

AG/RES. 2337 (XXXVII-O/07)

MODERNIZATION AND USE OF ELECTORAL TECHNOLOGIES IN THE
HEMISPHERE

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

BEARING IN MIND the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS), which establishes in its preamble that representative democracy is an indispensable condition for the stability, peace, and development of the region, and that one of the essential purposes of the Organization is to promote and consolidate representative democracy, with due respect for the principle of nonintervention;

GUIDED by the Inter-American Democratic Charter, which includes, among the essential elements of representative democracy, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, access to and the exercise of power subject to the rule of law, and the holding of periodic, free, and fair elections based on universal suffrage and secret balloting as an expression of the sovereignty of the people;

RECALLING that, in the Plan of Action of the Third Summit of the Americas, the Heads of State and Government of the democratic countries of the Hemisphere stated that they would “[c]ontinue to enhance electoral mechanisms, using information and communications technologies where possible, to effectively guarantee the impartiality, promptness and independent action of agencies, tribunals or other bodies responsible for the conduct, supervision and verification of elections at national and sub-national levels”;

NOTING the establishment of the Secretariat for Political Affairs of the OAS General Secretariat and its contribution to the implementation of mandates concerning electoral affairs arising from both the Summits of the Americas and the Organization;

CONSIDERING the reports of the various electoral observation and technical assistance missions, in particular their diverse recommendations on the need to improve electoral processes, which constitutes an important contribution to strengthening democratic institutional systems;

UNDERSCORING the advisability of reinforcing, for these purposes, hemispheric cooperation and the exchange of experiences in the area of electoral technologies and related legislation, with support from the OAS;

HIGHLIGHTING the dialogue of heads of delegation during the thirty-sixth regular session of the General Assembly on the topic “Good Governance and Development in the Knowledge-Based Society”; and

NOTING the conclusions of the Fourth Inter-American Meeting of Electoral Authorities, held in San Salvador, El Salvador, on September 12 and 13, 2006, among them, that “reliable election results require not only transparent mechanisms but also a culture of democratic citizenship that has confidence in electoral bodies as arbiters of the election,”

RESOLVES:

1. To underscore the efforts made by the election officials in the member states to organize and administer elections, for the purpose of increasing the quality and transparency of their electoral processes, including the incorporation of new electoral technologies.

2. To underscore the decisive contribution by the Organization of American States (OAS), through electoral observation missions, advice, and assistance, to the holding of elections and the strengthening and development of electoral institutions and processes in the member states.

3. To urge the General Secretariat to support member states that so request, in such a way as to enable their electoral bodies to join together in a horizontal cooperation effort to adopt new electoral technologies under the auspices of the OAS, within the resources available.

4. To instruct the General Secretariat, through the Secretariat for Political Affairs, to do more to foster the generation of horizontal cooperation mechanisms for organizing electoral processes, including the adoption of new technologies, in order to assist member states that request such assistance.

5. To instruct the General Secretariat to assist member states that so request with training human resources in international electoral observation.

6. To underscore the advisability of promoting, for these purposes, cooperation and exchange of experiences in the areas of electoral legislation and technology, with other international and regional organizations.

7. To call upon member states, permanent observers, and other donors to make voluntary contributions to the activities proposed to implement and follow up on this resolution.

8. To instruct the General Secretariat to include in its activity reports on the promotion of democracy the progress made in carrying out this mandate.

9. To thank the Government of El Salvador for holding the Fourth Inter-American Meeting of Electoral Authorities. To request the Permanent Council to convene an Inter-American Meeting of Experts and Representatives of Electoral Bodies, to be held in Caracas, Venezuela, during the last quarter of 2007, for the purpose of exchanging experiences and best practices in the countries of the Hemisphere on, among other things, voter identification systems, voter registration procedures, and automated election systems, and whose conclusions will be submitted to the Fifth Inter-American Meeting of Electoral Authorities.

10. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth regular session on the implementation of this resolution, which will be carried out within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.