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ACRONYMS

AME	Association of Ecuadorian Municipalities
ANC	National Constituent Assembly
ASOSEL	Association of Legislative Servants
CAL	Council on Legislative Administration
CFCP	Commission on Oversight and Political Control
ICSID	International Center for Settlement of Investment Disputes
CLF	Legislative and Oversight Commission
CNE	National Electoral Council
CNJ	National Court of Justice
COHRE	Center on Housing Rights and Evictions
CONAMU	National Women's Council
CONASA	National Council on Health
CONAJUPARE	National Council on Rural Parochial Courts of Ecuador
CONCOPE	Consortium of Provincial Councils of Ecuador
CONESUP	National Council on Higher Education
CPCCS	Council on Citizen Participation and Social Control
DINEIB	National Center on Intercultural Bilingual Education
FFAA	Armed Forces
FENAJE	National Federation of Judges of Ecuador
FLACSO	Latin American School of Social Sciences
FPV	Frente para la Victoria (Front for Victory)
IESS	Ecuadorian Institute on Social Security
ISSFA	Social Security Institute of the Armed Forces
ISSPOL	Social Security Institute of the National Police
MPD	Movimiento Popular Democrático (Popular Democratic Movement)
OAS	Organization of American States
UN	United Nations
PAIS	Patria Altiva y Soberana (Highest Sovereign Homeland)
PAIL	Support Program for Legislative Institutions
PK	Pachakutik
WFP	World Food Program
PSC	Partido Social Cristiano (Social Christian Party)
PSP	Partido Sociedad Patriótica (Patriotic Society Party)
PRIAN	Partido Renovador Institucional Acción Nacional (National Renovating Institutional Action Party)
RED	Movimiento Red Ética y Democrática (Ethical & Democratic Network Movement)
SENRES	National Secretariat on Compensation
SIL	Legislative Information System
SOAT	Compulsory Auto Accident Insurance
TIC	Information & Communication Technologies
UNODC	United Nations Office On Drugs And Crime
UNE	National Educators' Union

Introduction

With this report, the Carter Center concludes a period that began in December 2007 with the swearing in of the Constituent Assembly. From that time on, the Carter Center published monthly reports covering the work of the Constituent Assembly, and, later, of the Legislative and Oversight Commission (CLF).¹

This report is structured into two major sections: in the first section we report on the work of the CLF during the month of July (its last month in session). In the second, we provide a brief summary of the most important issues that the Carter Center devoted attention to throughout the course of the Commission's operation.

The first section is subdivided into a section on the principal discussions and resolutions of the CLF between July 6 and 30, the last day the Commission was in session, and a brief note about the installation of the National Assembly on July 31.

The second section features its own introduction; a list of the principal laws passed throughout the course of the CLF's sessions; a list of the draft Laws that the Commission had received but was not able to fully debate or pass and that will have to be addressed by the National Assembly; a summary of the biggest controversies surrounding the landmark laws that shaped the Ecuadorian State's process of institutional transformation (the Organic Law on the Legislative Branch; the Law on the Organic Code of the Judicial Branch, and the Organic Law on the Council on Citizen Participation and Social Control). In conclusion, we provide two annexes: a chronology of the most salient events from the course of the CLF's nine months of operation and a list of the original Assembly members who occupied the CLF.

¹ The reports are accessible from the following online directory:
http://www.cartercenter.org/news/publications/peace/americas_reports.html

I. THE LEGISLATIVE AND OVERSIGHT COMMISSION IN JULY

1. Discussions and Resolutions of the Plenary of the CLF

Law on Public Safety and the State

On July 7 the first debate was held on the draft Law on Public Safety and the State. The majority report was presented by Marcos Martínez (PAIS), president of the Commission on International Relations and Public Safety. Martínez explained the urgency of passing a law that would provide a framework for translating the concept of comprehensive safety for all citizens and peoples into real policy; the law is based on complementary measures between society and the institutions of the State. He explained that the law proposes the creation of a Safety Committee that would serve an advisory function and a Secretariat on Public Safety that would be more operational. It also proposes the creation of a National Secretariat on Intelligence that would be autonomous, with its own resources and the ability to direct the activities of the Armed Forces and the Police. The draft proposes establishing safety zones along the border and in protected areas, as well as the use of the Armed Forces to defend public and private businesses when they feel their ability to carry out their work is being threatened. One key issue in the debate was safety in the border regions, and ensuring that the citizens residing in the border zone feel that their lives and livelihoods have the protection of the law. The second debate took place on July 24: the draft Law was ultimately passed with 51 votes in favor, two left blank and four abstentions.

Organic Law on the Legislative Branch

In the plenary session on July 8 this was passed after the second debate, with 39 votes in favor. María Paula Romo, president of the Commission on Civil and Penal Law, explained that for the second draft report they incorporated suggestions offered by the plenary; as a result of those changes, the Assembly will be made up of thirteen commissions including the Commission on Oversight and Political Control; in addition, a Legislative Information System (SIL) will be created that will be in charge of administering and managing the Assembly's radio, television and web page content, among other things.² This Law entered into effect on the day that the new National Assembly was sworn in, in accordance with the stipulations of the Transitional Regime and the final disposition of the aforementioned law.

Meeting of the Permanent Commissions of the Latin American Parliament (Parlatino)

On July 9 and 10 the members of the four Permanent Commissions of the Latin American Parliament met in the seat of the Assembly (they were the Commissions on Citizen Safety, Combat and the Prevention of Drug Trafficking, Terrorism and Organized Crime; Education, Culture, Science, Technology and Communication; Labor Issues, Social Planning and Legal Issues; and on Energy and Mining). Fernando

² For more details on the discussion of this law refer to Section II, *below*, the section over the controversies over landmark legislation.

Cordero, president of the CLF, emphasized the need to move toward a common horizon that would safeguard the future for citizens in relation to issues such as illiteracy, lack of current technology, unemployment, and others. He advocated for respect for nature in all of its forms and aspects, to protect the future for this and future generations. In his opinion, the Parlatino should become stronger and should consolidate its efforts towards establishing inclusive and consensus-based parliaments and addressing labor and migration problems as one legislative body, like the European Parliament does. Cordero called on the National Assembly members throughout the region to create time to focus on a new statute for the Latin American Parliament.

Reforms to the Law on Educator Standards and Pay Scale

On July 14 the Plenary started the second debate on the draft reforms to the Law on Educator Standards. Upon presenting the report for a vote, the vice president of the Commission on Reform of the State and Public Management emphasized that the goal of the reforms was to synchronize the existing law with the provisions in the constitution and to allow the Ministry of Education to regain its authority over the national education system to be able to establish public policies that will lead to improvement in the quality of education in the country, without undue influence by any political party.

The draft also strengthens the public competition-based system for determining the school director positions; it creates a system of incentives for the educational institutions to adopt a policy of offering promotion opportunities for every fourth year of service for teachers working in urban districts and every third year for teachers working in rural districts; and it places a high priority on professional preparedness for educators. At the same time, it establishes that once a teacher has received an insufficient grade on their evaluation two times in a row it will constitute grounds for removal. The Law was approved with 40 votes in favor, 20 against, 1 left blank and 6 abstentions.

