the Court's public hearings and see how the Inter-American System operates first hand.</p>	<p>The IIHR has a policy of supporting regional networks of ombudsman's offices that satisfactorily meet the needs of the population and promote respect for human rights and effective guarantees for enforcing them, particularly with regard to vulnerable segments of the population. The Central American Council of Human Rights Ombudsman (CCPDH) is a regional body</p>	<p>In its capacity as the Technical Secretariat of the CCPDH, the IIHR is responsible for coordinating the meeting between the members of CAROA and the CCPDH. The specific official in charge of the preparations is Lorena González, of the Institute's Ombudsman and Human Rights Program. The details of the meeting will be decided in close collaboration with Sergio Morales Alvarado, the Human Rights Ombudsman of Guatemala and</p>	<p>Intermediate:</p> <p>Coordination of the process of determining issues that are a priority for CAROA and the CCPDH.</p> <p>Design of the content, scope and work methodology of the meeting</p> <p>Selection of specialists to present the topics chosen, such as Judge Sergio García Ramírez, President of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, and Carlos Urquilla, an expert and IIHR consultant.</p> <p>Prepare specialized material</p> <p>Issue invitations to the heads of the 11 Caribbean and 7 Central American ombudsman</p>	<p>Stronger ties between the CCPDH and CAROA</p> <p>Greater capacity for coordination between the CCPDH and CAROA and horizontal cooperation between members of the CCPDH and CAROA</p> <p>Stronger mandate for the defense of human rights in the countries whose ombudsman belong to the CCPDH and CAROA</p> <p>Strengthening of the ombudsman institutions that are members of CAROA and the CCPDH</p> <p>More interaction between the regional networks and the Inter-American Human Rights Commission and Court</p>

	<p>However, when it emerged that the Court's sessions in November would not include public hearings, the members of the CCPDH and CAROA decided it would be better to postpone the activity until the Court's next period of sessions, scheduled for January 2007. They felt it was essential for them to attend the hearings in order to gain a better understanding of the Inter-American System.</p> <p>Method: To support the ombudsman's offices of Central America and the Caribbean by consolidating their cooperation activities, the IIHR coordinated the implementation of a high-level meeting of officials of the CCPDH and CAROA. The topics to be discussed were suggested by the IIHR and approved by the two regional associations in close consultation, to ensure that the issues are of interest to both bodies. This will enhance the advocacy capabilities of ombudsman institutions and the implementation of joint work strategies in the inter-American human rights protection system. The topics will include basic human rights concepts and international human rights protection instruments, the State's role in protecting human rights, the duties, organization and procedures of the Inter-American Human Rights Court and Commission, the development of the jurisprudence of the IAHR</p>	<p>that was created on 19 May 1994 to uphold human rights principles. It is made up of the ombudsman institutions of Belize, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama. The IIHR has operated the Technical Secretariat of the CCPDH since 1999. The Caribbean Ombudsman Association (CAROA) is an umbrella organization of human rights defenders in the Caribbean region. Created in 1998, it began operations in June 2000, during the first Regional Conference, which took place in Saint Lucia. It comprises the ombudsman</p>	<p>President of the CCPDH, and Paul Rodríguez Barón, the Ombudsman of Belize and President of CAROA.</p>	<p>institutions.</p> <p>Follow-up: The project will provide follow-up to the agreements, to carry out the activity programmed.</p> <p>Final: Since the meeting has not been held, there are no final outcomes to report.</p>	<p>Since the Meeting has not been held, the impact of this activity cannot be evaluated.</p>
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	<p>Court and the ombudsman's role in the work of the inter-American human rights protection system. Despite the change of dates, the program of the activity will be the one agreed on by the members of the CCPDH and CAROA, including participation in the hearings of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, expert presentations, panel discussions and forums with international experts on different subjects.</p>	<p>institutions of Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, the British Overseas Territory of the Cayman Islands and Bermuda, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Turks and Caicos Islands, and Curacao. As part of the efforts to establish closer ties between the CCPDH and CAROA, Hayden Thomas and Lawrence Laurent (Chairman and Secretary of CAROA, respectively) took part in the 29th Meeting of the CCPDH, held 22-23 February 2005 in Antigua, Guatemala. During that</p>			
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		activity, the two organizations signed an agreement of intent , with a view to strengthening and formalizing cooperation mechanisms.			
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PROJECT: STRENGTHENING THE OMBUDSMAN IN LATIN AMERICA

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES: JANUARY-SEPTEMBER 2007 - Updated January 2007

ACTIVITIES	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP
Updating of the integrated information and communication system for the ombudsman offices in Latin America and the Caribbean									
Meeting between the Central American Council of Human Rights Ombudsman (CCPDH) and the Caribbean Ombudsman Association (CAROA)									
Support for State Human Rights Commissions in Mexico									
Appointment of an Ombudsman in Dominican Republic									
Consolidation of the Office of the Ombudsman in Bolivia									

3. PROJECT: RAPID RESPONSE SYSTEM

3.1. GENERAL FRAMEWORK

For over 25 years, the IIHR has implemented projects throughout the Americas with a variety of sectors, giving it a great deal of credibility and legitimacy. Combined with its technical expertise, this allows the Institute to offer direct, case-specific advisory services and assistance both to government agencies and non-governmental organizations, and to act as a mediator. This modus operandi permits the Institute to respond rapidly to situations that require urgent action. In the two cases in 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), the results confirmed this, as was explained in the respective quarterly reports.

According to the method proposed in the 2006 work plan, USAID or the IIHR will identify a country where a specific situation calls for an immediate technical response by the Institute.

3.2 GENERAL OBJECTIVE OF THE PROJECT

3.2.1 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE (FINAL GOAL): To provide a technical and academic response, from a human rights perspective, to unforeseen situations in the region that require urgent action because they pose a threat to the rule of law and democratic governability, when both USAID and the IIHR are in favor of such action.

3.2.2 PERFORMANCE INDICATOR: A rapid response plan of action was implemented in a specific country to reduce threats to the effective exercise of human rights.

3.3 TARGET POPULATION

Since this is a “rapid response” project, the beneficiaries will vary depending on the country and the situation in which a response is required. The target population will be established in the work plan that the IIHR prepares, once USAID and the Institute decide to work in a given country.

During the period under review (1 October - 31 December 2006), no country was identified where action was required.

3.4 GENERAL APPRAISAL OF THE PROJECT

Lessons Learned: As the IIHR did not carry out any actions under the project, it did not have the opportunity to learn lessons.

