

SUMMIT FOR ELECTORAL DEMOCRACY

THE ROLE OF ELECTORAL MANAGEMENT BODIES IN ITS STRENGTHENING

SEPTEMBER 20-22, 2022 (GMT -5)

PROFILES

Tuesday, September 20

Welcome remarks

08:00 a 08:35 hrs.



Lorenzo Córdova, appointed as Mexico's National Electoral Institute's (INE) first President Councillor on 3 April, 2014. From December 2011 until April 2014 (when INE was created), he served as Electoral Councillor of the Federal Electoral Institute (IFE). He is a lawyer and an academic who has been professor at the Faculty of Law and researcher at the Institute of Legal Research, both belonging to the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM). He is a member of the National System of Researchers. He collaborates in the newspaper El Universal, as well as in magazines such as Nexos [Nexuses] and Voz y Voto [Voice and Vote].

Inaugural session



08:35 a 08:42 hrs.



Elizabeth Spehar, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support, in the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (UN). Since 2016, she was the Secretary-General's Special Representative and Head of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), also serving as Deputy to the Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Cyprus. Previously, was Director of the Policy and Mediation Division in the former Department of Political Affairs. Prior to this, she was the Director for the Americas and Europe Division and Director of the Europe Division in the Department of Political Affairs. She also served as Interim Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNFICYP in 2008. She was a senior official with the Organization of American States (OAS), working to promote democracy and develop the organization's dialogue and conflict resolution instruments. She holds a Bachelor of Arts with honours from Queen's University in Canada, a master's degree in international affairs from Carleton University's Norman Paterson School of International Affairs (Canada), and a Diplôme d'Etudes Supérieures from the University of Pau in France.



Keynote lecture: Democratic Principle and Values in Post Pandemic Era



08:45 a 09:15 hrs.

	<p>Larry Diamond is a senior fellow at the Hoover Institution and at the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies (FSI) and a Bass University Fellow in Undergraduate Education at Stanford University. His is also professor by courtesy of Political Science and Sociology at Stanford. His research focuses on democratic trends and conditions around the world and on policies and reforms to defend and advance democracy. Diamond served as a consultant to the US Agency for International Development (USAID). He has also advised and lectured to universities and think tanks around the world, and to the World Bank, the United Nations, the State Department, and other governmental and nongovernmental agencies dealing with governance and development. He edited numerous publications, with Juan J. Linz and Seymour Martin Lipset, he edited the series, Democracy in Developing Countries, which helped to shape a new generation of comparative study of democratic development.</p>
	<p>Norma Irene de la Cruz, Electoral Councilor of Mexico's National Electoral Institute (INE) She has served as head of the Elections Department in Kosovo with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. She has participated in several United Nations Peacekeeping Missions. She has participated in several international observation missions and coordinated the observer teams of the European Union's election observation missions in Peru, El Salvador and Gambia. She has been a consultant with various international organizations such as IFES, UNDP, UN, European Commission, UN Department of Peacekeeping. She holds a degree in Journalism and Collective Communication from the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), and a Master in Peacekeeping Management from the University of Turin.</p>

Panel Discussion. Education for democracy, permanent labor?


09:20 a 10:00 hrs.

	<p>Joseph Thompson, is the Executive Director of the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights (IHR), an institution in which he has collaborated for more than 30 years in various positions, including Director of the Electoral Advisory and Promotion Center (CAPEL). He holds a degree in Law from the University of Costa Rica and a specialization in International Law from the Università degli Studi, Perugia, Italy. From 1994 to 1998 he collaborated in the Embassy of Costa Rica in the United States of America where he served as Minister Counselor, Consul General and Chargé d'Affaires a. i.. Author of several works on comparative electoral matters. He serves as Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Union of Electoral Authorities and the Association of Electoral Magistrates of the Americas, among other regional electoral mechanisms.</p>
	<p>Mathias Hounkpe, IFES country director for Mali. He led the Political Governance and Democratic Consolidation program in West Africa from the Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA). He was the Head of OSIWA Guinea Office. He has been an IFES consultant in Benin and led IFES programming in Chad. As an ECOWAS elections expert in 2013, he assisted Malian election management bodies in the technical organization of the presidential election that year. Since 2015, he has lectured on topics such as elections and power sharing, good governance and anti-constitutional change of power at the Mali-based West</p>

