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# Executive Summary

The Dec. 6, 2009, presidential and legislative elections were the first elections held under the new constitution of the Plurinational State of Bolivia. The high rate of citizen participation in the voter registration process and the general elections confirmed that the Bolivian people have a strong commitment to democratic life and that elections are regarded as a legitimate means to settle differences.

The Carter Center mission in Bolivia was targeted, focusing on long-term observation of the voter registration process. As such, the mission did not conduct a comprehensive assessment of the entire electoral process. The Carter Center opened a field office in La Paz that operated from Aug. 15 to Dec. 15. During this time, voter registration was assessed through direct observation, as well as technical and legal analysis. The mission also included a limited observation of the Dec. 6 general elections. The mission was conducted in accordance with the Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation. This report covers the findings of the Carter Center mission.

The credibility of the 2009 electoral process, as well as that of future elections, depends to a great degree on the legitimacy of the biometric registry. In only 76 days, the Plurinational Electoral Body (OEP) and the Departmental Electoral Courts (CDEs) registered more than five million Bolivian citizens living in Bolivia and four foreign countries.

The Carter Center mission found that the biometric registry was conducted in a peaceful environment, characterized by high levels of citizen participation, and that Bolivia's electoral legislation and constitution provide an adequate legal framework for a voter

registration process consistent with Bolivia's international commitments.

The success of the voter registration campaign highlights the remarkable efforts of the OEP and the departmental courts, whose work was characterized by goodwill and a determination to complete the registration in a short period of time. In the lead up to the Dec. 6, 2009, elections, the biometric registry contributed to greater confidence in the voting process and the acceptance of the results.

While the registration campaign was largely successful, a series of difficulties involving the compilation of the voter registry and identification of duplicate records occurred after registration ended, only a week before the elections. These difficulties generated a climate of uncertainty. They also provoked questions about the technical capacity of the OEP to carry out the elections on time with a credible voter registry and to administer electoral processes that comply with national electoral laws and fulfill Bolivia's international obligations.

The Carter Center had access to most stages of the registration process. The Center reported that the OEP and the CDEs worked with determination, goodwill and professionalism. An improved communications strategy would contribute to increasing the legitimacy of the OEP and the voter registration in future elections. However, Center observers had limited access to observe the electronic processing of the registration data. For example, Carter Center observers were unable to obtain information about the speed

The Carter Center mission in Bolivia was targeted, focusing on long-term observation of the voter registration process.

<sup>1</sup> The 2009 constitution changed the name of the National Electoral Court (CNE) to the OEP.

<sup>2</sup> Argentina, Brazil, Spain, and the United States.

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**T**he purpose of The Carter Center's voter registration observation mission was to inform and shape the perceptions of both Bolivians and key international actors regarding the quality and legitimacy of the voter registration process. The Carter Center's observation methodology uses assessment criteria based on Bolivia's electoral laws, the constitution and the country's international obligations regarding democratic elections and human rights.

The Center's observation of the biometric registration included three areas of observation and technical analysis: direct observation of voter registration, an analysis of the electoral legal framework in comparison to international obligations for democratic elec-

tions, and a technical analysis of encoding, transmitting, storing and processing registration data to create the new voter registry.

### Direct Observation of Voter Registration

On Aug. 19, 2009, The Carter Center and the OEP signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) (see Appendix D) which permitted The Center to observe the biometric voter registration process. Field office director Nicolás Fernández-Bravo and deputy field office director Santiago Mariani managed the observation mission from La Paz. Under their direction, three two-member long-term observer teams were deployed throughout the country starting Aug. 19. The long-term observers, with additional support of Atlanta-based staff, observed registrations centers



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abroad registered to vote (Argentina, Brazil, United States, and Spain).

The mission's direct observation methodology included three main elements. First, observers aimed to monitor as many registration centers as possible, covering as much of the Bolivian territory as was feasible.

