

STATUTE

CENTER FOR ELECTORAL PROMOTION AND ASSISTANCE

The Board of Directors of the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights,

considering that the American Human Rights Convention of "Pact of San Jose, Costa Rica", establishes that "every citizen should enjoy the following rights and opportunities: a) to participate in the running of public affairs, directly or through freely elected representatives; b) to vote and be elected in genuine periodic elections, carried out through universal and equal suffrage by secret ballot guaranteeing the free expression of the will of the electors and c) to have access, in general conditions of equality, to the public functions of their country" (Article 23.1) and that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights proclaims that "the will of the people is the basis of the authority of public power; this will shall be expressed through genuine elections which shall be celebrated periodically through universal and equal suffrage by secret ballot and other equivalent procedures which guarantee freedom of voting" (Article 21.3) therefore this act establishes in the city of San Jose, Costa Rica, the Center for Electoral Promotion and Assistance as a permanent section and activity of the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights, which shall be governed by the Constitutive Accord of the Institute agreed between the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and the Government of Costa Rica and approved by law number 6528 of the same country, by the Statutes of the Institute and by the following clauses:

1) The Center is the instrument for the planning and execution of the IHR programs related to the principles of representative democracy and the rule of law, ideological pluralism, respect for human rights, their international promotion and protection, academic freedom, international solidarity and cooperation without discrimination of any kind, and on the principles of free elections as an essential

part of the theory and practice of human rights, as a condition for democracy and as the basis of the right to free determination and of peace in national and international relations.

2) The aims of the Center shall be technical electoral advice and the promotion of elections, and the values of the democratic culture and the political participatio, full and without discrimination.

3) To achieve its aims, the Center shall carry our the activities required in order to do so, and in particular shall:

a) Maintain a group of experts ready to assist the Center when it may request their services in giving advice to the governments of the region and public bodies which request it regarding better ways of conductin electoral processes.

b) Supply observers to attend in such capacity and at the request of the corresponding country, the holding of elections in any country throughout the continent.

c) Organize research programmes on the subject of elections and comparative electoral legislation, which shall be carried out with the cooperation of other national, foreign or internatinal institutions, that pursue analogous or complementary aims and share the principles of the Center.

d) Organize conferences, talks, meetings, round tables, and generally use every other method for the promotion of electoral theory and practice.

e) Organize training courses and seminars for electoral officials in this continent.

- f) Keep up-to-date information on elections results in the Americas.

 - g) Undertake specialized research into subjects such as free elections, the transition to democracy and the strengthening of democratic systems in the Americas.

 - h) Organize international meetings to evaluate the state and prospects of electoral processes and their effect on democracy in the Americas.

 - i) Form a specialized library on the subject of elections.

 - j) Prepare, publish and distribute material concerning free, democratic elections in the Americas.
- 5) The Center will have a Director.
- 6) The Director of the Center shall be appointed by the Executive Director of the Institute in consultation with the Board of Directors of same, for a period of two years. The post involves a great deal of trust. The Executive Director of the Institute, in consultation with the Board of Directors of same or by written consultation to the members, shall be able to remove the Director of the Center, at any time.
- 7) It is the Director of the Center's duty to prepare a report on the Center's activities, programme of work and projected budget, which must be presented to the Executive Director for his approval.
- 8) In accordance with budgetary estimates, the Director of the Center shall adopt all pertinent measures for carrying out the work programme.

9) Act as Executive Secretariat, upon request of electoral organizations or groups of the Americas.

September 10, 1998