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**TRILATERAL CONFERENCE ON
ELECTORAL SYSTEMS CANADA,
UNITED STATES AND MEXICO**

**ORGANIZATION OF THE MEXICAN
ELECTORAL SYSTEM: CURRENT STRUCTURE,
POWERS AND IMMEDIATE ACTIVITIES**

*F. Clifton White Resource Center
International Foundation
for Election Systems
1101 15th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005*

**Felipe Solís Acero
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PRESENTATION.

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN PREPARED TO BE PRESENTED AT THE "TRILATERAL CONFERENCE ON ELECTORAL SYSTEMS: CANADA, THE UNITED STATES AND MEXICO", TO BE HELD ON APRIL 6, 7 & 8, 1994, AT THE FACILITIES OF THE FEDERAL ELECTORAL INSTITUTE. HEREIN, THE NATURE, STRUCTURE, POWERS AND IMMEDIATE ACTIVITIES OF THE MEXICAN ELECTORAL ORGANIZATION ARE DESCRIBED IN A CONCISE MANNER.

THE TASKS OF THE OF EXECUTIVE BOARD OF ELECTORAL ORGANIZATION ARE DETAILED IN PARTICULAR, BEING AS IT IS THE KEY DEPARTMENT WITHIN THE IFE, RESPONSIBLE FOR SUPPORTING THE CORRECT INTEGRATION OF THE INSTITUTE'S DECENTRALIZED BODIES AND COORDINATE THEIR ACTIVITIES.

LIKewise , THERE IS SOME STATISTICAL DATA WITHIN THIS DOCUMENT WHICH SEEKS TO GIVE GREATER ELEMENTS OF ANALYSIS TO FACILITATE THE STUDY AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE MEXICAN ELECTORAL SYSTEM AND THE MANNER IN WHICH ELECTIONS ARE ORGANIZED IN OUR COUNTRY.

I. FEDERAL ELECTORAL INSTITUTE: CENTRAL BODIES.

IN MEXICO, IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 41 OF THE GENERAL CONSTITUTION OF THE REPUBLIC, THE ORGANIZATION OF FEDERAL ELECTIONS CORRESPONDS TO THE STATE AND IS CARRIED OUT BY THE LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE POWERS OF THE UNION, WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF THE NATIONAL POLITICAL PARTIES AND THE CITIZENS, UNDER THE TERMS SET FORTH BY THE LAW.

THIS FUNCTION IS CARRIED OUT THROUGH A PUBLIC BODY WHICH, UNDER THE TERMS OF THE AFOREMENTIONED PRECEPT, IS GRANTED THE LEGAL CAPACITY, ITS OWN PATRIMONY AND IS OF A PERMANENT CHARACTER, BEING THE ELECTORAL AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBLE FOR ORGANIZING FEDERAL ELECTIONS. WITHIN OUR LEGAL FRAMEWORK. SAID BODY HAS ACQUIRED THE NAME: THE FEDERAL ELECTORAL INSTITUTE OR, THE IFE.

THE INSTITUTIONS AND ELECTORAL PROCEDURES FEDERAL CODE HAS ASSIGNED SAID INSTITUTE THE MAIN OBJECTIVES OF CONTRIBUTING TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF DEMOCRATIC LIFE; PRESERVING THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE POLITICAL PARTIES REGIME; INTEGRATING THE FEDERAL ELCTORAL REGISTRY; ENSURING THE POLITICAL AND ELECTORAL RIGHTS OF CITIZENS; GUARANTEERING PERIODIC AND PACIFIC ELECTIONS; GUARDING THE AUTHENTICITY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE VOTE; AND, CONTRIBUTING TO PROMOTE AND DIVULGE THE POLITICAL CULTURE.

IN ORDER TO COMPLY WITH THE AFOREMENTIONED, THE INSTITUTE HAS AN ORGANIC STRUCTURE WHICH IS BASED UPON THE PRINCIPLE OF DECENTRALIZATION. UNDER THIS SCHEME IT HAS CENTRAL BODIES WHICH ARE PERMANENT, SUCH AS: THE GENERAL COUNCIL, THE GENERAL EXECUTIVE BOARD AND THE GENERAL DIRECTORATE. IT ALSO HAS DECENTRALIZED BODIES FORMED BY EXECUTIVE BOARDS AND LOCAL AND DISTRICT COUNCILS.

THROUGH DIRECT PROVISION OF THE LAW, THE GENERAL COUNCIL IS THE SUPREME STEERING BODY OF THE INSTITUTE AND IT IS INTEGRATED BY THE FOLLOWING: A COUNCILLOR FROM THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH WHO IS THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR; FOUR FROM THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH, TWO FROM THE CHAMBER OF DIPUTADOS AND TWO FROM THE CHAMBER OF SENATORS. FOR EACH CHAMBER, THE PARLAMENTARY GROUP HAVING THE MAJORITY, DESIGNATES ONE AND THE SECOND IS PROPOSED BY THE FIRST MINORITY GROUP; SIX MAGISTRATE COUNCILLORS AND, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE POLITICAL PARTIES PROPORTIONALLY ACCREDITED BY THEIR ELECTORAL STANDING.

FOR THE ELECTION OF THE MAGISTRATE COUNCILLORS, CURRENT LAW STIPULATES A PROVISION UNDER WHICH THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC SUBMITS A LIST OF CANDIDATES TO THE CHAMBER OF DIPUTADOS OF AT LEAST DOUBLE THE NUMBER OF THE SIX REQUIRED. THESE OFFICIALS ARE ELECTED INDIVIDUALLY BY THE VOTE OF TWO THIRDS OF THE ATTENDING MEMBERS AND SHOULD THIS QUALIFIED MAJORITY NOT BE REACHED, THE CHAMBER VOTES BY BALLOT ON THOSE THAT MIGHT REMAIN.

