

Date Printed: 04/21/2009

JTS Box Number: IFES_66
Tab Number: 1
Document Title: Federal Electoral Process
Document Date: 2000
Document Country: Mexico
Document Language: English
IFES ID: CE00999



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**FEDERAL
ELECTORAL
PROCESS
MEXICO
2000**



GENERAL INFORMATION





**FEDERAL
ELECTORAL
PROCESS
MEXICO
2000**



GENERAL INFORMATION

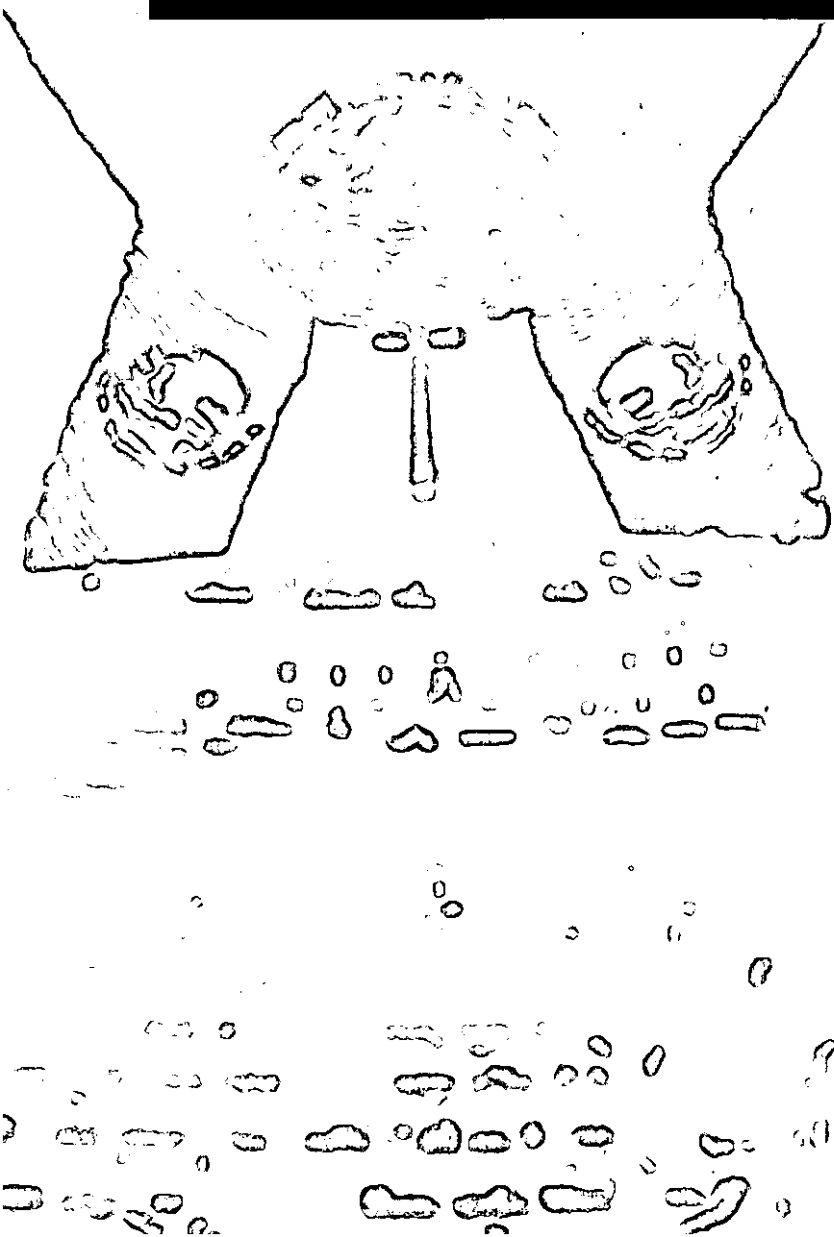
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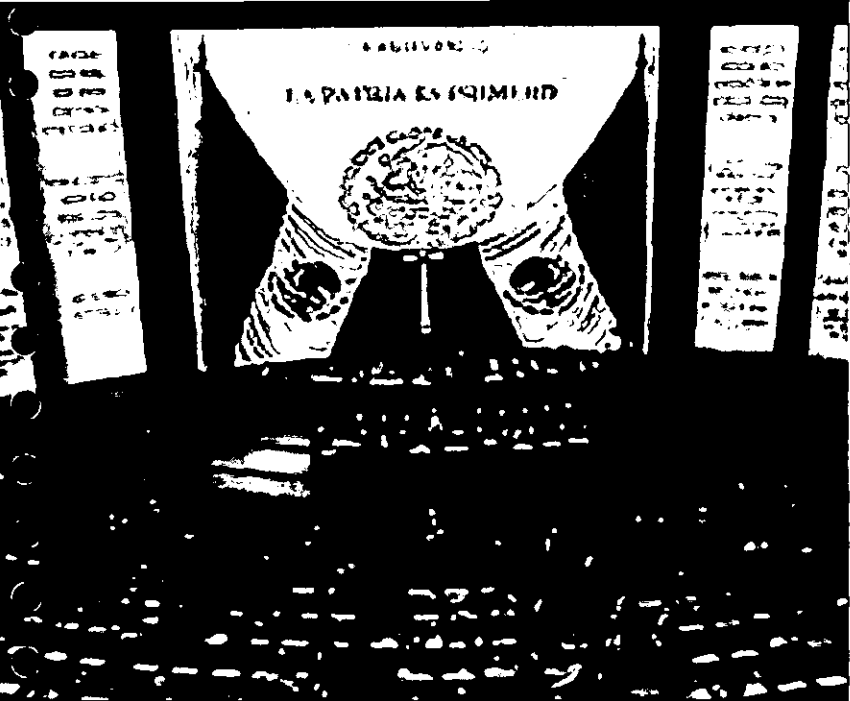
INSTITUTO FEDERAL ELECTORAL
Viaducto Tlalpan No. 100, Col. Arenal Tepepan,
C.P. 14610 México, D.F.
Impreso en México / Printed in Mexico

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POLITICAL-ELECTORAL SYSTEM





According to the Political Constitution of the United Mexican States, the political organization of the Mexican State is that of a representative federal democracy. It is constituted by 31 free sovereign states, which have ample liberty regarding their internal regimes, as well as a Federal District, seat of the Branches and capital of the United Mexican States.

Following a Constitutional mandate, the renewal of the Executive and Legislative branches, both on the national and local level, is carried out by through free, authentic, and periodical elections.

The Federal Executive Branch has a unitarian character, i.e., its nominality and exercise correspond

only to the President of the Republic, who is elected by means of direct election and universal suffrage every six years. Apart from leading the government of the Republic, the President is also Chief of State and Army. Re-election is strictly forbidden.

The Legislature is divided into two chambers: the Lower and Upper Chambers, which constitute the Congress of the Union. The Lower Chamber is constituted by 500 deputies, 300 of which are elected according to the relative majority principle in an equivalent number of single-member districts; and 200 according to the principle of proportional representation, through a system of regional rolls voted in multi-member circumscriptions.

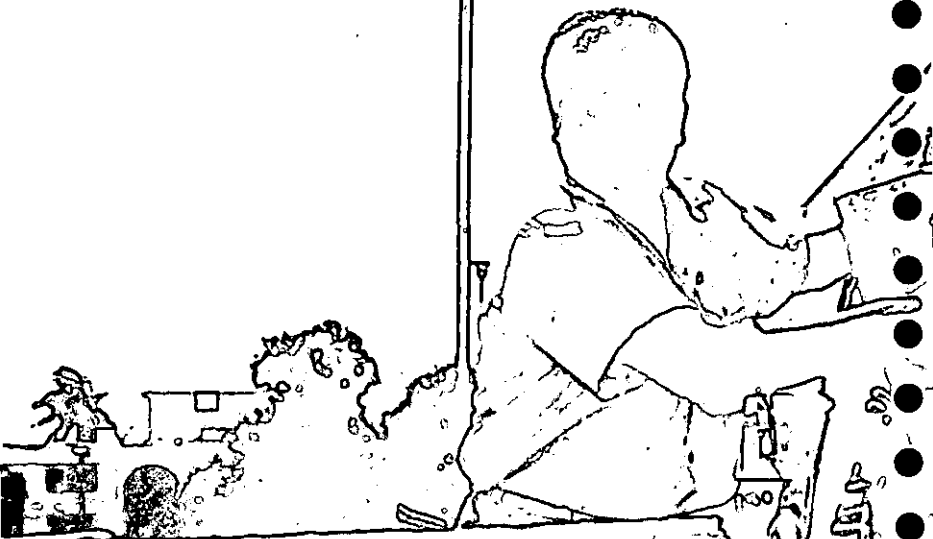
Every member of the Lower Chamber is elected for a three year period and re-election is allowed after an intermediate period. The 300 federal seats of relative majority are distributed among the 32 states according to the percentage of population that lives in them. However, according to a constitutional mandate, no entity is allowed to have fewer than two seats of relative majority.

