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**Mexico
and
International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance**

Agreement between the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance and the Government of the United Mexican States concerning the establishment of an Office in the United Mexican States. Stockholm, 10 October 2017, and Mexico City, 13 October 2017

Entry into force: *31 January 2018, in accordance with article XIX*

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**Mexique
et
Institut international pour la démocratie et l'assistance électorale**

Accord entre l'Institut international pour la démocratie et l'assistance électorale et le Gouvernement des États-Unis du Mexique relative à l'établissement d'un Bureau aux États-Unis du Mexique. Stockholm, 10 octobre 2017, et Mexico, 13 octobre 2017

Entrée en vigueur : *31 janvier 2018, conformément à l'article XIX*

Textes authentiques : *anglais et espagnol*

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**AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE INSTITUTE FOR DEMOCRACY AND ELECTORAL
ASSISTANCE AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED MEXICAN STATES
CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN OFFICE IN
THE UNITED MEXICAN STATES**

The International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (hereinafter referred to as “International IDEA”) and the Government of the United Mexican States (hereinafter referred to as “the Government”), hereinafter jointly referred to as “the Parties”:

CONSIDERING that International IDEA was established at a Conference held in Stockholm on February 27, 1995, being the United Mexican States since 2003 one of its Member States;

NOTING that the Statutes of International IDEA, as amended, were adopted at an Extraordinary Council meeting on January 24, 2006;

NOTING further that, in accordance with Article X of the Statutes of International IDEA, the status, prerogatives and immunities of International IDEA and its officials shall be specified in Agreements between International IDEA and the country on which it performs its functions;

RECOGNIZING that International IDEA was established with the aim to nurture and support sustainable democracy worldwide;

RECALLING that International IDEA and the Government consider it desirable to establish an Office in the United Mexican States, and conclude an Agreement to regulate the establishment and operation of such Office;

Have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE I
Definitions

For the purposes of the present Agreement, the following definitions shall apply:

- a) “Competent authorities”, federal, state and other competent authorities in accordance with the legislation of the United Mexican States;

- b) "Experts on mission", individuals, other than officials of International IDEA, who perform missions for International IDEA;
- c) "Officials", the Head of the Office and all members of International IDEA's staff, irrespective of their nationality;
- d) "Head of the Office", the official designated by International IDEA to be in charge of the Office;
- e) "Office", the Office of International IDEA in the United Mexican States and any other auxiliary office which may be established in its territory, with the consent of the Government;
- f) "Representatives", the members of the Council and other bodies of International IDEA;
- g) "Secretary General", the Secretary General of International IDEA, and during his/her absence, any other official specifically designated to act on his/her behalf.

ARTICLE II

Purpose

The purpose of the present Agreement is to establish the legal status of the Office and its staff, as well as to facilitate the cooperation activities of International IDEA within the United Mexican States and the Central-American and Caribbean region which include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a) to promote, consolidate and advance sustainable democracy and democratic electoral processes in the United Mexican States;
- b) to broaden public understanding of the democratic process and the norms, rules and guidelines which apply to democracy and multi-party pluralism;
- c) to strengthen and support national capacities by providing training and assistance to institutions involved in the democratic process;
- d) to provide a meeting place for exchanges between all those participants involved in the electoral process in the context of democratic institution building;
- e) to increase knowledge and enhance learning about the democratic process and promote professional development, transparency and accountability of those involved in the democratic process;

- f) to promote transparency, accountability, professionalism and efficiency in the electoral process in the context of democratic development.

ARTICLE III

Legal Personality

1. The Office shall have legal personality and may celebrate all kind of operations, acts and contracts and to intervene in any legal and administrative proceeding to defend its interests, in accordance with the national legislation, without prejudice to the prerogatives and immunities granted in the present Agreement.

2. For the purposes of this Agreement, the Office shall be represented by the Head of the Office.

3. The Government recognizes the right of International IDEA to convene meetings within the Office or, upon notification to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, elsewhere in the United Mexican States. At meetings convened by International IDEA, the Government shall take the necessary measures to assure that there is no obstacle to the freedom of discussion and decision making.

ARTICLE IV

Application of the Agreement

The present Agreement shall be applicable to the Office, its property, funds and assets, and to its Representatives, officials and experts on mission in the United Mexican States.

ARTICLE V

Legal Status of the Office

1. The Office, its property, funds and assets, wherever located and by whomsoever held, shall be immune from any form of legal process, except insofar as in any particular case, the Secretary General has expressly waived its immunity. It is understood, however, that no waiver of immunity shall be extended to any measure of execution.

2. The premises of the Office shall be inviolable. The property, funds and assets of the Office, wherever located and by whomsoever held, shall be immune from search, requisition, seizure, expropriation and any other form of interference, whether by executive, administrative, judicial or legislative action.

3. The archives of the Office, and in general all documents belonging to or held by it, shall be inviolable.

4. The competent authorities shall not enter the premises of the Office to perform any official duties, except with the express consent of the Head of the Office and under conditions agreed with him/her.

5. The competent authorities shall exercise due diligence to ensure the security and protection of the Office, and ensure that its tranquillity is not disturbed by the unauthorized entry of persons or groups of persons from outside or by disturbances in its immediate vicinity.

6. International IDEA is entitled to use its emblem and mark it on their premises and vehicles as well as on any other means of transportation used for official purposes.

ARTICLE VI

Funds, Assets and Other Property

Without being restricted by financial controls, regulations or moratoria of any kind, the Office:

- a) may hold and use funds, gold or negotiable instruments of any kind and maintain and operate accounts in any freely convertible currency, subject to the legislation in force;
- b) may, in accordance with the legislation in force, freely transfer, subject to the availability of foreign currency, its funds, gold or freely convertible currency, from one country to another or within the United Mexican States to other organizations or agencies and exchange to any currency the foreign currency in its possession;
- c) shall use in its financial transactions the exchange rate prevailing in the market on the date of conclusion of the operation.

ARTICLE VII

Exemption from Taxation

1. The Office, its funds, assets, income and other property shall be exempt from: