



REPORT

FIFTH PLENARY ASSEMBLY

GLOBAL NETWORK ON ELECTORAL JUSTICE (GNEJ)

October 9-11, 2022 Nusa Dua, Denpasar, Indonesia









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I. BACKGROUND

In 2017, Mexico's Electoral Tribunal of the Federal Judiciary (TEPJF, by its acronym in Spanish) summoned electoral courts, tribunals, and judicial bodies from around the world, international organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions, and experts in elections and electoral justice to create a network for the development, analysis, and monitoring of a common agenda on electoral justice.

Thus emerged the Global Network on Electoral Justice (GNEJ), a collaborative forum that enables the exchange of experiences, good practices, and relevant work on the matter. The aim is to coordinate academic and constitutional analyses from a public policy perspective, so that Global Network members can implement the recommendations that arise.

In the GNEJ's plenary assemblies, which are held periodically, members meet to update the work agenda and continue developing strategies, actions, and knowledge. As the founder and first presidency of the Network, the TEPJF organized the first three plenaries in 2017, 2018, and 2019 (in San Miguel de Allende, Cancún, and Los Cabos, respectively). The TEPJF was succeeded in the presidency by the Dominican Republic's Superior Electoral Tribunal (TSE, by its acronym in Spanish), which organized the fourth edition in 2021. Due to the challenges that arose due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this event was held virtually.

In 2022, Indonesia's Election Supervisory Body (Bawaslu) assumed the GNEJ presidency and organized the fifth edition, the subject of this report. In the Fifth Plenary Assembly, in-person activities were resumed, although there were also remote participants. By holding this event, Indonesia became the first host of a plenary assembly outside of Latin America.

In the plenary assemblies that were held between 2017 and 2022, the GNEJ brought together 286 representatives of 74 electoral authorities from 47 countries, 26 international organizations, and 18 academic institutes, as well as 7 private actors and 26 independent electoral experts, who, through their exchanges and ideas, have contributed to the consolidation of the Global Network on Electoral Justice.









II. DATE AND FORMAT

Dates:

October 8, 2022, 12:00-22:00

October 9, 2022, 10:30-18:00

October 10, 2022, 8:45-21:00

• October 11, 2022, 9:00-16:00

Format: hybrid

Languages: Spanish, French, English (official languages of the Network), and Indonesian

Venue: Conrad Bali Nusa Dua Hotel

Jl. Pratama No.168, Tj. Benoa, Kec. Kuta Sel., Kabupaten Badung, Bali 80363, Indonesia

III. OBJECTIVE AND METHODOLOGY

The objective of the Fifth Plenary Assembly was to analyze the elections that were held in 2022 within the framework of the COVID-19 pandemic; the disinformation disseminated by digital media in electoral processes; and the strategies to consolidate democratic systems and bring electoral justice closer to citizens. In addition, the gender perspective was established as a transversal axis.

An additional purpose was to present the work of the three GNEJ observatories — Gender Equality, Judicial Independence, and Social Media — particularly the deliverables that they developed in the course of 2022. Based on these considerations, the following work methodology was followed:

- October 9: internal meetings
- October 10: inauguration and three plenary sessions on the three main event topics
- October 11: three plenary sessions on the GNEJ observatories and closing session









Plenary 1. Analysis of the 2022 Elections and COVID-19 Pandemic Phase-out Strategies

- Analyze lessons learned from the 2022 electoral processes and characterize the current state of democracies and electoral justice systems.
- Share the good practices that electoral justice authorities found during the pandemic.
- Talk about the changes and opportunities that have arisen as a result of the pandemic for jurisdictional and administrative electoral bodies.
- Discuss current electoral reforms, particularly the legal effect of the pandemic and how resilient electoral justice can be ensured.

Plenary 2. Digital Media and Disinformation in Electoral Processes

- Share good practices to build trust in the electoral process and analyze the positive and negative aspects of the great flow of digital information.
- Analyze the regulation of digital media so that there is a fair contest between political parties and candidates.
- Discuss whether the international legal framework on disinformation and the strategies
 of electoral authorities in response to the threats and opportunities of digital media are
 sufficient.
- Talk about freedom of speech and digital media: advantages, disadvantages, and effective participation of the electorate.

Plenary 3. Strategies to Bring Electoral Justice Closer to Citizens: Transparency, Open Data, and Social Collaboration

- Share good practices and institutional and transversal lessons to improve the implementation of open justice.
- Analyze the practices of courts and tribunals in terms of the information they share: is it accessible, clear, and with a citizen focus?
- Assess the inclusion of vulnerable or historically excluded groups in the considerations for open electoral data, as well as collaboration with civil society.
- Analyze open justice as a modernization mechanism in the organizations that administer electoral justice.