Conclusion: As the IIHR did not undertake a technical action, it is not possible to offer a political appraisal. When the IIHR does so, it will provide USAID with a report on what the project accomplished and its overall impact.

3.5 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT

Given the nature of this project, during the reporting period (October-December 2006) no country was identified where action of the kind envisaged under this project was needed. When the IIHR or USAID does identify an appropriate situation and the two parties agree that technical action is needed, the IIHR will draft a work plan aimed at incorporating strategic state and civil actors and institutions, to achieve the objectives proposed in the plan.

C. DEMOCRATIZATION OF POLITICAL PROCESSES

1. PROJECT: STRENGTHENING ELECTORAL INSTITUTIONS

1.1 GENERAL FRAMEWORK

During the quarter under review (October-December 2006), the Twelfth Conference of the Quito Protocol took place in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia (7-9 November). The IIHR/CAPEL also took part in horizontal cooperation missions to observe the electoral processes in: Ecuador (first round of voting on 15 October and second round, on 26 November); Panama (referendum on the widening of the Canal, on 22 October); Nicaragua (presidential and legislative elections, on 5 November); Peru (municipal elections, on 19 November); and Costa Rica (municipal and district elections, on 5 December).

The observation mission to Panama was not programmed in the original schedule of activities (since the referendum was only announced in June 2006). However, the Electoral Tribunal of Panama specifically asked the IIHR/CAPEL to assist it with all the logistical and academic arrangements for the mission. For different reasons, the IIHR/CAPEL did not take part in several other elections that took place. In Brazil, the Higher Electoral Tribunal did not activate the system of horizontal cooperation and invited neither the Inter-American Union of Electoral Bodies nor the Quito Protocol to observe the voting. The IIHR/CAPEL normally takes part in observation missions in its capacity as the Executive Secretariat of the different associations, and was therefore reluctant to participate without having a specific role to play. No invitation was received from Saint Lucia, while the elections in Paraguay were on the same day as the municipal elections in Peru and the National Elections Board of Peru had asked the IIHR/CAPEL to organize a horizontal cooperation mission.

Despite having a relatively small permanent staff, the IIHR/CAPEL managed to attend and play an active role in nearly all the elections that took place in Latin America this year. This was quite a feat, as the number of elections held was unprecedented in the recent history of the Region (see Annex 1). It takes a great deal of time and effort to organize an observation mission on behalf of the electoral bodies. The staff not only have to make travel and accommodation arrangements but also help prepare the program of work, contact the various electoral bodies, lead the meetings held, and plan the specific observation activities on Election Day. They are also involved in evaluating the observation missions and in making recommendations for future elections.

1.2 GENERAL OBJECTIVE OF THE PROJECT

1.2.1 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE: To make the electoral bodies more independent and enhance their technical capabilities, so they can conduct efficient and transparent electoral processes

1.2.2. PERFORMANCE INDICATOR: The members of the Inter-American Electoral Network have enhanced technical capabilities and possess more knowledge

1.3 TARGET POPULATION

The target population of the Inter-American Electoral Network and the UNIORE newsletters consists of the members of UNIORE, civil society organizations involved in electoral issues (Lima Agreement), members of donor agencies, academics, students and members of political parties. The target population forms part of a mailing list that currently includes 566 people, who share information and communicate with each other.

The target population of the **horizontal cooperation missions** are the electoral agencies that take part in the missions, which learn from their counterparts by observing electoral processes and their technical characteristics, and the host electoral bodies, which receive feedback in the form of technical reports that are produced at the evaluation meetings held after Election Day. This quarter the host electoral bodies that benefited from the missions were the **Supreme Elections Tribunal of Costa Rica**, the **Supreme Electoral Tribunal of Ecuador**, the **Supreme Electoral Board of Nicaragua**, the **Electoral Tribunal of Panama** and the **National Elections Board of Peru**.

The beneficiaries of the **Twelfth Conference of the Quito Protocol** were the delegates from the members of this association who took part in the event, held **7-9 November** in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, **Bolivia**. A total of **21 representatives of member organizations** (from **Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Chile, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela**) learned more about the theme of the conference, "**Electoral bodies and their functional independence as specialized entities**", which was discussed in depth.

1.4 GENERAL APPRAISAL OF THE PROJECT

Lessons Learned:

The **IIHR/CAPEL** has learned many lessons over the years, the most obvious of which concerns the benefits it derives from serving as the **Executive Secretariat of the associations of electoral bodies** of the western hemisphere. This responsibility provides a unique outlet for its work strategies and action plans in many fields, thanks to the Institute's extremely close relationship with the hemisphere's electoral bodies, one of mutual trust and respect.

The associations were set up with the express idea of providing an institutional mechanism for sharing knowledge and experiences, with a view to further developing the countries' electoral systems. Thanks to the work of these associations, the **IIHR/CAPEL** has been able to design, implement and evaluate technical assistance programs and horizontal cooperation missions. It has also promoted communication, international relations and regional cooperation, through annual meetings. The working meetings of these associations are an ideal mechanism for analyzing and discussing the problems that the region's electoral bodies face in organizing elections, and for recommending ways of tackling them through horizontal cooperation and cooperation between the bodies and international organizations like the **IIHR/CAPEL**. With these networks of electoral institutions, the **IIHR/CAPEL** fostered the establishment of policies for sharing information and knowledge and for horizontal cooperation and technical assistance, and facilitated interaction and the reciprocal observation of elections. The result has been the creation of a true "**Inter-American Electoral Network**."

It is for this reason that the electoral bodies ask the **IIHR/CAPEL** to organize and lead the horizontal cooperation missions; execute technical assistance projects in various areas; and undertake academic projects that generate new electoral and political knowledge. Indeed, the **IIHR/CAPEL** has done such a good job in each of these areas that its position as the **Executive Secretariat of the associations of electoral agencies** has never been challenged. For over twenty years, it has worked closely with the electoral bodies and placed itself at their service.

Through the horizontal cooperation missions, electoral judges and officials have the opportunity to update their technical and political knowledge. The network's mechanisms and meetings - including the conferences of electoral bodies - provide a forum for discussing ways of improving electoral systems and highlighting the positive and negative aspects of the different models. Some of the areas on which the electoral bodies have focused in recent years are the use of modern computer technology, the renewed importance of up-to-date, effective electoral registries, the growing debate about equity in political and electoral contests, the need to update obsolete or fragmented legislation and regulations, and the introduction of new voting methods. The discussion of these and other issues is what makes the Inter-American Network of Electoral Bodies such a dynamic community and a mechanism for orienting the work and channeling the concerns of those who, like us at the **IIHR/CAPEL**, are dedicated to the cause of democratic development. The

debates also help generate technical assistance projects, based on conversations with the electoral authorities and the mission reports that are produced, as well as the discussions that take place at the conferences of the associations.