Organic Law on the Council on Citizen Participation and Social Control

In the plenary session on July 14, the Law on the Council on Citizen Participation and Social Control (CPCCS) was passed with 46 votes in favor, 10 against and 9 abstentions. The Law seeks to regulate the operations and powers of the Council according to the principles of coordination, complementarity, and work guided by the different authorities that make up the Branch on Transparency and Social Control; in addition to regulating the merit based competition for the candidates seeking a position on the Council. The draft Law that was ultimately passed underwent several changes compared to the original draft presented by the Temporary CPCCS.³

Organic Law on Public Companies

³ See *Below* Section II, controversy over landmark legislation.

On July 24, the draft Organic Law on Public Companies was passed in its second debate with 48 votes in favor, one against, one blank and nine abstentions. The Law's goal was to establish the procedures for the creation of public companies that manage strategic sectors of the economy. The law dictates that these companies will have economic, financial, administrative and operational autonomy, in accordance with the principles of the new Constitution. The draft establishes that the companies can be created by executive decree, by legislative act issued by the autonomous decentralized governments and by public deed. Public universities will also be able to create public or mixed companies that will abide by any regulations established by law.

Draft Law on Citizen Participation and Social Control

On July 24, Assembly member Betty Tola (PAIS), president of the specialized commission on Social Participation submitted the draft Law on Citizen Participation and Social Control to the president of the CLF, Fernando Cordero, so it could be properly processed, debated and voted on in the next Assembly session. Tola invited a wide range of social organizations to participate in the debate on the draft Law. Some of the fundamental issues in the proposal included the following: mechanisms for direct democracy (citizen initiatives, amendments and constitutional reforms, popular consults and recall votes); regulation of social organizations, volunteering activities and citizen education; citizen participation at different levels of government; and mechanisms for citizen participation and social control. The document was submitted with the presence of the Secretary on Peoples, Nationalities and Citizen Participation, Doris Solís, who expressed her satisfaction with the Commission's work and the content of the draft Law.⁴

Partial Veto of the Law on the Comptroller

On July 23 President Rafael Correa issued a partial veto to the Law on the Comptroller and asked that the Assembly incorporate his observations on the compensation levels for the highest-ranking officials in the Internal Auditing Units of the autonomous decentralized governments. The president's argument was based on the fact that the Comptroller did not really have the resources to provide that level of pay. In the plenary session on July 28, the Plenary agreed with the Executive's evaluation and approved the partial veto with 47 votes in favor, one against, five left blank and four abstentions.

Law on Jurisdictional Rights and Constitutional Authority

The draft Organic Law on Jurisdictional Rights and Constitutional Authority was sent to the CLF by the Executive on June 10. According to the Executive's description, the draft law's objective was to ensure the efficient establishment and observation of guidelines on constitutional authority, to help promote and achieve a newly efficient constitution-based justice system. The project is broken into two main sections: the first section, which relates to the basic principles underlying constitutional

⁴ The draft law can be located online on the National Assembly's new webpage: www.asambleanacional.gov.ec/

processes, jurisdictional rights protected by the constitution, abstract and concrete definitions of ‘constitutionality’; and the second section, which covers the structure and organization of the Constitutional Court as the center of the justice administration.

The law was first debated on July 16. María Paula Romo, president of the Commission on Civil and Penal Law, presented the proposal; also in attendance was the president of the self-proclaimed Constitutional Court, Patricio Pazmiño. During the debate, they discussed the creation of constitutional courts located in the country’s main regions, along with respective judges, as well as strategies for strengthening the institution of Constitutional interpretation. They also discussed the need to distinguish between the substantive jurisdictional work that would fall to the judges and the administrative tasks that would fall exclusively on the Court’s president; they debated the level of authority it would have in a state of emergency, to help ensure the protection of the citizens’ constitutional rights.

The second debate took place on July 28. An Assembly member on the Commission on Civil and Penal Law, Rosana Alvarado (PAIS), stated that the Commission had developed its report on the draft law with substantial input and assistance from the Constitutional Court, 23 Assembly members and 5 specialized attorneys. This version of the draft proposes that the Constitutional Court should review states of emergency and other exceptional states to evaluate their importance and validity. According to the Commission’s report, the new law will provide a 180-degree turnaround from the prior state of the administration of constitutional justice, now that the Constitutional Court has the authority to set major jurisprudential standards. At the same time, it establishes a special regulation for each constitutional right: constitutional protection, habeas corpus, habeas data, breach of obligation, and right to appeal decisions and sentences made in courts of ordinary and indigenous justice.

In addition, in order to guarantee the free exercise of these constitutional rights, the judges do not have the option to refrain from hearing these types of motions; in addition, the time periods for processing these motions are given limits to ensure quick and efficient processes. In the new system of the justice administration, all judges will have constitutional authority and therefore should ensure that human rights and the supremacy of the Constitution are absolutely respected. The selection of the judges on the Constitutional Court will take place through a public, merit-based competition between the candidates nominated by the Executive Branch, Legislative Branch and the Branch on Transparency and Social Control. The draft law was passed with 47 votes in favor, 12 against, one left blank and three abstentions.

Draft Reform Law on the Monetary Regime and National Bank

As its final decisive act, on July 30, the Plenary of the CLF approved the Draft Reform Law on the Monetary Regime and National Bank with 52 votes in favor, seven left blank and four abstentions. These draft reforms aimed to: eliminate the Bank’s autonomy (formerly known as the Central Bank) and establish a new membership of its Board of Directors; establish its powers, as well as adjusting its compensation levels to match the scales provided by the National Secretariat on Compensation (Senres); regulate the standards for returning retirement savings to employees and a system of retirement pensions. In addition, the new Law establishes that the Board of Directors of

the Central Bank will consist of a representative of the President of the Republic; the Coordinating Ministers on Economic Policy and Production or their delegates; the representative of the public development-focused financial institutions; the National Secretariat on Planning or his or her delegate; and the Minister of Finance or his delegate. All of this is in compliance with article 303 of the Constitution, which stipulates that the formulation of monetary, credit, exchange and financial policy are the exclusive domain of the Executive Branch and that policy will be implemented through the National Bank.

2. Installation of the National Assembly

The April 26, 2009 election of the members of the new National Assembly concluded with the following results: of the 124 elected Assembly members, 59 are from PAIS (including those from PAIS and those in alliance with other parties); 19 from the Partido Sociedad Patriótica (PSP); 7 from the Movimiento Cívico Madera de Guerrero (MG); 4 from the Partido Social Cristiano (PSC); 7 from the Partido Renovación Institucional Acción Nacional (PRIAN); 5 from the Movimiento Municipalista por la Integridad Nacional (MMIN); 5 from the Movimiento Popular Democrático (MPD), 4 from Pachakutik (PK); 3 from the Partido Roldosista Ecuatoriano (PRE); 3 from Izquierda Democrática (ID) and 8 independents.

