



International Foundation  
for Electoral Systems

## DELIVERY OF THE TEAM REPORT, INSTITUTIONAL WEB PAGE AND CERTIFICATES OF THE CYBERHYGIENE TRAINERS COURSE

On Sept. 26, the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) celebrated the culmination of several technical assistance efforts to the National Electoral Council of Ecuador (*Consejo Nacional Electoral*, CNE) at an event showcasing the latest results of the CNE's and IFES' collaboration. At an event that included the CNE president and several officials, IFES Ecuador presented the following achievements: three improved institutional webpages; eight electoral officials trained in delivering cyber-hygiene courses; and IFES' Technical Election Assessment Mission (TEAM) report. The event opened with speeches from CNE President Diana Atamaint, IFES Regional Director for the Americas Maximo Zaldivar and IFES Ecuador Country Director Mauricio Dorfler. It also drew national [media coverage](#), with President Atamaint holding a press conference following the presentation.



Photo by CNE official Twitter (Sept. 26, 2022)

Since October 2020, IFES has been implementing the "Strengthening Technical Capacity and Public Confidence in Ecuador's Electoral System" program with the support of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Committed to joint efforts to strengthen the transparency, credibility and integrity of

Ecuadorian elections through the improvement of cybersecurity practices and institutional strengthening, IFES and the CNE worked closely under a Memorandum of Understanding and developed a strong rapport over the past two years of close collaboration.

The Sept. 26 event celebrated not only the delivery of these three milestones, but also the many months of coordinated efforts between IFES and the CNE to identify needs, abide by international standards and develop improved structures, protocols and practices. Early on, IFES identified the



need to update the CNE's webpages as a priority area of improvement, and specifically, the need to update the sites' cybersecurity, functionality and accessibility in order to guarantee information security and allow citizens to interface with essential electoral processes. Over the past year, IFES experts, with the support and financing of USAID, have provided advice and support in the development of new web pages for the CNE, including internal pages, information on voting abroad and pages for provincial delegations. These new web pages enable Ecuadorian citizens around the world to get information and access legal frameworks, among other resources, connecting citizens with the CNE's programs, activities and updates.

Likewise, the electoral officials' training in cyber-hygiene emerged from another area of IFES' cooperation, in the field of technology and specifically understanding the challenges of a digital and computerized world, including how the threats and vulnerabilities in cybersecurity can have long-term effects on everything from electoral processes to citizen confidence and data security. Since 2021, IFES has implemented cyber-hygiene initiatives with provincial delegations and Quito-based officials, training 160 elected officials on cyber-hygiene best practices. However, the eight certificates presented during the recent event represent a novel advance in the institutionalization of cyber-hygiene culture: being trained as pioneer Trainers of Trainers (ToT), the eight officials will be able to not only improve cyber-hygiene processes directly, but also enable others to transmit the methodology and knowledge as well, creating a multiplier or cascade effect. The course considers not only safe cyber practices, but also the electoral processes in Ecuador and the cyber threats to which CNE electoral officials are exposed.

The third of IFES's deliverables – the TEAM report – provides recommendations for a wide range of electoral management, such as leadership, budget/financing, electoral practices and operations, gender equality policies and practices (including gender diversity) and skills development and trainings. The report also addresses issues around political organizations and candidate and voter registration. The TEAM report's ultimate objective is to provide a roadmap to complement the CNE's existing Strategic Plans for 2022-25. In this way, IFES will support the CNE in the implementation of TEAM recommendations.

This event and the deliverables presented represent a commemoration of IFES' continued commitment to collaboration with the CNE. With USAID support, IFES looks forward to building on the CNE's strong foundation to further strengthen citizen trust, representation and diverse leadership of Ecuador's electoral institutions.