In helping to develop the expertise of the electoral bodies, the IIHR/CAPEL makes every effort to maximize the financial resources at its disposal. **The electoral bodies that host the activities help finance both the horizontal cooperation missions and the conferences**, because the members and delegates are electoral judges or officials who are invited to attend by their counterparts. This year was particularly notable for the fact that many missions were organized and carried out with the collaboration of the IIHR/CAPEL, with little time and few resources. This allowed us to have a big impact on the electoral processes at very little cost.

The IIHR/CAPEL has placed great emphasis on facilitating the sharing of information and experiences, and the new version of the Web page was launched **during the period under review (October-December 2006)**. It was constructed in the form of a portal to improve the project's communication and information strategies, using state-of-the-art Internet technology and information tools to give the target population access and further strengthen the electoral network. The new Web page meets the requirements of the associations of electoral bodies and is consistent with their objectives. It provides online access to specialized doctrine on electoral issues, and up-to-date comparative information on the composition of electoral bodies, electoral and constitutional legislation, electoral systems and other electoral and political topics. IIHR/CAPEL staff members will also have remote access to work plans, reports and confidential and internal documents. In this way, they will have the information they need for their day-to-day work at their fingertips even when they are away from IIHR/CAPEL headquarters.

During this **quarter (October-December 2006)**, the **IIHR/CAPEL and the Electoral Network** took part in the elections in **Ecuador, Panama, Nicaragua, Peru and Costa Rica**. They were responsible, to varying degrees, for organizing and preparing the observation programs of the electoral judges and officials who took part in the missions as representatives of the Electoral Network at the express request of the host electoral bodies. In the case of **Ecuador**, the **IIHR/CAPEL and the Supreme Electoral Tribunal of Ecuador signed a cooperation agreement under which they collaborated in the design and implementation of the international observation programs for both the first and second round of voting in the country's elections**.

In general, the missions carried out this quarter highlighted the need for comprehensive or complementary reform. A case in point is **Ecuador**, where there were problems with the vote count and the transmission of results. In the first round of voting, decisions of an apparently technical nature had political repercussions.

Conclusion: How was progress made in achieving the Performance Indicator of the Project?

In 2006, a record number of missions (over 20) were carried out to observe electoral processes in the region. In the circumstances, it is worth attempting an overall appraisal of the political implications of this year for both the project and the IIHR/CAPEL in general.

The number of electoral processes held between **January and December 2006** was unprecedented in the democratic history of the Americas (**See Annex 1**). Some **23 elections** took place in the hemisphere, mostly to choose new presidents. The vital signs of democracy in the western hemisphere may be extremely encouraging, but this year's elections posed considerable challenges for both the agencies responsible for organizing and overseeing them and the network of electoral bodies. A good deal of creative thinking was required to undertake such a large number of activities.

As a result, the Inter-American Electoral Network was kept very busy during 2006. It took part in every electoral process to which the IIHR/CAPEL was invited in its capacity as the Executive Secretariat of the associations of electoral bodies. Significant flows of horizontal technical cooperation were generated in the countries where missions observed the elections, which involved a great deal of work.

The long list of electoral processes carried out in **2006** includes **15 general/federal/presidential elections (Chile, Canada, Costa Rica, Haiti, Peru, Colombia, Mexico, Brazil, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Saint Lucia and Venezuela); 6 legislative/mayoral/municipal elections (El Salvador, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Paraguay, Peru and Costa Rica); and 1 referendum and 1 election of delegates to a constitutional assembly (in Bolivia and Panama, respectively).** The elections created quite a few problems for the electoral organizations and, in general, for the political systems of the respective countries.

Perhaps the biggest problem stemmed from the narrow margins of victory in the elections or calls for a new election. In **Costa Rica**, just one percentage point separated the two leading candidates in the presidential election. In such cases, the law requires that the judges of the Supreme Elections Tribunal count the votes by hand. As a result, the public had to wait nearly a month to find out who the next president would be. In **San Salvador**, the mayoral election was so close (only a few dozen votes separated the candidates) that several recounts were required, resulting in days of uncertainty. The voting in the first round of the presidential elections in **Peru** went down to the wire. Only when the last results were keyed in did it become clear which candidates would take part in the run off. Finally, in **Mexico** the presidential election was decided by a margin of barely half of one percentage point.

In other elections (in **Honduras**, in the legislative elections in Colombia, in the first round of voting in Ecuador and in **the Dominican Republic**), problems arose with the transmission of results that stemmed from, or were related to, the operation of the political system.

At all events, the spotlight focused firmly on the work of the electoral bodies as strong and opposing political interests came into play, which was understandable in the circumstances. The Electoral Network made an extremely important contribution. The presence of international observers from the electoral organizations bolstered the electoral institutional framework in each country, underscoring the fact that such missions are more than just “an evaluation of an electoral process.” The technical, institutional and expert support provided is particularly valuable because the mission members have no personal stake in the political battles in the different countries and their record as electoral officials speaks for itself. They have no axe to grind nor are their opinions politically influenced.

The elections held were also affected by political instability. In **Ecuador** and **Bolivia**, the presidential elections were preceded by protests from several sectors and took place amid organizational changes and discussions about the possible role of plebiscites.

The holding of referendums increased the workload of the electoral bodies in **Bolivia** and **Panama**. Then, following the run off in **Ecuador**, the new President announced that a plebiscite would be held in that country to resolve major national issues. The results of such referendums varied according to the respective political situations. This mechanism is gaining in popularity in Latin America and it seems likely that electoral bodies will continue to be called upon to carry out new tasks.

Another important factor in these processes was the role of **other actors**, such as the **mass media** in **Ecuador**, and **civil society** in countries like **Nicaragua**. **Citizens groups such as Ethics and Transparency** played an important role in the observation of elections and, thanks to their credibility and reputation for independence, after they announced the results of their rapid count the losing candidate accepted defeat before the results were confirmed by the electoral body itself.

