



## 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 2007 - AUGUST 2008

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 2007-August 2008.

The strengthening Ombudsman Institutions in Latin America and the Citizen Security Projects both terminated in September 2007, and are therefore not included in this report.

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 30-09-08, 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.
- 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 governance are on the rise.

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:**

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 2007 and August 2008 toward the IIHR's performance indicators established for each **Line of Action** under the IIHR-USAID Cooperative Agreement:

### **Promoting a culture of inclusion**

The goal of the Promoting a Culture of Inclusion Project 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, and thereby strengthen inclusive democracy, governability and the Rule of Law. The main tool for achieving that goal is the production and dissemination of specialized research to address the problem of the lack of information and analysis available. By providing better tools and knowledge, the project aims to help reduce the gap between legal (*de jure*) equality and real (*de facto*) equality, so the segments of the population mentioned can enjoy and exercise their human rights.

To that end, during the period covered by this report (September 2007 - August 2008) the project continued to implement its work strategy and implemented the following actions:

- Assessment, with recommendations for action, of the impact of equal opportunity legislation on public policies and on the institutionalization of equality and gender equity.
- Assessment of the participation of women and indigenous and Afro-descendant populations in political and civic life, promoting its institutionalization, particularly in electoral bodies, pursuant to national legislation on the issue.
- Specialized information to facilitate the advocacy efforts of CSOs working on behalf of the rights of the target populations, furnishing information about the scope and potential use of positive legislation on equality and political rights, so they can monitor its implementation and establish links with related public bodies to make their voices heard.
- Public dissemination and dissemination via the IIHR website and in various forums in different Latin American countries of the findings of the research.

The actions carried out during the period under review included: a) assessments and impact analyses of legislation that fosters gender equality; b) research on and analyses of the application of the quota mechanism (and, in both cases, dissemination of the results of the work); c) assessments and analyses of the participation of indigenous populations in political and civic life, to consolidate democracy and governability in the region; and, d) assessments and analyses of the access that the Afro-descendant population enjoys to its citizens' rights and political participation, to promote and strengthen them.

The work strategy consisted of a joint effort, involving the Department of Civil Society Entities and the Center for Electoral Promotion and Assistance (IIHR/CAPEL), that boosted 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

**Equal opportunity laws** facilitate the definition of State policies on the subject and are a means of implementing the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), as various UN and ECLAC studies have concluded. Legislation on the subject evolved slowly in Latin America. Between 1990 and 2003, five such laws were enacted, compared with the 30 specific laws to combat domestic violence against women that were passed shortly after the ratification of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women. This shows that, in the social and political arenas, women are still perceived more as being vulnerable and in need of protection than as subjects of rights.

As mentioned previously, the research findings revealed that the implementation of the legislation in the five countries varied. It was related directly to the political will of different government administrations, the progress made in developing the formulation and implementation of public policies and, especially, to the development of the institutional framework and the Rule of Law. By making the research findings available and disseminating them publicly the project is facilitating corrective actions and the monitoring of the level of implementation of the legislation concerned. The research is also a tool and source of information for the execution of similar initiatives in other Latin American countries, taking into account the existence of a "new generation" of legislation on the subject. Four countries (Mexico, Peru, Uruguay and Nicaragua) have enacted legislation on gender equality since 2006 and other countries, such as El Salvador and Venezuela, are discussing the issue. It should be remembered that in the previous phase the project facilitated dissemination and advocacy work in Peru aimed at creating an enabling environment for a bill on gender equality that was before congress. The process finally resulted in the enactment of the law in 2007.

Disseminating the research findings, both via the specialized section of the IIHR website (*DerechosMujer*) and during on-site activities in different countries and forums has made it possible for a wide audience - from both public institutions and civil society - to learn about and draw on this knowledge (a total of 209 people in on-site activities alone). Distributing the publication widely will build on the coverage already achieved.

It is no secret that minimum **quotas** for women's political participation play a key role in increasing women's representation and participation in political life and the number of women who hold elected office, as the information about the implementation of quotas in the 11 countries of the region demonstrated.

The research showed that the failure to permit women to fully exercise their political rights is a problem of democracy and that electoral bodies play an important role in supervising quota mechanisms and taking action to ensure they are implemented effectively. The relationship between electoral systems and quotas is key, because "open list" or single candidate systems cannot guarantee results. Quotas are most effective in systems based on proportional representation that use "closed lists" and when the law establishes that women must be given access to elected posts. The research also relates quota mechanisms to the most recent developments in Latin America. A number of countries in the region (e.g., Costa Rica, Bolivia and Ecuador) are discussing ways of incorporating parity into electoral legislation, to make the qualitative leap from quotas to equal numbers of women and men holding elected office.

The project's specialized contribution will provide electoral tribunals and civil society organizations with tools to ensure that the quota system is implemented properly. Countries that are discussing quota mechanisms (such as El Salvador and Venezuela) can also draw on the information and learning, and the input will be useful for the debate on parity. That was the view expressed by the delegates of the electoral bodies at the Ninth Conference, who said the research findings were very useful for them in their work.

Disseminating the research findings, both via the specialized section of the IIHR website (*DerechosMujer*) and in on-site activities in different countries and forums has made it possible for a wide audience - from both public institutions and civil society - to learn about and use this knowledge (a total of 475 people in the on-site activities alone). Distributing the publication widely among the electoral bodies and different organizations will build on the coverage already achieved.

## **INDIGENOUS POPULATIONS**

Between 2006 and 2007, the project carried out two sets of activities. The first was related to efforts to determine the rules and regulations governing the political participation of the indigenous population; the second, to the development of alternative models of observatories of electoral participation in indigenous regions. The studies and other components of these two activities, and comparative analyses, were carried out in several countries of the region (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama and Peru). Substantial progress was made in understanding these processes and their impact, and how they could affect the future of indigenous movements and their organizations and democratic development in Latin America. The countries were selected based on the progress made with, and increase in, the political participation of indigenous movements. The results were published in the book *Estudios sobre participación política indígena. Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama and Peru*, whose first print run of 1000 copies was exhausted. The publication was presented in several countries of the region (Bolivia, Colombia, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua and Panama) and disseminated via the *Diversidades* specialized section of the IIHR website.

In the cases of both indigenous peoples and Afro-descendant populations, the research findings, and the training and consultation activities linked to the research, highlighted a number of points. First, the growing importance of continuing to study this relatively new phenomenon and its effect on democratic systems (where a restructuring process is under way) and the behavior of the political actors. Second, indigenous and Afro-descendant organizations and movements are interested in continuing to explore ways of participating in the democratic system. Third, increasingly precise tools for analysis and intervention are needed that the target populations and the institutions in charge of promoting and administering democratic processes can use. Increasingly, politics appear to be fought out most intensely at the local level, and studying the situation will make it possible to coordinate specific proposals that will support, promote and regulate the participation of indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples, communities and individuals in political life.

## **AFRO-DESCENDANT POPULATIONS**

Even in the 21st century, Afro-descendants still have the worst economic and social indicators in the region. Little importance is attached to their cultural heritage, their access to decision-making entities is limited and they suffer major ethnic and racial discrimination. Efforts to promote the issue of minority ethnic groups in the public and

political arenas are essential; it is a great opportunity to promote cultural diversity and link democratic processes to demands for multiculturalism. Such efforts should go hand in hand with 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 segments of the population participation on an equal footing. Studies confirmed some years ago that democracy and economic and social development are interdependent and boost one another. If the democratic institutional framework is to be consolidated, the poorest segments of the population must share in the benefits of democratic system, thereby strengthening social cohesion, governability and the Rule of Law. The process of consolidating democracy also calls for progress to be made in constructing more efficient political systems that promote citizen participation and education for democracy and citizenship, as part of the cross-cultural fabric. Social and popular organizations play a key role in democratic participation within each country's constitutional framework, as an essential element of pluralism. Also needed are a culture of tolerance and respect for differences and a bigger role for civil society in various entities that make up the decision-making process.

For all the reasons mentioned above, the project has continued to consolidate the knowledge and capabilities of Afro-descendant and civil society organizations that undertake monitoring and advocacy efforts in political-electoral processes. The aim is to influence and monitor specific proposed legislation designed to foster the inclusion and political participation of the Afro-descendant population and the establishment of guidelines for the creation of a system of indicators of progress on the legal protection of the Afro-descendant population's right to participate in political life. Based on the studies carried out in Colombia in 2006 on Afro-Colombian political participation, and as was mentioned in the section on indigenous peoples, the project sought to obtain disaggregated data in the studies. The objective was to reach down to the most "local" level within the constituency and/or electoral district, to ascertain the local political dynamics and their political-electoral dynamism, particularly in areas where Afro-descendant voters account for a high percentage of the electorate. The project wishes to determine whether politics are fought out most intensely at the local level. If so, studying this aspect would make it possible to coordinate specific proposals to support, promote and regulate the participation of Afro-descendant peoples, communities and individuals in political life. This exercise is also expected to lead to the design of a system of impact indicators that would provide data about the effect of Afro-descendant political participation on the organizations, the types of participation, the public perception, (local and national) democracy, as well as comparative indicators of the selected countries.

