**AmericasBarometer Weighting Scheme**

**Weighting of individual country datasets:** Most of the 2010 AmericasBarometer samples are self-weighted except for Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Haiti, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago and the United States. Each country data set contains a variable called “WT” which should be activated to produce representative national results.

In the SPSS version of these data sets, the weight variable should be activated. In STATA the weight variable can be activated through the svy setting: `svyset upm [pw=wt], strata (estratopri)`. In this case, all STATA commands should use the prefix `svy` (for example `svy: mean q2` or `svy: tab etid ur`). This is preferable since this takes into account the complex nature of our samples, that is, the use of stratification, clustering, and weighting. Because of this, it is necessary to take into account the design effect when analysing our surveys to have better precision and to not incorrectly assume that the data have been collected using simple random samples knowing that the design effect can increase or decrease the standard error of a variable, which will then make the confidence intervals either increase or decrease.

Another way to activate the weight in STATA is to specify the weight variable for each command. We recommend to use `iweight` when running frequency distributions, for example, `tab q1 [iw=wt]`.

The technical report for each of the country gives a brief explanation for the weighting scheme. More information can be found in the detailed description of the samples included in the back of the country reports available through a link on the LAPOP website: [www.AmericasBarometer.org](http://www.AmericasBarometer.org).