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**ANNEX I**

**STATUTE OF THE ELECTORAL COUNCIL OF THE UNION OF SOUTH  
AMERICAN NATIONS (UNASUR)**

**I. NATURE**

**Article 1º.** *The Electoral council of the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) is an instance for operational and technical consultation, of cooperation, coordination, research and exchange of experiences, for organizing Electoral Missions, promoting citizen participation and democracy in the framework of the Constitutive Treaty of UNASUR.*

**II. PRINCIPLES**

**Article 2º.** *The Electoral Council of UNASUR will be governed by the guiding principles of the Constitutive Treaty of UNASUR, in full respect for the sovereignty, self-determination of the peoples, solidarity, cooperation, peace, democracy, citizen participation, transparency, pluralism, respect for universal human rights, indivisible and interdependent, and by the principles underlying the Additional Protocol to the Constitutive Treaty of UNASUR on Commitment to Democracy.*

**III. OBJETIVES**

**Article 3º.** *The Electoral Council of UNASUR has the following objectives:*

**GENERAL OBJECTIVE**

1. *To build a space for integration, exchange of experiences, cooperation, research and promotion of citizen participation, civic education and democracy.*

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### **SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES**

- 1. To promote the exchange and transfer of knowledge, experiences and technical assistance of the organisations, authorities and electoral technicians.*
- 2. Facilitate the creation, use and application of non-dependant technologies for developing voting systems through the transfer of technological innovation and modernization, as well as good practices in the electoral process systems.*
- 3. To organise, at the request of a Member State, an Electoral Mission of UNASUR.*

### **IV. INTEGRATION**

***Article 4º.** The Electoral Council of UNASUR will be composed of the highest authorities of the autonomous bodies, state agencies with electoral competition, set out in Annex I, which is an integral part of this Statute, in accordance with the laws of each Member State.*

*Its members will act within the Electoral Council autonomously and under the UNASUR Constitutive Treaty*

*No electoral body of Member States will receive instructions or mandates from the Electoral Council regarding their activities, powers, functions and status in their respective countries.*

*The changes that occur in Annex I of this Article, concerning electoral bodies and authorities of Member States shall be notified to the competent bodies of UNASUR, through the Secretariat General.*

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**V. STRUCTURE**

**Article 5º.** *The Electoral Council of UNASUR will have a Plenary, which will be chaired by the Pro Tempore Presidency, and other entities that the Electoral Council deems necessary.*

**VI. FUNCTIONS OF THE ELECTORAL COUNCIL**

**Article 6º.** *The Electoral Council will have the following functions:*

1. *To approve the Action Plan and submit it for consideration to the corresponding bodies of UNASUR.*
2. *To approve the internal operation regulations.*
3. *To present funding requirements for Council initiatives and bring them to the attention of the competent bodies of UNASUR.*
4. *To establish the necessary coordination with the institutions of UNASUR for its proper functioning.*
5. *To organize, at the request of a Member State, the Electoral Mission of UNASUR for the elections in its country.*
6. *To comply with the decisions of the UNASUR bodies.*
7. *To approve the agreements established and bring to the attention of the competent bodies of UNASUR.*
8. *To create Work Groups in accordance with the operational needs.*
9. *To act in accordance with articles 6, 7 and 15 of the Constitutive treaty of UNASUR, on initiatives of dialogue and cooperation with other similar regional and sub-regional organisations.*
10. *Those that would allow compliance with the objectives of the Statute and the Constitutive Treaty.*

**VII. OPERATION**

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**Article 7º.** *The Electoral Council Regular Meetings will be held annually and may be convened by the Pro Tempore Presidency for special meetings at the request of at least half of the member states.*

*All decisions of the Council shall be taken by consensus and may be approved with the presence of at least three quarters (3/4) of its members. The decisions thus approved shall be consulted by the Pro Tempore Presidency with representatives of electoral bodies absent, which must act within fifteen (15) calendar days after receipt of the document in the official languages of UNASUR. After such time, and in the absence of any statement or observation, such decision shall be deemed adopted.*

**VIII. PRO TEMPORE PRESIDENCY OF THE ELECTORAL COUNCIL OF UNASUR**

**Article 8º.** *The Pro Tempore Presidency of the Council shall be exercised by the authority representing the electoral body of the State which holds the Pro Tempore Presidency of UNASUR. The Pro Tempore Presidency shall be held for a period of one (1) year.*

