



# BOLIVIA: VOTER ROLLS AND VOTING ABROAD

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# THE FIRST STEPS



Background



We began to write the story



Limitations to Law 4021



Alone when beginning the journey



# THE FIRST STEPS

## Background

- 30 years of democracy
- Mandate of the Constituent Assembly
  - Law 4021 on the Temporary Electoral System

WE HAD 8 MONTHS TO ORGANIZE EVERYTHING!



## We began to write the story...

- Technical advisory services from the OAS and IDEA International
- Financing from the Netherlands, Switzerland, Sweden, Canada, and the UNDP
- Institutional crisis prior to implementation
- Limitations to Law 4021



# Limitations to Law 4021

- Limits to voter registration – 6 % of the voter rolls
  - 211,000 voters abroad
  - A maximum of 50 % in a single country
  - 30 days for registration
  - **COUNTRIES AND CITIES:**
    - Argentina: Jujuy, Mendoza, and Buenos Aires
    - Spain: Madrid, Barcelona, and Valencia
    - United States: New York and Washington
    - Brazil: Sao Paulo



## Alone when beginning the journey...

- Without a structured team
- Without contacts in the countries
- Little information
- In Bolivia there was no migrant registry
- The AH1N1 flu

NOTHING COULD STOP US...

# THE INITIAL TASKS



Our Path



Forming Teams



Financing



Problems with the Regulations



## Our Path...

The first step was to travel to the places established under Law 4021

- Culture as a tool
- By finding one we could connect them all

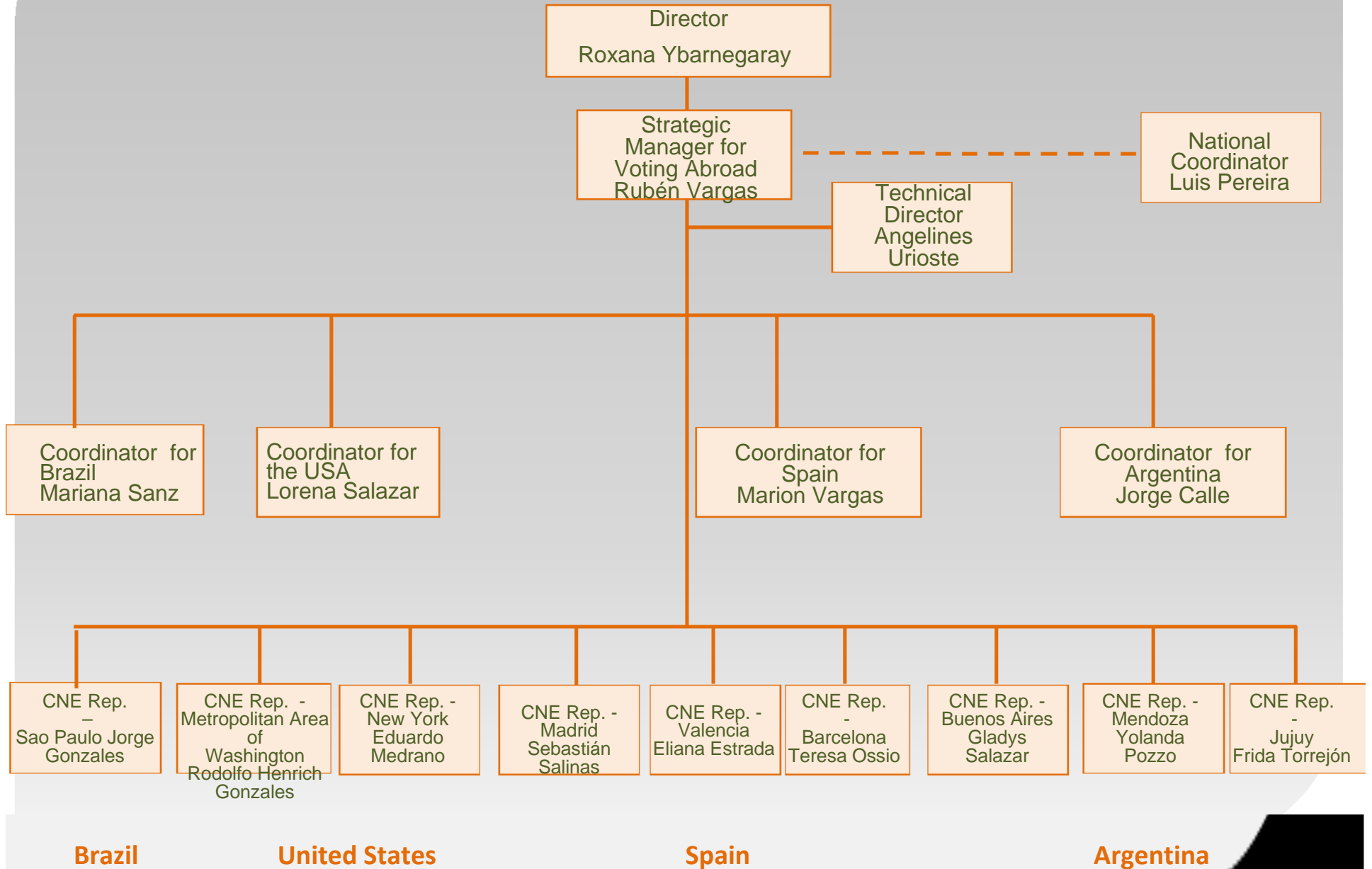




# Forming Teams

- Solution to the institutional crisis
- Hiring of country coordinators in the CNE
- Contracting with an international company for biometric registration equipment
- Designation of CNE representatives in each city
- Intensive training of staff

# ORGANIZATIONAL CHART OF VOTER REGISTRATION AND VOTING ABROAD (2009)





# Financing and Budget

Sources of financing were:

- 77% [international] cooperation funds
- 23% funds from the General Treasury of the Nation
- The total budget was: Bs.24,408,280 - equivalent to US\$3,452,373
- The cost of each vote cast abroad was Bs.144.34 - equivalent to US\$20.41

**BUDGET EXECUTED BROKEN DOWN BY SPENDING GROUPS,  
BIOMETRIC VOTER ROLLS AND GENERAL ELECTIONS AND  