THESE OFFICIALS ARE IN OFFICE FOR EIGHT YEARS AND MAY BE RATIFIED WITH A PROPOSAL FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC. IN ORDER TO BE ELIGIBLE, THEY MUST MEET REQUIREMENTS SIMILAR TO

THOSE CALLED FOR BY THE CONSTITUTION FOR THE POSITION OF MINISTER OF THE SUPREME COURT OF JUSTICE. ANOTHER REQUIREMENT IS THAT THEY HAVE NOT HELD A LEADING POSITION IN ONE OF THE POLITICAL PARTIES WITHIN THE PAST FIVE YEARS; THIS PROVISION IS TO GUARANTEE THE OBJECTIVITY AND IMPARTIALITY OF THE MAGISTRATE COUNCILORS.

REGARDING THIS IMPORTANT FIGURE, THE HONORABLE CONGRESS OF THE UNION RECENTLY APPROVED A DECREE BY WHICH ARTICLE 41 OF THE CONSTITUTION HAS BEEN AMENDED, INCORPORATING IMPORTANT INNOVATIONS. IT CHANGES THEIR DENOMINATION TO CITIZEN COUNCILLORS AND ESTABLISHES THAT THEY NOW BE DESIGNATED THROUGH A PROPOSAL MADE BY THE PARLAMENTARY GROUPS WITHIN THE CHAMBER, INSTEAD OF BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC. CURRENTLY, THIS DECREE IS BEING REVIEWED BY THE LOCAL LEGISLATURES OF THE FEDERAL ENTITIES, IN ACCORDANCE WITH MEXICAN PROCEDURES FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS.

IN THIS SENSE, IT IS FORESEEABLE THAT THE LEGISLATOR, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE AFOREMENTIONED AMENDMENTS AND THE ADAPTATIONS TO THE SECONDARY LAW, WILL HAVE THE MEANS TO DESIGNATE THE CITIZEN COUNCILLORS AND TO MODIFY THE REQUIREMENTS THEY HAVE TO COMPLY WITH IN ORDER TO HOLD THOSE OFFICES.

AS TO THE REPRESENTATION OF THE POLITICAL PARTIES, THE LAW DICTATES AN ACCREDITATION MECHANISM PROPORTIONAL TO THE ELECTORAL STANDING OF EACH POLITICAL ORGANIZATION. IN THIS WAY, THERE IS ONE REPRESENTATIVE FOR EACH PARTY THAT HAS OBTAINED BETWEEN 1.5% AND 10% OF THE NATIONAL VOTE; A SECOND REPRESENTATIVE FOR THOSE PARTIES WHICH HAVE OBTAINED BETWEEN 10 PERCENT AND 20 PERCENT; A THIRD REPRESENTATIVE FOR THOSE PARTIES WHICH HAVE OBTAINED BETWEEN 20 PERCENT AND 30 PERCENT; AND UP TO A FOURTH REPRESENTATIVE FOR THOSE PARTIES WHICH HAVE OBTAINED MORE THAN 30 PERCENT OF THE VOTE.

REGARDING THIS MATTER, THE LAW STIPULATES THAT THOSE POLITICAL PARTIES HAVING OBTAINED THEIR REGISTRATION PRIOR TO THE LAST ELECTION, MAY ACCREDIT A REPRESENTATIVE BEFORE THE GENERAL COUNCIL THAT WILL HAVE THE RIGHT TO A VOICE BUT NOT A VOTE.

IN THIS REGARD, WE KNOW THAT AT THE DISCUSSION TABLE THAT IN A FEW DAYS WILL BE HELD BY THE PARLIAMENTARY GROUPS OF THE POLITICAL PARTIES AT THE CHAMBER OF DIPUTADOS AND SENATORS, FOR THE PURPOSE OF UP-DATING THE CONTENTS OF THE INSTITUTIONS AND ELECTORAL PROCEDURES FEDERAL CODE, BEFORE THE INSTITUTES SUPREME STEERING BODY, THERE WILL POSSIBLY BE A DISCUSSION REGARDING THE SUPPRESSION OF THE CURRENT PARTY REPRESENTATION ACCREDITATION MECHANISM, TO PROPOSE THE EQUAL ACCREDITATION OF PARTY REPRESENTATIVES, WHICH IS TO SAY ONE PER POLITICAL PARTY. IN ALL CASES, THEY WILL NOT BE GRANTED THE RIGHT TO VOTE.

SHOULD THIS PROPOSAL BE ACCEPTED, THE CURRENT COMPOSITION OF THE STEERING BODIES OF THE FEDERAL ELECTORAL INSTITUTE WOULD BE CONSIDERABLY MODIFIED. THIS WOULD BE A DEFINITE STEP TOWARDS CITIZENPARTICIPATION IN THE GENERAL, LOCAL AND DISTRICT COUNCILS OF THE INSTITUTE BECAUSE THOSE THAT WOULD TAKE VOTES ON THE DECISIONS WOULD BE, PRECISELY, THE CITIZEN COUNCILLORS.

THE GENERAL EXECUTIVE BOARD IS ANOTHER THE HIGH LEVEL CENTRAL BODY BUT WITH AN ADMINISTRATIVE CHARACTER. IT IS PRESIDED BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, A SECRETARY GENERAL AND SIX EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS. UNLIKE THE GENERAL COUNCIL WHICH HAS POLITICAL AND STEERING POWERS, THIS BODY IS CONCERNED WITH THE TECHNICAL AND SUPPORT ASPECTS BOTH DURING ELECTION YEAR AS WELL AS IN THE YEARS BETWEEN.

AT ITS HIGHER LEVEL, THE INSTITUTE ALSO HAS A DIRECTOR GENERAL WHO, IN ORDER TO COORDINATE, MANAGE AND SUPERVISE THE ACTIVITIES OF THE INSTITUTE, ENLISTS THE SUPPORT OF THE SIX EXECUTIVE BOARDS ESTABLISHED IN THE CODE; THESE ARE: THE FEDERAL ELECTORAL REGISTRY; PREROGATIVES AND POLITICAL PARTIES; ELECTORAL ORGANIZATION; PROFESSIONAL ELECTORAL SERVICES; ELECTORAL TRAINING AND CIVIC EDUCATION; AND ADMINISTRATION. THESE EXECUTIVE BOARDS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR CARRYING OUT THEIR OWN ACTIVITIES.