	<p>Africa Peace Keeping Training School. Is one of the authors of the “Election Management Bodies in West Africa: A comparative study of the contribution of electoral commissions to the strengthening of democracy”. Holds a MPhil in political science from Yale University and a PhD in mathematical physics from the University of Abomey-Calavi (Benin).</p>
	<p>Ann Ravel, <i>Transparencia Electoral</i> (Electoral Transparency) coordinator for the United States. She was director of MapLight’s Digital Deception project. She is a professor at the University of California School of Law. She was a member of the Federal Election Commission, (2013-2017), serving as vice chair and chair. She chaired the California Fair Political Practices Commission, served as Deputy Assistant Attorney General for the U.S. Department of Justice, and served as County Counsel for Santa Clara County. She was named California Attorney of the Year by California Lawyer magazine (2014), and Public Prosecutor of the Year by the State Bar of California (2007). She holds undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of California.</p>
	<p>Therese Pearce Laanela, Head of Electoral Processes at International IDEA. She served as a founding staff member at International IDEA and as Assistant Director for the Democracy Program at The Carter Center. Through work with IFES, UNDP and IDEA, has been involved in the development of a variety of seminal publications, networks, databases and training curriculum on electoral administration, including the ACE Electoral Knowledge Network and the BRIDGE course package. She served in 1994 through UNDP, for the National Electoral Commission in Mozambique organising the first post-war elections, and in Cambodia in 1992-93 as a District Electoral Supervisor for the UN sponsored first multi-party election. She has consistently served as a presiding officer in Swedish elections and has done numerous international election observer and electoral assistance missions in Africa, Europe, and Asia for organisations such as the OSCE, the European Union, and the Carter Center. Her doctoral studies at the Australian National University examine issues relating to trust in electoral institutions, while her masters degree focused on political financing and electoral system.</p>

Main finding of Regional Forums

10:05 a 10:40 hrs.

	<p>Zsolt Szolnoki, former Secretary General for the Association of the European Election Officials. Started to work for the ACEEEO in 1995, organizing the annual conference in Siófok, Hungary. At the end of the nineties, he prepared several observation missions to the Balkan region. In 2000, he worked for the OSCE electoral mission to Kosovo. He represented the ACEEEO as an international expert in many conferences and seminars. He worked for the Hungarian National Election Office as the Deputy Head of the Election Department (1993-2002). He worked for the European Commission as a Seconded National Expert on the area of Home Affairs (2006-2010). In 2011 he was the Chairman of a working group in the Hungarian EU Presidency team. Currently he is a high counselor in the Ministry of Interior of Hungary. He holds a BA in Public Administration and completed a post graduate course in Business Management.</p>
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Dharmendra Sharma, Senior Deputy Election Commissioner. Has been the Director General of the India International Institute of Democracy & Election Management (IIIDEM), since April 2019. As officer of the Indian Administrative Service he has held several positions, among them: Finance Secretary of some Union’s Territories, and Chief Secretary of Goa. He has worked as Director in the Fund Bank Division of the Department of Economic Affairs and Joint Secretary in Ministry of Home Affairs, both in the Government of India. He was the Consultant to the Expert Group set up by Ministry of Minority Affairs, Government of India (2007) to examine the feasibility of setting up of an Equal Opportunities Commission. He holds a Bachelor of Civil Law of Oxford. He is an alumnus of St. Stephen’s College; Law Faculty (Delhi); Oxford University (UK) &, the National Defense College (NDC).



Seung Ryeol Kim, Advisor of the General Secretary of A-WEB. He holds a PhD, a Master’s degree and a bachelor’s degree in Political Science from the University of Canterbury in New Zealand. He first began his career in the A-WEB Secretariat as a researcher. As a political scientist, his research interests cover many aspects of politics, including democratization, electoral politics, nationalism, and international cooperation in the field of election. He is currently working at the office of Secretary General and assisting the Secretary General in developing new projects and making policies. He is also a member of the editorial board of the A-WEB India Journal of Elections.

Wednesday, September 21

Welcome remarks

08:00 a 08:35 hrs.