Second, observers focused on seven areas of observation that touched upon social, political and technical aspects of the registration process. These areas were: access to information, transparency, citizen participation and education, the political environment, the functioning of registration centers, the performance of registration officials, and the

processing of biometric data. The observers used a standard form to record their observations and submitted a weekly report to the field office director. Third, Carter Center observers paid particular attention to the transmission of registration data that was to be used to create the voter registry for the Dec. 6 elections.

Observers met regularly with members of the Electoral Departmental Courts (CDEs), representatives of political parties and civil society, religious

A pair of Carter Center long-term observers visit a registration center in Oroico.

groups, civic committees, indigenous organizations, academics, union members and leaders, and citizens registering to vote. In addition to submitting weekly reports, long-term observers also wrote comprehensive reports following the conclusion of voter registration and the elections.

### Legal and Technical Analysis

In addition to the long-term observers, the mission included an expert on electronic data processing who focused on the technical aspects of the biometric registration system and helped identify which parts of the registration process the long-term observers should focus on in the field. The technical expert prepared two reports the Center shared with the OEP in order to provide timely feedback to improve the registration process.

The Carter Center mission also included a legal analyst to examine Bolivian electoral law in comparison to Bolivia's international and regional obligations in public international law. This analysis in turn helped long-term observers assess the degree to which the voter registration and other processes met international standards for democratic elections.

A citizen finishes registration by signing a digital pad. To register, she also had her identification document and all 10 fingerprints scanned and her photo taken.

<sup>3</sup> The Carter Center conducts election observation missions in accordance with the Declaration of Principles of International Election Observation and Code of Conduct that was adopted at the United Nations in 2005 and has been endorsed by 35 election observation groups.



# Analysis of the Electoral Legal Framework

**B**olivia's electoral processes are conducted on the basis of national legislation and in accordance with its international obligations. The legal framework for the Dec. 6 general elections is established in the 2009 Constitution of the Plurinational Bolivian State (CPEB) and the Transitional Electoral Regime (RET). Any omissions by the RET are covered under the subsidiary laws of the Electoral Code, the Law of Political Parties, and the Law of Citizen Groups and Indigenous People. The Plurinational Electoral Body (OEP) and the Departmental Electoral Courts (CDEs) may also issue special legal provisions to enact the general electoral legislation contained in the CPEB and the RET.

In addition to national electoral legislation, the Bolivian Constitution also recognizes the applicability of the human rights treaties ratified by Bolivia within its territory. Furthermore, it affirms that all rights included in international human rights instruments ratified by Bolivia shall prevail even in cases where they may be more favorable than the ones prescribed by the constitution. Finally, the constitution grants direct application of international treaties ratified by Bolivia to the national legal framework with the rank of law.

electoral administration are of major importance for ensuring that the elections are in conformity with Bolivia's international obligations.

As a cohesive unit, the OEP has the overall responsibility of organizing and administering electoral processes, as well as tabulating the results and resolving disputes. The OEP is composed of distinct organizations that have different roles in the administration of elections. Principally, the Supreme Electoral Court (SEC) has seven elected members who are responsible for guaranteeing and protecting political rights. The court is also responsible for organizing and administering the voter registry and the voter registry. The CDEs oversee the administration of voter registration and elections in their district. They are responsible for the implementation of legislation and election procedures established by the SEC. Electoral

judges and notaries work within the CDEs to organize and administer registration and elections at each polling station. The electoral judges are responsible for monitoring the legal aspects and functioning of the electoral process at the district level.

Based on its analysis and the legal framework, The Carter Center found that the framework provides a reasonable context for the conduct of democratic elections.

