

POSITION PAPER OF MEXICO 73rd ORDINARY SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT

The 73rd ordinary session of the UN General Assembly (73 UNGA) will be chaired by Ambassador María Fernanda Espina Garcés from Ecuador. This is the fourth instance in the history of the Organization in which a woman will be in charge of the General Assembly, and the first time a woman from Latin America and the Caribbean region holds that position.

It will also be the first session of the General Assembly after the approval of the reform initiatives that Secretary-General António Guterres presented in 2017 and which were approved by the same body in 2018. These proposals are aimed at restructuring the organization with a strategic vision of prevention and ensuring efficient responses to the problems it faces.

The President has proposed the following topic to guide the 73 UNGA discussions: **Making the United Nations relevant to all people: Global leadership and shared responsibilities for peaceful, equitable and sustainable societies.**

The 73rd ordinary session of the UN General Assembly will take place in a context of a particular convergence of the following trends:

- Several political forces and governments choose to implement unilateral and isolationist actions in response to international challenges.
- Public skepticism about the effectiveness of multilateral decisions, mostly due to the inaction and paralysis of forums such as the UN Security Council.
- Given the withdrawal of some countries from international agreements, the majority of the international community has mobilized itself to preserve the great consensus and commitments on issues of global interest, such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the Agenda of Addis Ababa Action on Financing for Development, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, among others.
- After the adoption of these important multilateral agreements, the UN and its members aim to put them into practice, in order to set the basis of the global system for the 21st century.
- Uncertainty persists due to a possible reconfiguration of the world order and of the values that have guided international community since the end of the Second World War.
- The exacerbation of extremist ideologies, political and religious fundamentalism, racism and national policies that go against the principles of international law, democracy, human rights, tolerance and the peaceful settlement of disputes, continue.
- Rapid technological change is transforming international coexistence by generating risks in terms of security and employment, with the ability to create tensions and even destabilization in international relations. It also generates opportunities by promoting innovation with a substantive impact in all Sustainable Development Goals and alliances in favor of economic growth.

- Environmental degradation continues with risks for the future of humanity, in particular, those regions of the world that accumulate a greater degree of vulnerability to climate change, biodiversity loss, ocean acidification and desertification, among others.
- In 2017, the UN reported an increase in the number of hungry people, breaking the downward trend that had been reported for several years. Reaching SDG2 requires the strengthening of cooperation between the United Nations system and developing countries.
- However, we have the possibility of being the first generation that ends poverty and hunger in the world. The adoption of the 2030 Agenda changed the development paradigm since it represents a new vision that integrates economic growth with social development, in harmony with the environment. This comprehensive vision, which our country is implementing, will allow us to fulfill our promise of “not leaving anyone behind”.
- Sustainability, inequality, vulnerability and the eradication of poverty concern all countries, although in a differentiated way. Given this scenario, collaboration and multilateralism stand up as the correct mechanism to tackle these common challenges.

In this regard, Mexico presents its position on the main issues to be discussed during the 73rd ordinary session of the UN General Assembly:

i. Reform of the United Nations

Currently, the UN has mechanisms to discuss the reform of the Organization amongst all its Member States. In this regard, for years Mexico has assumed a clear leadership in the framework of the discussions to reform the UN, convinced that it is necessary to improve its working procedures, in order to increase its effectiveness, relevance and ability to fulfill the principles and objectives established in the United Nations Charter.

Reform of the United Nations Development System. Mexico will maintain its commitment to support the process undertaken by the Secretary-General to align the work of the UN with the 2030 Agenda we will support its efforts to ensure that the transition to the new positioning of the United Nations Development System (UNDS) is effective and efficient. It will also continue to promote the alignment and coherence of the actions contemplated in the UNDS with the mandates adopted in the process to strengthen ECOSOC, and which are included in the resolution 72/305, aiming at improving the design and implementation of strategies within the Organization.

Revitalization of the General Assembly. Mexico will continue participating substantively in the process of revitalization of the General Assembly to strengthen its role, authority, effectiveness, and efficiency, in order to ensure that all Member States implement its decisions and resolutions and that its work reflects those priority changes that have taken place in the past few years. Furthermore, to ensure that agreements are generated based on the efforts to achieve peace and sustainable development. The study of the thematic agenda of the UNGA is essential in analyzing the validity of the topics it addresses and to optimize its work.

