

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 2005 - AUGUST 2006

Following the approval of the proposed amendment extending the life of cooperation agreement LAG-A-00-02-00001-00 through September 2007, the IIHR presents its Status Report By Annual Performance Indicator, covering the period September 2005 - August 2006, to the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

The **general strategic objective** of the Cooperative Agreement between the IIHR and USAID for the entire 2002-2005 period and, under the amendment, extended through September 2007, 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."

The **general performance indicator** for the same period and, under the amendment, extended through September 2007, is "Networks representing civil society are stronger and state-run institutions have enhanced technical capabilities for raising awareness of human rights and improving levels of rights protection and democratic governability in the countries of the region."

With a view to making progress towards the general performance indicator, the following strategic objective was set **for both 2005 and 2006**:

"To make progress toward the goals of promoting a culture of inclusion, the early detection and prevention of conflicts, and the democratization of institutions and political processes."

The following **Annual Performance Indicator** was established **for both 2005 and 2006**, to evaluate the progress made in achieving this strategic objective: "State-run institutions and civil society human rights networks are better equipped to defend and promote human rights, and build more inclusive democratic societies, by means of more comprehensive approaches, more consistent methodologies, more effective techniques and more up-to-date technologies; and initiatives aimed at building more democratic societies that are more inclusive of diversity and respectful of human rights are more sustainable (creation or strengthening of ombudsman's offices, drafting and implementation of public policies, participation and inclusion of interests of excluded populations, etc.)."

A. Starting Points

In general, there are a number of negative factors affecting the situation in the region. The target populations (women and the indigenous and Afro-descendant populations) suffer

discrimination and social and political exclusion; citizen insecurity is growing and government agencies for combating the problem are either non-existent or ineffectual; electoral-political institutions and processes are not effective or transparent enough; and threats to human rights and democratic governability are on the increase.

The situation with regard to each **line of action** called for in the IHR-USAID Cooperative Agreement is as follows:

1. Promoting a culture of inclusion:

Exclusion, discrimination, limited participation and the failure to recognize human rights are common problems in the region. Women, indigenous peoples and Afro-descendant communities are calling for 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 experiences with regard 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, fostering an enabling environment for the enactment of specific legislation that was under discussion in the respective congresses. The project is now producing 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 community.

2. Conflict prevention:

At present, there are no public citizen security policies with a human rights perspective, or instruments for designing and implementing them. Hence, the purpose of the actions planned for September 2005 - August 2006 was to: (1) consolidate the process of security sector reform as part of the implementation of a public citizen security policy in the Dominican Republic; and, (2) enhance institutional capabilities for devising and implementing democratic citizen security policies and for cooperation between sub-regions of Latin America (Central America and MERCOSUR).

Most Latin American countries still do not have an ombudsman's office; even in those that do, the institution has yet to be consolidated.

The region lacks mechanisms for providing an early warning and rapid response to conflicts and threats to human rights and democratic governability. The situation in the Americas is changeable and in recent years problems have arisen that posed a real risk to democracies and, therefore, to the effective exercise of human rights. Developments in Argentina, Venezuela, Guatemala, Colombia and Bolivia 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.

3. 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-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 lack internal democracy.

This year (2006) has been one of the busiest for the last five years as far as electoral work is concerned. General or presidential elections took place in eight countries (Brazil, Costa Rica, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru and Venezuela), while local elections were held in countries where devolution is an important issue, such as Costa Rica and El Salvador. Important legislative elections also took place in Colombia, Dominican Republic and Saint Lucia.

The IIHR/CAPEL made progress with the research on political parties in the region. The period September 2005 - August 2006 was one of transition, with the project moving from research to action.

B. Progress in achieving the IIHR's Annual Performance Indicators (2005-2006)

The following is an overview of the progress made between September 2005 and August 2006 in achieving the IIHR's annual performance indicators for 2005-2006 under each **line of action** established in the IIHR-USAID Cooperative Agreement:

1. Promoting a culture of inclusion

The objective of the project **Promoting a Culture of Inclusion** is to enhance the capacity of women, indigenous peoples and the Afro-descendant population to exercise their citizens' rights based on the principles of equality, non-discrimination and full political participation, thereby strengthening inclusive democracy, governability and the Rule of Law. This effort is a continuation of the process and actions carried out between 2002 and 2005 under the same project, geared to organizations representing the target populations, with a view to helping to translate equality under the law (de jure) into real (de facto) equality in the enjoyment and exercise of their human rights.

To achieve this, a strategy was drawn up during the period under review (September 2005 - August 2006) to foster actions that would:

- Determine the impact that equal opportunities legislation has had on public policies and on the institutionalization of equality and gender equity
- Bolster the participation of women, indigenous peoples and Afro-descendant communities in political and civic life, promoting its institutionalization, particularly in electoral bodies, in accordance with national legislation on the issue
- Provide specialized information to facilitate the advocacy efforts of CSOs working on behalf of the target populations. These organizations are being familiarized with the scope and potential use of legislation designed to increase equality and the exercise of political rights, so they can monitor its implementation and establish links with related public bodies to make their voices heard.

This strategy has also permitted different areas of the IIHR to work together (Department of Civil Society Entities, the Center for Electoral Promotion and Assistance (IIHR/CAPEL) and the Applied Research Unit). This is enhancing the synergies among the organizations with which they work, intensifying 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.

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

2. Conflict prevention:

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

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

The main indicator of the results of the efforts to strengthen the institutional capabilities for determining and implementing measures that guarantee citizen security is the approval of the **Democratic Security Plan**. Under the plan, specific responsibilities are assigned to each of the agencies involved in security matters, particularly the National Police. The respective actions are now being implemented and further advisory assistance from the IIHR is required. The Democratic Security Plan has two basic objectives. The first is to reestablish the authority of the Dominican State by means of a sweeping reform of the National Police. The aim is not only to put police on the streets of the countries' cities and towns but also to restore the citizenry's confidence in the institution. The second objective is to guarantee the population's basic civil rights, making the citizenry the principal actor in democratic security in the Dominican Republic. There is clear evidence that implementing the **Safe Neighborhood Program** in twelve districts of the capital (extended to other neighborhoods in Santiago), an effort that the Secretariat of the Interior and the police themselves are coordinating, is enhancing the institutional capabilities for executing citizen security plans and policies.

The Training Workshops on the Social Prevention of Juvenile Violence, held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, confirmed that training is always a useful tool for strengthening grassroots organizations. As they are close to, and have first-hand knowledge of, the situation in each area, these organizations are the ones best placed to promote specific actions in their immediate area, such as the community prevention of violence.

The participation of the citizenry in efforts of this kind should also create opportunities for integrating young people into society, e.g., possibilities of employment, education and protection, so they can fully exercise their rights as citizens.

This training process has helped:

Enhance the capabilities of civil society and the citizenry for the design and implementation of actions to prevent violence and juvenile crime and monitor the police's activities
Enhance the capabilities of civil society for monitoring justice administration
Strengthen the mechanisms for community participation, as a new democratic model in the construction of security

Focus the authorities' attention on security matters, to pool resources, provide tools and strengthen organizations, in order to prevent crime and criminality at the local level, adopting an integrated approach and with the emphasis on social prevention

The work through the Network of Experts, established for cooperation between sub-regions of Latin America (Central America and MERCOSUR), and the immediate result, the document containing recommendations for the formulation and implementation of public citizen security policies, reflect the progress being made in this field.

Between September 2005 and August 2006, the IIHR's project **Strengthening the Ombudsman in Latin America** helped bolster ombudsman institutions by providing training, technical assistance and political support to the different offices that required it and via the umbrella organizations that represent them, such as the Central American Council of Human Rights Ombudsman (CCPDH) and the Caribbean Ombudsman Association (CAROA).

The different activities provided the ombudsman's offices with useful tools for carrying out their day-to-day work, thus enabling them to impact critical issues in their respective countries more effectively. Having stronger regional networks, with closer ties between the different organizations, makes it possible to share knowledge and experiences, and engage in horizontal cooperation that helps improve their working practices and generates more political support for their actions.

Disseminating information about the work of the ombudsman offices, both through the integrated information system and by participating in international conferences, highlights the importance of their activities, strengthens their mandate for promoting and disseminating human rights, raises the profile of their actions within their respective countries and beyond, and gives them the credibility and political support they need to continue to operate effectively.

In regard to the **Early Warning and Rapid Response** project, although the Andean Region experienced moments of political tension (the developments in Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru, for example) and the problem of citizen insecurity continues to grow in Central America, between September 2005 and August 2006 neither the public institutions and civil society of the countries concerned, nor USAID, asked the IIHR to intervene when matters came to a head. When it is asked to do so, the IIHR will work with USAID to draft a plan of action to respond rapidly to the specific situation in question.

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

3. Democratization of political processes:

In the case of the **Strengthening Electoral Institutions** project, the staff was kept very busy during the period under review (September 2005 - August 2006), as general elections were held in Bolivia, Chile and Honduras in 2005. The year 2006 kicked off with the large amount of work anticipated, given the number of elections scheduled for this year. The presidential run-off in Chile was the first election to take place, followed by general elections in Costa Rica, legislative elections in Colombia, El Salvador and the Dominican Republic, general elections in Peru, Colombia and Mexico, and an election for a Constituent Assembly in Bolivia. In each case, the IIHR/CAPEL was responsible for preparing the programs of the observation missions carried out under the aegis of the Electoral Network. In Colombia and Chile the results were clear-cut but in Costa Rica and El Salvador the elections were too close to call, creating a climate of uncertainty. The closest election result of all was in

Mexico. It is worth noting that the electoral institutional framework withstood the pressures and difficulties that this situation created.

In the case of Colombia, the project also helped organize a comparative forum on the organization of elections in Latin America, thanks to funding provided by other donors.

Another area in which important progress towards achieving the performance indicator was made concerns the research undertaken by the IIHR/CAPEL in recent years, which is of great academic value for enriching the region's doctrine on political-electoral issues. The launching of the different publications on political parties (Agenda for Strengthening Political Parties, Cuaderno de CAPEL 50 and Democratization of Political Parties in Bolivia, Chile and the Dominican Republic) again highlighted the IIHR/CAPEL's role as an institution that creates and disseminates doctrine on current issues. These publications were disseminated at the 12th Inter-American Course on Elections and Democracy, which took place in Mexico (24-27 April 2006). Financed by other donors, this event provided stakeholders with an important opportunity to meet and discuss the challenges facing contemporary democracy. The participants included electoral judges and officials, representatives of political parties and CSOs, and academics from all parts of the region.

The 19th Conference of the Tikal Protocol was held in Guatemala in September 2005. Then, despite the very full election calendar (with elections already carried out and others being organized), the project was able to negotiate the holding of the UNIORE conference in Panama, after the Supreme Electoral Tribunal of Brazil withdrew its offer to host the activity. The fact that the event took place at the same time as the 20th Tikal conference enriched the discussions and also permitted the Executive Secretariat to pool its organizational and financial resources for these key activities.

