



The communications media have a significant impact on societies. This panel will bring together experts from government, civil society and academia to examine the important influence of the media in Guatemala. Panelists will discuss the important role of the media in elections, how media can be used to engage citizens in their democracy, as well as the incidence and consequences of media concentration.

Moderator: **Ariel Riveras Irías**, Dean, *Universidad Rafael Landívar*

Ricardo Uceda, Executive Director, Institute for Press and Society

Gustavo Berganza, Association DOSES

Mario Fuentes Destarac, Vice-President, *El Periódico*

Gustavo Porras, Political analyst and columnist

13:00 Lunch

15:00 The Media and Political Finance

This panel will provide a regional overview of the relationship between the media and political finance, with a focus on the Guatemalan context. Panelists will discuss current campaign and party finance laws and examine candidates' funding dilemmas and the impact of publicity costs on party budgets. Innovative methods currently used to measure campaign media costs and spending in Latin America and Guatemala will also be presented.

Moderator: **Victor Galvez**, FLACSO Guatemala

Humberto de la Calle, Former Vice-President of Colombia

Virna López, President, Special Commission on Electoral Affairs, Guatemalan

Ángel Arturo Figueroa, Justice of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal

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