



INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF HUMAN RIGHTS
USAID COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT LAG-A-00-02-00001-00
PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS THROUGH INCLUSION, CONFLICT PREVENTION AND
DEMOCRATIZATION IN LATIN AMERICA
STATUS REPORT BY ANNUAL PERFORMANCE INDICATOR
SEPTEMBER 2006 - AUGUST 2007

The IIHR asked the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to extend cooperation agreement LAG-A-00-02-00001-00 through September 2008, and its request was approved. The IIHR is therefore presenting a Status Report by Annual Performance Indicator covering the period September 2006-August 2007.

The **General Strategic Objective** of the cooperative agreement between the IIHR and USAID for the entire period between 2002 and 2005, extended under the amendment through September 2008, is "To make a significant contribution to the construction of more inclusive and transparent democracies that promote the effective protection of human rights in the western hemisphere."

To attain this strategic objective, the new **General Performance Indicator** established in the amendment through September 2008 was:

With US\$702,054.58 of the budget approved for the period 01-01-07 to 30-09-07, the IIHR will:

- Create conditions for increasing knowledge of equal opportunity legislation and political and electoral rights among women, indigenous peoples and Afro-descendant populations in 13 Latin American countries. This will be accomplished by means of training, information and dissemination activities involving the direct participation of at least 130 state-run and non-governmental entities in the region; and by offering training via the specialized sections of the Web page.
- Through the establishment of closer ties with the Inter-American System and the strengthening of the regional ombudsman networks, at least five ombudsman institutions in Central America and the Caribbean will expand or consolidate their human rights protection and promotion work.
- Create conditions for enhancing the capacity of institutions and civil society to tackle the problem of citizen insecurity from the perspective of human rights, by means of technical assistance and training activities, with the participation of state institutions (Interior Ministry, National Police and local authorities) and over 100 community leaders in the Dominican Republic; and implement a citizen security meeting in Central America involving senior officials from eight Central American and Caribbean countries to validate a document on the design and implementation of public citizen security policies on which regional consensus has

already been achieved, entitled “Citizen Security in Latin America: A proposal prepared by the IIHR.”

- Better equip state institutions and civil society networks to detect and respond to institutional weaknesses that pose a threat to human rights and democratic governability in any country where such action is required. Specifically, during the period concerned the IIHR and USAID will develop a proposal for strengthening political parties in Peru.
- Equip 28 electoral bodies to organize more effective and transparent electoral processes in their respective countries, by providing technical training and making more up-to-date knowledge of political/electoral topics available in the region.
- Develop national proposals in at least two countries of the region (the Dominican Republic, Argentina or Panama) aimed at improving the democratization, institutionalization or transparency of political parties.

Starting Points

The following are some general, common characteristics of the situation in the region: the target populations (women and indigenous and Afro-descendant populations) suffer discrimination and social and political exclusion; citizen insecurity is growing and the government agencies responsible for combating the problem are either non-existent or ineffectual; electoral/political institutions and processes are not effective or transparent enough; and threats to human rights and democratic governability are on the increase.

The situation with regard to each **Line of Action** specified in the IIHR-USAID Cooperative Agreement is as follows:

Promoting a culture of inclusion:

Exclusion, discrimination, limited participation and insufficient recognition of human rights are common problems in the region. Women, indigenous peoples and Afro-descendant populations are urging new national legislation and policies, while the provisions of international human rights instruments and the international human rights agenda have yet to be implemented.

Between 2002 and 2005, the USAID-funded project compiled information about successful advocacy efforts that led to the enactment of legislation designed to advance the rights of women, indigenous peoples and the Afro-descendant population. The work then focused on Peru, Colombia and Panama, creating the conditions for the enactment of specific legislation that was under discussion in the respective congresses. In 2005 and 2006, the project produced specialized knowledge about the impact of legislation designed to achieve equality and promote the participation in political life of women, indigenous peoples and the Afro-descendant population. In 2007 and 2008, the project will give continuity to the actions carried out under its three components: Promotion and protection of women’s human rights as part of the efforts to strengthen democracy and the Rule of Law; Strengthening of the participation of indigenous peoples in political and civic life, to consolidate democracy and governability in the region; and Actions to encourage the Afro-descendant population to exercise their citizens’ rights and take part in political life.

Conflict prevention:

At present, no public citizen security policies exist that have a human rights perspective, nor instruments for designing and implementing them.

Given the difficult economic and social conditions in the region, ombudsman offices have a key role to play in defending human rights, regulating the exercise of political power and consolidating democracy. These institutions need outside support to strengthen their institutional capabilities if they are to continue to perform their duties in a transparent way that satisfies their clients, public opinion and the law. It is also vital to support and help secure the appointment of ombudsman in countries where they have yet to be named, even though the institution has been created by law or is called for under the constitution.

The situation in the Americas is changeable and in recent years problems have arisen that posed a real risk to the democratic system and, therefore, to the effective exercise of human rights. Developments in Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Venezuela are cases in point. In some instances, the crises were acute and unpredictable, and immediate action was needed to prevent or minimize consequences that posed a threat to human rights and democratic governability.

Democratization of political processes:

Only in some countries of the region is power handed over as a matter of course from one government to the next and the constitution respected. Electoral organizations suffer from institutional or technical weaknesses and there is no systematized knowledge of positive political-electoral processes in the region. In general, there is an absence of a democratic culture or participatory political practices, and the electoral legislation of most countries has shortcomings.

The basic norms governing political and electoral matters in each country have not been systematized (articles in constitutions, electoral laws and legislation governing political parties). The same is true of the statutes and special regulations of the parties themselves, with regard to provisions on the representation of sectors and ethics and internal electoral tribunals. In general, political parties in the region are characterized by exclusion and a lack of internal democracy.

A large number of electoral processes took place between November 2005 and December 2006, making it an extremely busy period for the Inter-American Electoral Network. The IIHR/CAPEL is the linchpin of the network and runs its Executive Secretariat. Dozens of projects and initiatives were implemented that enriched horizontal cooperation among members of the network. The lessons learned include new complications for the work of the electoral bodies, such as close-run key elections (the general elections in Costa Rica, the mayoral race in San Salvador, second place in Peru's presidential elections and the presidential elections in Mexico). In 2007, the level of electoral activity has been more manageable, with elections scheduled to be held in Argentina (general elections), Bolivia (referendum to approve the new political constitution), Colombia (local elections) and Guatemala (general elections). Parliamentary elections are also due to take place in Jamaica, whose electoral body is a member of the Tikal Protocol and the Inter-American Union of Electoral Bodies.

The progress made with the research on political parties in the region meant that between September 2005 and August 2006 the IIHR/CAPEL was able to move from research to action.

The period 2007-2008 is a good time for the IIHR/CAPEL to begin implementing the Strategic Plan for Strengthening Political Parties in Latin America, as fewer electoral processes are scheduled. Periods when there is less activity are best for laying the groundwork for local

projects and actions with political parties. As there is less competition among them, the parties are readier to consider the development of reform mechanisms, while the electoral bodies that belong to the Inter-American Electoral Network are in a better position to exert influence and collaborate. In the first countries selected, the best opportunities for work were identified in the Dominican Republic, where preparatory activities have already been carried out, and Argentina, where the project is set to implement training activities on issues related to the financing of political parties. New possibilities have opened up for work in Panama, where the project plans to update the assessment carried out in 2004 entitled "Internal democratization of political parties in Central America: Progress made and tasks pending."

Progress toward the IIHR's Performance Indicators

The following is an overview of the progress made between September 2006 and August 2007 toward the IIHR's performance indicators established for each **Line of Action** under the IIHR-USAID Cooperative Agreement:

Promoting a culture of inclusion

The objective of the project **Promoting a Culture of Inclusion** is to enhance the capacity of women, indigenous peoples and Afro-descendant populations to exercise their citizens' rights based on the principles of equality, non-discrimination and full political participation, thereby strengthening inclusive democracy, governability and the Rule of Law. The main method being used to achieve this is the production and dissemination of specialized research designed to fill in the gaps in the information and analysis, with a view to providing better tools and knowledge for translating equality under the law (*de jure*) into real (*de facto*) equality in the enjoyment and exercise of human rights for the target populations.

To achieve this, during the **period under review (September 2006 - August 2007)** the project continued with its strategy of executing actions such as the following:

- Analysis and assessment of the impact that equal opportunity legislation has had on public policies and on the institutionalization of equality and gender equity, including recommendations on how its impact could be enhanced.
- Analysis and assessment of the actions implemented to institutionalize the participation of women, indigenous peoples and the Afro-descendant population in political and civic life, particularly by electoral bodies, in line with national legislation on the issue.
- Generation of specialized information to facilitate the advocacy efforts of CSOs working on behalf of the target populations. These organizations are being familiarized with the scope and potential use of legislation designed to increase equality and the exercise of political rights, so they can monitor its implementation, coordinate their work with the pertinent public bodies and defend their clients' interests.

To achieve this, the following activities were implemented during the period under review: a) assessments and analyses of the impact of legislation designed to foster gender equality; b) research on, and analysis of, the implementation of quota mechanisms; c) assessments and analyses of the participation of indigenous peoples in political and civic life, to consolidate democracy and governability in the region; and, d) assessments and analyses of the exercise of civic and political rights by the Afro-descendant population, with a view to promoting and strengthening it.