LIKewise, THERE ARE OTHER AREAS WITHIN THE INSTITUTE'S CENTRAL LEVEL WHICH WERE CREATED TO SUPPORT THE COMPLIANCE OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE GENERAL BOARD AND SECRETARIAT. SUCH IS

THE CASE WITH THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT AND THE SECRETARIAT; THE SOCIAL COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT; AND, THE INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND PRELIMINARY RESULTS UNITS.

WITH THIS STRUCTURE THE IFE, IN THE EXERCISE OF THE POWERS GRANTED TO IT BY THE LAW, IS RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING AND UP-DATING THE ROSTER; FOR ALL THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE ELECTION DAY ITSELF; FOR PRINTING AND DISTRIBUTING THE ELECTORAL DOCUMENTS AND MATERIAL; FOR OBTAINING THE PRELIMINARY AND DEFINITE RESULTS FROM THE ELECTION POLLS; FOR DELIVERING THE CERTIFICATES OF MAJORITY AND VALIDITY AND FOR ASSIGNING OF THE DIPUTADOS OF PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION; AS WELL AS FOR ATTENDING TO THE RIGHTS AND PREROGATIVES OF THE POLITICAL PARTIES; AND, FINALLY FOR THE PROMOTION AND DIFFUSION OF THE POLITICAL CULTURE AND CIVIC EDUCATION.

II. THE DECENTRALIZED ELECTORAL ORGANIZATION: PERMANENT AND TRANSITORY BODIES.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERMS ESTABLISHED IN ARTICLE 94 OF THE COPIFE, THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF ELECTORAL ORGANIZATION IS RESPONSIBLE FOR SUPPORTING THE INTEGRATION, INSTALATION AND OPERATION OF THE LOCAL AND DISTRICT EXECUTIVE BOARDS WHICH, AS DECENTRALIZED BODIES, ARE LOCATED AS FOLLOWS: IN THE CASE OF LOCAL BOARDS, THERE IS ONE IN EACH CAPITAL CITY OF THE 32 ENTITIES WHICH COMPRISE THE MEXICAN REPUBLIC, A SITUATION WHICH FOLLOWS THE MECHANISM OF OUR FEDERAL SYSTEM. THE DISTRICT BOARDS ARE LOCATED AT THE DISTRICT SEAT OF EACH ONE OF THE 300 ELECTORAL UNINOMINAL DISTRICTS IN WHICH THE COUNTRY IS DIVIDED, ACCORDING TO OUR ELECTORAL GEOGRAPHY.

THESE BODIES PERFORM THEIR DUTIES ON A PERMANENT BASIS WHICH MEANS THAT THEY DO NOT DISAPPEAR ONCE THE ELECTORAL PROCESS HAS CONCLUDED, RATHER THEY CONTINUE PERFORMING THE ACTIVITIES THAT FORM PART OF THE ANNUALLY DEFINED WORK SCHEDULES AND CONTRIBUTE TO PROMOTE PROFESSIONAL TRAINING AND THE PERFECTING OF THE ELECTORAL PROCESSES. THUS, THIS PERMANENCE CONSTITUTES ONE OF THE FUNDAMENTAL POINTS OF THE MEXICAN ELECTORAL ORGANIZATION AND IS THE CHIEF CHARACTERISTIC GRANTED TO THE DECENTRALIZED BODIES OF THE INSTITUTE BY THE LEGISLATION OF 1990.

TO MEET ITS OBJECTIVES AND BY DIRECT LEGAL PROVISION, THE EXECUTIVE BOARDS ARE INTEGRATED BY FIVE MEMBERS AT LARGE; THE EXECUTIVE, RESPONSIBLE FOR COORDINATING THE DUTIES OF THE BOARDS WHILE ACTING AS ITS HEAD; THE SECRETARY, WHO ASSISTS THE EXECUTIVE IN ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS AS WELL AS THE SUBSTANTIATION AND RESOLUTION OF THE RESOURCES GRANTED TO THEM; THE ELECTORAL ORGANIZATION, RESPONSIBLE FOR CARRYING OUT THE OPERATIVE DUTIES OF THE ELECTORAL PROCESS ITSELF WHICH AMONG OTHER THINGS INCLUDES DETERMINING THE POLL SITES; THE FEDERAL ELECTORAL REGISTRY WHICH ATTENDS TO THE DUTIES RELATED TO UP-DATING THE ROSTER, DELIVERING THE PHOTO-IDENTITY VOTER'S CARD AND ELABORATING THE NOMINAL LISTS OF VOTERS; AND, THE ELECTORAL TRAINING AND CIVIC EDUCATION WHICH IS RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTING THE INSTITUTE'S SCHEDULE OF THESE IMPORTANT DUTIES AND OF FOSTERING POLITICAL CULTURE BESIDES DEVELOPING THE ACTIVITIES RELATED TO TRAINING THE OFFICIALS WHO, DURING ELECTION DAY, INTEGRATE THE POLL BOOTH BOARDS.

WITH THIS STRUCTURE AND AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL, THERE ARE 1,660 MEMBERS AT LARGE; 160 ARE LOCAL AND 1,500 ARE DISTRICT. IT IS WORTHWHILE POINTING OUT THAT AS A DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERISTIC, THESE INDIVIDUALS ARE ALL MEMBERS OF THE PROFESSIONAL ELECTORAL SERVICE AND ARE DESIGNATED TO THEIR RESPECTIVE POSTS BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE INSTITUTE PURSUANT TO THE POWERS GRANTED TO HIM BY THE LAW.