#### **Conflict prevention:**

Regarding the **Rapid Response** Project, in this period and with USAID approval, funds were used to provide specialized and targeted assistance to strengthen political parties in Ecuador and Honduras. In **Ecuador**, both missions were as they highlighted the fact that the institutionalization and progress achieved by the TSE with regard to training may be undone if decisions are based on political rather than technical considerations. In **Honduras**, the missions carried out in August and September helped highlight the electoral body's true situation and presented the team of the Training Unit of the TSE as well as the TSE as a whole, with a proposal concerning updated materials that could be used in the upcoming electoral processes.

#### **Democratization of political processes:**

Regarding the **Strengthening Electoral Institutions Project**, the UNIORE newsletters continued to be well received by both old and new members of the Network. In emails received, they thanked the IIHR/CAPEL for sending them the information and endorsed the newsletters' content.

The knowledge and experience of 28 electoral bodies pertaining to the Inter-American Electoral Network was increased, not only through the five horizontal cooperation/elections observation missions that were carried out, in which the observers gained insight as to the advantages and disadvantages of the different electoral systems and technical innovations available, but also through the electoral conferences carried out: The Quito Protocol (Chile, November 14<sup>th</sup> 2007); and the IX UNIORE Conference held in El Salvador from September 2-5 2008, which focused this year on elections observations.

During the period under review (September 2007-August 2008), 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.

In regards to the sub-projects of **Strengthening Political Parties in the Dominican Republic, Argentina and Chile**, the following results are highlighted towards achieving the performance indicator:

- On 25 September the event "STRENGTHENING POLITICAL PARTIES PROJECT - CENTER FOR ELECTORAL PROMOTION AND ASSISTANCE (IIHR/CAPEL) AND CENTRO DE GOBERNABILIDAD Y GERENCIA SOCIAL (CEGES)" was held in Santo Domingo, **Dominican Republic**. This event was very important in terms of the search for opportunities to implement the Strategic Plan to Strengthen Political Parties at the national level, because: a) it is a proposal endorsed by leading Dominican civil society organizations and academics, with a major quantitative and qualitative impact on the training of young leaders in the country; b) it provides a platform for joint action by the IIHR/CAPEL and national counterparts in the immediate future and the medium term; c) the Strategic Plan has proven to be useful as an academic underpinning of CEGES programs in a new stage of that project (with substantial support from USAID/Dominican Republic); d) it is strengthening an area that has hitherto been little explored (the institutionalization of the parties); and, e) it is a valuable opportunity to make progress with the issue of inclusion in political life, with an impact on young people and women.

- The activities that were carried out within the framework of the strengthening political parties sub-project in **Argentina** led to the following results: a) they provided a suitable setting for interaction among the political parties, the National Electoral Court (CNE) and specialized Argentine civil society organizations on the issue of campaign financing and the control of election spending; b) they confirmed that the effort made by the National Electoral Court in 2006 and 2007 - providing quality training to the political actors in charge of presenting accounts at the local level - resulted in a significant decrease in the accounting reports that Argentina's electoral justice system rejected or returned for corrections compared to previous elections; c) they confirmed the interest of political actors and civil society in this issue, and their respect for the technical area and clerks of the CNE; d) the CNE received important observations regarding ways in which the electoral justice system could do a better, more expeditious job in future actions related to campaign financing and the control of election spending; e) they positioned the issue of transparency and accountability as a key factor in a strategy to strengthen political parties and actors in **Argentina**; and, f) they confirmed that the training that the CNE provided to Argentine political parties was an experience that could be replicated in other countries in the region. The evaluation exercise on 19 September also permitted the Argentine actors to assess the impact of the project.
- During the **April-June 2008** quarter, the project asked **USAID/Washington** for permission to work with **Chile** instead of **Panama**, and was authorized to do so. **The project got under way in August 2008.** The training workshops held in Chile mobilized the participation of 312 political party representatives, independent candidates and electoral administrators and obtained the following important results/ findings: a) they showed that the political actors are interested in the matters involved, even though they are dry and complex; b) they demonstrated that the cooperation and combined contribution of the consortium (IIHR/CAPEL-Chilean Electoral Service-Association of Municipalities) was virtuous and filled a keenly felt need of Chile's political actors; c) they provided a great opportunity to make the issue of campaign financing and the control of spending a key component of a strategy to strengthen political parties; d) Chile's Electoral Service tested its capabilities and limitations (lessons learned) - it found out how knowledgeable the personnel of its Regional Directorates were about election spending and how equipped they were to perform the function required of them; e) the workshops made it possible to distribute materials on the subject that the political actors in the different regions of the country are going to find very helpful; and, f) as occurred in Argentina, the local political actors were very appreciative of the Chilean electoral body's decision to decentralize training and look to the regions, and this enhanced the Service's image.

### **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 2007 and August 2008** 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.

- 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.
- Beginning the execution of **national proposals** related to the democratization, institutionalization or transparency of political parties in **the Dominican Republic, Argentina and Chile**.

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.”

**INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF HUMAN RIGHTS**

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

**ANNUAL PROJECT REPORT BY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR  
(September 2007 - August 2008)**

**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, governance and the Rule of Law

**PERFORMANCE INDICATOR:** With US \$ 163,030.65 of the budget approved for the period 01-10-07 to 30-09-08, the IIHR will 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 will be accomplished by means of training, information and dissemination activities, with the participation of at least 130 state and non-state entities in the region; and by updating the specialized sections of the Web page.

Annual Goal 1 (2007-200): Goal 1: To determine the impact that equal opportunity legislation has had on public policies and the institutional framework			
Activities	Impact Indicators 2007/2008 Work Plan	Achievements	Means of Verification
<p><b>Assessments of the impact of legislation designed to advance gender equality</b></p> <p><b>Objective:</b> To foster the production of specialized knowledge about the impact of legislation designed to create equal opportunities for women and men</p>	<p><b>More information available, making it possible to assess and monitor the impact of specific legislation intended to advance equality between women and men</b></p>	<p>-During the period under review (September 2007-August 2008), the project completed the <b>production of specialized knowledge</b> and the process of producing the corresponding <b>publication</b> on the research about the impact of legislation implemented to ensure equal opportunities for women and men (at press). As you will recall, 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 data collected and analyzed was related to the implementation of laws on equal opportunity, focusing specifically on three elements: the legislation itself, public policies and the institutionalization of gender equality. The assessment-based approach used addressed the difficulties and weaknesses encountered; good practices; lessons learned; and recommendations for future action.</p> <p>-The <b>general findings</b> of the research were that equal opportunity legislation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Is a way of implementing the international commitments, assumed by the States under articles 2 and 3 of the CEDAW Convention, to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and to take appropriate measures to achieve that objective.</li> <li>✓ Is a mechanism for implementing the principles of equality and nondiscrimination set forth in national constitutions.</li> <li>✓ Is a tool for strengthening the Rule of Law and the democratic institutional framework. It is not sufficient to eliminate inequality and discrimination but is a tool for effecting change and regulating the actions of the State and social practices.</li> <li>✓ Establishes a benchmark for legal theory and legislation and has a major cultural, political and ideological impact.</li> <li>✓ Has helped to strengthen the mandates of the specific State agencies responsible for women's rights (institutes, ministries) and for overseeing and coordinating public policies on the issue.</li> <li>✓ Has fostered the development of national policies or national plans with the endorsement or agreement of cabinets or public institutions that make it possible to better gauge the State's actions with regard to gender equality and equity.</li> </ul>	<p>Quarterly reports of the Women's Human Rights Program</p> <p>Final country reports and comparative report, publication</p> <p>Information available on line 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>Documentation related to the presentations of the research findings (lists of participants, programs, etc.)</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Has fostered reforms or new legislation to facilitate the specific application of the general rights framework established in different national laws.</li> <li>✓ The different levels of implementation depend on political will and the development of specific public policies and an institutional framework in each country.</li> <li>✓ Public institutions and civil society need to disseminate such legislation more widely and appropriate and use it. Sustained follow-up mechanisms are also required, plus a link to systems of indicators that would make it possible to gauge the State's responsibilities and performance in this area.</li> </ul> <p>-The national research, the overarching assessment and the informational brochure are available in the <i>DerechosMujer</i> specialized section of the IIHR website  <a href="http://www.iidh.ed.cr/comunidades/DerechosMujer">http://www.iidh.ed.cr/comunidades/DerechosMujer</a></p> <p>-The research findings were <b>presented</b> in Costa Rica, El Salvador and Peru, and at a course involving people from all over Latin America (a total of 209 people from public institutions, civil society organizations and academia. The book will be distributed for dissemination in the 5 countries studied.</p> <p>- The <i>DerechosMujer</i> <b>specialized section</b> of the IIHR website was updated continuously with digital materials related to equality and gender equity. As of 30 September 2008, 7224 items were available in the different subsections (<i>Información General, Proyectos IIDH, Biblioteca Digital, Otros Sitios</i>), plus a directory of 751 organizations devoted to the advancement of women's rights. The number and average length of visits to the section was fairly steady in 2007 and 2008, ranging from 400 to 600 visits per day lasting 20-30 minutes each (statistics compiled using WebTrends software).</p>	
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**Annual Goal 2 (2007-2008): 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**