This strategy has also permitted different areas of the IIHR to work together (Department of Civil Society Entities, the Center for Electoral Promotion and Assistance - IIHR/CAPEL). This enhanced the implementation of the crosscutting perspectives of the institution's work (gender, ethnic and cultural diversity, and the relationship between the State and civil society) with respect to political participation, one of the four groups of rights on which the IIHR focuses.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

A number of UN and ECLAC studies have shown that **laws guaranteeing equal opportunities for women and men** help States determine their policies in this area and also serve as a mechanism for implementing the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). However, very little legislation of this kind exists in Latin America and the time frame for the enactment of the different laws shows just what a slow process it has been: 1990 in Costa Rica, 1999 (legislation) and 2002 (implementing regulations) in Panama, 1999 in Venezuela, 2000 in Honduras and 2003 in Colombia. By contrast, 31 specific laws have been enacted in the region to address the problem of domestic violence against women, suggesting that women as subjects of rights have yet to take their place on the social and political landscape; the concept that prevails is that of their vulnerability and need for protection.

However, quite recently the need for legislation granting equal rights and political advocacy on the issue have assumed a much higher profile. Between mid-2006 and mid-2007, three other countries joined those already mentioned in enacting laws: Mexico, Peru and Uruguay. It is worth recalling that during the previous phase, the project supported dissemination and advocacy efforts in Peru to create favorable conditions for a bill establishing equality between women and men that was already before the Legislature. The project made a key contribution to its passage.

The current project is facilitating the production and dissemination of knowledge about an issue that hitherto has been little explored, determining the impact that equal opportunity laws have had on legislation, public policies and the institutionalization of gender equality and equity. This complements the initial advocacy approach with results-based action. Having an assessment and appraisal of the situation available makes it possible to monitor the extent to which the legislation is being implemented in the five countries studied and provides tools for the three countries that recently approved similar legislation. The outcome forms part of the performance indicator.

Quotas that guarantee women a minimum share of political posts play a key role in increasing their representation and participation in political life and the number of elected offices they hold. Mechanisms of this kind exist in 11 countries of the region, based on constitutional provisions or electoral legislation and in line with the commitments assumed by the States in the CEDAW Convention, particularly in Article 4.

Little has been done to explore, as an area of analysis, the efforts of electoral bodies to implement the quota mechanism established in the respective electoral legislation. The project is now in possession of a comparative, analytical study that links the core issue with other, related aspects that enrich the perspective: the relationship between electoral systems and the implementation of quotas, mechanisms for follow-up by institutions and civil society, the citizens' rights of women and the Rule of Law, and reflections on parity. This specialized contribution by the project will not only provide courts and civil society organizations with tools for ensuring that quotas are applied properly. It will also inform the growing debate in the countries of the region

that have made most progress with affirm action on the need to achieve parity. The outcome forms part of the performance indicator.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Recent years have seen movements of indigenous peoples and organizations playing a bigger role in the national political arena in different ways and in various countries of the region. This has been particularly true of their participation in elections and other procedures for choosing officials and/or creating representative bodies. In some countries, it constitutes a fledgling movement to modify the electoral rules. The project has made considerable progress in learning about these processes and their impact, and how they could affect the future of indigenous movements and their organizations and democratic development in the Latin American countries.

The project also promoted the comparative analysis of processes of this kind in seven countries of the region (in Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala and - beginning in 2007 - in Mexico, Panama and Peru) where the increasing participation of indigenous movements in political affairs has been documented. It was also possible to learn about and compare the experiences of the rest of Latin America by presenting the findings of the six original research projects at the Fifth Congress of the Latin American Legal Anthropology Network (RELAJU), in which the six consultants responsible the study took part as speakers.

Special importance was attached to assessing and analyzing the current political dynamics of indigenous peoples, particularly their participation in the election of officials and the creation of representative bodies, and the results and effects of the dynamics on these peoples traditional forms of struggle and organization. The project also focused on analytical aspects of the factors involved in the dynamics of political participation and likely future developments; possible explanations of the impact of the legal, political and administrative conditions of democratic processes on participation; and, reflections on the tensions that exist between the formal conditions and actual practices. In short, an analysis of the rules and dynamics of indigenous political participation and an examination of the tensions that exist between institutions and their traditional rules (such as systems of offices and common law) and the political and electoral dynamics.

One aspect of great interest concerns the administrative and geographical conditions of the electoral processes in which indigenous organizations and movements take part, the outcome, and the correlation of those phenomena with the changing shape (and reshaping) of indigenous socio-demographic and territorial dynamics. This aspect is being studied mostly in Mexico, but drawing on experiences in other countries of the region and promoting comparative debates. This has involved studying experiences of indigenous political participation and monitoring the conditions that favor and hinder such participation and the results in the countries of the region already mentioned. The electoral scenario in Guatemala has also provided an ideal opportunity to analyze the performance of an indigenous woman candidate and the behavior of the electorate in areas with a mostly indigenous population. This will make it possible to improve the conditions for the political participation of these populations in the future.

AFRO-DESCENDANT POPULATIONS

Afro-descendants make up a marginalized and excluded segment of the population, one that is discriminated against and has few or no opportunities to obtain an education, employment or work, land or territory. Their income is also smaller than that of the white population. While the

level of political participation and representation is key for reducing inequalities, this population is underrepresented in government policy. As a result, they have organized to press for reforms that would permit them to enjoy their full rights as citizens, fight racism and racial discrimination and lobby for equality. Nevertheless, few countries have developed legislation or public policies to encourage them to take part in political and civic life, and strengthen governability, inclusive democracy and the Rule of Law.

This population has traditionally played only a minor role in political affairs and enjoyed little access to, or participation in, political institutions; public opinion and society in general barely recognize its existence. It is essential that Afro-descendants gain equitable access to the citizens' rights to which they are entitled in the modern world, rights that take into account the characteristics and forms of behavior that define identity in the region. Identity is, in fact, based on many different, specific identities, but these do not present an obstacle. Rather, they offer broad possibilities for growth and development for social integration and cohesiveness in the hemisphere, through recognition of the multiethnic and multicultural nature of Latin American societies. That, in turn, calls for the promotion of equal opportunities in the field of social development and political participation, by means of legislation, public policies and affirmative action to guarantee these marginalized sectors of the population participation on equal terms.

The actions undertaken by the project to identify, promote and strengthen mechanisms and bodies linked to the issue have covered a variety of complementary aspects. On the one hand, the preparation of a situational assessment of the political participation of Afro-descendant citizens in Colombia, the Latin American country that has made most progress with constitutional and legislative provisions and administrative actions (quotas) for such communities. The findings were set out in a publication designed to disseminate those experiences in the region. Colombia is a possible model for other countries, as it has implemented the most advanced legislation of its kind in the region. Furthermore, the project has fostered the production of knowledge about Panama's inclusive electoral legislation with a view to drafting - provided the results are positive and conditions permit - a bill including affirmative action or minimum quotas for the political participation of Afro-Panamanians.

Another achievement of the project has been the design of guidelines for a system of indicators of progress of the legal protection of the right to political participation of the Afro-descendant population. A document was produced containing matrixes of indicators that are now being used to process the data from four countries. These matrixes focus on two fields: a) the set of rights of Afro-descendant communities; and, b) the subsystem on rights to political participation. The content of the first is divided under three headings (legal provisions, public policies and access to justice). The second consists of: i) national legislation and regulations dealing with the participation of Afro-descendant communities in political life and, in particular, in elections; ii) electoral, administrative and practical models and mechanisms related to the active and passive exercise of the right to vote by the Afro-descendant population; iii) use, by Afro-descendant movements, organizations and candidates, of legal remedies and regulations and administrative and practical electoral models and mechanisms to increase the opportunities for Afro-descendants to participate (as voters and candidates); and, iv) the results of Afro-descendant population's participation in electoral processes.

Conflict prevention:

The project **Citizen Security in Latin America: Developing a National and Local Approach** made significant progress in the Dominican Republic, as described below:

With respect to the “Technical assistance for the implementation of the Public Citizen Security Policy in the Dominican Republic, since 2003 the IIHR has been involved in different stages of the design and management of a democratic public security policy in the Dominican Republic and, as part of this effort, in the process of restructuring the National Police. A change of government has taken place during this process, which was followed by the appointment of new officials with responsibility for security and, recently, a new Chief of the National Police. Fortunately, thanks to the caliber of the IIHR team and the consultants, and the prestige and reputation that the Institute enjoys, the project was able to overcome the obstacles created by these changes and did not allow the political situation to affect it.

The implementation of the **seminar “Citizen Security in the Dominican Constitution: Challenges posed and opportunities offered by the proposed constitutional amendment”** and **Workshops on the Prevention of Juvenile Violence**, targeted at community leaders, are examples of the progress made in strengthening public institutions and civil society to guarantee citizen security. These workshops formed part of the **Multiple Response System** strategy, which will be implemented in three phases.