Plenary 4. Gender-inclusive Electoral Justice: Exchange with the Observatory on Gender Equality

- Analyze the progress and work of the Observatory on Gender Equality of the GNEJ.
- Discuss good practices and strategies in this area to strengthen inclusive and equal electoral justice.
- Present this year's deliverable: "Guide for Judging with a Gender Perspective."

Plenary 5. Independent Electoral Justice: Exchange with the Observatory on Judicial Independence

- Analyze the progress and work of the Observatory on Judicial Independence of the GNEJ.
- Discuss good practices in the matter and analyze the factors that threaten the autonomy
 of electoral authorities and courts around the world.
- Present the second edition of the study "Judicial Independence and Due Process in Electoral Justice," which includes national-jurisdictional cases.

Plenary 6. Digital Electoral Justice: Exchange with the Observatory on Social Media

- Analyze the progress and work of the Observatory on Social Media of the GNEJ.
- Study the technological factors that strengthen or threaten democratic principles and electoral processes around the world.
- Gather good practices in this area so that the authorities may issue fair decisions that ensure the delivery of electoral justice.
- Present the 2022 deliverable: the second version of the "Glossary: Digital Media and Elections," which includes national cases in which these concepts have been applied.









IV. PARTICIPANTS

In total, 61 people participated: 37 representatives of electoral authorities from 19 countries, 10 representatives of 8 international organizations, 4 independent electoral experts, 8 academics, and 2 representatives of non-governmental organizations (see Annex 1).

Given that gender equality is a priority principle for the Global Network, the invitations that were issued strongly recommended that the delegations of participating members be equal. Of the 32 speakers at the Fifth Plenary Assembly, 69% were men and 31% women. This highlights the gender gap that persists and the need to continue working to achieve equal representation.

V. PERFORMED ACTIVITIES

The activities of the Fifth Plenary Assembly of the GNEJ were carried out according to the established program (see Annex 2) on October 10 and 11, 2022.

INAUGURATION

The speakers at the opening ceremony of the Fifth Plenary were Gianni Buquicchio, President Emeritus and Special Representative of the Venice Commission; Anthony Banbury, President and Executive Director of the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), and Rahmat Bagja, Chairman of Bawaslu.

In the speeches it was stated that the Plenary Assembly was testimony to the GNEJ's evolution in recent years despite the current challenges that democracies face. The monitoring of elections that IFES carries out around the world was also described and the relevance of electoral judicial institutions to guarantee trust in electoral processes and democracy was highlighted. To conclude, the topics that were going to be discussed in the plenary sessions were presented and emphasis was placed on some of the actions that have been implemented in Indonesia to promote democracy.

During the inauguration, the GENJ Awards ceremony was held for the first time. The objective of the Awards is to recognize innovative academic works in the field of electoral justice, as well as concrete actions by international organizations and the bodies responsible for safeguarding political-electoral rights. There were five categories: in Access to Electoral Justice, Indonesia's KoDe Initiative was awarded; in Judicial-electoral Independence, the Judiciary of Malawi; in Gender Equality, Bolivia's Supreme Electoral Tribunal; in Electoral Processes in Emergency Situations (circumstantial category), Brazil's Superior Electoral Court; and in Specific Progress towards the Main Objectives of the GNEJ (general award), the Venice Commission.









PLENARY 1. ANALYSIS OF THE 2022 ELECTIONS AND COVID-19 PANDEMIC PHASE-OUT STRATEGIES

Participants were Jean-Philippe Derosier, Professor of Public Law at the Center for Legal Research of the University of Lille and President of the GNEJ's Scientific Committee; Boissie Henry Mbha, former President of the Electoral Court of South Africa and member of the GNEJ's Governing Council; Jayantha Jayasuriya, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka; Rahmat Bagja, Chairman of Bawaslu and President of the GNEJ; Amanda Domingues, Senior Program Manager at the National Democratic Institute (NDI); Altus Alejandro Baquero Rueda, Justice of Colombia's National Electoral Council; and Kastorius Sinaga, an expert in politics and media at Indonesia's Ministry of the Interior.

The speakers outlined the challenges faced by electoral authorities and courts in elections during the pandemic. In some cases that were discussed, authorities were forced to postpone electoral processes due to health risks and, in others, electoral participation fell significantly. The negative effect on transparency in elections was also mentioned. Among the lessons learned to guarantee the political-electoral rights of citizens, participants highlighted that elections should only be postponed in exceptional cases of objective impossibility; all the decisions that are made must be aligned with what is established in the constitution or the applicable norms and, if anything, legislators can determine new causes for the postponement of elections; technology is essential for voting to be more inclusive and expeditious, and can be used to process and resolve disputes; and, finally, it is convenient to allocate additional resources to comply with sanitary measures. The objective for future elections, participants concluded, is not only that they be free and fair, but also that the safety and health of voters be guaranteed.

