

## **GENERAL AGREEMENTS OF THE PREPARATORY MEETING**

Mexico City, Mexico

May 9<sup>th</sup> 2017

On May 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> 2017, the Founding Members of the Global Network on Electoral Justice gathered in Mexico City to partake in the Preparatory Meeting of this initiative. The group of participants consisted of representatives from the Electoral Tribunal of the Federal Judicial Branch of Mexico, the United Nations, the United Nations Development Programme Chapter in Mexico, the Organization of American States, the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA), the National Electoral Chamber of the Republic of Argentina, the Superior Electoral Court of Brazil, the Qualifying Tribunal of Elections of Chile, the National Electoral Council of Colombia, the Supreme Tribunal of Elections of Costa Rica, the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Indonesia, the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), and the Foundation of Getulio Vargas. Together, the Founding Members **agreed**:

1. To reaffirm the interest to create a network for the generation and distribution of knowledge on electoral justice, in order to protect the integrity of the electoral processes. This, and given the diversity of institutions and mechanisms protecting electoral justice in each country, implied the creation of the Global Network on Electoral Justice (GNEJ).
2. To explore different kinds of membership of the Network, taking into consideration that it should consist of institutions whose main function is to protect the political rights connected to an electoral cycle, whether it is on an exclusive or shared basis. The participation of international organizations, foundations, research centers (*think tanks*) or universities who contribute with knowledge and resources on electoral justice, with the aim of addressing challenges to

contemporary democracies, shall also be considered. The Founding Members established criteria for the inclusion of potential new members of this Network.

3. To consider the four Electoral Dispute Resolution (EDR) mechanisms outlined in the *Electoral Justice: The International IDEA Handbook* of International IDEA, so that the composition of the Network includes members who represent each of these four systems:
  - a. A legislative or other political assembly
  - b. An institution within any of the following categories:
    - i. Ordinary Tribunals of the judicial branch
    - ii. Constitutional courts or councils
    - iii. Administrative courts
    - iv. Specialized electoral courts or tribunals
  - c. An electoral administration institution with jurisdictional power
  - d. An *ad hoc* institution created with the participation of the international community or as an international solution for a specific electoral process in the country
4. To emphasize that the agreements resulting from meetings of the GNEJ are solely recommendations of non-binding nature for the members of this Network.
5. To establish a Code of Ethics that should be adopted by the members of the GNEJ, which shall consist of indispensable principles outlining the conditions for membership of this Network.
6. To ensure dynamism and continuity of this Network by maintaining regular communication with other members. Each member shall appoint a person as its representative, who will in turn be responsible for the communication with other members of this Network. Moreover, the following activities shall be developed:
  - a. A study and assessment of institutions in charge of protecting political rights on a global and/or regional level.

- b. The Electoral Tribunal of the Federal Judicial Branch of Mexico (TEPJF) shall provide the members with a virtual platform where fundamental documents of this Network, already existing research and studies conducted by the Network and/or its members can be shared.
  - c. The International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) will contribute to the consolidation and strengthening of regional networks on political rights.
- 7. To define the thematic focus of and topics to be discussed at the meeting of the Plenary Assembly of the GNEJ, taking into account that gender equality should be a crosscutting theme, at the latest by June 30<sup>th</sup> 2017.
  - 8. To explore different models of financial sustainability of the GNEJ.
  - 9. To carry out the plenary meeting of the GNEJ on 10-11<sup>th</sup> November 2017 in the city of San Miguel de Allende, in Guanajuato state, Mexico.