This initiative demonstrated that training is a permanent tool for strengthening citizen organizations, which, due to their first-hand, extensive knowledge of the situation in each area, are well placed to promote specific actions in the territorial area of each organization, such as the prevention of violence at the grassroots level. Citizen participation of this kind should also be geared to creating opportunities for social integration with young people, in order to offer them possibilities of employment, education, protection, etc., and thus encourage them to fully exercise their citizens’ rights.

The **Police Report published in the Diario Digital of the Dominican Republic on Monday, 29 January 2007** said, “The achievements of the Democratic Security Plan and its Safe Neighborhood Program have been extraordinary, surpassing every expectation of their implementers.” The report issued by the National Police points up the advisory assistance provided by the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights in the security sector reform process that reduced crime rates in the last two years.

Under the two components of the project **Strengthening the Ombudsman in Latin America** programmed for the period under review, the IIHR helped strengthen the ombudsman institutions of Guatemala, Belize, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago and Turks and Caicos. Via the **Ombudsnet**, the project supplied them with up-to-date information on human rights issues; and 40 officials of the Ombudsman Office of Guatemala received training through online courses.

During the reporting period, with the project’s support Jamaica and Barbados also initiated a process of broadening their mandate, which is limited to oversight of the public sector. Both institutions have begun a process of internal discussions on the importance of expanding the scope of their activities.

Thanks to the project's efforts, **the Central American Council of Human Rights Ombudsman (CCPDH) and the Caribbean Ombudsman Association (CAROA) signed an agreement** in which they specified as initial priorities the following areas of work: a) governance, b) the environment, c) education, d) health, e) the implementation of good practices by means of exchanges of officials, f) research and, g) training in the mechanisms of the international human

rights systems. The last priority will make it possible to strengthen ties between the Caribbean ombudsman and the inter-American system. Furthermore, in October 2007 the ombudsman of Guatemala, Belize, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama will be meeting with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, in Washington, to devise coordination strategies for the effective exercise of human rights in the Central American region.

This has made it possible to strengthen regional networks (Caribbean and Central America) and relations among them, and led to the sharing of knowledge and experiences.

Finally, El Salvador, Costa Rica and Panama consolidated their work in areas that are new to them but constitute serious problems in each country, such as HIV/AIDS and palliative care.

Turning to the **Early Warning and Rapid Response** project, although South America experienced moments of political tension (in Bolivia, Ecuador and Venezuela, for example) and the problem of citizen insecurity continues to worsen in Central America, between **September 2006 and August 2007** neither the public institutions and civil society of the countries concerned, nor USAID, asked the IIHR to intervene when matters came to a head. USAID has suggested the **possibility of working to strengthen political parties in Peru** in 2008. **USAID and the IIHR** will design an action plan together to provide a rapid response in regard to this issue.

Under its regular programs, the IIHR performed technical work in the countries that faced the most difficult political situations during the period under review.

Democratization of political processes:

With regard to the project **Strengthening Electoral Institutions**, and 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. The Center helped prepare the work program, contacted the electoral bodies, led the working meetings held and planned the specific observation activities on Election Day. It was also involved in evaluating the observation missions and in making recommendations for future elections.

The IIHR/CAPEL fostered communication, international relations and regional cooperation through annual meetings. With the networks of electoral institutions, the IIHR/CAPEL facilitated the establishment of policies for the sharing of information and knowledge, horizontal cooperation and technical assistance. It also facilitated the sharing of experiences in regard to the transfer of information and the reciprocal observation of elections, resulting in the creation of a true "Inter-American Electoral Network."

The launch of the **new version of the Web page** was an extremely important development. 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. It provides online access to specialized doctrine related to 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.

With respect to **electoral processes**, the overall evaluation is positive: despite economic and institutional crises, the various parties involved sought democratic solutions. 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), in Colombia and in Guatemala (financed by another donor).

The 28 members of the “Inter-American Electoral Network” increased their knowledge and experience by participating in a large number of observation missions - learning about the advantages or disadvantages of the respective electoral systems and technical innovations in specific situations - and also through the **conferences** held: **Quito Protocol (Bolivia, 7-9/11/06)** and **Tikal Protocol (El Salvador, 25-26/06/07)**.

During the period under review (September 2006-August 2007), the project **Equal Representation and Political Party Reform** continued to disseminate the new knowledge generated by the IIHR/CAPEL on the “**Strengthening of political parties in Latin America: institutionalization, democratization and transparency.**” This was done through the various subregional workshops on the subject held in the recent past, and the general conceptual proposal intended to provide the basis for developing specific national agendas for each country. The project also disseminated the **Strategic Plan for Strengthening Political Parties in Latin America.**

Furthermore, the project strengthened and rethought the ties for coordination with academic entities, important civil society organizations, political parties, the media and electoral officials. It also confirmed the interest that exists 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). In fact, a lot more people - young leaders, especially - could be interested in **developing national agendas for strengthening political parties.**

It proved difficult to get the sub-project Strengthening Political Parties in the Dominican Republic started between July and September 2007, due to frictions between the Central Electoral Board (JCE) and the main Dominican political parties. The Political Parties Act sparked a crisis, on account of its provisions concerning the supervision of the financing of political parties. This created tension and friction among the parties, the Board and the **IIHR/CAPEL’s counterparts (INTEC, UNIBE and Participación Ciudadana),** which make up the Political Management Program. They asked that the workshop programmed for September 2007 be postponed for several weeks.

By 2008, the project hopes to have reached agreement with the political parties and other actors keen to promote democracy on a National Plan for Strengthening Political Parties to be implemented in Panama.

Conclusion:

In general, as can be seen from the annual report by performance indicator of each project, **under USAID Cooperative Agreement LAG-A-00-02-00001-00 (Promoting Human Rights through Inclusion, Conflict Prevention and Democratization in Latin America)** and the amendment taking it through September 2008, between **September 2006 and August 2007** the IIHR’s work continued to make a significant contribution by:

- Increasing and strengthening the capabilities of **at least 117 civil society organizations and 13 state entities,** through training, information and dissemination activities on equal opportunity legislation and the political and electoral rights of women, indigenous peoples and Afro-descendant populations.

- Expanding or consolidating the human rights protection and promotion work of **at least five ombudsman institutions in Central America and the Caribbean**, by helping them to establish closer ties with the Inter-American System and strengthening the regional ombudsman networks.
- Enhancing the capacity of institutions and civil society to tackle the problem of citizen insecurity from the human rights perspective, by means of technical assistance and training activities involving **at least two state entities, local officials and over 100 community leaders in the Dominican Republic**; and by holding a Citizen Security Meeting in Central America involving senior officials from **eight Central American and Caribbean countries** to validate a document on the design and implementation of citizen security policies entitled “Citizen Security in Latin America: A proposal prepared by the IIHR,” on which consensus was reached at the regional level.
- Improving the capacity of state institutions and civil society networks to detect and respond to institutional weaknesses that pose a threat to human rights and democratic governability, in any country that required it.
- Providing technical training and more up-to-date knowledge of political/electoral issues in the region to **28 electoral organizations**, to equip them to manage more effective and transparent electoral processes in their respective country.
- Taking the first steps to design and develop **a national proposal** related to the democratization, institutionalization or transparency of political parties in **the Dominican Republic and Panama**.

The IIHR thus made further progress toward achieving the general strategic objective of this IIHR-USAID Cooperative Agreement, which is “To make a significant contribution to the construction of more inclusive and transparent democracies that promote the effective protection of human rights in the western hemisphere.”

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AND DEMOCRATIZATION IN LATIN AMERICA**

**ANNUAL PROJECT REPORT BY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR
(September 2006 - August 2007)**

PROJECT: PROMOTING A CULTURE OF INCLUSION

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

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR: The IIHR used US\$163,030.65 of the budget approved for the period 01-10-07 to 30-09-08 to facilitate the conditions required to increase knowledge of equal opportunity legislation and political and electoral rights among women, indigenous peoples and Afro-descendant populations in 13 Latin American countries. This was accomplished by means of training, information and dissemination activities, with the direct participation of at least 130 state and non-state entities in the region; and by offering training via the specialized sections of the Web page. (At least another 340 organizations benefited from the activities indirectly).

