

## **MOE'S FINAL ELECTORAL OBSERVATION REPORT OF THE SECOND ROUND OF THE PRESIDENTIAL AND VICE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION IN COLOMBIA**

The Electoral Observation Mission (MOE) delivers its final report on the second round of the Presidential and Vice presidential election in Colombia to authorities, the media, other civil society organizations and the citizenry.

MOE wants to thank the 10.091 national and international observers who volunteered to participate in the observation of the congressional and presidential electoral processes. We deeply appreciate your dedication, transparency and honesty. This exercise, nourished by different cultures and perspectives, is the basis from which to continue researching and analyzing Colombia's political and electoral system in the path towards a democracy that allows for the full control of political power.

Yesterday, MOE deployed a total of 3.414 observers in Colombia out of which 3.169 were nationals and 139 international. Additionally, 106 observers were deployed abroad.

Misión de Observación Electoral congratulates the candidates of the presidential election and their teams for their results in the second round. We encourage both campaigns to work together to undertake the urgent and necessary reforms to the political, electoral and political party systems. These should be formulated on the basis of a broad consensus between the Government but also the opposition. Furthermore, we hope that the academic institutions and civil society organizations will have an important role in the reform process. For this endeavor MOE offers all of its dedication and experience.

Lastly, MOE congratulates the newly elected President and Vice President of the Republic of Colombia: Iván Duque and Marta Lucía Ramírez. The new administration that starts the next 7<sup>th</sup> of August has the immense responsibility to work towards promoting tolerance, inclusion and respect for other's ideas. This will be crucial for the formulation and implementation of public policy through the consideration of different perspectives and approaches of political opponents.

### **ELECTORAL OBSERVATION ASSESSMENT**

*This report presents the results of the electoral observation from 7.00am to 6.00pm on June 17, 2018*

MOE received a total of 2.030 reports of possible electoral irregularities during the whole Presidential electoral process of 2018. Compared to the same elections in 2014, this percentage has increased a 45%. For the second round of the presidential election of 2018, a total of 363 reports were received, compared to the 197 of 2014 for the same occasion.

Out of the 2.030 reports received during the whole presidential process, 1.537 correspond to the first round and 433 to the second one. While it is true that from the first to the second round the number of reports was reduced by a 73%, MOE considers that it is necessary to keep working to promote a political culture where the principles of honesty and transparency are shared by all citizens, political leaders and authorities.

### **Irregularities that impacted on the freedom to vote**

During the day of the second round of the presidential election (June 18, 2018), 106 reports were received of possible irregularities related to the actions of electoral authorities and juries. 24 of these indicated that there had been problems with the electoral material - marked votes, inconveniences with the voter's lists, and kits that had already been manipulated, amongst others. 15 reported discontent with the work of the electoral juries (use of cellphones and denial to sign the voting cards) and 15 mentioned problems with the accreditation of electoral witnesses.

The cities from which these reports were the most frequent were Bogotá (27), Medellín (7), Pasto (7), Valledupar (5) and Soacha (4). On the other hand, the Departments – without taking the capital city in consideration – with the most number of reports were Nariño (16), Cesar (11), Tolima (9), Antioquia (9) and Meta (6).

### **Illegal political propaganda**

Despite the prohibition to do political propaganda on the election day, 61 reports were received of advertisements on the streets and the media. Most of these reports concerned propaganda being displayed near polling stations, the establishment of information posts close to voting sites, parked vehicles in front of electoral colleges, and electoral witnesses bearing political symbols and handing out flyers in favor of their candidate.

These reports came mainly from Bogotá, Santander and Cesar (7 each). The cities with the highest number of reported cases were Bogotá with 7 cases and Bucaramanga, Valledupar and Ibagué with 4 each.

### **Actions of authorities during the elections**

MOE acknowledges the efficient work of the Attorney General's Office during the election day in capturing 8 people for allegedly carrying out electoral crimes.

On the other hand, the Prosecutor General's Office confirmed the opening of preliminary investigations against some public officers in the municipality of Santa Marta and Ibagué for allegedly committing illegal acts related to the electoral process.

Moreover, observers reported that in the City of Porfía (Villavicencio), Police stopped a massive public demonstration by one of the political campaigns. This is not allowed during the day of the election, which is why security forces proceeded to issue subpoenas to the demonstrators.

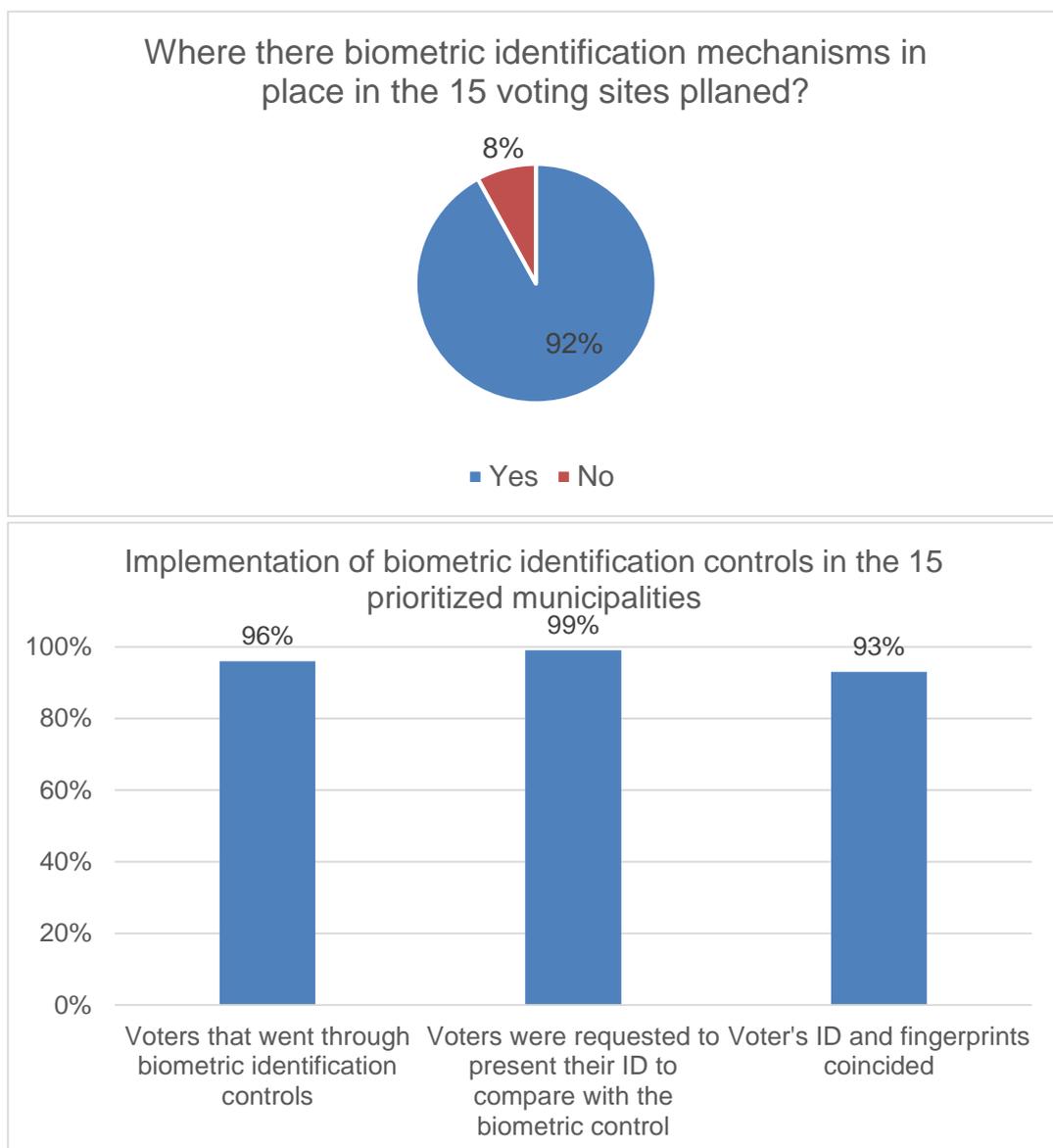
## Lack of proper lighting

During the election day, it was reported that there were power outages in the municipality of Norosí (North of Bolívar). Furthermore, in Cogua (Cundinamarca) electrical power was interrupted since 10.00 am.

## Identification of voters

Different to what happened for the first round, in this occasion, in the 15 municipalities prioritized for the implementation of biometric identification of observers it was reported that these filters were effectively and massively put in place.

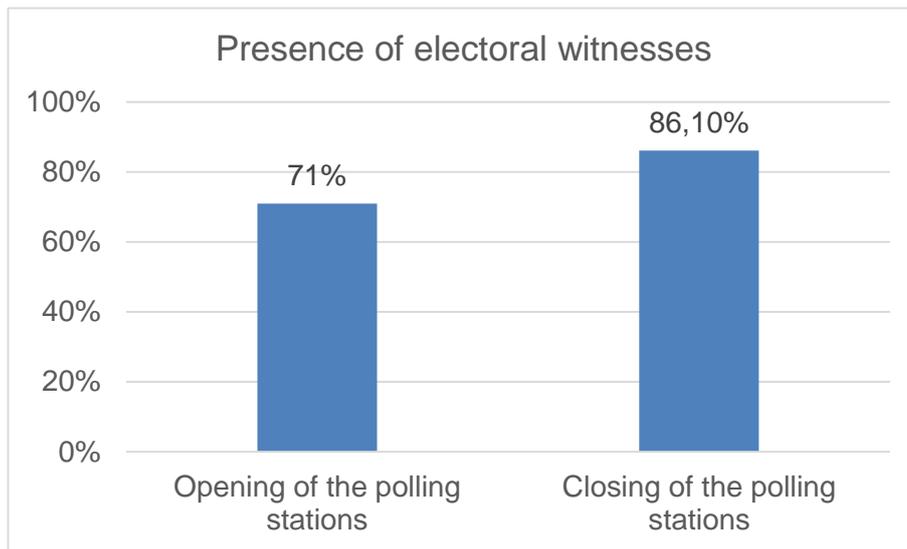
Observers noted that 96% of citizens who voted in those polling stations went through those controls and 99% of people who were biometrically identified had to present their IDs for verification. 93% of people who underwent these controls had their finger print and ID coincide.