Activities	Impact Indicators 2007/2008 Work Plan	Achievements	Means of Verification
<p><b>Research on the implementation of quota mechanisms</b></p> <p><b>Objective:</b> 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><b>More information available about the experiences of electoral bodies in implementing quota legislation, making it possible to evaluate and monitor its impact</b></p>	<p>-During the reporting period (September 2007-August 2008), the project completed the <b>production of specialized knowledge</b> and the process of producing the <b>publication</b> about the research on legislation that designed to foster the political participation of women, specifically through quota mechanisms (the publication is at press). Eleven Latin American countries have established quota mechanisms in their respective electoral legislation, namely: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay and Peru.</p> <p>-You will recall that the object of the research was to study the efforts of the electoral bodies to implement the quota mechanism established in their respective electoral legislation, and then to disseminate the findings. The focal areas of analysis were existing legislation; implementation and monitoring mechanisms; electoral bodies' experiences with the implementation of the quota system - enforcement, issuing of regulations, implementation, oversight, modifications and the application of sanctions; practices and rulings (jurisprudence). All this was complemented with more specific 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 parity.</p> <p>-The <b>general conclusions</b> of the research were that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Women's political rights and affirmative action (quota mechanisms) are ways of fulfilling the international commitments assumed by the States, in articles 2 and 4 ?? of the CEDAW Convention, to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and to take appropriate measures to achieve that objective, and to establish temporary special measures to that end.</li> <li>✓ Such measures are also a means of operationalizing the principles of equality and nondiscrimination set forth in national constitutions. In particular, however, the quota mechanism is a tool that fosters the participation and representation of half the population and, as such, helps strengthen democracy. In other words, the political representation of the women is a problem of democracy.</li> <li>✓ The measures established for implementing quota systems vary greatly, not only in terms of the percentage established (25-50%) but especially as regards how it relates to the electoral system and sanctions in the</li> </ul>	<p>Quarterly reports of the Women's Human Rights Program</p> <p>Matrixes and final documents of the comparative analysis, systematization of the analysis; publication</p> <p>Compilation of legislation and resolutions (jurisprudence) of the electoral bodies</p> <p>Minutes of meetings and correspondence (emails) between the IIHR's Department of Civil Society Entities and CAPEL</p> <p>Information available online 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>Documentation of the presentations of the research findings (lists of participants, programs, etc.)</p> <p>9 analytical articles</p>

		<p>case of noncompliance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Provisions on quotas need to be incorporated clearly into electoral legislation. In other words, the precise definition of the quotas and the mechanism for implementing them should be spelt out in electoral legislation and within political parties.</li> <li>✓ The provisions on quotas should be tailored to the electoral system: “open list” or single candidate systems cannot guarantee results; quotas are most effective in electoral systems based on proportional representation that use “closed lists” and when the law establishes that women must be given access to elected posts.</li> <li>✓ The monitoring efforts of the electoral agencies largely entail overseeing the implementation of quotas when the lists of candidates are drawn up.</li> <li>✓ The monitoring and follow-up mechanisms developed by various entities are promoted especially by women’s organizations and are usually complemented with activities aimed at disseminating information, helping to change inequitable political behavior, contributing to the understanding of the political dynamic in relation to the participation of women and/or to propose adjustments or corrective measures that make quotas more effective.</li> <li>✓ Parity is the qualitative leap from minimum quotas for the political participation of women to full representation through the effective implementation of the principles of equality and non-discrimination.</li> <li>✓ Parity is a tool for enforcing the right to equality, as it acknowledges that the human race is made up two kinds of people: men and women. Unlike quotas, which are regarded as a stopgap measure for reducing the under-representation of women in politics, parity is a definitive measure designed to give women and men an equal share of political power.</li> </ul> <p>-It is important to note that 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 has contributed to the implementation of one of the crosscutting perspectives of the institution’s work (the gender perspective) with respect to political participation, one of the four thematic groups of rights on which the IIHR focuses.</p> <p>-The research findings were <b>presented</b> in Costa Rica and El Salvador and to the members of the Union of Electoral Bodies (UNIORE) during the organization’s Ninth Conference (held in El Salvador), and at the meeting of experts entitled “Discrimination against women in the sphere of political participation from a human rights’ perspective,” held in Venezuela and convened by the Rapporteur on Women’s Rights of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR). A total of 475 people took part,</p>	
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		<p>representing public institutions, electoral bodies, civil society organizations, political parties and academia. The electoral bodies of the 11 countries studied will receive copies of the publication for them to use and disseminate.</p> <p>-The project continuously updated the <i>DerechosMujer</i> specialized section of the IIHR's website, uploading materials on political rights, affirmative action and quota mechanisms.</p>	
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**Annual Goal 3 (2007-2008): To help organizations of indigenous peoples and Afro-descendant populations and CSOs that provide follow-up to political and electoral processes and engage in advocacy enhance their expertise and capabilities for monitoring and influencing specific legislation intended to encourage the aforesaid populations to participate in political life**

Activities	Impact Indicators 2007/2008 Work Plan	Achievements	Means of Verification
<p><b>Applied research on the participation of indigenous peoples in political and civic life</b></p> <p><b>Objective:</b> To broaden the scope of the studies on the actions of electoral bodies in selected countries (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama and Peru) or undertake new studies on the participation of indigenous populations in political and electoral life</p>	<p><b>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</b></p>	<p><b>Component 1. Production of specialized knowledge.</b> During the period covered by this report (October 2007-September 2008), a new phase of this component got under way. It entails conducting studies on the possible impact that participation in political - mainly electoral - processes (indigenous candidates running for elected office) may have had on: a) organizational dynamics (weakening, strengthening or transformation of indigenous organizations and their platforms); b) changes in the behavior of the indigenous electorate (larger or smaller numbers turning out to vote, electoral preferences in local and national elections); c) changes in the platforms of the parties and/or the candidates (inclusion of indigenous issues or campaigning in indigenous regions); d) characterization of relations among indigenous citizens (as virtual new voters) and indigenous organizations and elected indigenous officials; e) changes in public opinion (media) related to the indigenous electorate and its agendas; and, f) modifications to the electoral institutional framework related to the emerging indigenous electorate.</p> <p><b>Component 2. Training and information.</b> Presentation in several countries of the region (Panama, Nicaragua, Bolivia, Mexico, Guatemala and Colombia) and in a meeting of indigenous leaders from Canada and Latin America on political participation of the book <i>Estudios sobre participación política indígena. Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, México, Panamá y Perú.</i> The publication was also uploaded to the <i>Diversidades</i> specialized section of the IIHR website. All the copies of the first printing were distributed. The meeting was a significant activity, bringing together for the first time leaders from North, Central and South America to share good practices, lessons learned, successful experiences and proposals for action from the ten countries that took part (Canada, Mexico, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Panama, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Chile). The co-sponsorship of Human Rights Internet, with support from the Government of Canada, was very important, as a joint proposal for follow-up is being prepared for presentation to various donor agencies, which would make it possible to give continuity to the project implemented with USAID.</p>	<p>Quarterly reports on the activities of the Indigenous Peoples and Human Rights Program</p> <p>Conducting of studies (phase 2) on indigenous political participation</p> <p>Reports on presentations of the book <i>Estudios sobre participación política indígena. Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, México, Panamá y Perú</i></p> <p>Reports on missions to the countries</p> <p>Reports on work of consultants in Guatemala (Huehuetenango and Chimaltenango)</p> <p>Programs of activities, lists of participants, photographs, etc.</p> <p>Information available on line 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>

		<p><b>Component 3. Dissemination.</b> The <i>Diversidades</i> specialized section of the IIHR website was updated and digital materials uploaded related to the human rights of indigenous peoples and other segments of the population most susceptible to racist and discriminatory practices. Between 1 October 2007 and September 2008, the number of items available in the different subsections (<i>Acerca de nosotros, Notas de actualidad, Documentos en Línea sobre Pueblos Indígenas y Afrodescendientes, Documentos en Línea sobre Migrantes, Campaña Educativa sobre Derechos Humanos y Derechos Indígenas, and Publicaciones IIDH</i>) reached <b>10,500</b>, plus a <b>directory of 570 organizations</b> involved in promoting the human rights of the target populations. The specialized section was <b>visited 178,079</b> times between <b>October 2007 and September 2008</b> - an average of <b>506</b> times per day, with each visit lasting an average of <b>27:00 minutes</b>.</p>	
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Activities	Impact Indicators 2007/2008 Work Plan	Achievements	Means of Verification
<p><b>Applied research on the extent to which the Afro-descendant population in Colombia and Ecuador is able to exercise its citizens' rights and participate in political life</b></p> <p><b>Objective:</b> To enhance the capabilities of the Afro-descendant</p>	<p><b>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</b></p>	<p>In January 2008, it was decided that Ecuador instead of Panama would be chosen for the applied research on the extent of access to citizenship and political participation of Afro-descendants, due to Ecuador's greater advances in legislation concerning Afro-descendants as well as in the Afro-descendent movement. The change was also made considering the fact that Ecuador's experience could serve as a best practice reference for other countries in the region.</p> <p><b>Component 1. Production of specialized knowledge.</b> This stage of the research involved studying the possible impact that the participation of Afro-descendant communities, organizations or movements in political, and especially electoral, processes (Afro-descendant candidates running for elected office in <b>Colombia, Ecuador and Honduras</b>) may have had on: a) the legal provisions and regulations governing the political participation of the Afro-descendant population in Ecuador and Honduras. This component complemented the research carried out by the project in <b>Panama</b>; b) the</p>	<p>Quarterly and semiannual reports on the activities of the Program to Combat Racism</p> <p>Document containing the results of the studies conducted in Ecuador and Honduras</p> <p>List of people interviewed in the two countries</p> <p>Programs of the presentations of the books, list of participants, photographs</p> <p>List of people and organizations interviewed in Honduras and Ecuador</p> <p>Glossary of terms on xenophobia, racism, exclusion and discrimination uploaded to</p>

