

(Informal Translation)

Federal Electoral Institute (Mexico)

Article 70

1. On the occasion of the campaign for President of the United Mexican States, the Institute¹ will coordinate the production of two debates between the registered candidates for that office, in agreement with the determinations of the General Council².
2. The debates will be held at the date and time determined by the General Council, after hearing the opinions of the political parties. In any event, the first debate will take place during the first week of May, and the second no later than the second week of June, of the year of the election; each debate will be of the length set by the General Council.
3. The debates will be transmitted live by radio stations and television stations with public permits (*permisionarios públicos*)³, including those of restricted signal (*señal restringida*)⁴. The Institute will make the necessary arrangements for the technical production and dissemination of the debates. The radio and television signals generated by the Institute for this purpose may be used, live and without cost, by all other holders (*concesionarios y permisionarios*) of radio and television concessions and permits. The Institute will take the necessary steps to encourage the transmission of the debates on the greatest possible number of stations and channels.
4. The stations and channels that decide to transmit the debates referenced in this article live are authorized to suspend, during the corresponding time, the transmission of messages corresponding to political parties and electoral authorities.
5. The rules for the debates will be determined by the General Council, after hearing proposals from the political parties.
6. The Institute will announce the debates referenced by this article in the radio and television time assigned to it for its purposes.

¹ The “Institute” refers to the Instituto Federal Electoral (Federal Electoral Institute – IFE).

² The General Council of the IFE.

³ Permits (*permisos*) appear to be required for cable networks, while concessions (*concesiones*) are necessary for satellite broadcasting as well as over-the-air channels. See the Federal Telecommunications Law: <http://www.lfc.gob.mx/docs/LFT.pdf>

⁴ *Señal restringida* refers to all channels that are not over-the-air (*abierta*), e.g. cable or satellite.