## Legal Framework for Election Administration

The OEP is the electoral branch of the government, independent of the executive, legislative and judiciary branches. The independence of the electoral branch and the reinforcement of its duties to fully regulate



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departmental boundaries rather than proportional representation based on population density. One special district comprising several peasant and indigenous communities was assigned to each of seven departments of the nine constituent departments in Bolivia. This led several indigenous groups to file complaints about the delineation of special districts alleging that the boundary delimitation failed to include some minority groups, and requesting more information about how the districts were determined. Without clear guidelines for establishing special districts it is possible that the political rights of indigenous voters and candidates is restricted.

In addition, the publication of ballots and election materials exclusively in Spanish represents another barrier to the full exercise of the political rights of indigenous populations. It is a recognized good practice that elections materials be available in main minority languages of the country.<sup>1</sup> Electoral materials should be available in at least two official languages according to which languages are spoken in each region.<sup>2</sup>

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of implementing biometric registration abroad, the RET stipulated that Bolivians living abroad would make up only six percent of the registered voters from the national electoral registry. Furthermore, no single country could account for more than 50 percent of the overseas registered voters.

While the Center's mission acknowledges the practical concern for implementing voter registration in four foreign countries, it is also important to recognize that limiting foreign registration to six percent of the national voter registry is a clear violation of the principles of equality and universal suffrage.

In response to such concerns, the Chamber of Deputies passed a law that allowed all Bolivian citizens living abroad to register and vote in the elections. The OEP initially stood by its decision to limit overseas registrants to six percent of the total of expected registration until just 10 days before the registration deadline, when it decided to lift the ceiling. It is likely that this last minute decision caused confusion and was made too late to increase the number of Bolivians voting abroad.

### Right to appeal

The Carter Center legal analysis found that the electoral framework does not provide a system that guarantees the rights of citizens to present complaints or solicit a review of OEP decisions. In exceptional cases, in theory, citizens can appeal to the Constitutional Court. The Constitutional Court,

To inform expatriates about voter registration for the upcoming Bolivia elections, posters were displayed in train stations in Barcelona, Spain.

however, was not functioning during voter registration or in the lead up to elections. As such, citizens had no available mechanism to legally challenge any decision of the OEP. The lack of an appeals process left Bolivian citizens unable to demand or protect their fundamental rights. The Carter Center suggests that Bolivians create a functioning system for the adjudication of disputes at all levels, including ordinary courts, special electoral courts, and the Constitutional Court.

A sign in La Paz promotes Marcela Revollo, female candidate for the lower chamber.

13 UN, ICCPR, art. 25; OAS, ACHR, art. 23 (b); OAS, IADC, para. 3



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actually voted on Dec. 6. The OEP, the CDEs and registration officials used mobile voter registration stations to reach rural communities and for voter registration stations abroad. The Center found that the registration process was a logistical success, largely free of irregularities, and demonstrating the dedication of electoral officials and citizens to democratic elections.

### Transparency and access to registration centers

Registration officials demonstrated commitment to transparency and cooperation with international and national observers. Officials granted Carter Center observers free access to registration centers and departmental courts and facilitated their access to requested information. Carter Center observers noted the extensive efforts of accredited national observers from Transparent Bolivia<sup>3</sup>. The participation of civil society groups helped strengthen citizens' confidence

in their electoral institutions and contributed to a more transparent electoral process.

### Registration processes

decisions to be made by the CDEs to avoid confusion and to ensure the transparency of the registration process.





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In Huanuni, Oruro, a mining town with a strong union history, miners were pressured to register to vote in Huanuni and not at their place of residence. This may have caused confusion among voters and could have led some people to register twice. Clearer guidelines and enforcement of registration in places of residence may have avoided this problem.

The resettlement of citizens from the west in the town of Santa Rosa del Abuná, Pando, raised concerns about the right of citizens from other regions to register in Pando. Residents of Santa Rosa del Abuná and the Civic Committee asked the OEP and the National Institute of Agrarian Reform (INRA) responsible for the resettlement to explain the rationale for the resettlement. After reviewing the situation, the OEP ruled that electoral law permitted all eligible voters to register. Thus those recently relocated to Santa Rosa del Abuná were permitted to register to vote. The Carter Center commends the manner in which the OEP resolved the case, but recommends clearer regulations regarding the registration for internal migrants, displaced people, and people living in recently established settlements.