<p>population and organizations that monitor and engage in advocacy in political-electoral processes</p>	<p><b>Colombia and Ecuador</b></p>	<p>organizational dynamics of Afro-descendant peoples (weakening, strengthening or transformation of the organizations and their platforms); c) changes in the behavior of the electorate (larger or smaller numbers turning out to vote, electoral preferences in local and national elections); d) changes in the platforms of the parties or the candidates (inclusion of Afro-descendant issues or campaigning in Afro-descendant regions); e) characterization of relations between Afro-descendant citizens (as virtual new voters) and Afro-descendant organizations and elected Afro-descendant officials; f) changes in public opinion (media) related to the Afro-descendant electorate and its agendas; and, g) modifications to the electoral institutional framework related to the emerging Afro-descendant electorate. The research and fieldwork were intense. Twelve members of the most high-profile Afro-Honduran organizations were interviewed, plus important actors (community leaders, public officials and intellectuals) in the Garifuna communities and in Tegucigalpa.</p> <p><b>Component 2. Training and information/dissemination</b></p> <p>The book <i>“Estudios sobre la participación política de la población afrodescendiente: la experiencia en Colombia”</i> was presented in Bogotá and Cartagena, Colombia. The events were co-sponsored by the Council of Bogotá and the National Conference of Afro-Colombian Organizations (CNOA). and supported by the Mayor of Cartagena. Both events were attended by representatives of Afro-descendant organizations and organizations of Afro-Colombian women, as well as other civil society entities, academia, local governments, police forces, schoolteachers and other community leaders from this important sector.</p> <p>Final version of the glossary of terms on xenophobia, racism, exclusion, and discrimination.</p> <p>The <i>Diversidades</i> specialized section of the IIHR website was updated continuously and used to disseminate the activities of, and specialized information about, the project (see statistics in previous section).</p>	<p>Diversidades</p> <p>Information available on line in the <i>Diversidades</i> specialized section of the IIHR website</p> <p>Reports and statistics generated by the Webtrends software, confirm 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 2007 - August 2008**

**PROJECT: RAPID RESPONSE SYSTEM**

**FINAL GOAL:** To provide a technical and academic response, from a human rights perspective, to unforeseen, emergency 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:** With US\$49,776.33 of the budget approved for the period 01-10-07 through 30-09-08, the IIHR will 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 the country where such action may be required. Specifically, during the period in question the IIHR and USAID will develop a proposal for strengthening political parties in Peru.

For over 25 years, the IIHR has implemented projects throughout the Americas with a variety of sectors that have given it a great deal of credibility and legitimacy. Combined with its technical expertise, this allows the Institute to offer direct, case-specific advisory services and assistance both to government agencies and civil society organizations, and to act as a mediator between them.

This modus operandi permits the IIHR to respond rapidly to situations that require urgent action, which is the main objective of the rapid response project.

As mentioned in the 2007-2008 work plan, USAID identified the possibility of undertaking work to strengthen political parties in Peru. The IIHR/CAPEL's team of specialists had a preparatory meeting with USAID/Peru on 3 December 2007 in Lima, to begin discussing the possibility of the work proposed. Then, in July 2008, it was decided that insufficient funds would be available to work with political parties in Peru and USAID recommended that CAPEL use the funds for its work in El Salvador, Honduras and/or Ecuador. After consulting CAPEL and the USAID missions in the respective countries, the project decided to use the funds in Ecuador, where a referendum to approve a new constitution was scheduled for the end of September 2008; and in Honduras, whose Supreme Electoral Tribunal had asked the IIHR for technical assistance and training in the run up to the primary and presidential elections due to be held in 2008 and 2009. Two technical missions were then carried out to each country, the first in August and the second in September.

**Annual Goal 1: To provide a technical and academic response, from a human rights perspective, to unforeseen, emergency situations in the region that pose a threat to the rule of law and democratic governability in a given country, when both USAID and the IIHR are in favor of such action. USAID-IIHR have identified the possibility of undertaking work to strengthen the political parties in Peru.**

Activities	Impact Indicators 2007-2208 Work Plan	Achievements	Means of Verification
<p>Short-term, specialized assistance to strengthen political parties in Peru</p> <p><b>Objective:</b> To prepare and execute a work plan that establishes the work priorities, the activities to be implemented, the objectives, the beneficiaries, the schedule, the places where implementation will take place and the budget</p>	<p>The strategic actors are agreed on the need to strengthen political parties</p> <p>Consensus achieved with the political parties and other actors keen to promote democracy on a National Plan to Strengthen Political Parties</p> <p>Note: These indicators were established taking into account the Plan to strengthen political parties in Peru.</p>	<p>The achievements of the technical assistance in <b>Ecuador</b>:</p> <p>The first mission, carried out 20-23 August, comprised Ricardo Valverde (IIHR/CAPEL) and Carmen Chacón de Cárcamo (Director of Training of the Electoral Tribunal of Panama), was used to discuss specific recommendations regarding didactic matters and the organization of the work with the Director of the Training Unit of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal and the judges of the Provincial Electoral Tribunal of Guayas.</p> <p>The second mission, carried out 18-22 September, was made up of Carmen Chacón and Carmen Tuñón (another member of the Training Unit of the Electoral Tribunal of Panama). The mission observed the final stage of the training of polling officers in various parts of the country and the technical team implementing activities throughout Ecuador.</p> <p>The missions were important as they highlighted the fact that the institutionalization and progress achieved by the TSE with regard to training may be undone if decisions are based on political rather than technical considerations (e.g., the replacing of management staff). The recommendations made suggest it is important once again to begin consolidating the experience acquired over a period of years in this field. Moreover, although some of the basic improvements made to the organization and operation of the Training Unit remain in place, management factors need to be strengthened to make the training more part of a system. In previous processes, that was what permitted the TSE to have more organized election days, implemented by properly trained, experienced polling officers.</p> <p>The achievements of the technical assistance in <b>Honduras</b>:</p> <p>The first mission, carried out 27-30 August, comprised Horacio Cánepa (an IIHR/CAPEL consultant and former official of the Electoral Court of Uruguay) and Jaime Márquez (former Deputy Manager of Training of the National Office of Electoral Processes of Peru). The mission found that the situation was difficult, with the</p>	<p>Mission reports</p> <p>Materials for the electoral training</p>

		<p>institution lacking clear direction and the November primary elections just around the corner.</p> <p>During the second mission (24-30 September), the team carried out two main tasks: a) it updated the support materials for the training, which had been generated as a result of the IIHR/CAPEL's technical assistance during the previous electoral process; and b) it held a workshop on teaching methods, with emphasis on electoral training.</p> <p>The missions carried out in August and September helped highlight the electoral body's true situation and presented the team of the Unit, and the TSE as a whole, with a proposal concerning updated materials that could be used in the upcoming electoral processes.</p>	
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**INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF HUMAN RIGHTS**  
**ANNUAL PROJECT REPORT BY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR**  
**September 2007 - August 2008**  
**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:** With US\$245,944.69 of the budget approved for the period 01-10-07 through 30-09-08, the IIHR will enable 28 electoral bodies to carry out more effective and transparent electoral processes in their respective countries, by furnishing technical training and more up-to-date knowledge of electoral and political topics in the region.

