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ANNEX

Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) – Global Europe

Exceptional Assistance Measure regarding Bolivia

1. IDENTIFICATION

Action: Prevention and Mitigation of Electoral Conflicts and Violence for the 2025 Bolivian General Elections

Action Reference: NDICI CR 2024 / 34

Cost: EUR 1 500 000 (European Union (EU) contribution).

Budget Line: 14 02 03 10

Duration: Maximum 18 months. The authorising officer responsible may decide to extend this period twice by a further period of up to six months, up to a total maximum duration of 30 months, under the conditions laid down in Article 23(6) of Regulation (EU) 2021/947.

Lead service: FPI

2. ACTION SUMMARY

The upcoming electoral process in Bolivia entails significant risks of conflict and violence that could exacerbate divisions and further polarise the political landscape in the country. This exceptional assistance measure seeks to contribute to the prevention and mitigation of electoral conflicts and violence in the run up to, during, and following the 2025 Bolivian general elections. It will provide support to enhance transparency and knowledge of electoral decision-making processes, build trust in relevant institutions such as the Plurinational Electoral Organ (OEP), and mitigate tensions through civil society election monitoring and observation. This action also aims to empower civil society and local networks of media professionals through participatory dialogues, capacity building and media monitoring in order to promote peaceful electoral processes and raise awareness about the risk associated to election-related violence, and the means to prevent it.

3. BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

3.1 BACKGROUND

The upcoming elections scheduled for August 2025 follow the political turmoil and violence around the contested 2019 presidential elections, which led to over 35 deaths and required a rerun the following year. Over the last months, Bolivia has witnessed a persistent power struggle between President Luis Arce and the country's former President Evo Morales, resulting in a climate of political tension and social unrest that hinders the government's ability to respond to an increasingly challenging socioeconomic situation. A central element of this rift is the internal division within the ruling party, the Movement to Socialism (MAS), which was co-founded by Morales in the mid-1990s.

Morales' public announcement of his intention to run as a presidential candidate -despite being constitutionally barred from re-election following a ruling in 2023- is heightening societal divisions and the risk of political instability. On 10 October 2024, the Bolivian prosecutor's office issued an arrest warrant against Morales as part of an investigation into charges of human trafficking and statutory rape against him, which has triggered clashes between his supporters and the police. Morales remains a prominent figure in Bolivian politics, having been the country's first indigenous president and having held office for nearly 14 years. His controversial attempt in 2019 to seek a fourth term ignited mass protests, ultimately leading to his resignation amid allegations of electoral fraud. Despite his forced exit, Morales retains substantial political influence, both within MAS and among his supporters.

The attempted military coup in June 2024, alongside the recent protest march organised by Morales, illustrate the deepening fragility and polarisation of Bolivia's political landscape. These tensions are further compounded by deteriorating economic conditions due to a lack of foreign currency and fuel shortages, which are contributing to a widespread erosion of public trust in electoral processes and in the impartiality of state institutions. Consequently, the interplay of political instability and challenging economic circumstances is likely to intensify public discontent and lead to further social unrest.

In this context, the forthcoming elections foreseen for August 2025 could exacerbate divisions and potentially trigger violence and instability within the country. By supporting the prevention of electoral conflicts and violence in Bolivia, the EU seeks to position itself as a reliable global actor committed to upholding democratic principles and promoting international stability and crisis prevention.

3.2 RATIONALE FOR CRISIS RESPONSE ACTIONS UNDER THE RAPID RESPONSE PILLAR OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD, DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION INSTRUMENT

The upcoming electoral process in Bolivia, combined with an increasingly polarised political landscape and a fragile socioeconomic environment, constitutes an exceptional and unforeseen situation in the sense of Article 4(4) (a) of the NDICI Regulation. An adequate response cannot be provided under any other European Union Instrument due to the urgency with which the funds are required and due to available resources already being firmly committed.