PLENARY 2: DIGITAL MEDIA AND DISINFORMATION IN ELECTORAL PROCESSES

Participants were José Luis Vargas Valdez, Justice of the High Chamber of Mexico's Electoral Tribunal of the Federal Judiciary (TEPJF, by its acronym in Spanish); Patrick Sensburg, Director of the Master's in Public Management (MPM) at the University of Police and Public Administration and President of the GNEJ's Observatory on Social Media; Alberto Dalla Vía, Vice President of the National Electoral Chamber of Argentina; and Herwyn Jefler, Commissioner of Indonesia's Election Supervisory Body (Bawaslu).

The goal of this session was to share good practices to build trust in the electoral process and analyze the positive and negative aspects of the great flow of digital information. The regulation of digital media so that there is an equitable contest between political parties and candidates was also analyzed. Speakers identified disinformation as one of the main challenges for electoral systems around the world, as the phenomenon has surpassed the regulatory framework of







2022

states. The issue of disinformation not being considered illegal was highlighted, and so it was proposed to identify specific acts that violate political-electoral rights and behaviors that can irreparably affect equity in the contest. It was also debated whether the international legal framework on disinformation and the strategies of electoral authorities in response to the threats and opportunities of digital media are sufficient. The importance of citizens understanding and accepting the regulations on the matter, as well as unifying said regulations to create common international foundations that work for different contexts, was discussed.

PLENARY 3: STRATEGIES TO BRING ELECTORAL JUSTICE CLOSER TO CITIZENS: TRANSPARENCY, OPEN DATA, AND SOCIAL COLLABORATION

The activities of the first day concluded with plenary session 3, with the following participants: Reyes Rodríguez Mondragón, Chief Justice of the High Chamber of Mexico's TEPJF; María Luisa Segoviano Astaburuaga, Vice President of the Central Electoral Commission of Spain and President of the Fourth Chamber of the Supreme Court of the same country; Dong Nguyen Huu, international election expert; and Totok Haryono, Commissioner of Indonesia's Bawaslu.

In the speeches, an invitation was made to see open justice as a model of governance that benefits from citizens being able to know, assess, and provide feedback on the work of courts. The importance of consolidating courts that are more open and willing to collaborate with social organizations, academia, and citizens was highlighted. In this sense, the four-by-four formula was presented, a guideline to aid members of the Global Network in selecting open justice practices that they could replicate in their respective countries or institutions. The formula establishes that an open court develops practices with four characteristics: innovative, sustainable, replicable, and citizen-oriented.

The good practices of open justice that were presented include resolving cases in public sessions, publishing the rulings 24 hours after they are issued, and sharing infographics and press releases on the rulings, as well as statistical information to make jurisdictional action transparent. Mention was also made of the creation of a Public Electoral Defender's Office so that people belonging to groups in vulnerable situations have access to justice and advice to assert their political-electoral rights.

To strengthen the trust of citizens in those who administer electoral justice, it was suggested to reflect on elements such as the training and selection of judges, the origin of candidacies, and the promotion and sanctions in electoral processes. Lastly, the concept of *gotong royong* ("mutual aid") was discussed as a tool to bring electoral justice closer to citizens, since it makes it possible to anticipate, monitor, and punish abuses and controversies during the electoral process.







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PLENARY 4. GENDER-INCLUSIVE ELECTORAL JUSTICE: EXCHANGE WITH THE OBSERVATORY ON GENDER EQUALITY

Activities resumed the following day with plenary session 4, "Gender-inclusive electoral justice: exchange with the Observatory on Gender Equality." Participants were Mónica Aralí Soto Fregoso, Justice of the High Chamber of Mexico's TEPJF; Roxana Silva Chicaiza, expert consultant on gender equality and women's political participation; Anup Chandra Pandey, Electoral Commissioner of India; Rosa Fior D'Aliza Pérez de García, Justice of the Superior Electoral Tribunal of the Dominican Republic; and Lolly Suhenty, Commissioner of Indonesia's Bawaslu.

The discussion at this plenary revolved around the work of the GNEJ's Observatory on Gender Equality, in particular the deliverable "Guide for Judging with a Gender Perspective." It was explained that this guide arose from the need for people who administer electoral justice to have mechanisms to identify power asymmetries and contexts of violence or gender inequality. This, it was stated, will allow them to make decisions that contribute to dismantling the patriarchal system, empowering women, and achieving a violence-free parity democracy. Emphasis was placed on the fact that the parity perspective must be incorporated into daily institutional work and on the importance of publishing data and rulings with a gender perspective.