Francisco Guerrero, Secretary for the Strengthening Democracy at the Organization of American States (OAS). He is Mexican, with a background in laws and international studies. He has worked for several academic institutions, including the Anahuac University (Northern campus) and the College of the Northern Border, both in Mexico City. As a public servant, he has worked for the Attorney General of the then-Federal District—now Mexico City—and the Secretary of Labour and Social Welfare. He was General Director of the Centre of Social Studies and Public Opinion, and Electoral Councillor of the Federal Electoral Institute (IFE)—for which he was appointed by Mexico’s Lower Chamber.

Inaugural session

08:35 a 08:42 hrs.




Helena König, Deputy Secretary General for Economic and Global Issues of the European External Action Service for Global and Economic Affairs. She holds a Master of Science in Business Administration and Economics from the Stockholm School of Economics. In European institutions she has held various positions: Deputy Director-General, Director "Asia and Latin America", Head of unit "South and South East Asia, Australia and New Zealand", Head of unit "Far East", all in the Directorate General for Trade of the European Commission (EC). Deputy Head of Unit and Desk Officer for Vietnam, Southeast Asia Unit, and Desk

	Officer, Southeast Asia Unit, of the EC Directorate General for External Relations. She was Counsellor of the EPP Group at the European Parliament, Liaison Officer for EU Affairs for the Moderate Party of Sweden and Part-time Consultant to the "Yes to Europe Campaign" in Sweden.
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Keynote lecture: Rules and Electoral Institutions




08:45 a 09:15 hrs.

	Dieter Nohlen , is Doctor phil. habil., Professor Emeritus of Political Science at the University of Heidelberg, Germany. Doctor honoris causa from several Latin American universities. His latest publications: "Democracy. Institutions, concepts and context", "Latin American Electoral Law. A comparative approach" (with L. Valdés and D. Zovatto), "Comparative presidentialism", "Spanien. Wirtschaft, Gesellschaft, Politik" and "Electoral Systems and Political Parties".
	Leonardo Valdés , professor-researcher at the <i>Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla</i> . He was President of the Federal Electoral Institute (IFE) (2008-2013). He is the author of several publications on political-electoral issues. He has participated in electoral observation missions and in training programs for electoral officials. He was founder and president of the Mexican Society of Electoral Studies. He is a member of the International Advisory Board of Smartmatic. He holds a PhD in Social Science, specializing in Sociology, from <i>El Colegio de México</i> . In 2013, he received the Charles T. Manatt Democracy Award from IFES. He was named Honorary Member of the Association of European Election Authorities (ACEEEO) and was recognized by the Inter-American Union of Electoral Organizations (UNIORE) for his contribution to electoral cooperation in the Americas.
	John Hollins , President of Delian Project. He served as Electoral Director for the Canadian Province of Ontario, and as Director of Elections for the City of Toronto. He has been an electoral expert in some countries in Africa, the South Caucasus, and the Caribbean. He was Canada's Chief Electoral Advisor to the Palestinian Authority during the 2004-05 elections. He remains an active teacher on the subject of democracy and governance.

Panel Discussion. The role of Electoral Management Bodies in building trust


09:20 a 10:00 hrs.


	Stéphane Perrault , Chief Electoral Officer of Canada. In 2007 joined Elections Canada as Senior General Counsel and in 2014 was appointed Deputy Chief Electoral Officer Regulatory Affairs, in 2017 also became responsible for Public Affairs. From 2003 to 2005 worked at the Privy Council Office in the Legislation and House Planning Secretariat, as well as in the Democratic Reform Secretariat. After serving as a law clerk to the Honourable Justice Claire L'Heureux-Dubé in 1997, he joined the Department of Justice as Counsel in the Human Rights Law Section. He was a member of the Quebec Bar from 1990 until his
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	nomination. Holds both a Master and Doctor of Laws. He previously lectured at the Université de Montréal and McGill University.
	Ivilina Aleksieva-Robinson , former chair of the Central Election Commission of Bulgaria. Was an International Non-Voting Commissioner on behalf of UN in the Independent Election Commission of Afghanistan, and a Head of OSCE/ODIHR Election Assessment Mission of the presidential election in Tajikistan. She has been Executive Director of the Institute of Modern Politics. Her professional experience includes advising NGOs working in the field of human rights protection, good governance and anti-corruption. Is an author of analyzes and proposals for new/amendments of the electoral legislation. She was a member of the Executive Board of the Association of ACEEEO (2016-2019) and chaired it on 2017. Also was a member of the Executive Board of the Association of A-WEB (2017-2019). She has participated as a speaker in several events in the field of election processes. She has observed the presidential elections in Russia, the referendum for UK membership in the EU, June 2016 and the regional elections in France. Currently is an electoral consultant.
	Teresa Lévigne , Senior Programme Manager of Elections and Democracy Programme, Kofi Annan Foundation. She is a human rights lawyer who recently joined the Kofi Annan Foundation. Former work experience includes more than ten years working at the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva, with expertise in protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and issues relating to democracy, rule of law, good governance and equal participation. Prior to that she has also worked on project management in various countries in Africa.
	Richard Soudriette , he was president of the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) from 1988 to 2007. Under his leadership, IFES became one of the leading providers of international democratic assistance. Formerly he served as Chairman of the International Electoral Advisory Council of SGO Smartmatic and as President of the Center for Democracy and Diplomacy. Soudriette has observed elections in over 60 countries. He is a founding member of the Association of European Election Officials, a.k.a. ACEEEO. Soudriette is the author of numerous publications on democracy and elections and currently is a collaborator with the University of Gothenburg's V-DEM Democracy Survey. He holds a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Tulsa and a master's degree in public administration from the University of Oklahoma.