The Upper Chamber or Senate is constituted by 128 members. In every state three senators are elected; two of them correspond to the winning party in each state and the third one corresponds to the party in second place due to the votes it received. The rest of the 32 seats are assigned by means of the proportional representation system according to voted rolls in one

single national multi-member circumscription. Every senator is elected for a six-year period and, as well as in the case of the Lower Chamber, re-election is allowed after an intermediate period.

Due to the nature of the Mexican juridical and political regime, and within the framework of the autonomy of their internal regime, the 31 states and the Federal District assume responsibilities related with preparation, organization, and conduction of their own electoral processes. In consequence, they have their own constitutional rules (except for the Federal District), legal codes, and electoral organizations.

THE FEDERAL ELECTORAL PROCESS IN THE YEAR 2000



INSTITUTO FEDERAL ELECTORAL
BOLETAS ELECTORALES

ENTIDAD
FEDERATIVA

Baja California Sur

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INSTITUTO FEDERAL ELECTORAL
BOLETAS ELECTORALES

Baja California Sur

ENTIDAD
FEDERATIVA



THE FEDERAL ELECTORAL
PROCESS IN THE YEAR 2000

According to the legal dispositions that rule its organization, the federal electoral process of the year 2000 begins the first week of October 1999. It is started off with a session organized by the Federal Electoral Institute's General Council and will conclude with a declaration of validity for the election of the President of the United Mexican States that will be issued by the Superior Court of the Electoral Tribunal of the Judicial Branch of the Federation. This should occur in September.

The most significant moment of the process, the election day, will come to pass on 2nd July 2000, when every voter will attend to the polling sites, so that popular representation posts can be renewed:

- **T**he President of the United Mexican States
- **T**he 500 members of the Lower Chamber
- **T**he 128 members of the Upper Chamber

In order to have access to disputed federal posts, candidates will have to contend on behalf of the 11 national political parties legally registered:

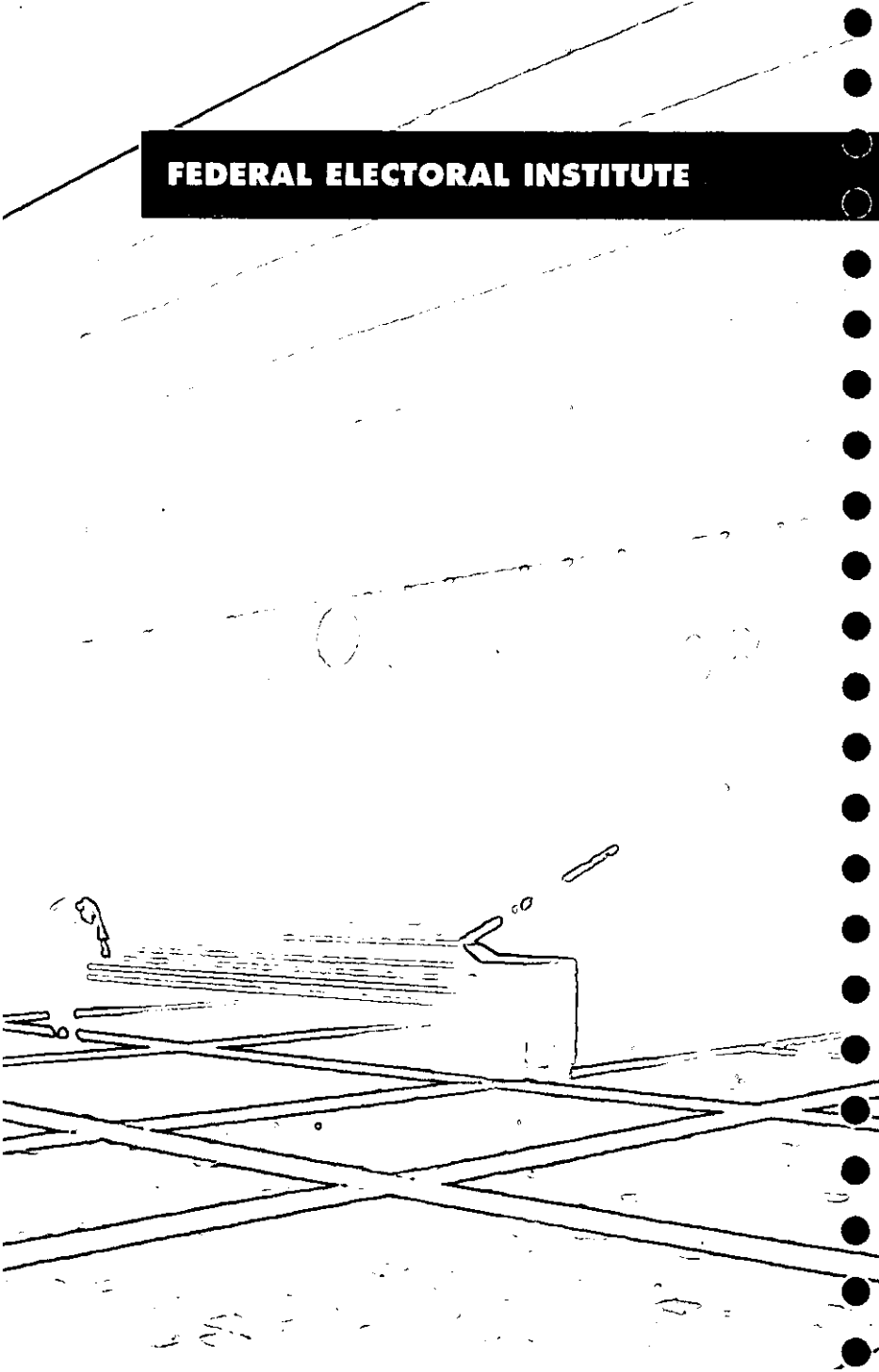
- **N**ational Action Party (PAN)
- **R**evolutionary Institutional Party (PRI)
- **D**emocratic Revolution Party (PRD)
- **L**abor Party (PT)
- **G**reen Ecological Party of Mexico (PVEM)
- **D**emocratic Center Party (PCD)
- **C**onvergence for Democracy (CD)
- **A**uthentic Party of the Mexican Revolution (PARM)
- **N**ationalistic Society Party (PSN)
- **S**ocial Alliance Party (PAS)
- **S**ocial Democracy (DS)

It is convenient to notice that seven out of the 11 national political parties have participated in the formation of coalitions to promote common candidates to every position in dispute within the following federal elections. On the one hand, PAN and PVEM have joined together under the name "Alianza por el Cambio" (Alliance for a Change), and on the other, PRD, PT, CD, PSN, and PAS have done the same under the name "Alianza por México" (Alliance for Mexico).

On 2nd July, there will be simultaneous local elections in ten states, regulated by their own legislations and conducted by their own electoral bodies.

- In the Federal District there will be an election for Head of Government, as well as elections to renew the Legislative Assembly and to elect Government Councils for the first time in its 16 political divisions.
- In Guanajuato and Morelos a Governor will be elected, and there will also be elections in the Local Congress and Town Halls.
- In Campeche, Colima, State of Mexico, Nuevo León, Querétaro, San Luis Potosí and Sonora, the Local Congress and the Town Halls will be renewed.

FEDERAL ELECTORAL INSTITUTE





The Federal Electoral Institute (IFE) is an autonomous public organization, with a permanent and independent character regarding its decisions and functioning. This Institute is responsible for organizing federal elections and was formally constituted on the 11th October 1990.

According to the law, its mandate consists of compliance with seven main purposes:

- **To** contribute to the development of democracy in Mexico.
- **To** preserve the strengthening of the political party regime.
- **To** integrate the federal registry of electors.
- **To** ensure the citizens' exercise of political-electoral

- rights and to survey the observation of their duties.
- **To** guarantee periodical and peaceful elections to renew the Legislature and the Executive.
 - **To** ensure authenticity and effectiveness in voting.
 - **To** promote voting and democratic culture.

In order to achieve these aims, IFE organizes all activities related to the preparation, organization, and conduction of federal electoral processes, among which can be found those related with integration and renewal of voter lists; electoral division of the national territory; registry of national political parties and groups, as well as candidates to federal election posts; fiscal regulation of campaign and party expenses; design and implementation of civic education and electoral training programs, preparation of the electoral process; counting of votes, and regulation of electoral observation and opinion polls.

According to a constitutional mandate, all IFE activities should be ruled by the principles of certainty, legality, independence, impartiality, and objectivity. To ensure professionalism, IFE counts on a body of officials systematically recruited, trained, and evaluated through a Civil Career Service called Professional Electoral Service (SPE).