On July 31 the inaugural session of the National Assembly took place. Just as he was in the CLF, Assembly member Fernando Cordero Cueva was elected as the president of the Assembly with 74 supporting votes. The first vice president elected was another PAIS Assembly member, Carmen Irina Cabezas, who received 68 votes; and the second vice president was Rolando Panchana (PAIS), who garnered 68 votes in his favor. Cordero appointed Assembly member Pedro de la Cruz (PAIS) as the Assembly spokesperson but left the selection of the three other spokespeople for a later date because only two parties (PAIS and PSP) were prepared to nominate candidates. Finally, Francisco Vergara and Andrés Segovia were elected secretary general and assistant secretary general respectively; they held the same positions within the CLF.⁵

⁵ To see the statements and votes cast by the Assembly members elected as members of the CAL, visit the Assembly's website: www.asambleanacional.gov.ec

II. SUMMARY OF THE WORK OF THE LEGISLATIVE AND OVERSIGHT COMMISSION

1. Introduction

The members of the Legislative and Oversight Commission were selected in the 98th session of the National Constituent Assembly (which lasted from October 22 to 25 of 2008) as stipulated in the Transitional Regime. The Legislative and Oversight Commission (CLF) carried out its legislative duties between October 27 2008 and July 30 2009, one day prior to the installation of the first elected class of the permanent National Assembly.

The CLF was composed of 76 Assembly members who elected their President (Fernando Cordero, PAIS), the Council on Legislative Administration (CAL), the Secretary General, ten Specialized Commissions (*on Civil and Penal Law, on Labor and Social Security, on Tax and Financial Issues, on Economic Development and Production, on Territorial Organization and Autonomous Governments, on Reform of the State and Public Management, on International Relations and Public Safety, the Commission on Social Participation, on Health and the Environment and on Public Contracts and Transparency*), as well as a Commission on Oversight and Political Control. The CLF assumed the tasks of analyzing and debating the draft laws introduced by different authorities and institutions, including the President of the Republic, the Constitutional Court, the Attorney General, Public Defender's Office, Ombudsman, Assembly members, and citizens, among others.

In addition to approving its own rules of operation and about a dozen administrative and political resolutions (including one that condemned the coup d'état that took place in Honduras),⁶ the CLF also approved two agreements with the member countries in Mercosur.⁷ Another special task handled by the Commission was the selection of the members of the temporary Council on Citizen Participation and Social Control, which will be described in greater detail in another section.

In accordance with the CLF's Statute⁸ the legislative process unfolded, more or less, in the following order: once the draft Laws had been presented to the CAL, the CAL turned them over to the Specialized Commissions. Then, once they had discussed the drafts, they prepared a report as a starting point for the first debate. The reports were distributed to all of the Assembly members with 48 hours in advance, after which they were debated for a period of seven days. At that point, the specialized commission in charge of the first report would collect and review all of the observations offered in the debate. Seven days later, it presented a second report, which would be redistributed to

⁶ This is available online:

http://comision.asambleanacional.gov.ec/index.php?option=com_docman&task=cat_view&gid=940&dir=DESC&order=date&Itemid=188&limit=10&limitstart=0

⁷ The Agreements can be found at this web address:

http://comision.asambleanacional.gov.ec/index.php?option=com_docman&task=cat_view&gid=960&Itemid=188

⁸ The text of the Statute is available at:

http://comision.asambleanacional.gov.ec/index.php?option=com_docman&task=cat_view&gid=928&Itemid=188

all of the Assembly members and, 48 hours later, the second and final debate would take place leading up to a vote. If the Plenary could not come to a decision on the vote, the draft would be voted on article by article. Once the draft law had been approved, it was submitted to the President of the Republic for his approval or rejection. It is also worth noting that in order to involve the citizens in the lawmaking process, the Specialized Commissions had a mandate to arrange for at least one public forum to publicize the draft laws and incorporate the opinions offered up by the citizens.

2. Selection process for the temporary Council on Citizen Participation and Social Control

The process of selecting the members of the temporary Council on Citizen Participation and Social Control (CPCCS) was handled by the CLF in a context of conceptual and procedural objections from a variety of political and social actors. At the same time, the process encountered setbacks from its very first day in the form of a debate over who had the legitimate authority to manage the selection process for the members of the temporary CPCCS. Finally, to end the controversy over whether the CLF or CNE should be in charge, the self-named Constitutional Court decided that the CLF should be the Commission to handle the process.

Between January and December, the CLF's Commission on Social Participation managed the public, merit-based competition to determine the representatives on the temporary CPCCS. After a series of initial objections to the results and requests to re-score the evaluations of many candidates, on January 26 2009, the Plenary of the CLF finally announced the results and proceeded with the appointments. While various Assembly members from PAIS praised the process as a major step towards building a more inclusive, participative democracy, representatives from other parties such as Movimiento Popular Democrático (MPD), Pachakutik and the Partido Social Cristiano (PSC) viewed the process as lacking credibility from the very beginning. The appointments to the temporary CPCCS were ultimately approved with 47 supporting votes.

Overall, both opponents and supporters of the process agreed that it had suffered from a series of irregularities that led to mistrust of the results and put the credibility of the entire effort at risk. To some, the process was dead on arrival; it was "rigged" for the supporters of the President of the Republic Rafael Correa and it was a set-up to assist him in consolidating his power. For other observers, the mistakes were simply the results of improvisation and inexperience.⁹

3. Laws passed by the CLF

⁹ For more details on the selection process for the councilors on the CPCCS you can review the report on the subject prepared by the Carter Center, at: http://www.cartercenter.org/news/publications/peace/americas_reports.html

Of the 64 draft laws presented to the CLF from a wide range of institutions, the CLF managed to pass 30, which are listed below in chronological order:¹⁰

1. Reform Law for the Internal Tax Code and the Reform Law for Tributary Equity in Ecuador
2. Reform Law to Repeal sub point e) of article 139 of the Law on Ground Transportation, Transit and Highway Safety
3. Reform Organic Law on the Foreign Service
4. Organic Law for Reforms and Interpretation of Constituent Mandate N° 2
5. Reform Law on Constituent Mandate N° 23
6. Law on the Creation of a Financial Security Network
7. Organic Mining Law
8. Reform Law on the Penal Procedural Code and Penal Code
9. Organic Law on Elections and Political Organizations of the Republic of Ecuador
10. Law on Food Sovereignty
11. Reform Law on the Labor Code, Civil Service Law and Public Servant Administration
12. Law on Elections for Latin American Parliament Members
13. Organic Law on the Code of the Judicial Branch
14. Reform Law to the Law on Social Security and the Laws on ISSFA and ISSPOL
15. Reform Law on Diplomatic Privileges and Immunities
16. Law on the Creation of the Ecuadorian Institute on Social Security (IESS) Bank
17. Reform Law on Companies
18. Law on the Classification of Genocide and Ethnic Cleansing
19. Organic Law on Monthly Reserve Fund Payments and the Unified Unemployment System
20. Reform Law on the Armed Forces Personnel
21. Reform Law on the National Police Force Personnel
22. Title V of the Second Book of the Code on Children and Adolescents
23. Organic Reform Law on the Organic Law on the General Comptroller of the State
24. Organic Law on the Legislative Branch
25. Law on Educator Standards and Pay Scale
26. Organic Law on the Council on Citizen Participation and Social Control
27. Reform Law on Constituent Mandate N° 14
28. Organic Law on Public Companies
29. Law on Public Safety and the State
30. Organic Law on Jurisdictional Rights and Constitutional Authority

4. Laws presented to the CLF that will be processed by the National Assembly

Below we provide a list of the draft laws that had been introduced in the CLF but could not be completely processed by the end of its sessions; as a result they have been passed on to the agenda of the new National Assembly:

1. Draft Reform Law on Land on behalf of Property Holders and Denizens
2. Draft Law on Citizen Participation

¹⁰ The complete text of these laws can be located at: http://comision.asambleanacional.gov.ec/index.php?option=com_docman&task=cat_view&gid=942&Itemid=188, as well as on the webpage with the daily official record.

