PRESS RELEASE

PEI-GT Highlights Challenges in the Attorney General and Constitutional Court Selection Processes and calls for Transparency and Independence

Guatemala City, December 3, 2025.

The Panel of Independent Experts of Guatemala (PEI–GT) is an autonomous initiative dedicated to monitoring the selection processes for the Attorney General's Office (MP) and for Constitutional Court justices (CC). Its work aims to promote compliance with national and international norms and human rights standards, offering recommendations based on public information and inputs from civil society.

PEI-GT is composed of three internationally recognized professionals in the fields of human rights, judicial independence, and the rule of law: **Ana Lorena Delgadillo Pérez** (Mexico), **José Ugaz** (Peru), **and Jaime Arellano** (Chile).

The Panel carried out its first country visit from November 11 to 14, holding meetings with civil society organizations, law school deans, the President of the Board of Directors of the Guatemalan Bar Association (CANG), the President of the Republic, diplomatic missions, United Nations agencies, and members of the media.

Findings and Recommendations from the Panel's First Visit

1. The elections to appoint the Attorney General and the justices of the Constitutional Court **are central to Guatemala's democratic life.** These decisions will shape whether the Public Prosecutor's Office effectively combats crime and impunity, and whether the Constitutional Court upholds democracy and protects fundamental rights. These institutions are pillars of the State and must not be allowed to erode. **Defending and reclaiming them is both the right and the responsibility of all Guatemalan citizens.**

2. **The individuals elected must possess profiles that align with the needs and challenges of the institutions.** Those selected should guarantee justice for all, uphold independence in carrying out their duties, and demonstrate unwavering respect for democratic principles and values.

3. It is essential to ensure that the **nominating bodies are composed of individuals of proven integrity and recognized honorability, with no unresolved concerns regarding their conduct.** Inadequate selections for these bodies put the entire process at risk. Guatemalan citizens have the right to demand that the Postulation Commissions be properly constituted.

4. Despite ongoing criminalization and the climate of fear affecting qualified individuals considering candidacy for Attorney General or Constitutional Court positions, the Panel notes that many sectors include courageous people who view this process with hope. There is a growing collective understanding that next year's elections will shape Guatemala's democratic future, along with its freedoms and rights. **This is the moment for brave candidates with the appropriate profile to step forward, supported and protected by an engaged citizenry.**

5. **Youth, Indigenous peoples, and women play a crucial role in this selection process**—not only in promoting strong and qualified candidacies, but also in monitoring and demanding that the process is conducted in full compliance with both the letter and spirit of the law, while condemning any act of criminalization.

6. State institutions must **guarantee the free and safe participation** of the most qualified individuals, and **implement mechanisms to protect** candidates or members of selection bodies from threats or criminalization.

7. **It is essential to closely monitor the actions of the Attorney General's Office.** This requires active civic engagement —from civil society organizations and every Guatemalan citizen—to report and prevent attempts to criminalize candidates, which could reduce both the number and quality of applicants and ultimately undermine the outcomes of the selection processes.

8. The Panel welcomes the leadership of the President of the Guatemalan Bar Association. **It is necessary for the country's attorneys to recognize the crucial role they play in defending democracy and rights**, and to cultivate awareness within the profession so that their representative is selected according to the needs of Guatemala's justice system.

9. Additionally, **the Honor Tribunal of the Guatemalan Bar Association** bears the responsibility of selecting candidates who uphold democratic principles and demonstrate commitment to strengthening the country's justice institutions.

10. **The Panel is concerned about the current direction of the selection of representatives to the Superior University Council of the University of San Carlos (USAC),** including violations of internal rules by blocking the assignment of positions already democratically elected; and the failure to carry out processes to renew authorities whose terms have expired. **The Panel calls on the Rector's Office to immediately fulfill its obligations**, and urges students and academics to demand respect for the University's internal democratic procedures to ensure the timely renewal of the Superior University Council.

11. **The Panel is concerned that the Supreme Court of Justice has yet to designate its president,** who will preside over the Postulation Commission. Any delay in this process should be viewed as an obstacle to Guatemala's progress in fulfilling its constitutional responsibilities regarding institutional appointments.

12. The Panel recommends that the **Office of the President** publicly disclose the procedures and criteria to be used in appointing both the titular and alternate justices of the Constitutional Court. Likewise, it recommends that the President communicate to the Postulation Commission for the selection of the Attorney General the profile deemed necessary to lead the institution and address Guatemala's most pressing challenges, including combating organized crime, money laundering, public and private corruption, violence against women, extortion, and human trafficking.

13. **The Panel encourages all candidates who meet the required qualifications to participate in these selection processes.** In the context of fear and criminalization, active civic monitoring and support are essential.

14. The Panel calls on the responsible authorities to adhere **to all established timelines for calls and evaluations**, in order to safeguard the regular development of the processes and to allow sufficient time for informed and adequate selections.

15. The Panel also encourages all parties involved to act with **transparency and independence, placing Guatemala's interests above any subordinate considerations**, and to ensure merit-based selections that enable the best candidates to assume these positions.

The Panel looks forward to meeting soon with the Board of Directors of Congress, the National Court of Justice, the Constitutional Court, the Attorney General's Office, the University of San Carlos, the Honor Tribunal of the Bar Association, the Episcopal Conference, the Evangelical Churches Conference, indigenous and business organizations, as well as the Postulation and Selection Commission.