

Letter from Mr Antillón - Costa Rica

English Translation

Dear Ambassador Edström,

In accordance with your request, I would like to submit the subject that I would like brought up at the meeting of the electoral management bodies of International IDEA's founding states, namely, 'National Registration as an Electoral Activity - The Costa Rican Experience'.

One of the most serious weaknesses of some of the electoral systems in the Latin Americas is as I am sure you know, the compiling of the electoral rolls without the support of reliable underlying documents which can legitimate them. and which can also give fast and accurate information based on which we can exclude people who are deceased. Thanks to peaceful social and political conditions our little country has succeeded in establishing a voter registration system which both political parties and voters find reliable. Naturally we have our shortcomings, but we have managed to keep these to a minimum thanks to a data-base system carefully developed over the course of many years well supplied with information. Birth dates from all across the country are fed into the data base daily (8 days after the day of birth at latest); deaths are also registered so that the name can be struck from the electoral roll.

In my opinion this is an important subject designed to strengthen the family by ensuring legal security as regards parents, nationality, place of birth etc

This is a rough outline of a subject which could be discussed during this important meeting of International IDEA