Security Council Reform. As member of the Uniting for Consensus Movement (UfC), Mexico will continue to advocate for a compromise proposal in the framework of the Intergovernmental Negotiations to reform the Security Council, which includes the creation of new non-permanent seats with long-term mandates and with the possibility of immediate reelection, as well as a greater

participation of countries from regions that currently are not properly represented. Mexico opposes the creation of new permanent seats, on the grounds that their existence is anachronistic as this stands against the sovereign equality of States, democracy, accountability, and transparency.

Restricting the use of the veto. Mexico will continue to promote the Franco-Mexican initiative that aims at restricting the use of veto power in cases of genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes. For Mexico, the only realistic possibility to reform veto power lies in its voluntary regulation.

Promotion of Gender Equality. In line with the recent strategies established by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mexico will continue to promote gender parity and combat sexual exploitation and abuse within the system, taking into consideration that gender equality must permeate transversally and that it is an essential condition for achieving sustainable development.

ii. International Peace and Security

More than 70 years after the UN was created, the challenges to international peace and security have evolved in an unprecedented manner. The changing nature of armed conflict and its impact on the civilian population has forced the Organization to analyze and rethink its paradigms, with special attention to the importance of prevention and addressing the root causes of conflicts. Mexico will continue working within the framework of the United Nations to ensure the effective implementation of these new paradigms in the Architecture for Peace Consolidation, in order to ensure peaceful, just, and inclusive societies.

Sustaining Peace. Mexico will continue supporting a change of culture within the United Nations that seeks to make sustaining peace the guiding thread of all activity in the Organization. This will require a holistic approach to prevention and attention to the causes of conflicts. Mexico chairs the Group of Friends for Sustaining Peace, consisting of 40 countries, and in that capacity it will follow up on the Secretary-General's future actions and reports on the implementation of his recommendations, as well as in preparation to the examination on the functioning of the UN peace consolidation fora, which will take place in 2020.

Peace Operations. Mexico will continue to strengthen its participation in peacekeeping operations and special political missions of the UN. It will give special attention to the two missions established in the Latin American and Caribbean region: the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia and the United Nations Mission of Support for Justice in Haiti. Additionally, it will follow up on the analysis and implementation of initiatives of the Secretary-General such as the Action Plan for the security of personnel in Peacekeeping Operations and the Action for Peacekeeping initiative (A4P).

Regarding **special political missions**, every year Mexico and Finland present a resolution on these types of UN missions that focus on the prevention, establishment, and consolidation of peace after conflicts and support the transitions towards favorable environments to achieve sustainable peace, in coordination with national agents, as well as humanitarian and development agencies. In this sense, Mexico promotes the review and analysis of these missions, in order to improve their transparency, effectiveness, accountability, regional representation, and gender focus.

Women, peace, and security. Mexico will continue to promote the advancement and empowerment of women in peace and security issues, including the promotion of a gender perspective in the mandates and decision-making process related to Peacekeeping Operations. Furthermore, in line with Mexico's commitment to the progress and transversal implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda throughout the UN System, it will support the increase of gender advisers and female staff in these operations and will maintain an active participation as a member of the Group of Friends, and the Network of Focal Points for Women, Peace and Security. Mexico will seek to contribute to the fulfillment of the 2030 Agenda and the achievement of gender equality and empowerment of women in all areas of public life to achieve more peaceful, just, equitable, and inclusive societies.

iii. Transnational challenges

The current global and regional situation demands reflection on the concepts, policies, and strategies of national security, public security, justice delivery, and citizen security, from a comprehensive perspective that fosters the generation of broader and timely responses to emerging challenges.

World Drug Problem. For Mexico, the results of the XXX Extraordinary Period of Sessions of the General Assembly dedicated to the problem of drugs (UNGASS 2016) marks a paradigm shift, placing people, and not substances, at the center of its efforts, and recognizing that new realities of the phenomenon give countries flexibility to adapt the mandates of international instruments and agreements to their own problems and needs. With this vision, Mexico will promote taking decisive steps in the implementation of the operational recommendations of the UNGASS 2016 outcome document.

