



CONCEPT NOTE

THIRD PLENARY ASSEMBLY GLOBAL NETWORK ON ELECTORAL JUSTICE

6 to 8 November 2019
Los Cabos, Baja California Sur, Mexico



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I. BACKGROUND

In 2017, the Electoral Tribunal of the Federal Judiciary of Mexico (TEPJF) summoned Electoral Tribunals, Constitutional Courts, international organizations, civil society actors, academic institutions and experts on elections and electoral justice, with the objective to create a network that allows the development, analysis and follow-up of a common global agenda on electoral justice in a Constitutional and Democratic State.

The Global Network on Electoral Justice arises as a response to the challenges faced by courts, tribunals and judicial bodies in contemporary democracies, from the perspective of the effective protection of the political-electoral rights of citizens and systems of representation. It was created with the purpose of generating a shared agenda that allows the exchange of experiences, best practices and relevant efforts in the matter. Unlike other organizations that focus on democracy promotion, this Network is made up of institutions and experts in electoral justice.

The Network seeks to combine academic with constitutional analysis, with a focus on public policies so that the recommendations that emerge – of a non-binding nature – can be implemented by the institutions that partake in the Network.

Objective

To strengthen the global democratic governance, departing from the deliberation, design and recommendations of strategies with a jurisdictional perspective, at national, regional and global levels, and by promoting dynamic communication, active participation in the exchange of experiences, best practices and consultative opinions and any other kind of support that addresses the individual and collective needs of its Members on this matter.

II. FIRST PLENARY ASSEMBLY

The First Plenary Assembly of the Global Network on Electoral Justice took place on the 10th and 11th of November 2017 in the city of San Miguel de Allende, Guanajuato State, Mexico. The cross-cutting themes of this meeting were: Democratic disaffection, Political financing in elections, Equal political participation, and the Digital revolution in political life: the intervention of electoral jurisdictions.

In this meeting, 83 electoral experts representing 29 national authorities participated from 26 countries, as well as 15 international organizations and academic centers, partook. Mexico assumed the Presidency and Technical Secretariat, and the four elected regional Vice-Presidencies were South Korea, Spain, Dominican Republic and South Africa.



III. SECOND PLENARY ASSEMBLY

The Second Plenary Assembly was held on the 3-4th of December 2018 in Cancun, Quintana Roo State, Mexico. In said Plenary Assembly, the Network Members consolidated cooperation projects and exchange information, rulings and best practices that allow for the planning of strategies that optimize the administration of Electoral Justice in the world.

In this second edition, we had the honor of being accompanied by 39 national authorities from 31 countries, 24 international organizations, 4 academic institutions and the Scientific Committee, comprised of 4 electoral experts. With the participation of 101 representatives from these bodies, a more balanced geographic and gender representation was ensured.

The central themes of the Second Plenary Assembly discussed during Three Plenary Sessions and seven Working Group Sessions were: 1) Universal and equal electoral justice, 2) Protection of democratic principles in elections from a comparative global perspective: judicialization or other dispute resolution mechanisms?, and 3) Digital revolution and electoral processes



IV. THIRD PLENARY ASSEMBLY

For the Third Plenary Assembly, more than 115 experts will participate and represent 36 national or subnational institutions that administer electoral justice, from 32 countries, and 34 international organizations, academic institutions, companies and independent experts, as well as Mexico, who is hosting this year's conference.

For the third time, in its capacity as president of the Network, the TEPJF will ensure a representative participation in this event. Therefore, a preliminary program has been developed together with the Network Advisory Council, to establish discussion topics that reflect the interests of those convened. As a result of this work, it was defined that the central themes of 2019 will be: Mechanisms of representation, Equal access to electoral justice, and Democracy and corruption. In addition, a workshop will be held with technology companies (social networks) to give continuity to this cross-cutting theme, directly with decision-makers in this branch of the private sector.



V. THEMES FOR 2019

A preliminary program has been developed in collaboration with the Network's Advisory Council to establish discussion topics that are relevant to contemporary challenges to democracies, which will be analyzed during various Plenary Sessions and three Working Group Sessions:

Plenary session	Electoral processes of the year	Cristal venue
Plenary 1	Mechanisms of representation	
Plenary 2	Equal access to electoral justice	
Plenary 3	Democracy and corruption	
Plenary workshop	Social media: workshop with technology companies	
Plenary session	Judicial and electoral training	
Working Groups	Participants will be divided into strategic groups to discuss the sub-topics of each central theme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mechanisms of representation 2. Equal access to electoral justice 3. Democracy and corruption 	Arcos 1, 2, 3
	Mechanisms of representation	
1.a	Internal mechanisms within political parties: primary and internal elections	
1.b	Independent candidacies	
1.c	Social movements and alternatives to political parties	
	Equal access to electoral justice	
2.a	Cultural diversity	
2.b	Equality for the political inclusion of groups in situations of vulnerability	
2.c	Gender equality in political participation	
	Democracy and corruption	
3.a	Democratic disaffection	
3.b	Political financing	
3.c	Private interests during political campaigns	

All the support documents will be updated continuously and will be available on the Platform of this Global Network: https://www.te.gob.mx/red_mundial/.