The guide acquires special significance given the obstacles to women's political participation that were raised in the presentations, such as stereotypes, marginalization, double workload (due to domestic work), subordination, discrimination, and gender violence. In addition to what is established in the deliverable, the importance of carrying out affirmative actions was highlighted, such as the establishment of quotas in political parties, legislatures, and other state bodies, as well as what in India has been called "pink polling stations" with female poll workers, observers, and ambassadors. Lastly, it was recalled that education must form part of any strategy to eradicate gender discrimination.

PLENARY 5. INDEPENDENT ELECTORAL JUSTICE: EXCHANGE WITH THE OBSERVATORY ON JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE

Panel 5 included the participation of Andrea Pisaneschi, Professor at the Department of Law of the University of Siena and member of the GNEJ's Scientific Committee; Miguel Colmenero Menéndez de Luarca, President of the Central Electoral Commission of Spain; Miriam Suyapa Barahona, Justice of the Electoral Tribunal of Honduras; Stefanie Lindquist, Senior Research Fellow and Professor of Law and Political Science at Arizona State University (ASU); and Puadi, Commissioner of Indonesia's Bawaslu.









At the panel, the importance of finding precedents and principles in comparative and international law on judicial independence and due process, so that they serve as general standards, was highlighted. Along the same lines, it was stated that there is a problem of a theoretical nature, because each trial is particular and each country has different jurisdictional traditions. However, it was pointed out that democracies depend on free elections where objectivity, transparency, and equality are respected, which is why the independence of electoral bodies is so important.

The speakers agreed that currently the principle of the autonomy of judges is under threat in liberal democracies. It was argued that the emergence of populist parties, which offer simple solutions to complex problems, has caused disaffection, which translates into rejection of the electoral results and lack of trust. It was expressed that it is necessary to reflect on the advisability of adopting measures that restore citizen trust, demonstrating that democratic rules and laws become reality.

In view of this, it was mentioned that it is important to establish judicial institutions with a direct impact on electoral credibility and the quality of democracy, in addition to guaranteeing that judges have discretion in the way in which they execute judicial orders. It was added that studies involving multiple countries are being carried out to be able to compare them and their electoral contexts to defend judicial independence. Finally, it was highlighted that electoral justice, as well as respect for citizens' rights, must be guaranteed to ensure fair and open electoral processes.

PLENARY 6: DIGITAL ELECTORAL JUSTICE: EXCHANGE WITH THE OBSERVATORY ON SOCIAL MEDIA

The sixth and last panel included the participation of Rafael Rubio, Professor of Constitutional Law at the Complutense University of Madrid and member of the GNEJ's Scientific Committee; Blanca Odilia Alfaro Guerra, Justice of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal of Guatemala; Adhy Aman, Senior Program Manager of Asia and the Pacific at International IDEA; and Dahliah Umar, Chairperson of the Network for Indonesian Democratic Society (Neftid). The purpose of the panel was to discuss the progress and work of the GNEJ's Observatory on Social Media and the technological factors that strengthen or threaten democratic principles and electoral processes around the world.

On the one hand, it was explained that the "Glossary: Social Media and Elections" deals with six topics, each including the current legislative framework and the rulings of electoral bodies on the matter. Among these topics, two stood out: disinformation, considered a serious risk for democracies, and the concept of surveillance, which generates private and public structures that could help develop manipulation capacities in the electoral field.









On the other hand, participants discussed how to deal with the disinformation that proliferates on social media during electoral processes. Given the lack of regulation and the threat that certain digital media can pose to democracies, it was considered necessary to ensure respect for the truth during electoral processes so that the population can trust these processes. Despite the call to implement measures to combat fake news, it was pointed out that regulations must always respect freedom of speech.

Finally, an electoral redistribution app was presented: it is a universal technological tool for the creation of electoral districts that could help inspire an electoral boundary delimitation process according to international principles and best practices. It was specified that this app makes the process of delimitation of electoral districts more transparent and accessible for anyone interested in investigating and defending the different boundary options within each region.

AGREEMENTS OF THE FIFTH PLENARY ASSEMBLY AND CLOSING CEREMONY. SIGNING OF THE BALI DECLARATION

In the closing session, members were informed of the agreements reached in the internal meetings of the governing bodies of the Global Network: the Scientific Committee, the Governing Council, and the Advisory Council.

It was reported that requests to join the GNEJ were received from the Constitutional Council of France, the Supreme Electoral Tribunal of Guatemala, and the Contentious Electoral Tribunal of Ecuador. Likewise, Arturo Cabrera, Justice and Former President of the Contentious Electoral Tribunal of Ecuador, requested his adhesion as an expert to the GNEJ's General Assembly. All requests were unanimously approved.

Subsequently, the amendments to the Constitutive Act of the Global Network were presented. These deal with the powers and structure of the Scientific Committee, the possibility of requesting a support declaration from the GNEJ in the face of threats from powers that delegitimize electoral justice, and the suspension of Network members if they fail to comply with its principles and move away from the democratic values that inspired its creation.

