



FOREWORD

For more than three decades many specialists in the fields of Law, Sociology and Political Science have placed electoral matters at the centre of debate and analysis. It would be difficult to find a case similar to that of Mexico where, from 1977 to 2007, there had been such a number of in-depth constitutional reforms that changed the legal and institutional framework supporting the electoral process.

Specialized literature has kept pace with constitutional and regulatory modifications to cover a wide range of texts addressing the political and electoral changes in Mexico from different perspectives. However, a text was needed to give a chronological, orderly and systematic account of the path leading to constitutional changes concerning elections.

The book that PhD Emilio Rabasa now introduces closes this gap, and does it in such a didactic way which will be thoroughly appreciated by readers. The author's review ranges from the reform of the early 1950's, when women were granted the right to vote, to the most recent reform in 2007 introducing a new and advanced model of political communication whose central component, is giving electoral authorities and political parties access to television and radio.

As a deep connoisseur PhD Rabasa leads us, step by step, through the ever changing history of the Mexican electoral system. While reading the book I remembered something that is soon forgotten, especially within younger generations: the patience it took to build rules, institutions and practices that enabled Mexico's transition to democracy, in peace, through the law.

On the long path that includes the process of electoral reforms, each one added new elements that earned for elections and their results the citizens' confidence, which finally made possible that plurality would be followed by alternation, until the arrival of a still uncertain democratic normality but which, in the end, is no more than the work undertaken by so many.

I hope that those interested in the subject, whether specialists or simply citizens concerned about democracy and elections, find in this book information to help them understand the dynamics of constitutional change in Mexico, one of the most important issues for our country's political life and future outlook and, at the same time, open the way for still needed changes to continue building the democracy to which we aspire.

Jorge ALCOGER V.