NON-FLEXIBLE INDICATORS OF USAID:

1. Number of domestic human rights NGOs receiving USG support:

Achieved in FY-2007 (Oct '06 - Sep '07): 35 (Course-workshop on indigenous political participation. San Jose, Costa Rica, 4-6 December 2006)

Target for FY-2008 (Oct '07- Sep '08): 100 NGOs (50 for the research on equality and 50 for the research on quotas, which will receive support in the form of increased knowledge through participation in dissemination activities)

2. Number of research publications on political participation of women, indigenous individuals and Afro-descendants:

Achieved in FY-2007 (Oct '06 - Sep '07): 7 (legislation on gender equality (5), indigenous political participation in 6 countries (1) and political participation of Afro-descendants in Colombia (1))

Target for FY-2008 (Oct'07 - Sep '08): 2 (quotas and comparative analysis of research on gender equality in 5 countries)

Annual Goal 1 (2006-2007): To determine the impact that equal opportunity legislation has had on public policies and the institutional framework

Activities	Impact Indicators 2006/2007 Work Plan	Achievements	Means of Verification
<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>More information available, making it possible to assess and monitor the impact of specific legislation intended to advance equality between women and men</p>	<p>During the period under review (September 2006-August 2007), the project completed the production of the specialized knowledge about the impact of legislation implemented to ensure equal opportunities for women and men, focusing specifically on three elements: legislation, public policies and the institutionalization of gender equality. Legislation of this kind exists in five Latin American countries, although it was enacted and implemented at different times: in Costa Rica, in 1990; in Colombia, in 2003; in Honduras, in 2000; in Panama, in 1999 (legislation) and 2002 (implementing regulations); and in Venezuela, in 1999.</p> <p>The research methodology, based on the terms of reference and framework drawn up by the IIHR, was implemented successfully. It consisted of counterpart specialists garnering information from primary and secondary sources in each country. The depth of the analysis varied, depending on the complexity and quantity of the information that had to be processed (this differed according to the length of time that the legislation had been in place).</p> <p>The key aspects of the comparative analysis carried out (the final version of which the IIHR is now studying) were: the use of an assessment-based approach; the difficulties and weaknesses encountered; good practices; and lessons learned. The document also has a section of general recommendations for action by both public institutions and women's civil society organizations.</p> <p>The country-level research revealed the legislation's varying impact in the three areas mentioned. It considered the length of time that had elapsed since the legislation was enacted; the special characteristics of each law, according to its content; and the different situations in the various countries.</p> <p>All five (5) national research projects were completed and are available in the <i>DerechosMujer</i> specialized section of the IIHR website.</p> <p>http://www.iidh.ed.cr/comunidades/DerechosMujer The IIHR is now studying the document to make any final adjustments that may be</p>	<p>Quarterly reports of the Women's Human Rights Program Final country reports and comparative report Information available online in the <i>DerechosMujer</i> specialized section of the IIHR website Reports and statistics compiled using the Webtrends software, confirming the number of hits and visits to the section</p>

		<p>needed.</p> <p>The <i>DerechosMujer</i> specialized section of the IIHR website was updated continuously with digital materials related to equality and gender equity. As of 24 September 2007, 5601 items were available in the different subsections, plus a directory of 518 organizations devoted to the advancement of women's rights.</p> <p>The number of visitors to the section is increasing steadily. As of 30 September 2006, it had received 43,228 visits, an average of 469 per day that lasted an average of 12:30 minutes each. Between 1 July and 24 September 2007, the section was visited 69,454 times, an average of 798 times per day, with each visit lasting an average of 24:41 minutes (statistics compiled using WebTrends software).</p>	
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Annual Goal 2 (2006-2007): To consolidate the know-how and capabilities for follow-up and advocacy efforts related to specific legislation designed to encourage the participation of women in political life

<i>Activities</i>	Impact Indicators 2006/2007 Work Plan	<i>Achievements</i>	<i>Means of Verification</i>
<p>Research on the implementation of quota mechanisms</p> <p>Objective:</p> <p>To produce specialized knowledge for providing follow-up to the implementation of legislation designed to encourage the participation of women in political life</p>	<p>More information available about the experiences of electoral bodies in implementing quota legislation, making it possible to evaluate and monitor its impact</p>	<p>During the reporting period (September 2006-August 2007), the project executed the actions needed to facilitate the production of specialized knowledge for providing follow-up to the implementation of legislation designed to encourage the participation of women in political life. The minimum quotas for the political participation of women established in specific legislation or electoral laws are designed to correct discrimination and inequality and ensure that equal numbers of women and men run for, and hold, elected office. Specific or electoral legislation of this kind exists in 11 countries of the region (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico, Peru, Panama and Paraguay).</p> <p>The object of the research is to explore, as an area of analysis and dissemination, the efforts of the electoral bodies to implement the quota mechanism established in the respective electoral legislation. The electoral organizations provided the information by means of a form designed by the IIHR (with instructions), complemented with data from secondary sources and studies by specialists.</p> <p>All the information was obtained from 10 countries (all except the Dominican Republic) and processed in 4 matrixes that systematize and compare the data grouped under four headings: provisions made in political constitutions; specific electoral legislation; complementary secondary laws; and the implementing regulations of legislation. Also completed was the compilation of all the rulings of electoral or other pertinent courts (jurisprudence) of the countries concerned.</p> <p>The project also developed the thematic focuses for the analysis, prepared the outline of the content of the publication and selected the specialists to carry out specific analyses. The specialists then began studying, comparing and evaluating the material.</p> <p>The focal areas of the analysis were: existing legislation; application and monitoring mechanisms; electoral bodies' experiences with the implementation of the quota system - enforcement, issuing of regulations, regulatory activities, modifications and the application of</p>	<p>Quarterly reports of the Women's Human Rights Program</p> <p>10 questionnaires and annexes completed</p> <p>4 matrixes systematizing and comparing the information from the 10 countries</p> <p>Final document containing systematization-analysis of the information</p> <p>Compilation of rulings (jurisprudence)</p> <p>Outline of the content of the publication, team of specialists responsible for the analysis</p> <p>Minutes of meetings and correspondence (emails) between the IIHR's Department of Civil Society Entities and CAPEL</p> <p>Digital information available in the <i>DerechosMujer</i> specialized section of the IIHR website</p> <p>Reports and statistics compiled using the Webtrends software, confirming the number of hits and visits to the section</p>

		<p>sanctions, including practices and rulings (jurisprudence). All this is complemented with more focused analyses of the relationship between electoral systems and the implementation of quotas, institutional and civil society mechanisms for follow-up, the citizenship of women and the Rule of Law, and reflections on equality.</p> <p>A specialized document was produced containing a compilation of the protection mechanisms of the Inter-American System with regard to quotas, based on the cases involving Argentina and Peru on which rulings were issued. This study also describes the impact of those protection standards at the national level, for rectifying the situation that gave rise to the complaint. It is available in the <i>DerechosMujer</i> specialized section of the website.</p> <p>http://www.iidh.ed.cr/comunidades/DerechosMujer</p> <p>The execution of this project has also required the Department of Civil Society Entities and the Center for Electoral Promotion and Assistance (IIHR/CAPEL) to closely coordinate their activities and work. This contributes to the application of one of the crosscutting perspectives of the institution's work (i.e., the gender perspective) with respect to political participation, one of the four thematic groups of rights on which the IIHR focuses.</p> <p>Materials related to political rights, affirmative action and quota mechanisms were continuously uploaded to the specialized section of the IIHR website (<i>DerechosMujer</i>).</p>	
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Annual Goal 3 (2006-2007): 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

<i>Activities</i>	Impact Indicators 2006-2007 Work Plan	<i>Achievements</i>	<i>Means of Verification</i>
<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 bodies in selected countries (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama and Peru) with respect to the implementation of affirmative action and administrative actions, with a view to disseminating information about difficulties encountered and</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 life and electoral processes in six countries in the region</p>	<p>Component 1. Production of specialized knowledge</p> <p>1.1 During the period under review (September 2006-August 2007), execution of the second stage of the project continued. The results obtained from the research in six countries in the region (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama and Peru) were evaluated and their suitability for comparison was analyzed by formulating a <i>first level of comparison</i> of the results using the model of indicators of progress developed by the IIHR, thus establishing a complementary action of this component. To do this, the national results were systematized to pinpoint common features, differences, gaps and mutual contradictions, and to try to devise a strategy for comparing them. This entailed designing a system of indicators that would make it possible to highlight those points and address certain aspects of the proposed comparative study. As a result, the project now has a matrix of variables and indicators. Information from the six national studies was incorporated for variables 1 and 2 (see variables and additional information in quarterly reports for the period). By the end of the reporting period, the project had received the results of the six country research projects, held a workshop for the researchers from the six countries to share their experiences and the findings of the studies (October 2006), given presentations at the Fifth Congress of RELAJU and published the presentations. To provide follow-up, the head of the project carried out a technical mission to Mexico in May 2007.</p> <p>1.2 Following the mission, the project paved the way for a new process aimed at developing a model of an observatory on the political participation of indigenous peoples that the IIHR could promote and use. This involves three actions: a) use of the results of the six research projects on indigenous political participation; b) new observations in Mexico, combining post-election observation and a set of local elections that took place</p>	<p>Quarterly reports and semiannual report of activities of the Indigenous Peoples and Human Rights Program</p> <p>Systematization and comparative study of the six research projects</p> <p>Matrix of variables and indicators, with information from the 6 countries studied about variables 1 and 2</p> <p>Report on the meeting of researchers held to share and compare the findings (Mexico City, 16/10/2006)</p> <p>6 presentations prepared by the consultants in charge of the research in each country given at the Fifth Congress of Latin American Legal Anthropology Network (RELAJU, Oaxtepec, Morelos, Mexico, 16-20/10/2006)</p> <p>Book containing the 6 presentations with the results of the research</p> <p>Draft version of the <i>Training Manual on indigenous political participation</i>, 2 modules) based on research in six countries</p> <p>Program, invitation issued, list of</p>