As a result of the responsibility of holding the chairmanship of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, Mexico will seek to contribute to the path towards the high-level session scheduled for March 2019, so that it is marked by a critical reflection on the progress and challenges of the international drug control regime, that leads to the identification of those elements that today require a more flexible and innovative vision.

In order to reaffirm that there is no backtracking on the focus of public health, comprehensive prevention, human rights, a gender perspective, and the orientation towards sustainable development, Mexico will present the omnibus resolution project "*International cooperation to address and counter the world drug problem*". To identify more effective responses to this challenge, Mexico will also seek to call for a common and shared responsibility in the attention of the phenomenon, including the involvement of civil society organizations, as well as specialized bodies and agencies of the UN and other international organizations.

Arms trafficking. For Mexico, the fight against illicit arms trafficking is a priority issue. Their improper, indiscriminate, and irrational use has had devastating consequences on thousands of lives on a daily basis, it limits the development of people and contributes to instability, insecurity, and violence. For Mexico, these figures are alarming: every year, more than two hundred thousand weapons enter illegally through the northern border.

Mexico is interested in promoting the universality and full implementation of the conventions, instruments, and mechanisms that contribute to preventing the illicit trafficking of weapons, such as the Protocol against the Trafficking of Weapons that complements the UN Convention against Organized Crime, the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (PoA), and the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT).

The framework provided by target 16.4 of the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda represents an opportunity to foster synergies between instruments and agencies, and to revitalize multilateral discussions on reducing illicit firearms flows.

UN Global Strategy against Terrorism and the Prevention of Violent Extremism.

Terrorism constitutes one of the main challenges to international peace and security because it is not limited to a single country, region, and religion, but it also represents a threat to human rights.

Mexico will continue to promote a dialogue towards the reactivation of negotiations at the United Nations General Convention on International Terrorism, given the need to have a multilateral regulatory framework to counter it. Furthermore, Mexico will seek to recognize that victims of terrorism require special attention, support, and protection, as well as access to justice, highlighting their fundamental role in preventing violent extremism that can lead to terrorism, and that the fight against terrorism does not entail broad interpretations on the use of force that can generate abuses of the UN Charter and International Law.

Cybersecurity. Cyberspace has become a global platform for the dissemination and exchange of information, the exercise of rights and freedoms, and the promotion of business, innovation and the free expression of ideas. However, information and communication technologies have also been used for malicious purposes by criminals, as well as criminal and terrorist organizations.

For Mexico, the UN must play a decisive role in fostering trust in cyberspace, ensuring the full application of international law, preventing future conflicts fueled by cyber incidents and promoting cooperation for capacity building. The previous findings of the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on Advances in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security, mark a positive path which seeks the consolidation of a legitimate and peaceful use of cyberspace as a trigger for sustainable development that can be enriched by the cross-cutting nature of the 2030 Agenda.

In this framework, and also recognizing the efforts of other UN bodies and agencies to address issues such as cybercrime and cyberterrorism, Mexico will promote within the General Assembly discussions regarding the adoption of commitments that aim at balancing three aspects: 1) guarantee the access and peaceful uses of cyberspace as a trigger for development; 2) guarantee the free dissemination of ideas, and the exercise and protection of human rights in cyberspace; 3) ensure that cyberspace is a safe and reliable environment for individuals, businesses, and governments.

Challenges of technological improvements. Mexico supports the responsible innovation in science and technology for peaceful purposes while promoting the regulation of its use and application in weapons due to its impact on international security. The threat lies in the fact that

technological and scientific improvements could also diversify and create new methods of war, generating asymmetric warfare by increasing the capacity and military power of a few states and allowing non-state actors to participate in a new arms race. Therefore, it is necessary to discuss the legal, technical and ethical aspects of the application of new technologies, resulting in a legally binding instrument to prohibit autonomous weapons systems, as well as the regulation of armed drones.

Corruption. The phenomenon of corruption continues to affect the entire international community. Despite national, regional, and global efforts it has spread under new and more harmful modalities. In line with the implementation of the National Anticorruption System, Mexico will seek to underline its commitment to the prevention and fight against corrupt practices. Support for multilateral efforts on transparency, integrity, accountability in the public and private sectors, and open data, as actions that contribute to consolidating a global anti-corruption culture, is key. Likewise, Mexico will seek to make the evaluation processes more transparent, efficient, and less onerous through greater coordination and the development of synergies with similar mechanisms in other regional and international forums.