Other civil society organizations that help the disabled to vote also played an important role. The **Solidez Foundation in Nicaragua** not only assisted disabled people to vote but also kept track of the number of people involved and the nature of their disability. In **Ecuador**, the Supreme Electoral Tribunal, working in a systemic and planned way with the associations and government agencies responsible for safeguarding the rights of disabled people, made major efforts to improve the voting conditions for this segment of the population. Materials were produced and recommendations made regarding the arrangements at polling stations, with further steps being taken to improve conditions for the second round of voting.

All the above highlights some the contradictions typical of this part of the world: electoral processes were executed correctly as electoral bodies struggled to develop their own institutional framework, resist pressures and deal with difficult situations. They also explored new ways of carrying out their mandate of guaranteeing free, fair and transparent elections, against a backdrop of further demands from dissatisfied citizens and presidents who fail to complete their term in office.

The overall balance is definitely a positive one: despite economic and institutional crises, the various parties involved sought democratic solutions. Moreover, it is most encouraging that, despite the vicissitudes encountered and extremely close-run elections, the electoral bodies managed to improve their technical capabilities and successfully weather political crises caused by cliffhanger votes that tested the electoral institutional framework to the limit **(Costa Rica, Mexico, Ecuador). The technical capabilities of the electoral bodies were also strengthened, thanks to the contribution made by ongoing technical assistance projects like the ones in Ecuador (funded by USAID) and Colombia and Guatemala (financed by other donors).**

Finally, the electoral bodies expanded their knowledge and gained further experience by participating as observers in a wide range of elections and seeing first-hand the advantages or disadvantages of the respective electoral systems and technical innovations in specific situations. They also benefited from the **three conferences of the three associations of electoral bodies held this year (the Tikal Protocol, the Quito Protocol and UNIORE)**. Once again, these meetings proved useful for mapping out the future course of the **Inter-American Electoral Network**, based on shared, objective criteria regarding the focus of technical assistance and the international observation of elections. As well as updating the agendas of the electoral bodies, these meetings were used to assess the impact of elections and strengthen institutional ties among the electoral bodies, setting aside any ideological or personal preferences that may exist among the members of the electoral bodies.

Furthermore, the conferences enabled the electoral organizations to expand their knowledge by studying and discussing the challenges facing electoral democracy in the region as different voting methods are implemented (e.g., the preferential vote, voting by disabled people, electronic voting, voting by nationals who reside overseas and voting by foreigners in local elections). The members also discussed the implications of these developments for the agenda of the electoral bodies, endeavoring to share lessons already learned (Eighth Conference of UNIORE and 20th Conference of the Tikal Protocol). The conferences also focused on the importance of the functional independence of electoral bodies in their dealings with the State, political parties, civil society, the media and public opinion (12th Conference of the Quito Protocol). The members of the Quito Protocol discussed new areas of responsibility and the actions that each member could undertake to facilitate, generate or influence electoral processes, without undue interference from other institutional, political or social actors, with a view to improving and strengthening their autonomy in future electoral processes.

1.5 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT

Annual goal 1: To consolidate the activities of the Inter-American Electoral Network aimed at strengthening the electoral bodies, basically those called upon to organize electoral processes in 2006 and 2007					
Activities Implemented	Description	Background / Rationale	Institution(s) Responsible / Coordination	Outcomes	Assessment of Impact
<p>Inter-American Electoral Network</p> <p>Objective:</p> <p>To continue administering the network of networks of electoral bodies that belong to the different associations and other members</p>	<p>The function of the Inter-American Electoral Network is to provide mechanisms for communication and to share information on a regular basis via the IIHR/CAPEL Web page, the new address of which is www.iidh.ed.cr/capel.</p> <p>During this quarter (October-December 2006), this year-round activity facilitated information sharing and communication among the members of the Network, in particular during the observation missions to Ecuador, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru and Costa Rica, and during the Conference of the Quito Protocol, held in Bolivia.</p>	<p>The Inter-American Electoral Network is composed of UNIORE's member organizations, civil society organizations (CSOs) with a stake in electoral issues (Lima Agreement), academics, donors, students and members of political parties.</p> <p>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 electoral-political data and information from the hemisphere they receive, both in conversations and via email.</p>	<p>The IIHR/CAPEL staff members responsible for this activity are: María Lourdes González (Program Officer), Olga Marta Ugalde (Secretary) and Lucia Coto (Assistant).</p> <p>The counterpart organization for the work related to the Web page is the Electoral Tribunal of Panama, which provides electoral-political news items via the International Electoral News Service (SINE).</p>	<p>Intermediate:</p> <p>The election calendar was updated The Directory of Electoral Bodies was updated The agreements adopted by the associations were updated</p> <p>Follow-up:</p> <p>The IIHR/CAPEL continues to post institutional news, while the SINE-Panama provides other news.</p>	<p>Impact indicators:</p> <p>“Network of electoral organizations in the region expanded and strengthened”</p> <p>“More documentation and comparative experiences, as input for the work of the associations and research projects”</p> <p>“Electoral bodies and members of the electoral network in general have more up-to-date knowledge”</p> <p>“Easier access to up-to-date political and electoral information”</p>