VI. GLOBAL EXCHANGE PLATFORM

This platform aims to be a tool that allows the exchange and discussion of judicial and legal documents and academic studies in the field of Electoral Justice. It facilitates a digital and transnational participation among all members, and is available in the three working languages, English, French and Spanish. It currently has approximately 140+ documents from 19 national authorities and 20 international organizations and academic centers, as well as the Scientific Committee (http://sitios.te.gob.mx/red_mundial/).



The terms of reference will take into account the legal, judicial and academic documents shared on the Platform, as well as online discussions on global trends and challenges. It is recommended to enter the Platform to become more familiar with the site, and those with Global Network memberships are welcomed to make continuous contributions towards the Third Plenary Assembly.



Countries that are linked to the Global Network and its Platform.



VII. MEMBERS AND PARTICIPANTS

Since its creation, it has ensured synergies between 111 actors, represented by 177 people. Of these, 68 are national and subnational institutions, from 46 countries, and 43 of the actors are international organizations, academic institutions, and independent experts. In just one year, participation and interest in the GNEJ increased so much that the number of institutions involved quintupled.

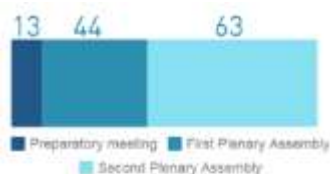
For the Global Network to comply with the principle of representativeness, it is considered an integration that includes actors from the different Electoral Justice Systems in the world, and that have different national, regional and international experiences. Therefore, the following groups of members are available:

1. Representatives of courts, tribunals and bodies whose main function, exclusively or jointly, is the protection or safeguard of political rights in electoral disputes during the electoral cycle;
2. International organizations, whether intergovernmental, civil or otherwise, whose mandate or scope of action includes relevant themes to the Global Network; and
3. Institutions and research centers specialized in the field, as well as experts, academia and independent specialists, whose experience is useful for the objectives of the Global Network.

This design transcends academic and professional associations and specialized institutions, at a national and international level, offering a forum for collective reflections from different perspectives, preserving its thematic precision.

The members of the First Plenary Assembly were responsible for agreeing on the fundamental elements of the Global Network, such as the Constitutive Act and basic documents. For the terms of membership, please see the respective Articles in the Constitutive Act.

It currently has 44 members: 29 national electoral authorities and 15 international and academic institutions. This membership base is growing and more applications for membership will be approved soon.



5x more institutions in one year

101 representatives
39 national authorities
31 countries
24 organizations
and experts



VIII. STRUCTURE

The Global Network is composed of the General Assembly, the Governing Council, the Scientific Committee, the Advisory Council, and the Technical Secretariat. This structure guarantees the continuity of the activities.



General Assembly

The General Assembly is the main body of the Network and is vested with the power to discuss any matter and make decisions in relation to the Network. The Assembly is comprised of all the Members of the Global Network on Electoral Justice.

Governing Council

The Governing Council is the governing body of the Network with the mandate to supervise and present recommendations on any topic relevant to the Network. Its mission is to coordinate the work of the Network and maintain its effectiveness.

The Council shall always consist of a Presidency and four Vice-Presidencies per region, who shall be elected by the General Assembly of the Global Network from among the representatives of the courts, tribunals or organs. Their term of office shall be two years. The change of Council will take place by the year 2020.

Scientific Committee

The Scientific Committee facilitates, supports and strengthens the work of the Governing Council. The international organizations, civil society organizations, analysis and research centers and other



members comprise it. Through this Council, they can suggest research topics and new working mechanisms, as well as develop documents and proposals in relation to Electoral Justice.

Advisory Council

The Advisory Council is comprised by the Scientific Committee, as well as the Governing Council and the founding international organizations of the Network: The International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA), the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), the Organization of American States (OAS) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Although its role is similar to that of the Scientific Committee, it has the power to advise the Network on issues of strategic sustainability, both in administrative, financial and substantive matters.

Technical Secretariat

The Technical Secretariat is the executive body of the Network, vested with the powers to participate in all meetings of the General Assembly and the Governing Council, as well as make its own decisions. It reports to the Governing Council and should present its performance reports to the General Assembly every time that it convenes.

Nature of the decisions

The documents, recommendations and proposals adopted by the Global Network on Electoral Justice will be non-binding. The decisions will be taken in a consultative, deliberative space, with academic and methodological rigor, in a context of freedom of expression and thought, under the predefined ethical codes and with the shared commitment to protect the information provided by the members.



IX. TIMELINE

Activities of the Network

