

## **NOTICE FOR INTERNATIONAL VISITORS COMING TO ATTEND THE MODALITIES OF THE FEDERAL ELECTORAL PROCESS 2014-2015**

The National Electoral Institute is a public and autonomous body with legal entity and own assets. The Legislative Power of the Union, the national political parties and the citizens participate in its integration in the terms stated by the Law. This Institute is bestowed with the electoral authority and is in charge of the state power of organizing the Mexican federal elections. In the exercise of this state power it holds certainty, legality independence, impartiality, and maximum publicity and objectivity as guiding principles.

The General Council, is the highest governing body of the National Electoral Institute, responsible for invigilating the compliance of the constitutional and legal dispositions in electoral matters. Thus, in exercise of the powers granted by article 44, paragraph 2 of the General Law for Electoral Institutions and Procedures, as well as by the Second basis of the Agreement of the General Council of the National Electoral Institute which establishes the bases and criteria to invite, assist and inform international visitors who come to know the modalities of the Federal Electoral Process 2014-2015, INE/CG204/2014. Approved on October 15<sup>th</sup> 2014, it issues this NOTICE in accordance with the following

### **BASES**

#### **I. General Bases**

1. The present notice is addressed to any person who is not a Mexican citizen, interested in learning about the development of the 2014-2015 Federal Electoral Process, as well as to representatives of:
  - a. Electoral authorities from other countries.
  - b. International organizations.
  - c. Continental or regional organizations.
  - d. Political parties and organizations from other countries.
  - e. Legislative bodies from other countries.
  - f. Governments of other countries.
  - g. Higher education, research and academic institutions from other countries.
  - h. International organizations specialized in activities of electoral cooperation or assistance.
  - i. Foreign private organizations or non-governmental organizations specializing in activities related to political and electoral issues or to the defense and promotion of human rights.
2. International visitors will be able to attend and obtain information about the development of the 2014-2015 Federal Electoral Process at any stage or in any location throughout the country.
3. International visitor applications can be submitted to the Presidency of the General Council of the National Electoral Institute via the International Affairs Unit, as of the publication of this notice. The deadline to submit applications will be the 27<sup>th</sup> of May 2015. Every applicant must also submit a copy of the main page of his/her passport and a 3 x 2.5 centimeter clear and current photograph.
4. Application forms are available at the Central offices of the National Electoral Institute, located in Viaducto Tlalpan 100, Colonia Arenal Tepepan, Delegación Tlalpan, C.P. 14610, México, Distrito Federal, at the offices of the International Affairs Unit, at 4124 Periférico Sur, Fourth Floor, Col. Ex Hacienda de Anzaldo, Delegación Álvaro Obregón, 01090 Mexico City, as well as in the 32 Local Councils of the National Electoral Institute in each state, in Mexican embassies and consulates in other countries, and on the internet page of the Institute: [www.ine.mx](http://www.ine.mx).