DEPARTMENT REFERENDUMS *(In bolivianos)***

Item	Spending Groups					Total	Percentage Breakdown
	10000 Personnel Services	20000 Non- personnel Services	30000 Materials and Supplies	40000 Real Assets	80000 Taxes, Royalties, and Rates		
National Electoral Court	5,173,513	37,100,269	3,908,827	161,832,317	3,783	208,018,709	58.6%
Representation Abroad	0	21,627,931	2,744,455	33,874	0	24,406,260	6.9%
Argentina	0	7,567,923	1,226,665	18,545	0	8,813,133	
Brazil	0	1,764,932	237,748	7,339	0	2,010,019	
United States	0	2,716,196	250,289	0	0	2,966,485	
Spain	0	9,578,881	1,029,754	7,989	0	10,616,624	
Total	5,173,513	168,876,331	18,470,858	162,114,057	30,358	354,665,117	
Percentage Breakdown	1.5%	47.6%	5.2%	45.7%	0.0%		100%

Source: National Electoral Court of Bolivia



# Problems with the Regulations

- Preparations were not made for financial procedures in each country
  - Banks, transfers, taxes, exchange rates, customs
- The Court, as a government body, could not make disbursements to individuals abroad.
- City directors had to adapt to financial conditions and regulations in each country

**WE TRUSTED IN THE INICIATIVE AND CREATIVITY OF THE REPRESENTATIVES IN EACH COUNTRY**



# BIOMETRIC VOTER REGISTRATION



Biometric Registration



The Citizen Education Campaign



Validation



## Biometric Registration



- Weaknesses in planning:
  - Delay in the arrival of voter registration machines
  - Complex rules on temporary entry
  - Customs clearance companies' lack of experience
  - Lack of coverage in the budget

IN SPITE OF EVERYTHING, VOTER REGISTRATION BEGAN ON  
THE DATES PLANNED



# The Citizen Education Campaign



- Different logic in each country
- The opinion of the migrants themselves was a determining factor in developing communications strategies (Bolivian mass media, fairs, sporting events, cultural festivities, etc.)
- The profile of the cultural identity process was raised





**BOLIVIA vota en São Paulo**

Boliviana y boliviano que vives en São Paulo, el 6 de diciembre podrás votar por primera vez en las elecciones generales para elegir Presidente(a) y Vicepresidente(a).

Regístrate en el Padrón Electoral Biométrico para poder votar. El registro en la capital paulista concluirá el 15 de octubre.

