

Costa Rica CAFTA Referendum Conditional

Prensa Latina

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(San Jose) The Costa Rican Supreme Electoral Court (TSE) ruled on Thursday that the result of a referendum on the free trade agreement with the United States will only be binding if 40 percent of electors vote.

The figure, equivalent to 1.6 million people, was announced by TSE Secretary Alejandro Bermudez as he officially convoked the first popular consultation in Costa Rican history.

Bermudez explained that the process will be held on October 7 and that most of the 2.65 million registered voters are expected to attend.

If the set minimum go to the polls, participants will be able to decide the future of the controversial agreement known as the Central American-Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement.

The issue has divided the country: while most people insist on its illegitimacy, its promoters are spending heavily on a media campaign to convince the public of the necessity to agree in order to boost development.