	<p>During the reporting period (October-December 2006), the new user-friendly version of the Web page was launched, designed to afford the general public easier access to electoral-political data and information.</p> <p>The changes made to the Web page are related to the following six subsections:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Associations of Electoral Bodies 2. Publications 3. Education and Training 4. Political Parties 5. News 6. New <p>Every section of the website except "National Reports" contains resources produced in the different Latin American countries. The materials are useful tools for teaching. The aim is to make the users of the site aware of the experiences of other countries.</p>		<p>Final:</p> <p>The information about three electoral bodies was updated (Mexico, Panama and Ecuador)</p> <p>Three UNIORE newsletters were uploaded to the Web page - a special issue in published in October 2006 (#63) and the regular issues for October and November 2006 (#64 & #65)</p> <p>Three publications were uploaded to the Web page: (1) Article by Fernando Tuesta and Tatiana Mendieta. "Hecha la ley ¿Hecha la trampa? Una evaluación del financiamiento de los partidos políticos." (2) Data and statistics of interest. (3) Updated table containing election results for Latin America.</p> <p>The new Education and Training section was created, containing the following subsections: Publications, Jurisprudence, Syllabus, Manuals on</p>	<p>During this quarter (October-December 2006), the project continued to update the information about several of the region's electoral bodies. The list was reduced substantially this quarter, as judges who were no longer members of the electoral bodies of Mexico, the Dominican Republic, Colombia, Brazil and Ecuador were deleted from the database.</p> <p>The most important task carried out during this quarter was the launching of the IIHR/CAPEL Web portal, which is now providing users with information, specialized knowledge and services in a single, organized format.</p> <p>Means of verification:</p> <p>IIHR/CAPEL Web page: www.iidh.ed.cr/cape1</p> <p>Mailing list of the Electoral Network (566 people)</p>
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				<p>Observation and the Educational Resources Center.</p> <p>The new “Political Parties” section was created, containing the following subsections: Links to political parties, Specialized research and the Library</p> <p>At least 15 news items from the SINE were posted every day, concerning Latin American electoral and political issues.</p> <p>A section was created for IIHR/CAPEL officials, containing documents that are important for the Department.</p>	
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Activities Implemented	Description	Background / Rationale	Institution(s) Responsible / Coordination	Outcomes	Assessment of Impact
<p>Newsletters of the Inter-American Union of Electoral Organizations (UNIORE)</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <p>To continue keeping the members of the Inter-American Electoral Network abreast of the most important political and electoral developments in the Americas</p> <p>To disseminate information about activities carried out under the aegis of the associations of electoral bodies</p>	<p>The newsletters are distributed among the members of UNIORE, CSOs involved in electoral issues, particularly those of the Lima Agreement, and certain organizations belonging to the Inter-American Network for Democracy (RID); and among academics, members of political parties, donors and local USAID missions.</p> <p>These newsletters circulate year-round, every 1 or 2 months, depending on the amount of information compiled. English-language versions are also distributed as soon as the newsletters can be translated.</p> <p>During this quarter (October-December 2006), three newsletters were produced and distributed in Spanish: a special issue in October (#63), promoting the new IIHR/CAPEL Web</p>	<p>Produced in response to reiterated requests from the electoral organizations for an expeditious means of disseminating information about important electoral developments in the western hemisphere, these newsletters help keep the target population informed of important matters related to political rights in the Americas.</p> <p>The newsletters, the Web page and the electoral news updates make up a complex strategy for providing information on a permanent basis. They ensure that information circulates rapidly.</p>	<p>The IIHR/CAPEL, working with the members of UNIORE. The information contained in the UNIORE newsletters is shared with USAID/Washington and local USAID offices.</p> <p>The IIHR/CAPEL staff member responsible for this activity is Program Officer María Lourdes González.</p>	<p>Intermediate:</p> <p>Information was compiled</p> <p>Specialized professionals were asked to contribute articles on topics of interest</p> <p>The material was edited and the publication designed and produced.</p> <p>The newsletters were translated into English</p> <p>Follow-up:</p> <p>Printed copies of the newsletters were distributed.</p> <p>The newsletters were posted in the specialized section of the IIHR/CAPEL Web page and in the SINE-Panama.</p> <p>The November newsletter is presently being translated into English.</p> <p>Final</p>	<p>Impact Indicators:</p> <p>“Electoral information disseminated more widely in the hemisphere”</p> <p>“More documents and experiences shared on electoral topics and processes in the region”</p> <p>“Users of the Network more conversant with electoral topics and processes in the region”</p> <p>During this quarter (October-December 2006), the UNIORE newsletters continued to be 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 has been the case especially since copies of press releases from the IIHR Executive Director began to be sent to the individuals included in the distribution list for the UNIORE newsletter.</p>

	<p>page, and regular issues for October (#64) and November (#65). The first two were translated into English. The November issue is now being translated.</p> <p>The newsletter for December will be combined with the January 2007 issue.</p>			<p>Three newsletters were produced in Spanish: a special issue in October, promoting the new IIHR/CAPEL Web page, and the regular issues for October and November.</p> <p>Two newsletters were translated into English: the regular issue for October and a special issue published in October.</p>	<p>Means of verification:</p> <p>SINE-Panama</p> <p>Specialized section of the IIHR/CAPEL Web page (www.iidh.ed.cr/cape1)</p> <p>Mailing list of the Electoral Network (566 people)</p>
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Activities Implemented	Description	Background / Rationale	Institution(s) Responsible / Coordination	Outcomes	Assessment of Impact
<p>Quito Protocol Objectives:</p> <p>To encourage dialogue among the South American electoral bodies</p> <p>To update South American electoral officials with respect to the activities of the Inter-American Electoral Network</p>	<p>The 12th Conference of the Quito Protocol took place 7-9 November in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, sponsored jointly by the National Electoral Court of Bolivia (CNE). The theme of the event was: “Electoral bodies and their functional independence as specialized entities.” The discussions focused on new areas of responsibility and actions that each member of the Tikal Protocol is empowered to take to</p>	<p>The meetings of the electoral bodies serve a twofold purpose: to determine policies and establish the focus of the Association’s work; and, to study and update the agenda for advancing democracy in the region. Before it begins organizing a meeting, in its capacity as the Executive</p>	<p>The IIHR/CAPEL, working with the National Electoral Court of Bolivia</p> <p>Contact with the local USAID mission, to keep it informed</p> <p>The IIHR/CAPEL staff member responsible for this activity is Program Officer Sofía Vincenzi.</p>	<p>Intermediate:</p> <p>The date of the conference was agreed.</p> <p>The IIHR/CAPEL and CNE-Bolivia reached agreement on the distribution of responsibilities.</p> <p>The members of the association were contacted about the plans for the event and then issued formal invitations.</p>	<p>“The electoral bodies have more specialized technical knowledge about the functional independence of such organizations”</p> <p>“Progress made in updating the work program of the Association of Electoral Bodies of the Quito Protocol”</p> <p>“More and stronger alliances of electoral organizations for joint activities on technical</p>