### Voter registration abroad

As noted above, for the first time in Bolivian history, Bolivians living abroad in Spain, Argentina, Brazil,





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Pre-election political climate





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cal parties. According to the polls published in the lead up to the election, the three most popular parties were MAS-MSM, PPB-Convergencia, and UN. Table 3 provides an overview of the presidential and vice-presidential candidates.

### The Biometric Registry in the Elections

Observers noted that the majority of voters presented their registration documentation or voter identification documents to compare with the biometric voter list at the polling booth. Citizens remarked that the inclusion of voter photos in the register marked a significant change from previous elections. Citizens demonstrated their civic commitment and boosted confidence in the elections through their participation as political party delegates and observers in the consortium of NGOs, and Transparent Bolivia.

A voter examines the ballot before approaching the polling booth.

noted massive citizen participation.

In the general context of the deep social and political transformations, the 2009 election marks the starting point for implementing the new constitution, which implies the redesign of the legal and institutional framework of the Bolivian state.

In 2010 and beyond, the new Plurinational Legislative Assembly faces the challenge of passing and implementing five laws<sup>28</sup> that are fundamental to guaranteeing the rule of law. The Movimiento al Socialismo (MAS), as the majority party in the legislature as well as the executive, has the primary responsibility for drafting these laws. As President Evo Morales said in a speech on Dec. 6, 2009, it will be very important to have a broad and inclusive consultation with the other political parties, the regions of the country, and social sectors to generate laws with as strong a public backing and legitimacy as possible.

### Results

President Evo Morales and Vice President Álvaro García Linera were re-elected of the popular vote. The president's political party, MAS, also won 26 seats in the Chamber of Senators and 88 seats in the Chamber of Deputies (see Appendix H). The results were accepted without legal or public contestation by all political parties and by the general public.

In a first statement issued on Dec. 7, 2009, The Carter Center commended all participants, electoral officials, and Bolivian citizens for their dedication to fair and free elections. Although its assessment was based on a relatively limited number of observers, The Carter Center reported that polling was characterized by a peaceful atmosphere and high voter turnout.<sup>27</sup> In the opening of the polls, The Carter Center observers

<sup>27</sup> Voting is mandatory in Bolivia.

<sup>28</sup> The five laws that the Morales government will need to pass and implement are the laws governing the Plurinational Electoral Body, the Electoral Law, the Judicial Body, the Plurinational Constitutional Court, and the laws of Autonomy and Decentralization. (The Plurinational Electoral Body law was passed June 17, 2010.)



The Dec. 6, 2009, presidential and legislative elections were the first held under the new Political Constitution of the Plurinational State of Bolivia. Resounding support for President Evo Morales and the ruling party, MAS, indicated the population's widespread desire to continue the social and political transformation MAS initiated in 2005. Thus the election results challenge the re-elected government to design a new legal and institutional framework that will strengthen and support the rule of law.

The Carter Center election observation mission focused on the creation and implementation of the biometric voter registry over the course of four months. As such, the Center's mission did not provide a comprehensive assessment of election day and the logistical preparation of the elections. Other international and domestic observation missions focused specifically on election campaigns, polling day, and provided an overall evaluation of those processes. The Center hopes that the conclusions drawn from observing the biometric voter registration process will complement the work of these organizations.

The Carter Center's recommendations refer to both general and specific technical aspects of the biometric voter registration process. It is hoped that these recommendations will positively impact the Bolivian electoral system by helping to safeguard the credibility of future elections.

