One of the main objectives of the National Electoral Board is contributing to expand and consolidate the democratization process that is currently unfolding throughout Peru, by implementing a series of tools and initiatives. Accordingly, some of the fundamental variables to be considered, analyzed and developed are, undoubtedly, those related to the social and cultural diversity that characterizes Peru, such as the issue of including traditionally marginalized sectors—women, youths and native communities—in political and economic participation.

If these issues are not addressed, and also taking into account that many municipal and regional authorities elected at the national level have an electoral support under 30%, we face the risk of deepening the loss of legitimacy of political institutions and actors, which would lead to a governance crisis where such facts occur.

Consequently, when designing strategies for the development of inclusive policies, an important aspect to take into account is electoral quotas. They aim at ensuring or expediting the access to political decision-making positions for social groups that have been historically and culturally marginalized, excluded or underprivileged, offsetting the bias related to unequal relationships existing in our societies, which affect the political system and make some people unable from competing under equal conditions to exercise their civic right to be elected.

This issue of the INFOgob Newsletter analyzes the Madre de Dios department, a region exclusively comprised of jungles. On the one hand, its assessment shows an evolution process based on the gender quota implemented in our country in 1997, progressively including native communities and generational quota in 2006, after the participation of socially excluded groups was increased, allowing them to access popularly elected positions. On the other hand, it shows that there still much to do to improve these groups’ representation levels, specially those of the native communities.

Following this line of thought, it is therefore necessary to continue encouraging electoral reform mechanisms in a more comprehensive and orderly manner; taking into account, in addition to matters related to system elements and electoral management, the aspects proposed in this document. We believe that INFOgob is a fundamental tool to achieve this goal, as demonstrated by the contents of this last newsletter for year 2009.
The participation level of candidates belonging to native communities, running for the position of regional counselor during 2006 regional elections in Madre de Dios was 30%, doubling the 15% statutory quota. However, no native was elected for holding this position. This fact attracts attention to the positions held by candidates belonging to this segment in their respective lists: from the 30% of native candidates, 18.6% were located in places with the lowest access probability.

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In the Madre de Dios Region, the implementation of the youths quota in 2006 Regional and Municipal Elections had a significant impact on the increase of young candidates' participation in the province and district managements of the Region, increasing from 11.50 in ERM 2000 to 29.98% in ERM 2006. Likewise, the percentage of elected authorities between 18 and 29 years rose from 12.96% to 23.73% for the current commission term.

The percentages of votes obtained by winning political organizations at the province and district level in the Madre de Dios Region show that most elected authorities in the Regional and Municipal Elections of 2002 and 2006 have accessed their positions with electoral support levels under 30%.

During the electoral process of year 2006, only one of the three provinces or the Region, Tahuamanu, was the only province in which no native candidate was elected and, coincidentally, it was the province where the listed position was the less favorable to this segment.
Mr. Carlos Salinas Lovon holds five positions within the Patria Amazonica 2006 political organization: Founder, Chairman, Attorney, Coordinator and Legal Agent.

The Madre de Dios district has the lowest electoral participation percentage at the national level in 2002 Regional and Municipal Elections, reaching 59.82%.

Six of eight district mayors elected in 2006 Regional and Municipal Elections in Madre de Dios were born in other regions of the country, according to their Résumés.

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