AS ELECTORAL AUTHORITIES, THE EXECUTIVE BOARDS PERFORM IMPORTANT TASKS. AT THE LOCAL LEVEL, THEY ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR EVALUATING THE COMPLIANCE OF THE WORK SCHEDULES BY THE DISTRICT BOARDS WITHIN THEIR RESPECTIVE ENTITIES; INTEGRATING THE PROPOSALS REGARDING INDIVIDUALS THAT MEET THE LEGAL REQUIREMENTS IN ORDER TO BECOME CITIZEN COUNCILLORS WITHIN THE DISTRICT COUNCILS. SAID PROPOSALS ARE PRESENTED FOR THEIR APPROVAL BEFORE THE LOCAL COUNCILS.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MODIFICATIONS INTRODUCED IN THE COPIFE REGARDING ELECTORAL AMENDMENTS APPROVED BY THE HONORABLE CONGRESS OF THE UNION IN SEPTEMBER 1993, THEY ALSO HAVE THE POWER TO DETERMINE THE CEILINGS FOR SENATOR CAMPAIGN BUDGETS AND TO ACCREDIT THOSE CITIZENS WHO WISH TO PARTICIPATE AS OBSERVERS OF THE ELECTORAL PROCESS, FROM APRIL 1 TO AUGUST 5, ACCORDING TO THE RESPECTIVE VALUES AND GUIDELINES AGREED UPON BY THE GENERAL COUNCIL AT MEETINGS HELD ON JANUARY 27 AND FEBRUARY 28, RESPECTIVELY.

AT THE DISTRICT LEVEL, THE EXECUTIVE BOARDS HAVE, AMONG OTHERS, THE POWER TO PROPOSE TO THEIR CORRESPONDING COUNCILS, THE LOCATION OF THE POLL BOOTHS THAT ARE TO BE SET UP ON ELECTION DAY; TO VOTE ON AND TRAIN THOSE CITIZENS FORMING PART OF THE POLL BOARDS; AND, OUTSTANDINGLY, COMING FORTH FROM THE AFOREMENTIONED INNOVATIONS INCORPORATED TO THE RELEVANT CODE, THEY HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED THE RESPONSIBILITY OF DETERMINING THE CAMPAIGN BUDGET CEILINGS OF THE POLITICAL PARTIES REGARDING THE ELECTION OF DIPUTADOS CHOSEN THROUGH THE PRINCIPLE OF RELATIVE MAJORITY AND, IN SUPPORT OF THE LOCAL BOARDS AND BY A DECISION OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL, TO RECEIVE THE PETITIONS PRESENTED BY INTERESTED CITIZENS TO OBTAIN THEIR ACCREDITATION AS ELECTION OBSERVERS.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THERE ARE LOCAL AND DISTRICT COUNCILS THAT ARE FORMED FOR THE ELECTION YEAR WHICH ARE TRANSITORY AND ARE ESTABLISHED ON A PLURAL BASIS AND DISAPPEAR ONCE THE ELECTORAL PROCESS HAS CONCLUDED.

COMING FORTH FROM THE MODIFICATIONS AND ADDITIONS INCORPORATED INTO THE COPIFE WITHIN THE SPHERE OF THE AFOREMENTIONED AMENDMENT, THE COUNCILS INCLUDE TWO MEMBERS AT LARGE FROM THE BOARD; THE EXECUTIVE WHO PRESIDES OVER IT AND THE SECRETARY, BOTH OF WHOM HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOICE AND VOTE; NINE CITIZEN COUNCILLORS WITH THE EXCEPTION THAT, AS PER A PROVISION OF TRANSITORY ARTICLE EIGHTEEN OF THE DECREE OF MODIFICATIONS TO THE CODE, PUBLISHED IN THE DAILY OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE FEDERATION ON SEPTEMBER 24, 1993, FOR THE 1994 ELECTIONS, THERE WILL BE THREE VACANT COUNCILLOR POSITIONS; AND, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE POLITICAL PARTIES, PROPORTIONAL TO THEIR ELECTORAL STANDING, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MECHANISM PROVIDED FOR THE INTEGRATION OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL, WHICH IS ONE FOR EACH TEN PERCENTAGE POINTS OF THE NATIONAL VOTE THAT THE PARTIES OBTAIN, WITHOUT EXCEEDING A MAXIMUM OF FOUR. IN THIS CONTEXT, THE MEMBERS AT LARGE OF THE ELECTORAL ORGANIZATION, THE FEDERAL ELECTORAL REGISTRY AND THOSE OF ELECTORAL TRAINING WILL ONLY ATTEND THE SESSIONS WITH A RIGHT TO VOICE BUT NO VOTE, WHICH DIFFERS FROM WHAT HAPPENED IN THE 1991 ELECTORAL PROCESS WHERE THEY HAD THE RIGHT TO VOICE AND VOTE.

THE APPOINTMENT OF THE CITIZEN COUNCILLORS OF THE LOCAL COUNCILS, CORRESPONDS TO THE GENERAL COUNCIL WHICH CHOOSES FROM THE PROPOSALS PRESENTED TO IT BY THE GENERAL EXECUTIVE BOARD, THROUGH THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, WHILE FOR THE INTEGRATION OF THE DISTRICT COUNCILS, THEIR DESIGNATION FALLS UNDER THE COMPETENCE OF THE LOCAL COUNCILS PRIOR TO THE ISSUANCE OF PROPOSALS PRESENTED TO THEM BY THE LOCAL BOARDS.