## The Biometric Registration: Overall Assessment

The biometric voter registration exceeded the expectations of the general population by registering a large number of voters in a short period of time. While this was an important achievement, it also obscured the risks involved in producing a new voter registry in such a short time frame. Should the process have



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CITIZENS REGISTERING TO VOTE ARE NOT PROVIDED WITH CLEAR INFORMATION ABOUT THE VALIDITY OF THE DOCUMENTS WHICH THEY NEED TO REGISTER TO VOTE.

CITIZENS IN BOLIVIA LACKED CLEAR GUIDANCE ON HOW TO DETERMINE THEIR PLACE OF RESIDENCY.

REGISTRATION OFFICIALS DID NOT FOLLOW ESTABLISHED PROCEDURES FOR TRANSMITTING DATA DAILY TO LOCAL AND REGIONAL SUPERVISORS.

THE SYSTEM DID NOT HAVE AN OFFICIAL PROCEDURE FOR SENDING, TRACKING, AND RECEIVING DATA DISCS AT THE DATA CENTER.

CONFUSION WAS CAUSED BY THE INCONSISTENT INFORMATION

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difficulties. However, some public announcements issued by the OEP and independent decisions taken by the Departmental Electoral Courts led to inconsistent procedures and confusion. Some concrete examples include the following:

INSTRUCTIONS ABOUT THE REGISTRATION PROCESS GAVE CONFLICTING INFORMATION ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT CITIZENS SHOULD WAIT TO RECEIVE A NOTIFICATION TO REGISTER.





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tively inform Bolivians about all matters related to



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## Appendix B

# The Carter Center Observation Delegation and Staff

### Delegation Leaders (Dec. 6 Elections)

Dr. Jennifer McCoy, Director, Americas Program,  
The Carter Center, USA

Marcelo Varela Erasheva, Associate Director,  
The Carter Center, Costa Rica

Nicolás Fernández Bravo, Field Office Director,  
The Carter Center, Argentina

Alejandro Nató, Carter Center Permanent  
Representative to Bolivia, Argentina

Santiago Mariani



## Appendix C Terms and Abbreviations

AS	Social Alliance, Alianza Social	OEP	Plurinational Electoral Body, Órgano Electoral Plurinacional
BSD	Social Democratic Bolivia, Bolivia Social Demócrata	Observado	Electoral registry of a citizen who does not have the required documen- tation (birth certificate) as a proof of citizenship or age
CNE	National Electoral Court, Corte Nacional Electoral	Padrón	Voters list
CDE	Departmental Electoral Court, Corte Departamental Electoral	PPB	Progressive Plan for Bolivia, Plan Progreso para Bolivia
Depuración	The process of cleansing the voters list of records that should not appear in the voters list, such as duplicate records and records of underage or the names of deceased people	PULSO	Villages for Sovereignty, Pueblos para la Soberanía
EU	European Union	RET	Transitional Electoral Regime, Régimen Electoral Transitorio
LTO	Long-term observer	SEC	Supreme Electoral Court
MAS	Movement Toward Socialism, Movimiento al Socialismo	STO	Short-term observer
MUPSA	Movement for Patriotic Social Unity, Movimiento de Unidad Social Patriótica	UN	Nacional Unity, Unidad Nacional
OAS	Organization of American States		



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of Principles for International Election Observation, adopted at the United Nations in 2005, and with applicable Bolivian law. The Center will remain in close communication with the Bolivian authorities, all political parties, candidates, domestic observ-

ers and civil society organizations, media, and other domestic observer missions.

The Center will release periodic public statements on its findings, available on its Web site: [www.cartercenter.org](http://www.cartercenter.org).



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The Carter Center believes it is still premature to evaluate the entire process and urges all of the actors to maintain order and respect for the development of the process underway. Both the capture of information and the verification and purging of the biometric electoral census record constitute crucial steps that will confer legitimacy, transparency, and consistency to the instrument being developed by the National Electoral Court. The Carter Center will continue to observe the process of data transmission and the compilation of the electoral registry. The quality of the information in the biometric electoral census is one of the fundamental elements for fostering citizen trust in the electoral process.