**Lugares de registro:**  
Estaciones: Santana, Barra Funda y Artur Alvim del Metrô  
Barrios: Glicério, Bom Retiro, Pari, Bresser-Moooca, Carapicuíba, Guarulhos y Región del ABC.

**Escucha el programa "Tu Huella, Tu Voto"**  
de Lunes a Viernes de 18:00 a 19:00 - Sábado, de 13:00 a 15:00 - Radio AME 87.5 FM

Si tienes alguna consulta: Línea gratuita 0-800-761159 ó Teléfono 3331-9305 • www.cne.org.bo • www.tuhuellatuvoto.com.br




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Call center per country

Website per country

**¿CÓMO REGISTRARSE EN EL PADRÓN ELECTORAL BIOMÉTRICO?**

El registro se realizará en el Formulario de Empadronamiento Computarizado

- 1 La persona presentará al Notario(a) su documento de identidad.
- 2 El Notario(a) empleando un escáner registrará el documento de identidad.
- 3 Con un escáner se registrará las huellas dactilares de los diez dedos de las manos.
- 4 Con una cámara digital se tomará la fotografía de la persona.
- 5 Con un tablero digital se registrará su firma.
- 6 Se registrará los datos personales: nombres y apellidos, número de documento de identidad, estado civil, sexo, profesión u ocupación, grado de instrucción y dirección actual.
- 7 El ciudadano(a) verificará la exactitud de los datos registrados, firmará el formulario y se llevará una copia.

**¿Cuándo se inicia el empadronamiento biométrico?**  
El registro en el Padrón Electoral Biométrico se iniciará en todo el país y en forma escalonada a partir del 1 de agosto.

**¿Cuándo termina el empadronamiento biométrico?**  
El empadronamiento biométrico concluirá el 15 de octubre.

**¿Dónde estarán ubicados los Centros de Empadronamiento?**  
En las ciudades capitales de departamento, en las capitales de municipio y en ciudades y localidades con más de mil habitantes en edad de votar, los Centros de Empadronamiento estarán ubicados en lugares cercanos a los recintos de votación.  
En el área rural, las Unidades de Registro Móviles recorrerán todos los asentamientos electorales para empadronar a los ciudadanos y ciudadanas.

**¿Cuándo debe acudir el ciudadano o ciudadana al Centro de Empadronamiento?**  
En las capitales de departamento y en ciudades mayores, los ciudadanos y ciudadanas mayores de 18 años recibirán una notificación que les indicará el día y la hora en que deben acudir para registrarse.  
En el área rural, se informará a las comunidades sobre los días en que las Unidades de Registro Móviles llegarán para realizar el registro de ciudadanas y ciudadanos.







# Validation



- Deficiencies in registries in Bolivia were reflected in the situation of the migrants
- The validation process
- Ineligibility
- Biometric registration processes



**tu huella  
tu voto**  
Regístrate

## Validation of Registrations Abroad

	Total registrations done abroad	Registrations validated AFIS/FRS	Demographic validation
Country			
Brazil	18,252	53	55
Spain	50,145	69	76
United States	11,025	7	11
Argentina	90,645	347	324
<b>Total</b>	<b>170,067</b>	<b>605</b>	<b>466</b>

Source: National Electoral Court of Bolivia

# Results of Consolidated Biometric Voter Registration



Brazil	18,142
Spain	49,995
United States	11,006
Argentina	89,953

*Source: National Electoral Court of Bolivia*

REGISTERED VOTERS ABROAD ACCOUNTED FOR  
3.5% OF THE NATIONAL VOTER ROLLS.

# ELECTIONS



Designation and Training of Election Boards



Polling Stations



Election Information



“D-Day”



## Designation of Election Boards

- Based on the verified and current voter registration list, an election board lottery was held abroad
- Notification and training of boards



## Training

- Training teams were sent from Bolivia
- Citizen education campaigns were conducted to encourage turnout on election day



## Polling Stations



- The support of the host countries was key (Police, election bodies, NGOs, churches, schools, the media, municipal governments) as was the support of Bolivian citizens who personally provided everything necessary – including their homes – to make the process successful.