THIS CONSTITUTES THE IMPORTANT TASK OF REPRESENTING THE CITIZENRY WITHIN THE HEART OF THE ELECTORAL BODIES. FOR THIS SAME REASON, THE CODE DEMANDS THEY COMPLY WITH SEVERAL REQUIREMENTS, SOME OF WHICH ARE GUIDED TOWARDS GUARANTEEING THEIR IMPARTIALITY AND OBJECTIVITY; AMONGST OTHERS, WHETHER THEY ARE NATIVE OR RESIDENTS OF THE CORRESPONDING ENTITY; THAT THEY POSSESS THE ADEQUATE KNOWLEDGE FOR THE FULFILLMENT OF THEIR DUTIES; AND, TO NOT HAVE OCCUPIED A POSITION OF PARTY LEADERSHIP WITHIN THE SIX YEARS PRIOR TO THEIR DESIGNATION. IT IS IMPORTANT TO POINT OUT THAT WITHIN THE SPHERE OF THE ADAPTATIONS INCORPORATED INTO THE CODE IN 1993, THE LEGISLATOR DETERMINED THAT CITIZEN COUNCILLORS MUST ALSO COMPLY WITH THE REQUISITE THAT STATES THEY MUST NOT HAVE BEEN CANDIDATES FOR ANY POSITION OF POPULAR ELECTION DURING SAID PERIOD.

BECAUSE OF THEIR COMPOSITION AND NATURE, THE LOCAL AND DISTRICT COUNCILS PERFORM IMPORTANT DUTIES. AMONG THESE, WE MIGHT POINT OUT THE REGISTRATION OF SENATORIAL CANDIDATES WHO, PURSUANT TO THE MODIFICATIONS INCORPORATED INTO THE CODE, CAN BE BOTH BY THE PRINCIPLE OF RELATIVE MAJORITY AS WELL AS BY FIRST MINORITY, WHILE THE DISTRICT COUNCILS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR REGISTERING THE CANDIDATES TO DIPUTADOS OF RELATIVE MAJORITY. BOTH COUNCILS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR COUNTING THE CORRESPONDING VOTES. LIKEWISE AND AS AN IMPORTANT INNOVATION, THE LEGISLATOR HAS ASSIGNED THEM THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EXTENDING THE WRITTEN PROOF OF THESE ELECTIONS, WHICH IS TO SAY, DECLARE THAT THE EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES INHERENT TO THE ELECTORAL PROCESS HAVE BEEN PERFORMED WITH THE STRICTEST COMPLIANCE TO THE LEGALLY ESTABLISHED PROCEDURES.

REGARDING THESE BODIES, IT IS ALSO KNOWN THAT, AS FAR AS THE RIGHTS OF THEIR MEMBERS AND THEIR POWERS, THESE MIGHT BE MODIFIED PURSUANT TO THE POSSIBLE ELECTORAL REFORM TO UP DATE THE CONTENTS OF THE INSTITUTIONS AND ELECTORAL PROCEDURES

FEDERAL CODE . CONCERNING THE FIRST POINT, WE FORESEE THAT THE PRESIDENT WILL CEASE TO HAVE A DECIDING VOTE AND WILL ONLY HAVE A VOTE EQUAL TO THE REST OF THE MEMBERS OF THE RESPECTIVE COUNCIL, WHILE THE SECRETARY WILL ONLY HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOICE AND NOT THE RIGHT TO A VOTE.

AS TO ITS POWERS, THEY MIGHT POSSIBLY BE INCREASED TO INCLUDE SOME THAT CURRENTLY CORRESPOND TO THE LOCAL AND DISTRICT EXECUTIVE BOARDS; SUCH IS THE CASE REGARDING THE APPROVAL THEY WOULD GIVE TO THE CEILING ON CAMPAIGN BUDGETS FOR SENATORS AND DIPUTADOS, IN THE LOCAL AND DISTRICT SPHERES RESPECTIVELY. LIKewise, THEY ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ACCREDITING MEXICAN CITIZENS OR THE GROUP TO WHICH THEY BELONG, AS OBSERVERS OF THE ELECTORAL PROCESS, ONCE THEY HAVE FILED A PETITION BEFORE THE CORRESPONDING EXECUTIVE BOARD.

AS REGARDS THE PARTY REPRESENTATIVES BEFORE THESE BODIES, IT SHOULD BE POINTED OUT THAT THE MECHANISM FOR THEIR ACCREDITATION AND PARTICIPATION IN THE GENERAL COUNCIL MIGHT EVENTUALLY BE MODIFIED UNDER THE AFOREMENTIONED TERMS. NOTWITHSTANDING, CURRENTLY AND PURSUANT TO THE ACCREDITATION MECHANISM IN FORCE, THERE ARE 13 PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES BEFORE THE GENERAL COUNCIL, 416 AT THE LOCAL COUNCILS AND 3,900 AT THE DISTRICT COUNCILS, GIVING A TOTAL OF 4,329 PLUS AN EQUAL NUMBER OF SUBSTITUTE REPRESENTATIVES. THE GRAN TOTAL AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL IS 8,658 POLITICAL PARTY REPRESENTATIVES.

THESE FIGURES CLEARLY SHOW THE LEVEL OF PREPARATION THAT THE POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS HAVE, WITHIN THE BODIES THAT TAKE THE MOST IMPORTANT DECISIONS AND THAT INCIDE DIRECTLY ON THE ORGANIZATION OF THE FEDERAL POLLS.

AS FAR AS THE CITIZEN COUNCILLORS THAT INTEGRATE THE LOCAL AND DISTRICT BOARDS, THERE IS A TOTAL OF 3,984; SIX PERMANENT AND SIX SUBSTITUTE FOR EACH COUNCIL. OF THESE, 384 ARE LOCAL AND 3,600 ARE DISTRICT. IN BOTH CASES, THROUGH DIRECT LEGAL MANDATE, THESE WERE DESIGNATED THROUGH TWO ELECTORAL CONSECUTIVE PROCESSES AS OF 1991.