**NON-FLEXIBLE USAID INDICATORS:**

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

*Achieved in FY-2007 (Oct '06–Sep 07): 49*

*Target FY-2008 (Oct '07–Sep 08): 75*

**2. Number of electoral observation missions mobilized:**

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

*Target FY-2008 (Oct '07–Sep 08): 4*

Annual Goal 1 (2007-2008): To consolidate the activities of the Inter-American Electoral Network aimed at strengthening the electoral bodies			
Activities	Impact Indicators 2007-2008 Work Plan	Achievements	Means of Verification
<p><b>Inter-American Electoral Network</b></p> <p><b>Objective:</b> 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 that will serve as input for the work of the associations and research projects”</p> <p><b>“Electoral bodies and members of the electoral network in general have more up-to-date knowledge”</b></p> <p><b>“Easier access to up-to-date political and electoral information”</b></p>	<p><b>During the period under review (September 2007 - August 2008), the staff continued to update the information on several electoral bodies in the region. At present, the details of 612 people are listed.</b></p> <p><b>The UNIORE newsletters continued to be well received by both old and new members of the Network. In emails received, they thanked the IIHR/CAPEL for sending them the information and endorsed the newsletters’ content.</b></p> <p><b>A total of eight UNIORE newsletters were produced throughout the period (Nos. 72-79), translated into English, distributed to members of the Network and uploaded to IIHR website.</b></p>	<p>Uploading to the Web page of 8 <b>UNIORE newsletters</b>, in Spanish and English</p> <p>At least <b>25</b> news items generated by the SINE, on electoral and political developments in <b>Latin America</b>, posted on the Web page each day</p> <p>Uploading of various <b>IIHR/CAPEL</b> materials in a folder, with officials having exclusive access, containing important documents for the department</p> <p>- IIHR/CAPEL website: <a href="http://www.iidh.ed.cr/capel">www.iidh.ed.cr/capel</a></p> <p>- <b>Mailing list of Electoral Network: 612 people (August 2008).</b></p>

Activities	Impact Indicators 2007-2008 Work Plan	Achievements	Means of Verification
<p><b>Newsletters of the Inter-American Union of Electoral Organizations (UNIORE)</b></p> <p><b>Objectives:</b></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><b>“Electoral information disseminated more widely in the hemisphere”</b></p> <p><b>“More documents and experiences shared on electoral topics and processes in the region”</b></p> <p><b>“Users of the network more conversant with electoral topics and processes in the region”</b></p>	<p><b>A total of eight UNIORE newsletters were produced throughout the period (Nos. 72-79), translated into English, distributed to members of the Network and uploaded to IIHR website.</b></p> <p><b>During the reporting period (September 2007 - August 2008), the UNIORE newsletters continued to be well received by both old and new members of the Network. In emails received, they thanked the IIHR/CAPEL for sending them the information and endorsed the newsletters’ content.</b></p> <p><b>This has been the case especially since copies of bulletins from the IIHR Executive Director began to be sent to the individuals included in the distribution list for the UNIORE newsletter.</b> This was especially noticeable following the 13<sup>th</sup> Inter-American Course on Elections and Democracy. Information was circulated via the Electoral Network about the results of the course and CAPEL received messages congratulating it and making positive comments about how useful and interesting the information was.</p> <p><b>At the Ninth Conference of UNIORE (September 2008), the members asked that more information be included about the electoral bodies’ activities. Therefore, the IIHR/CAPEL has begun to send out emails regularly requesting information that the electoral organizations would like to share with their peers in the newsletter. The bodies are responding and more information and news are now being included in the “UNIORE News” section.</b></p>	<p><b>-8 UNIORE newsletters:</b> No. 72, September 2007; October-November 2007, No. 73; December 07-January 08, No. 74; February 2008, No. 75, March 2008, No 76, April 2008, No. 77, May-June 2008, No. 78; July-August, No. 79</p> <p>-Newsletters translated into English</p> <p>- Distribution of hard and digital copies of the <b>newsletters</b> via the mailing lists of the Electoral Network and <b>CAPEL’s</b> specialized section of the <b>IIHR</b> Web page (<a href="http://www.iidh.ed.cr/capel">www.iidh.ed.cr/capel</a>) and the <b>SINE-Panama</b></p>

Activities	Impact Indicators 2007-2008 Work Plan	Achievements	Means of Verification
<p><b>Quito Protocol</b></p> <p><b>Objectives:</b></p> <p><b>To foster dialogue among South American electoral bodies</b></p> <p>To keep South American electoral officials abreast of the activities of the Inter-American Electoral Network</p>	<p><b>“The electoral bodies have more specialized technical knowledge about the theme of the conference”</b></p> <p><b>“Progress in updating the work program of the association of electoral bodies”</b></p> <p><b>“More and stronger alliances of electoral organizations for joint activities on technical electoral matters”</b></p> <p><b>“The work program of the electoral organizations was updated as a consequence of the agreements adopted at the conference”</b></p>	<p>The 13<sup>th</sup> <b>Conference of the Association of South American Electoral Bodies (Quito Protocol)</b> took place <b>14-16 November</b> in <b>Santiago, Chile</b>. The theme of the event was <b>“Principles for Organizing Electoral Processes. An Overview of the Experience Acquired in Latin America.”</b> A total of 25 delegates took part, from the electoral bodies of <b>Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela</b>, plus 4 academic speakers and 4 IIHR/CAPEL officials.</p> <p>1. At the conference, the participants learned about the underlying principles of the work of electoral bodies as specialized institutions responsible for electoral affairs - for example, their autonomy and independence from the branches of government and other social and political actors, to guarantee free and fair elections.</p> <p>2. The conference also provided an opportunity for the electoral bodies to present their respective institutional experience, such as important or emblematic resolutions or decisions on given issues, illustrating the trends, challenges encountered and approaches adopted. The issues addressed included: a) the challenges faced by the electoral justice system in settling disputes that fall within their jurisdiction and area of specialization; b) close-run elections; c) use of technology in electoral processes; d) financing and control of electoral advertising and expenditure; e) internal democratization of political parties; and, f) primary elections.</p> <p>3. The participants reached agreement on modifications to the association’s work program. They also proposed systematizing the information presented at the conferences of the Quito Protocol and prepared a draft Declaration on Electoral Principles, which is a contribution to the development of electoral law and to the study and promotion of the subject, for ratification at the association’s next conference.</p>	<p>-11 up-to-date assessments, one from each member of the <b>Quito Protocol</b>, on the principles involved in organizing electoral processes and the experience acquired by Latin American electoral bodies (available on CAPEL’s Web page - <a href="http://www.iidh.ed.cr/capel">www.iidh.ed.cr/capel</a>) - Agreements of the 13<sup>th</sup> <b>Conference of the Quito Protocol</b> (available on CAPEL’s Web page - <a href="http://www.iidh.ed.cr/capel">www.iidh.ed.cr/capel</a>)</p>

Activities	Impact Indicators 2007-2008 Work Plan	Achievements	Means of Verification
<p><b>Ninth Conference of UNIORE</b></p> <p><b>Objectives:</b> To foster dialogue among the members of <b>UNIORE</b></p> <p>To keep the members updated about the activities of the <b>Inter-American Electoral Network</b></p>	<p><b>“The electoral bodies have more specialized technical knowledge about the theme of the conference”</b></p> <p><b>“More and stronger alliances of electoral organizations for joint activities on technical electoral matters”</b></p> <p><b>“Progress in updating the work program of the association of electoral bodies”</b></p>	<p>The <b>Ninth Conference of the Inter-American Union of Electoral Bodies (UNIORE)</b> took place <b>2-5 September 2008</b> in <b>El Salvador</b>. The theme of the event was <b>Electoral Observation</b>. Fifty judges and officials (38 men and 12 women) took part from the electoral bodies of <b>Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Chile, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Lucia, Uruguay and Venezuela</b>, along with <b>7 IIHR/CAPEL</b> officials.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The conference made it possible for members to learn about the different aspects of electoral observation, ranging from the work of international and electoral organizations to the varied efforts of civil society (NGOs, media, academia).</li> <li>2. Members also learned about the experiences and lessons learned with regard to electoral observation by civil society, associations of electoral bodies and academia.</li> <li>3. The three workshops focused on: 1) horizontal cooperation and technical assistance between individual member organizations and the association; 2) information, academic exchanges, the generation of doctrine and comparative analyses; and 3) electoral observation. In each workshop, the participants discussed what UNIORE had achieved in the specific area concerned and how the Association could improve its performance in the future.</li> <li>4. The participants adopted agreements to update the Association's work program.</li> <li>5. Active participation in the Network increased with the induction of eight new members of electoral bodies.</li> </ol>	<p><b>National reports of each electoral body</b> <b>Agreements of the Ninth Conference of UNIORE, available on CAPEL's Web page (<a href="http://www.iidh.ed.cr/capel">www.iidh.ed.cr/capel</a>)</b></p>

**Annual Goal 2 (2007-2008): To strengthen selected electoral organizations and those engaged in electoral and political reform processes in 2007 and 2008**

Activities	Impact Indicators 2007-2008 Work Plan	Achievements	Means of Verification
<p><b>Horizontal Cooperation Missions</b></p> <p><b>Objective:</b> 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><b>“The members of the Inter-American Electoral Network have more comparative knowledge of electoral legislation and practices”</b></p>	<p>During the August-September 2008 period, a total of five horizontal cooperation missions were achieved:</p> <p>At the express request of the <b>Supreme Electoral Tribunal of Guatemala</b>, the IIHR/CAPEL organized a <b>horizontal cooperation mission to observe</b> the first round of presidential elections in that country on <b>9 September 2007</b>. Twenty-five observers took part, from <b>Bolivia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico and Venezuela</b>, plus five IIHR/CAPEL officials.</p> <p>In the case of <b>Ecuador</b>, the IIHR/CAPEL helped the <b>Supreme Electoral Tribunal</b> organize a <b>horizontal cooperation mission</b> for the election of members of the Constituent Assembly on <b>30 September 2007</b>, comprising 20 observers from <b>Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Chile, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Puerto Rico and Venezuela</b>, plus four officials from the IIHR/CAPEL.</p> <p>A <b>horizontal cooperation mission</b>, organized by the IIHR/CAPEL at the express request of the <b>Supreme of Elections Tribunal of Costa Rica</b>, observed the referendum <b>on the Central American Free Trade Agreement</b> that was held <b>7 October 2007</b> in <b>Costa Rica</b>. The mission comprised 23 observers from <b>10</b> countries (<b>Antigua and Barbuda, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Puerto Rico and Saint Lucia</b>) and <b>5</b> IIHR/CAPEL officials.</p> <p>At the invitation of the <b>Superior Electoral Justice Tribunal of Paraguay</b>, the IIHR/CAPEL organized a <b>horizontal cooperation mission to observe</b> the general elections held in that country on <b>20 April 2008</b>. The mission was made up of 13 judges and staff from eleven Latin American countries and representing electoral organisms that are part of UNIORE. The President of the IIHR, Sonia Picado and the Director of the IIHR, Roberto Cuéllar, represented the Institute during this mission. As part of the mission, the IIHR team visited different parts of the country and conducted high-level interviews, including with the top four presidential candidates. Meetings were also held with a platform of civil society</p>	<p>Mission reports produced for each of the five observations carried out.</p> <p>Reports are also submitted to the Electoral Body during each observation mission, which includes main findings and conclusions, as well as technical recommendations.</p>