Another group of amendments has to do with the voluntary contributions of member countries and the support of other types of organizations that constitute the GNEJ. It was decided, as a model of sustainability, to enforce the contents of article 16 of the Constitutive Act regarding the authorization of financial and in-kind contributions by members. Likewise, it was determined that the holding of plenary assemblies will be determined by the current presidency, which may host up to two assemblies during its term. It was specified that the presidency will have the support









of the vice-presidencies, observatories, the Governing Council, and the Scientific Committee to hold intermediate meetings.

The Bali Declaration¹ was read and submitted to the General Assembly for approval, along with the amendments. There were no objections or comments, so the amendments to the Constitutive Act and the Bali Declaration were approved. To end the closing ceremony, the Bali Declaration was issued and with this the GNEJ's Fifth Plenary Assembly concluded.

¹ Bali Declaration: https://www.te.gob.mx/red mundial/front/asamblea/inside/7.









ANNEX 1. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

| | Participants of the Fifth Plenary Assembly | | |
|----|--|--|--|
| 1 | Alberto Dalla Vía | Vice President, National Electoral Chamber of Argentina | |
| 2 | Dina Chuquimia Alvarado | Justice, Supreme Electoral Tribunal of Bolivia | |
| 3 | Altus Alejandro Baquero Rueda | Justice, National Electoral Council of Colombia | |
| 4 | Luis Diego Brenes Villalobos | Justice, Supreme Electoral Court of Costa Rica | |
| 5 | Rosa Fior D'Aliza Perez de García | Justice, Superior Electoral Tribunal of the Dominican Republic | |
| 6 | Roxana Silva | Expert Consultant in Gender Equality and Political Participation of Women, Former Justice of the Constitutional Court of Ecuador | |
| 7 | Jean Philippe Derosier | Professor of Public Law, Law Department of the University of Lille, France | |
| 8 | Patrick Sensburg | Director, Master of Public Management (MPM), University of Police and Public Administration, Germany | |
| 9 | Blanca Odilia Alfaro Guerra | Justice, Supreme Electoral Tribunal of Guatemala | |
| 10 | Ernesto Paz Aguilar | Chief Justice, Electoral Justice Tribunal of Honduras | |
| 11 | Miriam Suyapa Barahona | Justice, Electoral Justice Tribunal of Honduras | |
| 12 | Narendra N. Butolia | Senior Principal Secretary, Election Commission of India | |
| 13 | Praveen Gupta | Chief Electoral Officer, Rajasthan, Election Commission of India | |
| 14 | Anup Chandra Pandey | Election Commissioner of India | |
| 15 | Rahmat Bagja | Chairman, Election Supervisory Body (Bawaslu), Indonesia | |
| 16 | Lolly Suhenty | Commissioner, Election Supervisory Body (Bawaslu), Indonesia | |
| 17 | Totok Haryono | Commissioner, Election Supervisory Body (Bawaslu), Indonesia | |
| 18 | Herwyn Jefler | Commissioner, Election Supervisory Body (Bawaslu), Indonesia | |
| 19 | Puadi | Commissioner, Election Supervisory Body (Bawaslu), Indonesia | |
| 20 | Kastorius Sinaga | Special Staff, Ministry of the Interior of Indonesia | |
| 21 | Fritz Edward Siregar | Electoral Expert and Former Commissioner of the Election Supervisory Body (Bawaslu), Indonesia | |
| 22 | Andrea Pisaneschi | Professor, Department of Law, University of Siena, Italy | |
| 23 | Reyes Rodríguez Mondragón | Chief Justice of the High Chamber, Electoral Tribunal of the Federal Judiciary, Mexico | |
| 24 | José Luis Vargas Valdez | Justice of the High Chamber, Electoral Tribunal of the Federal Judiciary, Mexico | |
| 25 | Mónica Aralí Soto Fregoso | Justice of the High Chamber, Electoral Tribunal of the Federal Judiciary, Mexico | |







