Joint EC-UNDP Thematic Workshop on Sustainability in Electoral Administration: Electoral Organization Model Mexican Experience

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1. General Information

The United States of Mexico:

- Territory’s extension: approximately 2 million square kilometers
- Population: 112 million Mexicans (census 2010)
- Indigenous population: 12 million Mexicans; 62 language variations
- Diversity and contrasts in terms of topography and climate (11 different types of climates)
- Population’s distribution pattern characterized by concentration in urban areas and scattered population in rural areas of difficult access
EXECUTIVE POWER
President
(relative majority)
(6 years)

LEGISLATIVE POWER: LOWER CHAMBER
500 Chamber of Deputies
300 Deputies (single member districts)
200 Deputies (proportional representation)
(3 years)

LEGISLATIVE POWER: UPPER CHAMBER
128 Chamber of Senators
64 Senators (relative majority: 2 per state)
32 Senators (first minority)
32 Senators (proportional representation)
(3 years)

JUDICIAL POWER: NATIONAL SUPREME COURT OF JUSTICE
11 Magistrates
elected from the three President’s nominees, requiring the vote of 2/3 of the Upper Chamber members
(15 years)
2. Electoral Facts

- 32 Federated States
- 300 Federal Electoral Districts
- 5 Electoral regions for plurinominal representation
- 2,447 Municipalities
- 84,464,829 Electoral roll
- Indigenous citizens: 10% electoral roll; 56 languages
- 28 indigenous districts
- 9 million citizens trained to act as polling stations officers
- 1 million citizens act as polling stations officers
- 143,132 Polling stations set for the 2012 General Elections
3. Mexican Electoral Institutions

Administrative Powers

FEDERAL LEVEL

President
Deputies
Senate

IFE

Electoral List
Electoral cartography
Administration of State’s time in Media access
Coincident elections: polling stations allocations

LOCAL LEVEL

Governors
Deputies

Majors
Boards

LOCAL ELECTORAL INSTITUTES (32)
a. IFE’s Legal Framework

- **Mexican Constitution**
  (2/3 Congress and half of Local Congresses)
  Arts. 41 & 53

- **Electoral Code**
  (Majority of Both Chambers at Congress)

- **Rules approved by IFE**
  - Electoral Challenging Process Law
  - Electoral Court

- The Federal Electoral Institute is a public and autonomous organism from the Mexican State:

- IFE has its own legal personality and patrimony.

- Independent in its decisions, powers, and professional performance.
### b. IFE’s Main Attributions and Powers

**Administrative attributions**

- Voters Registration and Electoral Card Expedition (for federal and local elections)
- Determining and revising the electoral geography
- Organization of Federal Elections
- Allocation of polling stations (143,000)
- Training for citizens at polling stations (Almost 1 million)
- Electoral material: designing, printing and distribution

**Regulatory powers**

- Political Parties’ registration
- Distribution of Public Financing
- Over sight of political parties finances (overpowers the banking secrecy, and tax legal restrictions)
- Income private financing limits and expenses
- Distribution of Radio and TV Spots and Listings
- Judgments for violations to electoral law. Express Trial Sanctions.
- Political Parties, candidates, Radio and TV companies, politicians and governors.
c. 2012 IFE’s Budget
Electoral Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONCEPT</th>
<th>BUDGET</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Base Budget</td>
<td>$445,363,000 USD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Projects</td>
<td>$384,319,000 USD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL Operative Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$829,682,000 USD</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Financing of Political Parties</td>
<td>$411,866,000 USD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL 2012 Budget</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,241,549,000 USD</strong></td>
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</table>
HOW DID WE GET HERE?
4. Political Regime and Political Culture

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Where do we come from?</th>
<th>New political regime</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Party almost unique.</td>
<td>Multiparty.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hegemonic party.</td>
<td>Competitive parties.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presidentialism with over</td>
<td>Constrained presidentialism.</td>
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<tr>
<td>constitutional powers.</td>
<td>Independence of Executive, Legislative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legislative and Judicial</td>
<td>and Judicial Powers.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Powers subordinated to the</td>
<td>Autonomy of different government levels.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Executive.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formal federalism, real</td>
<td>Participatory social groups.</td>
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<tr>
<td>centralism.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Corporativism.</td>
<td>High competitive elections.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-competitive elections.</td>
<td>Open electoral laws.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Restrictive electoral laws.</td>
<td>The citizens decide who governs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>A political elite decided</td>
<td></td>
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<td>who governs.</td>
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5. Political-Electoral Reforms (I)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National Context</th>
<th>Political- Electoral Reforms</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1953</strong>&lt;br&gt;Adolfo Ruiz Cortines</td>
<td>• <strong>Inclusion</strong>&lt;br&gt;Political rights for women. Women Suffrage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1963</strong>&lt;br&gt;Adolfo López Mateos</td>
<td>• <strong>Political Representation</strong>&lt;br&gt;Party Deputies System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1977</strong>&lt;br&gt;José López Portillo</td>
<td>• <strong>Plurality</strong>&lt;br&gt;Opening of the party system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1986</strong>&lt;br&gt;Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado</td>
<td>• <strong>Plurality and political representation</strong>&lt;br&gt;The number of Deputies increased from 300 to 500, through the principle of proportional representation.&lt;br&gt;• <strong>Justice</strong>&lt;br&gt;The Electoral Dispute Court (TRICOEL) was created</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1989-1990</strong>&lt;br&gt;Carlos Salinas de Gortari</td>
<td>• <strong>Trust, Impartiality and Professionalization</strong>&lt;br&gt;The Federal Electoral Institute (IFE) was created.&lt;br&gt;The professional service for IFE’s officials was established.&lt;br&gt;• <strong>Justice</strong>&lt;br&gt;The Electoral Court (TRIFE) was created</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1993</strong></td>
<td>• <strong>Transparency and Trust</strong>&lt;br&gt;- IFE was powered to over sight political parties’ resources.&lt;br&gt;- The Electoral Observers figure was incorporated in the Constitution.&lt;br&gt;• <strong>Political Representation</strong>&lt;br&gt;- The size of the Senate was duplicated. It went from 64 to 128 members.</td>
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5. Political-Electoral Reforms (II)