3. Draft Law on the Organic Code on Territorial Organization, Autonomy and Decentralization
4. Draft Organic Law that Partially Repeals and Amends the Organic Law on the Provincial Regime
5. Draft Organic Reform Law on Constituent Mandate N° 10
6. Draft Reform Law on article 216 of the Labor Code which Reforms Pensions
7. Draft Reform Law on The Monetary Regime and National Bank
8. Draft Reform Law on the Organic Law on Ground Transportation, Transit and Highway Safety
9. Draft Organic Law on the Public Service Administration
10. Draft Reform Law on the Penal Code
11. Draft Organic Reform Law on the First Transitory Disposition of Constituent Mandate N° 14
12. Draft Reform Law on the Codification of the Law on Forests and Conservation of Natural Areas
13. Draft Law on the Protection of Small Business Owners and Self Employment
14. Draft Reform Law on the Legalization of Land Plots
15. Draft Reform Law on Chapter III on Exemptions, article 27 of the Organic Customs Law
16. Draft Law on the Interpretation of article 1 of the Organic Reform Law on the Constituent Mandate N° 2
17. Draft Law on Pensions Regulations for former Constitutional Presidents and Vice Presidents
18. Draft Reform Law on the Law on Transit
19. Draft Constitutive Law on the Member Bank
20. Draft Organic Law on the Legal Administration of the State
21. Draft Law on the Recreational Fishing Regime
22. Draft Law on Domain Extension
23. Draft Law on Water
24. Draft Law on Domain Extinction

5. Controversy over landmark legislation for the new institutional framework

In the Carter Center's monthly reports for the general public, we reviewed some of the most controversial legislative debates over the landmark laws that would shape the process of institutional transformation and the new architecture of the Ecuadorian State. In this section we summarize the debates over three laws of crucial importance for the new institutional structure.

a. Organic Law on the Legislative Branch

The first debate on the draft Organic Law on the Legislative Branch took place on June 12. This first report was presented by María Paula Romo. The object of the draft law was to structure the rules to ensure that the legislature functions properly as it passes and reforms laws, as well as to structure the oversight and political control powers that will fall to the legislature. Below we will outline some of the most important points from the draft law, a document which includes 155 articles, 19

chapters, 7 special provisions, 4 temporary provisions, 8 provisions that repeal existing law and one final disposition.

During the first debate on this draft proposal, the representatives from Partido Sociedad Patriótica (PSP) emphasized the need to have a fair method of sharing power, especially on the issue of the representation of minority parties on the Specialized Commissions; they proposed that the Assembly members who received the most votes as individuals should hold leadership positions and that the commissions should reflect the proportional representation within the wider Assembly; they added that the decision to initiate investigatory legal proceedings should be made by the plenary and, finally, that the CAL's role should be more administrative rather than substantive. The representatives from Movimiento Popular Democrático (MPD) advocated for the Assembly to approve a binding budget and for the Assembly to have full knowledge of any issues related to treaties that would affect the country's sovereignty, the use of genetically modified organisms, and the use and exploitation of intangible zones. For their part, the RED representatives expressed disagreement with the proposed creation of the Commission on Issues Affecting Communities, Peoples and Nationalities because they argue that the Assembly should act for the whole nation and should not legislate by sectors; they suggested that the membership of the Commission on Oversight and Political Control should include representatives of multiple parties and that the editorial council should be independent.

Public opinion makers and other social groups also spoke about the draft law. For recently elected Assembly member César Montúfar, the powers granted to the CAL in the draft are cause for concern because they would expand its role from being merely administrative to being more political (evaluating and prioritizing draft laws, evaluating investigations, among others). For Montúfar, this draft law primarily serves the interests of the government and the Movimiento País party.

The comments offered by the experts who gathered in the Forum on "Modernization of Latin American Parliaments and Better Legislative Practices" had a different tone. There, some participants such as Rolando González (former vice president of the Latin American Parliament and the current head of the Office of the President of the Legislative Assembly of the Republic of Costa Rica) and Roberto Menéndez (from the OAS Program of Support for Legislative Institutions (PAIL)) agreed that the version of the draft law currently being debated would be enviable for many other countries in Latin America, because it is a step towards strengthening the democratic system. They emphasized the need to spur more active participation from all sectors in the structure of a strategic agenda, with plural dimensions, that would guide the work of the Assembly toward addressing issues of the highest national interest. González called on the Assembly members to reconsider the powers of the CAL as they are currently structured in the draft, because he argued that the act of evaluating draft laws should not fall solely on the CAL but rather a wider authority.

With this input, the Commission on Civil and Penal Law wrote a second report that incorporated suggestions from current Assembly members, as well as some elected National Assembly members. On July 2, María Paula Romo (PAIS) went before the Plenary to present the second "majority if not consensus" report, highlighting some of the changes the Commission had made, including: the redefinition of the CAL's powers and duties, passing some of them on to the Plenary of the National Assembly; and the

creation of rules governing legislative voting blocs, which also establish the requirements for forming voting blocs based on specific criterion and in accordance with the Constitution. These rules establish the possibility for each of the party blocs to take on two advisors who will assist in completing evaluation processes and joint planning exercises as well as strengthening each party's proposals. As far as decisions on the importation of genetically modified seeds and resource exploitation in protected zones, Romo stressed that these provisions would be addressed in two debates, with the approval of two thirds of the members of the National Assembly. She also stipulated that a Technical Team would be assembled to write non-binding reports that would allow the Assembly members and the Ecuadorian people to maintain a general idea of the laws and processes underway in the Assembly.

Once this report had been presented, the second debate on the project got underway and covered five major aspects of the law. One controversial aspect was the timeframe for approving the draft law. Vicente Taiano (PRIAN), Luís Hernández (RED), Tito Nilton Mendoza (PRIAN), among others, agreed that it was not viable to approve a law of such great magnitude in a single second debate session, because there were still several alternative proposals that had not been addressed, on top of the fact that there was a lack of agreement within the Commission. A second point of controversy among the Assembly members was the inclusion of a rule on legislative voting blocs; according to Assembly member Taiano, this section (number eight) was not included in the version of the law that was presented in the first debate, which means it should be discussed separately or otherwise it would be unconstitutional. In addition, Assembly member Nilton Mendoza called the proposal "discriminatory" towards the minority political parties that do not satisfy the requirements for forming a legislative voting bloc. Another aspect of the controversy was the issue of the membership of the Oversight Commission and the CAL, which, according to Luís Hernández (RED), Nilton Mendoza and Julio Logroño (PSP), should all be multi-party in makeup and should consist of representatives of different political parties in order to fortify them as democratic, impartial and transparent institutions. Another controversial point was the selection of the dignitaries of the Legislative Branch because of the concern that one party voting bloc could have an excessive concentration of power; these concerns were expressed by Assembly member Ximena Bohórquez (Honradéz Nacional), who argued in favor of maintaining a balanced representation of different party groups. The fifth point of controversy was related to the 13 Specialized Commissions. According to various Assembly members, the 'jurisdictions' of the Specialized Commissions are not clearly defined. For Vicente Taiano, this lack of clarity raises the possibility of conflicts over the subject matter pertaining to each Commission. For her part, Betty Amores (PAÍS) alleged that the rules for determining the members of the Commissions are not explained. Jorge Sarango (Pachakutik) suggested the creation of a Specialized Commission focused on development issues and rights in the Amazon provinces – especially the border provinces – and the Galápagos in order to promote the full development of all of the country's regions. Mauro Andino (PAIS) criticized the lack of specific information about the subject areas pertaining to each Specialized Commission.