<p>good practices used to increase the political participation of indigenous peoples</p>		<p>between May and September; c) observation of the election campaign in Guatemala, where there is an indigenous candidate, using two teams set up in the west of the country, in Huehuetenango and Chimaltenango (a largely indigenous area).</p> <p>1.3 Review and, if necessary, expansion of the two training modules already mentioned, produced for the training course in December 2006.</p> <p>1.4 Development of a proposal for an issue of the <i>Revista IIDH</i>.</p> <p>Component 2. Training and information. a) Production of 2 training modules based on the findings of Component 1, used for the <i>Course-workshop on indigenous political participation</i> for young indigenous leaders representing 14 countries in the region (IIHR, December 2006); b) press release on book <i>Participación política indígena</i> disseminated via specialized bulletins of <i>Diversidades</i> among organizations included in the section's database.</p> <p>Component 3. Dissemination. Updating and uploading of materials related to research topics, through the <i>Diversidades</i> specialized section of the IIHR website. There has been a steady increase in the number of visits to the section, as can be seen from the following statistics compiled using the Webtrends software: As of 1 October 2007, 8893 items were available in the different subsections of <i>Diversidades</i> (<i>Acerca de Nosotros, Documentos, Normativa, Vocabulario, Otros Sitios, Preguntas Frecuentes</i>), plus an up-to-date directory of 420 indigenous and Afro-descendant organizations. An analysis up to 1 October revealed that the specialized section had been visited 82,666 times, an average of 898 times per day, with each visit lasting an average of 15:58 minutes). The total number of visits between August 2006 and September 2007 was 335,356, an average of 833 visits per day that lasted an average of 15:35 minutes. During this reporting period, 1,562 new items were posted on <i>Diversidades</i> and there were 40,210 more visits, which means that the number of visitors increased 48%.</p>	<p>participants, proposed methodology, recording and transcription of the <i>Course-workshop on indigenous political participation</i></p> <p>Report on technical mission to Mexico and proposal for work between May and September 2007</p> <p>Progress report on the election observation process in Guatemala (Huehuetenango and Chimaltenango). The elections were held 09/09/2007)</p> <p>Draft of the study for the creation of an electoral observatory model for Mexican indigenous regions</p> <p>Database on indigenous electoral legislation in 6 countries of the region (<i>Diversidades</i> specialized section and CAPEL)</p> <p>Information available online in <i>Diversidades</i> specialized section of the IIHR website</p> <p>Reports and statistics compiled using the Webtrends software confirming the number of hits and visits to the section</p>
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<i>Activities</i>	Impact Indicators 2006-2007 Work Plan	<i>Achievements</i>	<i>Means of Verification</i>
Applied research on the extent to which the Afro-descendant population in Colombia and Panama is able to exercise its citizens' rights and participate in political life	<p>More knowledge available of the progress made and obstacles encountered by Colombian NGOs and CSOs, electoral tribunals, actors and decision-makers involved in efforts to increase the political participation of the Afro-descendant population</p> <p>Knowledge shared by relatively less</p>	<p>Component 1. Production of specialized knowledge</p> <p>1.1 a) Action research on the inclusive electoral legislation that exists in Panama to promote the progress achieved by the Afro-Panamanian population, under the national project implemented as part of the Promoting a Culture of Inclusion Project (USAID cooperation agreement LAG-A-00-02-0000-00). The ultimate aim is to draft a bill containing affirmative action measures or minimum quotas for the political participation of the Afro-descendant population (this process includes the preparation of a questionnaire and the implementation of a survey among 60 Afro-Panamanians, and a workshop to discuss and validate the ideas proposed for amending current electoral legislation, to determine how much interest exists and whether they are viable); b) testing of the guidelines for a system of indicators of progress on</p>	<p>Quarterly and semiannual reports of activities of the Program to Combat Racism</p> <p>Book containing the presentations made at the <i>Panel of experts to assess the situation regarding the political participation of the Afro-descendant population in Colombia</i></p> <p>Document containing the findings of the action research on inclusive electoral legislation in Panama and proposals</p> <p>Questionnaire, prompt questions for</p>

<p>Objective:</p> <p>To enhance the capabilities of the Afro-descendant population and organizations that monitor and engage in advocacy in political-electoral processes</p>	<p>developed countries about the experience of the Afro-descendant population in Colombia vis-à-vis political participation</p> <p>More information available about the actions of electoral organizations with respect to measures that encourage or hinder the participation of the Afro-descendant population in political life and electoral processes in Colombia and Panama</p>	<p>the legal protection of the right to political participation of the Afro-descendant community, based on the Declaration and Action Plan of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (Durban, South Africa, 2001).</p> <p>1.2 New edition of the glossary of terms on xenophobia, racism, exclusion and discrimination. This expanded version includes: a) a redefinition of the scope of the glossary; b) more and better documentary sources; c) a compilation of sources; d) a revision of the text of the previous version; and, e) the inclusion of new terms and the expansion of the ones already included. This will make it possible to update and develop one of the components of <i>Diversidades</i>, the specialized section of the IIHR website, which is one of the main tools for disseminating information produced by the project.</p> <p>Component 2. Training and information/dissemination</p> <p>Publication of the book containing the presentations given at <i>Panel of experts to assess the situation regarding the political participation of the Afro-descendant population in Colombia</i> (Cali, Colombia, 25/07/06).</p> <p>Project staff continued to disseminate the latest information about project activities and specialized information via <i>Diversidades</i>, on the IIHR website (for statistics, see previous section).</p>	<p>survey, survey, record, codes and tabulations for research</p> <p>Matrix of a system of indicators on the group of rights of Afro-descendant communities</p> <p>Matrix of a subsystem of indicators on rights to political participation of Afro-descendant communities</p> <p>Terms of reference and progress report on the process of revising the glossary of terms on xenophobia, racism, exclusion and discrimination</p> <p>Digital information available in the <i>Diversidades</i> specialized section of the IIHR website</p> <p>Reports and statistics compiled using the Webtrends software, confirming the number of hits and visits to the section</p>
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INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF HUMAN RIGHTS

ANNUAL PROJECT REPORT BY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

September 2006 - August 2007

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

FINAL GOAL: To design and promote the implementation of citizen security plans and policies in the countries of the region

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR: The IIHR used US\$145,880.84 of the budget approved for the period 01-01-07 through 30-09-07 to facilitate the conditions required to enhance the capacity of institutions and civil society for tackling the problem of citizen insecurity from the perspective of human rights, by means of technical assistance and training activities with the participation of state entities (Interior Ministry, National Police and local authorities) and over 100 community leaders in the Dominican Republic. The IIHR also implemented a citizen security meeting in Central America that involved senior officials from eight Central American and Caribbean countries (Interior and Security Ministries; Attorney Generals' Offices and Public Prosecutor's Offices; Presidents of Legislative Assemblies; Directors of the National Police and Prison Systems). The meeting was used to validate a document on the design and implementation of public citizen security policies on which regional consensus had been achieved, entitled "Citizen Security in Latin America: A proposal prepared by the IIHR." Following the document's validation at the meeting in Central America (and at the earlier meeting involving the MERCOSUR countries, held in 2006), the project published a final version.

NON-FLEXIBLE INDICATORS OF USAID:

Number of Civil Society Organizations Receiving USG Assistance in Security Sector Oversight and Advocacy
Achieved in FY-2007 (Oct '06–Sep 07): 37

Number of Government Officials Undergoing USG-assisted security sector governance training
Achieved in FY-2007 (Oct 06–Sep 07): 124

Six-month Goal 1 (2006): To consolidate the process of security sector reform, as part of the implementation of a public citizen security policy in the Dominican Republic

Activities	Impact Indicators 2006 Work Plan	Achievements	Means of verification
<p>Technical assistance to support the implementation of the Public Citizen Security Policy in the Dominican Republic</p> <p>Objective: 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>Enhanced institutional capabilities for designing and implementing measures to guarantee personal security, as part of a public security policy in the Dominican Republic</p>	<p>The project continued to support the reform process under way in the country since 2003. Between October and December 2006, the staff continued to provide technical assistance to the Dominican Republic by holding a seminar 27-28 November 2006 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. The Seminar was entitled “Citizen Security in the Dominican Constitution: Challenges posed and opportunities offered by the proposed Constitutional Amendment.” Holding a seminar at which a variety of proposed constitutional amendments related to citizen security were drafted was a big step 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>Report on the mission to the Dominican Republic</p> <p>Thematic and methodological program of the Seminar</p> <p>Comparative study on the topic of security in Latin American constitutions as the base document of the seminar</p> <p>Participation of 50 institutional actors and civil society in the seminar</p> <p>Proposal containing recommendations was delivered to the Executive Branch</p>

Six-month Goal 2 (2006): To enhance institutional capabilities for devising and implementing democratic citizen security policies and for cooperation between the subregions of Latin America (Central America and MERCOSUR)