Main finding of Regional Forums

10:05 a 10:40 hrs.


	Henry Atem , Executive Director at the United States Center for Electoral Support (USICES). He holds a graduate certificate in electoral administration from the University of Minnesota, a master's degree in electoral politics and administration from the School of Advanced Studies of Pisa (Italy), a master's degree in democracy and governance from Georgetown University, and currently a Ph.D. candidate on Public Policy and Administration at Walden University (USA). He was Head of Electoral Operations at the electoral body of Cameroon (ELECAM). He has been an electoral advisor in different organizations, such as the African Union, the UN, UNDP, International IDEA and the Carter Center. He has participated in more than 15 international election observation missions, including Ghana, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Nigeria, Tunisia, Afghanistan, Egypt, Libya, Mexico, Brazil, Romania and Papua New Guinea. He has written and contributed to publications related to the conduct of elections,
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	including " Assessment of Electoral Violence in Africa " and " Fake News and Disinformation: An Election Integrity Issue " .
	Rashid Hamtou , Senior Programme Manager, Arab Network for Democratic Elections (ANDE)
	Carla Humphrey , Electoral Councillor of Mexico's National Electoral Institute (INE). She was electoral councillor at the Electoral Council of the Electoral Institute of the Federal District (IEDF), adviser to the General Council of the Federal Electoral Institute (IFE). Member of the Mexican Association of State Electoral Counselors A.C. (AMCEE), founding partner of the National Association of Electoral Counselors of the Electoral Organizations of the Mexican Republic. Candidate for PhD in Government and Public Administration from the Ortega y Gasset University Institute, of the Complutense University of Madrid and a law degree from ITAM. She holds various diplomas in political-electoral matters and public administration.

Thursday, September 22


Welcome remarks

08:00 a 08:35 hrs.

	Corinne Momal-Vanien , is the Executive Director of the Foundation. Previously, she worked as Director of Conference Management at the United Nations Office at Geneva (2015-2020) and Director of Information (2010-2015). Served as Special Assistant to Kofi Annan in 2005 and 2006. She worked for a total of six years in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, after serving in two regional economic and social commissions of the United Nations. Chaired the Steering Group of the International Gender Champions from 2016 to 2019 and was a co-organiser of the three editions of TEDxPlaceDesNations. She holds a master's degree in business administration from HEC Graduate School of Management, Paris and an advanced degree in international relations from the Institut Etudes Politiques (Sciences Po) - Paris. She recently completed an Executive Certificate in Management and Leadership at the MIT Sloan School of Management.
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Inaugural session

08:35 a 08:42 hrs.

	Arnaud Akodjenou , Special Adviser for Africa of the Kofi Annan Foundation. From 2014 to 2015, he was Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, at the Assistant Secretary-General level in the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali and from 2011 to 2014, he was Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, in the United Nations Operations in Côte d'Ivoire. He served with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, including as Regional Coordinator & Special Adviser for South Sudan situation to the High Commissioner, Inspector General, Director of the Division of Operational Services, and Director of Emergency and Security Services. He holds a PhD in Political Science from the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva, a Postgraduate diploma in International Relations from the Institute of International Relations of Cameroon and Bachelors in History from the University of Benin.
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Keynote lecture: Short and medium- term expectations. What to do for democracy?