The eighth Conference of UNIORE and the 20th Conference of the Tikal Protocol, plus a Special Meeting of the Quito Protocol, brought together 51 delegates from electoral bodies of 24 western-hemisphere countries. They engaged in wide-ranging discussions on the challenges facing electoral democracy in the region as the new information technologies begin to be used to organize processes. They also considered the impact of these developments on the turnout and how technology can be used to strengthen democratic systems in Latin America. The UNIORE and Tikal Protocol conferences confirmed the importance of such meetings to guide the efforts of the Inter-American Electoral Network, based on shared, objective criteria in the areas of technical assistance and the international observation of elections. Since the Secretariat was able to hold talks with senior electoral officials from El Salvador and Nicaragua, it was not necessary to carry out in situ visits to those countries.

Two especially important electoral processes took place. The elections in Bolivia reflected the sweeping constitutional changes taking place in the region and the role of the mechanisms for direct democracy in this process. The fact that the country is strongly polarized threatens to hinder the work of the Constituent Assembly. In Mexico, the election demonstrated once again the worrying trend in Latin America toward very narrow margins of victory. Situations of this kind place the electoral bodies in a very difficult position, as they attempt to respond to the demands of public opinion and deliver information under great political pressure. In spite of everything, Mexico's institutional system proved equal to the challenge, in an election in which the two leading presidential candidates obtained almost exactly the same number of votes (the difference was less than 0.5%). When the time comes to systematize the experiences of 2006, an entire chapter will have to be devoted to Mexico.

The strategy devised by the IIHR/CAPEL project **Equal Representation and Political Party Reform**, to address the various aspects involved in the internal democratization of political

parties, proved to be correct and successful. During the period under review, the three publications planned were unveiled (*Memoria del Proceso de Consultas Regionales en América Latina, Cuaderno de CAPEL 50* and *Democratización de los Partidos Políticos en Bolivia, Chile y República Dominicana*). The respective presentations are under way. The horizontal cooperation missions and other activities programmed by the IIHR/CAPEL will be used to increase the dissemination and impact of these publications. They have been well received and, together with the final version of the strategic plan, when it is ready, they will increase the IIHR/CAPEL's capabilities for strengthening political parties in Latin America.

The IIHR/CAPEL has demonstrated that this kaleidoscope of activities is possible and viable. They can be coordinated through the direct action of the IIHR/CAPEL, its team of specialists or its group of consultants, or by activating various networks of academics, electoral bodies or citizens' organizations that exert influence in political processes.

During the period under review, the project also produced the final version of the proposed 2006-2010 Strategic Plan for Strengthening Political Parties in Latin America.

During the first half of the year (January-June 2006), the IIHR/CAPEL produced a document that a group of experts studied via a virtual consultation. The experts then suggested other viewpoints and inputs they felt the Plan should contain. On 28 April 2006, following the Twelfth Inter-American Course on Elections and Democracy in Mexico City, an onsite meeting took place of the IIHR/CAPEL team and experts who had attended the Course as speakers, rapporteurs and participants. The IIHR/CAPEL consultant for the Strategic Plan, Ana Cecilia Escalante, coordinated the activity. The group studied and discussed in detail the objectives, programming, subject matter, approach, target population, expected results and the countries on which the work will focus. One of the suggestions made at the meeting of experts was that the drafting of the national plans of action during the second half of 2006 (July-December) should be a careful, gradual effort, focusing on one (or, at most, two) pilot countries. The plans of action will be implemented in the pilot country or countries in 2007 and 2008; then, drawing on the lessons learned, the work will continue in 2009 and 2010 with the implementation of plans of action in the other countries chosen, based on the criteria established for that purpose.

The IIHR/CAPEL believes that the research and consultations with political parties, the projection of the specialized publications produced and the embryonic strategic plan place it in a good position to exert influence over other levels of the life of political parties in Latin America. The new Web page, which is better designed and incorporates functions that are easier to use, will be an important tool for meeting the needs of the IIHR/CAPEL and its target population.

C. Conclusion

In general, as the annual report by performance indicator of each project shows, between September 2005 and August 2006 the IIHR continued to make a major contribution to the expansion and strengthening of the capacity of state-run institutions and civil society human rights networks to defend and promote human rights and build more inclusive democratic societies, by means of more comprehensive approaches, more consistent methodologies, more effective techniques and more up-to-date technologies. Furthermore, initiatives aimed at building more democratic societies that are more inclusive of diversity and respectful of human rights (creation or strengthening of ombudsman's offices, drafting and implementation of public policies, participation and inclusion of interests of excluded populations, etc.) have been made more sustainable.

The IIHR is thus closer to achieving the general strategic objective of this IIHR-USAID cooperation agreement, which is "to make a significant contribution to the construction of

more inclusive and transparent democracies that promote the effective protection of human rights in the western hemisphere.”

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USAID COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT LAG-A-00-02-00001-00**

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

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PROJECT BY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR
(September 2005 - August 2006)**

PROJECT: PROMOTING A CULTURE OF INCLUSION

FINAL GOAL: To expand and further develop the citizenship of women, indigenous peoples and Afro-descendant populations, based on the principles of equality, nondiscrimination and full political participation, as part of the efforts to strengthen inclusive democracy, governability and the rule of law

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR: Conditions created for women, indigenous peoples and Afro-descendant populations in the region to know their political and electoral rights and exercise them fully on an equal footing

Annual Goal 1 (2005-2006): To determine the impact that equal opportunity legislation has had on public policies and the institutional framework

Activities	Impact Indicators 2005/2006 Work Plan	Achievements	Means of Verification
<p>Assessments of the impact of legislation designed to foster gender equality</p> <p>Objective: To encourage the production of specialized knowledge about the impact of legislation designed to create equal opportunities for women and men.</p>	<p>More information available, making it possible to assess and monitor the impact of specific legislation for equality between women and men</p>	<p>During the period under review (September 2005 - August 2006), the project produced specialized knowledge about the impact of legislation implemented to ensure equal opportunities for women and men, focusing specifically on three areas: legislation, public policies and the institutionalization of gender equality. Legislation of this kind exists in five Latin American countries, although it was enacted and implemented at different times: in Costa Rica, in 1990; in Colombia, in 2003; in Honduras, in 2000; in Panama, in 1999 (legislation) and 2002 (implementing regulations); and in Venezuela, in 1999.</p> <p>The research methodology, based on the general terms of reference drawn up by the IIHR and tailored to the specific situation in each country, was implemented successfully. The methodology involves garnering information from primary sources (meetings of varying length with key officials of state agencies and non-governmental organizations) and secondary sources (assorted documentation), and systematizing and conducting a preliminary analysis of the information. The key aspects of the analysis are: the adoption of an assessment/evaluation approach and the identification of difficulties and weaknesses, good practices and lessons learned.</p> <p>The research at the national level reveals the legislation's varying impact in the three areas mentioned. It considers the length of time that has elapsed since the legislation was enacted; the special characteristics of</p>	<p>Quarterly reports of the Women's Human Rights Program</p> <p>General terms of reference drawn up by the IIHR</p> <p>Specific methodological proposals for conducting the research in the five countries</p> <p>Progress reports on the research and draft and final documents</p> <p>Information available online in the specialized section (<i>DerechosMujer</i>) of the IIHR website</p> <p>Reports and statistics compiled using the WebTrends software,</p>

		<p>each law, according to its contents; and the different situations in the various countries. The depth of the analysis required has varied, depending on the complexity and quantity of the information to be processed, and the length of time that that the legislation has been in place.</p> <p>The research process was completed in four countries and the respective final documents are ready (Costa Rica, Honduras, Panama and Venezuela). These documents are being edited and will be uploaded to the specialized section (<i>DerechosMujer</i>) of the IIHR website during the last quarter of 2006. In Colombia, the work plan began to be implemented later than in the other countries because the project had difficulty identifying a counterpart. Consequently, the execution of the plan has made comparatively less progress. The first draft of the final document is currently being studied by the IIHR.</p> <p>The specialized section was updated continuously with new materials related to gender equality and equity. As of 30 September 2006, 4549 items were available in its different subsections (<i>Acerca de nosotros, Para compartir, Documentos, Protección de derechos</i>), plus a directory of 508 organizations devoted to the advancement of women's rights. The specialized section received 43,228 visits between 1 July and 30 September 2006, an average of 469 per day that lasted an average of 12:30 minutes each (statistics compiled using WebTrends software).</p>	<p>confirming the number of hits and visits to the section</p>
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Annual Goal 2 (2005-2006): To consolidate knowledge and capabilities for monitoring and influencing specific legislation designed to encourage women to take part in political life

Activities	Impact Indicators 2005/2006 Work Plan	Achievements	Means of Verification
<p>Research on the implementation of quota mechanisms</p> <p>Objective: To promote specialized knowledge for monitoring the implementation of legislation intended to encourage women to participate in political life.</p>	<p>More information available about the experiences of electoral bodies in implementing quota legislation, to assess and monitor its impact</p>	<p>During the period under review (September 2005-August 2006), the project executed the actions needed to facilitate the production of specialized knowledge for monitoring the implementation of legislation designed to encourage the participation of women in political life. Specific or electoral legislation of this kind exists in 11 countries of the region (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico, Peru, Panama and Paraguay). The minimum quotas for the political participation of women established in specific legislation or electoral laws are designed to correct discrimination and inequality and ensure that equal numbers of women and men run for, and hold, elected office. The object of the research is to explore, as an area for analysis and dissemination, the efforts of the electoral bodies to implement the quota mechanism established in the respective electoral legislation.</p> <p>A questionnaire, plus instructions on how to complete it, was sent to the electoral bodies of the aforementioned countries. This questionnaire is the basis for the research and the subsequent comparative analysis. It includes specific questions intended to gather information related to: current legislation; mechanisms for verifying compliance and applying penalties, and for monitoring the situation; and the use of the quota system (experiences or practices adopted in administering the system, implementation and results, rulings of electoral or general courts).</p> <p>The project also decided on the core elements of the methodology for systematizing the information and then processing and analyzing it; and selected the team of experts who will systematize the data and conduct the overall analysis. The analysis will be complemented with information from secondary sources (sundry documentation) and primary sources (one-on-one meetings and semi-structured questionnaires).</p> <p>The execution of this project has also required the Department of Civil Society Entities and the Center for Electoral Promotion and Assistance (IIHR/CAPEL) to coordinate their activities and</p>	<p>Quarterly reports of the Women's Human Rights Program</p> <p>Draft and final versions of the core questionnaire for collecting the information and the corresponding instructions</p> <p>Draft and final versions of the documents setting out the core elements of the methodology for systematizing the information</p> <p>Minutes of meetings and emails sent back and forth between the IIHR's Department of Civil Society Entities and CAPEL</p> <p>Information available online in the specialized section of the Institute's website (<i>DerechosMujer</i>)</p> <p>Reports and statistics compiled using the WebTrends software, confirming the number of hits and visits to the specialized section</p>