Activities	Impact Indicators 2006 Work Plan	Achievements	Means of verification
<p>Support the formulation 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 subregions of Latin America to prevent organized transnational crime</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 subregions of Latin America in a collective effort to prevent organized transnational crime</p>	<p>The most important achievement during the period under review was the implementation of the Regional Meeting on Citizen Security, held 6-7 December. Organized by the IIHR and sponsored by Chile's Interior Ministry, it took place at the headquarters of ECLAC. The meeting brought together 20 senior citizen security officials from the Member States and Associate Members of MERCOSUR (Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, Venezuela, Paraguay, Chile, Bolivia, Ecuador, 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 from 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 Human Rights," which 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, Chile's Interior Minister; Sandra Morelli, a member of the IIHR Board of Directors; and José Antonio Viera-Gallo, a former Chilean senator and currently Security Minister. The meeting provided an opportunity to discuss the main elements of the proposal, namely: 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, Deputy Interior Minister of Chile; Juan Faroppa, Deputy Interior Minister of Uruguay; Arturo Herrera, Director of Chile's Detective Police and current Vice President of INTERPOL; and foreign experts Carlos Basombrío (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</p>	<p>List of participants in the Regional Security Meeting (20 senior security officials from the MERCOSUR countries)</p> <p>Program of the Regional Meeting</p> <p>Regional document presented at the meeting</p>

		and was followed by the Central American Meeting, held in San Jose in March 2007.	
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Annual Goal 1 (2007): To consolidate the process of security sector reform, as part of the implementation of a public citizen security policy in the Dominican Republic

Activities	Impact Indicators 2007 Work Plan	Achievements	Means of verification
<p>Technical assistance to support the implementation of the Public Citizen Security Policy in the Dominican Republic</p> <p>Objective: 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>Enhanced institutional capabilities for devising 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 police oversight</p>	<p>June 2007 saw the start of a strategy aimed at the Prevention of Juvenile Violence in the Dominican Republic, using the Multiple Response System. This system, which will be implemented in three phases, is designed to create and develop capabilities within communities for preventing violence at the local level. The first phase was carried out during a mission from 18 to 23 July and the second phase during a mission from 27 August to 2 September.</p> <p>The team of consultants in charge of implementing the System was led by Marcelo Koyra, of the Ministry of Security of the Province of Buenos Aires (Argentina).</p> <p>The first mission/phase was used to establish the political agreements that would make it possible to implement the actions required. Therefore, it was coordinated with the Secretariat of the Interior and the Police. The neighborhoods where the strategy was to be implemented were also identified (Bocachica and Ciudad Colonial). The parties then agreed on a work plan. The second mission was used to hold the first workshop in the selected neighborhoods. A total of 100 community leaders took part (50 from each of the two neighborhoods). It will not be possible to carry out the third phase, which involves strengthening the implementation of the System, with USAID funds, since no more will be provided for this project after September 2007. However, the IIHR has programmed a final political-institutional mission to the country for the formal, official conclusion of the process and to undertake a comprehensive evaluation of the results. This mission will take place before the end of 2007, instead of the seminar programmed for August 2007 (in the Plan for January-September 2007) and will not entail any additional expenditure by USAID.</p>	<p>Reports on the missions to the Dominican Republic</p> <p>Evaluations by the participants in the workshops</p>

Annual Goal 2 (2007): To enhance institutional capabilities for devising and implementing democratic citizen security policies and for cooperation between the subregions of Latin America (Central America and MERCOSUR)

Activities	Impact Indicators 2007 Work Plan	Achievements	Means of verification
<p>Support the formulation of democratic public citizen security policies at the regional level</p> <p>Objective: To enhance the institutional capabilities for devising and implementing democratic public citizen security policies, and cooperation and consensus-building among the subregions of Latin America to prevent organized transnational crime</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 respect for human rights</p> <p>Enhanced cooperation and consensus among the sub-regions of Latin America in a collective effort to combat violence and crime</p>	<p>Regional Meeting of High-level Citizen Security Officials from Central America, held 19-20 March in San Jose, Costa Rica. This regional activity was sponsored by the Ministry of Justice of Costa Rica and attended by senior officials from the Member States and associate members of the SICA (Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Panama, the Dominican Republic, Belize and Costa Rica). A regional activity, it was sponsored by the Ministry of Justice and Interior of Costa Rica and attended by senior officials from the Central American countries. The participants included the Minister of Internal Affairs of Belize, the Deputy Minister of the Interior of Guatemala, attorney generals and their representatives, police commissioners and deputy commissioners, and directors of prison systems from Belize, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama. The experts involved included Carlos Basombrío (Peru); Hugo Acero (Colombia); Francisco Rojas (Chile); Michael Reed Hurtado (Colombia); Carmen Rosa de León (Guatemala); Franco Montealegre (Nicaragua); and several senior Justice and Interior Ministry officials from Costa Rica.</p> <p>The officials responsible for citizen security who took part in the Central American Meeting reached a consensus and validated the document “Citizen Security in Latin America: A proposal prepared by the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights.”</p> <p>As a result of the MERCOSUR and Central American meetings, the project published the final version of the document “Citizen Security in Latin America: A proposal prepared by the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights.” The publication was launched in June.</p> <p>Close coordination among the institutions involved in the issue at the regional level (ministries, judicial branches, attorney generals’ offices, prison systems, national police forces)</p>	<p>Edited, published version of the document “Citizen security in Latin America: A proposal prepared by the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights”</p> <p>Program of the meeting</p>

INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF HUMAN RIGHTS

**ANNUAL PROJECT REPORT BY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR
September 2006 - August 2007**

PROJECT: STRENGTHENING THE OMBUDSMAN IN LATIN AMERICA

FINAL GOAL: To make ombudsman offices more accessible, independent and better equipped to solve and channel citizens' problems; and to implement actions that have a positive impact on the development of ombudsman offices

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR: the IIHR used US\$62,863.67 of the budget approved for the period 01-01-07 through 30-09-07 to achieve its goals of expanding the mandate of two ombudsman institutions in the Caribbean, limited previously to oversight of the Public Administration, to include the protection of human rights, and of consolidating the work of three ombudsman institutions in Central America for the advancement of human rights. The Institute also worked to involve the five ombudsman institutions in question in the workings of the Inter-American System, and strengthened the regional ombudsman networks.

NON-FLEXIBLE INDICATORS OF USAID:

- 1. Number of USG supported National Human Rights Commissions and Other Independent State Institutions Charged by Law with Protecting and Promoting Human Rights that actively pursued allegations of human rights abuses during the year:**

Achieved in FY-2007 (Oct '06–Sep 07): 16

Goal 1 (2006-2007): To enhance the capabilities of ombudsman offices in Latin America and the Caribbean through an integrated information and communication system

Activities	Impact Indicators 2007 Work Plan	Achievements	Means of Verification
<p>Updating of the integrated information and communication system for ombudsman offices in Latin America and the Caribbean</p> <p>Objective: To consolidate and strengthen an information and communication system for ombudsman offices in Latin America and the Caribbean</p>	<p>Capabilities of ombudsman offices in Latin America and the Caribbean enhanced by means of an integrated information and communication system</p> <p>Ombudsman institutions better equipped to provide a rapid response to crises, conflicts and internal disturbances</p> <p>More visitors to the different subsections availing themselves</p>	<p>Project staff prepared full text versions of all the publications of the Ombudsman and Human Rights Program for uploading to the Ombudsnet. The process of uploading them also got under way. Specialized webliographies were created on the Inter-American Human Rights System and on migrants, as they are issues of interest to ombudsman institutions.</p> <p>The various subsections of the Ombudsnet specialized section were updated.</p> <p>Project staff systematized, analyzed and incorporated information and news from different sources (around 280 books and 330 pages of digitized articles).</p> <p>The staff updated the complete directory containing information about all the ombudsman offices in the region.</p> <p>With regard to the two discussion forums, 24 bulletins were sent</p>	<p>Materials and documents in the Ombudsnet specialized section</p> <p>www.iidh.ed.cr/comunidades/ombudsnet</p> <p>Record of hits or visits to the specialized section:</p> <p>www.iidh.ed.cr/comunidades/ombudsnet</p>

	of the services offered by the specialized section	out between September and December 2006 and 31 between January and August 2007 to the English-speaking list of CAROA (Caribbean Ombudsman Association); and 30 between September and December 2007 and 58 between January and August 2007 to the Spanish-speaking Ombudsnet list. Both represented an increase over the previous period. During the period covered by this report, a growing number of people visited the Ombudsnet and spent more time studying the information available. Between September and December 2006, there were 38,587 visitors, and between January and September 2007, there were 482,024 visitors, an average of 1789 per day.	
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Goal 2 (2007): To support the ombudsman offices in Central America by consolidating cooperation between the Central American Council of Human Rights Ombudsman (CCPDH) and the Caribbean Ombudsman Association (CAROA)