Ultimately, the second debate was suspended upon the petition of the president of the Commission on Civil and Penal Law, María Paula Romo, who stated her commitment to taking the more than 50 suggestions offered during the debate into consideration. Once her Commission had incorporated those suggestions, the second

debate session resumed on July 8. After the report on the final version of the draft law had been read, the president of the CLF decided that the Plenary would proceed to a vote without further debate, which outraged various Assembly members, who protested that they had been deprived of the opportunity to debate the law. Assembly members Galo Lara (PSP) and Leonardo Viteri (PSC) were especially vehement. Ultimately the law was passed with 49 votes.

b. Law on the Organic Code of the Judicial Branch

In accordance with the First Transitory Provision of the Constitution, which established the approval of legislation to regulate the Judicial Branch as an urgent priority, on December 18, 2008, President Correa presented the Draft Law on the Organic Code of the Judicial Branch to the CLF. From the moment of its introduction, the draft sparked a heated debate among the different sectors with ties to the justice system in Ecuador.

On January 2, the president of the CNJ presented his observations on the proposed Code of Justice, praising the new role for the Judiciary Council as the governing authority over the Branch, which should improve the administration of justice.

On January 7 there was a meeting between the Attorney General, the president of the CNJ, and the Minister of Justice. At the meeting the Attorney General stated his opposition to the new role of the Judiciary Council. He stated that “relying on the Judiciary Council would contaminate [the branch’s] processes given its history of problems. This has nothing to do with any personal issue; it has simply been a highly inefficient organization in its 12 years of existence”.¹¹

Along similar lines, on January 19 the judges belonging to the National Federation of Judges of Ecuador (FENAJE) declared a permanent assembly. According to former president of FENAJE, Fidel Chiriboga, they felt they had to resolve the group’s lack of consensus at such an important juncture for those in the judicial field (ie the draft law in progress). On January 20, the Commission on Civil and Penal Law heard from representatives of FENAJE, who stressed the need for maintaining the different tracks for judges, prosecuting and defense attorneys. In addition, they requested the inclusion of a temporary provision that would allow judges to leave their teaching posts for the remaining classes in the current academic year so that they could return to full time practice as judges. The Commission also heard from the president of the provisional board of directors of Family Services.

On January 23 there was an intense verbal exchange between the Attorney General and the Minister of Justice, Gustavo Jalkh. The Attorney General expressed his objections to putting the Judiciary Council in charge of determining the appointments, creation and removal of judges and other officials in the judicial branch. For his part, Jalkh argued that this change would have the opposite impact and would actually strengthen the level of autonomy and effectiveness in the justice administration. Afterward, on January 27, the Attorney General announced that he would resign if the draft law was approved. However, on January 28, the PAIS Executive Committee met

¹¹ Political Summary. “El control a la Fiscalía agita el debate,” El Comercio, 1/7/09. Online: http://www.elcomercio.com/solo_texto_search.asp?id_noticia=160022&anio=2009&mes=1&dia=7.

with the Coordinating Policy Minister and worked out a deal so that the Attorney General would work in conjunction with the Judiciary Council to determine the appointments of the judicial officials in the Attorney General's Office.

Later, on January 9, the president of the specialized Commission on Civil and Penal Law submitted the majority and minority reports to the Council on Legislative Administration. The minority report was presented by Assembly member Vicente Taiano Álvarez (PRIAN), who explained that he opposed the draft law because of how it affected the autonomous institutions in the justice administration along with the supposed discrepancies between the text of the law and the text of the constitution on the issues of administrative, economic and financial autonomy for these institutions.

On the same day, the first debate took place on the draft Organic Code on the Judicial Branch, in which the administrative, financial and budgetary autonomy that the Attorney General had insisted upon was a major focus. On January 21 the debate continued with the presence and input of the president of the CNJ, the Attorney General, a representative of the President, a representative of the Judiciary Council, and some judges from the CNJ. Some points of discussion included the need to guarantee autonomy for the Attorney General and Ombudsman, the creation of justices for peace with fair compensation levels, the creation of indigenous prosecuting offices, and the importance of guaranteeing the resolution of citizen petitions and claims. However, various Assembly members requested that the debate address wider subject matter beyond just the Attorney General's Office.

In the plenary session on February 2 the CLF discussed the second report on the draft Law on the Organic Code on the Judicial Branch. The president of the Specialized Commission on Civil and Penal Law, María Paula Romo, explained that the report included all the observations submitted by Assembly members for revision, and also bore in mind the commentary from different social sectors the Commission had met with (the Ministry of Justice, the Commissioner on Women and Families, CONAMU, the Litigious Tribunal on Administrative Matters, the National Federation of Judges of Ecuador, and the Council on Childhood and Adolescence). It was clarified that the payment of shared judicial fees for lawyers was eliminated. It would also create specialized judges on violence against women and children, based on the causes mentioned in Law No. 103 "The Law on Violence against Women and Children." Finally, she also specified that the judicial officials, prosecuting and defense attorneys would be part of that respective professional track and that the autonomy of the representatives and jurisdictions of the Attorney General and the Public Defender's Office would be guaranteed. Later, after the Attorney General and the Minister of Justice participated in the debate, the draft Law was approved with 41 votes in favor, 5 against, one blank and 11 abstentions.

Although the final version included some of the suggested changes offered by the Attorney General, on February 3 the members of the AG's office in Cuenca protested against it, demanding total autonomy for the Attorney General. For his part, the Attorney General himself, Washington Pesántez, announced that he would hold a march to the presidential palace to request that President Correa veto certain sections of the law.

On February 9 the Attorney General sent a letter to President Correa requesting a veto for certain portions of the Law, arguing that it could lead to two interpretations of the powers and duties of the Judiciary Council. At the same time, the president of the Attorney's College of Pichincha announced that Assembly member María Paula Romo and then Minister of Justice, Gustavo Jalkh (now the Minister of Government) had been expelled from the college for having approved and participated in approving the draft law. Later, President Rafael Correa issued a partial veto of the Law, a veto that was approved and incorporated into the law on March 3 by the CLF.

c. Organic Law on the Council on Citizen Participation and Social Control

The institution in charge of developing this draft law was the Council on Citizen Participation and Social Control (CPCCS), which received support from the CLF's Commission on Social Participation, as well as different social sectors and the State, such as the Secretariat of Peoples, Movements and Citizen Participation.