08:45 a 09:15 hrs.

	<p>Jacques Attali, economist, PhD in economics and a graduate of the École Polytechnique, the École des Mines, the Institut d'Études Politiques and the École Nationale de l'Administration. In 1980 he founded the non-governmental organization Action Internationale contre la Faim and in 1984 the European research and new technologies program Eureka. In addition, from 1981 to 1991 he was special advisor to President François Mitterrand. In 1991 he founded and chaired the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development in London. He is the author of more than 30 books on various topics, including economics and history.</p>
	<p>Jacqueline Peschard, Professor-researcher at the <i>Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México</i> (UNAM). Holds a PhD in Social Sciences from the <i>Colegio de Michoacán</i>, a sociologist and a master's degree in Political Science from UNAM. She is a professor at the Faculty of Political and Social Sciences. She was president of the Citizen Participation Committee and of the Coordinating Committee of the National Anticorruption System. Electoral Counselor of the General Council of IFE (1996-2003) and Commissioner of the Federal Institute for Access to Public Information (IFAI) (2007-2014) and its President from 2009 to 2013.</p>

Panel Discussion. Prospective view of the electoral democracy: electoral management bodies and political parties


09:20 a 10:00 hrs.


	<p>Salvador Romero, project manager of International IDEA in Paraguay. He obtained a bachelor's, master's and doctorate in political sociology at the Institute of Political Studies in Paris. He has twice held the Presidency and the vocal of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal of Bolivia (2004-2008; 2019-2021). He was director of the NDI in Honduras. He directed the Electoral Advisory and Promotion Center of the IIHR. He was a member of the Special Electoral Mission, created by the Peace Agreement in Colombia. He was a consultant responsible for the electoral division of the Support Mission against Corruption and Impunity in Honduras. On two occasions, he has been executive secretary of the technical accompaniment to the Mexican electoral process organized by CAPEL/IIIDH and the electoral bodies (2018, 2021). His books include "Elections in Latin America" (2021), "Democracy, Elections and Violence in Latin America" (2017), and "Latin American Electoral Atlas" (2007). He has published articles in newspapers, magazines and books in several countries in Latin America and Europe. He conducted research for international organizations (IDEA, UNDP, OAS, KAS, FES, etc.). He has taught at the main universities in Bolivia, as well as in several in Latin America. He has been an international speaker. He has participated in electoral observation missions in several countries in the Americas and Africa.</p>
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	<p>Anne Pence, international advisor and founder of Blue Marble Strategies. She was a senior international policy advisor at Covington & Burling (2008-2021) and at Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld (2006-2008), as well as senior operations advisor at U.S. Millennium Challenge Corporation (2005-2006). From 1992 to 2005, she worked at the U.S. Department of State in various positions, including G7/G8 Policy Coordinator and Advisor for International Economic and Development Policy to the Assistant Secretary for Economic Affairs. She worked for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) as a consultant on economic issues in Sudan (1984-1986), Chad (1986) and the Dominican Republic (1990). She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Foreign Service from the Georgetown School of Foreign Service and a couple of Master's degrees in Public Policy (Harvard Kennedy School of Government) and Economics (Duke University).</p>
	<p>Mónica Pachón is an academic at <i>Universidad de los Andes</i> (Uniandes). She holds a Master's degree in Political Science from <i>Universidad de los Andes</i> and a Master's degree in Latin American Studies from St. Antony's College (Oxford) as well as a PhD in Political Science (San Diego, California). She has focused on Colombian political history, the relations between the president and the Congress, the performance of the electoral system, and the relations between different power brokers in the Colombian political system. She was director of <i>Congreso Visible</i> (Uniandes), visiting professor at Rice University (Houston), director of the Masters in Public Policy at the School of Government (Uniandes), Dean of the School of Political Science, Government and International Relations at Universidad del Rosario and Tinker Fellow at the Institute of Latin American Studies at Columbia University in New York.</p>
	<p>Martín Faz, Electoral Councillor of Mexico's National Electoral Institute (INE). He served as Local Councillor of the Federal Electoral Institute (IFE) during two federal electoral processes, and was appointed by the General Council of the INE as Electoral Councillor of the State Electoral and Citizen Participation Council (CEEPAC) of San Luis Potosí (2014-2020). Founder of the <i>Potosino Centre for Human Rights, A.C.</i>. Served as the first Technical Secretary of the National Network of Civil Human Rights Organizations: "All Rights for All". He has participated in various Civil Society Organizations, and in the local and national human rights movement. He holds a Degree in Philosophy, a Master's Degree in Human Rights and Democracy at FLACSO. He has been professor of various institutions of higher education teaching: Human Rights, Philosophy, Ethics, Political Science, Philosophy of Law and Legal Sociology.</p>

