



GLOBAL FORUM ON DEMOCRACY

The role of Electoral Bodies in democratic governance

Mexico City, 24 - 25 November 2021

The National Electoral Institute promotes the Global Forum on Democracy and Electoral Management Bodies, which will be carried out through the support and cooperation of Venice Commission, Kofi Annan Foundation, International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), Inter-American Institute of Human Rights (IIDH), International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA International) and the Organization of American States.

The purpose of the Forum is to analyze and discuss some of the main problems and challenges that democracy has during the first decades of the twenty-first century. The democratic regime is the one that has the greatest humanistic nature, bases and develops with respect to other regimes.

For almost two centuries humanity built political systems to give legitimacy to political power. In this sense, elections have played a central role so that political representation has a legitimacy of origin.

Electoral management bodies have an essential role to play in this regard. Impartiality in their performance, the specific characteristics of their professional profile, the separation from political formations and other power groups that contribute to giving a new approach to the formation of the liberal democratic State with the creation of autonomous electoral bodies.

Today there is a debate about the effectiveness of democracy. To this end, the debate can be ordered. On the one hand, the issues of legitimacy of origin, where electoral bodies play a fundamental role for democratic governance. On the other hand, there is the discussion about the managerial capacity of democratic regimes.

This Forum is part of an effort of reflection and analysis initiated in 2010 to discuss Latin American democracy. Today there is a coincidence regarding the issues that afflict not only our region, but Europe, Asia and Africa. To this end, the Forum expands the geopolitical space for analysis. Democracy needs to be reinforced, rebuilt and strengthened. For this we need the talent, ideas and experiences of different politicians, academics, public officials, electoral experts among others.

The Global Forum has a medium- and long-term realization perspective. Democracy is a free, constant and rigorous exercise of review and analysis over time.

Today we begin a new era of reflection in the midst of momentous changes: the pandemic, changes in global geopolitics, environmental crisis and a kind of rearrangement towards a new and functional international system.

Wednesday 24

09:00	<p>Inaugural session. Democracy, the State and institutions in the face of a change of era</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lorenzo Córdova, President Councilor of the National Electoral Institute of Mexico • Anthony Banbury, President of the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) • Dieter Nohlen, Professor at the University of Heidelberg, Germany • Daniel Zovatto, Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of The International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA)
10:20	Break
10:25	<p>Session 2. Elections in pandemic: the challenges for electoral authorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Francisco Guerrero, Secretary for Strengthening Democracy of the Organization of American States (OAS) • Zolt Szolnoki, Secretary General of The Association of European Election Officials (ACEEEO) • Chandra Bhushan Kumar, Deputy Election Commissioner of the Election Commission of India • Terry Tselane, Executive Chairman of the Institute of Election Management Services in Africa <p style="text-align: right;">Moderator: Claudia Zavala, INE's Electoral Councilor</p>
11:20	Break
11:25	<p>Session 3. Some challenges for contemporary democracy: the weakening of the rule of law</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Larry Diamond, Professor at Stanford University, United States • Honourable Donna Parchment Brown, Political Ombudsman of Jamaica • Luis Yáñez, Secretary of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) • Fernando Vallespín, Professor of the Autonomous University of Madrid, Spain <p style="text-align: right;">Moderator: Martín Faz, INE's Electoral Councilor</p>
12:20	Break
12:25	<p>Session 4. Democracy, elections and electoral management bodies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salvador Romero, Former President of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal of Bolivia • Rafael López Pintor, Professor of the Autonomous University of Madrid, Spain • Irena Hadžabić, Commissioner of the Central Election Commission of Bosnia and Herzegovina • Leonardo Valdés, Former President of the Federal Electoral Institute of Mexico <p style="text-align: right;">Moderator: Adriana Favela, INE's Electoral Councilor</p>
13:20	Break
13:30	<p>Session 5. Reflections on the future of democracy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Right Honourable Patricia Scotland, Queen's Council and Secretary-General of the Commonwealth • Antonio Garrido, Professor at the University of Murcia, Spain • Anibal Pérez Liñán, Professor at Notre Dame University, United States • Richard Soudriette, Former President of the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) <p style="text-align: right;">Moderator: Norma Irene de la Cruz, INE's Electoral Councilor</p>
14:25	End of day's work

Thursday 25

09:00	<p>Session 6. The crisis of the political party system and political representation in the face of the authoritarian threat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corinne Momal-Vanian, Executive Director of the Kofi Annan Foundation • John Keane, Professor at the University of Sydney, Australia • Guadalupe Sanmoral, Researcher at the National Autonomous University of Mexico • Isabel de Saint Malo, former Vice-President and former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Panama <p style="text-align: right;">Moderator: Ciro Murayama, INE's Electoral Councilor</p>
09:55	Break
10:00	<p>Session 7. Electoral Management Bodies and some of their challenges: the populist threat to their autonomy and the overload of responsibilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Luis Roberto Barroso, President of the Superior Electoral Tribunal of Brazil • Jean-Pierre Kingsley, Chairman of the Delian Project Advisory Board • Carina Perelli, Electoral expert • José Woldenberg, Former President of the Federal Electoral Institute of Mexico <p style="text-align: right;">Moderator: Jaime Rivera, INE's Electoral Councilor</p>
10:55	Break
11:00	<p>Session 8. Electoral reforms and democracy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manuel Alcántara, Professor of the University of Salamanca, Spain • Tammy Patrick, Senior Advisor to the Elections program at Democracy Fund • Arturo Espinosa Silis, Director of <i>Estrategia Electoral</i> • Attahiru Jega, Former Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission of Nigeria <p style="text-align: right;">Moderator: Edmundo Jacobo, INE's Executive Secretary</p>
11:55	Break
12:00	<p>Session 9. Some challenges of contemporary democracy: legitimacy of origin and legitimacy in the exercise of power</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • José Thompson, Executive Director of the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights (IIDH) • George Katrougalos, Professor at the Democritus University of Thrace, Greece • Alejandra Barrios, Director of the Electoral Observation Mission of Colombia • Philip Dimitrov, Vice-President of the Venice Commission • Arturo Núñez, Former Director General of the Federal Electoral Institute of Mexico <p style="text-align: right;">Moderator: José Roberto Ruiz Saldaña, INE's Electoral Councilor</p>
12:55	End of the work's Forum