Annex IV, paragraph 1, second paragraph, points (d), (n) and (q) of Regulation (EU) 2021/947 specifically provides for the use of the NDICI rapid response pillar to (d) support for the

development of democratic, pluralistic state institutions, including measures to enhance the role of women in such institutions, effective civilian administration and civilian oversight over the security system, as well as measures to strengthen the capacity of law-enforcement and judicial authorities involved in the fight against terrorism, organised crime and all forms of illicit trafficking; (n) support for measures to promote and defend respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law, and the related international instruments, and (q) support for measures to promote the development and organisation of civil society and its participation in the political process, including measures to enhance the role of women in such processes and measures to promote independent, pluralist and professional media.

3.3 RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

Risks	Risk levels (high, medium, low)	Mitigation
Existing tensions escalate into violence and the security situation deteriorates, restricting access to certain areas and affecting the implementation of the action.	High	Regular engagement with national and local authorities; continuous risk analysis of the security situation to anticipate potential restrictions and adjust and reorient activities accordingly.
Perception of EU support as lacking inclusiveness and being biased towards specific political actors.	High	Political monitoring of the situation by the EU Delegation; regular and transparent engagement with all actors; principles of neutrality and independence applied throughout the implementation of activities. Project’s communication and visibility strategy adapted to the context.
Resistance from local communities towards the action due to potential cultural misunderstandings.	Medium	Ensure that all activities are designed to be conflict-sensitive and gender-responsive, tailored to the needs and perspectives of various social, indigenous, and cultural communities.

4. OBJECTIVES

4.1 OVERALL OBJECTIVE

The overall objective of the action is to contribute to the prevention and mitigation of electoral conflicts and violence in the run up to, during, and following the 2025 Bolivian general elections.

4.2 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- 4.2.1 To enhance transparency and knowledge of electoral decision-making processes, build trust in relevant institutions such as the Plurinational Electoral Organ (OEP), and mitigate tensions through civil society election monitoring and observation;
- 4.2.2 To empower inclusive civil society dialogue mechanisms and strengthen participatory discussions promoting peaceful and credible electoral processes.

5. ACTION COMPONENTS AND EXPECTED RESULTS

The main expected results/outcomes include:

Expected Result (1): Increased awareness, transparency and trust in electoral decision-making processes.

Activities (indicative):

- 5.1.1 Provide technical support in the development of monitoring and observation plans aimed at strengthening transparency and collaboration between citizens and electoral authorities at both the national and departmental levels;
- 5.1.2 Produce visibility materials focusing on the direct interactions between OEP representatives and the electorate;
- 5.1.3 Support the development of a domestic election observation programme in partnership with the OEP, with a strong focus on the inclusion of marginalised groups, particularly women and persons with disabilities (PWD);
- 5.1.4 Support the establishment of an Early Warning System for the prevention and mitigation of election-related conflicts and violence;
- 5.1.5 Possible follow-up to relevant findings identified by a potential deployment of an EU Electoral Observation Mission in Bolivia.

Expected Result (2): Strengthened and more inclusive political engagement of Bolivian citizens and media professionals in electoral processes through dialogue across all levels.

Activities (indicative):

- 5.2.1 Organise a series of dialogues bringing together diverse non-state actors to debate on election-related issues;
- 5.2.2 Design and conduct tailored trainings for a coalition of media professionals, focusing on conflict sensitive electoral reporting;
- 5.2.3 Establish a Media Monitoring Unit for civil society organisations in charge of conducting conflict mapping and media monitoring;

5.2.4 Organise a mobile caravan and peace campaign to raise awareness on citizens’ rights and duties, and electoral procedures, while also serving as a platform for discussion.

6. IMPLEMENTATION

6.1 IMPLEMENTATION MODALITIES

The Commission will ensure that the appropriate EU rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictive measures¹.

6.1.1 Grant: direct award (direct management)

(a) Purpose of the grant

The grant will cover the entire action.

(b) Type of applicants targeted

The type of applicants targeted for this direct award are non-governmental and not for profit organisations at national, local and/or international level, with consolidated experience in the prevention and mitigation of electoral conflicts and violence to achieve the expected results and specific objectives.