Main finding of Regional Forums




10:00 a 10:30 hrs.

	<p>Máximo Zaldivar, serves as regional director for the Americas at the International Foundation for Electoral Systems. He has over 20 years of experience in democracy, elections and political processes. he has led democracy and governance programs around the world. He has served in Colombia, Guatemala, Iraq, Mexico, South Sudan, Timor-Leste and Venezuela, on programs funded by the United States Agency for International Development, Office for Transition Initiatives, U.S Department of State's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs and the National Endowment for Democracy. He previously worked for the International Republican Institute, Social Impact, Union of Latin American Parties, Central American Parliament and Salvadoran Embassy in</p>
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	Guatemala. He holds a bachelor's degree in political science and a master's degree in human rights, both from the Rafael Landivar University in Guatemala.
	<p>Laura Boyette-Álvarez, is IRI's regional deputy director for Latin America and the Caribbean. Previously, she managed the Institute's programs in Northern Central America, Mexico, and its regional portfolio of programs. Her expertise includes electoral processes, consensus and network building, civic participation, transparency, and local governance. She has observed elections in El Salvador and Guatemala, and supported electoral observation missions across the hemisphere. Prior to joining IRI, she worked at the Center for International Private Enterprise. She holds a Master of Arts in Global Affairs from George Mason University and a Bachelor of Arts in International Affairs from the University of Mary Washington.</p>

Closing remarks

10:35 a 10:55 hrs.

	<p>Lorenzo Córdova, appointed as Mexico's National Electoral Institute's (INE) first President Councillor on 3 April, 2014. From December 2011 until April 2014—when INE was created—he served as Electoral Councillor of the Federal Electoral Institute (IFE). He is a lawyer and an academic who has been professor at the Faculty of Law and researcher at the Institute of Legal Research, both belonging to the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM). He is a member of the National System of Researchers. He collaborates in the newspaper El Universal, as well as in magazines such as Nexos [Nexuses] and Voz y Voto [Voice and Vote].</p>
	<p>Michael Frendo, Vice President of the Venice Commission. Former Speaker of the Parliament of Malta (2010-2013) and a former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malta (2004-2008), served as a Member of Parliament (1987-2013) and also as Minister of Telecommunications, Transport and Technology (1994-1996) and as Minister for Broadcasting, Culture, Youth and Sport (1990-1994). A member of the European Convention on the Future of Europe, he is also a signatory to the Treaty of Lisbon in 2007. He is member of the Maltese bar. He is a Senior Lecturer at the Faculty of Laws at the University of Malta where he is also currently the coordinator of the Gaming Law course. Graduated as Doctor of Laws from the University of Malta and obtained a Masters in European Legal Studies from the University of Exeter, United Kingdom. He has written and published extensively books and articles on law, politics and diplomacy.</p>
	<p>Kevin Casas, Secretary-General of International IDEA. Is Senior Fellow at the Inter-American Dialogue. He was member of Costa Rica's Presidential Commission for State Reform, and managing director at Analitica Consulting. Previously, he was Costa Rica's Second Vice President and Minister of National Planning; Secretary for Political Affairs at the Organization of American States; Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution; and National Coordinator of the United Nations Development Program's Human Development Report. He has taught at Georgetown University, George Washington University, and the University of Texas at Dallas, among others. He holds a Law degree from the University of Costa Rica, a Masters in Government from the University of Essex, and a PhD in Political Science from the University of Oxford. He has authored several studies on campaign finance, elections, democratization, citizen security and civil-military relations in Latin America. He was selected as Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum in 2007. In 2013, he became a member of the Bretton Woods Committee.</p>