		<p>organizations who organize domestic observation as well as with the international observation missions of the OAS and the IFES.</p> <p>Finally, the <b>Dominican Republic's</b> Central Electoral Body (<i>Junta Central Electoral</i>) organized an international mission in which 40 judges and staff of 19 electoral bodies in the region participated in the observation of the <b>presidential elections that took place on May 16<sup>th</sup> 2008</b>. The Chief of this mission was IIHR/CAPEL Director, Joseph Thompson, who was accompanied by IIHR program officer Maria Lourdes Gonzales and IIHR consultant Ricardo Valverde. The IIHR met with USAID Dominican Republic representative Manuel Ortega, in order to brief him on the projects of the IIHR/CAPEL and to discuss possibilities for future collaboration.</p>	
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Activities	Impact Indicators 2007-2008 Work Plan	Achievements	Means of Verification
<p><b>Exploratory Missions</b></p> <p><b>Objectives:</b></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>Through a “joint venture” Project between the IIHR/CAPEL and the United Nations’ International Electoral Training Center based in Mexico, eight exploratory missions were conducted in the August07-September 08 period, with the objective of providing electoral training to the Dominica Republic in light of the May 2008 Presidential elections.</p> <p>Two missions were also carried out in Paraguay to explore needs and possibilities of work around the presidential elections held in April 2008.</p> <p><b>The IIHR/CAPEL</b> carried out its first exploratory mission to the Dominican Republic on <b>15 August 2007</b>, 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 <b>with INTEC, UNIBE and Participación Ciudadana</b>, to plan new actions aimed at strengthening political parties in that country, under the first of what are expected to be several national projects implemented in the same field.</p> <p>In November-December 2007, three missions were carried out to <b>the Dominican Republic</b> involving <b>IIHR/CAPEL</b> officials, particularly José Thompson and Ricardo Valverde, and representatives of <b>UNDP/Mexico</b> (on <b>5-8 November 2007, 19- 23 November 2007 and 12-16 December 2008</b>). These missions worked with the <b>Central Electoral Board (JCE)</b> on a proposal aimed at creating a <b>national school for training in the work of the electoral and civil registries (EFEC)</b>. On <b>22 November</b>, the <b>IIHR/CAPEL</b> and the <b>JCE</b> signed a memorandum of understanding describing both the objective and the activities to be carried out in that country.</p> <p>Another two missions were conducted by <b>IIHR/CAPEL</b> and the <b>United Nations Electoral Training Center in Mexico (UNDP/Mexico)</b>, to the <b>Dominican Republic</b>, the first from the <b>29 January-5 February</b> and the second from <b>12-14 March 2008</b> to carry out work with the <b>JCE</b>. The <b>IIHR</b> took part in the inauguration of the headquarters of the <b>EFEC</b> and worked on the preparation of the school’s core programs, namely: a) Training in the work of the Electoral Registry; b) Training in the work of the Civil Registry; and, c) Citizen Training. The <b>IIHR’s</b> representatives on the first mission were Executive Director Roberto Cuéllar, CAPEL Director José</p>	<p>Mission reports to Dominican Republic/Mexico and Paraguay</p>

		<p>Thompson and consultant Ricardo Valverde. Ricardo Valverde undertook the second mission.</p> <p>From the <b>9-12 March, a mission took place to Mexico</b>. The two organizations involved reviewed the project and established the parameters for a written account of the project that will be circulated in the coming months.</p> <p>The <b>IIHR/CAPEL</b> and <b>UNDP/Mexico</b> conducted the project's last joint technical mission to <b>the Dominican Republic</b> from <b>13-15 March</b> to carry out work with the Central Electoral Board related to the creation of the <b>EFEC</b>. Ricardo Valverde of the IIHR/CAPEL and Carlos González of <b>UNDP/Mexico</b> held meetings with the <b>EFEC's</b> managerial and academic teams to discuss certain aspects of the preparation of the final proceedings of the project, the status of the School's main programs - electoral training, training in the work of the Civil Registry and citizen training - and recommendations for future work.</p> <p>In the <b>Dominican Republic</b>, the project for the creation of a <b>national school for training in the work of the electoral and civil registries</b> had a positive impact on the voting process on <b>16 May 2008</b>. Its impact was clear in the work of the electoral boards in charge of the process, which also trained the polling officers. During its subsequent evaluation session, the horizontal cooperation mission (comprised of members of UNIORE) highlighted the expeditious, efficient work of the polling stations.</p> <p>Regarding Paraguay, the first <b>exploratory mission</b> was carried out from <b>3-5 March 2008</b>. The mission was headed by the Executive Director of the IIHR, Roberto Cuéllar, who was accompanied by Uruguayan electoral judge Rodolfo González Risotto, the Head of the Executive Director's Office, Victoria Napky, and IIHR/CAPEL consultant Horacio Cánepa.</p> <p>Various matters were discussed during a meeting with the Election Coordinating Committee, the most important of which were technical aspects and the training of electoral officials. Emphasis was placed on the system used to transmit results, the vote count, the security of the computer system and programs for training electoral officials for the different areas where the voting would be taking place. The mission also met with the Colorado Party and candidates Fernando Lugo, of the Patriotic Alliance for Change, Tekojoja and PLRA, and Lino Oviedo, of UNACE.</p>	
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		<p>A second <b>exploratory mission</b> was also carried out <b>to Paraguay (1-3 April 2008)</b>, in the run up to the presidential elections on <b>20 April</b>. The members of the mission were Uruguayan electoral judge Rodolfo González Risotto and IIHR/CAPEL consultant Horacio Cánepa.</p> <p>In the case of <b>Paraguay</b>, the technical recommendations made to the TSJE by the earlier missions and the electoral observation mission had a positive impact on the electoral body's decisions concerning the logistics on election day and the transmission of results, preventing any conflicts from arising.</p>	
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Activities	Impact Indicators 2007-2008 Work Plan	Achievements	Means of Verification
<p><b>Applied Research</b></p> <p><b>Objectives:</b></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><b>“More comparative knowledge available related to political rights and electoral processes”</b></p> <p><b>“Dissemination and sharing of up-to-date information to support the activities of the Inter-American Electoral Network”</b></p>	<p>During this period, three applied research projects were proposed. The first, regarding close-run elections, was published in the <i>Cuaderno CAPEL</i> publication No. 52. The other research projects, on electoral jurisprudence and on national elections observations, were in their final phase at the end of September 08, and will be published in <i>CAPEL Cuadernos</i> No. 53 and 54.</p> <p>With regard to the <b>research on close-run elections</b>, members of electoral bodies and civil society who have personal experience of such situations contributed by preparing articles on the subject. A lengthy debate on the issue took place on <b>7 August 2007</b> in <b>Guatemala</b>, to begin compiling information for the research. By December 2007, the project had nearly finished editing and revising the research on close-run elections for the <b>Cuaderno de CAPEL No. 52</b>.</p> <p>Work on the other two publications got under way in <b>January 2008</b>. The <b>Electoral Jurisprudence</b> research project was initially placed on hold until a decision could be taken on whether to continue working with the original counterpart. Progress was later made on this research, as all the countries in the region except <b>Brazil, Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua</b> filled out the questionnaires regarding their country’s electoral jurisprudence.</p> <p>The <b>Fourteenth Conference of South American Electoral Bodies (Quito Protocol)</b> took place <b>25-27 June in Buenos Aires, Argentina</b> and, on <b>26 June</b>, a special meeting was held to discuss the status of the Electoral Jurisprudence component. The following individuals from the <b>Federal Electoral Tribunal of Mexico</b> took part in the meeting: judge Pedro Esteban Penagos López, the Coordinator of Relations with Electoral Bodies, Héctor Dávalos, and Verónica Nava. The <b>IIHR/CAPEL</b> was represented by its Director, José Thompson, and program officers Ricardo Valverde, Sofía Vincenzi and María Lourdes González. Also involved were the President of the <b>Supreme Elections Tribunal of Costa Rica</b>, Luis Antonio Sobrado, a former judge of the <b>Federal Electoral Tribunal of Mexico</b>, Jesús Orozco, and a judge from the <b>Central Electoral Board of the Dominican Republic</b>, Mariano Rodríguez.</p> <p>As the electoral bodies of <b>Argentina, Costa Rica, Mexico and the Dominican Republic</b> were among the first to systematize their electoral jurisprudence, they are key partners in the electoral jurisprudence project.</p>	<p>-Questionnaires sent by the countries</p> <p>-Printed and digital versions of Cuaderno de CAPEL 52 are now in circulation, which means that the information contained in it is being disseminated among all the users of the Web page and the Electoral Network.</p> <p><b>-Agreements of the Fourteenth Conference of Electoral Bodies of South America (Quito Protocol), which took place 25-27 June 2008, in Buenos Aires, available on the Web page -IIHR-CAPEL Web page: <a href="http://www.iidh.ed.cr/capel">www.iidh.ed.cr/capel</a></b></p>