5. Documentation mentioned in number 3 can be personally delivered, sent by mail or courier service or faxed to INE's International Affairs Unit at 4124 Periférico Sur, Fourth Floor, Col. Ex Hacienda de Anzaldo, Delegación Álvaro Obregón, 01090 Mexico City, Phone (52-55) 5628-4888, Fax (52-55) 5449-0448. If an applicant is able to send his/her application form and other documents electronically, including his/her scanned handwritten signature, he/she can mail the application to [visitantes.extranjeros@ine.mx](mailto:visitantes.extranjeros@ine.mx)
6. In order to be accredited by the National Electoral Institute, foreign applicants must meet the following requirements:
  - a. To be considered a foreigner by the Political Constitution of the Mexican United States, as established on the First Basis of the Agreement of the General Council of the Federal Electoral Institute which establishes the bases and criteria in which the international visitors that come to know about the modalities of the Federal Electoral Process 2014-2015 will be tended to and informed.
  - b. To fill in and submit an individual application form to the President of the General Council, via the International Affairs Unit, making sure they fulfill all the requirements and enclosing the requested documentation, according to number 3 of the present notice.
  - c. To pursue non-lucrative purposes.
7. Within 3 working days after their submittal, the International Affairs Unit will ponder each and every application duly filled in and received in due course and time.
8. In case the documents required are incomplete, the International Affairs Unit will inform the applicant within the following three working days so that he/she may be able to deliver the complete documents if wished.
9. The applications will be rejected when the applicant has any of the following conditions:
  - a. He/she is considered Mexican by our Constitution, or
  - b. he/she failed to present the complete documents by May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015 to the International Affairs Unit of the National Electoral Institute.
10. Applicants will be notified about the result of their application in due time through notification from the Chief of Staff of the International Affairs Unit. Accreditation notifications will be sent via fax or electronic mail to the telephone numbers and addresses provided by applicants in their application forms.
11. Once the applicant has received INE's formal notification on the approval of his/her accreditation, he/she will have to fulfill the required immigration formalities at the Mexican consulate nearest to his/her residence, or, were such the case, at the offices of the National Institute of Immigration in the national territory, according to the applicable immigration laws.
12. Once the latter formalities are fulfilled, and on Saturday June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at the latest, registered international visitors will collect their official badges at a special stand set up by the National Electoral Institute in Mexico City. Such badges are required for proper identification and will also facilitate their activities during the election process. It will be necessary to show a copy of the appropriate visa. The possibility of claiming the badge in any other location will require a special request made up to May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at the latest, and will depend upon availability.
13. The Presidency of the General Council will timely inform federal electoral authorities and national political parties, and if such were the case, independent candidates, about the physical characteristics of the accreditation badge for international visitors.

14. National political parties and national political groups, electoral alliances, independent candidates, the institutions promoting citizens' initiatives, as well as 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 foreign citizens fulfilling the requirements established in the bases and criteria approved by the General Council.
15. Accredited international visitors will be responsible for their own financing to cover all the expenses related to transportation, stay and activities in Mexico.

## **II. ACTIVITIES ALLOWED FOR INTERNATIONAL VISITORS**

1. International visitors will be able to learn about the development of the 2014-2015 Federal Electoral Process, at any of its stages throughout the country.
2. Having the purpose of gathering additional background information about federal electoral laws, institutions and procedures, accredited international visitors can request through the International Affairs Unit an appointment to interview or meet with officials from the National Electoral Institute in central offices. In the 32 states, international visitors can make the same request to presidents of the local councils, and in the Federal Electoral Districts via the district councils and their president councilors, who will ponder and answer them, and within five days will inform the President of the General Council.
3. National political parties and national political groups, as well as electoral alliances and independent candidates, will be able to provide international visitors with information about their electoral platforms, as well as any relevant documents they may consider to be pertinent.
4. Depending on availability, the International Affairs Unit will provide the necessary general support so that registered international visitors are able to adequately perform activities described in previous paragraphs, always informing this to the General Council about such activities.

## **III. INTERNATIONAL VISITORS' OBLIGATIONS**

During their stay in the country and while developing their activities, besides complying at all times with the Mexican laws and any other applicable legal regulation, accredited international visitors must not:

1. Substitute or set any obstacle to the electoral authorities in the exercise of their functions, or interfere in any way in their development.
2. Carry out any kind of proselytism or take a position for or against any party or candidate, or pronounce themselves for or against any of the possible answer to the citizens' initiative or any other form of citizen participation subject to be voted; or to perform any activity that may alter the equity of the competition.
3. Speak out any offence, slander or false accusation against the institutions, electoral authorities, political parties or candidates, and
4. Declare any triumph by any political party or candidate, or, were it the case, of the results of the citizens' initiative or any other form of citizen participation subject to be voted.
5. Declare any tendencies on the voting either before or after Polling Day
6. Wear or use any emblems, shields or any other image related to political parties, candidates, political or ideological sides related to the federal or local elections, or of any of the possible answers to the citizens' initiative subject to be voted.

**IV. ANY ISSUE NOT CONSIDERED IN THE PRESENT NOTICE WILL BE SOLELY RESOLVED BY THE INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS UNIT, PRIOR CONSULTATION WITH THE PRESIDENCY OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL.**

Mexico City, \_\_\_\_\_, 2014

**THE PRESIDENT COUNCILOR OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL  
LORENZO CÓRDOVA VIANELLO**

**THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE NATIONAL ELECTORAL INSTITUTE  
EDMUNDO JACOBO MOLINA**