III. LOGISTICS FOR THE ELABORATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELECTORAL DOCUMENTS AND MATERIAL.

ANOTHER OF THE ESSENTIAL POWERS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF ELECTORAL ORGANIZATION, CONSISTS IN ELABORATING THE FORMATS AND THE DESIGN OF THE MODELS FOR DOCUMENTS AND ELECTORAL MATERIAL USED DURING THE ELECTORAL PROCESS, FOR USE IN THE VARIOUS ACTIVITIES OF THE POLL BOARDS AS WELL AS AT THE LOCAL AND DISTRICT BOARDS AND COUNCILS. FOR THIS YEAR, THE ELECTORAL DOCUMENTS TO BE USED DURING FEDERAL ELECTIONS INCLUDE 105 DIFFERENT FORMATS. FOUR CORRESPOND TO VOTING BALLOTS; 19 TO CERTIFICATES OF PROOF, AMONG WHICH ARE THE CERTIFICATE OF THE BALLOT COUNT AND POLL COUNT AND THE LOCAL AND DISTRICT VOTE COUNT; 20 FORMS INTEGRATE THE SUPPORT DOCUMENTS; AND, 62 MAKE UP THE AUXILIARY DOCUMENTS. OF SAID DOCUMENTS, 46 FORMS WILL BE USED AT THE POLL OFFICES; 45 AT THE DISTRICT BOARDS OR COUNCILS; AND, 14 AT THE LOCAL BOARDS OR COUNCILS.

THE NAMES FOR THE CLASSIFICATION OF THE ELECTORAL DOCUMENTS AND PARTICULARLY FOR THOSE PERTAINING TO THE SUPPORT AND AUXILIARY DOCUMENTS, ARE CONVENTIONAL. THE FIRST GROUP COMPRISE THOSE DOCUMENTS THAT ARE EXPRESSLY REQUIRED BY LAW AND THAT HAVE SPECIFIC LEGAL EFFECTS AS IN THE CASE OF THE CERTIFICATE OF MAJORITY AND VALIDITY THAT THE LOCAL AND DISTRICT COUNCILS WILL DELIVER TO THE CANDIDATES OBTAINING THE MAJORITY OF VOTES; THIS SAME GROUP INCLUDES THE DESIGNATION OF THE POLL OFFICIALS.

THE AUXILIARY DOCUMENTS INCLUDE THOSE DOCUMENTS WHICH, EVEN THOUGH NOT LEGALLY REQUIRED, HAVE BEEN DESIGNED TO HOMOGENIZE THE PERFORMANCE OF SOME ACTIVITIES CORRESPONDING TO THE LOCAL AND DISTRICT BOARDS AS WELL AS TO THE POLL BOOTHS, WHICH IS THE CASE OF THE VARIOUS ENVELOPES WHICH WILL BE USED FOR THE FILES OF THE ELECTIONS AND FOR THE PUBLICATION OF THE PRELIMINARY AND DEFINITE RESULTS.

THE FORMATS FOR ELECTORAL DOCUMENTATION, EXCEPT FOR THE BALLOTS, WERE APPROVED BY UNANIMITY AT THE MEETING HELD BY THE GENERAL COUNCIL ON DECEMBER 23, 1993. THE BALLOT FORMS WERE APPROVED AT THE MEETING HELD BY SAID BODY ON FEBRUARY 28, 1994. AS AN OUTSTANDING POINT, IT IS WORTHWHILE TO MENTION THAT

THE BALLOTS HAVE A NUMBERED, DETACHABLE STUB WHICH CONSTITUTES A FUNDAMENTAL ASPECT TOWARDS GUARANTEEING THE CONTROL AND TRANSPARENCY IN THE HANDLING OF THESE IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS.

TO ATTEND TO THE COMMITMENTS MADE FOR THE 1994 FEDERAL ELECTION PROCESS, THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF ELECTORAL ORGANIZATION HAS CARRIED OUT THE PROJECTIONS CORRESPONDING TO THE PRINTING OF THE ELECTORAL DOCUMENTS, CONSIDERING THAT THE NUMBER OF POLLS APPROVED BY THE DISTRICT COUNCILS WILL INCREASE FROM THE 88,308 APPROVED IN 1991, TO APPROXIMATELY 100,000. LOGICALLY, THIS DEPENDS ON THE FINAL RESULTS SHED BY THE UP-DATED ROSTER AND THE CONSEQUENT DELIVERY OF THE PHOTO-IDENTITY VOTER'S CARDS.

UNDER THESE SUPPOSITIONS, THE TALLERES GRAFICOS DE MEXICO WILL PRINT 1,018,500 ELECTORAL CERTIFICATE FORMS; 1,700,000 SUPPORT DOCUMENT FORMS; AND 3,200,000 AUXILIARY DOCUMENT FORMS. IN THIS CONTEXT, WE FORESEE THE PRINTING OF 150,000,000 BALLOTS FOR THE ELECTIONS OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC, THE SENATE, FEDERAL DIPUTADOS AND THE REPRESENTATIVES TO THE FEDERAL DISTRICT ASSEMBLY.

THE PRINTING OF THESE BALLOTS WILL BE SUBJECT TO VERY SHORT TIME PERIODS AS STIPULATED BY THE LAW AS REGARDS THE REGISTRATION OF CANDIDATES. IN THE CASE OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS, IT WILL BE DONE BETWEEN APRIL 14 AND MAY 17; THOSE CORRESPONDING TO SENATOR ELECTIONS, BETWEEN MAY 18 AND JUNE 17; AND, IN THE CASE OF DIPUTADOS AND THE ASSEMBLY, BETWEEN JUNE 18 AND JULY 11. THE LATTER REPRESENT A MAJOR LOGISTICAL PROBLEM IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT LIKE THE OTHERS, THEY MUST BE IN THE HANDS OF THE DISTRICT COUNCILS BY THE FIRST OF AUGUST; THIS MEANS THERE WILL BE SCARCELY 45 DAYS TO PRINT, CLASSIFY AND DISTRIBUTE THEM.

AS REGARDS THE ELECTORAL MATERIAL, CONSIDERING THAT THERE WILL BE THREE TYPES OF ELECTIONS (FOUR IN THE CASE OF MEXICO CITY), THERE WILL BE 327,000 BALLOT BOXES; 105,000 POLL BOOTHS; 210,000 BOTTLES OF INDELIBLE LIQUID; AND, 105,000 PHOTO-IDENTITY CARD MARKING MACHINES. CURRENTLY, PURSUANT TO THE APPLICABLE PROVISIONS, THE INSTITUTE IS DEVELOPING THE PUBLIC BIDS CORRESPONDING TO THE PURCHASE OF SAID MATERIAL.