		<p>The results of the meeting were as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) The participants assessed the status of the project to decide what actions needed to be taken.</li> <li>2) They also discussed the technological progress that had been made, in particular in improving the search engines and adapting advances already implemented by electoral bodies in countries such as Argentina and Mexico, for the benefit of electoral bodies in other countries of the region.</li> <li>3) <b>On 27 June 2008</b>, the delegates to the Fourteenth Conference of the Quito Protocol were briefed about the status of the project and the member organizations pledged to collaborate by assigning technical officials to liaise with the Executive Secretariat. <b>Agreement Number 4</b> of the Fourteenth Conference states: "As organizations, [we] agree to assign a technical liaison in the near future to work with the Secretariat, to carry out the work needed to develop and update the database on electoral jurisprudence."</li> </ol> <p>Another working meeting was held on <b>30 September 2008</b> related to the research project on <b>Electoral Jurisprudence</b>. The <b>Federal Electoral Tribunal of Mexico</b> was represented by Gerardo Sánchez, Coordinator of Relations with Electoral Bodies, Héctor Oswaldo Caballero, Director of Judicial Statistics, and Verónica Nava, Coordinator of Jurisprudence and Judicial Statistics.</p> <p>The <b>IIHR/CAPEL</b> was represented by the Director of CAPEL, José Thompson, Program Officer María Lourdes González and assistant Evelyn Fernández. Arlette Bolaños, the President's Legal Assistant, and attorney Gustavo Román took part on behalf of the <b>Supreme Elections Tribunal of Costa Rica</b>.</p>	
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**INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF HUMAN RIGHTS**

**ANNUAL PROJECT REPORT BY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR  
September 2007 - August 2008**

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

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

**PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:** With US\$77,940.00 of the budget approved for the period 01-10-07 through 30-09-08, the IIHR will 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: To implement national projects to strengthen political parties in at least three Latin American countries			
Activities	Impact Indicators 2007-2008 Work Plan	Achievements	Means of Verification
<p><b>Project: Strengthening Political Parties in the Dominican Republic</b></p> <p><b>Objective:</b> To prepare a Strategic National Action Plan that establishes priorities for the thematic focuses of institutionalization, democratization and transparency</p>	<p>“Strategic stakeholders agreed on the need to strengthen political parties”</p> <p>“Development of a National Plan to Strengthen Political Parties agreed with the political parties and other stakeholders keen to advance democracy”</p>	<p>From <b>10-12 July 2007</b>, Program Officer Ricardo Valverde held working meetings with <b>the Central Electoral Board (JCE) of the Dominican Republic</b> to explore possible areas of collaboration and technical assistance, based on the principle of horizontal cooperation among the region’s electoral organizations.</p> <p>On <b>15 August 2007</b>, a mission from the <b>IIHR/CAPEL</b> and the <b>International Electoral Training and Research Center</b>, a <b>United Nations</b> initiative based in <b>Mexico</b>, visited the country to determine exactly what they could do to help the <b>JCE</b> in the run up to the elections scheduled for <b>16 May 2008</b>.</p> <p>Between <b>October and December 2007</b>, it continued to prove impossible to get the project under way due to the tensions that exist between the <b>Central Electoral Board</b> and the main Dominican political parties on account of the Political Parties Act. The crisis was triggered by the reaction to the issue of oversight of political party financing. The situation continues to impact the frictions among the parties, the JCE and the <b>IIHR/CAPEL’s</b> counterparts (<b>INTEC, UNIBE</b> and <b>Participación Ciudadana</b>), which together make up the <b>Political Management Program</b>. As a result, the project had to be postponed until after the presidential elections scheduled for <b>16 May 2008</b>, because, with the campaigning process in full swing, the conditions were quite unsuitable for a plan such as the one proposed. One particular bone of contention between the <b>JCE</b> and the political parties were the terms of the oversight that the electoral body wished to exercise during the campaign.</p> <p>The <b>IIHR/CAPEL</b> and the counterpart Dominican academic and civil society</p>	<p>Mission Report</p> <p>Meeting report</p> <p>-UNIORE newsletter #80 (September 2008)</p> <p>-List of participants</p> <p>-Program of the event</p> <p>-Preliminary reports</p>

		<p>organizations all agreed that the situation ruled out the possibility of implementing activities. The project also consulted USAID/Dominican Republic. As a result, it was decided to suspend the activities of this project for some months.</p> <p>Between <b>April and June</b>, Presidential elections took place in the country (<b>16 May</b>). No progress was made with the project and the activities were postponed for the <b>July-September</b> quarter.</p> <p>The constraints and problems reported in the <b>April-June</b> quarter were finally overcome and on <b>25 September</b> the project held the meeting “<b>STRENGTHENING POLITICAL PARTIES PROJECT - CENTER FOR ELECTORAL PROMOTION AND ASSISTANCE (IIHR/CAPEL) AND CENTRO DE GOBERNABILIDAD Y GERENCIA SOCIAL (CEGES)</b>” in Santo Domingo, <b>Dominican Republic</b>.</p> <p>The activity that took place in Santo Domingo on 25 September was very important in terms of the search for opportunities to implement the Strategic Plan to Strengthen Political Parties at the national level, because: a) it is a proposal endorsed by leading Dominican civil society organizations and academics, with a major quantitative and qualitative impact on the training of young leaders in the country; b) it provides a platform for joint action by the IIHR/CAPEL and national counterparts in the immediate future and the medium term; c) the Strategic Plan has proven to be useful as an academic underpinning of CEGES programs in a new stage of that project (with substantial support from USAID/Dominican Republic); d) it is strengthening an area that has hitherto been little explored (the institutionalization of the parties); and, e) it is a valuable opportunity to make progress with the issue of inclusion in political life, with an impact on young people and women.</p>	
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Activities	Impact Indicators 2007-2008 Work Plan	Achievements	Means of Verification
<p><b>Project: Promoting the transparency of political parties in Argentina in the run up to the 2007 elections</b></p> <p><b>Objective:</b> To enhance the internal capabilities of political parties, so they can meet the standards of transparency established in Argentine legislation</p>	<p><b>“Strategic stakeholders agreed on the need to strengthen political parties”</b></p> <p><b>“The political parties have greater internal capacity to ensure compliance with the aspects of transparency required by Argentine legislation”</b></p>	<p>Between <b>July and September</b>, project staff made two visits to <b>Argentina</b>. The first, which took place <b>1-7 July 2007</b>, involved meetings with the <b>Poder Ciudadano</b> and <b>Unidos del Sud</b> organizations. The participants discussed both the preparations for the “Mission of Foreign Visitors from the Electoral Bodies of the Americas” that would be arriving for the elections on <b>28 October 2007</b>, and the outlook for the <b>IIHR/CAPEL’s</b> work with regard to the strengthening of political parties.</p> <p>Between <b>29 July and 1 August 2007</b>, another <b>IIHR/CAPEL</b> mission finalized the details for the Mission of Foreign Visitors due to arrive in the country just before the elections on <b>28 October 2007</b>, and discuss various projects of interest to both parties in <b>2008</b>.</p> <p>The discussions included possible projects with <b>Poder Ciudadano</b> and <b>Unidos del Sud</b> in <b>2008</b>, for which the two organizations and the <b>IIHR/CAPEL</b> pledged to seek resources.</p> <p>The results for the <b>October-December 2007</b> quarter could not be gauged because the elections took place on <b>28 October</b>. It took several months to process the data and specific information was not available until <b>2008</b>. It was not possible to gauge the results during the <b>January-March 2008</b> quarter either, because processing data for the purposes of full closure is a slow, laborious task at Argentina’s provincial electoral bodies. Therefore, the seminar programmed for March 2008 has had to be rescheduled for several months later.</p> <p>During the <b>April-June 2008</b> quarter, the project carried out a mission to <b>Buenos Aires, Argentina (21-25 April)</b>, to hold working meetings with the <b>IIHR/CAPEL’s</b> counterparts for this initiative - the Argentine civil society organizations <b>Fundación Unidos del Sud and Poder Ciudadano</b>. The mission evaluated the project’s activities following the elections in <b>October 2007</b> and planned various activities for <b>June and September 2008</b>.</p> <p>However, the political crisis in <b>Argentina</b> sparked by farmers’ protests against the central government kept the political parties very busy and involved in many activities. As a result, they requested that the meeting to evaluate the project (originally planned for <b>June 2008</b>) be postponed until <b>August 2008</b>, when the situation would be more favorable.</p> <p>The <b>IIHR/CAPEL</b> was recently informed that the <b>Fundación Unidos del Sud</b> had altered its institutional and operating strategy and would no longer be able to take part in the evaluation activity. This meant that the <b>IIHR/CAPEL</b> had to assume most of the responsibility for organizing the event, assisted by the <b>Fundación Poder Ciudadano</b>, a well-known local CSO that has been involved in interesting initiatives to monitor campaign</p>	<p>-UNIORE newsletter #80 (September 2008) -List of participants -Program of the event -Mission reports</p>

