



## CANADA – MEXICO JOINT ACTION PLAN 2010 - 2012

### INTRODUCTION

The Canada – Mexico bilateral relationship is deep, extensive and mutually productive. Our countries share a strategic and dynamic relationship, which has led to increased cooperation in the political, economic, commercial, security, social, cultural, sport, educational and environmental spheres.

Spurred in particular by the 1994 *North American Free Trade Agreement* (NAFTA), our citizens experience continuing gains from vastly expanded trade and investment and from increasingly-integrated economies in such areas as agriculture, automobiles, information technology and aerospace. Our coordinated and cooperative action on H1N1 received international recognition for its speed, transparency and effectiveness in saving lives. The establishment of the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Program in 1974 is a model of intergovernmental cooperation in achieving orderly, legal and secure labour mobility. We stand side-by-side in our commitment to democracy, security and prosperity in our region, exemplified by our cooperation in Haiti and throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. And we are firm supporters of the multilateral system as the means to address common challenges such as climate change, human development and international peace and security.

Through this 2010-2012 Joint Action Plan and Annex, Mexico and Canada affirm our four bilateral priorities of fostering competitive and sustainable economies, protecting our citizens, enhancing people-to-people contacts and projecting our partnership globally and regionally, together with concrete initiatives to advance them. These priorities and initiatives are implicit in the mechanisms created in the 2007 Action Plan. They are more relevant than ever in 2010 as we emerge from a global economic maelstrom, intent to enhance our citizens' well-being in a competitive world; as we live the benefits of cooperative action to lessen pandemics' impacts; as we jointly confront the menace of transnational crime; and as we seek common ground to resolve regional and global issues of increasing importance and complexity.

### PRIORITIES

#### 1) **Fostering Competitive and Sustainable Economies**

Canada and Mexico's economic partnership has evolved, from "exports" in the 1990s to "integrated production" in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We have a joint interest in the vitality of this relationship, and in strengthening North American competitiveness.

A concerted focus on innovation and applied science and technology is critical to our societies' goal of achieving and sustaining economic competitiveness. Canada and Mexico share an interest in a wide range of economic activities that could benefit from our closer collaboration, leading to new business opportunities.

Our countries also acknowledge the dynamic intersection of the economy and the environment. Energy and climate change initiatives support long-term economic competitiveness, enhance energy security and mitigate air pollution. Our two countries have built a platform of pragmatic cooperation through a number of bilateral, North American and multilateral mechanisms, including the Canada-Mexico Partnership, the North American Leaders Summit, the Commission for Environmental Cooperation, and technology cooperation partnerships such as the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP), the Methane-to-Markets Partnership, the International Partnership for Energy Efficiency Cooperation (IPEEC) and, most recently, the Energy and Climate Partnership for the Americas (ECPA).

Work programs already underway bilaterally, trilaterally and globally will be complemented by further initiatives, including in the area of corporate social responsibility.

## **2) Protecting our citizens**

The significant illicit flow of drugs, arms, goods and resources into and through North America has an ongoing corrosive influence on the rule of law, compromises the business environment and undermines the security of citizens in the entire region. Mexico has challenged directly and confronted with determination and effective actions the threats posed by both domestic and transnational organized crime. Pursuant to the 2007 Action Plan, Canada and Mexico are partners in a multi-pronged effort to curtail the influence and destructive reach of drug trafficking organizations, which have direct negative impact on Canadian, Mexican, US and hemispheric security. We affirm the imperative to increase and deepen security, defence and justice cooperation between our two countries emphasizing areas such as exchange of information, institutional strengthening and training.

Close bilateral partnership on influenza pandemics and other emerging infectious diseases, emergency preparedness and surveillance has served our citizens well.

Both countries are committed to a trilateral approach to North American health security and will continue to work closely with other international partners through the Global Health Security Initiative (GHSI).

**3) Enhancing People-to-People Contacts**

Over 1.5 million Canadians and 200,000 Mexicans come as visitors to each others' country each year, and the population of permanent residents is also significant and increasing. As well, some 20,000 workers come to Canada through the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Program, under the Temporary Foreign Worker Program as well as under pilot projects of labour mobility in the construction and hospitality sectors; and academic, cultural and other exchanges are proliferating. Our two governments recognize the importance to help foster such contacts between our citizens in an orderly, legal and secure manner, as our citizens are the foundation for a rich and sustainable bilateral relationship.

**4) Projecting our Partnership Globally and Regionally**

As countries sharing the same fundamental beliefs, Canada and Mexico have a common interest in protecting and promoting those values in the international arena, in order to seek a safer, more democratic, more equitable world. In the United Nations, G20, OAS, NAFTA, North American Leaders Summits and other forums, Canada and Mexico work constructively to address security, prosperity, democracy, human rights and good governance priorities in the region and more broadly. We will deepen this strategic collaboration. Through sustained dialogue and consultation, we will be better able to forge convergent positions, formulate shared initiatives and engender mutual support on issues arising at regional and global governance forums.

This Joint Action Plan is written with the confidence that it will catalyze further mutual benefits amongst us as close friends and strategic partners; multiply our alliances both at the national and sub national, public and private levels; and strengthen our existing bilateral coordination mechanisms. Together, Canada and Mexico embrace the future from the comfort and the proven worth of a diplomatic relationship stretching back more than 65 years.

SIGNED in duplicate, at *Ottawa*, this *27* day of *May* 2010  
in the English, French and Spanish languages, each version being equally valid.