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| 26- | | |
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| 26 | Alberto Guevara Castro | General Director of International Institutional Relations, Electoral Tribunal of the Federal Judiciary, Mexico |
| 27 | Anil Kumar Sinha | Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Nepal |
| 28 | | |
| | Paul Vizcarra | National Director of Deconcentrated Offices, National Jury of Elections of Peru |
| 29 | Boissie Henry Mbha | Electoral Expert and Former Chairperson, Electoral Court of South Africa |
| 30 | Zondi Dumisani Hamilton | Acting Chairperson, Electoral Court of South Africa |
| 31 | Hyungbae Moon | Justice, Constitutional Court of South Korea |
| 32 | Hooshin Kim | Rapporteur Judge, Constitutional Court of South Korea |
| 33 | Miguel Colmenero Menéndez de Luarca | President, Central Electoral Commission of Spain |
| 34 | Manuel Delgado-Iribarren | Director of the Technical Secretariat, Central Electoral Commission of Spain |
| 35 | María Luisa Segoviano | Vice President, Central Electoral Commission of Spain |
| 36 | Rafael Rubio Núñez | Professor of Constitutional Law, Complutense University of Madrid, Spain |
| 37 | Antonio López Vega | Director, Ortega y Gasset University Research Institute, Spain |
| 38 | Jayantha Jayasuriya | Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Sri Lanka |
| 39 | Domingos Barreto | Vice President, National Election Commission of Timor Leste |
| 40 | Stefanie Lindquist | Senior Research Fellow and Professor of Law and Political Science, Arizona State University, USA |
| 41 | Dong Nguyen Huu | Electoral Expert |
| 42 | Evans Meembani Hamaundu | Delegate, Supreme Court of Zambia |
| 43 | Mumba Malila | Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Zambia |
| 44 | Lekeshya Kaunda | Protocol Officer, Supreme Court of Zambia |
| 45 | Barnabas Chomba | Aide de Camp, Supreme Court of Zambia |
| 46 | Sangwani Nyimbiri | Senior Research Advocate, Supreme Court of Zambia |
| 47 | Ichal Supriadi | Secretary General, Asia Democracy Network Secretariat |
| 48 | Martin Okumu-Masiga | Secretary General, African Judges and Jurists Forum (AJJF) |
| 49 | Representative | Delian Project |
| 50 | Baidessou Soukolgue | Executive Director, Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa (EISA) |
| 51 | Adhy Aman | Senior Program Manager of Asia and the Pacific, International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA) |
| 52 | Anthony Banbury | President, International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) |
| 53 | Jean Schindler | Chief of Staff, International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) |
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| 54 | Kyle Lemargie | Senior Global Advisor, Democratic Resilience and Innovation, |
|----|--------------------------|---|
| | , | International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) |
| 55 | Amanda Domingues | Senior Program Manager, National Democratic Institute (NDI) |
| 56 | Gianni Buquicchio | President Emeritus and Special Representative of the Venice |
| | | Commission |
| 57 | Dahliah Umar | Chairperson, Network for Indonesian Democratic Society (Netfid) |
| 58 | Muhammad Ihsan | Head of KoDe Inisiatif, Indonesia |
| | Maulana | |
| 59 | John Hardin Young | Election Expert and Adjunct Professor of Comparative and |
| | | International Election Law, William & Mary School of Law |
| 60 | Dr. Arturo Cabrera | Justice, Contentious Electoral Tribunal of Ecuador |
| | Peñaherrera | |
| 61 | Michael Freitas Mohallem | Professor of Law, Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro, |
| | | Brazil |









ANNEX 2. PROGRAM

| MONDAY, OCTOBER 10 | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 8:45 - 10:30 | INAUGURATION AND GNEJ AWARDS CEREMONY |

Objective. Welcome the participants to the Fifth Plenary Assembly of the Global Network on Electoral Justice (GNEJ). Present the evolution of the Global Network in the last 5 years, as well as the achievements and changes since the last Plenary Assembly. Introduce and summarize the main topics to be discussed.

Speakers:

- Gianni Buquicchio, President Emeritus, Special Representative of the Venice Commission
- Anthony Banbury, President and Executive Director, International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES)
- Rahmat Bagja, Chairman of Indonesia's Election Supervisory Body (Bawaslu) and President of the GNEJ

GNEJ AWARDS CEREMONY

Objective. Conduct the presentation of the GNEJ Awards in three of its five categories:

- 1. Access to electoral justice
- 2. Gender equality
- 3. General award (specific progress towards the main objectives of the GNEJ)

Format. Each award will be presented, and the winners will be given the opportunity to speak for up to two minutes.

In person:

- 1. Access to electoral justice
- Muhammad Ihsan Maulana, Director, KoDe Inisiatif of Indonesia
- 2. Gender equality
- Dina Agustina Chuquimia Alvarado, Member, Supreme Electoral Tribunal of Bolivia
- 3. General award (specific progress towards the main objectives of the GNEJ) and special mention as "honorary member and special advisor of the GNEJ".
- **Gianni Buquicchio,** President Emeritus, Special Representative of the Venice Commission

Virtual:

- 1. Access to electoral justice
- María Garrote, Professor of Constitutional Law, Complutense University of Madrid (Honorable Mention)
- 2. General award (specific progress towards the main objectives of the GNEJ)







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| - | Marcelo Ramos Peregrino Ferreira, President, American Conference of Subnational Electoral |
|---|---|
| | Bodies for Electoral Transparency (CAOESTE) (Honorable Mention) |

| 10:30 - 10:45 | OFFICIAL PHOTO |
|---------------|--|
| 10:45 - 11:15 | PRESS CONFERENCE |
| 11:15 – 13.00 | LUNCH |
| 13:00 - 14:15 | PLENARY 1. ANALYSIS OF THE 2022 ELECTIONS AND COVID-19 PANDEMIC PHASE-OUT STRATEGIES |

Objective. Discuss the electoral processes that took place in 2022, considering the phase-out strategies of the COVID-19 pandemic. Analyze lessons learned and challenging aspects of electoral processes, aiming to characterize the current state of democracies and electoral justice systems around the globe. Talk about the changes and opportunities that have arisen as a result of the pandemic for jurisdictional-electoral bodies.