Human Trafficking and Smuggling of Migrants. Mexico will promote the commitments adopted within the framework of the Global Compact for a Safe, Regular and Orderly Migration, and will promote the ratification and implementation of the Protocols of the Palermo Convention in those areas, privileging at all times the preponderant role of the Conference of States Parties to the Palermo Convention as the ideal multilateral forum to promote international cooperation against these threats.

iv. Disarmament

Mexico is fully committed to the nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regime. Along with this, it has promoted the negotiation and implementation of legally binding instruments that prohibit the use of weapons which do not respect the principles of International Humanitarian Law. In this regard, Mexico will continue to fight for the construction of a safer world based on international law and its progressive development in the field of disarmament.

Mexico has welcomed the presentation of the Agenda for Disarmament of the UN Secretary-General -*Securing our common future*-, considering that this initiative contributes to the promotion of greater involvement and commitment of the international community in favor of disarmament, particularly in face of the risk of a setback in global efforts in this area.

Nuclear disarmament. Mexico will continue to promote the signing and ratification of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, in order to achieve its early entry into force. It will also continue its efforts to promote the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

Furthermore, Mexico will continue to work on strengthening and complementing the nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regime, with a goal of achieving and maintaining a world free of nuclear weapons. In particular, it will highlight the importance of compliance with the responsibilities contained in the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the agreements reached

in the 1995, 2000 and 2010 Review Conferences, in order to preserve their strength and credibility. Along with this, it will continue to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy, which represents an opportunity for sustainable development.

v. Sustainable Development

Recognizing that issues such as climate change, renewable energies, the 2030 Agenda, rapid technological change, food security, biodiversity, and global health have become very important for the international community, Mexico remains strongly committed to the international agenda of sustainable development. The strengthening of multilateral governance in the United Nations regarding these issues and the active commitment of the Member States and other actors involved will allow us to advance to a greater extent towards the fulfillment of its objectives and diminish the emerging challenges that we face to improve the quality of life of people, advance in green and inclusive economic growth and protect the environment from degradation.

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Mexico views this issue as a state commitment, thus it will continue promoting that the implementation of the 2030 Agenda is done in a comprehensive manner, not through sectoral approaches, and that it is executed at the local level, looking to leave no one behind. The value of the Agenda lies in its universality and the coherence of its 17 objectives. In this regard, Mexico will promote that during the review of resolution 70/299 in 2019 - at the end of the first four-year cycle - the follow-up and examination of the Agenda will be carried out comprehensively, so as to maintain its integrity and indivisibility. This will allow to strengthen the High-Level Political Forum as a space for mutual learning and international cooperation, with the support and diagnosis of the agencies, funds, and programs of the United Nations Development System.

Rapid technological change. In order to promote a dialogue and in-depth analysis of the impact this phenomenon is having on the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Mexico will promote global awareness of the different effects and challenges that rapid technological change presents to achieving sustainable development. Likewise, a more robust resolution that takes advantage of the role of the United Nations as the only forum that has the capacity to collect, analyze, and distribute information in an impartial manner will be promoted. This with the purpose of assisting and giving recommendations to states on best practices and public policies, which will allow them to guide rapid technological change, particularly in the field of artificial intelligence.

Financing for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Following the commitments initiated in Monterrey in 2002 and taken up again in 2015 by the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, Mexico will prioritize the effective mobilization of resources, as well as innovative and complementary financing mechanisms. It will promote that international cooperation considers the particularities of middle-income countries, where 73% of people living in situations of poverty live. It will continue to insist on strengthening the dialogue on "development in transition", emphasizing its importance for the countries of the region, the Official Development Assistance and climate financing, and will support the overcoming of the development gaps, both in middle-income countries and least developed countries. Ahead of the United Nations High-Level Conference on South-South Cooperation and Triangular

Cooperation, on the 40th Anniversary of the Buenos Aires Action Plan, which will take place in Argentina in 2019, Mexico will promote cooperation in the economic, social, environmental, and sustainable peace fields.

Climate change. Mexico will maintain its leadership in the fight against climate change, defending the universal validity of the Paris Agreement and seeking for the adoption of ambitious guidelines to become part of the Paris Agreement Work Program that is expected to be adopted at COP 24 in Katowice, Poland, in December 2018. It will urge all countries to increase their climate ambition in the next communication of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) that they will present in the year 2020 and in the future.