Activities	Impact Indicators 2007 Work Plan	Achievements	Means of Verification
<p>Meeting between the members of the Central American Council of Human Rights Ombudsman (CCPDH) and the Caribbean Ombudsman Association (CAROA)</p> <p>Objective: To strengthen the alliances and work of the CCPDH and CAROA through the sharing of experiences and the discussion of mutual concerns</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 two groupings</p> <p>Stronger mandate for the defense of human rights in the countries whose ombudsman belong to the CCPDH and CAROA</p> <p>Strengthening and consolidation of the ombudsman institutions that are members of CAROA and the CCPDH</p> <p>Greater knowledge of the Inter-American Human Rights Protection System, its bodies and its jurisprudence</p>	<p>The first meeting of the members of the CCPDH and CAROA took place 29-31 January 2007, in San Jose, Costa Rica. A total of 40 people took part, including the heads of the ombudsman offices of Central America and the Caribbean and at least one other official from each of them. The ombudsman offices of Belize, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Bermuda, Barbados, Curaçao, Grand Cayman, Haiti, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Saint Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago were represented at the activity.</p> <p>The two associations set up a forum that will be known as the “Joint Forum of Members of the CCPDH and CAROA,” to increase cooperation among them by means of activities such as the sharing of experiences and the implementation of joint activities on topics of mutual interest. They will also use the Forum to enrich and provide mutual support for the execution of their respective activities.</p> <p>Initially, the organizations plan to give priority to the following areas of work: a) governance, b) the environment, c) education, d) health, e) the implementation of good practices by means of exchanges of officials, f) research and g) training in the mechanisms of the international human rights systems. To train the staff of ombudsman offices, the following three online courses were translated: <i>Basic course on the universal</i></p>	<p>Work Agenda and Program of the first meeting of the members of the CCPDH and CAROA</p> <p>Proposed Joint Work of the Central American Council of Human Rights Ombudsman (CCPDH) and the Caribbean Ombudsman Association (CAROA)</p> <p>Resolution of the Central American Council of Human Rights Ombudsman and the Caribbean Ombudsman Association (CAROA) following the first meeting of the members of the two organizations</p>

		<i>system for the protection of human rights (parts 1 and 2); Basic course on economic, social and cultural rights; and, Course on the internal mechanisms of human rights promotion and protection.</i>	Framework strategic plan of the CCPDH
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INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF HUMAN RIGHTS

**ANNUAL PROJECT REPORT BY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR
September 2006 - August 2007**

PROJECT: RAPID RESPONSE SYSTEM

Final Goal: To provide a technical and academic response, from a human rights perspective, to specific, emerging situations in the region that pose a threat to democratic governability and the effective exercise of human rights, when both USAID and the IIHR are in favor of such action

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR: the IIHR used the US\$49,776.33 of the budget approved for the period 01-10-07 through 30-09-08 to better equip state institutions and civil society networks to detect and respond to institutional weaknesses that pose a threat to human rights and democratic governability in any country where such action is required. Specifically, for this period the IIHR and USAID will develop a proposal for strengthening political parties in Peru.

Although there have been moments of political tension in the Andean Region (in Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru, for example) and the problem of citizen insecurity continues to grow in Central America, during the period covered by this report neither the public institutions and civil society of the countries concerned, nor USAID, asked the IIHR to intervene at the most critical times. When it is asked to do so, the IIHR will work with USAID to draft a plan of action to respond rapidly to the specific situation in question.

USAID has suggested the possibility of undertaking work to strengthen political parties in Peru during 2008. Accordingly, USAID and the IIHR will design an action plan together for providing a rapid response on this matter.

Under its regular programs, the IIHR has performed technical work in the countries that have experienced the most difficult political situations during the period under review.

INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF HUMAN RIGHTS

**ANNUAL PROJECT REPORT BY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR
September 2006-August 2007**

PROJECT: STRENGTHENING ELECTORAL INSTITUTIONS

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

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR: the IIHR used the US\$245,944.69 of the budget approved for the period 01-01-07 through 30-09-07 to equip 28 electoral bodies to organize more effective and transparent electoral processes in the countries concerned, by providing technical training and making more up-to-date knowledge of political-electoral topics available in the region.

NON-FLEXIBLE INDICATORS OF USAID:

1. Number of election officials trained with US Government assistance (if possible, state # men & # women):

Achieved in FY-2007 (Oct '06–Sep 07): 49 (37 men & 12 women)

Target FY-2008 (Oct 07–Sep 08): 115

2. Number of electoral observation missions mobilized:

Achieved in FY-2007 (Oct 06–Sep 07): 9

Target FY-2008 (Oct 07–Sep 08): 3 (Costa Rica, Paraguay, Dominican Republic)

Annual Goal 1 (2006-2007): To consolidate the activities of the Inter-American Electoral Network aimed at strengthening the electoral bodies			
Activities	Impact Indicators 2006-2007 Work Plan	Achievements	Means of Verification
<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</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>Between September 2006 and August 2007, the project continued to update the data on several of the region's electoral organizations. Between October and December 2006, information was deleted from the database about electoral judges who no longer work for the electoral bodies of Mexico, the Dominican Republic, Colombia, Brazil and Ecuador. The data on four electoral organizations (Mexico, Panama, Ecuador and Costa Rica) was updated.</p> <p>The most important task was the launch of the revamped IIHR/CAPEL Web page in the form of a portal that offers users information, specialized knowledge and services in an organized, standardized way.</p> <p>Three publications were uploaded to the Web page: (1) An article by Fernando Tuesta and Tatiana Mendieta entitled "Hecha la ley,</p>	<p>Mailing list of Inter-American Electoral Network: 566 people (Oct-Dec 06), 591 (January-June 07), 600 (July-Sept 07).</p> <p>UNIORE newsletters (63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70) in Spanish and English, and 71 in Spanish</p> <p>Updating of table of election results in Latin</p>

	<p>Easier access to up-to-date political and electoral information</p> <p>Greater easy access of political-electoral information up-to-date.</p>	<p>¿hecha la trampa? Una evaluación del financiamiento de los partidos políticos”; (2) Useful data and statistics; (3) Updated version of the table of election results in Latin America. Two new sections were created: Education and Training and Political Parties.</p> <p>The SINE-Panama generated news items on electoral and political topics in Latin America that were uploaded to the Web page (at least 15 per day between Jan. and June 07 and 25 per day between July and Sept. 07).</p> <p>The book Memoria del XII Curso Interamericano de Elecciones y Democracia was uploaded to the Web page.</p> <p>Uploaded to the Education and Training section: 7 training manuals and documents from Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic and Venezuela, and the electoral jurisprudence of Mexico.</p>	<p>America</p> <p>IIHR/CAPEL Web page (www.iidh.ed.cr/capel)</p>
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Activities	Impact Indicators 2006 Work Plan	Achievements	Means of Verification
<p>Quito Protocol</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <p>To foster dialogue among the South American electoral bodies</p> <p>To keep South American electoral officials abreast of the activities of the Inter-American Electoral Network</p>	<p>The electoral bodies have more specialized technical knowledge about each other’s functional independence</p> <p>Progress in updating the work program of the Association of Electoral Bodies (Quito Protocol)</p> <p>More and stronger alliances of electoral organizations for joint activities on technical electoral matters</p>	<p>The 12th Conference of the Quito Protocol was held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, from 7-9 November 2006, co-sponsored by the National Electoral Court of Bolivia (CNE). The theme of the event was “Electoral bodies and their functional independence as specialized entities”. The participants included 21 delegates from members of the Quito Protocol, 3 members of the Executive Secretariat (IIHR/CAPEL) and 3 experts specializing in the theme of the conference: Fernando Ojesto Martínez Porcado, a former member of the Electoral Tribunal of the Federal Judicial Branch of Mexico; Rafael Roncagliolo, Director of the International Idea project Political Reform for the Andean Countries; and Torcuato Jardim, a well-known Brazilian academic.</p> <p>The conference facilitated the sharing of experiences and information and wide-ranging discussions of the functional independence of electoral bodies.</p>	<p>Web page of the Inter-American Electoral Network (www.iidh.ed.cr/capel)</p> <p>UNIORE newsletters</p> <p>Agreements of the 12th Conference of the Quito Protocol</p> <p>Report of the Executive Secretariat</p>

Activities	Impact Indicators 2007 Work Plan	Achievements	Means of Verification
<p>Tikal Protocol</p> <p>Objectives: To foster dialogue among the electoral organizations of Central America and the Caribbean</p> <p>To keep electoral officials in Central America and the Caribbean abreast of the activities of the Inter-American Electoral Network</p>	<p>Electoral organizations have more specialized technical knowledge about the topics addressed at the conference</p> <p>More and stronger partnerships of electoral organizations leading to joint actions on technical electoral matters</p> <p>The work program of the electoral organizations was updated as a consequence of the agreements adopted at the conference</p> <p>More active members of the Association</p>	<p>The 21st Conference of the Association of Electoral Bodies of Central America and the Caribbean (Tikal Protocol) was held 25-26 June 2007 in El Salvador. The theme of the event was “Electoral Jurisprudence in the Americas” and the participants included 28 judges and officials (20 men and 8 women) from the electoral bodies of Antigua and Barbuda, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Panama and Saint Lucia, and 5 IHR/CAPEL officials. The participants learned about developments regarding the technical approaches and jurisprudence of the region’s electoral bodies related to areas such as political participation and inclusion, the resolutions adopted in parliamentary systems, the regulation and internal democratization of parties, close-run electoral processes, and regulations governing opinion polls and the media.</p> <p>Four new members from the electoral organizations joined the Network and are playing an active role.</p> <p>The conference strengthened the members’ commitment to setting up a database of jurisprudence that the electoral organizations can use to obtain comparative information.</p> <p>The members adopted agreements to update the Association’s work program.</p> <p>The conference decided to focus on the political participation of women and civil and electoral registries as part of the Association’s future activities.</p>	<p>Report of the 21st Conference of the Tikal Protocol</p> <p>List of delegates to the 21st Conference of the Tikal Protocol</p> <p>10 updated assessments, one from each of the Central American and Caribbean countries that are members the Tikal Protocol, on the scope and issues currently covered by electoral jurisprudence in the Americas, available on CAPEL’s Web page (www.iidh.ed.cr/capel)</p> <p>Agreements of the conferences, available on CAPEL’s Web page (www.iidh.ed.cr/capel)</p>

