

**Three Minutes Talking Points**

**Justice José Luis Vargas Valdez**

**Interamerican Meeting of Electoral Management Bodies**

Thank you, Chair. Firstly, I would like to acknowledge the joint efforts of the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Electoral Tribunal of Panama in hosting the Fourteenth InterAmerican Meeting of Electoral Management Bodies. I would also like to congratulate the Venice Commission for taking an active role in the meeting.

Certainly, the topics analyzed reflected the current agenda of our countries and made it possible to exchange experiences on the different challenges facing democracies. For instance, we analyzed the development of the 2019 presidential electoral processes in Latin America.

We also took part in a "Social Networks Laboratory", in which we agreed that the borderless nature of the Internet and the private ownership of information pathways make today's challenges to democracy and electoral processes particularly complex. We also noted that the lack of regulation or clear standards on the issue provokes another challenge that electoral authorities face in decision making.

Dear colleagues: I am also pleased to announce that during the meeting we decided that Mexico will host the next Inter-American Meeting of Electoral Management Bodies in 2020, in cooperation with the European Conference of Electoral Management Bodies. This is a great institutional step in our cooperation with the Venice Commission.

On top of the benefits of having a high-level forum with members of the Organization of American States and members of the Venice Commission, I am convinced that this new model for our meetings will bring new and innovative tools for cooperation between both continents.

This meeting will bring together all the electoral authorities from the Americas and Europe to exchange knowledge, experiences and best practices on electoral matters. This will strengthen our institutional capacities and will improve the effective protection of rights related to political representation and participation.

Finally, I would like to stress that the Mexican State and the Electoral Tribunal are honored with the mandate to hold this forum. I can assure you that it will be of great benefit to all and I hope that all your countries can take part in the meeting.

Thank you.