# TOTAL POLLING STATIONS, ELECTION BOARDS, BOARD MEMBERS, AND NOTARIES ABROAD



Country	City	No. of Polling Stations	No. of Election Boards	No. of Board Members	No. of Notaries	No. of Inspectors
Argentina	Buenos Aires	10	340	2,040	45	18
	Jujuy	3	21	126	3	3
	Mendoza	3	25	150	4	3
	Subtotal	16	386	2,316	52	24
Brazil	Sao Paulo	5	76	465	11	5
United States	Subtotal	5	76	465	11	5
	Washington	2	41	240	5	2
	New York	3	7	36	3	3
	Subtotal	5	48	276	8	5
Spain	Barcelona	3	86	516	11	3
	Madrid	2	76	456	10	4
	Valencia	1	49	294	7	2
	Subtotal	6	211	1,266	28	9
	Total	32	721	4,323	99	43

Source: National Electoral Court of Bolivia





## “D-Day”



- Total participation, holiday, day for social mobilization
- Many citizens waited for the votes to be tabulated and accompanied the ballot boxes to the local electoral courts' ballot collection centers
- By 6:00 a.m. on the day after the elections, the CNE already had a count of the votes cast abroad.



169,096 Bolivian residents registered



125,101 voters



74% participation in the election

**A ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME EXPERIENCE!**

## ELECTION RESULTS

### VOTING ABROAD FOR PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT

COUNTRY	CITY	REGISTE RED	VOTED	VALID	INVAL ID	BLANK	PPB- CONV.	PULSO	MUSPA	MAS- IPSP	BSD	GENTE	AS	UN-CP
ARGENTINA	BUENOS AIRES	79,967	57,904	56,042	1,450	412	1,805	104	977	51,606	71	96	583	800
ARGENTINA	JUJUY	4,309	3,787	3,423	212	152	134	33	34	3,073	21	42	28	58
ARGENTINA	MENDOZA	5,677	4,813	4,532	163	118	100	14	29	4,280	9	11	36	53
SUBTOTAL		89,953	66,504	63,997	1,825	682	2,039	151	1,040	58,959	101	149	647	911
BRAZIL	SAO PAULO	18,142	14,288	13,898	318	72	379	10	54	13,196	15	19	46	179
SUBTOTAL		18,142	14,288	13,898	318	72	379	10	54	13,196	15	19	46	179
UNITED STATES	MARYLAN D	1,398	1,104	1,078	18	8	670	6	3	309	1	0	8	81
UNITED STATES	VIRGINIA	8,239	6,523	6,281	116	126	3,743	23	23	2,087	17	4	47	337
UNITED STATES	NEW YORK	1,369	938	922	13	3	642	1	7	175	1	1	7	88
SUBTOTAL		11,006	8,565	8,281	147	137	5,055	30	33	2,571	19	5	62	506
<u>SPAIN</u>	MADRID	18,017	11,697	10,988	554	155	3,898	36	89	6,047	21	17	88	792
SPAIN	BARCELON A	20,403	15,206	14,696	403	107	6,330	110	126	7,163	30	40	128	769
SPAIN	VALENCIA	11,575	8,841	8,515	278	48	4,491	23	86	3,277	10	9	104	515
SUBTOTAL		49,995	35,744	34,199	1,235	310	14,719	169	301	16,487	61	66	320	2,076
GENERAL TOTAL		169,096	125,101	120,375	3,525	1,201	22,192	360	1,428	91,213	196	239	1,075	3,672

Source: National Electoral Court of Bolivia

# IMPORTANCE OF THE SUBJECT



Importance of Migrants



Knowledge Management



# The Importance of Migrants

- Bolivians never abandon or cut off their relationship to their country
- Remittances from migrants constitute the second most significant component of the GDP
- We need to raise awareness in Bolivia about the importance of migration

THE BEST WAY TO RAISE THE PROFILE OF MIGRANTS IS BY INVOLVING THEM IN ELECTIONS IN ORDER TO STRENGTHEN DEMOCRACY



# Knowledge Management

- The experience of some is a lesson for others
- The support of the international community has a multiplier effect that goes beyond economic assistance (Strengthening democracy, observer missions, etc.)
- Technology and globalization force politics to be done in new ways (beyond geography and territory).
- Representative democracy is being left behind to make way for more participatory democracy, with binding decisions that originate with citizens

# CHALLENGES AND PERSPECTIVES



Law 4021 was a temporary law, but it should become government policy



The success of getting migrants involved in democratic processes falls not only to the State, but also to the community of States.



Broadening coverage from Bolivia



We cannot on our own



Improving regional democracy.  
Growing as a region entails  
improving our democratic systems  
together



THANK YOU VERY MUCH