

**AGREEMENT OF THE FEDERAL ELECTORAL INSTITUTE GENERAL COUNCIL
ESTABLISHING BASES AND CRITERIA TO RECEIVE AND INFORM
INTERNATIONAL VISITORS INTERESTED IN ATTENDING THE 2008-2009
MEXICAN FEDERAL ELECTORAL PROCESS**

Considering

1. That according to article 41, second paragraph, basis 5 of the Political Constitution of the United Mexican States, the organization of federal elections is a State function carried out by a public autonomous organism, the Federal Electoral Institute, endowed with legal status and patrimony of its own, integrated with the participation of the Legislative Branch of the Union, the national political parties and the citizens, according to the terms established by the law.
2. That article 106, number 1, of the Federal Code of Electoral Institutions and Procedures establishes the Federal Electoral Institute as a public, autonomous, and permanent organization, which is independent in its decisions and functioning, and has legal personality and patrimony of its own.
3. That article 109 of the same Code establishes the General Council as the higher steering body, responsible for enforcing the constitutional and legal dispositions on electoral matters, as well as to ensure that principles of certainty, legality, independence and objectivity will guide all the activities of the Institute.
4. That article 118, paragraph 1, letter z) of the aforementioned law endows the General Council with the faculty for making agreements required to put its attributions into practice.
5. That the responsibility for establishing 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, according to article 118, paragraph 2, of the Federal Code of Electoral Institutions and Procedures.
6. That article 63, paragraph 1, letter p) of the Internal Regulations of the Federal Electoral Institute establishes that the International Affairs Unit must collaborate in the drafting and implementation of the criteria and guidelines established by the General Council to register and attend to international visitors interested in the development of the Federal Electoral Process.
7. That, in accordance with section IV.1.6 INTERNATIONAL VISITORS, included in the Integral Plan of the 2008-2009 Federal Electoral Process, the International Affairs Unit must propose a program and implement a strategy to attend to international visitors and guests accredited to learn about the 2008-2009 Federal Electoral Process.
8. That the Federal Electoral Institute values greatly the interest of international institutions and organizations in timely learning about the details of the 2008-2009

Federal Electoral Process in Mexico during its preparations, organization and development.

9. That the Federal Electoral Institute is interested in providing adequate information to members of the international community by means of a special Program, in order to foster an objective approach and integral study of the different aspects of the Mexican electoral system in general, and the 2008-2009 Federal Electoral Process in particular.
10. That in accordance with the principles of reciprocity and courtesy towards its foreign counterparts and other international institutions with which it shares links of cooperation and friendship, the Federal Electoral Institute wishes to invite them to come to our country and learn about the 2008-2009 Federal Electoral Process, as invited international visitors.
11. That with the purpose of giving the highest level of certainty and safety to the activities of international visitors coming to Mexico to learn about the 2008–2009 Federal Electoral Process, it is advisable to establish a series of guidelines to specify their activities and make them easier.

According to the aforesaid considerations, and taking into account articles 41, second paragraph, base 5 of the Political Constitution of the United Mexican States; 106, number 1; 2, paragraph 1, 109 and 118, paragraph 1, letter z), and paragraph 2 of the Federal Code of Electoral Institutions and Procedures; and 2, paragraph 1, and 63, paragraph 1, letter p) of the Internal Regulations of the Federal Electoral Institute, the Federal Electoral Institute General Council issues the following

Agreement

First.- The bases and criteria to welcome and inform international visitors attending any stage of the 2008-2009 Federal Electoral Process are established as follows:

First basis

1. For the purposes of this agreement, an international visitor is any foreign individual, so acknowledged by the current legislation, interested in attending the Federal Electoral Process, having been duly accredited by the International Affairs Unit, 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 foreign people interested in the 2008-2009 Federal Electoral Process can obtain their accreditation as international visitors in due time.

2. The notice will be addressed to all people interested in the 2008-2009 Federal Electoral Process, as well as to representatives of:

- A. International organizations.
- B. Continental or regional organizations.
- C. Legislative bodies from other countries.
- D. Governments of other countries
- E. Electoral authorities from other countries.
- F. Political parties and 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. 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.

3. The Federal Electoral Institute will ask for the support of the different agencies of the Mexican government in order to disseminate the notice mentioned in paragraph 1 of this second basis, both in the country and abroad. Government offices will also be asked to expedite the entry to accredited international visitors.

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 disseminate the notice and invite foreign citizens fulfilling the requirements established in the present bases and criteria.

5. According to prevailing international agreements and practices, as well as international technical cooperation agreements previously signed by the Institute, the President of the General Council can invite foreign electoral authorities, as well as representatives of international organizations with whom the institute maintains cooperation links, to apply for accreditation as international visitors. The President can also make the necessary arrangements in order to offer them a specific program of activities.

Third basis

1. International visitor applications can be submitted to the Presidency of the General Council as of the publication of the aforementioned notice. The deadline to submit applications will be the 23rd of June 2009.

2. For such purpose, interested foreigners will personally fill in a special application form enclosed in the notice that will be available at the central headquarters and field offices of the 32 Local Councils of the Federal Electoral Institute, and on the Web page of the Federal Electoral Institute. Moreover, the Institute will request the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to have this application form at hand in Mexican embassies and consulates around the world.

Fourth basis

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

A. To address and submit to the Presidency of the General Council the individual application form, including a copy of the main page of the passport and a clear photograph, as required by the form itself.

B. To pursue non-lucrative purposes with the rights granted by the accreditation.

Fifth basis

1. Within 13 working days after their submittal, the International Affairs Unit will ponder every application received on time, and will timely inform the General Council.
2. The International Affairs Unit will produce and send to applicants the official notice regarding the resolution on each and every accreditation application received in due time and form.
3. The Executive Secretariat will implement the mechanisms to issue the corresponding badges and will establish the most adequate process for their notification and delivery to applicants.
4. The International Affairs Unit will present preferably during every ordinary session of the General Council a progress report on the attention to applications received, including as well others activities aiming at receiving an informing international visitors.

Sixth basis

1. International visitors will be able to attend and obtain information about the development of the 2008-2009 Federal Electoral Process at any stage or in any location throughout the country.
2. The International Affairs Unit will prepare an Information Program addressing all international visitors, which will be presented in a timely manner before the General Council.
3. 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 central headquarters of the Federal Electoral Institute, keeping informed the General Council. In other states, international visitors can make the same request to the presidents of the local and regional councils, who will ponder and answer them, and within five days will inform the President of the General Council, through the International Affairs Unit.
4. National political parties and national political groups, as well as electoral alliances, will be able to provide international visitors with information about their electoral platforms, as well as relevant documents about the electoral process or their political organization.

Seventh basis

1. Accredited international visitors are responsible for their expenses regarding transportation, sojourn, and activities in Mexico.

Eighth Basis

During their stay in the country and in order to carry out 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 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.

Ninth Basis

In case of purported noncompliance with the obligations established in this agreement and the federal electoral legislation on the part of international accredited visitors, the rules of the Federal Code of Electoral Institutions and Procedures and the Internal Regulations of the Federal Electoral Institute shall apply on the subject of Damages and Criminal Complaints.

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

The present agreement was approved by the General Council's ordinary session on December 22nd 2008.

Leonardo Valdés Zurita
President Councilor of the General Council

Edmundo Jacobo Molina
Secretary of the General Council