



Guatemala, April 8, 2019

Mr.

LUIS ALMAGRO

Secretary-General

Organization of American States

Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir,

We do hereby express our surprise and concern about the statement issued today via Twitter: "*We spoke with the presidential candidates of @partidoune @SandraTorresGUA and @CarlosRaulGt about the importance of ensuring the transparency in the #Elecciones2019, with legal and political certainty, and that the @TSEGuatemala will be allowed to work without influence of external factors, including @CICIGgt.*"

We deeply regret such assertions about the International Commission Against Impunity in Guatemala - CICIG-, an entity created by an agreement between the United Nations and the State of Guatemala, without prior consultation or approach to this Commission.

It is public that since 2014, CICIG has established an investigation strategy on the Illegal Clandestine Security Apparatuses (Cuerpos ilegales y aparatos clandestinos de seguridad, CIACS), which includes among its priority lines, the investigation of illicit electoral financing; this, within the framework of the defense of human rights, democracy and peace consolidation. Experience has shown that the illegal electoral contributions are one of the phenomena used by illicit political-economic networks to commit crimes of high complexity and seriousness. The Commission has addressed the issue comprehensively through the presentation of a thematic report, the proposal for legal reform recommendations, institutional strengthening activities with local authorities and support for the Attorney General's Office (Ministerio Público, MP) in the investigation of criminal



cases. As you know, the MP is an autonomous entity which has a monopoly on criminal activity. CICIG will continue to support the MP in the fulfillment of its mandate.

Specifically, CICIG, together with other international agencies and Guatemalan social organizations has supported TSE in the definition of oversight models, instruments, protocols, and training for the new Specialized Unit for the Control and Oversight of Political Party Funding (*Unidad Especializada de Control y Fiscalización de las Finanzas de los Partidos Políticos, UEFPP*). The training process was completed in 2018. You will find attached to this note information about these activities.

As mentioned during the meeting held with the Permanent Representative of OAS in Guatemala, on April 2, we welcome any questions and are willing to provide the OAS with any information regarding CICIG's mission, its mandate, achievements, performance indicators, reports, and background regarding the institutional strengthening to the Supreme Electoral Tribunal TSE-.

It should be noted that, according to recent surveys (ProDatos, 2019 Guatemala), CICIG has over 70% of citizen support, and was also qualified by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Antonio Guterres, as a model of international cooperation in the fight against corruption and impunity and for transparency.

We share your concern and desire that free and transparent elections will be held in Guatemala, with legal and political certainty, and we trust that all the stakeholders will fulfill their responsibility. In the past, the Organization of American States has played an essential role in this regard, and we hope that this will be the case in the next electoral process.

I extend to you my highest consideration and respect.

Commissioner Ivan Velasquez Gómez

CICIG