	<p>facilitate, generate or influence electoral processes, without undue interference from other institutional, political or social actors.</p> <p>21 delegates from the members of the Quito Protocol took part, plus three officials from the Executive Secretariat (IIHR/CAPEL) and three experts on the theme of the event: Fernando Ojesto Martínez Porcayo, former judge of the Federal Electoral Tribunal of Mexico; Rafael Roncagliolo, Director of the International IDEA project Political Reform for the Andean Countries, and Torquato Jardim, a renowned Brazilian academic.</p>	<p>Secretariat the IIHR/CAPEL enters into negotiations with the host organization on the financing of the event (in this case, the CNE). The host normally defrays a large part of the costs, though the specifics vary depending on the country and electoral body involved. The basic philosophy, however, is one of shared responsibility.</p> <p>The main objectives of the Quito Protocol are: to update the program of work on electoral issues, reviewing the impact or applicability of new issues or new approaches, with the emphasis on technical matters; to exchange information regarding the progress, obstacles and lessons learned in administering electoral processes, so they can be applied in future elections; to evaluate collectively the experience that electoral agencies have acquired in</p>		<p>Experts were selected to give presentations</p> <p>The Executive Secretariat prepared its report.</p> <p>Follow-up:</p> <p>Continuous input was contributed to update the agenda for promoting democracy in the region.</p> <p>Innovative proposals and initiatives were compiled on the theme of the conference that could be incorporated into future projects of the Quito Protocol.</p> <p>Final:</p> <p>Country assessments on the theme of the conference, "Electoral bodies and their functional independence as specialized entities"</p> <p>Agreements of the 12th Conference of the Quito Protocol, posted on the IIHR/CAPEL Web page.</p>	<p><i>electoral matters</i>"</p> <p>The conference was used to share experiences and information and engage in wide-ranging discussions about the functional independence of electoral bodies.</p> <p>Through the agreements adopted, the conference made it possible to renew the Association's agenda (see the IIHR/CAPEL Web page - www.iidh.ed.cr)</p> <p>Means of verification:</p> <p>Inter-American Electoral Network www.iidh.ed.cr/capel</p> <p>UNIORE newsletters</p> <p>Agreements of the 12th Conference of the Quito Protocol (Annex 2)</p> <p>Report of the Executive Secretariat</p>
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		implementing regulatory and technological innovations; to create opportunities for exchanges and possible horizontal technical cooperation projects involving the associations' members; to renew the specialized doctrine on electoral topics; and, to study the Executive Secretariat's report on its activities and make recommendations regarding future action.			
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Annual goal 2: To strengthen selected electoral organizations and those engaged in electoral and political reform processes in 2006					
Activities Implemented	Description	Background / Rationale	Institution(s) Responsible / Coordination	Outcomes	Assessment of Impact
Horizontal Cooperation Missions Objective: To share and transfer know-how and experiences among electoral bodies	The Horizontal Cooperation Missions are targeted at the members of the associations of electoral bodies and the Inter-American Electoral Network . They are organized according to the situation of each electoral body: self-financed, partially financed or without financing, in which case each electoral body defrays its own expenses. The IIHR/CAPEL finances one	These technical observation missions facilitate learning and the transfer of technical know-how in specific situations among the members of the associations . They serve a twofold purpose: to monitor the effective application of the basic international rules governing	The IIHR/CAPEL , working with senior electoral officials of the countries selected (members of the Inter-American Electoral Network) Contact with local USAID missions to keep them informed The IIHR/CAPEL staff member responsible for this activity is José Thompson, Director of	Intermediate: Request from the host organization and recommendation from local USAID mission Members of the Inter-American Network were invited to take part in the mission Priority areas were identified The work program was	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”

	<p>or two officials per mission and, when asked to do so, a specific judge or electoral expert.</p> <p>During this quarter (October-December 2006), the IIHR/CAPEL carried out horizontal cooperation missions in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ecuador (first round of presidential election, 15 October; second round, 26 November); - Panama (referendum on the widening of the Canal, 22 October); - Nicaragua (general elections, 5 November); - Peru (municipal elections, 19 November); - Costa Rica (local elections: municipal and district elections, 3 December). 	<p>political rights in a specific election; and assess the need for possible technical assistance programs that could bolster the political system of the country concerned.</p>	<p>CAPEL.</p>	<p>designed</p> <p>Follow-up:</p> <p>The IIHR/CAPEL is presently processing the technical recommendations of the five electoral processes carried out during this quarter (October-December 2006). They include a general recognition of the fact that the processes were well administered, and a series of specific recommendations on aspects of electoral organization and logistics. To cite some examples, the findings in Panama, Nicaragua and Ecuador were as follows. In the case of Panama, the mission confirmed that the voting went off peacefully and was extremely well organized. Particularly worthy of note were the orderly, safe manner in which the voting took place. Signs were posted in the polling places to make voting easy and the Tribunal demonstrated its professionalism in transmitting the results promptly and</p>	<p>During this quarter (October-December 2006), the horizontal cooperation missions made comparative technical recommendations regarding electoral logistics, including aspects such as the layout of the polling places and the use of signs to make voting easier, the information available to voters, and substantive aspects such as the voter lists or the need for a comprehensive review of the electoral system. No electoral reforms were enacted because of these reports but the missions continue to provide local officials with plenty of ideas for possible reforms and specific improvements to electoral practices.</p> <p>Means of Verification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Summary of the conclusions of the session held to evaluate the elections in Ecuador, (Annex 3), Nicaragua (in preparation), Panama (in preparation), Peru (in preparation), Costa Rica (in preparation) - UNIORE newsletters (63, 64, 65). - International Electoral
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			<p>transparently. Unfortunately, the turnout was very low.</p> <p>In Nicaragua, the high turnout led to long lines at the polling stations and the Supreme Elections Board failed to provide voters with sufficient information. The mission also recommended that the question of the voter lists be reviewed, that the ballot boxes be marked more clearly and that training be provided for future electoral processes.</p> <p>In Ecuador, the mission noted that both rounds of voting went off peacefully. Its specific recommendations concerned aspects such as the need to use signs at the polling stations to make voting easier, the layout of the polling places and training for polling officials, the use of screens to ensure the secrecy of the ballot, and a review of the electoral system to find ways of improving the counting of votes in the future.</p> <p>Final:</p> <p>Five horizontal</p>	<p>News Service (SINE).</p>
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				cooperation missions carried out (Ecuador, Panama, Nicaragua, Peru and Costa Rica).	
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PROJECT: STRENGTHENING ELECTORAL INSTITUTIONS

UPDATED SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES FOR OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2006

ACTIVITIES	COUNTRY	OCT	NOV	DEC
12 th Quito Protocol	Bolivia			
UNIORE newsletters	Costa Rica			
Inter-American Electoral Network	Costa Rica			
Horizontal Cooperation Missions	Panama			
Horizontal Cooperation Missions	Costa Rica			
Horizontal Cooperation Missions	Ecuador			
Horizontal Cooperation Missions	Nicaragua			
Horizontal Cooperation Missions	Peru			

2. PROJECT: EQUAL REPRESENTATION AND POLITICAL PARTY REFORM

2.1 GENERAL FRAMEWORK

In drafting this strategic plan for actions aimed at strengthening political parties in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Center for Electoral Promotion and Assistance (CAPEL) of the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights (IIHR) drew on the conclusions of the consultations it carried out throughout Latin America in 2004 and 2005. It held workshops in Santiago, Chile in March 2004 (for the Andean Region), in San Jose, Costa Rica in November 2004 (for Central America and the Dominican Republic), in Asunción, Paraguay in April 2005 (for the Southern Cone and Brazil) and in Mexico City, also in April 2005 (for Mexico).