Disaster Risk Reduction. Mexico will reaffirm its commitment and leadership with the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Action and will contribute to the work of the 6th Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (PG2019). It will also continue to promote the recognition of the link between disaster risk reduction and the various complementary agendas, as well as new areas of opportunity for international development cooperation.

Sustainable Urban Development. Mexico will promote the effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda, as well as the relevance of UN-Habitat in the solution of the serious challenges to sustainable development generated by a disorderly urbanization, under the principle "leave no one behind".

Convention on Biological Diversity. Mexico will promote the integration of the biodiversity perspective in key productive sectors such as agriculture, forestry, fishing, and tourism. Likewise, Mexico will benefit at the 73 UNGA from possible agreements and alliances resulting from the framework that contribute to the consolidation of biodiversity as a transversal theme in the development agenda.

Concerning another related topic, Mexico will actively participate in the negotiations that will begin this year on a new legally binding instrument for the **conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity** in areas located on the high seas (BBNJ). It will also promote, amongst other issues, the revision of the establishment of protected marine areas, the use of genetic marine resources, and the arrangement of environmental impact assessments.

Food Security, Agricultural Development, and Nutrition. In order to fight the root causes of food and nutrition insecurity, particularly among rural populations, Mexico will continue to promote the global goal of reaching zero hunger by 2030 (SDG2), through the promotion of actions that encourage sustainable agricultural systems, supporting the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition 2016–2025, and promoting greater coordination between the UN and its specialized agencies. By supporting the goal of zero hunger, Mexico recognizes the multiple positive impacts that it generates in other areas, such as migration, climate change, biodiversity, soils, and oceans.

The United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA). The 4th UNEA will take place in March of 2019, under the theme "*Innovative solutions for environmental challenges and sustainable consumption and production*". Mexico will promote the parameters considered in The 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns (10YFP), with

particular attention to cross-cutting issues such as the inclusion of biodiversity in the productive sectors through the use of technological change like big data, information management, efficient use of resources and sustainable lifestyles. Mexico will also contribute to reaffirm that UNEA is the main body responsible for evaluating and monitoring the state of the global environment, providing an environmental perspective of sustainable development in line with the essence of the 2030 Agenda.

Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS). Mexico will chair the work of COPUOS until 2018 and will foster satellite and space monitoring of the Earth to help prevent natural disasters, particularly through UN-SPIDER. It will also support the work of the Working Group on the Long-Term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities, with the goal of preserving outer space as a world heritage, preventing its militarization and favoring international cooperation for its peaceful uses, with a solid regime of multilateral verification that contributes to building confidence among States.

vi. Human Rights

During the 73rd UNGA, Mexico will conduct itself in the debates of the Third Committee in accordance with the principles of respect, protection, and promotion of human rights. It will also give timely follow-up to all initiatives related to national human rights situations that arise and it will promote those related to national interests, particularly those regarding rights of women and girls, as well as those aimed at protecting people belonging to marginalized or vulnerable groups who suffer stigmatization, discrimination or exclusion. Mexico reiterates its commitment to the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms and will work to strengthen its capacities for the protection of human rights throughout the world.

Global Compact for Safe, Regular and Orderly Migration (GCM). The Intergovernmental Conference of the UN for the adoption of the Global Compact will take place on December 10th and 11th, 2018, in Marrakech, Morocco. During the 73rd UNGA, Mexico will prioritize the promotion of the Global Compact as the main instrument in the matter, and encourage a large participation in the Intergovernmental Conference.

During this period of sessions, the President of the General Assembly will convene open consultations to define the modalities and organization of the Review Forum on International Migration, and link the follow-up work and contributions at the regional level and within other fora.

Since the 1970s, Mexico has promoted the issue of international migration in several international forums, in order to ensure a prominent position on the United Nations agenda, particularly considering migrants at the center of policies, protection of their human rights, and the recognition of their role as agents for development.

The final text of the Global Compact is an achievement of multilateralism and a valuable tool that will contribute to the design of public policies and specific actions for the governance of international migration. For the first time, it establishes universal principles to protect the human rights of migrants and to promote inclusive development policies, looking for ensuring a safe, regular and orderly international migration.

