

President Guillermo Lasso decided to dissolve the National Assembly as a constitutional response to the political crisis and internal commotion in Ecuador

Tokyo, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023

On May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023, President, Guillermo Lasso Mendoza, signed the Executive Decree No. 741, pursuant to Article 148 of the Constitution of the Republic, which grants President Guillermo Lasso the authority to dissolve the National Assembly "due to serious political crisis and internal commotion."

The Head of State assured that the decision is aimed at "providing a constitutional solution to the political crisis and internal commotion that Ecuador is enduring and giving back to the Ecuadorian people the power to decide their future in the next elections."

According to Article 148 of the Ecuadorian Constitution "President of the Republic may dissolve the National Assembly when, in her or his judgment, the National Assembly has assumed functions that are not within its constitutional competence, upon a favorable opinion of the Constitutional Court; or if it repeatedly and unjustifiably obstructs the execution of the National Development Plan, or due to serious political crisis and internal commotion."

This is "a new moment to build together a better future for Ecuador (...) It is not possible to move forward, to solve the problems of Ecuadorian families, to face the challenges of insecurity and terrorism, with an Assembly whose political project is to destabilize the Government, democracy and the State", he said.

Once the decree is published, the National Electoral Council, in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic, has a maximum term of seven days to convene legislative and presidential elections to be held on the same date for the remaining respective terms.

During the interim period until a new National Assembly is installed, President Guillermo Lasso may, subject to a favorable opinion of the Constitutional Court, issue economic emergency decree-laws.

The Government declared that all public services will operate normally. The Armed Forces and the National Police will guarantee security throughout Ecuadorian territory.

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