The IIHR/CAPEL also used as input for this process the findings of the applied research carried out on Central America and Panama in 2000 and 2001, and on Bolivia, Chile and the Dominican Republic in 2003 and 2004, complemented with the results of other research on political parties conducted between 2003 and 2005.

In recent years, a number of international cooperation agencies have supported this effort, especially **USAID, PRODECA, SIDA and OXFAM-Chile**.

Experience has shown that, in the western world at least, democracy is unthinkable without political parties and the stronger the political party system, the more solid democracy tends to be and the better the national system is at coping with the changing international agenda.

Other types of political movements and platforms, often built around key individuals, have also been tried out in Latin America. These types of structures have always been characterized by strong authoritarian tendencies, however,¹ and political parties continue to represent the best option for translating the interests of groups and sectors into political programs. Hence, strengthening them is one of the core elements that must be considered in designing and executing initiatives to continue reinforcing democracy in the region.

Until quite recently, the issues related to the life and state of political parties were regarded as strictly internal matters in each country and each system. There seemed to be little room for the action of international entities, apart from providing support to specific training programs.² However, since political parties now find themselves in a critical situation throughout the region, and they are more aware of the present state of affairs, they have begun to take steps to reposition and strengthen their capabilities, realizing they need international cooperation agencies as partners in order to seek blueprints and strategies at the supranational level. In other words, political parties today acknowledge their the critical situation they face and have approached international bodies for assistance, mindful of the fact that democracy issues are increasingly international and global in nature.

Based on these arguments and inputs, the **IIHR/CAPEL** has decided to focus on the **thematic areas of institutionalization, democratization and transparency**, and has theoretical models, supported by empirical data, **for promoting efforts to strengthen political parties in the region**.

As mentioned in the **previous quarterly report (July-September 2006)**, after a lengthy, productive process of consultation and preparation, the drafting of the **Strategic Plan for Strengthening Political Parties in Latin America** was concluded (**see Annex 1**), and the project Equal

¹ The strategy of Fujimori in Peru is a good example of this trend and its possible consequences.

² Frequently promoted by the international federations of parties and, therefore, linked to the sympathies of a given party with the ideological orientation of the federation in question.

Representation and Political Party Reform is now poised to implement it. The IIHR/CAPEL now has a well-grounded framework for intensifying the efforts to strengthen political parties in the region through the implementation of national activities in the selected countries.

2.2 GENERAL OBJECTIVE OF THE PROJECT

2.2.1 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE (FINAL GOAL): To enhance the organizational and management capabilities of political parties (efficiency and effectiveness), with special emphasis on their institutionalization, democratization and transparency, which is vital to make democracies more legitimate and promote human rights in Latin America.

2.2.2 PERFORMANCE INDICATOR: At least five countries with political parties with progressive leaderships performing their function in society and implementing their internal processes with transparency, without losing their cohesiveness as institutions.

2.3 TARGET POPULATION

The leaders and militants of political parties will benefit from political training activities at different levels and on different issues. **The political parties** as a whole will also benefit from technical assistance and interaction on internal reform, while **society in general** will benefit from the mechanisms for interaction that are created and the promotion of a culture of inclusion (for young people, women, ethnic groups and the disabled), along with stakeholders such as **electoral bodies, civil society organizations and the media**.

2.4 GENERAL APPRAISAL OF THE PROJECT

Lessons Learned:

The consultation process and the teamwork of the IIHR/CAPEL, which were required to prepare and implement the **Strategic Plan for Strengthening Political Parties in Latin America**, were both important factors.

Overseen and supported by the **IIHR/CAPEL team of specialists, consultant Ana Cecilia Escalante (Costa Rica)** used all the contributions and inputs provided by the **experts - Jean Francois Prud'homme (Canada/Mexico), Flavia Freidenberg (Argentina), Delia Ferreira (Argentina), Rafael Toribio (the Dominican Republic), Fernando Sánchez (Costa Rica), Alvaro Artiga (El Salvador) and Rotsay Rosales (Costa Rica)** - to produce a new version of the **strategic plan**, together with a series of annexes that includes details of the **IIHR/CAPEL's** previous experience, a list of questions under the different thematic headings and a **proposal for the IIHR/CAPEL team of specialists** on how to set about implementing the plan. The proposal discussed and attempted to resolve certain key issues related to the implementation of this plan, namely: the internal organization of the **IIHR/CAPEL**; teamwork involving the technical personnel; the human resources available (consultants); and, the other resources available.

The proposal also included a table to help determine the first countries where the strategy would be implemented. The **IIHR/CAPEL team of specialists** met in August 2006 to complete this information, which was compiled, discussed and agreed upon based on the earlier process of research and consultations.

Conclusion: How was progress made in achieving the Performance Indicator of the Project?

During the period under review (October-December 2006), the IIHR also continued to disseminate the new knowledge generated by the IIHR/CAPEL on the subject of “Strengthening of political parties in Latin America: institutionalization, democratization and transparency.” This included both the documents on the issues produced as a result of the various subregional workshops held in the recent past, and the general conceptual proposal intended to provide the basis for the development of specific national agendas for each country. In addition, the Institute continued to disseminate the Strategic Plan for Strengthening Political Parties in Latin America in **Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador and Guatemala.**

As well as affording opportunities to publicize the proposals, this made it possible to strengthen and rethink the ties for coordination with academic entities, important civil society organizations, political parties, the media and electoral officials. The project also confirmed the interest in the new ideas and approaches (particularly given the fact that all this knowledge has been generated by working **WITH** the political parties and not only by conducting studies or theoretical analyses ABOUT them). The project could potentially attract a lot of people - especially young leaders - interested in **developing national agendas for strengthening political parties.**