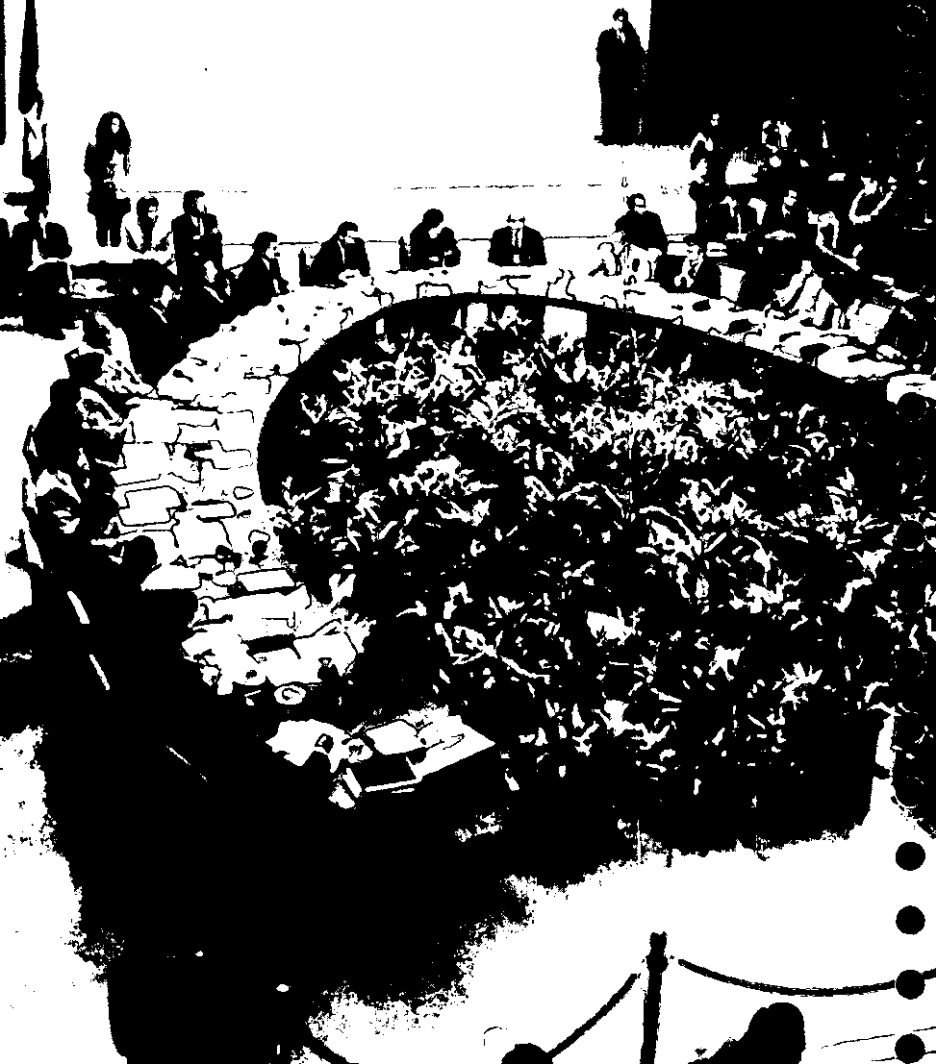
The Institute is constituted by the Legislature, national political parties, and citizens. Regarding its functioning, three different organizations and their attributions can be considered:

- **Directive:** These are formed as Councils in a collegiate fashion. Only non-partisan councilors who have no links with state powers hold a right to vote.
- **Technical-executive:** Composed basically by members of the Electoral Professional System, in the shape of Executive Boards.
- **Surveillance:** Formed mainly by political parties. Their attributes are strictly related with voters' registration, and they are shaped as commissions.

THE GENERAL COUNCIL



INSTITUTO FEDERAL ELECTORAL





THE GENERAL COUNCIL

The General Council is the highest ruling body of the Federal Electoral Institute, and is responsible for surveying the fulfillment of constitutional and legal dispositions in electoral matters, as well as ensuring the principles of certainty, legality, independence, impartiality and objectivity, and guiding all activities organized by the Institute.

It is formed by nine members with right of voice and vote and 12 members with right of voice but not vote. The former are the President Councilor and eight Electoral Councilors, who are elected for a seven year term (initiated on October 31st of 1996), by a two-thirds vote of the Lower Chamber, after being presented as candidates by the parliamentary groups at the same Chamber.

Legislature Councilors (currently five, one per each parliamentary group with party affiliation represented in Congress); representatives from national political parties (presently 6 because, in spite of the fact that 11 political parties have been registered to take part in the 2000 elections, those that have formed coalitions have the right to appoint a common representative before all ruling organizations of IFE), and the Executive Secretary of the Institute, who is appointed or dismissed by a two-thirds vote of the General Council after her/his candidature is presented by the President Councilor.

Among the main attributions conferred by law to the General Council we may find the following:

- **T**o appoint the presidents of ruling bodies on a local level (Local Councils) and on a district level (District Councils).
- **T**o decide on the granting and revoking of registration of political parties and political groups.
- **T**o determine maximum ceiling for campaign spending in elections for President and members of the Upper and Lower Chambers.
- **T**o count the total votes for elections of senators and members of the Lower Chamber by proportional representation, and to conduct the corresponding appointments.
- **T**o establish the general programs and policies of the Institute.

The General Council will form as many commissions as it deems necessary in order to perform its functions.

According to the law, five permanent commissions are to be established, and they shall be formed exclusively by Electoral Councilors and presided by one of them, as follows:

- **C**ontrol of Resources for Political Parties and Political Groups.
- **P**rerogatives, Political Parties and Broadcasting.
- **E**lectoral Organization.
- **P**rofessional Electoral Service.
- **E**lectoral Training and Civic Education.

ELECTORAL REGISTRY





In Mexico suffrage is universal, free, secret, direct, personal, and non-transferable. All Mexican nationals by birth or naturalization who are 18 years of age or older and have an honest way of living have the right to vote. However, in order to exercise this right, it is necessary for all citizens to be included on the electoral roll and to have obtained the photo voting card, which is issued free of charge by the Federal Electoral Institute.

The timely integration and permanent updating of the different instruments of the electoral registry (general electors catalogue, electoral roll, photo voting card and voters lists) constitutes an essential requirement to ensure the transparency and certainty of electoral processes.

In order to guarantee its complete authenticity and transparency, for the 1991 federal election a new electoral roll was created without using any previous register or list, by means of house to house visits throughout the country (total census technique).

Starting with a database of about 45 million citizens of 18 year of age or older, an electoral roll was integrated with 39 million names, and a new photo voting card was delivered to more than 36 million people, thus achieving one of the biggest electoral registers in the world in only eight months, with the highest international standards in terms of coverage and dependability.

Starting from a complete updating strategy for the electoral roll, for the 1994 federal election, the photograph of the elector was incorporated to the Photo voting card. A coverage of more than 47.5 million citizens was achieved (over an estimate of 50 million), of which 45.8 million or 96% obtained their new photo voting card. Results of 36 audits and verifications made to the 1994 electoral roll reported a level of accuracy superior to 96%.

An additional effort to ensure trustworthiness of electoral instruments was made. Voters lists used in polling sites to verify the identity of electors now include their photograph, which was taken at the moment of enrolling.

Besides permanent programs, for the election of the year 2000 the Institute has established special updating programs to improve the quality of electoral instruments. For the election to be held on the 2nd of July, about 58 million names will be included on the electoral roll, out of a total of 60 million citizens within voting age. Of these, about 56 million voters will have obtained their photo voting card, and consequently will be able to vote.

NATIONAL POLITICAL PARTIES AND GROUPS

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EN LA NUEVA REPUBLICA
RESIDENCIA:
CALLE CORDOBA BARRERA

COMUNIDAD DE ASESORES
EN LA NUEVA REPUBLICA
RDO MUÑOZ LEDO
RESIDENCIA:
CALLE CORDOBA BARRERA
CALLE EL CANTO FUERTE 2142





NATIONAL POLITICAL PARTIES AND GROUPS

The Political Constitution conceives political parties as entities of public interest, which implies their acknowledgment as subjects to public right. Moreover, it implies the State's consequent obligation to guarantee the conditions and the assistance needed for their development. The Constitution itself grants political parties three fundamental aims:

- **To** promote the people's participation in democratic life.
- **To** contribute to national representation.
- **To** make it possible for the people to exercise organized political power.

Mexican citizens have the right to associate freely and individually in order to peacefully take part in the

country's political affairs; therefore, they have ample freedom to organize themselves in political groups. In order to become subject of rights, prerogatives and obligations established by the law, it is indispensable for them to be registered or legally recognized by an electoral authority.

A political organization or group that is looking forward to becoming a political party should obtain its registration from the Federal Electoral Institute. The title of "National Political Party" is reserved to those organizations that obtain their registration from IFE. Once registered, they also acquire the right to participate in local and municipal elections.

For an organization to be registered as a national political party, it must turn in documents (Principle Declaration, Action and Statute Program), and prove it counts on at least 3000 members in at least 10 states, i.e., 300 members in at least 100 electoral districts.

National political parties have access to certain rights and prerogatives, among which are permanent access to radio and television, public financing, and the constitution of political fronts and electoral coalitions. They can lose their registration if they do not obtain at least 2% of the votes in an ordinary federal election. If the party loses its registration, it cannot apply for it again unless an ordinary electoral process has come to pass.

As of 1996, the electoral legislation recognizes national political groups as a form of citizen association

that contributes to the development of democratic life, political culture, and citizen information. These political groups cannot be in any case defined as "political parties" and they can only participate in federal electoral processes through participation agreements with a political party.

This registration is also granted and approved by IFE. In order to obtain it, groups must count on a minimum of 7,000 members, a national directive organism, branches in at least 10 federal states, basic documents, and a distinctive name. Registered political groups (currently 41) have a right to public financing to support their editorial activities, political education and training, and political as well as socio-economic research.

