

Dear guests,

I want to say couple words to sum up the 2 day conference.

First I would like to point out that I believe that overall the conference did serve its 2 major goals:

- 1) We exchanged our unique experiences when it comes to stakeholder engagement and
- 2) We got to know each other better. I cannot emphasize enough the importance of strengthening ties between EMBs from around the world, as we serve as invaluable resource to each other. We do operate in different contexts, we are facing different challenges but we serve the same goal and that is why it makes all the more sense that we work together to achieve the common goal, well administered elections.

As I was listening to our diverse group of speakers speak about the challenges they face in their day-to-day work and namely in their efforts to engage election stakeholders it was easy to come to a conclusion that while these challenges vary vastly from country to country and every country has a very unique story to tell, we see a lot of similarities as well as patterns. That is why meetings like this allow us to compliment each others work by building on each others experiences.

What are the key messages that we will be taking away from this meeting?

We have learned from yesterday's presentations that understanding your stakeholders is the key when mapping out EMBs strategies in regards with stakeholder engagement. We've learned about few tools, managing expectations included, used around the world on how this can be achieved and paths that other countries have undertaken. We've all learned that success can only be achieved by adopting a customer-centric approach to the stakeholder engagement. One of our experts even mapped out a sample cycle of stakeholder engagement and presented a graph that summarizes all the key points we need to keep in mind when working with stakeholders. Yesterday we also talked about the Georgia example and discussed the formats and methods that Georgian CEC is using to open up the election process and make it more inclusive. We've come a long way when it comes to stakeholder engagement and transparent electoral process, but again this is a result of hard work of the election administration together with all the sides involved.

Today we discussed the importance of new technologies in stakeholder engagement and specifically how Latvia has utilized technology to engage voters. Sharing responsibility of having accurate voters lists can be a great example that other countries can look into. We also talked about the political communication and what are the

responsibilities of the stakeholders when engaging in communication. In addition we talked about how EMBs manage lack of trust in the society and how they fight the perception that elections are fraudulent. Again this is the context in which some of us operate and thus Mexico experience can be very timely and applicable. We also discussed this topic from an international organization's perspective and with a focus on the role of election observation in national electoral processes.

The diversity of approaches that the presenters have undertaken to discuss this topic only highlights how complex the issue of stakeholder engagement is.

One of the presenters even mentioned that we were bold when choosing the topic of the conference, and it was also mentioned how little research has been done on this topic, that is precisely the reason why we thought that having a cross cultural discussion on this very topic would be beneficial for our work individually and collectively. I really hope that all of you found these discussions useful.

Also, I cannot emphasize enough how thankful we are for all the presentations that were conducted by the private sector representatives. Your efforts and assistance to improve the process for all the stakeholders involved is essential in the field of elections. So thank you!

Also, I want to note that we will collect electronic versions of the presentations made during this meeting and will circulate it among participants so you have a complete record of the conference.

We are committed to improve the format of this conference and we will appreciate your feedback on how we can improve it in the future.

Thank you again for your active participation, insights, and commitment to this work that we are doing. I look forward to our continued cooperation.