On May 21, Julián Guamán, president of the CPCCS, sent the president of the CLF, Fernando Cordero, the draft of the Organic Law on the CPCCS.¹² Julián Guamán explained that the content of the law had been gathered from 26 workshops organized around the country, in which about 6000 national leaders as well as 2000 Ecuadorians residing outside of the country participated. Julián Guamán had high praise for the challenge and reward of seeking a high level of participation to expand social control, increase transparency in governance, fight corruption and ensure fairness in the designation of public officials. For his part, Fernando Cordero emphasized that the debate on the draft would be responsible, open and democratic and would include the CPCCS members in the Plenary's discussions. The Commission on Social Participation was visited by the councilors of the CPCCS on May 30 so they could present their arguments in favor of the draft Law in person. The members of the Commission announced that they would accept citizen's suggestions for the draft law through June 2 and that, after June 3, they would begin to discuss the proposal article by article.

On June 4 the Commission was joined by representatives of the National Council on Health (CONASA), as well as representatives from women's organizations who came to discuss and offer their input on the draft Organic Law on the Council on Citizen Participation and Social Control. CONASA asked that the law be more specific about the creation of government-funded units in all public agencies that would promote citizen participation and social control. Meanwhile, the women's organizations stressed the importance of observing the principles of integrity, equality and equity, which are vital to ensuring the access and presence of different social sectors; they asked for alternation between males and females in the positions of the CPCCS president and vice president.

¹² The draft Law can be viewed online:
http://asambleanacional.gov.ec/blogs/comision_8/files/2009/05/proyecto_consejo_participacion_ciudadana_control_social.pdf.

In the plenary session on June 16 the draft law was debated for the first time; Betty Tola, the president of the Commission on Social Participation, introduced the report on the law and explained who would make up the CPCCS, the requirements for candidates and how they would be nominated, what would be the evaluation criteria for the competition, among other topics. She described the wide level of participation from diverse social groups, the gender parity between men and women for the Council membership, and the need to continue the debate to resolve certain issues that she hoped could be resolved in the process of preparing the report for the second debate. For his part, Julián Guamán, president of the CPCCS, stressed the need for the draft to really feature the principles of citizen participation and social control protected in the Constitution, without limiting them or parsing them down in certain instances. Guamán proposed that the councilors be under the privilege of the National Court of Justice (CNJ) and that they also be subject to citizen oversight and political impeachment.

During the first debate Assembly members from different parties agreed on the proposal's importance, but they also agreed on the need to improve its structure; they also agreed that the councilors should be highly educated, given their responsibility for appointing officials at the highest levels. They also agreed that it was a bad idea to have the Council accept allegations of corruption and illegal activity against public officials made by anonymous sources because this would open the door to slander, defamation and a host of other abusive complaints.

In the days following the debate, the specialized commission collected the observations offered by different Assembly members and began working on a second report that would be debated by the Plenary and ultimately voted on on July 14. In the final version of the law it established that once the law had been published in the Official Registry of the Plenary, the National Electoral Council, in compliance with article 18 of the Transitional Regime, within a period no longer than 15 days, would publish the guidelines for the public merit-based competition to determine the members who will make up the new Council on Citizen Participation and Social Control and, immediately, would convoke the opening of the competition. Once the Council has been elected, it will form citizen selection committees, following the guidelines that it has received to that end, and will call for public merit-based competitions for the selection of public officials and citizen representatives as described in the Constitution. In the formation of the citizen selection committees that will oversee these processes, the representative of the Judicial Branch will be chosen by the temporary National Court of Justice.

Once the new branches of government – Legislative, Executive, and Transparency and Social Control - have been formed, they will organize the commission in charge of evaluating and selecting the judges who will serve on the first Constitutional Court. The rules and procedures for the competition will be issued by the Council on Citizen Participation, in compliance with the Organic Law on Jurisdictional Rights and Constitutional Authority. Meanwhile, as the permanent CPCCS begins to carry out its duties, the CNE will appoint an administrator who will be in charge of the Council's administrative and financial affairs.

However, not all of the suggested changes that were incorporated by the CLF's Commission on Social Participation into the final document pleased all of the actors who had been involved in the process of writing the draft law. For one of the advisors

from the CPCCS, who preferred to speak anonymously, the essence of the content suggested by the CPCCS had been completely twisted. One of the examples he offered was that the Council's original proposal established that in order to be a member of the future CPCCS the candidates would have to satisfy the requirement of not having belonged to a political party within the last five years; however, in the final text this requirement was shortened to two years and it only applied to those who had served as "directors" of a party or political movement. The councilors were also displeased that according to the text that was ultimately approved they are ineligible for candidacy for the future CPCCS.

ANNEX 1. Chronology of the most important events

10/25/08. The ANC approves Mandate 23 which appoints the members of the CLF and establishes its Statute of Operations.

10/27/08. The CLF holds its first session and elects the leaders of the Council on Legislative Administration.

10/30/08. The ten Specialized Commissions are created (except the Commission on Oversight and Political Control).

10/30/08. The Plenary of the CLF accepts the resignations of Eduardo Maruri (UNO) and Cristina Reyes (PSC).

11/4/08. Gilmar Gutiérrez (PSP) and Tania Hermida (PAIS) resign from the CLF.

11/7/08. The CLF releases a statement condemning the incursion of Colombian paramilitaries in the Esmeraldas province.

11/21/08. The CLF invites all citizens to the presentation of the report by the Commission for the Comprehensive Auditing System of the National Debt, the body charged with investigating new and old debts assumed by the Ecuadorian government.

11/28/08. The CLF holds the first debate on the draft Organic Law for the Creation of a Financial Security Network.

11/29/08. In Montecristi a commemoration is held to celebrate the first anniversary of the ANC's installation. A session honoring this was held by the CLF in Ciudad Alfaro.

12/1/08. Fernando Cordero, president of the CLF, swears in Leonardo Vicuña as the new spokesperson for the Board of Directors of the Central Bank.

12/3/08. The CFCP selects its directors: Mauro Andino (president) and Betty Amores (vice president).

12/3/08. The first draft reports are passed on the draft Reform Law for the Internal Tax Code and the Reform Law for Tax Equity in Ecuador.

12/4/08. The president of the CLF, Fernando Cordero, pays a visit to the Latin American Parliament.

12/5/08. The Latin American Parliament supports Ecuador's proposal for a full auditing of public debts.

12/9/08. The Center for the Right to Housing and Against Homelessness (Centro por el Derecho a la Vivienda y Contra los Desalojos, COHRE) awards a prize to the CLF for being a "Protector of the Right to Housing."

12/10/08. The Law for the Creation of a Financial Security Network is passed.

12/11/08. The CAL initiates the proceedings for a political trial against the Minister of Transportation.

12/15/08. The CLF pays its respects upon the death of former President León Febres Cordero.

12/16/08. The president of the CLF, Fernando Cordero, calls the approval of the Constitution the most transcendent event of the year.

12/17/08. The CLF repudiates the crimes of xenophobia against Ecuadorian citizens Marcelo Lucero and José Sucuzhañay.

12/17/08. The CLF approves the draft law that reforms the Internal Tax Code and Tax Equity in Ecuador.

