Press release

Electoral Observation Report: setting and opening polling voting stations 2014 presidential elections

The 2014 Electoral Observation Network, with the aim of contributing to the transparency of the presidential elections in 2014, has deployed a contingent of 1,100 domestic and international observers, covering 170 municipalities in 14 departments. This report corresponds to the setting and opening process of the polling stations and reflects what has happened in the 147 polling stations we have observers:

a) Security at the polling station

Regarding security provided to the polling stations, we have reports of the National Civil Police having presence in 99% of the polling stations. As well, it’s been reported that 14% of schools have Private Security presence and 6% indicated that there has been the presence of the Order Maintenance Unit (UMO). Also, in 89% of polling stations there is presence of the Electoral Prosecutor, who is in charge of receiving complaints that are given on the occasion of the commission of electoral offenses, the presence of the Ombudsman for the Defense of Human Rights was verified in 38% of the polling stations and the General of the Republic was on 15% of them.
b) Behavior of political parties.

In 52% of the polling stations where we have observers, there was no political party propaganda. However, outside the polling stations ARENA had party propaganda in 22% of them, followed by FMLN with 16%, UNIDAD 6% and PSP and FPS parties with 1%.

During the opening of the centers there were no significant incidents of violence reported: 70% of the monitored centers report no violence, in the remaining, ARENA was linked to some type of violence in 21% while the FMLN was in 5%.

Regarding Members of the polling station, 71% wore no distinctive party propaganda, 12% wore propaganda of the FMLN, followed by ARENA in 6%, UNIDAD 2%, PCN, PDC and FPS with 1%, respectively.
c) Polling stations conditions

In the polling stations observed, 76% had optimal conditions for proper elections process development; 9% of the stations have minimal space, 6% has poor lighting, 4% unsanitary conditions, 3% accessibility issues and 2% have inadequate conditions.

![Polling stations conditions chart]

d) Electoral Material

During the setting process of polling stations there were some delays nationwide due to delays on delivery of the ballot boxes in 28% of the polling stations. The electoral package was given after 6 in the morning, which led to the polling to be open after 7:00 am (-6 Central Time), which is the time established by law. In 39% of them it was delivered between 5:30 and 6:00 a.m., in 17% at 5:00 am and from 5:00 to 5:30 in 16%.

75% of the monitored stations reported no electoral or generic material missing. However, 6% reported missing proceedings opening sheets, 4% standard signature; 5% proceedings closing sheets, 4% the pattern of exposure, 4% standard signature, 2% ballots, 2% voters register list and 1% of indelible ink and stamps.
With the setting of the display pattern was observed in 98% of polling stations is placed in a visible way, while the data recorded that 2% is not visibly. 93% of the shelves provide privacy conditions for voters to cast their vote with the guarantee of secrecy, while 7% of the observed centers reflect that voter privacy is not guaranteed.

During setting of the JRV was verified that in 98% was checked to be deposited where the polls the votes were empty, while the remaining 2% of the polling stations observed not verified that the polls were empty.
e) Integration of polling stations

In 80% percent of the voting centers, polling stations were installed with 3 members, 18% with more than 3 members and 2% with less than 3 members. In 99% of centers, authorities verified the accreditation of members of the polling station, while 1% did not. The integration of the JRV was found that 98% of the members who joined up as charges were assigned, while the remaining 2% had to take a different position to which he belonged.
f) **Vote of the Polling Station people**

During setting of the polling stations it was found that all the representatives of the political parties voted before the opening of polling stations, the data reflect that 93% of all political parties voted before the opening center, FMLN representatives who voted before the opening represent 4%, with 2% ARENA and 1% of the FPS, the representatives of the member parties of the polling stations that did not vote before the opening should then vote on JRV according rightful voters.

![Pie chart showing vote distribution](image)

**g) Start time of the vote.**

Only 30% of the monitored centers the vote stared at the time established by law, in 59% of polling stations began after seven in the morning, which caused discomfort and discontent among citizens that in some cases were removed and others were waiting patiently.

![Pie chart showing start time distribution](image)

Among the principal causes for the late opening of centers in 50% of cases was due to the slowness of the members to setting the JRV. In 19% of cases the delay was due to the late opening of the same, 13% to the late arrival of the members of the polling stations, in 10% of cases of was due to late delivery of election materials and 7% by the lack of election materials.
**h) Election Observation.**

In 87% of the polling stations, election observation was not an obstacle to carrying out their task. However, we received complaints from the polling station Centro Escolar Cantón La Paz in the municipality of Guaymando, Ahuachapán, where the prosecutor did not allow election observers entry to the event, among others that have already been resolved.
Conclusion.

According to the observations, we can consider that in most cases the setting process was developed following the procedures and have adequate institutional security, the most deficient elements was the opening time in the polling stations due to slow integration of JRV and the late arrival of the polling stations members. In general, we can conclude that it is a process that began with the conditions for building trust in the conduct of the presidential elections of 2014.