

# REINFORCING CREDIBILITY AND ACCEPTANCE OF ELECTORAL PROCESSES

## The Role of Electoral Stakeholders and Electoral Administrations

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Effective Communication as a Means to Prevent and Contain Electoral Conflicts: Transparency and Full Disclosure as Guiding Principles

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- High tension is natural to democratic transitions.
- Electoral institutions prevent, contain and solve conflicts.
- The Electoral Tribunal of the Federal Judiciary of Mexico is the highest jurisdictional authority in the field.

- Transparency, trust and democratic legitimacy are intertwined concepts.
- The adoption of adequate transparency and full disclosure policies is instrumental to social control by citizens:
  - The agenda of Justices of the Electoral Tribunal is public.
  - There is a public log of Official Commissions, updated after each mission is completed.
  - All sessions are broadcasted live online and on the Judicial Channel.
  - The institutional website includes statistics, jurisprudence and resolutions (published 24 hours after their adoption).

- The winner of the 2006 Mexican Presidential Election (Felipe Calderón – PAN) received less than 1% more votes than the runner up (Andrés Manuel López Obrador – PRD).
- The election was run by citizens and political parties had representatives at polling stations. However, López Obrador contested the election.
- The election was declared valid.

- The following year, on the grounds to the right to access to information, a journalist demanded physical access to the ballots to the Mexican EMB.
- The Electoral Tribunal's final decision argued:
  - That the electoral system is public and transparent.
  - Results are public.
  - Access to information is guaranteed throughout the process.
- All national and international instances agreed with the Electoral Tribunal's decision.

- The 2012 election: new rules, high citizen participation for Mexican standards (62%).
- Anticipation: institutional readiness and coordinated action.
- In order to avoid speculation:
  - A Qualifying Commission was created.
  - Academic Activities and Communication Dissemination Strategy.

- **The Qualifying Commission:**
  - Used Social Media and a dedicated website to present detailed and timely information.
  - Continuous interaction with parties and the media.
  - Petitions by parties were solved and their resolution broadcasted.
- Learning from previous experiences helped to communicate effectively and implement a robust transparency policy.
- These were effective tools in the prevention and contention of electoral conflict.

Thank you!

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Electoral Tribunal of the Federal Judiciary

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