		<p>work closely. This is enhancing the synergies among the organizations with which they work, increasing the implementation of the crosscutting perspectives of the institution's work (such as the gender perspective) with respect to political participation, one of the four groups of rights on which the IIHR focuses.</p> <p>Materials related to political rights, affirmative action and quota mechanisms are continuously being uploaded to the specialized section of the IIHR website (<i>DerechosMujer</i>).</p>	
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Annual Goal 3 (2005-2006): To help indigenous peoples and Afro-descendant populations and their organizations, and CSOs that provide follow-up and carry out advocacy activities related to political-electoral processes, to enhance their expertise and capabilities for monitoring and influencing specific legislation intended to encourage the target populations to participate in political life

Activities	Impact Indicators 2005/2006 Work Plan	Achievements	Means of Verification
<p>Applied research on the participation of indigenous peoples in political and civic life</p> <p>Objective: To explore the actions of electoral organizations in selected countries (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama and Peru) with regard to the implementation of affirmative actions and administrative</p>	<p>More information available about the actions of electoral organizations with respect to measures that encourage or hinder the participation of indigenous peoples in political and electoral processes in six countries in the region</p>	<p>During the period under review (September 2005-August 2006), the work focused on the implementation of component 1 of the project, which consists of the production of specialized knowledge (applied research) in the six countries selected (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama and Peru), based on four variables: a) electoral legislation and regulations regarding the participation of indigenous peoples and communities in political life and, in particular, in elections; b) electoral, administrative and practical models and mechanisms with regard to the active and passive exercise of the right to vote by the indigenous population; c) use, by indigenous movements, organizations and candidates, of legal remedies and regulations and administrative and practical electoral models and mechanisms to increase the opportunities for indigenous people to participate (as voters and candidates); and, d) the results of indigenous peoples' participation in electoral processes.</p> <p>The following actions were carried out to achieve the above: a) design of terms of reference for the research; b) proposed methodologies and work plans for each country; c) identification of individual consultants or organizations that fulfilled the criteria established by the IIHR; d) establishment of the team to carry out the research and process and systematize the studies, for the drafting of the final report; e) follow-up to the activities by the IIHR, evaluating their</p>	<p>Quarterly reports on the activities of the Indigenous Peoples and Human Rights Program</p> <p>Draft and final reports of the researchers in each country, namely: Alfonso Alem (Bolivia), Camila Moreno (Colombia), Josefina Aguilar (Ecuador), Francisco García (Mexico), Bernal Castillo (Panama) and Adda Chuecas (Peru)</p> <p>Systematization and comparative study of the six pieces of research, by Mexico's Center for Research and Advanced Studies in Social Anthropology (CIESAS)</p> <p>Information available online in the specialized section of the IIHR's website (<i>Diversidades</i>)</p> <p>Reports and statistics compiled using the WebTrends software, confirming the number of hits and visits to the specialized section</p>

<p>measures, with a view to disseminating information about difficulties and good practices for increasing the political participation of indigenous peoples.</p>		<p>implementation and the work plan and schedule of activities; f) updating and posting of materials related to indigenous peoples in the specialized section of the IIHR website (<i>Diversidades</i>).</p> <p>The work of systematizing and conducting a comparative analysis of the six studies includes the following variables: a) compilation of the legal framework; b) compilation of information concerning the institutional and regulatory models; c) analysis of use given to them; findings of the document-based research conducted regarding this variable; findings of empirical research on this variable; d) comparing of data on indigenous voting behavior in two electoral processes; political-electoral maps of the country, showing ethnic representation during the period covered by the research; analysis of indigenous performance in elections (political parties and governments headed by indigenous individuals); e) final report containing all the document-based and empirical information for each variable in separate reports; and, a general analysis of the entire study, endeavoring to answer the key questions proposed in the methodology.</p> <p>By the end of the reporting period, the six pieces of research had been completed and project staff were making the preparations for the workshop at which the researchers from the six countries will share their experiences and the findings of the studies (October 2006), and preparing the training modules that will be used for the training activity (December 2006).</p> <p>The terms of reference were drawn up and the counterpart organization chosen to develop the indicators of progress of indigenous participation in political life, based on the IIHR's experience with its Maps of Progress of Human Rights (final quarter of 2006). These activities pertain to the two other components of the project (training, and information and dissemination).</p> <p>For the implementation of the Culture of Inclusion Project, the programs of the Department of Civil Society Entities have had to coordinate all the work closely with the IIHR/CAPEL and the Institute's support units.</p>	
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Activities	Impact Indicators 2005/2006 Work Plan	Achievements	Means of Verification
<p>Applied research on access to citizenship and political participation for the Afro-descendant population in Colombia and Panama</p> <p>Objective: To enhance the capabilities of the Afro-descendant population and organizations that monitor and engage in advocacy efforts in political-electoral processes.</p>	<p>NGOs, CSOs, electoral tribunals and stakeholders and decision-makers involved with the issue are more knowledgeable about the progress made and obstacles encountered in the efforts to increase the political participation of Colombia's Afro-descendant population"</p> <p>Relatively less developed countries have shared knowledge about the experience of political participation of the Afro-descendant population in Colombia</p>	<p>The project implemented the first activity (25-07-06), a <i>Panel of Experts to Assess the Situation regarding the Political Participation of the Afro-descendant Population in Colombia</i>. This focused on four variables: a) electoral legislation and regulations concerning Afro-descendants; b) administrative arrangements (issuing of identity cards, voter registration); c) use of legal remedies and regulations by the Afro-descendant population (at the local, national and regional levels); and, d) the participation of Afro-Colombians in elections. This activity was implemented in Colombia, the Latin American country that has made most progress with constitutional, legislative and administrative measures (quotas) designed to increase the participation of the Afro-Colombian population in political life. Held in Cali, a city that has one of the country's largest Afro-descendant communities, the panel was co-sponsored by the local Universidad Javeriana. The event was a great success and attracted around 105 people involved in the issue under discussion. The Director of the IIHR/CAPEL served as the moderator and the speakers included the former president of the National Electoral Council, the Director of the Afrolider Foundation, the Director of the School of Political Sciences of the Universidad Javeriana-Cali, the Director of the Social Pastoral Section of the Diocese of Quibdó, Chocó, and the Executive Director of the National Afro-Colombian Conference (CNOA).</p> <p>The following actions were carried out prior to the activity: a) design of the terms of reference of the variables for the studies to be presented during the panel discussion; b) identification of the counterparts who would conduct the studies; c) follow-up to the activities by the IIHR, which evaluated their implementation and the work plan and schedule of activities; d) updating and posting online of materials related to the Afro-Colombian population in the specialized section of the IIHR website (<i>Diversidades</i>). The next step was to draft the terms of reference and identify the counterparts for the components that will be executed in the last quarter of 2006: a) research/action on the inclusive electoral legislation enacted in Panama to build</p>	<p>Quarterly reports on the activities of the Program to Combat Racism</p> <p>Papers presented by the members of the panel: Dr. Guillermo Reyes, Dr. Maura Nasly Mosquera, Dr. Fernando Giraldo, Father Albeiro Parra and Father Emigdio Cuesta.</p> <p>Posters, invitations, report on the activity, list of participants, photographs, videos of the activity held by the Universidad Javeriana-Cali and the IIHR</p> <p>Information available online in the specialized section of the IIHR's website (<i>Diversidades</i>)</p> <p>Reports and statistics compiled using the WebTrends software, confirming the number of hits and visits to the specialized section</p>

		<p>on the progress achieved by the Afro-Panamanian population in implementing the national project carried out under the aegis of the Promoting a Culture of Inclusion Project (2002-2005). The ultimate aim is to draft a bill on affirmative action measures or minimum quotas for the political participation of the Afro-descendant community; b) drafting of guidelines for a system of indicators of progress on the social inclusion and political participation of the Afro-descendant community, drawing on the Declaration and Action Plan of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (Durban, South Africa, 2001), that could be applied in the eight countries selected by the project (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru and Uruguay).</p>	
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How was progress made in achieving the performance indicator of the project PROMOTING A CULTURE OF INCLUSION?

The objective of the “inclusion” component is to enhance the capacity of women, indigenous peoples and Afro-descendant populations to exercise their citizens’ rights based on the principles of equality, nondiscrimination and full political participation, thereby strengthening inclusive democracy, governability and the Rule of Law. This effort is a continuation of the process and actions carried out between 2002 and 2005 under this project, geared to organizations representing the target populations, with a view to helping to translate equality under the law (de jure) into real (de facto) equality in the enjoyment and exercise of their human rights.

To achieve this, a strategy was drawn up during the period under review (September 2005 - August 2006) to foster actions that would:

- Determine the impact that equal opportunities legislation has had on public policies and on the institutionalization of equality and gender equity
- Bolster the participation of women, indigenous peoples and Afro-descendant populations in political and civic life, promoting its institutionalization, particularly in electoral bodies, in accordance with national legislation on the issue
- Provide specialized information to facilitate the advocacy efforts of CSOs working on behalf of the target populations. These organizations are being familiarized with the scope and potential use of legislation designed to increase equality and the exercise of political rights, so they can monitor its implementation and establish links with related public bodies to make their voices heard.

This strategy was also designed to permit different areas of the IIHR to work together (Department of Civil Society Entities, the Center for Electoral Promotion and Assistance (IIHR/CAPEL) and the Applied Research Unit). This is enhancing the synergies among the organizations with which they work, intensifying 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.

To achieve this, four activities were implemented during the period under review: a) assessments of the impact of legislation designed to foster gender equality; b) research on the implementation of quota mechanisms; c) strengthening of the participation of indigenous peoples in political and civic life, to

consolidate democracy and governability in the region; and, d) a project to give the Afro-descendant population greater access to citizenship and political participation.

WOMEN

A number of UN and ECLAC studies have found that **laws guaranteeing equality** help States determine their policies in this area. They also serve as a mechanism for implementing the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), although difficulties and problems arise that pose an obstacle to the full implementation of such legislation. The current project is facilitating the production and dissemination of knowledge about an issue that hitherto has been little explored, determining the impact that equal opportunity laws have had on legislation, public policies and the institutionalization of gender equality and equity. This complements the initial advocacy approach with results-based action.

Producing and disseminating specialized knowledge in this area makes it possible to gauge how much progress has been made since the respective legislation was implemented, identifying difficulties and weaknesses, good practices and lessons learned. This input could be used for possible future joint monitoring and evaluation activities. Having the final versions of the documents on the research carried out in four countries (Costa Rica, Honduras, Panama and Venezuela) is an important step toward the attainment of the respective performance indicator.

Studies carried out by ECLAC and other international organizations suggest that affirmative action policies (mechanisms guaranteeing minimum **quotas** for the political participation of women) are an effective tool. The main objective of quota mechanisms is to institute temporary measures that benefit women, with a view to eliminating discrimination and inequalities, and helping them achieve equal political participation and representation. Actions of this kind are based on the commitments assumed by the States in the CEDAW Convention, particularly in Article 4.