The Carter Center conducts its election observation activities in accordance with the Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation, adopted at the United Nations in 2005, and with applicable Bolivian law. The Center will remain in close communication with the Bolivian authorities, all political parties, candidates, domestic observers and civil society organizations, media, and other domestic observer missions.



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LA PAZ ... In a report released today, The Carter Center commended the publication of the biometric voter registry by the National Electoral Court (CNE) for contributing significantly to the transparency of the ing significantly



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total, the Center observed 327 registration centers in Bolivia, Brazil, Spain, Argentina, the United States.

Carter Center observers collaborated closely with Bolivia Transparente, consortium of Bolivian NGOs, by sharing information regarding electoral observation methods.

The mission's expert on information technology visited the Processing Center (Data Center), though access was limited. The expert also visited registration centers in the Lake Titicaca zone (Copacabana), Huanuni, Cobija, Santa Rosa del Abuná, Senda, de Dios and Riveralta. He was also able to observe data transmission from several registration centers that had Internet connection (online) in La Paz and El Alto.

### Legal framework of the Bolivian electoral process

The present electoral process is governed by the Political Constitution of the State (CPEB in Spanish) and the Transitory Electoral Regime (RET, Law 4021). This norm establishes the application of the Electoral Code, the Political Parties Law, and the Citizen and Indigenous Peoples Unions Law when facing omissions on the part of the RET. The National Electoral Court and Departmental Courts issue circulars and guidelines with purpose of making operative the electoral process.

The CC carries out its observation and analysis activities on the basis of these commitments and following internationally agreed precepts for the organization and administration of democratic elections, to which the Plurinational State of Bolivia adheres voluntarily.<sup>1</sup>

The present legal framework provides a solid basis for democratic elections and an electoral system that guarantees the rights recognized by international standards for democratic elections. Nonetheless, during the biometric voter registration, the Carter Center's mission has identified some areas of concern that should be addressed to guarantee the full expression of these rights:

1. Designation of the total number of CNE Directors
2. A continual updating of the CNE Web page
3. Clarify the criteria to be applied in the territorial delimitation of Special Constituencies for the assignment of seats in the Chamber of Representatives of the Plurinational Assembly
4. Establish criteria relative to the relocation of citizens during electoral processes
5. Compliance with the terms established in the electoral calendar
6. Creation of a system that permits citizens the right of appeal





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7. Promote compliance with parity in the representation of women in the lists candidates for the Plurinational Legislative Body
8. Permit the registration and voting of all Bolivian citizens living abroad

### Technical analysis of data processing

Although the Center's technical expert had very limited access to key data processing centers and information, the Center was able to observe the process for the capture, transmission, custody, storage, processing and depuration of demographic biometric information for the elaboration of the new biometric electoral register.

The observation of this process has permitted the Carter Center's mission to identify three elements which could effect the operation of the biometric electoral register. However, it is important to highlight that restricted access to biometric information processing centers in La Paz has prevented the mission from generating a comprehensive final technical analysis of this process.

Storage, custody, and transmission of data According to the initial plan, registration centers with an Internet connection would transmit registration data in real time to the center in La Paz. Mobile registration centers and those that did not have a connection to the Internet would send their registration data in compact discs daily to one of the 5 centralization offices, which would store the information and send it via Internet to the data center.

This transmission scheme was not executed primarily due to: 1) the difficulty obtaining Internet lines with sufficient broad band capacity; 2) technical problems with software that registration centers/centralization offices would use to communicate with data center servers; 3) delays in the setting up of the principal and secondary data centers. Due to these delays, the principal data center, which should have been in operation from the beginning of the biometric registration process, only began to operate on Oct. 15. The secondary data center started operations on Sept. 5.