12/18/08. The guidelines for the public merit-based competition for selecting the members of the temporary CPCCS are published.

12/19/08. Sergio Chacón is named the fourth official of the CAL.

12/30/08. The CLF's final session of the year is completed.

01/06/09. The resignation of Assembly member Diego Borja is accepted; Borja goes on to serve as the new Coordinating Minister for Economic Policy, and his replacement, Roberto Espinel, is accepted.

01/06/09. The CLF expresses its solidarity with the Palestinian people via resolution.

01/06/09. The debate begins on the draft Law on the Judicial Branch.

01/11/09. The resignation of Assembly member María José de Luca is accepted, as is her replacement Gina Godoy.

01/11/09. The CLF decides to extend the deadlines for the selection process for the CPCCS.

01/12/09. The Mining Law is approved.

01/14/09. A contract is signed between the CLF and CONESUP for consultation in the development of draft laws.

01/14/09. The first debate takes place on the Organic Law on Elections and Political Organizations.

01/19/09. The debate continues on the first report on the draft Organic Law on Elections and Political Organizations.

01/21/09. The debate continues on the first report on the draft Organic Law on the Judicial Branch.

01/23/09. Results of the survey conducted by the Santiago Pérez firm show a high approval rating for the CLF (73% report confidence in its work).

01/26/09. The selection process for the members of the temporary CPCCS culminates with the swearing in of the CPCCS members.

01/26/09. The National Journalists Union awards the National Journalism Prize in the Communication Technology category to the National Constituent Assembly via its website.

01/27/09. The International Forum on Territorial Organization is held in Cuenca, coordinated by the CLF, the Municipal Association of Ecuador, the National Symposium Commission on Urban Development and the Government of Aragón (Spain).

01/28/09. A public forum is held to analyze the draft Law on the Judicial Branch, with representatives from various academic sectors and judicial unions in attendance.

01/29/09. The Commission on Reform of the State and Public Management organizes a “Discussion Forum on Political Organizations and Parties.”

02/03/09. The President of the CLF, Fernando Cordero, welcomes a formal visit from the United States Ambassador Heather Hodges.

02/04/09. A public forum is held on Food Sovereignty.

02/06/09. The General Comptroller presents a report on its activities, delivered by its secretary general, César Mejía Freire.

02/07/09. A second public forum takes place on Food Sovereignty. Via video conference, representatives meet from various provinces, including: Azuay, Guayas, Tungurahua, Imbabura, Loja, Manabí and Pichincha.

02/10/09. The CLF web page becomes available in two languages: Spanish and Quechua.

02/11/09. The CLF honors the popular musician Milton Tadeo Carcelén.

02/12/09. The Organic Law on Elections and Political Organizations is approved.

02/13/09. The Secretary General of the CLF, Francisco Vergara, discredits the published accounts of his supposed resignation from the CLF in order to return to his post in the National Electric Corporation.

02/17/09. The Law on Food Sovereignty is passed.

02/17/09. The CLF honors the Pichincha College of Attorneys for reaching its 100th anniversary as a foundation.

02/17/09. The President of the CLF and various Assembly members send a floral display to the monument for former deputy Jaime Hurtado on the tenth anniversary of his killing.

02/18/09. The Forum for Presidents of the Legislative Bodies begins on the topic of “Political Analysis and Identification of Opportunities in Crisis Moments”.

02/19/09. The mayor of Cuenca declares the Presidents of the Latin American parliaments as “distinguished guests.”

02/26/09. The Law on the Election of Ecuadorian Representatives to the Latin American Parliament is approved.

02/26/09. The President of the CLF, Fernando Cordero, meets with Mexican Assembly members Cuauhtémoc Sandoval, José Antonio Almazán, Aleida Álvarez, Armando Barreiro and Cuauhtémoc Velasco to discuss the legal situation of Mexican citizen Lucía Morett, a survivor of the Colombian bombing in Angostura.

03/02/09. The Executive issues a partial veto of the Organic Law on the Judicial Branch.

03/04/09. The forum “Building the Law on Citizen Participation Together” takes place in FLACSO in Quito.

03/04/09. The second forum on “Building the Law on Citizen Participation Together” takes place in the University of Cuenca.

03/09/09. A workshop is held on “Evaluating the Fundamental Principles behind the draft Regulatory Law on the Public Service.”

03/11/09. Between March 11 and 13 a seminar is offered on “The International Financial Crisis, impact and points of departure for Ecuador and Latin America”.

03/16/09. The Executive issues a partial veto of the Organic Law on Elections and Political Organizations.

03/18/09. The third forum is held on “Building the Law on Citizen Participation Together” in the University of Guayaquil.

03/20/09. The Executive issues a partial veto of the Organic Law on Food Sovereignty.

03/24/09. The Reform Law on Diplomatic Privileges and Immunities is approved.

03/25/09. The CAL approves a recess for the CLF between April 13 and 27.

03/25/09. The Executive issues a partial veto of the Law on the Classification of Genocide and Ethnic Cleansing (which reforms the Penal Code).

03/26/09. The vice president of the CLF, Cesar Rodríguez, represents Ecuador in the second Forum for Presidents of Legislative Bodies held in Cartagena (Colombia).

04/03/09. The workshops on “Parliamentary Procedure under the framework of the new Constitution” and “Online Services as Tools for Information Technology and Communication” are held, and targeted toward a variety of media outlets.

04/08/09. The Commission on Oversight and Political Control calls on members of the Armed Forces to provide their versions of events as part of the political investigation of former Minister Larrea.

04/06/09. The law on the creation of the IESS Bank is approved.

04/09/09. The Executive’s partial veto of the Organic Law on Elections and Political Organizations is approved.

04/09/09. The Law on Companies is approved.

04/13/09. The CLF mourns the passing of the Argentinean senator Judith Forstmann of the political party Frente para la Victoria (FPV), who had participated in the Forum for Latin American Parliaments that was held in Ecuador.

04/13/09. The CLF opens its doors to the public so citizens could become familiar with it, along with artwork by the artists Oswaldo Guayasamín and Luis Mideros.

04/27/09. Ecuador receives a visit from former US President Jimmy Carter: on April 27 he meets with the Chancellor Fander Falconí, on the 28th he visits the CLF and on the 29th he meets with President Rafael Correa.

04/30/09. Gustavo Larrea makes a formal statement in the political proceedings before the Commission on Oversight and Political Control.

04/30/09. The Executive issues its partial veto of the Law on Companies.

05/06/09. The partial veto of the Law on Companies is accepted.

05/07/09. The investigation of former Minister Gustavo Larrea is closed.

05/12/09. The president of the CLF, Fernando Cordero, receives a visit from the Ambassador of Honduras, Eduardo Rosales.

05/15/09. The Plenary selects Assembly member Pedro del Cruz to serve as part of the Ecuadorian delegation to participate in the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in the United Nations on May 18 to 29 in New York.

05/19/09. The first forum is held for public discussion of the draft Law on Citizen Participation.

05/19/09. The reform Laws on the Armed Forces Personnel and the National Police Personnel are approved.

05/19/09. The draft Law on Monthly Reserve Fund Payments and the National Unified Unemployment System is approved.