Hitherto, no effort had been made to study the actions of electoral organizations with respect to the implementation of quota mechanisms established in electoral legislation. The project is creating the conditions for the production and dissemination of knowledge on this subject and, in doing so, edging toward the attainment of the performance indicator set for it.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

The number of studies on the participation of indigenous electors in democratic processes has been growing at a satisfactory rate, at least in those countries where the phenomenon constitutes an important development. Many of the studies carried out analyze the emergence and composition of indigenous movements and how they burst on to the electoral scene. Nearly all of them presuppose that such movements have emerged *in spite of* the electoral system, not because of it. However, few studies have examined the links between emerging processes and participation and the most recent changes in the legal and administrative framework, to determine the extent to which the new conditions have driven, or are driving, the process. This is an area of research that has yet to be explored and has at least two complementary aspects: the relationship between electoral practices and active suffrage (i.e., the indigenous population's exercise of the right to vote) and their impact on passive suffrage (the existence of indigenous candidates). Some of the studies conducted on this subject provide details of the results obtained by indigenous candidates and the performance of indigenous individuals elected to office, and the impact of these developments on political relations in general. But very few have considered the behavior of the indigenous electorate - largely because no specific electoral data is available - or, therefore, any possible link with the legal and administrative framework and indigenous candidates' use of it. Both lines of research warrant further work and this is the reason why the IIHR decided to implement this project to strengthen the participation of indigenous peoples in political and civic life, to consolidate democracy and governability in the region. The project comprises three components: a) production of specialized knowledge (applied research); b) training and information (training workshop-course); c) dissemination (publication, CD-Rom and *Diversidades* - specialized section of the IIHR's website). The research, which has been carried out in six countries of the region (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama and Peru), includes four variables: a) electoral legislation and regulations concerning the indigenous population; b) administrative arrangements; c) use of legal remedies and regulations by indigenous peoples; and, d) the

participation of the indigenous community elections. During the period under review (September 2005 - August 2006), the research was concluded and the process of analysis and evaluation is nearing completion (identifying difficulties and weaknesses, good practices and lessons learned). This process is related to component b) (training and information), which will culminate in December 2006 with a training workshop-course on indigenous political participation targeted at leaders of representative organizations from twelve countries in the region (the six already mentioned plus Argentina, Chile, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Paraguay and Venezuela). A workshop involving the six researchers is being organized for October 2006, to allow them to share their experiences and gauge the progress of the studies, contribute to the preparation of the training modules for the workshop-course and discuss theoretical and methodological aspects of the proposed indicators of progress of political participation, which form part of the process. The research will also be presented at a specialized international event (Congress of the Latin American Network of Jurists - RELAJU), to obtain broader feedback on the research that will subsequently be published in the form of a book. Component c) (dissemination) was implemented parallel to the research, via the specialized section of the website (*Diversidades*), and the work continues. The section is kept up-to-date and new material on the topic is posted systematically (both on inclusion and indigenous political participation). Although not complete, the preliminary findings of the studies provide a collection of data that will be very useful for preparing an agenda for political participation in some countries of the region. It will provide input for drafting electoral legislation, public policies, programs, strategies and lines of action designed to improve the inclusion of native peoples in democracies in the region.

THE AFRO-DESCENDANT POPULATION

The Afro-descendant population has the region's worst economic and social indicators and enjoys limited cultural recognition and access to decision-making bodies. Moreover, much less progress has been made with studies and specialized research on this segment of the population's participation in political life. Accordingly, the project to promote access to citizenship and political participation for the Afro-descendant population decided to focus on two components: a) production of specialized knowledge (applied research); and b) training/information/dissemination. The first component consisted of a *Panel to assess the situation regarding the political participation of the Afro-descendant population* in Colombia, based on the same four variables used for the research on indigenous participation described above. The aim of the project is to familiarize other countries that have made relatively less progress with regard to the political participation of Afro-descendants with the good practices developed in Colombia and the lessons learned from the experience. Authoritative knowledge will be passed on to the Afro-descendant population and its organizations, CSOs that focus on the rights of this population and electoral and other related institutions. The information will be made available to both countries that have advanced electoral systems and others that have not yet developed legislation, jurisprudence, doctrine and/or administrative arrangements to foster greater participation. Held in July 2006 in Cali, Colombia, in coordination with the Department of Political Sciences of the Universidad Javeriana, the panel attracted 105 people, drawn from a variety of institutions involved in the issue. The Director of the IIHR/CAPEL and the official in charge of the Indigenous Peoples and Human Rights and Combating Racism programs, of the IIHR's Department of Civil Society Entities also took part. During the event, the analytical documents prepared by specialists on the subject were presented and discussed in depth. The discussion of these documents, combined with critical observations concerning the electoral processes held from the 1990s onwards (1991 Constitution, Law 70) helped raise the profile of this issue in the public and political arenas. The activity provided an opportunity to promote cultural diversity and link inclusive democratic processes with the demands related to multiculturalism, including the promotion of equal opportunities in the field of social development and political participation, by means of legislation, public policies and affirmative action that guarantee the participation of these marginalized segments of the population on equal terms, both in Colombia and other parts of the region. This will be achieved through the training/information/dissemination activities scheduled by the project for the last quarter of 2006. To bolster the efforts to achieve the inclusion of the target population even further, the project disseminated information throughout the period (September 2005 - August 2006) via the specialized section of the Institute's website (*Diversidades*). The section is kept up-to-date and new material on the topic is posted systematically, on both the inclusion and political and civic participation of Afro-Colombians in particular, and of Afro-descendants in general.

**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

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PROJECT BY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR
September 2005-August 2006**

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

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

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

Half-yearly Goal 1 (2005): To consolidate the process of security sector reform as part of the implementation of a public citizen security policy in the Dominican Republic

Activities	Impact Indicators 2005 Work Plan	Achievements	Means of Verification
<p>Technical assistance to support the implementation of the Public Citizen Security Policy in the Dominican Republic</p> <p>Objective: To consolidate the implementation of the Public Citizen Security Policy in the Dominican Republic by providing specialized technical assistance to the institutional actors responsible for security matters.</p>	<p>Enhanced institutional capabilities for designing and implementing measures to guarantee people's security, as part of a public security policy in the Dominican Republic</p>	<p>Project staff carried out a mission to the Dominican Republic from 5-10 December 2005, part of the sub-project "Promoting a Citizen Security Policy in the Dominican Republic." This (primarily political) mission was used to analyze the political and institutional situation and evaluate the prospects for continuing the IIHR's technical assistance following the changes that took place in the police force with the appointment of a new Chief of Police. The many meetings in which the team was involved during the mission highlighted the opportunities, demand and growing need for our continued support in 2006. Demonstrating the country's commitment, the President endorsed the <i>Democratic Security Plan</i>, which was published and disseminated widely.</p> <p>Some of the biggest achievements were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Coordination of the activities of the various institutions involved, to achieve the objectives set (Ministry of the Interior, National Police, Attorney General's Office) -Continuation of the strategy for monitoring, overseeing and supervising implementation of the priority actions called for in the Democratic Security Plan and the Modernization Strategy. 	<p>The Democratic Security Plan was approved and published. It assigns responsibilities to each of the agencies involved in security matters, particularly the National Police. The plan is now being implemented and the IIHR and other international organizations are officially assigned to provide support in specific areas</p> <p>Report on mission to the Dominican Republic (12-05)</p>

Half-yearly Goal 2 (2005): To enhance the capacity of citizens' organizations to prevent juvenile violence in Buenos Aires Province

Activities	Impact Indicators 2005 Work Plan	Achievements	Means of Verification
<p>Training workshop on the social prevention of juvenile violence in Buenos Aires</p> <p>Objective: To enhance the capabilities of grassroots organizations whose work involves the prevention of violence with young offenders.</p>	<p>Grassroots organizations implementing projects under the Multiple Response Program have enhanced capabilities for work with young offenders.</p> <p>Reenergized local network for work with teenagers and young people who are at risk or are offenders, strengthening the coordination and joint efforts of neighborhood organizations and security forums.</p>	<p>The most important achievement during the period under review related to the efforts to strengthen grassroots participation in the prevention of juvenile violence was the implementation of the <i>Training Seminar-Workshop for Neighborhood Leaders –Community Prevention of Violence</i>, in the city of La Plata from 24-25 November 2005.</p> <p>The workshop was targeted at members of citizens' organizations currently executing projects aimed at the social prevention of crime (projects targeted at young offenders). Most of the organizations concerned focus on psychosocial assistance for young people at risk. The Multiple Response Program (MRP) was also presented during the activity. This comprises projects being implemented in Buenos Aires Province targeted at young people at risk and young offenders. The Program includes: a) actions aimed at integrating young people into society through the arts, sports, education and training in trades; b) institution building actions for grassroots organizations, security forums and NGOs that work with young people and teenagers; and, c) the creation of Local Rights Promotion Units (ULPDs) to enable young people to fully exercise their citizen's and human rights.</p> <p>During the event, it was reported that an amendment to Law 12,154 had been submitted to the provincial legislature, specifically regarding the article that states that the forums are a mechanism for monitoring the work of the police. The amendment would extend the forums' remit to</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List of participants in the training • Program of the Seminar-Workshop • Methodology and teaching materials • Reports on the missions and evaluations of the workshops • Announcements and reports in the mass media (press and television)

		<p>include the administration of justice. The reasons given for seeking the amendment are that justice is a public service and, as such, should be effective and tailored to citizens' needs.</p> <p>The seminar-workshop brought together around fourteen hundred (1400) people from 326 forums. The media reported that the topics addressed and the workshops held were essential to improve the execution of the tasks that are of concern to the entire community and form part of the forums' remit.</p>	
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Annual Goal 1 (2006): To consolidate the process of security sector reform as part of the implementation of a public citizen security policy in the Dominican Republic

Activities	Impact Indicators 2006 Work Plan	Achievements	Means of Verification
<p>Technical assistance in implementing the Public Citizen Security Policy in the Dominican Republic</p> <p>Objective: To consolidate implementation of the Public Citizen Security Policy in the Dominican Republic by providing specialized technical assistance to the institutional actors responsible for security matters.</p>	<p>Enhanced institutional capabilities for designing and implementing measures to guarantee personal security, as part of a public security policy in the Dominican Republic</p> <p>Improved grassroots and civil society participation in the design, monitoring and evaluation of public citizen security policies, and in the oversight of the police</p>	<p>Two weeklong technical assistance missions were carried out to the Dominican Republic, in February and March 2006. During the missions, and in the weeks between them, the IIHR team provided advice and assistance regarding certain priority areas of the Democratic Security Plan drawn up in 2004 with the Interior Ministry and senior police officers. During the second mission, three workshops were held - on community policing, criminal investigations and the prevention of violence by the community (for leaders of neighborhood organizations). The first mission took place 21-25 February 2006 and focused on the efforts to forge closer ties between the National Police and the community, through the Community Police and by increasing the community's involvement in security. The IIHR officials in charge of the project and the team of consultants took part. Political discussions took place with the Secretary of the Interior and the Police Chief, plus technical meetings with the Director of Preventive Security, the Director of Criminal Investigations and the Director of Internal Affairs. With these officials, the team visited some of the neighborhoods involved in the Democratic Security Plan. It was decided that technical assistance workshops were needed and these were planned for the second mission to the country (27-30 March 2006). The first workshop was held 27 March.</p>	<p>Reports on the technical assistance missions to the Dominican Republic (02/06 and 03/06)</p> <p>Evaluations filled out by the participants in the workshops</p>