Both political parties and national political groups are subject to a financial inspection regime. They must turn in yearly reports to the Federal Electoral Institute on the origin, handling and aim of their resources.

VOTA POR EL
PARTIDO DEL TRABAJO

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P PARTY AND CAMPAIGN FINANCING





PARTY AND CAMPAIGN FINANCING

Since 1986, when the right of political parties to public financing was established, various dispositions have been developed and perfected in order to regulate as clearly, precisely and completely as possible the financial regime of political parties.

By constitutional mandate public financing must prevail over other kinds of financing regulated by law. Party financing is conducted in three ways:

- **T**o support permanent ordinary activities, of which 30% is distributed on an equal basis, and a 70% is distributed according to the percentage of votes obtained by each party.
- **F**or campaign spending, granted only in election year, which must equal the amount granted for ordinary activities.

- **F**or specific activities carried out by parties acting as public interest organizations. This financing is granted according to financial requirements for education, training, research and publishing activities.

Starting in 1993 the law defined four private financing sources: party members, sympathizers, self-financing and financial profits, funds and trusts.

The law mentions explicitly and exhaustively diverse public and private entities, both national and foreign, which are legally forbidden from making contributions or donations. These are the Executive, Legislative and Judicial Branches of the Union, and the states, as well as city councils. Contributions from international organizations and Mexican commercial companies are also prohibited.

In order to ensure equity conditions in the electoral contest, in 1993 new dispositions were incorporated to the electoral legislation, in order to allow the Federal Electoral Institute to establish ceilings on campaign spending for political parties, coalitions and candidates during campaigns for Presidential, senators and Lower Chamber elections.

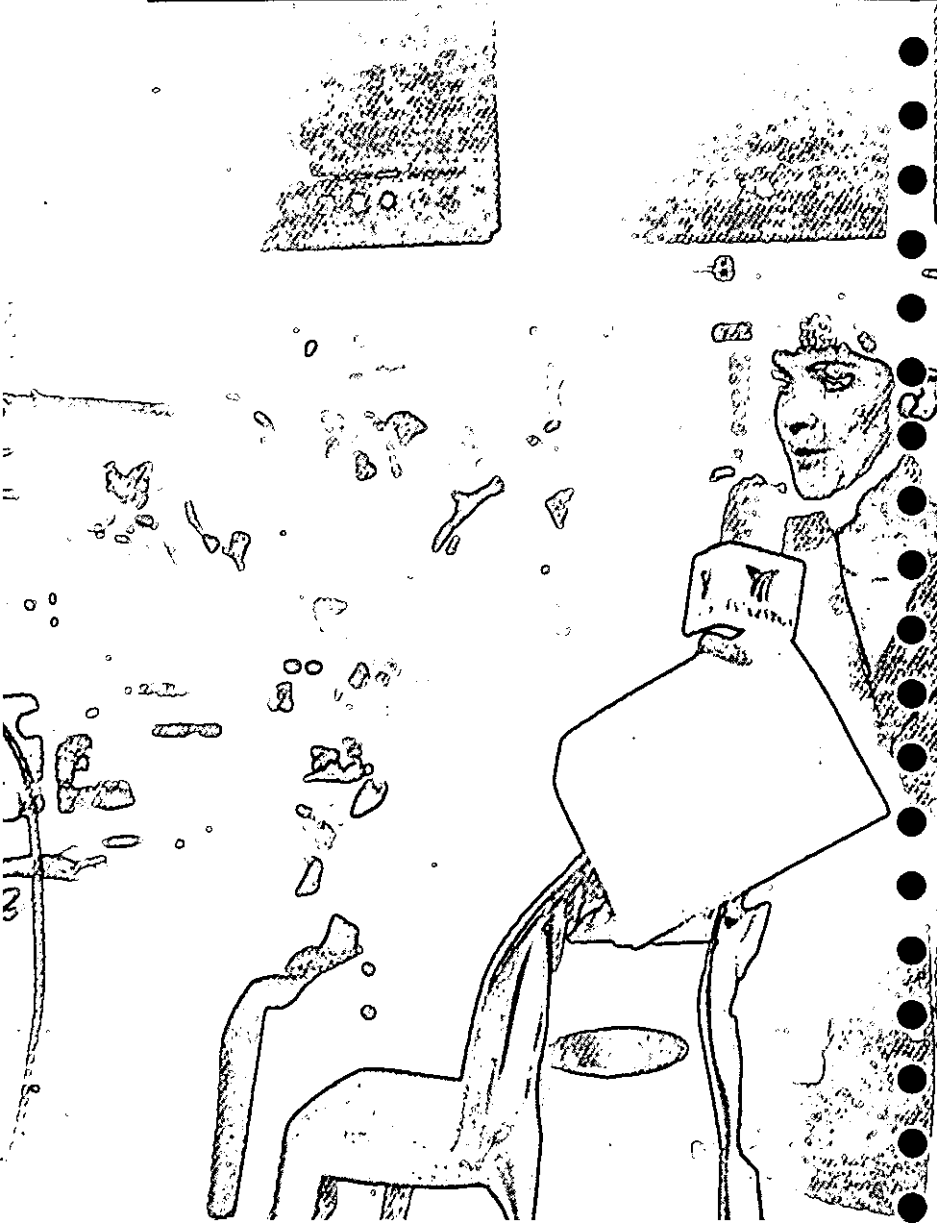
It is a faculty of the Federal Electoral Institute's General Council to agree upon and approve campaign-spending ceilings to be applied in all federal elections.

All parties must have an internal body responsible for presenting annual and campaign reports on the origin, amount, destination and application of resources coming from any financing source.

Electoral legislation classifies accurately the kind of administrative offenses and irregularities that a political party can commit, specially those related to its financial regime. The Federal Electoral Institute's General Council can apply sanctions foreseen by law when these offenses occur, taking into account the context and extent of the offense.

For the election of the year 2000, the General Council has established a limit of 491.8 million pesos (about 49 million dollars) as a maximum ceiling for campaign spending for the presidential election, and 738,000 pesos (about 73,000 dollars) for the election of members of the Upper and Lower Chambers by relative majority.

ACCESS TO MASS MEDIA





In order to guarantee that all political parties will be able to disseminate their programs and electoral platforms to the public, in 1973 their right to free air time on radio and television during electoral periods was acknowledged, by providing them with official broadcasting time belonging to the state.

Starting in 1987, the right to free time on radio and television acquired a permanent character, and not only during electoral periods. 15 minutes of broadcasting per month were thus granted to each political party.

Regardless of the 15 minutes per month available to them free of charge, political parties also have the right to additional free time during electoral campaigns in order for them to disseminate information about their candidatures.

This additional time comprises not only the assignation of up to 250 hours of broadcasting on radio and 200 on television for the election of President of the Republic (reducing to half this time during legislative elections), but also the monthly acquisition of up to 10 thousand spots on radio and 400 on television, 20 seconds each, on the part of the Federal Electoral Institute.

30% of additional time is distributed on an equal basis, and 70% proportionally to their electoral strength.

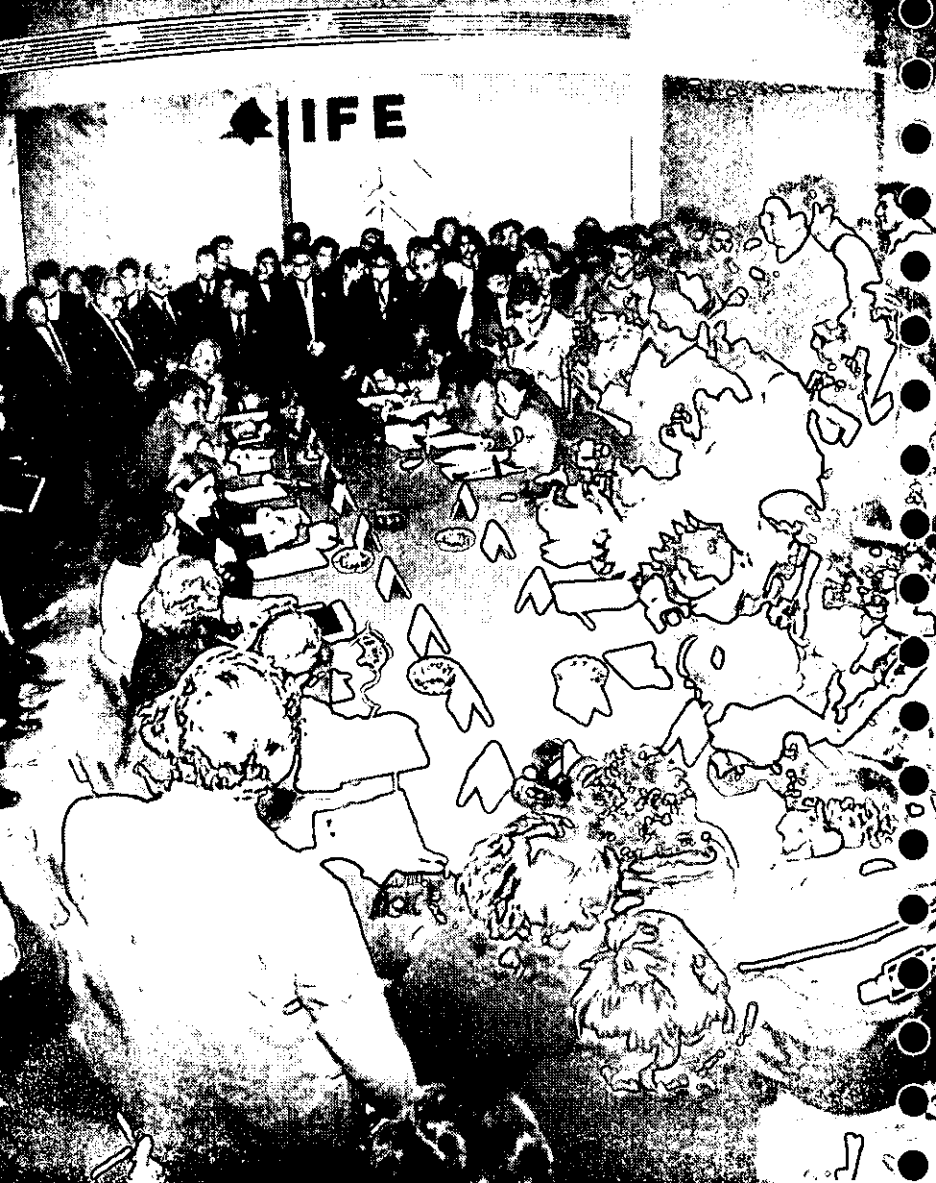
The law acknowledges the exclusive right of political parties to pay for commercial time on radio and television during electoral periods, and it also contains dispositions oriented to guaranteeing conditions of equality. Under no circumstance will third parties be allowed to acquire propaganda for or against any political parties.

