

Rejection of President Gustavo Petro's unsubstantiated claims casting doubt on the integrity of the electoral process

Bogotá, D. C., June 1, 2026. The **Fundación Colombia 2050 (FC2050)**, the **Instituto de Ciencia Política Hernán Echavarría Olózaga (ICP)**, and the **Fundación para el Estado de Derecho (FEDe Colombia)** categorically reject the recent statements made by the President of the Republic, Gustavo Petro, in which he cast doubt, without any reason, on the integrity of the electoral process during the presidential elections of May 31, 2026.

Within the framework of the first round of the presidential elections, we consider it necessary to call for institutional responsibility and respect for the integrity of the Colombian electoral process.

The **Veeduría Entorno Electoral 2026**, carried out by FC2050 and the ICP, had already identified, through Nikka, a social intelligence platform that analyzes citizen conversation in digital environments, **a digital narrative of distrust regarding the electoral process**, in which the relationship between "institutional distrust + fraud + results" appears at a critical level. That narrative creates a framework of interpretation in which any eventuality of the process can be presented as a sign of manipulation, even when there is no public evidence to prove systematic fraud.

The recent statements by the President of the Republic confirm the gravity of this risk. Insisting on unverified suspicions from the highest magistracy of the State amplifies a narrative that can affect citizen trust, incentivize disinformation, and fuel a post-electoral crisis before the institutional mechanisms provided for by law have concluded.

In this sense, we highlight that:

- **The Colombian electoral system is founded on the work of millions of citizens, including public servants, polling station jurors, electoral witnesses, judges, and notaries of the Republic.** More than **860,000** jurors, **500,000** electoral witnesses, **300,000** members of the Public Force, **40,000** electoral organization officials, **50,000** officials from the Office of the Inspector General of the Nation and other oversight bodies, **4,000** national observers, and **1,300** international observers intervened in the conduct and supervision of the elections.
- **The Colombian electoral process has sufficient technical, institutional, and control guarantees that are widely consolidated and recognized by foreign electoral authorities and specialized international organizations.** Each of its stages is traceable, verifiable, and subject to audit. In them, citizens actively participate as polling station jurors, electoral authorities, political parties and movements, electoral witnesses, national and international observation missions, and the citizenry, guaranteeing effective mechanisms for oversight and social control throughout the entire process. All electoral scrutiny forms could be photographed by electoral witnesses, digitized, and published publicly by the National Registry of Civil Status.

- **Any report of possible irregularities must be supported by facts and verifiable evidence and processed through the corresponding institutional channels.** To date, there is no known public evidence supporting the statements made by the President of the Republic. In a democracy, transparency and institutional trust are strengthened through evidence and through the competent authorities.
- **The preliminary count (preconteo) has a strictly informative character and produces no legal effects.** In accordance with Colombian electoral legislation, the results with legal validity are those derived from the scrutiny process carried out by the scrutiny commissions at their various levels and by the National Electoral Council.
- **The electoral scrutiny is a stage with ample guarantees for oversight, review, and contradiction.** In this phase, parties, political movements, electoral witnesses, and other authorized actors participate, and they have mechanisms to present claims, observations, and requests for review whenever they consider it necessary.
- **Citizen trust in democracy is built on the basis of facts, evidence, and institutional respect.** Unsubstantiated claims affect trust in electoral authorities, weaken democratic debate, and generate disinformation among the citizenry.

From the Fundación Colombia 2050, the Instituto de Ciencia Política (ICP), and the Fundación para el Estado de Derecho (FEDe Colombia), we express our support for the National Registry of Civil Status and the institutions that, with technical rigor, professionalism, and independence, fulfilled the duty of guaranteeing the free exercise of the vote and the integrity of the electoral process in Colombia.

We reiterate our commitment to electoral observation, citizen oversight, and the rigorous documentation of any eventual irregularity or electoral crime throughout the national territory, always with strict adherence to facts, evidence, and the Rule of Law.

Today more than ever, Colombia requires strong institutions, guarantees for all political actors, and a collective commitment to the defense of democracy.

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