ON THE OTHER HAND, TO ADEQUATELY DEVELOP THE DISTRIBUTION LOGISTICS, THE EXECUTIVE BOARDS OF ELECTORAL ORGANIZATION MUST HAVE THE SUPPORT OF APPROXIMATELY 250 TRUCKS WITH A CAPACITY OF 60 SQUARE METERS EACH AND 182 WITH A CAPACITY OF 20 SQUARE METERS EACH TO BE ABLE TO DELIVER THE ELECTORAL DOCUMENTS AND MATERIALS TO THE LOCAL EXECUTIVE BOARDS BETWEEN THE MONTHS OF JUNE AND JULY OF THIS YEAR.

THIS RESPONSIBILITY IMPLIES THE ADJUSTMENT OF A COORDINATION SCHEME THAT DOES NOT ALLOW FOR IMPRECISION BETWEEN THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AND THE LOCAL AND DISTRICT BOARDS.

TO COVER THE SPECIFIC ASPECT OF GUARDING THE ELECTORAL DOCUMENTS AND MATERIALS, WE MUST ENLIST THE HELP OF AT LEAST, 8,000 SECURITY ELEMENTS THAT WILL GUARANTEE THE CORRESPONDING SAFEKEEPING, BEGINNING WITH THE PRODUCTION PROCESS UP UNTIL THE DELIVERY AT THE CENTRAL WAREHOUSES AND THE 332 LOCAL AND DISTRICT COUNCILS. ON THE OTHER HAND, IT IS WORTH MENTIONING THAT IN THE SPECIFIC CASE OF ELECTORAL DOCUMENTS AND GIVEN THEIR IMPORTANCE AND THE DIFFERENT GUARANTEES THAT MUST GOVERN THE PRODUCTION, HANDLING AND DISTRIBUTION, ANY TYPE OF DESTRUCTION OR SUBSTITUTION WILL BE DONE IN THE PRESENCE OF A NOTARY PUBLIC WHO WILL TESTIFY TO THE ACT AND WRITE THE CORRESPONDING DOCUMENT OF PROOF, PARTICULARLY IN THE CASE OF VOTER BALLOTS.

LASTLY, REGARDING THIS ASPECT, IT MUST BE POINTED OUT THAT THE MODELS FOR THE ELECTORAL MATERIAL WERE PRESENTED TO THE GENERAL COUNCIL FOR THEIR APPROVAL AT THE MEETING HELD ON DECEMBER 23, 1993, INDEPENDENTLY OF THE FACT THAT THE LAW DOES NOT GRANT IT THE POWER FOR ITS APPROVAL.

AMONG THE MAIN CHARACTERISTICS OF THE ELECTORAL MATERIAL, IT IS WORTHWHILE TO MENTION THE FACT THAT AS IN 1991 THE BALLOT BOXES, WILL BE BUILT OF A TRANSPARENT MATERIAL AND WILL HAVE THREE WINDOWS, 20 SQUARE CENTIMETERS EACH, WHICH WILL FULLY GUARANTEE THEIR TRANSPARENCY. THE POLL BOOTHS OR MODULAR ELEMENTS ARE DESIGNED IN SUCH A WAY THAT TWO VOTERS WILL BE ABLE TO VOTE AT THE SAME TIME WITHOUT SEEING EACH OTHER, BECAUSE THE SEPARATORS ARE MADE OF A WHITE, NON-TRANSPARENT, NON-TRANSLUCID PLASTIC MATERIAL AND ARE SUFFICIENTLY TALL, AND THERE WILL ALSO BE A CURTAIN, WHICH

ADDED TO THE OTHER ELEMENTS, WILL FULLY ENSURE SECRECY OF VOTING.

THE MODEL OF THE PHOTO-IDENTITY VOTING CARD MARKING MACHINE WAS DESIGNED ACCORDING TO THE CHARACTERISTICS SUGGESTED BY THE NATIONAL SURVEILLANCE COMMISSION. THIS COMMISSION IS MAINLY COMPOSED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE POLITICAL PARTIES WHOSE RESPONSIBILITY IS TO SUPERVISE THE TASKS INHERENT TO THE FEDERAL ELECTORAL REGISTRY. IN THIS SENSE, THE MARKING MACHINE HAS A BASE WITH THE BACK SIDE OF THE VOTING CARD PRINTED ON IT AND AN ARM WITH A STUD THAT WILL ALWAYS MARK THE LETTER "V" IN THE SAME PLACE, OVER THE NUMBER 94, CORRESPONDING TO THE ELECTION YEAR, WITHOUT DAMAGING THE PHYSICAL INTEGRITY OF THIS DOCUMENT. THIS IS ANOTHER ASPECT THAT CONTRIBUTES TO GUARANTEEING THE TRANSPARENCY OF THE FEDERAL ELECTIONS.

AS FAR THE INDELIBLE LIQUID IS CONCERNED, THE LEGISLATOR INTRODUCED IN SEPTEMBER 1993 INNOVATIVE MECHANISM FOR DETERMINING THE TYPE OF LIQUID AND GAVE THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE IFE THE AUTHORITY TO LOOK FOR A RECOGNIZED ACADEMIC OR TECHNICAL INSTITUTION WHICH WOULD CERTIFY THE CHARACTERISTICS AND QUALITY OF THE AFOREMENTIONED INDELIBLE LIQUID.