As a result of these limitations and technical difficulties, ONE implemented a system for the collection of registration data through compact discs (CDs). The data were collected by inspectors at the registration centers, then stored in the Departmental Electoral Courts and later sent to the data center in the city of La Paz. For future elections, the Center recommends that the transmission of biometric data



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According to the information supplied by CNE, the AF<sup>16</sup> is the secondary data





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registration, but in the end did not constitute a serious obstacle to the satisfactory development of the process.

7. During fieldwork, Carter Center observers did not perceive cases of discrimination or intimidation that would suggest the presence of organized strategies of discrimination vis-à-vis groups of citizens purposefully preventing some people from registering.
8. Citizens have been allowed to register in centers outside of their zone, city or department of residence. This provision has generated accusations by parties of the opposition, in particular reference to citizens that have registered outside of the Pando Department with the intention of voting there during the Dec. 6 elections. The accusations are not unfounded. The number of citizens registered in Pando increased by 34 percent (from 32,510 to 43,855) with respect to the previous electoral registration. Whether this increase represents a registration pattern that is unique to Pando can be assessed without statistical information on the number of citizens that register out of their area of residence in the nation.
9. In compliance of article 21 of the law 4021 (Régimen Electoral Transitorio) the CNE compared its biometric data with the data base of the Civil Registry. As a result, 400,671 citizens, which had previously registered in the biometric electoral list using the valid documents permitted by law (Cédula de Identidad, Registro Único Nacional or Libreta de servicio Militar), were conditionally included in the voter's list by the CNE upon presenting their birth certificate. This decision, not foreseen in the law, was based on the fact that these citizens, while registered voters, do not appear in the data base of the Civil Registry. The Carter Center believes this has been a difficult but wise decision.
10. The Center recognizes the good will demonstrated by the CNE to assure participation of citizens in the electoral processes. This is reflected in the accreditation of national observers of the Bolivia Transparente consortium. The participation of civil society organizations strengthens citizens' confidence in Bolivian institutions and contributes to a transparent electoral process.

### Recommendations

On the basis of the information collected, the events described and the issues discussed in this report, the Carter Center's mission presents the following recommendations:

Relative to norms:

1. The Center urges the CNE to propose to the National Congress the nomination of the two remaining directors to complete the Plenary Court of the highest electoral authority, in accordance with article 29, section f, of the Electoral Law (LE in Spanish). The appointment of the total number of directors will permit the CNE



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the CNE represent a minimum quorum to meet in the Plenary Court, thus increasing the responsibilities of each one of its directors.

2. The CNE should take advantage of the Internet web page resource to provide daily information and rapidly disseminate decisions and guidelines that affect the development of the elections process. This would create more confidence among stakeholders and citizens, demonstrating transparency in the actions of the CNE and guaranteeing the right of access to information.
3. To guarantee the right to universal suffrage, equity and the absence of all forms of discrimination at elections, the criteria for territorial delimitation of the Special Constituencies should be clearly defined and the assignment of seats as well as for the procedure to be followed during the electoral registration.
4. The CNE should anticipate possible conflict situations in regions where the National Plan for the Distribution of Land and Settlements is being developed. These situations may have hindered registration or increased the possibility of duplicate records of citizens in the resettlement process. For future elections, it is advisable that the relocation programs be suspended during election processes. If this is not possible, the CNE should adopt measures to guarantee that all citizens can register.
5. Citizen registration should be carried out without affecting the elections calendar. In this case, the adjustments to the calendar have resulted in a very short period for the publication of the electoral register, with very little time before the presidential and legislative elections, hindering the ability of political parties and citizens to process corrections and/or present claims, which if not duly answered could limit the political rights of citizens.
6. In an effort to increase the protection of citizens' rights, the creation of a system that allows citizens the recourse of appeal at different levels is important, including the scope of constitutional protection of the fundamental rights.
7. Respect for gender equality between men and women does not exclusively depend on the existence of a norm, but requires affirmative action on the part of the State. The State should assure implementation and also generate a greater social awareness of gender equity. In this sense, the CNE should exercise a leadership role by means of a massive campaign of civic education that actively promotes the rights of women and gender equality.
8. For future elections, the CNE should consider steps to promote the rights of Bolivians living abroad to vote. This may require changes to the electoral law in order to preserve the principles of equality, universal suffrage, and the rights against discrimination.