		<p>Twenty-five Community Police officers took part, mainly those involved in the "Safe Neighborhood Program." The Chief of the National Police, Major Gen. Bernardo Santana Páez, inaugurated the workshop. Consultants Robinson Pérez (Chile) and Carlos Basombrío (Peru) led the activity. The second workshop, which took place 27-28 March, was targeted at 30 officers from the Criminal Investigations Department. The aim was to improve police investigations and the application of the new Criminal Procedural Code. Consultant Andrés Domínguez Vial (Chile) led the workshop. The third workshop, which was also held 27-28 March, involved 40 people from 26 grassroots organizations based in different poor neighborhoods of Santo Domingo. The workshop was led by consultant Marcelo Koyra (Argentina).</p>	
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Annual Goal 2 (2006): To enhance institutional capabilities for devising and implementing democratic citizen security policies and for cooperation between sub-regions of Latin America (Central America and MERCOSUR)

Activities	Impact Indicators 2006 Work Plan	Achievements	Means of Verification
<p>Support the definition of democratic public citizen security policies at the regional level</p> <p>Objective: To enhance the institutional capabilities for devising and implementing democratic public citizen security policies, and cooperation and consensus-building among the sub-regions of Latin America to prevent organized transnational crime.</p>	<p>Enhanced institutional capabilities for devising and implementing democratic citizen security policies</p> <p>A regional coordination mechanism established to tackle the problem of insecurity based on comprehensive democratic strategies that guarantee human rights</p> <p>Enhanced cooperation and consensus among the sub-regions of Latin America in a collective effort to prevent organized transnational crime</p>	<p>The Meeting of Experts to prepare for the ministerial meetings on citizen security took place 30-31 January, in San Jose, Costa Rica. The objective was to draw up a document containing a series of recommendations and guidelines for the design and formulation of citizen security policies that guarantee respect for human rights. Eight carefully selected experts from Latin American took part and got through a great deal of work together. Before the Meeting of Experts, consultant Carlos Basombrío worked closely with the IIHR to draft a base document that was circulated among the experts invited to take part in the activity. Thus, by the time they arrived for the meeting they had already studied the document and prepared their observations. The fact that the discussions revolved around the document ensured that maximum use was made of the time available. Following the meeting, the experts had two weeks in which to submit their observations in writing. They had already presented some of their comments during the activity, while others were the result of further research and consultations in their particular field of expertise. The IIHR has all the experts' contributions on file, available for consultation at any time. Since the meeting, the IIHR has been working on the</p>	<p>Document containing recommendations for the formulation and implementation of public citizen security policies</p>

		<p>document containing the recommendations, which is intended to provide a set of basic standards regarding an issue that is now a government priority, as the problem of insecurity is one of the greatest concerns of citizens throughout the hemisphere. This it has made it possible to reenergize a network of experts on security in Latin America.</p> <p>The project had been negotiating the arrangements for the MERCOSUR Security Meeting with the Human Rights Secretariat and the Homeland Security Secretariat of Argentina, since that country held the Pro Tempore Presidency of MERCOSUR. Unfortunately, in July 2006 the negotiations fell through so we began negotiating with the office of the President of Chile. Chile subsequently confirmed its willingness to host the meeting (through the Senate and the Ministry of the Interior). The Regional Meeting for the MERCOSUR countries has been scheduled for November 2006.</p>	
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How was progress made in achieving the performance indicator of the CITIZEN SECURITY project?

Since 2003, the IIHR has been involved in different stages of the design and implementation of a democratic public security policy in the Dominican Republic and, as part of this effort, in the process of restructuring the National Police. A change of government took place after this process began, which was followed by the appointment of new officials with responsibility for security and, recently, a new Chief of the National Police. Fortunately, the caliber of the IIHR's team and the consultants, allied to the prestige and reputation that the Institute enjoys, made it possible for the project to overcome the obstacles created by the changes and not be affected by the political situation.

The main indicator of the results of the efforts to strengthen the institutional capabilities for determining and implementing measures that guarantee citizen security is the approval of the Democratic Security Plan. Under the plan, specific responsibilities are assigned to each of the agencies involved in security matters, particularly the National Police. The respective actions are now being implemented and further advisory assistance from the IIHR is required. The Democratic Security Plan has two basic objectives. The first is to reestablish the authority of the Dominican State by means of a sweeping reform of the National Police. The aim is not only to put police on the streets of the countries' cities and towns but also to restore the citizenry's confidence in the institution. The second objective is to guarantee the population's basic civil rights, making the citizenry the principal actor in democratic security in the Dominican Republic.

There is clear evidence that implementing the "Safe Neighborhood Program" in twelve districts of the capital (extended to other neighborhoods in Santiago), which is being coordinated by the Secretariat of the Interior and the police themselves, is enhancing the institutional capabilities for executing citizen security plans and policies.

The Training Workshops on the Social Prevention of Juvenile Violence, held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, confirmed that training is always a useful tool for strengthening grassroots organizations. As they are close to, and have first-hand knowledge of, the situation in each area, these organizations are the ones best placed to promote specific actions in their immediate area, such as the community prevention of violence.

Such participation by the citizenry should also create opportunities for integrating young people into society, e.g., possibilities of employment, education and protection, so they can fully exercise their rights as citizens.

The participation of large numbers of organizations in the three training seminars held during 2005 demonstrated the level of interest in, and demand for, opportunities to acquire the expertise they need to take part in citizen security efforts and help reduce insecurity, mainly through social work with groups that are at risk. Many of the participants traveled 1000 kilometers to take part, under their own steam.

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

All the above has helped:

- Enhance the capabilities of civil society and the citizenry for the design and implementation of actions to prevent violence and juvenile crime and monitor the police's operations.
- Enhance the capabilities of civil society for monitoring justice administration.
- Strengthen the mechanisms for community participation, as a new democratic model in the construction of security.
- Turn the authorities' attention to security matters, to focus efforts, provide tools and strengthen organizations, in order to prevent crime and criminality at the local level, adopting an integrated approach and with the emphasis on social prevention
- The work through the Network of Experts, established for cooperation between sub-regions of Latin America (Central America and MERCOSUR), and the immediate result, the document containing recommendations for the formulation and implementation of public citizen security policies, reflect the progress being made in this field.
- The Regional Meetings on Security, scheduled for both MERCOSUR and Central America in December 2006, will make it possible to acquaint the participants with the latest developments and achieve regional-level consensus at the highest political and technical levels. With regard to the indicator, it is worth noting the Government of Chile's willingness and commitment to host the MERCOSUR Meeting in December 2006. The project is already coordinating with local security institutions (through the Ministry of the Interior) in preparation for the meeting of senior security officials from the members of MERCOSUR (Chile, Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay and Venezuela).

**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

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PROJECT BY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR
September 2005 - August 2006**

PROJECT: STRENGTHENING THE OMBUDSMAN IN LATIN AMERICA

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

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

Annual Goal 1 (2005): To coordinate efforts to tackle common concerns of ombudsman's offices in the region; and help design a regional horizontal cooperation strategy for monitoring and providing follow-up to public policies on citizen security			
Activities	Impact Indicators 2005 Work Plan	Achievements	Means of Verification
<p>Support for the organization of the 10th FIO Congress</p> <p>Objective: To help organize the 10th Congress of the International Federation of Ombudsman (FIO).</p>	<p>The technical and academic quality of the FIO's agenda was enhanced</p> <p>Ombudsman's offices were strengthened through the joint actions agreed on at the FIO Congress</p> <p>The FIO was strengthened by revising and updating its Statute</p>	<p>The 10th FIO Congress took place 14-17 November 2005 in Asunción, Paraguay. A total of 17 ombudsman and 3 representatives of provincial state-run ombudsman offices took part, along with specially invited guests. The event provided an opportunity to discuss and reach agreement on important issues that affect the Latin American region in general and ombudsman offices in particular. As a result of the discussions, two declarations and a resolution were issued on matters of importance to the members of the FIO - the Declaration of Asuncion, the Declaration of the Ibero-American Network of Women's Ombudsman Offices to the Tenth FIO Assembly and a resolution supporting the proposal made by the Guatemalan community living in the United States of America that they be granted Temporary Protection Status (TPS).</p> <p>The activities during the event included a meeting of the committee set up to study and discuss the reform of the FIO Statute. The committee issued a document setting out their conclusions regarding the progress and proposals made during the process of reforming the Statute. This was presented to the FIO General Assembly so the ombudsman institutions could study it. The discussions that took place during the General Assembly marked further progress with the process of reforming the FIO</p>	<p>Program of the Tenth FIO Congress and Annual Assembly</p> <p>FIO Governing Council report on the activities carried out between 2003 and 2005</p> <p>Report from the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights</p> <p>Conclusions of the meeting of the committee set up at the 9th General Assembly to study and discuss the reform of the FIO statute</p> <p>Letter from the IIHR asking the FIO Governing Council to relieve it of its responsibilities as the FIO Technical</p>

		Statute but no specific agreement was reached.	Secretariat
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Annual Goal 2 (2005) and Half-year Goal 1 (2006): To enhance the capabilities of ombudsman's offices in Latin America and the Caribbean by means of an integrated information and communication system

Activities	Impact Indicators 2005 Work Plan	Achievements	Means of Verification
<p>Updating of the Integrated Information and Communication System for Ombudsman Offices in Latin America and the Caribbean</p> <p>Objective: To consolidate and strengthen an information and communication system for the ombudsman's offices in Latin America and the Caribbean.</p>	<p>Capabilities of ombudsman's offices in Latin America and the Caribbean enhanced by means of an integrated information and communication system</p> <p>Ombudsman institutions better equipped to respond quickly to crises, conflicts and internal disturbances</p> <p>More visits to the different subsections and services offered by the specialized section</p>	<p>The section offers a complete compendium of up-to-date information about all of the ombudsman offices in Latin America and the Caribbean, and human rights doctrine, legislation and jurisprudence, and related news. Ombudsman offices that visit the specialized section have access to the documentation they need to carry out their mandate and to information about counterpart institutions.</p> <p>During the reporting period, the early warning system did not need to be activated. However, it continues to be regarded as an important tool for the ombudsman's offices, via which they can inform their counterparts of critical situations with which they are confronted.</p> <p>During the period covered by this report, a growing number of people visited the Ombudsnet and spent longer studying the information available. Between July and September 2005, there were 4396 visitors, an average of 47 per day. Between 1 October and 15 December 2005, 29,934 people visited the section each day (an average of 393). Between January and March 2006, there were 41,249 visitors, an average of 505 per day. Between April and June 2006, the total reached 57,380 (daily average of 644). Finally, in July and August, 59,209 people visited the section, an average of 1909 per day.</p>	<p>Log of hits/visitors to the specialized section: www.iidh.ed.cr/http://comunidades/ombudsnet</p>

