



Conference Programme

Dates:	August 14 th – 15 th 2017
Venue:	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico Meeting Room José María Morelos
Organised by:	The Kofi Annan Foundation
Hosted by:	The Kofi Annan Foundation (KAF) Foreign Affairs Ministry of Mexico (SRE) National Electoral Institute of Mexico (INE) Federal Electoral Court of Mexico (TEPJF) Specialized Electoral Attorney of Mexico (FEPADE) Electoral Institute of Mexico City (IECM) Latin American Parliament (PARLATINO)
Partners:	United Nations Department of Political Affairs / Electoral Assistance Division (UNDP/EA), International IDEA, International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), The Carter Center, National Democratic Institute (NDI) and Open Society Foundations.
Participants:	Public officials, electoral practitioners, legislators, experts, political parties, civil society organisations, practitioners, media.
Working languages:	Spanish/English
Objectives:	To share experiences, compare challenges and exchange best practices, to advance electoral integrity in the region.
Expected outputs:	a) A synthesis report with the working groups key take-aways b) Creating a network of practitioners, political actors, experts and civil society organizations from different countries in the region, in support of electoral integrity. c) A mechanism facilitating a permanent dialogue in support of electoral integrity in the region.



I. Working panels:

The six working panels will examine factors impacting electoral integrity and democratic governance:

- 1. Mainstreaming a gender perspective in electoral processes: nomination of candidates, parity, equal campaigns, management of elections and final rulings.**
 - This panel will reveal the importance of inclusive practices in every stage of the electoral process and, more broadly, in policies undertaken by the state, by electoral authorities and by political parties. Speakers will explain the available mechanisms to enhance representation with a gender perspective (parity, quotas, etc.) and how this can be achieved through internal democratic procedures of political parties. Political violence against women is a current backlash that has to be address in this panel.
- 2. Money and politics. How to effectively manage political finance: Integrity and transparency.**
 - This panel will engage in the relationship between money and politics, focusing on four main aspects: 1) How to stop/denounce corruption inside politics and campaigns/elections 2) How to preserve the principle of political equality during political campaigns when facing the threat of illicit funding, of undue influence of powerful stakeholders in unequal societies and of misuse of administrative resources? 3) How to preserve principles of transparency, maximum publicity and accountability to prevent and combat public and private corruption in the political sphere. 4) How to effectively fund electoral management bodies, specialised courts and other bodies that empower voters, to guarantee their functionality and independence?
- 3. Prevention and control of election-related violence.**
 - This panel will focus on democratic breakdowns that lead to violence and how to prevent them and restore peace. Participants should be aware of negotiation strategies that reinforce democratic practices through non-violent methods. The key elements that explain successful and failing situations should be fleshed out, preferably with references to bad and good practices in the region. Moreover, speakers will refer to effective strategies in restoring democratic practices in cases of crisis.



4. Access to justice.

- The challenges of preventing rigged elections, guaranteeing a level playing field during electoral competitions and correcting flaws in vote tabulation to ensure truly representative electoral processes are some of the main concerns by academics and practitioners who study democracy through elections. Less attention has been given to an essential democratic condition: the availability of mechanisms to uphold the rule of law and to promote and protect human rights linked to political participation and representation. Broad public access to justice at the local, national, regional and international levels must be available against violations to those rights, along with the corresponding reparation and remedies.

5. The media, new technologies, digital domains and elections. Freedom of expression or control?

- This panel will concentrate on the double dilemma of protecting freedom of expression, equal access to media and the right of information. But also, the role of authorities, parties and candidates to condemn and sanction illegal practices that affect those rights and principles.
- While some countries devote substantial budgets to online and social media advertising campaigns others still struggle for free and equal access to traditional media. The panelist will discuss transparency and effectiveness of different models.
- Recent elections in different regions were denounced as rigged or affected by illegal practices, such as: hackers that stole campaign strategies, manipulated social media to create false information, spyware defacing campaign websites and breaking into databases, hacked smartphones, spoofed and cloned web pages, false mass e-mails and texts, digital interception, attack, decryption, and defense. How can candidates and voters be protected? What is the role of authorities? Are elections in the region under threat ?

6. Building resilient institutions and political will against threats to electoral integrity.

- This panel will focus on the major threats to electoral integrity and how different national and local stakeholders can work together to prevent and combat authoritarian practices. Participants will stress the importance of broad democratic solutions and present examples of successful institutional resistance to the risks of democratic backslide, and road maps to lock in democratic principles and practices (conditionality, democratic clauses, joint statements, binding agreements, and their formal and informal incentives to enforce their observance).