The Federal Electoral Institute is able to suggest to the National Chamber of Radio and Television Industry general principles deemed convenient to be applied in news programs regarding information or dissemination of political parties' campaign activities.

The law acknowledges the possibility of parties, candidates and coalitions to clarify

information presented by the mass media during electoral campaigns, when they consider that the media has misrepresented facts or situations because of their personal activities or characteristics.

CANDIDATE AND CAMPAIGN REGISTRY





It is an exclusive right of national political parties and, in certain cases, of properly formalized coalitions to nominate and apply for candidate registration.

In the federal electoral process of the year 2000, political parties and coalitions have the following deadlines to apply for their candidates' registration:

- **F**or President of the Republic from 1st to 15th January, 2000 in the General Council.
- **F**or Members of the Upper Chamber by relative majority from 15th to 30th March, in the corresponding local councils.
- **F**or Members of the Lower Chamber by relative majority and Members of the Upper Chamber by

proportional representation from 1st to 15th April, in district councils and before the General Council respectively.

- **F**or Members of the Lower Chamber by proportional representation from the 15th to the 30th April, before the General Council.

As from these deadlines, competent IFE organizations count on 72 hours to meet in order to approve proper candidate registration.

In the case of coalitions, national political parties involved must previously issue a coalition agreement and apply for corresponding registration to IFE's President Councilor, within the terms previewed by the legislation and applicable dispositions.

Coalitions can be formed for every federal post, but in the case of relative majority Lower Chamber members, they should encompass common candidatures at least in 33 out of the 300 electoral districts. In the case of relative majority senators, the same principles apply in at least three of the 32 states in the country.

According to the law, there are total coalitions (with automatic effects on other disputed posts) and partial coalitions (with no effects on other posts). The coalition to nominate a candidate for the Presidency is the strictest of the total ones, because in order to be valid, it must apply to every federal post, i.e., it implies every candidature in the Congress of the Union. This is

precisely the type of the two electoral coalitions formed to take part in the 2000 federal elections.

Partial coalitions are restricted to postulation of candidates to relative majority Lower Chamber seats in 33 to 100 electoral districts. In the case of relative majority senators, the postulation takes place in 3 to 10 states.

Electoral campaigns, which encompass activities that can be performed by political parties, coalitions, and candidates in search of the popular vote, can be initiated at the very moment in which the electoral office decides on the registration of candidatures. In every case, they should conclude three days before the electoral process, i.e., no campaign act can be carried out as of the 29th June 2000.

Campaign acts have no other limit than that established by the rights of third parties—including candidates—and dispositions dictated by authorities for the exercise of the right of meeting and the preservation of public order.

POLLING SITE DIRECTIVE BOARDS



**EL VOTO
ES LIBRE
Y SECRETO**



Polling site directive boards are electoral bodies formed by citizens responsible for respecting and enforcing the freedom and effectiveness of suffrage, guaranteeing vote secrecy and ensuring authenticity in tallying votes during the election.

■ In order for voters to be able to cast their votes close to their home, the law establishes that a minimum of 50 and maximum of 1,500 voters, will correspond to each electoral section (basic cell of territorial division for electoral purposes), and one polling site should be installed per each 750 electors or fraction.

■ If two or more polling sites are required in the same section, generally they must be installed next to each other. If there is not an adequate place to do so, the law

establishes that these be installed in different places according to the concentration and distribution of voters in each section.

Apart from these ordinary polling sites there are extraordinary and special polling sites. When the geographical conditions of a given section make access difficult for all voters to the same booth, extraordinary polling sites can be installed in places of easier access. In order to receive the votes of voters who are temporarily away from the corresponding section, the installation of up to five special sites per each electoral district is permitted.

The polling site directive board is formed by a president, a secretary and two scrutineers, as well as three general substitutes, that is to say, a total of seven members who must be residents of the respective electoral section. They are selected by means of a double lottery prescribed by law, and they are assigned a specific role in the polling site according to their education level, after receiving at least two training courses by the Federal Electoral Institute.

Before the election, the lists containing the exact localization of polling sites to be installed in each section must be published in newspapers once or twice, as well as the name of the members of each polling site directive board. Normally on election day these lists are published once more in the local newspapers of each state.

Each political party or electoral coalition has the right to appoint two regular representatives and one substitute per each polling site. It is expected that for election day on 2nd July 2000, the installation of nearly 115,000 of them throughout the country will be approved.



ELECTORAL OBSERVERS

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CURSO SOBRE TECNICAS DE OBSERVACION ELECTORAL

MEXICO, D.F., 8 Y 9 DE MAYO DE 1997



ELECTORAL OBSERVERS

Considering the citizenry's growing interest in being involved and participating in election-related activities, and consequently in the strengthening of new spaces of participation, the electoral reform of 1993 acknowledges the role of electoral observers.

Due to this, Mexican citizens can participate as observers in the preparation and development of the electoral process, according to the manner and format determined by the Institute's General Council: Observation activities can be carried out in any part of the national territory.

Only timely accredited citizens can actually be electoral observers. Electoral officers are able to grant

accreditation after the observer-to-be has complied with the following requisites:

- **To** turn in an application that has been filled in according to the law. Such application should include a statement assuring that the observer's participation will be based on the principles of impartiality, objectivity, certainty, and legality. They should also be free of either partisan or political ties.
- **The** observer is not allowed to be or to have been a member of national, state, or municipal political party branches, or a candidate for a popular election post within the three years previous to the election.
- **The** observer must attend training, preparation, or information courses given by IFE or the organizations they belong to.

On polling day observers can go to several boards or to the corresponding District Council, thus being able to witness the installation of polling sites, the development of the voting process, the scrutiny and counting of votes, the display of results outside the voting place, the closing of voting places, and the reading of results at the District Council.

In every case, observers must refrain from substituting or preventing electoral officers from exercising their obligations, from proselytizing in favor of any party or candidate, and from proclaiming the triumph of any candidate or political party.

Observers can submit to electoral officers a report on their activities in the terms established by the General Council. In no case should their reports have judicial effects on the electoral process and its results. The General Council approved on 8th September 1999 an Agreement that establishes the guidelines for accreditation and development of electoral observers' activities. For those interested, the deadline to apply for accreditation will be 31st May 2000.

Accredited observers can hold interviews with electoral officers to gather information on electoral institutions and procedures. They can also hold meetings with representatives from political parties, coalitions, and candidates in order to obtain information on political organizations, as well as statutes and documents regarding the electoral process. This information should be previously applied for in writing and will be handed out provided that it is available and accessible.

INTERNATIONAL VISITORS





INTERNATIONAL VISITORS

Due to the evident and growing interest of different international sectors in learning about the organization and development of Mexican electoral processes, a legal reform adopted in May 1994 allowed the possibility of foreigners being invited and accredited in order to know about and gather information on federal electoral processes. Therefore, the electoral law allows IFE's General Council to decide on this matter and to establish bases and criteria related to their invitation, accreditation, and activities.

On two previous occasions, in 1994 and 1997, the General Council exercised its attribution and approved a corresponding agreement. For the 1994 elections, accreditation applications turned in by 943 foreigners

coming from 34 countries were approved. For the 1997 elections, 398 applications coming from 30 countries were approved.

As for the 2000 electoral process, the General Council approved, on the 8th September 1999, the agreement establishing bases and criteria to receive and inform international visitors interested in attending the 2000 federal election, and determined that the corresponding notice be published as soon as possible. Thus, people interested in applying for accreditation and knowing about the process from the beginning would be allowed to participate.