## Observation Mission of the Bolivia Voter Registration

LA PAZ ... The Carter Center announced today that it will deploy a small observation delegation to Bolivia's Dec. 6 elections, led by Jennifer McCoy, director of the Center's Americas Program. Because of the relatively small scale of the election day mission, the delegation will not provide an overall assessment of the conduct of polling and counting procedures. Instead, the mission will focus on the general environment surrounding the elections. After the elections, the mission will prepare a preliminary statement covering the election day environment as well as the findings from the Center's long-term observation of voter registration and other electoral preparations.

The Carter Center released on Dec. 1 its latest report on the finalization of the biometric register process, available at [www.cartercenter.org](http://www.cartercenter.org). In the report, the Center presents recommendations and preliminary conclusions based on direct observation of the registration process, a technical analysis of the data processing, and an analysis of the legal framework governing electoral processes in Bolivia. Previous reports of the long-term mission are also available on the Carter Center's Web site.

Working at the invitation of the National Electoral Court and under the terms of an agreed MOU with the CNE, The Carter Center has been observing the electoral process in Bolivia since August, focusing primarily on the new biometric voter registration process. The Center deployed six long-term observers in August, along with several technical and electoral experts. The Center's observation mission is conducted in accordance with the Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation and Code of Conduct that was adopted at the United Nations in 2005 and has been endorsed by 35 election observation groups. The Center is assessing the Bolivian electoral process based on Bolivia's legal framework and its international obligations regarding genuine democratic elections.

"Waging Peace, Fighting Disease, Building Hope"  
The Carter Center: A not-for-profit, nongovernmental organization, The Carter Center has helped to improve life for people in more than 100 countries by promoting democracy, human rights, and development.



## Observation Mission of the Bolivia Voter Registration

health care; and teaching farmers in developing nations to increase crop production. The Carter Center was founded in 1982 by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and his wife Rosalynn, in partnership with Emory University, to promote peace and health worldwide. Please visit [www.cartercenter.org](http://www.cartercenter.org) to learn more about The Carter Center.





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## Observation Mission of the Bolivia Voter Registration



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## Appendix G

# Registration and Election Day Checklists



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## Observation Mission of the Bolivia Voter Registration



# The Carter Center at a Glance

**Overview:** The Carter Center was founded in 1982 by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and his wife, Rosalynn, in partnership with Emory University, to advance peace and health worldwide. A nongovernmental organization, the Center has helped to improve life for people in more than 70 countries by resolving conflicts; advancing democracy, human rights, and economic opportunity; preventing diseases; improving mental health care; and teaching farmers to increase crop production.

**Accomplishments:** The Center has observed more than 80 elections in 30 countries; helped farmers double or triple grain production in 15 African countries; worked to prevent and resolve civil and international conflicts worldwide; intervened to prevent unnecessary diseases in Latin America and Africa; and strived to diminish the stigma against mental illnesses.

**Budget:** \$90.5 million 2009–2010 operating budget.

**Donations:** The Center is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, financed by private donations from individuals, foundations, corporations, and international development assistance agencies. Contributions by U.S. citizens and companies are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

**Facilities:** The nondenominational Cecil B. Day Chapel and other facilities are available for weddings, corporate retreats and meetings, and other special events. For information, (404) 420-5112.

**Location:** In a 35-acre park, about 1.5 miles east of downtown Atlanta. The Jimmy Carter Library and Museum, which adjoins the Center, is owned and operated by the National Archives and Records Administration and is open to the public. (404) 865-7101.

**Staff:** 160 employees, based primarily in Atlanta.