Keywords. Electoral processes, current jurisdictional practices, sanitary measures, democratic principles **Format.** Short, 8-minute interventions will be made by each speaker, followed by a 20-minute Q&A session. The president of the panel will guide the discussion.

Speakers:

- **Jean Philippe Derosier**, Professor of Public Law, Centre for Legal Research, University of Lille, France, and President of the GNEJ's Scientific Committee
- Boissie Henry Mbha, Former President of the Electoral Court of South Africa and Member of the GNEJ's Governing Council
- Jayantha Jayasuriya, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka
- Rahmat Bagja, Chairman of Indonesia's Election Supervisory Body (Bawaslu) and President of the GNEJ
- Amanda Domingues, Senior Program Manager National Democratic Institute (NDI)
- Altus Alejandro Baquero Rueda, Justice of the National Electoral Council of Colombia

| 14:15 -14:30 | BREAK |
|---------------|--|
| 14:30 – 15:45 | PLENARY 2. DIGITAL MEDIA AND DISINFORMATION IN ELECTORAL PROCESSES |

Objective. Discuss the challenges that disinformation caused by digital media pose to electoral processes. Analyze, from a global approach, the electoral regulation of political parties and candidates in terms of digital media and campaigns, as well as the challenges they face. In particular, the role of the guarantors of electoral rights in this regard will be outlined.







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Keywords. Digital media, disinformation, regulation, jurisdictional-electoral competences **Format**. Short, 8-minute interventions will be made by each speaker, followed by a 20-minute Q&A session. The president of the panel will guide the discussion. **Speakers:**

- José Luis Vargas Valdez, Justice of the High Chamber of the Electoral Tribunal of the Federal Judiciary of Mexico (TEPJF) and Honorary Member of the GNEJ's Governing Council
- Patrick Sensburg, Director, Master of Public Management (MPM), University of Police and Public Administration and President of the Observatory on Social Media's Board
- Alberto Dalla Vía, Vice President of the National Electoral Chamber of Argentina
- Herwyn Jefler, Commissioner of Indonesia's Election Supervisory Body (Bawaslu)

| 15:45 – 16:00 | BREAK |
|---------------|--|
| 16:00 – 17:15 | PLENARY 3. STRATEGIES TO BRING ELECTORAL JUSTICE CLOSER TO CITIZENS: TRANSPARENCY, OPEN DATA, AND SOCIAL COLLABORATION |

Objective. Analyze strategies for bringing electoral justice closer to citizens as well as for consolidating democratic systems from a comparative perspective. The interventions will consider concepts such as transparency, inter-institutional collaboration, and evidence-based opening of electoral justice to citizens. Key actions to modernize electoral justice—in support of the institutional strengthening of the authorities linked to the Global Network—will be highlighted.

Keywords. Transparency, open data, citizen collaboration, updating of jurisdictional procedures, governance **Format**. Short, 8-minute interventions will be made by each speaker, followed by a 20-minute Q&A session. The president of the panel will guide the discussion.

Speakers:

- Reyes Rodriguez Mondragon, Chief Justice of the High Chamber of the Electoral Tribunal of the Federal Judiciary of Mexico (TEPJF)
- María Luisa Segoviano Astaburuaga, Vice President of the Central Electoral Commission of Spain and President of the Fourth Chamber of the Supreme Court of Spain
- Dong Nguyen Huu, International Election Expert
- Totok Haryono, Commissioner of Indonesia's Election Supervisory Body (Bawaslu)

| 17:15 – 19:00 | BREAK | |
|---------------|-----------------|--|
| 19:00 – 21:00 | OFFICIAL DINNER | |
| | END OF DAY ONE | |







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| TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11 | |
|---------------------|--|
| 09:00 – 10:15 | PLENARY 4. GENDER-INCLUSIVE ELECTORAL JUSTICE: EXCHANGE WITH THE OBSERVATORY ON GENDER EQUALITY |

Objective. Discuss the progress and work of the Observatory on Gender Equality of the GNEJ. Analyze good practices and strategies in this area to strengthen inclusive and equal electoral justice. There will be a presentation of this year's deliverable: "Guide for Judging with a Gender Perspective."