The deadline to turn in applications is the 21st June 2000. Both, the notice and the application formats are to be collected at IFE central and local offices and at Mexican embassies and consulates. Those interested have also got the possibility of obtaining them on the World Wide Web, for they are available on the IFE web page: (www.ife.org.mx).

Apart from IFE's General Council, national political parties and groups, as well as electoral coalitions, observers' organizations and every civil association specialized or interested in the matter can spread the notice and invite foreigners that comply with the requisites established by the General Council.

Accredited international visitors can gather information on the 2000 electoral processes at any stage and anywhere in the country. They can also hold

interviews or information meetings with officers from IFE in central, local, and district offices. National political parties and groups as well as electoral organizations can express their ideas and provide pertinent information to those who might be interested.

During their stay in the country and the development of their activities, international visitors must observe Mexican laws and legal dispositions at all times.

**POLLING DAY AND
PRELIMINARY RESULTS**





**POLLING DAY AND
PRELIMINARY RESULTS**

According to the law, polling day for the year 2000 will be July 2nd. At 8 am, polling officers should proceed to the installation of the voting booth in presence of political party representatives, who may ask the officers to sign or seal the ballots. The law foresees different hypotheses and applicable mechanisms in order to guarantee that polling sites count on officials who properly receive votes and who will carry out their functions until closing time.

Once the polling day record has been filled in, the chairman must announce the beginning of voting, which can only be called off in case of emergency. Voters must vote in order before polling site officers. It is necessary for voters to have and show their photo voting card.

Voters who cannot read or are physically disabled will have to be assisted by a trustworthy person of their acquaintance. Once the voter has marked his/her ballots and has deposited them in the ballot box, the polling site secretary will register the vote on the corresponding voters' list, mark the voter's card, and stain his/her right thumb with indelible liquid.

It is the chairman's duty to preserve the order, to ensure free access to voters, and to always guarantee secrecy of vote. In order to do this, assistance from security forces can be solicited. Political party representatives can hand in documents to the officials in case there is an incident that constitutes an infraction to what has been stated in the electoral law.

Voting concludes at 6 pm, but the voting site can be closed earlier if every voter included on the roll has already exercised their right to vote, or it can be closed later whenever there are voters in line still waiting to vote.

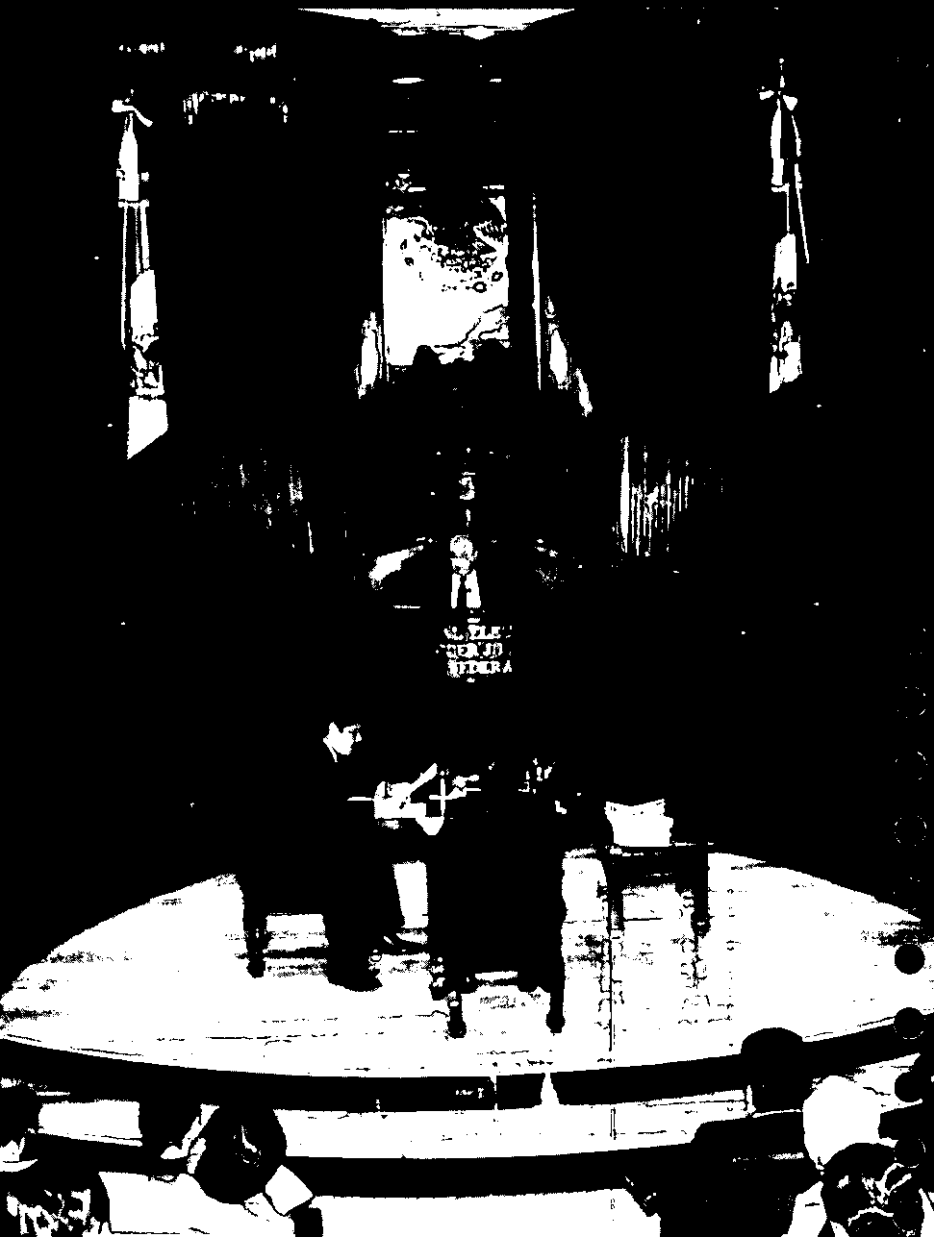
The public opinion, the political parties, and the very candidates have different ways of knowing about preliminary results on the very same polling day. The first significant moment comes shortly after the closing of each polling site, for the law states that once the counting of votes has concluded, the chairman of each polling site must display the results of each election on a visible spot outside the corresponding polling site.

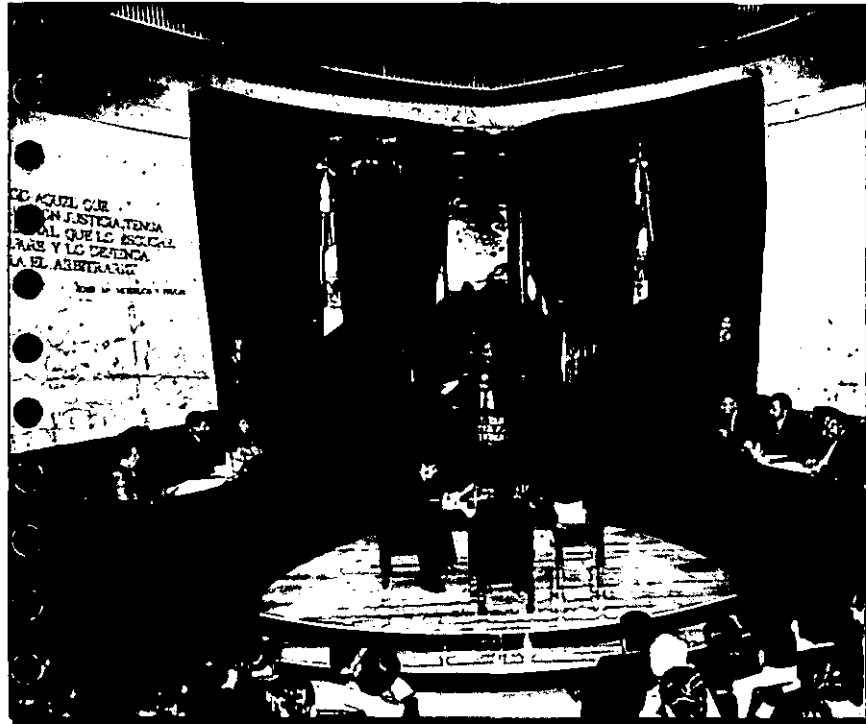
In order for the preliminary results to be available nationwide as soon as possible, the law states that the Secretary Executive of the Federal Electoral Institute should establish a mechanism for their collection and immediate dissemination at the General Council. This is the Preliminary Electoral Results Program, which can be permanently consulted by Councilors and representatives from political parties accredited by the General Council, as it happened in 1997.

For the next federal election it has been foreseen that preliminary results are to be disseminated publicly and directly at the same time as they are received at the central level.

Moreover, the law allows the President of the General Council to ordain, by previous agreement with the Council itself, the publication of pertinent studies or procedures in order to know electoral tendencies on polling day. The results can only be made public when the Institute approves it.

