



XXXVII CONFERENCE

ASSOCIATION OF ELECTORAL BODIES OF CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (Tikal Protocol)

September 5-6, 2024

The delegates, representatives of the electoral bodies of **Antigua and Barbuda, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Panama, Puerto Rico, and the Dominican Republic**, gathered during the XXXVII Conference of the Association of Electoral Bodies of Central America and the Caribbean (Tikal Protocol), held in the City of San Juan, Puerto Rico, on September 5 to 6, 2024.

By reaffirming our unwavering faith in democracy as the system that offers people the opportunity to fully exercise their freedom and sovereignty, as well as to enjoy their civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights, and after deliberations on the topic *“Representation and Accessibility: Strategies to Guarantee the Right to Vote for All.”*

WE AGREE TO:

1. Acknowledge receipt of the Executive Secretariat’s report of activities for the Association of Electoral Bodies of Central America and the Caribbean for the period from September 12, 2023, to September 5, 2024.
2. Recognize the work and technical assistance of the Center for Electoral Advice and Promotion (CAPEL), which has been fundamental to achieve positive results in order to continue building more robust electoral organizations in the region.
3. Recall that, as established in the Constitutive Act of the Tikal Protocol, this Association aims to strengthen electoral bodies to ensure the legitimacy, integrity, and trust in electoral processes, as well as to guarantee the participation and respect for the political rights of all citizens.
4. Highlight the importance of holding the Tikal Protocol Conference in Puerto Rico at this time when elections are close to being held in November of this year, considering the valuable exchange between peers that contributes to strengthening the electoral process. As well as recognizing the technical and professional work of the State Elections Commission and the Office of the Electoral Comptroller of Puerto Rico.



5. Emphasize the importance of electoral bodies having sufficient resources, trained personnel, and appropriate technology to effectively carry out their functions. Additionally, it is crucial to have a clear and up-to-date legal framework that regulates their operation and grants them the necessary autonomy to make independent decisions and make proposals on budgetary matters, a determining factor for planning the electoral process that incorporates inclusion components.
6. Reiterate the Association's commitment to strengthening cooperation and exchanging best practices among the electoral bodies that are members of the Tikal Protocol, to improve the quality and efficiency of electoral processes and to meet international standards in this area.
7. Recognize the diversity of the members of this Association as an invaluable asset that elevates our discussions and activities. We hope that the initiatives developed within this framework are implemented and can strengthen the democracies of the Americas.
8. Highlight the variety of perspectives and experiences of the member electoral bodies in implementing initiatives to guarantee the right to vote for all and urge the continuation and strengthening of these initiatives, and the sharing of experiences to enhance the Association's knowledge base and therefore encourage their application in various countries in the region.
9. Promote other spaces to make effective dialogue and collaboration between the electoral organizations that are members of the Tikal Protocol with the objective of sharing experiences, learning about good practices and proposing measures regarding inclusion, aiming at promoting representation, accessibility and the participation of vulnerable groups in electoral processes.
10. Within the framework of the Association, promote horizontal cooperation projects aimed at empowering and strengthening the leadership of women, youth, indigenous peoples, people with disabilities, and other historically vulnerable groups in electoral processes, in order to contribute to building a more inclusive and representative democracy.
11. Promote cooperation initiatives among the members of the Tikal Protocol to strengthen the technical capacities of their officials, ensuring efficiency in organizing electoral processes, and raising awareness among its personnel on issues regarding inclusion and equity, with a transversal focus on gender, youth, and diversity.
12. Propose that future conferences resume the analysis from the challenges of electoral justice and considering the contributions by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights has been promoting in this matter and in the protection of political rights in general.



13. Recognize that inclusion is an ongoing effort. However, electoral bodies have made significant strides to ensure respect for citizens' participation rights, and the XXXVII Conference has demonstrated this commitment.
14. Accept the offers of the Electoral Tribunal of Panama to make the electoral observation training center available to the electoral bodies that are members of this Association in order to strengthen professionalization and knowledge in this matter as well as access to its digital study and monitoring center (CEMD) so that each electoral body can train a minimum number of technical officials in order to support the monitoring work with links in each electoral body from the CEMD and move towards the creation of a regional index to measure the vulnerability of groups susceptible to digital violence and discrimination in terms of political and electoral rights.
15. Instruct the Executive Secretariat to carry out the necessary steps to determine the headquarters of the XXXVIII Conference of the Tikal Protocol corresponding to the year 2025.

COMMENDATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Conference:

- Celebrate the commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal of Costa Rica and the Centennial of the Central Electoral Board of the Dominican Republic.
- Expresses its gratitude to the State Elections Commission of Puerto Rico, its Interim President, Ms. Jessika Padilla Rivera, and the Office of the Electoral Comptroller of Puerto Rico, its Comptroller, Mr. Walter Vélez Martínez, for the excellent organization and the generous and warm hospitality extended to the participating delegations, speakers, and special guests.
- Thanks the participants for their commitment and dedication to the success of the XXXVII Conference, which resulted in a space for the exchange of ideas and experiences in the areas of inclusion, accessibility, and representation.
- Recognizes the staff of the State Elections Commission, the Office of the Electoral Comptroller, and the Organizing Committee of the XXXVII Conference for their efficient organization and excellent work.
- Expresses its appreciation to Ms. Pamela San Martín Ríos y Valles, electoral expert, for her outstanding contributions to this XXXVII Conference of the Tikal Protocol.

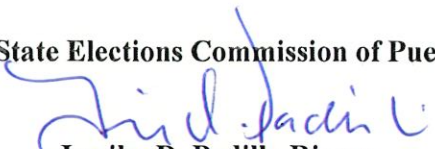



- Thanks the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights (IHR), through its programmatic area, the Center for Electoral Promotion and Assistance (CAPEL), Executive Secretariat of the Association of Electoral Bodies of Central America and the Caribbean, its Director, José Thompson, and his team, Sofia Vincenzi, Andrea Tercero Tasheena Obando for their work in strengthening the Association and for supporting the State Elections Commission and the Office of the Electoral Comptroller in the organization of this Conference.

Given in the City of San Juan, Puerto Rico, on September 6, 2024.




For the State Elections Commission of Puerto Rico


Jessika D. Padilla Rivera
Altern President


Rolando Cuevas Colón
Secretary

For the Office of the Electoral Comptroller of Puerto Rico

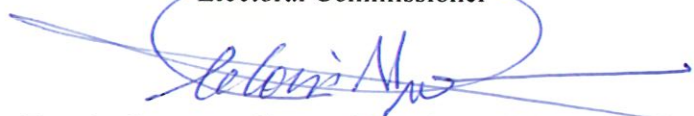

Walter Vélez Martínez
Electoral Comptroller


Sarah Rodríguez
Chief of Staff and Principal Legal Advisor

For the Electoral Commission of Antigua and Barbuda

Juliet Benjamin
Electoral Commissioner


Clovis St. Romain
Electoral Commissioner


For the Supreme Court of Elections of Costa Rica


Luz de los Ángeles Retana Chinchilla
Alternate Magistrate



Luis Diego Brenes Villalobos
Alternate Magistrate

For the Supreme Electoral Tribunal of Guatemala

Marlon Josué Barahona Catalán
Interim Judge

Pablo Adolfo Leal Oliva
Interim Judge

Jannina Padilla Fuentes
Head of Capacity-Building and Internal and External Cooperation

For the National Electoral Council of Honduras

Kelvin Fabricio Aguirre Córdova
Counselor

For the Electoral Justice Tribunal of Honduras

Karen Guandique
Alternate Magistrate

Alejandra Álvarez Flores
Senior Advisor for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation

Silvia Roberta Lara Chinchilla
Senior Advisor to the Presiding Judge's Office



For the Electoral Commission of Jamaica


Dr. Aundre Franklin
Electoral Commissioner

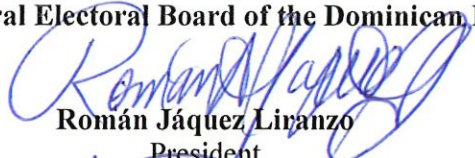
For the Electoral Tribunal of Panama


Alfredo Juncá Wendehake
President Judge


Luis Alfonso Guerra Morales
Second Vice-President Judge


Lizbeth Reyes Martínez
Director of Foreign Affairs

For the Central Electoral Board of the Dominican Republic


Román Jáquez Liranzo
President


Dolores Fernández Sánchez
Member

For the Superior Electoral Tribunal of the Dominican Republic


Ygnacio Pascual Camacho Hidalgo
President




Pedro Pablo Yermenos Forastieri
Judge

For the IIHR/CAPEL Executive Secretariat


José Thompson J.
Director IIHR/CAPEL