Mexico will promote the importance and contribution of the Global Compact for the governance of migration with a human perspective.

Global Compact on Refugees. The drafting of the Global Compact on Refugees finished in July 2018; its purpose is to promote a more predictable and supportive action by the international community to address the causes and consequences of an unprecedented worldwide flow of refugees. The Global Compact will be included in the annual report that the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees will deliver to the General Assembly and will be considered for adoption in November, along with the annual resolution of UNHCR.

During the 73rd UNGA, Mexico will support the adoption of the Global Compact and its effective implementation. During this ordinary session, UNHCR will begin the preparation of the first Global Forum on Refugees to be held in 2019; this will be the main forum for monitoring and reviewing progress on the implementation of the Global Compact.

Death penalty. Mexico is firmly committed to the abolition of the death penalty, in that sense, it is part of the core group of countries that presents the resolution on a moratorium on the application of the death penalty. This year the initiative will pursue, among other issues, to increase the number of countries that support the text, strengthen the language on legal assistance in all stages of the procedure, and eliminate the imposition of the death penalty on people who are in any situation of vulnerability.

Protecting Children and Youths from Bullying. Mexico will present a resolution on this matter that will have the purpose of following up on the resolutions on the subject presented by Mexico at the sixty-ninth and seventy-first ordinary sessions of the General Assembly, which support has increased to 81 co-sponsoring States. Given the growing problem of harassment or bullying, the Mexican resolution aims to make this form of violence against children visible, in order to prevent it and offer solutions for its attention and eradication. Bullying is a global problem that affects millions of children and youths in all regions of the world. According to UNICEF data, 9 out of 10 children and youths say that bullying is one of their main concerns, 2 out of 3 claims to be victims of harassment, and 8 out of 10 believe that governments should take action to address it.

In this regard, Mexico reaffirms its commitment to the protection of children and youths against violence, particularly bullying, which consequences threaten their health, emotional well-being, and performance.

Groups in Situation of Vulnerability. As Chair of the relevant Groups of Friends, Mexico will exercise its leadership in the negotiations on inclusive development for people with disabilities and the rights of indigenous peoples. As a member of the LGBTI Core Group, our country will support the principles of equality and non-discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and sexual characteristics, particularly in discussions regarding extrajudicial executions.

International Year of Indigenous Languages in 2019. Mexico will support the arrangements for this commemoration, in order to draw attention to the serious loss of indigenous languages and the urgent need to conserve, revitalize and promote them. In line with the final document of the World Conference of Indigenous Peoples, as well as resolutions 70/232 and 71/321, Mexico will also promote the process related to the participation of indigenous peoples in UN meetings, which currently takes place within the General Assembly.

vii. International prosperity

After the adoption of the major multilateral agreements in recent years, the UN and its Member States are pursuing their effective implementation to build upon the global system of the 21st century. These agreements promote dialogue and cooperation as components to overcome conflicts and promote collective peace and well-being. The proposed topic for the 73rd UNGA represents an opportunity to adapt the organization and its members to the challenges and needs of the current international community, placing the welfare of human beings and their environment at the center of public policy.

World Health and Foreign Policy. Mexico reaffirms that the cross-cutting nature of the international health agenda, the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in particular, is the framework under which responses can be developed to address the challenges of the 21st century. Mexico will also promote the strengthening of health systems, as well as the prevention and combat of non-communicable diseases, tuberculosis and the elimination of antimicrobial resistance.

As a member of the group of scientists that will publish the UN Sustainable Development Report in 2019, Mexico will continue to promote a **multidimensional approach to poverty** that, in addition to considering people's income, takes into account their effective access to other basic rights such as food, education, health, social security, and basic services in housing.

Humanitarian Assistance. Mexico participates in various global and regional efforts to strengthen national capacities in order to mitigate the effects that natural phenomena have on the population, as well as to achieve a prompt and coordinated response. Mexico promotes effective humanitarian aid, respecting the principles of sovereignty, self-determination, impartiality, neutrality, but above all, humanity.

viii. Regional situations

The work of the UN continues to be fundamental in advancing the political dialogue and the peaceful settlement of disputes that currently represent a threat to global stability. Given the regional and global impact of armed conflicts, including the humanitarian crises that have resulted from them, some of these situations have acquired special importance in the international agenda. Therefore, it is necessary for Mexico to remain aware of their evolution, in order to promote peace, security, and development, in accordance with its principles of foreign policy.