Keywords. Electoral justice, gender equality, parity, gender perspective

Format. Short interventions will be made by at least three speakers: the person responsible for the deliverable, the president or a representative of the Observatory's Board, and a commentator. The president of the panel will guide the discussion among the speakers.

Speakers:

- Mónica Aralí Soto Fregoso, Justice of the High Chamber of the Electoral Tribunal of the Federal Judiciary of Mexico (TEPJF), and President of GNEJ's Observatory on Gender Equality
- Roxana Silva, Expert Consultant on Gender Equality and Women's Political Participation
- Anup Chandra Pandey, Electoral Commissioner of India
- Rosa Fior D' Aliza Perez de Garcia, Justice of the Superior Electoral Tribunal of the Dominican Republic
- Lolly Suhenty, Commissioner of Indonesia's Election Supervisory Body (Bawaslu)

| 10:15 – 10:30 | BREAK |
|---------------|---|
| 10:30 – 11:45 | PLENARY 5. INDEPENDENT ELECTORAL JUSTICE: EXCHANGE WITH THE OBSERVATORY ON JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE |

Objective. Discuss the progress and work of the Observatory on Judicial Independence of the GNEJ. Good practices in this area will be discussed and the factors that threaten the autonomy of electoral authorities and courts around the world will be analyzed. There will be a presentation of the second edition of the study on "Judicial Independence and Due Process in Electoral Justice," which includes national-jurisdictional cases.

Keywords. Judicial independence, electoral justice, international judicial standards, political and electoral rights

Format. Short interventions will be made by at least three speakers: the person responsible for the deliverable, the president or a representative of the Observatory's Board, and a commentator. The president of the panel will guide the discussion among the speakers.

Speakers:

- Andrea Pisaneschi, Professor of Constitutional Law at the Department of Law of the University of Siena and member of the GNEJ's Scientific Committee
- Miguel Colmenero Menéndez de Luarca, President of the Central Electoral Commission of Spain









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- Miriam Suyapa Barahona, Justice of the Electoral Justice Tribunal of Honduras
- Stefanie Lindquist, Senior Research Fellow and Professor of Law and Political Science, Arizona State University
- Puadi, Commissioner of Indonesia's Election Supervisory Body (Bawaslu)

| 11:45 – 13:00 | LUNCH |
|---------------|--|
| 13:00 – 14:15 | PLENARY 6. DIGITAL ELECTORAL JUSTICE: EXCHANGE WITH THE OBSERVATORY ON SOCIAL MEDIA |

Objective. Discuss the progress and work of the Observatory on Social Media of the GNEJ. Analyze the technological factors that strengthen or threaten democratic principles and electoral processes around the world. Gather good practices in this area so that the authorities may issue fair decisions that ensure the delivery of electoral justice. There will be a presentation of this year's deliverable: the second version of the "Glossary: Digital Media and Elections," which includes national cases in which these concepts have been applied.

Keywords. Technology, digital media, social media, electoral processes

Formato. Short interventions will be made by at least 3 speakers: the person responsible for the deliverable, the president or a representative of the Observatory's Board, and a commentator. The president of the panel will guide the discussion among the speakers.

Speakers:

- Rafael Rubio, Professor of Constitutional Law at the Complutense University of Madrid, Spain and member of the GNEJ's Scientific Committee
- Blanca Odilia Alfaro Guerra, Justice, Supreme Electoral Tribunal of Guatemala
- Adhy Aman, Senior Programme Manager of Asia and the Pacific of the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA)
- **Dahliah Umar**, Chairperson, Network for Indonesian Democratic Society (Netfid)

14:15 - 16:00

AGREEMENTS OF THE FIFTH PLENARY ASSEMBLY AND CLOSING CEREMONY SIGNING OF THE BALI DECLARATION*

Objective. The Plenary Assembly will be informed of the agreements and proposals of the Governing Council arising from its previous meeting and will be consulted on proposals for the future work of the observatories, based on the deliberations of the Fifth Plenary Assembly. The following items will be discussed during this final session:

- Sustainability proposals and intermediate meetings between plenary sessions
- Approval of amendments to the Constitutive Act (two thirds of the General Assembly present)
- Approval of new memberships
- Signing of the Bali Declaration by those present (if one is drafted)
- Closing statement (by the Presidency, Bawaslu)
- Closing group photo

Format. Moderation and coordination by the Technical Secretariat.











Speakers:

• Rahmat Bagja, Chairman of Indonesia's Election Supervisory Body (Bawaslu) and President of the GNEJ

Moderator: Alberto Guevara Castro, Director General of International Relations of the TEPJF of Mexico, Technical Secretariat of the GNEJ

END OF ACTIVITIES

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