Annual Goal 3 (2005): To present the results of a regional assessment and a proposal concerning the role of ombudsman institutions in protecting the rights of indigenous peoples

Activities	Impact Indicators 2005 Work Plan	Achievements	Means of Verification
<p>International Symposium</p> <p>Objective: To present and promote the results of a regional assessment and make proposals regarding the role of ombudsman institutions in protecting the rights of indigenous peoples.</p>	<p>More information about the role of ombudsman institutions in protecting the rights of indigenous peoples</p> <p>Consensus reached on proposals regarding the role of the ombudsman in ensuring that indigenous peoples have access to justice and in supporting actions and efforts aimed at achieving the enactment and enforcement of legislation guaranteeing such rights</p>	<p>An International Symposium of UN Experts was held 12-15 October 2005 at the University of Arizona in Tucson, USA, on the implementation of legislation and jurisprudence at the national level related to the rights of indigenous peoples. Around 50 people took part in the symposium, representing indigenous peoples in the United States, Latin America, Norway, The Philippines, New Zealand and Canada. The IIHR facilitated the participation of three ombudsman officials who specialize in indigenous matters, drawn from the countries involved in the project "Access to Justice for Indigenous Peoples and the Institution of the Ombudsman in Latin America" (2004-2005). The delegates from the indigenous ombudsman offices answered many questions and concerns raised by the participants, sparking great interest in their work and joint efforts. The symposium also provided an opportunity to learn about the various ways of bridging the gap between constitutional and legislative progress on indigenous rights and the enforcement of rights at the national level. The participants recognized the potential role of ombudsman offices in achieving greater access to justice for indigenous peoples and influencing the formulation of public policies on indigenous issues.</p>	<p>Program of the International Symposium of UN Experts</p> <p>List of panelists and participants</p> <p>Four academic documents</p> <p>Conclusions and proposals</p> <p>General Report on the symposium</p>

Half-year Goal 2 (2006): To support the ombudsman's offices in Central America by consolidating cooperation between the Central American Council of Human Rights Ombudsman (CCPDH) and the Caribbean Ombudsman Association (CAROA)

Activities	Impact Indicators 2006 Work Plan	Achievements	Means of Verification
<p>Meeting between the Central American Council of Human Rights Ombudsman (CCPDH) and the Caribbean Ombudsman Association (CAROA)</p> <p>Objective: To strengthen the ties and work of the CCPDH and CAROA by enabling them to share their experiences and discuss common concerns.</p>	<p>Stronger ties between the CCPDH and CAROA</p> <p>Greater capacity for coordination between the CCPDH and CAROA</p> <p>More horizontal cooperation between members of the CCPDH and CAROA</p> <p>Stronger mandate for the defense of human rights in the countries whose ombudsman belong to the CCPDH and CAROA</p> <p>The ombudsman institutions that belong to CAROA and the CCPDH are stronger and more consolidated</p> <p>The regional networks have stronger links with the Inter-American Human Rights Commission and the Inter-American Human Rights Court</p>	<p>The Central American Council of Human Rights Ombudsman (CCPDH) held its 32nd meeting in Belize City, Belize, from 8-10 March 2006. Project staff took advantage of the opportunity to hold a preparatory meeting with representatives of the CCPDH and the President and Secretary/Treasurer of CAROA. During the meeting, it was stated repeatedly that the activity was a very important opportunity to continue consolidating the relations between the two entities. It was agreed that members of the CCPDH would take part in the Biannual Meeting of CAROA, due to be held in May 2006, in Barbados. The resolution adopted by the CCPDH at this meeting made reference to the importance of the President of the CCPDH and the Technical Secretariat maintaining permanent communication with the members of CAROA, with a view to designing a strategy for joint efforts involving the two bodies.</p> <p>Follow-up meeting involving the Central American Council of Human Rights Ombudsman (CCPDH) and the Caribbean Ombudsman Association (CAROA): the Fourth Biannual Meeting of the Caribbean Ombudsman Association (CAROA) was held 15-19 May 2006, in Barbados. The theme of the meeting was "The Ombudsman's role in the changing environment of the Caribbean. Civil liberties and democratic government." The meeting was attended by all the Caribbean ombudsman and the outgoing and incoming presidents of the CCPDH and its Technical Secretariat. During this meeting, the CCPDH and CAROA strengthened their ties by sharing experiences and discussing mutual concerns. The two organizations agreed to hold a meeting of all the members of the CCPDH and CAROA, in Costa Rica, to continue to strengthen the partnership between the two regional bodies. It was suggested that this meeting be held in Costa Rica, while the Inter-American Court of Human Rights was in session, so that the Caribbean ombudsman could learn more about human rights issues and the Inter-American System.</p> <p>The meeting will be held in November 2006, coinciding with the regular sessions of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.</p>	<p>CCPDH resolution concerning relations with CAROA</p> <p>Outline of the work carried out at the meeting</p> <p>Work program of the meeting</p> <p>Framework strategic plan of the CCPDH</p> <p>Agreement of intent between the CCPDH and CAROA</p> <p>Program of the Fourth Biannual Meeting of CAROA</p> <p>Mission Report</p>

		The members of both the CCPDH and CAROA have approved the organization of this activity.	
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How was progress made in achieving the performance indicator of the project STRENGTHENING THE OMBUDSMAN IN LATIN AMERICA?

The IIHR helped strengthen ombudsman institutions in Latin America by implementing the activities scheduled for the period under review. It provided training, technical assistance and political support to the different offices that required it through the regional bodies (the Central American Council of Human Rights Ombudsman (CCPDH), the Caribbean Ombudsman Association (CAROA) and the Ibero-American Federation of Ombudsman (FIO)).

The different activities provided the ombudsman’s offices with useful tools for carrying out their day-to-day work, thus enabling them to impact critical issues in their respective countries more effectively. Having stronger regional networks, with closer ties between the different organizations, makes it possible to share knowledge and experiences, and engage in horizontal cooperation that helps improve their working practices and generates more political support for their actions.

Disseminating information about the work of the ombudsman offices, both through the integrated information system and by participating in international conferences, highlights the importance of their activities, strengthens their mandate for promoting and disseminating human rights, raises the profile of their actions within their respective countries and beyond, and gives them the credibility and political support they need to continue to operate effectively.

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

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE PROJECT BY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR
September 2005 - August 2006

PROJECT: RAPID RESPONSE SYSTEM

FINAL GOAL: To respond, from a human rights perspective and adopting a technical/academic approach, to emerging short-term situations in the region that pose a threat to democratic governability and the full exercise of human rights, implementing actions that both USAID and the IIHR agree are necessary

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR: State institutions and civil society networks are better equipped to detect and respond to institutional weaknesses that pose a threat to human rights and democratic governability

How was progress made in achieving the performance indicator of the RAPID RESPONSE SYSTEM project?

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

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

INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF HUMAN RIGHTS

USAID COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT LAG-A-00-02-00001-00

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

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PROJECT BY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

September 2005 - August 2006

PROJECT: STRENGTHENING ELECTORAL INSTITUTIONS

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

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR: The members of the Inter-American Electoral Network have enhanced technical capabilities and expertise.

Annual Goal 1 (2005-2006): To consolidate the activities of the Inter-American Electoral Network aimed at strengthening the electoral bodies involved			
Activities	Impact Indicators 2005-2006 Work Plan	Achievements	Means of Verification
<p>Inter-American Electoral Network</p> <p>Objective: To continue administering the network of networks of the electoral bodies that belong to the different associations.</p>	<p>Network of electoral bodies in the region expanded and strengthened</p> <p>More documentation and comparative experiences, as input for the work of the associations and research projects</p> <p>Electoral bodies and members of the electoral network in general have more up-to-date knowledge</p> <p>Easier access to up-to-date political and electoral information</p>	<p>Throughout the period under review (September 2005-August 2006), the Inter-American Electoral Network facilitated information sharing and communication among its members. As of June 2006, the database (red-electoral@iidh.ed.cr) contained information about 614 people. In April alone, the number rose by 29, with the inclusion of participants in the 12th Inter-American Course on Elections and Democracy, held 24-27 April in Mexico City, plus 16 more people with whom contact was made during this very busy electoral period. Thirteen horizontal cooperation missions were carried out: Honduras (27 November 2005), Chile (11 December 2005 and 15 January 2006), Bolivia (18 December 2005), Costa Rica (5 February 2006), Colombia (12 March 2006, for members of Congress), El Salvador (12 March 2006, for mayors and members of Congress), Dominican Republic (16 May 2006), Peru (9 April 2006, first round of voting in the presidential election and elections for members of Congress and representatives to the Andean Parliament, Peru (4 June 2006, presidential run off), Colombia (29 May 2006, presidential election), Bolivia (2 July 2006, election of representatives to the Constitutional Assembly) and Mexico (2 July 2006, general elections).</p> <p>The staff continued to post online the main papers and presentations given at the conferences held (UNIORE, Tikal Protocol and a Special Meeting of the Quito Protocol).</p>	<p>Inter-American Electoral Network</p> <p>Up-to-date distribution list that includes 614 people (red-electoral@iidh.ed.cr)</p> <p>UNIORE newsletters (issues 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60), in Spanish and English</p> <p>IIHR/CAPEL Web page: (www.iidh.ed.cr/cape1)</p>