  
FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

  
FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED  
MEXICAN STATES

## ANNEX

### CANADA-MEXICO JOINT ACTION PLAN 2010-2012 INITIATIVES TO ADVANCE PRIORITIES

#### 1) **Fostering Competitive and Sustainable Economies**

##### *a) Competitiveness and Economic Growth*

- Intensify trade and investment. We will support and encourage our private sectors to:
  - Work closely in the global value chains of key sectors;
  - Develop the joint tools and alliances they need to become more competitive, including investment and strategic alliances, joint venues of credit, venture capital and stock exchange products;
  - Conduct and participate in focused trade missions;
  - Be inclusive of small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) in the initiatives put forward, particularly given their role as creators of employment and as innovators.
- Greater regulatory cooperation. Within North America, regulatory-based differences represent a significant obstacle to competitiveness, innovation and overall economic performance. In the context of the North American Regulatory Cooperation Framework, Canada and Mexico will continue to work with private sector stakeholders to identify and address priority areas for action.
- Commitment to jointly promote corporate social responsibility (CSR), including the dissemination of the Mining Tool Kit in key states.

##### *b) Environment and Energy*

- Continue to strengthen our results-oriented cooperation and seek new synergies on clean technologies and cleaner use of oil and natural gas, and on renewable energy and energy efficiency, including through joint project activities, in such areas as:
  - Carbon capture and storage, and enhanced oil recovery;
  - Renewable energies, notably small hydro and net zero housing;
  - Energy efficiency, including cogeneration; and
  - Smart grids.

- Continue to enhance cooperation of technical strategic alliances in the energy field of Mexico and Canada through sharing information, experiences and lessons learned in the areas of new technologies and legal and regulatory frameworks for the energy sector.
  - Build stronger commercial ties between the two countries by working on joint projects between our respective governments, regulators and industries.
  - Promote cooperation, including capacity building and technical exchanges, to mitigate environmental impacts associated with damage to energy infrastructure.
  - Consider regular strategic consultations on climate change negotiations and on implementation of commitments.
- c) Science and Technology*
- Encourage closer collaboration in the area of Applied Science and Technology.
  - Encourage and help promote cooperation to devise innovative solutions, particularly on joint projects and institutions with a strong market focus.
  - Encourage deeper cooperative relationships among Mexican and Canadian institutions.

## **2) Protecting our citizens**

### *a) Security*

- Capitalize on and strengthen the Canada-Mexico Consultations on New and Traditional Security Issues (established by the Joint Plan of Action 2007 and formerly known in Mexico as the Dialogue on Law Enforcement and Security) as the instrument to maximize coherence and complementarity between the activities of bilateral mechanisms and working groups dealing with security related themes.
- Deepen cooperative efforts in security system reform (crime prevention, police professionalization and cooperation, judicial and correctional system reform), through institutional capacity-building bilaterally and in the wider North American context.

- Work cooperatively to maximize the strategic deployment of resources available through Canada's Anti-Crime Capacity Building Program and other funding mechanisms.
- Foster our Political-Military dialogue.
- Heighten awareness of the importance to both North American and regional security of effectively containing the influence of transnational criminal organizations and strengthening the rule of law.
- Enhance awareness of the need for effective international cooperation on aviation security and work together to implement the measures outlined in the *Americas Joint Declaration on Civil Aviation Security* signed on February 17, 2010 in Mexico City.
- Reaffirm our commitment to the goals of nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation, peaceful uses of nuclear energy and nuclear security by complying with our international commitments, particularly those arising from the Washington Nuclear Security Summit in April 2010, and cooperating in strengthening the Treaty of Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

*b) Health and Emergency Response*

- Work bilaterally and trilaterally to review and strengthen protocols of conduct for North American authorities in situations of health emergencies.
- Promote joint training on rapid response to health emergencies derived from natural disasters.
- Improve bilateral and trilateral communications frameworks on pandemic and health emergencies management.
- Work with international partners to strengthen health security partnerships, in particular with regards to the detection and prevention of infectious disease outbreaks.

**3) Enhancing People-to-People Contacts**

- Pursuant to the 2007 Joint Action Plan, our countries established a bilateral "Consular Rapid Response Mechanism" with the aim of providing urgent and high-level engagement to better respond to the needs of our citizens. Canada will expand its network of key decision-makers across relevant departments and agencies to strengthen its mechanism and increase congruence with its Mexican counterpart.

- Continue to pursue government to government efforts such as the following to facilitate the orderly, legal and secure movement of our citizens, including youth, students, tourists and business people:
  - sign a Youth Mobility Arrangement;
  - seek ways to address unlawful practices that lead to abuse of immigration and refugee programs and endanger vulnerable migrants;
  - encourage exchanges of information, experiences and best practices concerning bilateral migration issues;
  - consider initiatives to facilitate the movement of temporary workers, students and visitors, while maintaining the integrity of our respective immigration systems;
  - study ways to expand bilateral labour mobility; and
  - exchange information on labour market issues, including trends, recognition of credentials and skills certification.

#### **4) Projecting our Partnership Globally and Regionally**

- Consider regular bilateral policy planning meetings, complementing existing mechanisms for bilateral cooperation on regional and multilateral issues.
- Building on our shared experience and commitment, explore how our countries can deepen collaboration at the international level in the areas of humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, maritime security and peacekeeping.
- Explore ways to enhance our cooperation to strengthen security in Central America and the Caribbean.