Activities	Impact Indicators 2006-2007 Work Plan	Achievements	Means of Verification
<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 related to the associations of electoral bodies</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>Nine newsletters were circulated between September 2006 and August 2007 via the distribution list. The UNIORE newsletters continued to be well received. In emails received, the users of the Network thanked the IIHR/CAPEL for sending them the information and endorsed the newsletters' content.</p>	<p>Inter-American Electoral Network</p> <p>Specialized section of the IIHR's Web page (www.iidh.ed.cr/capel)</p> <p>UNIORE newsletters (63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70) in Spanish and English, and 71 in Spanish</p> <p>Distribution list: 566 people (Oct-Dec 06), 591 people (Jan-June 07), 600 people (July-Sept 07) (In the process of being updated)</p> <p>Emails sent to the IIHR/CAPEL</p>

Annual Goal 2 (2006-2007): To strengthen selected electoral organizations and those engaged in electoral and political reform processes in 2006 and 2007

Activities	Impact Indicators 2006-2007 Work Plan	Achievements	Means of Verification
<p>Horizontal Cooperation Missions</p> <p>Objective:</p> <p>To share and transfer know-how and experiences among electoral bodies</p>	<p>Electoral legislation or practices modified as a result of the implementation of recommendations or lessons learned from the missions</p> <p>The members of the Inter-American Electoral Network have more comparative knowledge of electoral legislation and practices</p>	<p>Between October and December 2006, the IIHR/CAPEL carried out horizontal cooperation missions in: Ecuador (first round of presidential elections on 15 October, second round on 26 November); Panama (referendum on the widening of the Canal, 22 October); Nicaragua (general elections on 5 November); Peru (municipal elections on 19 November); Costa Rica (local elections - municipal and district elections on 3 December).</p> <p>The IIHR/CAPEL also organized a horizontal cooperation mission at the request of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal of Ecuador, to observe the referendum held on 15 April 2007. Some 20 observers took part, from Bolivia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, Colombia, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico, Uruguay and Venezuela, plus 4 IIHR/CAPEL officials. The mission produced a report containing technical recommendations: aspects that could be improved, including training and incentives for polling officers, the information provided to voters, the posting of signs, location of polling places, and the secrecy of the vote.</p> <p>No electoral reforms were enacted but the missions continue to provide local officials with plenty of ideas for possible reforms and specific improvements to electoral practices.</p>	<p>Summary of Conclusions of the Evaluation Sessions held following the elections in Ecuador, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru and Costa Rica</p> <p>UNIORE newsletters (63, 64, 65)</p> <p>Report containing technical recommendations - horizontal cooperation mission to Ecuador</p> <p>International Electoral News Service (SINE)</p>

Activities	Impact Indicators 2007 Work Plan	Achievements	Means of Verification
<p>Exploratory Missions</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <p>To keep up-to-date the table of technical needs of members of the Inter-American Electoral Network</p> <p>To identify areas in which assistance is needed to enhance the technical capabilities of the electoral bodies</p>	<p>Updating of technical needs in the electoral field</p> <p>Progress in identifying areas for technical assistance</p>	<p>The IIHR/CAPEL and the International Training and Research Center carried out an exploratory mission to the Dominican Republic on 15 August 2007, at the initiative of the United Nations in Mexico. The aim was to determine how the two institutions could work with the Central Electoral Board in the run up to the elections scheduled for 16 May 2008, particularly in regard to the Board's training plans. José Thompson and Ricardo Valverde took advantage of the visit to meet with INTEC and UNIBE and Participación Ciudadana, to plan new actions aimed at strengthening political parties in that country.</p>	<p>Mission report</p>

Activities	Impact Indicators 2007 Work Plan	Achievements	Means of Verification
<p>Applied research</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <p>To generate specialized doctrine to support the Inter-American Electoral Network</p> <p>To meet the need for up-to-date information in areas and on issues that the Executive Secretariat is asked expressly to provide</p>	<p>More comparative knowledge related to political rights and electoral processes</p> <p>Dissemination and exchange of up-to-date information to support the activities of the Inter-American Electoral Network</p>	<p>The preparations were made for one of the four publications (the publication on electoral jurisprudence). The main preparatory activity was the Meeting on electoral jurisprudence, held 7-8 June in San Jose, Costa Rica. Seven judges and officials from the Supreme Elections Tribunal of Costa Rica (TSE), the Electoral Tribunal of the Federal Judicial Branch of Mexico (TRIFE) and the Electoral Tribunal of Panama (TE) took part, plus 4 IIHR/CAPEL officials.</p> <p>The staff also began work on another publication, on close-run elections and experiences in several countries of the region that were significant in terms of the democratic institutional fabric, civil society and the political parties. A comparative analysis of this issue was undertaken at a forum with political parties held on 7 August in Guatemala, which was followed by an initial revision of the publication's content.</p>	<p>Results presented during the 21st Conference of the Association of Electoral Bodies of Central America and the Caribbean (Tikal Protocol), 25-26 June 2007</p>

INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF HUMAN RIGHTS

**ANNUAL PROJECT REPORT BY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR
September 2006 - August 2007**

PROJECT: EQUAL REPRESENTATION AND POLITICAL PARTY REFORM

FINAL GOAL: To enhance the organizational and management capabilities of political parties (efficiency and effectiveness), with special emphasis on the issues of institutionalization, democratization and transparency, which are vital to make democracies more legitimate and advance human rights in Latin America

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR: the IIHR used the US\$77,940.00 of the budget approved for the period 01-10-07 through 30-09-08 to enable national proposals related to the democratization, institutionalization or transparency of political parties to be developed in at least two countries of the region.

Annual Goal 1 - 2006: 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	Impact Indicators 2006 Work Plan	Achievements	Means of Verification
<p>Identification of countries for national-level actions</p> <p>Objective:</p> <p>To identify the countries in which intensive efforts will be made to implement pilot experiences with the political parties interested in taking part</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 proposal intended to be used as the basis for the preparation of specific national agendas for each country; and of the Strategic Plan for Strengthening Political Parties in Latin America in Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Dominican Republic, Ecuador and Guatemala.</p> <p>During its initial missions to the Dominican Republic and Argentina, the IIHR-CAPEL updated the partnerships with academic entities and specialized citizen action organizations; and renewed its contacts with various actors to fine-tune the details related to the efforts to set priorities and prepare national agendas on this issue.</p>	<p>Strategic Plan for Strengthening Political Parties in Latin America</p> <p>Reports of initial missions to Dominican Republic and Argentina</p> <p>UNIORE Newsletter #68 (March 2007)</p>

Annual Goal 1: National projects to strengthen political parties, to be developed in at least five countries of Latin America.

Activities	Impact Indicators 2006-2007 Work Plan	Achievements	Means of Verification
<p>Project to Strengthen Political Parties in the Dominican Republic</p> <p>Objective: To prepare a Strategic National Action Plan that establishes priorities for the thematic emphases of institutionalization, democratization and transparency</p>	<p>Strategic stakeholders agreed on the need to strengthen political parties</p> <p>National Plan for Strengthening Political Parties agreed with the political parties and other stakeholders keen to advance democracy</p>	<p>From 10-12 July, Program Officer Ricardo Valverde held working meetings with the Central Electoral Board of the Dominican Republic to explore possible areas of collaboration and technical assistance, based on the principle of horizontal cooperation among the region's electoral organizations. He held working meetings with the Political Management Program to discuss possible future activities in the country designed to implement the content of the IIHR-CAPEL's Strategic Plan for Strengthening Political Parties. During this mission, a working meeting took place with USAID's Democracy unit in the Dominican Republic.</p>	<p>Mission Report</p> <p>Meeting report</p>

Activities	Impact Indicators 2006-2007 Work Plan	Achievements	Means of Verification
<p>Project to promote the transparency of political parties in Argentina, in the run up to the 2007 elections</p> <p>Objective: To enhance the internal capabilities of the political parties so they can meet the standards of transparency established in Argentine legislation</p>	<p>Strategic stakeholders agreed on the need to strengthen political parties</p> <p>The political parties are better equipped to ensure they comply with the aspects of transparency established in Argentine legislation</p>	<p>The Director of the IIHR-CAPEL, José Thompson, and Program Officer Ricardo Valverde made a preparatory visit to Buenos Aires, Argentina, from 17-19 May to reestablish contacts with the political parties and meet with the civil society organizations Poder Ciudadano and Unidos del Sud. These organizations have broad experience in the fields of advocacy and the social auditing of political and electoral matters. A further two visits (1- 7 July and 29 July- August) were made to Argentina to discuss with the Poder Ciudadano and Unidos del Sud foundations the outlook for the IIHR-CAPEL's work and various bilateral projects due to be implemented in 2008 related to the strengthening of political parties. The organizations and the IIHR-CAPEL agreed to seek resources for them.</p>	<p>Strategic Plan for Strengthening Political Parties in Latin America</p> <p>Meeting reports</p>