



**Alert of Permanent Secretariat of the Latin American and Caribbean
Network for Democracy (Redlad):
Elections in Venezuela**

April, 2013.

***Unofficial translation done only for the purpose of being understood.**

The Permanent Secretariat of the Latin American and Caribbean Network for Democracy (RedLad) platform to boost full democracy comprising more than 480 organizations, in their role as Official Member of the Civil Society Forum of the Organization of American States (OAS) and Regional Chapter of the World Movement for Democracy, regarding presidential elections in Venezuela makes the following recommendations:

- As said in the statement released by the RedLad Public and Global Centre for Democracy and Development (CGDD), and had the support of 10 former presidents and more than 300 individuals and organizations in Latin America "We sincerely encourage all political organizations, branches of power and public officials, all public and private media and the National Electoral Council (CNE) to ensure that the electoral process unfolds within the strict framework of and in compliance with the electoral law in order to ensure a truly transparent, free and fair electoral process for all Venezuelans".
- The RedLad, also supported an initiative that was supported by more than 400 Latin American parliamentarians and that intensified the application request of electoral transparency of the CNE for the development of democracy in Venezuela.



<http://www.redlad.org/>

- Elements in the pre-election moment such as the non-accreditation of international election observation missions, the existence of official propaganda in places where its publication is illegal, the inequity in spaces to TV spots and other media for candidates, people close to the government candidate had the "secret codes" of the voting machines and the fact of members of the election authority doing proselytizing are previous elements that undermined the credibility of the process and should certainly be corrected by the CNE.
- Our Network participated directly monitoring the electoral process, with Observers in Venezuela and an online work from our Secretariat. There were reports throughout the day, physical violence- both by government sympathizers as state security forces-against voters, citizens, activists and even people who acted as international observers. Similarly, it was reported many irregularities as board electoral members present at the ballot box, violation of the concept of the "assisted voting", damaged and faulty machines in polling stations, motorized intimidation, and other elements that must be taken into account by the CNE, in order to ensure future democratic processes. It required total independence from CNE regarding the powers of the Republic and a more detailed compliance of existing legislation in this area. Our network is preparing a final report which will definitely touch all these situations that affect the electoral process.
- Official results show a result with a percent difference minimum of 1.6% and a higher number of invalid votes (300,000 votes). Given the number of irregularities in the electoral process, the request of one of the directors of the CNE demanding every vote recount and audit is most prudent in these cases. RedLad recommends the system auditing and counting manual of votes in presence of representatives of both candidates, as well as impartial international observers of all votes and minutes, as well as their actual comparison with the results in the hands of representatives of candidates .
- We request respect to the review process and no manipulation by the government that can further affect the existing climate of concern.
- The post-election phase must demonstrate the maturity of Venezuelan institutions responsible for directing the process and basis of action within the objectivity, impartiality, call for calm and national unity.
- Finally, it calls on Venezuelan citizenship so faithful to his vocation to peaceful stay in a calm atmosphere, to prevent any outbreak of violence and always acting in respect, tolerance, pluralism and solidarity.



<http://www.redlad.org/>

- Whatever the result of the verification of votes and the system has been shown that there can be a candidate with a clear majority, forcing a process of reflection, dialogue and building bridges to facilitate interaction and create a country of unity for everyone Venezuelans.

Permanent Secretariat
Latin American and Caribbean Network for Democracy
San José, Costa Rica
<http://www.redlad.org/>



<http://www.redlad.org/>