2.5 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT

Annual goal 1: To identify the components of each strategy to be implemented for strengthening political parties as a pilot experience in at least five countries of the region					
Activities Implemented	Description	Background/Rationale	Institution(s) Responsible/Coordination	Outcomes	Assessment of Impact
<p>Identification of countries for national-level activities</p> <p>Objective(s):</p> <p>To identify the countries in which intensive efforts will be made to implement pilot experiences with the political parties</p>	<p>Between October and December 2006, based on the priorities set, the project made progress in identifying the countries where intensive efforts will be carried out to implement pilot experiences with the political parties interested in participating. The aim is to find “good practices” that can be adapted to the particular historical, cultural and social characteristics of each country.</p>	<p>The institutional background and characteristics of the mandate and experience of the IIHR/CAPEL make it possible to outline the profile of a new strategic program for action related to the strengthening of political parties.</p> <p>The thematic emphases of the program to strengthen political parties will continue to be <i>Institutionalization, Democratization and Transparency.</i></p> <p>The work of the IIHR/CAPEL</p>	<p>Director José Thompson and the IIHR/CAPEL team of specialists have been in charge of the initial missions aimed at selecting and creating the conditions in the countries where the national activities will be implemented for strengthening political parties.</p>	<p>Intermediate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preparation of two initial missions, to Dominican Republic and Argentina - Preparation of reports on initial missions to Dominican Republic and Argentina <p>Follow-up:</p> <p><u>Initial Mission to Dominican Republic:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Renewing of partnerships with 	<p>Impact Indicators:</p> <p>“At least five countries identified where the conditions exist for generating processes of change in regard to each thematic area (institutionalization, democratization and transparency), to strengthen political parties”</p> <p>The IIHR/CAPEL continued to disseminate the general conceptual</p>

<p>interested in taking part</p>	<p>The criteria for selecting the countries where the pilot experiences will be undertaken are: <i>Prior exploratory work by the IIHR/CAPEL; Prior analysis-assessment of the situation of the political parties; Interest and express commitment of actors involved; Minimum institutional framework; Interaction between electoral body and political parties; Potential for partnerships with other institutions and related initiatives; Preferably, during a period when no elections are scheduled.</i> The IIHR/CAPEL carried out two missions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An initial mission to the Dominican Republic, from 12-15 November 2006, involving IIHR/CAPEL Director José Thompson and IIHR/CAPEL Program Officer Ricardo Valverde - An initial mission to Argentina, from 4-9 December 2006, involving the IIHR/CAPEL Director José Thompson and IIHR/CAPEL Program 	<p>will be carried out under the following lines of action: <i>Political training at different levels and on different subjects; Technical assistance and the sharing of experiences for internal reform; Creation of opportunities to meet with other sectors of interest; Specialized information and Internet-based and informal networks; Research/Diagnosis: analysis of context and environmental factors; analysis of formal and informal aspects; any complementary research that may be necessary.</i> To be compatible with the mandate and the background of the IIHR/CAPEL, the project will have to have certain general characteristics, including the following: <i>It must be inclusive: meaning that it must be open to the participation of all political parties (in principle, those represented in the legislature) and cannot work in a country with only one political party; Work “with” the political parties: for the strategy to be successful and well received, it must be devised working with the political parties; in the case of critical issues such as</i></p>		<p>academic and citizen action bodies specializing in this area, such as the ongoing Political Education and Management Program of the Technological Institute of Santo Domingo (INTEC), the Ibero-American University (UNIBE) and Participación Ciudadana. The IIHR/CAPEL is a member of this consortium and, as well as discussing the possible use of some materials and programming aspects of the Academic Plan, examined the possibility of linking it more deeply and systematically with the new stages of the execution of this Project. In the first quarter of 2007, the other members of this academic consortium and the IIHR/CAPEL will look at the general elements of the approach to the strengthening of political parties, with a view adapting it specifically to the Dominican Republic (format, timeframes and national dimensions of its application).</p>	<p>approach for developing specific national agendas for each country; and for the Strategic Plan for Strengthening Political Parties in Latin America in Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador and Guatemala.</p> <p>During its initial missions to the Dominican Republic and Argentina, the IIHR/CAPEL renewed its partnerships with specialized academic and citizen action entities; renewed contacts with party leaders and other senior members; and renewed its contacts with various actors, with a view to sorting out the details involved in setting priorities and drawing up national agendas on this issue.</p> <p>Means of verification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strategic Plan for Strengthening Political Parties in Latin America (see Annex 1) - Reports on Initial Missions to Dominican
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	<p>Officer Ricardo Valverde</p>	<p><i>internal democracy, the reform proposals must come from within the political parties themselves;</i> <u>Interaction with other networks:</u> <i>meaning compatibility with the operation of the Inter-American Network of Electoral Bodies (the IIHR/CAPEL operates the Network's Executive Secretariat) and the potential for linking up with the NGO networks specializing in this area (RID and Lima Agreement);</i> <u>Freedom of expression:</u> <i>to convey ideas and knowledge properly; including being able to invite as wide a range of participants and professors as possible;</i> <u>Potential for collaboration with other entities:</u> <i>the possibility of exploring local or international partnerships that would reinforce the impact of the project, in accordance with the strategic priorities of the IIHR/CAPEL.</i></p>	<p>- Renewed contact with party leaders, in particular with the Secretary Generals of the Dominican Revolutionary Party (PRD) and Christian Social Reformist Party (PRSC), Orlando Jorge Mera and Víctor Gómez Casanova, respectively; with senior leaders of these parties and the party in government (Party for Dominican Liberation), as well as with young leaders of these and other political groupings, identified by and linked with the aforementioned Political Education and Management Project. The aim is to identify the groups of party leaders interested in the issues involved in strengthening parties, and to sort out the details involved in setting priorities and preparing national agendas on this subject in the Dominican Republic. - Renewing of contact with the Dominican electoral body (Central Electoral Board), to inform and interest it in promoting the</p>	<p>Republic and Argentina</p>
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				<p>strengthening of political parties in the country.</p> <p><u>Initial Mission to Argentina:</u></p> <p>- Renewing of partnerships with other NGOs, such as Poder Ciudadano, and the Law School of the University of Buenos Aires. Poder Ciudadano already has experience of working with parties in the different provinces of the country, although new approaches are needed to ensure that the efforts to bring about greater democratization and strengthen the leadership of the party are more focused and effective. Hence, the importance of the new knowledge generated by the IIHR/CAPEL; and an adaptation of the strategic vision with regard to institutionalization, democratization and transparency could provide the basis for a national agenda of work in this field.</p> <p>- Renewed contact with party leaders, in particular with the leadership of organizations such as the</p>	
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				<p>Partido Justicialista, the Radical Civic Union (UCR) and the Alliance for a Republic of Equals (ARI).</p> <p>Final:</p> <p>- Two initial missions carried out, to Dominican Republic and Argentina</p>	
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II. OVERVIEW OF 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.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE IIHR

January, 2007