THE GENERAL COUNCIL, AT ITS MEETING ON NOVEMBER 8, 1993, AGREED TO ENTRUST THIS TASK TO THE NATIONAL SCHOOL OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES OF THE NATIONAL POLITECHNICAL INSTITUTE. AFTER INTENSE LABORATORY TESTING, AND REVIEWING THE DIFFERENT PRODUCTS OFFERED BY OTHER INSTITUTIONS AND COMPANIES, IT CONCLUDED ITS STUDIES AND PROPOSED A LIQUID WITH A CHEMICAL FORMULA DEVELOPED BY THE SAME SCHOOL. THE SCHOOL POINTED OUT THAT ONE OF ITS MAIN CHARACTERISTICS WAS THAT THE COMPOUND HAS AN ADHERENCE CAPACITY OF MORE THAN TEN HOURS BESIDES BEING NON-SUSCEPTIBLE TO COMMON SOLVENTS.

AS A WHOLE, DUE TO THEIR DESIGN AND CHARACTERISTICS, THE ELECTORAL MATERIALS CONSTITUTE A GUARANTEE OF TRANSPARENCY AND SECURITY FOR THE FEDERAL ELECTORAL PROCESS OF 1994.

IV. STATISTICS OF THE FEDERAL ELECTIONS.

THE INSTITUTIONS AND ELECTORAL PROCEDURES FEDERAL CODESTATES THAT THE GENERAL DIRECTOR OF THE INSTITUTE HAS THE AUTHORITY TO RECEIVE A CERTIFIED COPY OF THE ELECTION FILES FROM THE PRESIDENTS OF THE DISTRICT COUNCILS, IN ORDER TO PUBLISH THE ELECTORAL STATISTICS BY SECTION, MUNICIPALITY, DISTRICT, FEDERATIVE ENTITY AND PLURINOMINAL CIRCUMSCRIPTION.

LIKEWISE, THE SAME ORDINANCE PROVIDES THAT IT IS THE FUNCTION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF ELECTORAL ORGANIZATION TO CONDUCT THE STATISTICS OF THE FEDERAL ELECTIONS, THUS DETERMINING ONE OF ITS MOST IMPORTANT RESPONSIBILITIES IN THIS AREA. THIS TASK BEGINS ONCE THE ELECTORAL PROCESS CONCLUDES WITH THE RESOLUTION OF THE RECOURSES THAT THE PARTIES MAY HAVE FILED BEFORE THE FEDERAL ELECTORAL TRIBUNE AND WITH THE RESPECTIVE RESULT OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION, DETERMINED BY THE CHAMBER OF DIPUTADOS ACTING AS AN ELECTORAL COLLEGE.

FOR 1994, THIS EXECUTIVE DIRECTORATE IS COMMITTED TO DESIGN THE DATABASE THAT WILL SERVE TO PROCESS THE RESULTS OF THE ELECTIONS TO BE HELD, IN ORDER TO DELIVER THE ELECTORAL STATISTICS TO THE CITIZENS IN GENERAL, AND SPECIFICALLY, TO THE POLITICAL PARTIES.

THE QUANTIFICATION OF THE INFORMATION RELATIVE TO THE RESULTS OF THE FEDERAL ELECTIONS OF 1994 IS BASED ON THE SUPPOSITION THAT THERE WILL BE APPROXIMATELY 100,000 POLL BOOTHS. IN THESE ELECTIONS.

FOR EACH ONE OF THEM, A BALLOT COUNT MUST BE MADE FOR EACH TYPE OF ELECTION; DIPUTADOS, SENATORS, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC AND, IN THE CASE OF THE FEDERAL DISTRICT, FOR THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ASSEMBLY. THAT IS, THERE WILL BE THREE DOCUMENTS PER POLL BOOTH WITHIN THE 31 STATES OF THE COUNTRY AND FOUR FOR THE FEDERAL DISTRICT.

IN VIRTUE OF THIS, IT IS FORESEENEN THAT FOR EACH TYPE OF ELECTION, THERE WILL BE 100,000 DOCUMENTS CERTIFYING THE BALLOT COUNT EXCEPT IN THE CASE OF THE ELECTIONS FOR ASSEMBLY REPRESENTATIVES, FOR WHICH IT IS ESTEEMED THAT THERE WILL BE APPROXIMATELY 10,000 CERTIFICATES.

UNDER THIS SCHEME, THE NUMBER OF CHARACTERS TO COUNT PER CERTIFICATE OF BALLOT COUNTING, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE DATA OF THE LOCATION OF THE POLL AND OF VOTES ISSUED, WILL BE 47, CONSIDERING THAT ONLY THE NECESSARY INFORMATION TO CORRECTLY IDENTIFY EACH POLL BOOTH WILL BE INCLUDED.

IN KEEPING WITH THE AFOREMENTIONED, AN APPROXIMATE TOTAL OF 310,000 CERTIFICATES OF BALLOT COUNTS WILL BE PROCESSED, WHICH IS EQUIVALENT TO 14,551,200 CHARACTERS TO BE COMPUTED IN ORDER TO INTEGRATE THE DATABASE OF THE 1994 FEDERAL ELECTIONS STATISTICS.

THE INTEGRATION OF THE STATISTICS AS HAS BEEN DETAILED ABOVE, SERVES TO PUBLICIZE TO SOCIETY IN GENERAL, THE ELECTORAL RESULTS, POLL BY POLL, OBTAINED IN EACH MUNICIPALITY, EACH DISTRICT AND EACH ENTITY, BY THE POLITICAL PARTIES AT THE ELECTIONS THAT WILL BE HELD THIS YEAR. THE PECULIARITY IS THAT THIS ACTIVITY CAN ONLY BE STARTED ONCE THE ELECTORAL PROCESS HAS CONCLUDED WITH THE RESOLUTION OF THE RESOURCES THAT, IF SAID SHOULD BE THE CASE, ARE PRESENTED BY THE PARTIES AND WITH THE RESULT OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION DETERMINED BY THE CHAMBER OF DIPUTADOS ACTING AS AN ELECTORAL COLLEGE.

LASTLY, IT IS NECESSARY TO EMPHASIZE THAT IN THIS REGARD, THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF ELECTORAL ORGANIZATION IS DEVELOPING THE PLANS THAT WILL ALLOW MAKING THE CORRESPONDING DECISIONS TO DULY COMPLY WITH THIS IMPORTANT TASK.