II. Schedule

Day 1

8:45-9:00

Registration

9:00 – 9:50

Opening ceremony

Luis Videgaray Caso

Minister for Foreign Affairs of Mexico

Alan Doss

Executive Director of the Kofi Annan Foundation

Monica Arali Soto Fregoso

Justice of the Federal Electoral Court of México.

Santiago Nieto

Specialized Electoral Attorney of Mexico

Blanca Alcalá

Alternate President of PARLATINO

Mario Velázquez

President of the Electoral Institute of Mexico City

Lorenzo Cordova

President of the National Electoral Institute of México.

10:00 - 11:00

Electoral Integrity in Latin America

Keynote speakers

Kofi Annan (Video)

Ricardo Lagos

Former President of Chile

Moderator

Miguel Ruiz Cabañas

Under Secretary of Multilateral Issues and Human Rights
Foreign Affairs Ministry of Mexico

11:00-11:30 am

Press conference

COFFEE BREAK



11:30-13:00

First working panel

A gender perspective on electoral processes

Laura Chinchilla

Former President of Costa Rica

Monica Arali Soto Fregoso

Justice of the Electoral Court of Mexico

Ana Guezmes

UN Women Representative to Mexico

Katia Veronica Uriona Gamarra

President of the Superior Electoral Tribunal of Bolivia

Flavia Freidenberg

UNAM/Legal Research Institute

Moderator

David Holiday

Senior Regional Advocacy Officer in the Latin America Program
Open Society Foundations

13:00-14:00

LUNCH BREAK

14:00-15:30

Second working panel

Money and politics. How to effectively manage political finance

Juan Pablo Pozo

President of the National Electoral Council of Ecuador

Gilmar Ferreira Mendes

President of the Superior Electoral Tribunal of Brazil



Ivan Velasquez Gomez (Commissioner)

International Commission Against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG)

Maria Marvan Laborde

President of the Governing Council of Transparency Mexico

Daniel Zovatto

International IDEA, Director for Latin America and the Caribbean

Moderator

Michael Svetlik

Vice President of Programs

International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES)

15:30-15:45

COFFEE BREAK

15:45-17:15

Third working panel

Prevention and control of election-related violence

Eugenio Chicas

Former President of the Electoral Tribunal of El Salvador

Alejandra Barrios

President of the Global Network of Domestic Election Monitors (GNDEM)

Mercedes de Freitas

Executive Director of Transparency International, Venezuela

Edmundo Jacobo Molina

Executive Secretary of the National Electoral Institute of Mexico (INE)

Moderator

Hiroko Miyamura

Co-Team Leader. Country Support.

Electoral Assistance Division Department (UN-EAD)



Day 2

09:30-11:00

Fourth working panel

Access to justice

Eduardo Ferrer Mac-Gregor Poisot

Vice President of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights

Jaime Bestard Duschek

President of the Superior Tribunal of Electoral Justice of Paraguay

Rolando Gonzalez Ulloa

Secretary General of PARLATINO (Costa Rica)

Santiago Nieto

Specialized Electoral Attorney of Mexico

Moderator

Carmen Alanis

Kofi Annan Foundation

11:00-11:15

COFFEE BREAK

11:15-12:45

Fifth working panel

Media, democracy and elections

Leonardo Curzio

Internationalist and Mexican Journalist

Blanca Alcala

Alternate President of PARLATINO (Mexico)

Eduardo Nuñez

Director of Central America Public Security Program
(NDI/Guatemala)



Jennie K. Lincoln

Director of the Latin America and the Caribbean
Program of the Carter Center

Nguyen Huu Dong

International Electoral Expert

Moderator

Manuel Carrillo Poblano

Head of the International Affairs Unit
National Electoral Institute of Mexico

12:45 – 14:00

LUNCH BREAK

14:00-15:30

Sixth working panel

**Building resilient institutions and political will
against threats to electoral integrity**

Janine Otalora

President of the Electoral Court of Mexico

Yuri Beltran

Counselor of the Electoral Institute of Mexico City

Alan Doss

Executive Director of the Kofi Annan Foundation

Lorenzo Cordova

President of the National Electoral Institute of Mexico

Moderator

Eduardo Nuñez

Director of Central America Public Security Program
(NDI/Guatemala)



15:30-16:00

Conclusions and closing session

Alan Doss

Executive Director of the Kofi Annan Foundation

Laura Chinchilla

Former President of Costa Rica

Miguel Ruiz Cabañas

Under Secretary of Multilateral Issues and Human Rights
Foreign Affairs Ministry of Mexico