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Transparency and Trust</strong></td>
<td><strong>Equity, Trust, Oversight and accountability, impartiality and Efficiency</strong></td>
<td><strong>Inclusion</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The figure of International Visitors (International Electoral Observers) was created.</td>
<td>The conditions for the competition conditions were renewed.</td>
<td>Gender parity was attempted.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Electoral observation can be done either individually or with an organization.</td>
<td>IFE’s autonomy, independence and its sense of citizenship were strengthened.</td>
<td><strong>Equity and Trust</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>The observation of all the different steps of the electoral process became possible.</td>
<td>- The amount of public financing was reduced.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Equitable distribution of public financing to political parties, candidates and electoral campaigns.</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Transparency, Oversight and accountability</strong></td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Strengthening of oversight system</td>
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<td>- Length and expenditures of electoral campaigns were reduced.</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Efficiency and Impartiality</strong></td>
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<td>- IFE is granted the power to manage the state time in radio and TV for electoral purposes.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Electoral Reform’s Impact on Political Representation

1988 Governors

- PRI, 60
- PRD, 4

1977 Lower Chamber

- PRI, 80.08%
- PAN, 19.92%

2012 Governors

- PRI, 52
- PAN, 212

2012 Lower Chamber

- Nueva Alianza, 10
- Movimiento, 10
- PRD, 104
- PVEM, 29

Maputo, Mozambique, 4-8 March 2013
## 6. Electoral System
### Evolution of Mexican Electoral Bodies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>EMB</th>
<th>Nature</th>
<th>Members</th>
<th>Administrative Evolution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1917</td>
<td>Electoral Roll Board, Local Computing Site and an Electoral College for Deputy Chamber and an Electoral College for Senate</td>
<td>Type: <strong>Centralized</strong></td>
<td>100 deputies for Electoral College for Deputy Chamber 100 senates for Electoral College for Senate</td>
<td>• <strong>Electoral Administration:</strong> Electoral Roll Board and Local Board  • <strong>Electoral Justice:</strong> Electoral Colleges</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1946</td>
<td>Federal Electoral Oversight Commission and Electoral Roll Council</td>
<td>Type: <strong>Federal Governmental Model</strong> Ministry of the Interior</td>
<td>• Minister of the Interior  • another governmental member,  • 1 deputy,  • 1 senate and  • 2 political parties’ representatives</td>
<td>• <strong>Electoral Administration:</strong> Federal Electoral Oversight Commission  • <strong>Electoral Justice:</strong> Federal Electoral Oversight Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1973</td>
<td>Federal Electoral Commission</td>
<td>Type: <strong>Federal Governmental Model</strong> Ministry of the Interior</td>
<td>• Minister of the Interior,  • 1 deputy and 1 senate,  • 1 representative of each registered political party and  • 1 public notary.</td>
<td>• <strong>Electoral Administration:</strong> Federal Electoral Commission  • <strong>Electoral Justice:</strong> Federal Electoral Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>Federal Electoral Institute</td>
<td>Type: <strong>Federal Mixed Model</strong> Ministry of Interior and political parties</td>
<td>• President of General Council (Minister of Interior),  • 6 Magister Councilors  • 2 deputies and 2 senators  • Political parties’ representatives</td>
<td>• <strong>Electoral Administration:</strong> Federal Electoral Institute  • <strong>Electoral Justice:</strong> Federal Electoral Tribunal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>Federal Electoral Institute</td>
<td>Type: <strong>Federal Mixed Model</strong> Ministry of Interior and political parties</td>
<td>• President of General Council (Minister of Interior),  • 6 Citizen Councilors  • 4 Councilors of the Legislative Power  • Registered Political Parties’ representatives</td>
<td>• <strong>Electoral Administration:</strong> Federal Electoral Institute  • <strong>Electoral Justice:</strong> Federal Electoral Tribunal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>Federal Electoral Institute</td>
<td>Type: <strong>Federal Independent Model:</strong> Autonomy Citizens management</td>
<td>• President of General Council, (voice and vote)  • 8 Electoral Councilors (voice and vote)  • 1 Executive Secretary (voice)  • Councilors of Legislative Power (voice)  • Registered Political Parties’ representatives (voice)</td>
<td>• <strong>Electoral Administration:</strong> Federal Electoral Institute  • <strong>Electoral Justice:</strong> Federal Electoral Tribunal of the Judicial Branch</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
6. Electoral System

IFE’s Evolution

1990-1996
Government and political parties composition
EMB Mixed Model
Creation and electoral organization problem’s solving

1997-2006
Citizens nominated by the Lower Chamber
EMB Independent Model
Citizen’s trust building and developing political parties’ condition

2007- today
Independent Model
53 new powers
Reform of the media access’ model for political parties
7. CONCLUSIONS

➢ The Electoral Organization Model responds to specific cultural, historical, social and political conditions.

➢ The Mexican experience is NOT an ideal model, it is the result of a very hard democratic transition.

☐ IFE’s structure, attributions and powers, is the result of a serial of political agreements between political parties and powers that be.

➢ What is the objective of any Electoral Organization Model? To solve the political plurality represented by political parties in a society, through a legal order on how and to whom transmits pacifically the power.