Activities	Impact Indicators 2005-2006 Work Plan	Achievements	Means of Verification
<p>Tikal Protocol</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <p>To encourage dialogue among the electoral bodies of Central America and the Caribbean.</p> <p>To keep electoral officials in Central America and the Caribbean abreast of developments with respect to the Inter-American Electoral Network.</p>	<p>Electoral organizations have more specialized technical knowledge of the topics discussed at the conference</p> <p>Progress in updating the Work Program of the Association of Electoral Bodies</p> <p>More and stronger partnerships of electoral organizations leading to joint actions on technical electoral matters related to the Tikal Protocol</p> <p>The topics on the Work Program of the electoral bodies updated with the agreements adopted at the conference</p> <p>More active members of the Association</p>	<p>The 19th Conference of the Association of Electoral Bodies of Central America and the Caribbean (Tikal Protocol) took place 26-29 September 2005 in the city of Flores, El Petén province, Guatemala. Some 32 delegates took part, plus six people from the Executive Secretariat (IIHR/CAPEL), and four experts (speakers) on the subject chosen as the theme of the activity ("The Tikal Protocol - from the germ of an idea to what it has become today").</p> <p>The 20th Conference of the Tikal Protocol took place 8-9 August 2006 in Panama City, co-sponsored by Panama's Electoral Tribunal. The event was held parallel to the 8th Conference of UNIORE (7-11 August) and a Special Meeting of the Quito Protocol. Some 23 delegates took part from the Association's member organizations, plus five people from the Executive Secretariat (IIHR/CAPEL) and two experts. The conference allowed the electoral bodies to share their ideas and experiences concerning the theme of the two conferences, namely "The state of democracy in the Americas in the early years of the 21st century. The new challenges in a context of change." The IIHR/CAPEL has disseminated most of the papers presented and agreements adopted at the conference via its Web page. The electoral bodies were asked to prepare national reports to provide input for the discussions, including an analysis of the latest political developments and their thoughts on the role that the Association should be playing in the current context. Both conferences helped the members gain a better understanding of the current situation in each country.</p> <p>At the conferences, it was proposed that the electoral body of Haiti be permitted to join the Association. However, due to the difficult electoral process and the provisional nature of the electoral body, the Secretariat has been unable to make contact. This, despite the fact that the Tikal Protocol, UNIORE and the Haitians themselves have expressed interest. It will be difficult to make any progress with this matter until the political situation changes and Haiti's electoral body becomes a permanent</p>	<p>Report on the 19th Conference of the Tikal Protocol</p> <p>List of delegates to the 19th Conference of the Tikal Protocol</p> <p>Report on the 20th Conference of the Tikal Protocol</p> <p>List of delegates to the 20th Conference of the Tikal Protocol</p> <p>Agreements adopted at the conferences, available on CAPEL's Web page: www.iidh.ed.cr/capel</p>

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Activities	Impact Indicators 2005-2006 Work Plan	<i>Achievements</i>	Means of Verification
<p>Newsletters of the Inter-American Union of Electoral Bodies (UNIORE)</p> <p>Objectives: To continue keeping the members of the Inter-American Electoral Network abreast of the most important political and electoral developments in the Americas.</p> <p>To disseminate information about activities related to the associations of electoral bodies.</p>	<p>Electoral information disseminated more widely in the hemisphere</p> <p>More documents and experiences shared on electoral topics and processes in the region</p> <p>Users of the Network more conversant with electoral topics and processes in the region</p>	<p>Seven newsletters were produced between September 2005 and August 2006 and distributed among the members of UNIORE, CSOs involved in electoral issues (particularly those of the Lima Agreement), certain organizations belonging to the Inter-American Network for Democracy (RID), academics, members of political parties, donors and local USAID offices. The publications were very well received, as confirmed by emails sent in by the users of the Network, in which they thanked the IIHR/CAPEL for sending them the information and endorsed the newsletter's content.</p>	<p>Inter-American Electoral Network</p> <p>Specialized section of the IIHR's Web page (www.iidh.ed.cr/capel)</p> <p>UNIORE newsletters (issues 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60) in Spanish and English</p> <p>Distribution list that includes 614 people (constantly being updated)</p> <p>Emails sent to the IIHR/CAPEL</p>

Activities	Impact Indicators 2005-2006 Work Plan	Achievements	Means of Verification
<p>UNIORE Conference</p> <p>Objectives: To encourage dialogue among the members of UNIORE.</p> <p>To update the electoral officials of the member organizations with respect to the activities of the Inter-American Electoral Network.</p>	<p>The electoral bodies have more specialized technical knowledge of the issues addressed at the conference</p> <p>Progress in updating UNIORE's work program</p> <p>More and stronger alliances of electoral bodies for joint activities on technical electoral matters</p> <p>Work program of the electoral bodies updated as a result of the decisions taken at the conference</p>	<p>The 8th Conference of the Inter-American Union of Electoral Bodies (UNIORE) took place 7-11 August in Panama City, co-sponsored by the Electoral Tribunal of Panama and parallel to the 20th Conference of the Tikal Protocol (8-9 August) and a Special Meeting of the Quito Protocol. The participants included 51 delegates from the members of UNIORE, five people from the Executive Secretariat (IIHR/CAPEL) and two experts. The conference allowed the electoral bodies to share their ideas and experiences concerning the theme of the event, namely "The state of democracy in the Americas in the early years of the 21st century. The new challenges in a context of change." The IIHR/CAPEL has disseminated most of the papers presented and agreements adopted at the conference via its Web page. The electoral bodies were asked to prepare national reports to provide input for the discussions, including an analysis of the latest political developments and their thoughts on the role that the Union should be playing in the current context.</p>	<p>Program of the event and list of delegates</p> <p>UNIORE newsletters</p> <p>Report on the 8th Conference of UNIORE</p> <p>Agreements adopted at the conference, available on CAPEL's Web page (www.iidh.ed.cr/capel), which include a list of the delegates</p>

Annual Goal 2 (2005-2006): To strengthen selected electoral organizations and those engaged in electoral and political reform processes in 2005 and 2006

Activities	Impact Indicators 2005-2006 Work Plan	Achievements	Ascertainment Means
<p>Horizontal Cooperation Missions</p> <p>Objective: To share and transfer know-how and experience among electoral bodies</p>	<p>Electoral legislation or practices modified as a result of the implementation of recommendations or lessons learned from the missions</p> <p>The members of the Inter-American Electoral Network have more comparative knowledge of electoral legislation and practices</p>	<p>Between September 2005 and August 2006, a total of 13 horizontal cooperation missions were carried out involving members of the associations of electoral organizations and the Inter-American Electoral Network. The missions were as follows: Honduras (general elections on 27 November 2005), Chile (general elections on 11 December 2005 and run off election on 15 January 2006), Bolivia (general elections on 18 December 2005), Costa Rica (general elections on 5 February 2006), Colombia (elections for members of Congress on 12 March 2006), El Salvador (elections for mayors and members of Congress on 12 March 2006), Dominican Republic (congressional and local elections on 16 May 2006), Peru (presidential election and elections for members of Congress and representatives to the Andean Parliament on 9 April 2006), Peru (run off for the presidency on 4 June 2006), Colombia (presidential election on 29 May 2006), Bolivia (election of representatives to the</p>	<p>2005-2006 Election Calendar</p> <p>List of observers</p> <p>Summaries of the conclusions of the evaluations of the elections in Honduras, Chile, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Colombia, El Salvador, Dominican Republic, Peru and Mexico</p> <p>UNIORE newsletters (issues 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60)</p> <p>International Electoral News</p>

		<p>Constitutional Assembly on 2 July 2006,) and Mexico (general elections on 2 July 2006).</p> <p>The horizontal cooperation missions made comparative technical recommendations regarding the secrecy of the ballot and aspects of electoral logistics and organization, training and the civil and electoral registries. No electoral reforms were enacted as a result, but the missions continue to provide local officials with plenty of ideas for possible reforms and specific improvements to electoral practices.</p>	Service (SINE)
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Activities	Impact Indicators 2005-2006 Work Plan	Achievements	Means of Verification
<p>Exploratory missions</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <p>To keep up-to-date the table of technical electoral 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>Technical needs in the electoral field updated</p> <p>Progress made in identifying areas for technical assistance</p>	<p>The Director of the IIHR/CAPEL carried out an exploratory mission to Ecuador from 30 January to 1 February 2006, to meet the new members of the TSE and establish work priorities for the elections slated for October this year.</p>	<p>Report on the Exploratory Mission to Ecuador</p>

How was progress made in achieving the performance indicator of the project **STRENGTHENING ELECTORAL INSTITUTIONS**?

The project was extremely busy during the period under review, with general elections being held in Bolivia, Chile and Honduras in 2005. The year 2006 kicked off with the full program of activities we had anticipated, given the number of elections scheduled for this year. The presidential run off in Chile was the first election to take place, followed by general elections in Costa Rica, legislative elections in Colombia, El Salvador and the Dominican Republic, general elections in Peru, Colombia and Mexico, and an election for a Constituent Assembly in Bolivia. In every case, the IIHR/CAPEL was responsible for preparing the programs of the observation missions carried out under the aegis of the Electoral Network. In Colombia and Chile the results were clear-cut but in Costa Rica and El Salvador the elections were too close to call, creating a climate of uncertainty. The closest election result of all was in Mexico. It should be noted that the electoral institutional framework withstood the pressures and difficulties that this situation created.

In the case of Colombia, the project also helped organize a comparative forum on the organization of elections in Latin America, thanks to funding provided by other donors.

The IIHR/CAPEL believes that these reciprocal electoral observation activities, involving judges and officials of electoral bodies in different countries, should continue to be strengthened, provided they are channeled through the region's associations of electoral organizations and the host body's observation agenda is respected. The emphasis on technical matters must be maintained. An unfortunate incident took place during the first round of voting in Peru. Observers from the electoral bodies of Venezuela and Nicaragua failed to stick to the program and became embroiled in a political argument with one of the candidates. The National Elections Board was naturally upset and did not invite the two countries concerned to observe the second round of voting. Situations of this kind can be avoided if the observation activities carried out respect the institutional parameters established by the host electoral agency.

Another area in which important progress towards achieving the performance indicator was made concerns the research undertaken by the IIHR/CAPEL in recent years, which is of great academic value for enriching the region's doctrine on political-electoral issues. The launching of the different publications on political parties (Agenda for Strengthening Political Parties, Cuaderno de CAPEL 50 and Democratization of Political Parties in Bolivia, Chile and the Dominican Republic) again highlighted the IIHR/CAPEL's role as an institution that creates and disseminates doctrine on current issues. These publications were disseminated at the 12th Inter-American Course on Elections and Democracy, which took place in Mexico (24-27 April). Financed by other donors, this event provided stakeholders with an important opportunity to meet and discuss the challenges facing contemporary democracy. The participants included electoral judges and officials, representatives of political parties and CSOs, and academics from all parts of the region.

Finally, the 19th Conference of the Tikal Protocol was held in Guatemala in September 2005. Furthermore, despite the very full election calendar (with elections already carried out and others being organized), the project was able to confirm Panama as the site of the UNIORE conference, after the Supreme Electoral Tribunal of Brazil withdrew its offer to host the activity. The fact that the event took place at the same time as the 20th Tikal conference enriched the discussions and also permitted the Executive Secretariat to pool its organizational and financial resources for these key activities.

The 8th Conference of UNIORE and the 20th Conference of the Tikal Protocol and Special Meeting of the Quito Protocol brought together 51 delegates from electoral bodies of 24 western-hemisphere countries. They engaged in wide-ranging discussions on the challenges facing electoral democracy in the region as the new information technologies begin to be used to organize processes, and the impact of these developments on the turnout and how they can help strengthen democratic regimes in Latin America. The UNIORE and Tikal Protocol conferences confirmed the importance of such meetings to guide the efforts of the Inter-American Electoral Network, based on shared, objective criteria in the areas of technical assistance and the international observation of elections. Since the Secretariat was able to hold talks with senior electoral officials from El Salvador and Nicaragua, it was not necessary to carry out in situ visits to those countries.