*When within one and the same State there is more than one electoral body and it is its turn to hold the Pro Tempore Presidency, the authorities representing these electoral bodies shall agree on their function.*

**Article 9º.** *The functions of the Pro Tempore Presidency:*

- 1. To hold the official representation of the Electoral Council of UNASUR.*
- 2. To coordinate and monitor the activities and plans approved by the Electoral Council of UNASUR.*
- 3. To prepare, convene and chair the meetings of the Electoral Council of UNASUR.*

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4. *To prepare and present to the Electoral Council of UNASUR the annual work plan, the meetings' agenda, the annual report and accounts of its management.*
5. *Other tasks assigned to it by the Electoral Council of UNASUR.*

**IX. FINANCING**

**Article 10º.** *The Electoral Council of UNASUR will finance its activities with the funds assigned for said purpose by the corresponding Organisations of UNASUR and by voluntary contributions of electoral organisations and institutions that make up the Electoral Council of UNASUR, without prejudice to the provisions of paragraph 3 of article 6 of this Statute.*

*The administration and management of the resources will be the responsibility of the Secretariat General, in coordination with the Pro Tempore Presidency of the Electoral Council.*

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**X. ELECTORAL MISSIONS**

**Article 11º.** *The Electoral Council of UNASUR shall organise electoral missions at the request of a Member State conducting the electoral process with the agreement of the electoral authority. To this end, the electoral authorities of the requesting State will process, through the Pro Tempore Presidency, everything related to the scope, integration and coverage of the electoral mission.*

*The requesting State shall guarantee conditions of security, information, movement and cooperation with the Electoral Mission.*

*The Electoral Mission activities will conclude with the presentation of a report to the electoral authorities of the requesting State and to the Institutions of UNASUR*

**XI. ELECTORAL MISSIONS PRINCIPLE**

**Artículo 12º.** *The electoral missions will act under the principles established in the Constitutive Treaty of UNASUR and in accordance with the Criteria and Norms for the electoral missions of UNASUR.*

*The electoral missions shall take place in compliance with the Agreement to be signed with the requesting State.*

**XII. REFORM AND AMENDMENT TO THE STATUTE**

**Article 13º.** *The present Statute may be amended, totally or partially, by the Electoral Council of UNASUR in accordance with what is established in the Constitutive Treaty of UNASUR.*

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ANNEX I

**ELECTORAL ORGANISATIONS**

<b>Nº</b>	<b>INSTITUTION</b>	<b>STATE</b>
1	NATIONAL ELECTORAL CHAMBER	ARGENTINA
2	MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR/NACIONAL ELECTORAL DIRECTORATE	ARGENTINA
3	SUPREME ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL	BOLIVIA
4	SUPREME ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL	BRASIL
5	ELECTION REVIEW BOARD	CHILE
6	ELECTORAL SERVICE	CHILE
7	NATIONAL ELECTORAL COUNCIL	COLOMBIA
8	NATIONAL CIVIL REGISTRY	COLOMBIA
9	NATIONAL ELECTORAL COUNCIL	ECUADOR
10	TRIBUNAL CONTENCIOSO ELECTORAL	ECUADOR
11	ELECTIONS COMMISSION	GUYANA
12	SUPERIOR COURT OF ELECUTORAL JUSTICE	PARAGUAY
13	NATIONAL JURY OF ELECTIONS	PERU
14	NATIONAL OFFICE OF ELECTORAL PROCESSES	PERU
15	NATIONAL REGISTRY OF IDENTIFICATION AND LEGAL STATUS (RENIEC)	PERU
16	THE INDEPENDENT ELECTORAL COUNCIL	SURINAM
17	ELECTORAL COURT	URUGUAY
18	NATIONAL ELECTORAL COUNCIL	VENEZUELA

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**ANNEX II**

**CRITERIA AND NORMS FOR THE  
ELECTORAL MISSIONS OF UNASUR**

**Article 1. THE MISSION OF THE ELECTORAL COUNCIL OF UNASUR**

The Electoral Mission shall apply as agreed in the specific agreement between the requesting Member State and UNASUR, according to the principles of the Statute of the Electoral Council and the legal framework of the country that requests it.

**Article 2. OBJECTIVES OF THE MISSION**

- a) To contribute to the electoral bodies, members of the Electoral Council of UNASUR, in the development of their electoral processes, in different stages, within the framework of respect, solidarity and cooperation.
- b) To promote exchange, generation of experience and knowledge in electoral matters for electoral bodies that make up the Electoral Council of UNASUR, and to use best practice in the completion of the tasks assigned by legislation.

**Article 3. BASIC PRINCIPLES OF THE ELECTORAL MISSION**

The following principles constitute the minimum rules of conduct to be followed by the Electoral mission:

- a) Impartiality:** It shall act professionally without bias or preference, refraining from obstructing the electoral process
- b) Objectivity:** It shall perform its tasks with a comprehensive view, from as much information that can be gathered, identifying both positive and negative aspects.
- c) Independence:** It shall act with freedom and autonomy in relation to the participants of the electoral process.
- d) Legality:** It shall act strictly within the framework of the law of the convener State, the Constitutive Treaty of UNASUR, the Statute of the Electoral Council of UNASUR, the Agreement signed and this document.
- e) Principle of non-interference:** It shall respect the sovereignty of the host country and the authority of their electoral bodies.
- f) Transparency:** It will inform about its activities that shall be published, through a Special Representative, in compliance with the Agreement signed.

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**Article 4. BREACH OF THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF THE ELECTORAL MISSION**

The agreements shall contain a specific clause which provides that in the case of a violation of the basic principles of the Mission and the rules of conduct to which the preceding Article relates, the accreditation of the member of the Mission shall be withdrawn. To this purpose process shall be established in the agreement.

The member of the Mission shall comply with the Basic Principles and the participation of the Mission implies an explicit commitment to this end.

**Article 5. REQUEST AND ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ELECTORAL MISSION**

- a) The request for an electoral mission will be made by a Member State of UNASUR to the Pro Tempore Presidency of the Electoral Council, in accordance with Article 6, paragraph 5 and Article 11 of the Statute of the Electoral Council of UNASUR, through its electoral organisation(s).
- b) The requesting State, through its competent bodies in the field, is required to guarantee conditions of security, information, movement, cooperation and access to the stages of the electoral process, to the procedures and election agents of the host country required by the Electoral Mission.
- c) The Electoral Mission will be established through the agreement signed between the requesting Member State and UNASUR, which will set out specific objectives, scope, dimension, commitments, reports or others that the parties deem necessary.

**Article 6. ESTABLISHMENT AND APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE ELECTORAL MISSION**

- a) The mission will have one special representative appointed by the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of UNASUR and one General Election Coordinator appointed by the Electoral Council of UNASUR. It will have the support of the Secretariat General and will consist of authorities and officials of the electoral agencies with extensive experience in matters relating to electoral processes.
- b) When establishing the Electoral Mission, participation with gender and intercultural perspective according to the situation of each Member State, will be taken into account.

**Article 7. METHODOLOGY FOR THE ELECTORAL MISSION**

The Electoral Council of UNASUR will propose to the Electoral Mission, a methodology that guarantees compliance with the objectives.

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The basic aspects that should converge into the methodology to be applied will be at least the following:

- a) Previous information:** The requesting organization must provide, prior to the presence of the Mission in situ, at least reports on legislation and other regulations applied to the process, the electoral arrangements, the establishment of electoral rolls, the number of voters per station, the socio-political context, news coverage and other matters relevant to the case. Preliminary Missions may be organized before the elections, upon mutual agreement between the Electoral Council of UNASUR and the requesting State.
- b) General verification:** The Electoral Council of UNASUR will design methodological guidelines for compliance with the relevant aspects of the electoral processes.
- c) Interviews:** The Mission can set up interviews and assessment methodology of the electoral process, through the General Election Coordinator.

### **Article 8. FINAL REPORT**

After the mission, the Special Representative and the General Coordinator will deliver a report on the activities done to the electoral authorities of the requesting State. Likewise, they will submit a copy to the General Secretariat and to the Pro Tempore Presidency of UNASUR, who subsequently will make it public.

The members of the Mission will be able to express, before their respective electoral body, their own opinion regarding the total or partial content of the report.