ELECTORAL JUSTICE





Parallel to development, strengthening and updating of electoral organization and procedures, a complete system of resources has been established to resolve controversies on electoral matters and reinforce control on the rule of the Constitution and the law regarding actions and decisions of electoral authorities. The 1996 constitutional and legal reform reported especially meaningful advances and innovations in the matter, such as the creation of the General Law on the System of Challenge Mechanisms for Electoral Matters.

The Electoral Tribunal with federal competence (known as the Federal Electoral Tribunal before the 1996 electoral reform) is now part of the Judicial Branch of the Federation as a specialized body. It is constituted as

the highest judicial authority on electoral matters, with the exception of actions of non-compliance with the Constitution, which are reserved for the Supreme Court of Justice of the Nation.

The Electoral Tribunal is endowed with the following unappealable responsibilities:

- **F**ederal elections for Upper and Lower Chamber.
- **E**lection for President of the United Mexican States, which must be solved in the last instance by the Superior Court of the Electoral Tribunal.
- **A**ctions and resolutions of the federal electoral authority which violate constitutional or legal rules.
- **F**inal and firm actions or decisions of authorities in the states which are in charge of organizing or qualifying elections, or electoral controversies that can affect the development of the election or the final results, as well as the corresponding retributions when these are possible, materially and judicially speaking.
- **A**ctions and decisions violating political-electoral rights of citizens to vote, to be candidates, and to freely and peacefully participate in the country's political affairs.
- **L**abor conflicts or differences originated between the Electoral Tribunal and its employees, and between the Federal Electoral Institute and its employees.
- **D**etermining and applying sanctions on electoral matters.

The Electoral Tribunal is formed by a Superior Court and Regional Courts, and its sessions are public according to the law. The Superior Court is formed by seven Electoral Magistrates, and the President of the Tribunal is elected among the Superior Court members for a four-year term.

Electoral Magistrates in the Superior Court and the Regional Courts are elected by a two-thirds vote of the Senate, after their candidature has been presented by the Supreme Court of Justice of the Nation.

Federal Electoral Process Mexico 2000, is a publication of the Federal Electoral Institute. The preparation and revision of the text were in charge of the International Affairs Unit. The responsibility for the design and elaboration of the edition rests upon the Secretary's office at the Executive Secretariat of the Federal Electoral Institute. 2,000 copies were printed plus extra copies for replacement.
Printed in March 2000.

ID #: _____
Country Mexico
Year 2000 Language English
Copyright(~~IFES~~/Other) Intended Audience(Adult/~~YA~~)
Election type all
Material type Electoral Guide
Notes overview of Mexico's
Electoral Process.

ID #: _____
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Year 2000 Language English
Copyright (IFES/Other) Intended Audience (Adult/~~YA~~)
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Electoral Process.

**NEW
DOCUMENT**

**BASES AND CRITERIA
TO RECEIVE AND
INFORM INTERNATIONAL
VISITORS INTERESTED IN
ATTENDING THE 2000
MEXICAN FEDERAL
ELECTORAL PROCESS**



**BASES AND CRITERIA
TO RECEIVE AND
INFORM INTERNATIONAL
VISITORS INTERESTED IN
ATTENDING THE 2000
MEXICAN FEDERAL
ELECTORAL PROCESS**

2000

MEXICO

AGREEMENT OF THE FEDERAL ELECTORAL
INSTITUTE GENERAL COUNCIL
ESTABLISHING BASES AND
CRITERIA TO RECEIVE
AND INFORM INTERNATIONAL
VISITORS INTERESTED IN
ATTENDING THE 2000 MEXICAN
FEDERAL ELECTORAL PROCESS

CONSIDERING

1. That the responsibility for establishing the bases and criteria to receive and inform international visitors attending the federal electoral process at any of its stages rests upon the Federal Electoral Institute's General Council.
2. That the Federal Electoral Institute values the interest of international institutions and organizations in timely learning the details of the federal electoral process of the year 2000 in Mexico during its organization and development.
3. That the Federal Electoral Institute is interested in maintaining an information channel on the federal electoral process, in order to keep informed all

members of the international community interested in the 2000 federal election about the facilities and required information for a deeper knowledge and detailed study of the aforesaid process.

4. That in accordance with a reciprocity and courtesy guideline among foreign colleagues and international institutions, which share cooperation and friendship links, the Federal Electoral Institute wishes to invite them to come to our country and inform themselves about the federal electoral process in the year 2000, as invited international visitors.
5. That the "Declaration on the Rights and Duties of Individuals, Groups, and Institutions to Promote and Protect Human Rights and Universally Acknowledged Fundamental Freedoms" was ratified by the United Nations in order to acknowledge each person's right, individually or collectively, to promote and enhance human rights and basic privileges in both national and international backgrounds.
6. That in order to establish a context of certainty and security for activities carried out by international visitors attending the 2000 federal electoral process, with the purpose of knowing and being informed, it is convenient to develop a series of rules to specify and facilitate their activities.
7. That the agreement dealing with bases and criteria to attend to and inform international visitors interested in the federal electoral process of the year 2000, approved by the General Council on 8th September 1999, was challenged by the Institutional Revolutionary Party by means of an act of appealing issued on 14th September 1999.

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8. That, in exercising the attribution that the Political Constitution of the United Mexican States, the Organizational Law of the Judicial Branch of the Federation, and the General Law of the Act of Challenge System bestow upon it, the Superior Court of the Electoral Tribunal of the Judicial Branch of the Federation issued the sentence corresponding to the act of appealing referred to in a public resolution session held on 6th December 1999.

 9. That the aforesaid sentence states the following: "The General Council of the Federal Electoral Institute is obliged to issue a new agreement in which bases and criteria to attend to and inform international visitors interested in the federal electoral process of the year 2000 are established. It must also establish administrative sanctions in case of violations to the agreement and to the electoral law, as well as the procedures for its observation."

According to the aforesaid considerations, and taking into account articles 1, 33, and 41 of the Political Constitution of the United Mexican States, and 68, 69, 70, 73, 82 paragraph 1, letter w), 86, paragraph 1, letter l), and 267 of the Federal Code of Electoral Institutions and Procedures, and considering the authority conferred by article 82, paragraph 2 of the same code, the Federal Electoral Institute General Council issues the following:

AGREEMENT

First.- The following bases and criteria to welcome and inform international visitors attending any stage of the 2000 Mexican federal electoral process are established as follows:

First basis

1. An international visitor is any foreign individual interested in attending the federal elections of the year 2000 at any of its stages, having been duly accredited by the Commission of International Affairs of the Federal Electoral Institute General Council, according to the present bases and criteria.

Second basis

1. The Federal Electoral Institute will issue, as soon as this agreement has been officially published, a notice addressed to the international community in general, so that foreigners interested in the 2000 Mexican federal electoral process can obtain their accreditation as international visitors in due time.
2. The notice will be addressed exclusively to foreign figures who are recognized by their prestige, contributions to peace, cooperation or international development; their humanist, scientific or technological contributions; or their political-electoral or human rights expertise, as well as to representatives of:
 - A. International organizations.
 - B. Continental or regional organizations.
 - C. Legislative bodies from other countries.

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- D. Other countries' governments.
 - E. Bodies endowed with electoral authority from other countries.
 - F. Political organizations and parties from other countries.
 - G. Higher education, research and academic institutions from other countries.
 - H. Foreign organizations specialized in activities of electoral cooperation or assistance.
 - I. Private organizations or non-governmental organizations which carry out specialized activities related to political electoral issues or to the defense and promotion of human rights.
3. The Federal Electoral Institute will ask for the support of the different agencies of the Mexican government in order to distribute the notice mentioned in paragraph 1 of this article, on national and international levels. Government offices will also be asked to help and facilitate the entry and freedom of transit of all those international visitors accredited as such into the country.
 4. National political parties and national political groups, as well as electoral alliances, observation organizations, and all Mexican civil institutions and associations specialized or interested in the matter will be able to distribute the notice and invite international professionals fulfilling the requirements established in the present bases and criteria.

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5. According to prevailing international agreements and practices in the matter, as well as to those international technical cooperation agreements devised by the Institute, the Presidency of the General Council can communicate the notice to professionals—to electoral organizations in other countries, as well as to representatives from international organizations with whom the institute maintains cooperation links—to fill in their application in order to be accredited as international visitors.

Third basis

1. The deadline that interested international professionals will have in order to submit their international visitor applications to the President of the Federal Electoral Institute's General Council will be June 21, 2000.
2. For such purpose, interested international professionals will individually obtain a special application form enclosed in the notice that will be available at the offices of the Executive Secretariat, at the individual offices of the 32 Local Councils of the Federal Electoral Institute, and on the world wide web page of the Federal Electoral Institute. Moreover, the institute will request the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to have the mentioned form at hand in Mexican embassies and consulates around the world for professionals interested in diplomatic delegations.

Fourth basis

1. In order to be accredited by the Federal Electoral Institute, applicants must meet the following requirements:

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- A. Acknowledged integrity and prestige in any activity related to political and/or electoral activities, or the promotion and defense of human rights.
 - B. Non-lucrative purposes.
 - C. Full legal identification while representing an organization or institution.
 - D. To submit before 21st June, 2000 an individually accredited application to the Presidency of the Federal Electoral Institute's General Council, and to enclose the requested documentation.

Fifth basis

1. The Commission of International Affairs of the General Council will ponder, within 30 natural days after the presentation, every accreditation application received on time, and will conveniently inform the General Council.
2. The Executive Secretariat will issue the corresponding accreditation badges and will establish the most adequate process for their notification and submittance.

Sixth basis

1. International visitors will be able to carry out their activities and obtain information about the development of the 2000 Mexican federal electoral process at any stage or in any location throughout the country.
2. Having the purpose of gathering background information about federal electoral laws, institutions,

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- and procedures, accredited international visitors can request through the International Affairs Office informative interviews or meetings with officials from the Federal Electoral Institute on a national level. In other states, international visitors can obtain information through president councilors from local and regional councils, who will receive application forms, will solve relevant issues and in no more than a five-day-long period will inform the President Councilor of the General Council.
3. National political parties and national political groups, as well as electoral alliances, can inform international visitors about their electoral process platforms, and provide them with proper printed documentation on the electoral process or their political organization's outlook.

Seventh basis

During their stay in the country and in complying with their activities, accredited international visitors must fulfill the following duties:

1. Not to interfere in any way with activities of the electoral authority, political parties or their candidates, Mexican citizens, and any political affair of the country.
2. At all times and under all circumstances, to comply with Mexican law and other legal dispositions applicable during their stay in the country.

Eighth Basis

1. Depending on availability, the Executive Secretariat will provide the necessary general support so that registered international visitors are able to

adequately perform activities named in the sixth basis, keeping the General Council informed about such activities.

2. The Federal Electoral Institute will design and adopt, through the International Affairs Office, an informative guidance program to assist registered international visitors.
3. Registered international visitors are responsible for their expenses regarding transportation, sojourn, and activities in Mexico.

Ninth Basis

1. The Federal Electoral Institute will notice any suspected infringement to the obligations established in this agreement and to the Federal Electoral Legislation, on the part of accredited international visitors.
2. In case of counting on proof about suspected infringements, the Executive Secretary of the Federal Electoral Institute will notify those who might be responsible and will grant them a period of five days, as of the day after the notification, to submit documents or relevant proof for their defense. Within ten days after such deadline, the General Executive Board will hold a meeting to know and approve the corresponding sentence and resolution project, and will submit them to the consideration of the General Council at a subsequent session.
3. International visitors that might infringe any of the obligations established in this agreement and in the Federal Electoral Legislation, will be either penalized or deprived of their accreditation.

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4. According to the previous considerations and to what has been stated in article 267 of the Federal Code of Electoral Institutions and Procedures, the Federal Electoral Institute through the Executive Secretariat will take proper measures and inform respective authorities about duly registered infringements committed by international visitors in order to adopt appropriate measures.

Second.- The present agreement is to be published in the official gazette of the federation.

The present agreement was approved at an ordinary session of the General Council on 17th December, 1999.

TO EVERY FOREIGN INDIVIDUAL
OR CORPORATION INTERESTED
IN BECOMING ACQUAINTED
WITH THE 2000
MEXICAN FEDERAL
ELECTORAL PROCESS

NOTICE

The General Council, the highest governing body of the Federal Electoral Institute, a public, autonomous, and permanent institution, independent regarding its decisions and functions, with juridical status and patrimony of its own, endowed with electoral authority and responsibility for organizing the Mexican federal elections, in exercising the authority conferred by article 82, paragraph 2 of the Federal Code of Electoral Institutions and Procedures, and according to the 2nd basis of the Agreement of the Federal Electoral Institute's General Council, which establishes the bases and criteria to welcome and inform international visitors interested in attending the 2000 Mexican federal electoral process, issues the present notice according to the following:

BASES

I. GENERAL BASES

1. The present notice is addressed to international figures recognized for their prestige, contributions to peace, cooperation or international development; for their heir humanist, scientific or technological contributions; or for their political-electoral or human rights expertise, as well as to representatives of:
 - a. International organizations.
 - b. Continental or regional organizations.
 - c. Legislative bodies from other countries.
 - d. Other countries' governments.
 - e. Bodies endowed with electoral authority from other countries.
 - f. Parties and political organizations from other countries.
 - g. Higher education, research and academic institutions from other countries.
 - h. International organizations specialized in activities of electoral cooperation or assistance.
 - i. International private organizations or non-governmental organizations which carry out activities related to political electoral issues or to the defense and promotion of human rights.

-
2. International visitors may attend the 2000 Mexican electoral process at any stage or obtain information on it in any location throughout the country.
 3. The deadline for Interested international professionals to submit their international visitor application to the President of the Federal Electoral Institute's General Council will be 21st June, 2000.
 4. Application forms can be personally turned in at Mexican embassies and consulates, or via fax to IFE's International Affairs Office at (525) 6-55-64-02 or (525)6-55-70-12 in Mexico City. In case an international visitor is interested in sending his/her application form via electronic mail, including his/her autographic signature, he/she can mail the application to joseluis@ife.org.mx
 5. Application forms are available from the Executive Secretariat of the Federal Electoral Institute at Viaducto Tlalpan 100, esq. Periférico Sur, Col. Arenal Tepepan, Delegación Tlalpan, Distrito Federal, C.P. 14610, Mexico, the individual offices of the Local Councils of the Federal Electoral Institute in the states throughout Mexico, in Mexican embassies and consulates abroad, and on IFE's world wide web page <http://www.ife.org.mx>
 6. In order to be accredited by the Federal Electoral Institute, applicants must meet the following requirements:
 - a. Recognized integrity and prestige in any activity related to political and/or electoral activities, or to the promotion and defense of human rights.
 - b. Non-lucrative purposes.

-
- c. To display a legal identification while representing an organization or institution.
 - d. To submit before 21st June 2000, an individual accredited application to the Presidency of the Federal Electoral Institute's General Council. Such application will have to be filled in by the individual, who must also enclose all requested documents.
7. The Commission of International Affairs of the General Council will ponder, within 30 natural days after the presentation, every accreditation application received in due time.
 8. Applicants will be notified about the result of their application in due time through notification from the Institute's Executive Secretary. Accreditation notifications will be sent via fax or electronic mail to the telephone numbers and addresses applicants will specify in their application forms.
 9. Once the applicant has the formal notification of his/her accreditation, he/she will have to fulfill the required immigrating formalities at the Mexican consulate nearest to his/her residence, or at any office of the National Institute for Immigration throughout the country.
 10. Once the latter formalities are fulfilled, and before Saturday 1st July 2000, registered international visitors will collect their official badges at a special stand at the Federal Electoral Institute. Such badges will identify them as such and will also facilitate their activities during the election process.
 11. The Institute's Executive Secretariat will conveniently inform the General Council, the Superior Court of the Electoral Tribunal of the Judicial Branch of the

Federation and other organizations from the Federal Electoral Institute about the characteristics.

12. National political groups and political parties; as well as electoral alliances, observation organizations, and all Mexican civil institutions and associations specialized on or interested in the matter, will be able to distribute the present notice and invite international professionals fulfilling the requirements established in the bases and criteria approved by the General Council.

II. ACTIVITIES THAT INTERNATIONAL VISITORS WILL BE ABLE TO DEVELOP

1. International visitors will be able to know and to obtain information about the development of the 2000 federal electoral process, in any of its stages and throughout the country.
2. Having the purpose of gathering background information about federal electoral laws, institutions and procedures, accredited international visitors can request through the International Affairs Office informative interviews or meetings with officials from the Federal Electoral Institute on a national level. In other states international visitors can obtain information through president councilors from local and regional councils, who will receive application forms, will solve leading issues and in no more than a five-day-long period will inform the President Councilor of the General Council.
3. National political parties and national political groups, as well as electoral alliances, can inform international visitors about their electoral process platforms and provide them with proper printed documentation about

the electoral process or the outlook of their political organization.

4. Depending on availability, the Executive Secretariat will provide the necessary general support so that registered international visitors will be able to adequately perform activities named in previous paragraphs, keeping the General Council informed about such activities.

III. INTERNATIONAL VISITORS' OBLIGATIONS

During their stay in the country and in developing their activities, accredited international visitors must fulfill the following duties:

1. Not to interfere in any way with activities of the electoral authority, political parties or their candidates, Mexican citizens or with any political affair of the country.
2. At all times and under all circumstances to comply with Mexican law and other legal dispositions applicable during their stay in the country.
3. In case of infringements to any of the obligations established in this notice, in the Agreement issued on 17th December 1999 by the General Council of the Federal Electoral Institute, or in the federal electoral legislation, accredited international visitors will be subject to what has been stated in Basis 9 of the aforesaid Agreement.

**IV. ANY ISSUE NOT CONSIDERED IN THE
PRESENT NOTICE WILL BE DULY RESOLVED
BY THE GENERAL COUNCIL'S COMMISSION
OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS OF THE
FEDERAL ELECTORAL INSTITUTE**

Mexico City, 17th December 1999

**THE PRESIDENT COUNCILOR OF THE
GENERAL COUNCIL**

JOSÉ WOLDENBERG KARAKOWSKY

**THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE
FEDERAL ELECTORAL INSTITUTE**

FERNANDO ZERTUCHE MUÑOZ

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Printed in March 2000.

