

Abstract

This essay seeks to demonstrate that there is an ideal sequence for reform in public administration in the government of Vicente Fox who will take office in December 2000. This sequence takes into account the core characteristics of the political-bureaucratic system of the regime that ended with the PRI defeat in the presidential elections of July 2, 2000. The document suggests that in order to create a democratic public administration (open, accountable and reflecting the principles of electoral competition), and one that is also effective and efficient, the best route to pursue is the following one: 1) in the first place, expenditures and responsibility for government tasks should be made completely transparent; 2) next, greater accountability must be encouraged through the application of result-based evaluation; 3) finally, this increase in the degree of transparency and accountability of the federal government should be accompanied by merit appointment career and professionalization, particularly in the technical and strategic posts of the bureaucracy.

The goal of these three reforms is to create the checks and balances that exist in all democratic governments that are able to offer without a significant degree of corruption the goods and services that their societies demand; these checks and balances have not existed in the federal public administration in Mexico.