Situation in Central America - progress towards the configuration of a region of peace, freedom, democracy, and development. Mexico believes that prosperity and

security in Central America can be guaranteed as long as there are comprehensive policies based on the regional dialogue. Mexico has guided its foreign policy with Central America towards the promotion of development and peace, in order to contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and combat the root causes of phenomena such as irregular migration, organized crime, and encourage institutional and democratic strengthening. Furthermore, this contributes to the development of infrastructure, energy integration, food security, and other cooperation schemes that favor physical integration and development.

Economic, commercial and financial blockade against Cuba. Mexico is convinced that relations between neighbors of the American continent benefit when they build ties in accordance with the contemporary context, of deep interaction between peoples, and understanding between governments, therefore it is required to support greater openness and a freer flow of people, goods, technology, and ideas. Consequently, Mexico firmly rejects the application of discriminatory national trade laws that intend to have extraterritorial effects. The elimination of the economic, commercial, and financial blockade against Cuba will promote the updating of its economic and social model, facilitate trade and investment flows, and will contribute to its full economic integration in benefit of the entire region.

Palestinian-Israeli Conflict. Mexico reiterates its call for a negotiated and peaceful solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict that is based on a two-State solution, and the right of both peoples to live in peace within secure and internationally recognized borders, in accordance with the applicable resolutions of the United Nations. Mexico has reiterated its rejection of violence and has called on the parties to act with the utmost restraint to avoid actions that could increase conflict and instability.

Syrian Arab Republic. Mexico reiterates its support to pursue a multilateral and negotiated solution to this conflict and expresses its condemnation towards the violence caused by all parties involved in the conflict, particularly the use of chemical weapons, as well as attacks against people belonging to ethnic and religious minorities. Given the paralysis of the Security Council, we will continue to explore mechanisms through which the General Assembly can offer political alternatives to the conflict.

Situation in Yemen. Mexico expresses its concern over the humanitarian crisis in Yemen, while it hopes for a peaceful and orderly political transition, based on the initiatives presented by the UN Security Council. Dialogue and peaceful negotiations between all parties to this conflict are the only solutions to the problems currently affecting the Yemeni people.

Nuclear Agreement with Iran. Mexico reiterates the importance of maintaining the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), so that it can contribute positively to the stability of the Middle East, and to the overall maintenance of peace and international security.

Africa. Mexico recognizes the central role of the African Union (AU) as the main regional body in Africa, and as an advocate of integration, social and economic development, and prosperity

in that continent, as well as of regional peace and security. It also recognizes the important progress made in the region in terms of democracy, human rights, political stability, and consolidation of peace. The UN must continue supporting the efforts of the AU and sub-regional organizations in the solution of armed conflicts and in the consolidation of peace processes in Africa, although the main responsibility for the maintenance of peace and security in the continent belongs to the African governments and peoples themselves. Currently, Mexico participates in three UN peacekeeping operations in Africa. Mexico celebrates the strengthening of the existing collaboration between the UN and the AU, through the signing of the AU-UN Framework on Implementation of Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030, in January 2018.

ix. Civil Society

The Government of Mexico promotes the active participation of civil society organizations in multilateral processes because it recognizes that their role is central to the global agenda. In addition to influencing the international agenda, civil society performs actions of monitoring and evaluation of public affairs, thus their participation is a fundamental component of democratic societies. That is why Mexico considers it important to continue generating opportunities for dialogue and opening communication channels that allow civil society to have an effective influence on issues of the international agenda, particularly within the UN.

In this regard, in April 2018 Mexico was elected for the first time to be part of the Committee of Non-Governmental Organizations of ECOSOC for the period 2019-2022. The importance of Mexico's participation in this Committee lies in the promotion that the Committee gives to the strengthening of civil society's participation in the multilateral agenda. During its membership, Mexico's work will focus on:

- Updating working methods, balancing the composition and increasing transparency of the work of this body.
- Strengthening cooperation between ECOSOC and Mexican and international civil society organizations, as increasingly relevant actors in multilateral fora.
- Promoting the registration of a larger number of civil society organizations, both Mexican and Latin American, to achieve greater regional representation.