(c) Justification of a direct grant

Under the responsibility of the Commission’s authorising officer responsible, the recourse to an award of a grant without a call for proposals is justified because **the action entails crisis management aid as referred to in Article 198 (a) and as defined in Article 2(22) of the Financial Regulation** at the date of the Financing Decision

6.2 INDICATIVE BUDGET

The total European Union contribution under this Financing Decision **will not exceed EUR 1 500 000**. A breakdown among components is provided hereunder, and is indicative.

Indicative budget breakdown

Components	EU contribution (amount in EUR)	Indicative third party contribution, in currency identified
Component 1: Prevention and Mitigation of Electoral Conflicts and Violence for the 2025 Bolivian General Elections composed of		
6.1.1 – Direct grant (direct management)	1 500 000	N.A.

¹ www.sanctionsmap.eu. Please note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy between the published legal acts and the updates on the website, it is the OJ version that prevails.

Total	1 500 000	N.A.
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6.3 ORGANISATIONAL SET-UP AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The action shall be implemented under direct management. It will be managed by the Commission, with the support of the European Union Delegation to Bolivia for the monitoring of the action.

6.4 PERFORMANCE AND RESULTS MONITORING AND REPORTING

The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of this action will be a continuous process and part of the implementing partner's responsibilities. To this aim, the implementing partner shall establish a permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system for the action and elaborate regular progress reports (not less than annual) and final report. Each report shall provide an accurate account of implementation of the action, difficulties encountered, changes introduced, as well as the degree of achievement of its results (outputs and outcomes) as measured by corresponding indicators, using as reference the Logframe matrix. The report shall be laid out in such a way as to allow monitoring of the means envisaged and employed and of the budget details for the action. The final report, narrative and financial, will cover the entire period of the action implementation.

The Commission may undertake additional project monitoring visits both through its own staff and through independent consultants recruited directly by the Commission for independent monitoring reviews (or recruited by the responsible agent contracted by the Commission for implementing such reviews).

6.5 EVALUATION

Having regard to the nature of the action, an evaluation will not be carried out for this action or its components.

The Commission may, during implementation, decide to undertake such an evaluation for duly justified reasons either on its own decision or on the initiative of the partner.

The financing of the evaluation shall be covered by another measure constituting a financing decision.

6.6 AUDIT

Without prejudice to the obligations applicable to contracts concluded for the implementation of this action, the Commission may, on the basis of a risk assessment, contract independent audits or expenditure verification assignments for one or several contracts or agreements.

6.7 COMMUNICATION AND VISIBILITY

The 2021-2027 programming cycle adopted a new approach to pooling, programming and deploying strategic communication and public diplomacy resources.

In line with the 2022 "[Communicating and Raising EU Visibility: Guidance for External Actions](#)", it will remain a contractual obligation for all entities implementing EU-funded external actions to inform the relevant audiences of the Union's support for their work by displaying the EU emblem and a short funding statement as appropriate on all communication materials related to the actions concerned. This obligation will continue to apply equally, regardless of whether the actions concerned are implemented by the Commission, partner

countries, service providers, grant beneficiaries or entrusted or delegated entities such as UN agencies, international financial institutions and agencies of EU member states.

7. COMPLEMENTARITY, COORDINATION AND FOLLOW-UP

The action will build on and complement previous, current and upcoming cooperation, development, and humanitarian actions implemented by the European Union to Bolivia. The EU is actively supporting the electoral process through an ongoing action aimed at strengthening the technical and operational electoral capacities of the OEP. This action will complement this institutional support by engaging civil society and media professionals, as well as by providing support to enhance transparency and trust in the electoral decision-making processes. Furthermore, this action will be designed to operate in synergy with a potential deployment of an EU Electoral Observation Mission (EOM) and any relevant recommendations that may be formulated as a result of the former.

Complementarity will be ensured through close coordination at the level of the EU Delegation to Bolivia as well as with other relevant Commission services. Through the Service for Foreign Policy Instruments (FPI) Regional Team in Washington, and its respective antenna in Colombia, a close coordination will be ensured for an EU integrated approach and operationalisation of the Humanitarian, Development and Peace (HDP) nexus among different EU actions and actors.