



**Permanent Secretariat of the Latin American and Caribbean  
Network for Democracy (Redlad):  
Enabling Evo Morales to his reelection in Bolivia.**

**February 2013.**

**\*Unofficial translation done only for the purpose of being understood.**

The Permanent Secretariat of the Latin American and Caribbean Network for Democracy (RedLad), after taking cognizance of the request made by the Congress of Bolivia, controlled by the party of government (MAS), the Plurinational Constitutional Court (TCP) to Bolivia amend the Constitution to allow re-election of President Evo Morales, RedLad manifests that this would be the second continuous reelection of President Morales, and therefore unconstitutional.

Constitutional reforms by governments in exercise to afford incumbents reelection is a bad practice that has been applied in Venezuela, Ecuador and Bolivia, but even worse is that they seek legal loopholes and violating these same standards. What happened in Venezuela and Nicaragua, is now happening in Bolivia. The constitutional manipulation to allow immediate re-election of President Evo Morales violates democratic principles.

Article 168 of the Bolivian Constitution, adopted by referendum 2009 indicates that "the term of office of the President or the Vice President and the Vice President or the State is five years and may be reelected consecutively only once". To change this, Article 411 of the Constitution states requires the approval of a constitutional amendment with a two thirds majority of the members of Congress and also the realization of a constitutional referendum approving.

However, MAS approved in the Senate sending a consultation to Constitutional Court in order to enable Evo Morales can to participate for a third presidential term. This obviously would reform the constitution by an "interpretation" that violates Articles 168 and 411.



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MAS argues that Evo Morales is completing its first term, since the Constitution was adopted in 2009, however, the text clearly states in its first transitional provision that the elections prior to its enactment will be considered for future elections. Of constitutional interpretation be requested by the ruling, it would alter the constitutional framework and violating the democratic principle of political alternation whereby the government would possess the characteristics to be classified as de facto.

In response, the Permanent Secretariat RedLad, platform promoting full democracy comprising more than 480 organizations, Official Member of the Civil Society Forum of the Organization of American States (OAS) and Regional Chapter of World Movement for Democracy (WMD ):

- Urges the Plurinational Constitutional Court (TCP) of Bolivia to really ensure the precepts laid down in the Constitution and rule directly and accurately on the correct interpretation of the legal text and reject attempts to perpetuate the president in power.
- Urges the ruling party (MAS), to observe the Constitution that he himself made and accept and respect without vices, interpretations or manipulations the Constitution adopted in 2009.
- Requests the Bolivian society organizations to be alert and report any constitutional manipulation that erode the country's democratic principles and transparent electoral processes.

Calls for democratic governments of the world to ask the government of President Morales, respect for the constitution and the attachment to the alternation of political power as a principle inherent in any democracy that is considered real.

**Permanent Secretariat  
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San José, Costa Rica**

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