		<p>spending in <b>Argentina</b> in recent years.</p> <p>Finally, for logistical reasons the project decided to hold the evaluation event in Buenos Aires, not in Mendoza as originally planned.</p> <p>The event, entitled the “<b>MEETING TO DISCUSS ELECTORAL ACCOUNTABILITY IN ARGENTINA</b>” took place on <b>19 September 2008</b> in Buenos Aires, <b>Argentina</b>.</p> <p>It was conceived and implemented as a technical meeting and an opportunity to share information. The participants included a representative group of members of political parties from various provinces around the country, representatives of federal courts responsible for electoral matters (Santa Fe, Mendoza, Córdoba and Formosa), clerks of the courts and the entire Body of Auditors of the National Electoral Court of <b>Argentina</b>. Altogether, 40 people took part. The objective was to assess the impact of the efforts of Argentina’s electoral justice system and the political parties’ evaluation of the training they received in the procedures designed to ensure full disclosure in the electoral process that culminated with the 2007 elections. The aim was to place these efforts in context, as part of a more general strategic strengthening of the party system in the country and determine whether they could be replicated in other Latin American countries.</p> <p>Although the judicial entities responsible had not finished processing the information, the project was keen to ascertain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How the parties, electoral authorities and federal electoral courts viewed the production of manuals and guides and the decentralized training exercises carried out in various provinces of the country.</li> <li>• How, in general, the entities responsible for receiving and processing the accounts presented by the parties participating in the process that culminated with the federal election in 2007 viewed the performance of the political parties and their technical units in presenting the documentation.</li> </ul> <p>Prior to this meeting, training events on campaign financing and the control of election spending had been held in Paraná, Tucumán, Córdoba, Ushuaia, Buenos Aires, Neuquen and San Juan, in 2006 and 2007. The IIHR/CAPEL was directly involved in, and co-sponsored, several of the training activities (the last event in 2006, in Buenos Aires, and those held in 2007 in Neuquen and San Juan).</p> <p>The most recent activity was of key importance for the following reasons:</p> <p>a) it provided a suitable setting for interaction among the political parties, the National Electoral Court (CNE) and specialized Argentine civil society organizations on the issue of campaign financing and the control of election spending; b) it confirmed that the effort made by the National</p>	
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		<p>Electoral Court in 2006 and 2007 - providing quality training to the political actors in charge of presenting accounts at the local level - resulted in a significant decrease in the accounting reports that Argentina's electoral justice system rejected or returned for corrections compared to previous elections; c) it confirmed the interest of political actors and civil society in this issue, and their respect for the technical area and clerks of the CNE; d) the CNE received important observations regarding ways in which the electoral justice system could do a better, more expeditious job in future actions related to campaign financing and the control of election spending; e) it positioned the issue of transparency and probity as a key factor in a strategy to strengthen political parties and actors in <b>Argentina</b>; and, f) it confirmed that the training that the CNE provided to Argentine political parties was an experience that could be replicated in other countries in the region.</p> <p>The evaluation exercise on 19 September also permitted the Argentine actors to assess the impact of the project.</p>	
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Activities	Impact Indicators 2007-2008 Work Plan	Achievements	Means of Verification
<p><b>Project: Strengthening Political Parties in Panama</b></p> <p><b>Objective:</b> To prepare a Strategic National Action Plan that establishes priorities for the thematic focuses of institutionalization, democratization and transparency</p>	<p>“Strategic stakeholders agreed on the need to strengthen political parties”</p> <p>“Development of a National Plan to Strengthen Political Parties agreed with the political parties and other stakeholders keen to advance democracy”</p>	<p>Panama was selected as a candidate for the development of a national plan to strengthen political parties for several reasons. One of them was the fact that the TE has a <b>Council of Political Parties</b> whose members include Panama’s eight main political parties. The Council meets once a month at the headquarters of the electoral body and thus is perfectly placed to promote inter-party dialogue and collaboration on an ongoing basis.</p> <p>During the <b>October-December 2007</b> quarter, initial contacts were made with the <b>Electoral Tribunal of Panama</b> with a view to using the <b>Council of Parties</b> as the channel for communicating with the political parties. The Council operates under the aegis of the <b>Electoral Tribunal</b> and is made up of representatives designated by the political parties themselves. The contacts were made during the horizontal cooperation missions in which <b>Erasmó Pinilla</b>, the President of the <b>Electoral Tribunal of Panama</b>, took part, which meant that there was no need for <b>IIHR/CAPEL</b> officials to visit Panama. The <b>Electoral Tribunal of Panama</b> recommended further contacts in mid- or late <b>January 2008</b>, to reach agreement on possible ways of generating a national agenda for strengthening political parties.</p> <p>During the <b>January-March 2008</b> quarter, the Director of CAPEL, José Thompson, and Program Officer María Lourdes González visited <b>Panama City</b> (from <b>25-27 February</b>) to establish contacts with the judges of <b>Panama’s Electoral Tribunal (TE)</b>, academics and the representatives of the main political parties. The mission shared information about the strategy that the IIHR/CAPEL has been implementing for the last two years aimed at strengthening political parties, and its possible implementation in <b>Panama</b>.</p>	<p>Mission reports</p>

Activities	Impact Indicators 2007-2008 Work Plan	Achievements	Means of Verification
<p><b>Project: Strengthening Political Parties in Chile</b></p> <p><b>Objective:</b> To prepare a Strategic National Action Plan that establishes priorities for the thematic focuses of institutionalization, democratization and transparency</p>	<p><b>“Strategic stakeholders agreed on the need to strengthen political parties”</b></p> <p><b>“Development of a National Plan to Strengthen Political Parties agreed with the political parties and other stakeholders keen to advance democracy”</b></p>	<p>During the <b>April-June 2008</b> quarter, the project asked <b>USAID/Washington</b> for permission to work with <b>Chile</b> instead of <b>Panama</b>, and was authorized to do so. <b>The project got under way in August 2008.</b></p> <p>A cooperation agreement signed on 27 August 2008 by the IIHR’s Executive Director, Roberto Cuéllar, the Director General of Chile’s Electoral Service, Juan Ignacio García, and the Mayor of Buin and President of the Chilean Association of Municipalities, Angel Bozán, established the framework for the implementation of nine sub-regional workshops. The activities took place 8-25 September in different regions of Chile, under the title <b>“Election Spending and the Rules and Regulations that Apply to the 2008 Municipal Elections.”</b></p> <p>A series of meetings between <b>24 August and 1 September 2008</b> laid the groundwork for this, the latest national pilot project to be implemented under the Strategic Plan to Strengthen Political Parties (loosely based on the Argentine experience but tailored to the needs and characteristics of <b>Chile</b>). The meetings, which took place in Santiago, were used to coordinate and make the institutional arrangements needed to hold the training activities. The workshops involved a number of candidates and campaign administrators registered to take part in the 26 October elections and focused on transparency and the need for full disclosure with regard to election spending.</p> <p>Talca, Port Montt, Punta Arenas, Concepción, La Serena, Santiago, Arica, Antofagasta and Copiapó were the cities where the training took place. The activities attracted <b>312</b> party representatives, independent candidates and electoral administrators. The IIHR/CAPEL presented the most important aspects of the Strategic Plan to Strengthen Political Parties and explained why full disclosure was an essential component of all such efforts.</p> <p>Holding this series of activities was an unprecedented step. Nothing similar had ever been organized, even though the 2008 municipal elections will be the fourth time that the system of full disclosure of campaign financing and election spending will apply. These workshops were also very important because: a) they showed that the political actors are interested in the matters involved, even though they are dry and complex; b) they demonstrated that the cooperation and combined contribution of the consortium (IIHR/CAPEL-Chilean Electoral Service-Association of Municipalities) was virtuous and filled a keenly felt need of Chile’s political actors; c) they provided a great opportunity to make the</p>	<p>-UNIORE newsletter #80 (Sept. 2008)</p> <p>-List of participants</p> <p>-Program of the event</p> <p>-Preliminary report</p>

		<p>issue of campaign financing and the control of spending a key component of a strategy to strengthen political parties; d) Chile's Electoral Service tested its capabilities and limitations (lessons learned) - it found out how knowledgeable the personnel of its Regional Directorates were about election spending and how equipped they were to perform the function required of them; e) the event made it possible to distribute materials on the subject that the political actors in the different regions of the country are going to find very helpful; and, f) as occurred in Argentina, the local political actors were very appreciative of the Chilean electoral body's decision to decentralize training and look to the regions, and this enhanced the Service's image.</p>	
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