## Electoral Witnesses

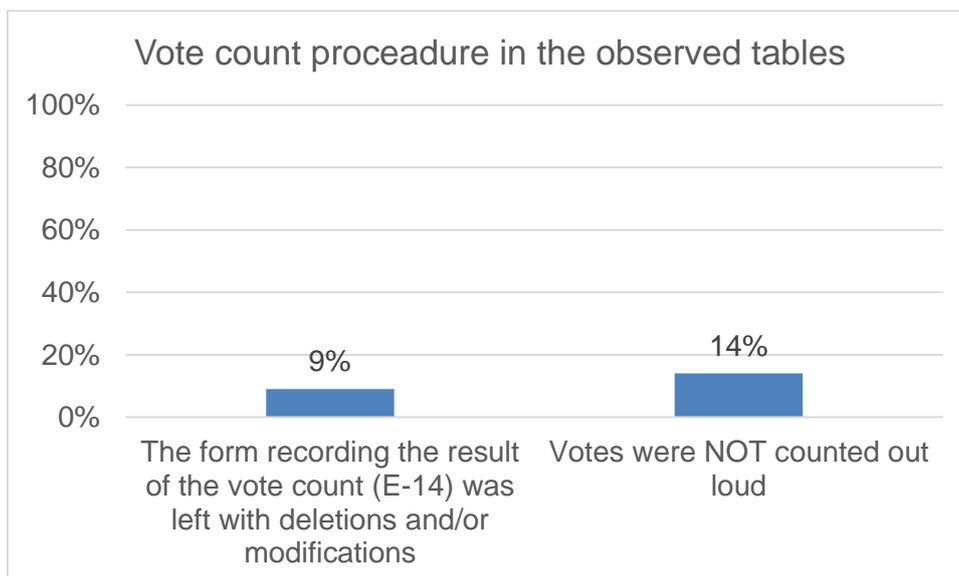
MOE observers reported that electoral witnesses were present in 87,7% of the voting tables during their closure and 75% during their opening. This percentage remains similar to the previous presidential election in 2014 and congressional elections of 2018.

People other than the electoral juries, witnesses, observers and authorities were present in only 2% of the voting tables. Also, in 93.4% of the observed tables, all 6 electoral juries were present – showing an improvement in this percentage in comparison to the congressional elections of this year.

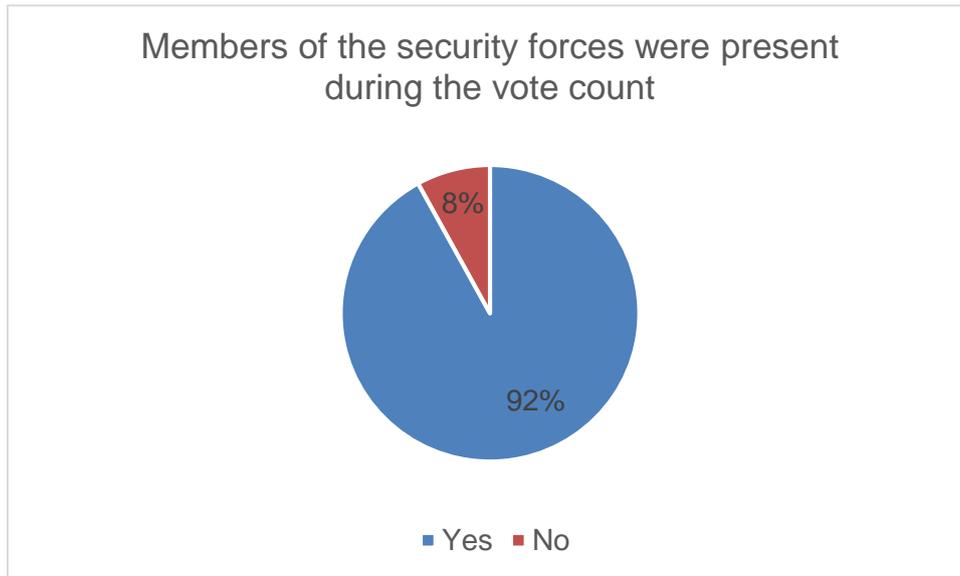


## Electoral Juries

During the vote count, observers reported that in 13% of the tables the results were not read out loud and that 9% of the records on the E-14 forms were left with deletions and/or modifications. Compared to the March congressional elections, this percentage improved in 6 points for the reading out loud of the results and remained at the same level for the portion of E-14 forms left with scratches or alterations.



Observers noted that members of the security forces were present in 92% of the voting stations during the vote count.



The general perception of the observers was that the electoral juries knew the vote count rules and procedures in a suitable and sufficient way. They also reported that the handling of the electoral material, the signing of vote count forms (E-14), and the submission of the documents to authorities were carried out with total normalcy.

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