Two especially important electoral processes took place. The elections in Bolivia reflected the sweeping constitutional changes taking place in the region and the role of the mechanisms for direct democracy in this process. The fact that the country is strongly polarized threatens to hinder the work of the Constituent Assembly. In Mexico, the election demonstrated once again the worrying trend in Latin America toward very narrow margins of victory. Situations of this kind place the electoral bodies in a very difficult position, as they attempt to respond to the demands of public opinion and deliver information under great political pressure. In spite of everything, Mexico's institutional system proved equal to the challenge, in an election in which the two leading presidential candidates obtained almost the same number of votes (the difference was less than 0.5%). When the time comes to systematize the experiences of 2006, an entire chapter will have to be devoted to Mexico.

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

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PROJECT BY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

September 2005 - August 2006

PROJECT: EQUAL REPRESENTATION AND POLITICAL PARTY REFORM

FINAL GOAL: To enhance the capacity of formal representation systems, with special emphasis on the strengthening, democratization and transparency of political parties, in order to promote equal citizen participation and representation

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR: More proposals for the internal democratization of political parties, based on comparative experiences

Annual Goal 2005-2006: To implement national pilot projects in at least one country in the region, with the respective academic support, that could be replicated in other countries, based on the development of a Strategic Plan aimed at strengthening and democratizing political parties and making them more transparent

Activities	Impact Indicators 2005-2006 Work Plan	Achievements	Means of Verification
<p>Develop and disseminate concrete proposals for advancing the internal democratization of political parties</p> <p>Objective: To draft and disseminate proposals for advancing the internal democratization of political parties in the countries selected (Chile, Bolivia and Dominican Republic).</p>	<p>More validated proposals on ways of democratizing political parties in the countries selected</p> <p>Broadening of the public debate regarding proposals for democratizing political parties in the countries selected (Chile, Bolivia and Dominican Republic)</p> <p>Appropriation of the debate by the political parties</p>	<p>Between September 2005 and August 2006, the project published "Democratización Interna de los Partidos Políticos en Bolivia, Chile y la República Dominicana," in a printed format and on CD-ROM.</p> <p>This work is an innovative instrument that focuses on the actual situation of the political parties of the three countries studied. There are major differences between the parties studied. While some place great emphasis on legality and the role of electoral arbitrators, in others the determining factor is the combination of formal and non-formal practices. Yet others have very little cohesion, exhibiting serious structural problems that range from their ideological identity to the way they are organized.</p> <p>The respective presentations are under way. The project will take advantage of the horizontal cooperation missions and other activities programmed by IIHR/CAPEL to augment the dissemination and impact of the publications.</p>	<p>Reference in UNIORE newsletter # 58</p> <p>Printed publication and CD-ROM <i>Democratización Interna de los Partidos Políticos en Bolivia, Chile y la República Dominicana</i>, IIHR/CAPEL 2006</p> <p>IIHR/CAPEL Web page (www.iidh.ed.cr/capel)</p>

Activities	Impact Indicators 2005-2006 Work Plan	Achievements	Means of Verification
<p>Preparation of the Strategic Plan (Meeting of Experts and Internal Planning)</p> <p>Objective: To develop a comprehensive strategic plan for the IIHR/CAPEL's efforts to strengthen political parties with clearly defined goals, results, methods, forms of intervention, intermediate steps, countries and priority topics.</p>	<p>The IIHR/CAPEL has greater technical expertise for its strategic efforts to strengthen political parties</p>	<p>Early in February 2006, the project produced a new version of the "Strategic Plan for Strengthening Political Parties in Latin America." After the IIHR/CAPEL team had studied and approved the document, on 22 February it was emailed to seven experts: Jean Francois Prud'homme (Canada/Mexico), Flavia Freidenberg (Argentina), Delia Ferreira (Argentina), Rafael Toribio (Dominican Republic), Fernando Sánchez (Costa Rica), Alvaro Artiga (El Salvador) and Rotsay Rosales (Costa Rica). Consultant Ana Cecilia Escalante supervised and coordinated all this work. The experts were asked to evaluate the plan's conceptualization and strategic approach, identify the countries where local actions or national projects could be implemented, and draw up a list of priorities with regard to the themes, lines of action and activities, based on the criteria set out in the document.</p> <p>The results of this virtual consultation were used as the basic input for an on-site meeting of the experts involved (except for Jean Francois Prud'homme) on April 28 in Mexico City, following the Twelfth Inter-American Course on Elections and Democracy, which was held 24-27 April in that city.</p> <p>Immediately after the meeting, consultant Ana Cecilia Escalante used all the experts' contributions and inputs to prepare a new version of the strategic plan, together with a series of annexes that includes details of the IIHR/CAPEL's previous experience, a list of questions under the different thematic headings and a proposal for the IIHR/CAPEL team of specialists on how to set about implementing the plan. The proposal discusses and attempts to resolve certain key issues related to the implementation of this plan, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal organization of the IIHR/CAPEL • Teamwork involving the technical personnel • Team members available (consultants) • Resources available <p>The proposal also includes a table to help determine the first countries where the strategy will be implemented. The</p>	<p>"Strategic Plan for Strengthening Political Parties in Latin America," on file at the IIHR/CAPEL</p>

		IIHR/CAPEL team of specialists is in the process of completing this information and will be holding a working meeting to arrive at the final version of the document.	
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Activities	Impact Indicators 2005-2006 Work Plan	Achievements	Means of Verification
<p>Specialized Studies</p> <p>Objectives: To study specific proposals in the areas of transparency, institutionalization and democratization, with a view to systematizing and disseminating them.</p>	<p>More comparative knowledge of each subject area</p> <p>More proposals for local or regional actions to strengthen political parties</p> <p>Stronger bases for possible national agendas</p>	<p>Since February 2006, two pieces of research have been available. They are the fruits of the work strategy being implemented since 2002, entitled “Strengthening Political Parties in Latin America.” This has involved various components consisting of research and action.</p> <p>The first publication is the Memoria del Proceso de Consultas Regionales en América Latina, which contains the core documents pertaining to the discussions and conclusions of the consultations held in 2004 and 2005 in South America, Central America and the Caribbean, the Andean Region and Mexico. The aim was to garner the opinions of politicians, electoral judges, civil society organizations and academics regarding the strategy’s future priorities.</p> <p>A special issue of the Cuadernos de CAPEL was published (#50), entitled Partidos Políticos en América Latina: institucionalización, democratización y transparencia. The editors were Fernando F. Sánchez C. and José Thompson. The publication contains an in-depth analysis of the thematic emphases of the IIHR/CAPEL’s work strategy by three experts: María de los Ángeles Fernández (institutionalization), Flavia Freidenberg (democratization) and Delia Ferreira (transparency).</p> <p>Printed versions of the two publications can be obtained from the IIHR’s Publications Unit, while electronic versions are available on CAPEL’s Web page (www.iidh.ed.cr/capel)</p>	<p>Memoria del Proceso de Consultas Regionales en América Latina. IIHR/CAPEL, 2006</p> <p>Cuaderno de CAPEL 50: Partidos Políticos en América Latina: Institucionalización, Democratización y Transparencia. IIHR/CAPEL, 2006</p> <p>Reference in UNIORE newsletter #57</p> <p>IIHR/CAPEL Web page (www.iidh.ed.cr/capel)</p>

Activities	Impact Indicators 2005-2006 Work Plan	Achievements	Means of Verification
Web page Objectives: To create a cyber center for specialized information and communication, to support a network of members of political parties in Latin America	Agents of change within political parties who use the expanded Cyber Center are better informed Experiences and models for institutionalization, democratization and transparency in political parties being shared Better studies and comparative research on political parties at the regional and local levels	The work of re-designing the website focused on four main tasks during the period under review: 1. Clearer definition of the portal's design and functions, to make it a dynamic site that meets the needs of the IIHR/CAPEL and its target population 2. The IIHR changed its Internet server, migrating to one with greater capacity. As a result, all the Web applications had to be transferred to the new server, including the CAPEL portal. For this operation, it was necessary to review the licenses and properties allotted to the CAPEL portal in the previous server. 3. Carrying out of tests of both the system and server, to ensure they were operating properly. 4. Updating of the contents of both of the documents library and the portal.	IIHR/CAPEL Web page (www.iidh.ed.cr/capel)

How was progress made in achieving the performance indicator of the project EQUAL REPRESENTATION AND POLITICAL PARTY REFORM?

The strategy devised to address the various aspects involved in the internal democratization of political parties proved to be correct and successful. During the period under review, the three publications planned (*Memoria del Proceso de Consultas Regionales en América Latina*, *Cuaderno de CAPEL 50* and *Democratización de los Partidos Políticos en Bolivia, Chile y República Dominicana*) were unveiled. The respective presentations are under way. The horizontal cooperation missions and other activities programmed by the IIHR/CAPEL will be used to increase the dissemination and impact of these publications. They have been well received and, together with the final version of the strategic plan, when it is ready, they will increase the IIHR/CAPEL's capabilities for strengthening political parties in Latin America.

The IIHR/CAPEL has demonstrated that this kaleidoscope of activities is possible and viable. It can be coordinated through the direct action of the IIHR/CAPEL, its team of specialists or its group of consultants, or by activating various networks of academics, electoral bodies or citizens' organizations that exert influence in political processes.

During the period under review, the project produced the final version of the proposed 2006-2010 Strategic Plan for Strengthening Political Parties in Latin America.

During the first half of the year (January-June 2006), the IIHR/CAPEL produced a document that a group of experts studied via a virtual consultation. The experts then suggested other viewpoints and inputs they felt the Plan should contain. On 28 April 2006, following the conclusion of the Twelfth Inter-

American Course on Elections and Democracy in Mexico City, an onsite meeting took place of the IIHR/CAPEL team and experts who had attended the Course as speakers, rapporteurs and participants. The IIHR/CAPEL consultant for the Strategic Plan, Ana Cecilia Escalante, coordinated the activity. The group studied and discussed in detail the objectives, programming, subject matter, approach, target population, expected results and the countries on which the work will focus. One of the suggestions made at the meeting of experts was that the drafting of the national plans of action during the second half of 2006 (July-December) should be a careful, gradual effort, focusing on one (or, at most, two) pilot countries. The plans of action will be implemented in the pilot country or countries in 2007 and 2008; then, drawing on the lessons learned, the work will continue in 2009 and 2010 with the implementation of plans of action in the other countries chosen, based on the criteria established for that purpose.

The IIHR/CAPEL believes that the research and consultations with political parties, the projection of the specialized publications produced and the embryonic strategic plan place it in a good position to exert influence over other levels of the life of political parties in Latin America. The new Web page, which is better designed and incorporates functions that are easier to use, will be an important tool to meet the needs of the IIHR/CAPEL and its target population.