05/19/09. The Plenary of the CLF accepts the resignation of the Assembly member from Manabí, Trajano Andrade Viteri, with 56 votes, who signed up as a candidate for the Andean parliament.

05/20/09. A citizen forum is held on reforms to the Compulsory Auto Accident Insurance Law (SOAT).

05/21/09. The Commission on Reform of the State and Public Management receives the draft Reform Law on Educator Standards and Pay Scale.

06/02/09. Gustavo Larrea offers his formal defense before the Plenary of the CLF against the accusations made against him by Assembly members and journalists.

06/02/09. The Plenary approves the draft reforms to Title V of the Second Book of the Code on Children and Adolescents.

06/04/09. The Commission on Reform of the State and Public Management meets with the Minister of Education and the president of UNE to reach agreement on the draft Law on Educator Standards.

06/04/09. The Commission on Civil and Penal Law meets with Acosel to publicize the draft Law on the Legislative Branch.

06/12/09. The Plenary approves Ecuador's withdrawal from the ICSID.

06/12/09. The Plenary holds the first debate on the Draft Organic Law on the Legislative Branch.

06/16/09. The Plenary holds the first debate on the draft Reform Law on Educator Standards and Pay Scale.

06/16/09. The Plenary holds the first debate on the Draft Organic Law on the Council on Citizen Participation and Social Control.

06/17/09. The CLF and the United Nations World Food Program (WFP) sign a Cooperation Agreement to combat poverty and improve the quality of life for Ecuadorian citizens.

06/18/09. A Citizen Forum is held to discuss the Law on Public Safety and the State in the Assembly's chambers.

06/19/09. The Executive issues a partial veto of the draft Law on Monthly Reserve Fund Payments and the National Unified Unemployment System to the CLF.

06/28/09. The CLF condemns the military coup in Honduras and the expulsion of President Manuel Zelaya from the country.

07/06/09. The Constitution of Ecuador is translated into quechua with assistance from the National Center on Intercultural Bilingual Education (DINEIB).

07/07/09. The Law on Public Safety and the State is passed.

07/08/09. The Organic Law on the Legislative Branch is passed.

07/09/09. The Four Permanent Commissions of the Latin American Parliament hold meetings simultaneously between July 9 and 10 in the headquarters of the National Assembly.

07/14/09. The reforms to the Law on Educator Standards and Pay Scale are approved.

07/14/09. The Organic Law on the Council on Citizen Participation and Social Control is approved.

07/21/09. Assembly member from PSP Julio Logroño Vivar passes away.

07/24/09. The Plenary approves the International Convention on the Protection of All Persons against Forced Disappearances.

07/24/09. The Plenary approves the Iberoamerican Multilateral Convention on Social Security.

07/24/09. The Organic Law on Public Companies is approved.

07/28/09. The Executive's partial veto to the Law on the Comptroller is resolved.

07/28/09. The Organic Law on Jurisdictional Rights and Constitutional Authority is approved.

07/31/09. The new National Assembly of Ecuador is sworn in.

Annex 2. Members of the Legislation and Oversight Commission¹³

	NAME	PARTY/POLITICAL MOVEMENT	DISTRICT
1	Eduardo Zambrano	PAIS	Latin America
2	Rosana Alvarado	PAIS	Azuay
3	Jaime Abril	PAIS	Azuay
4	Beatriz Tola	PAIS	Azuay
5	María Pazmiño	PAIS	Bolívar
6	Carlos Pilamunga	PK	Bolívar
7	Holger Cháves Canales	PSP	Bolívar
8	Santiago Correa	PAIS	Cañar
9	Rómulo Romo	PSP	Cañar
10	Nelson López	PAIS	Carchi
11	Fernando Burbano	ID	Carchi
12	Mauro Andino Reinoso	PAIS	Chimborazo
13	Julio Logroño	PSP	Chimborazo
14	Patricio Pazmiño	PAIS	Cotopaxi
15	Gilberto Guamangate	PK	Cotopaxi
16	Fernando Alarcón	PSP	Cotopaxi
17	Guido Rivas	PAIS	USA and Canada
18	Rosario Palacios	PAIS	El Oro
19	Salomón Fadul Franco	PSC	El Oro
20	Gabriel Rivera	PAIS	Esmeraldas
21	Abel Ávila	MPD	Esmeraldas
22	Cesar Gracia	PRE	Esmeraldas
23	Édison Narváez	PAIS	Europe
24	Eduardo Sánchez	PAIS	Galápagos
25	Martha Roldós	RED	Guayas
26	Rolando Panchana	PAIS	Guayas
27	María José de Luca	PAIS	Guayas
28	Gustavo Darquea	PAIS	Guayas
29	Amanda Arboleda	PAIS	Guayas
30	Valerio Estacio	PAIS	Guayas
31	Annabella Azín	PRIAN	Guayas
32	Cristina Reyes	PSC	Guayas
33	Rafael Esteves	PSP	Guayas
34	Eduardo Maruri	UNO	Guayas
35	Marcos Martínez	PAIS	Imbabura
36	Andrés Pavón	PRIAN	Imbabura
37	Gorki Aguirre	PAIS	Loja
38	José Picoita	PAIS	Loja
39	María Elena Gómez	PAIS	Los Ríos
40	Pamela Falconí	PAIS	Los Ríos
41	Galo Lara	PSP	Los Ríos
42	Trajano Andrade	PAIS	Manabí

¹³ A few days after they were selected, some of the Assembly members resigned their posts, so alternates were brought in to replace them.

43	María Soledad Vela	PAIS	Manabí
44	Félix Alcívar	PAIS	Manabí
45	Tito Mendoza	PRIAN	Manabí
46	Humberto Guillén	PSP	Manabí
47	Franklin Puente	PAIS	Morona Santiago
48	Fernando Cordero	PAIS	National
49	Aminta Buenaño	PAIS	National
50	Tatiana Hidrovo	PAIS	National
51	Pedro of the Cruz	PAIS	National
52	Cesar Rodríguez	PAIS	National
53	Norman Wray	PAIS	National
54	Tania Hermida	PAIS	National
55	Fernando Salazar	PAIS	National
56	Jorge Escala	MPD	National
57	Vicente Taiano	PRIAN	National
58	Casar Rohón	PSC	National
59	Gilmar Gutiérrez	PSP	National
60	León Roldós	RED	National
61	Ximena Bohórquez	MHN	National
62	Sergio Chacón	PSP	National
63	Mario Játiva	PAIS	Orellana
64	Denisse Coka	PAIS	Pastaza
65	María Paula Romo	PAIS	Pichincha
66	FrCAisco Velasco	PAIS	Pichincha
67	Pilar Núñez	PAIS	Pichincha
68	Jaime Ruiz	PAIS	Pichincha
69	Alexandra Ocles	PAIS	Pichincha
70	Diego Borja	ID-MPC	Pichincha
71	Wilfrido Ruiz	MCIFY	Pichincha
72	Hilda Roca	PAIS	Sucumbíos
73	Irina Cabezas	PAIS	Tungurahua
74	Romel Rivera	PSP	Tungurahua
75	Jorge Calvas	PAIS	Zamora Chinchipe
76	Jorge Sarango	PK	Zamora Chinchipe