

## MEXICO POSITION PAPER 75 SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT

The seventy-fifth session of the United Nations General Assembly (75<sup>th</sup> UNGA) will be chaired by Turkish diplomat, Volkan Bozkir. The topic that will guide the discussions of the UN General Assembly in 2020 will be: **“The future we want, the United Nations we need: reaffirming our collective commitment to multilateralism – confronting COVID-19 through effective multilateral action.”**

For the first time in its history, and due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the High-Level Week, including the opening of the General Debate, will take place virtually with official statements being pre-recorded by Heads of State.

During the 75<sup>th</sup> UNGA High-Level Week, three summits will take place: the 75<sup>th</sup> Commemoration of the creation of the Organization of the United Nations, a Summit on Biodiversity, and the High-Level Meeting to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women (FWCW).

The 75<sup>th</sup> session of the UN General Assembly will be held within an international context marked by the following trends:

- UN Member States will meet virtually in an atmosphere of contrasts: while it will be an opportunity to celebrate the Organization’s 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and renew our collective commitment towards multilateralism, it will take place in the context of different crises that have been triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic and which therefore requires a spirit of solidarity with the families of the hundreds of thousands of mortal victims of this virus.
- The aggravation of armed conflicts and humanitarian crises because of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has forced some States to redirect their cooperation efforts due to sanitary or economic restrictions.
- The economic crisis has also threatened progress in the eradication of poverty, food security, gender equality, environmental protection and other Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- The need for true world solidarity and effective multilateralism in order to coordinate effective responses to the needs of people. Mexico has adopted specific actions, such as the promotion of resolution 74/274 to ensure global access to medicines, vaccines and medical equipment to face COVID-19. Our country has pronounced itself in favor of having the vaccines developed to face this virus being considered public health goods.
- The proliferation of expressions of acts of racism, discrimination, xenophobia and extremist ideologies that can be conducive to terrorism and that have seen an increased dissemination in part thanks to the availability of new technologies and social confinement due to the pandemic.
- We also remember that it has been 75 years since the nuclear explosions in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, as well as 50 years since the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Meanwhile, questions and uncertainties continue to take place due to the erosion of bilateral treaties between the main owners of these weapons and

because of the announcements regarding an intention to increase and improve existing stockpiles and resume nuclear weapons testing.

In spite of this complex international context, Mexico considers that the Organization of the United Nations is still the best tool to face global problems. It is this conviction that moves us to promote an effective multilateralism that offers solutions to the great challenges that we face such as the eradication of poverty, the fight against climate change, the creation of inclusive societies that coexist in peace and harmony, the resolution of armed conflicts through the attention of their underlying causes, disarmament, the fight against corruption and integrity in public life.

Our country will promote the value of international solidarity and renewed humanism in which the well-being of people is at the center of our actions. It is necessary to listen to the demands and contributions of our societies, in particular women, youth, indigenous peoples and organized civil society in order to make the UN a truly inclusive organization and incorporate the proposals and actions of other actors.

With Mexico's election to the Security Council (2021-2022) and its reelection to the Economic and Social Council (2021-2023), our country will be able to contribute the work of the main organs of the United Nations. This will allow us to promote better coordination and complementarity among the work and the agenda of the General Assembly, the ECOSOC and the Security Council. Mexico will also be a part of the Peacebuilding Commission and has presented its candidacy to be reelected as a member of the Human Rights Council (2021-2023). All of this highlights our country's interest and capacity to contribute to the different areas of the Organization.

We reiterate our commitment and conviction to promote a transformative multilateral policy in accordance with the profound changes taking place in our country. Mexico will continue to promote the peaceful settlement of disputes, the respect for international law, the promotion and protection of human rights and sustainable development, as well as gender equality in a manner consistent with our feminist foreign policy.

The COVID-19 pandemic has reminded us that there are health threats as well as economic challenges that all countries must face together, no matter their level of development. Likewise, it has become clear that much work still needs to be done to have a coordinated response that can match the demands of societies. Faced with restrictive visions and the propensity for unilateral responses that compromise the capacity to address global challenges such as climate change or achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Betting on the work of the UN is today, more important than ever.

The following are Mexico's positions regarding the main issues that will be discussed in the framework of the 75<sup>th</sup> UNGA:

## **I. Political Declaration for the Commemoration of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the UN**

*75 years after the creation of the UN, the challenges to international peace and security have evolved. Among them, the increasingly growing impact of armed conflicts on the civilian population has forced the Organization to reconsider existing paradigms and recognize the relevance of prevention. Mexico will continue to work with the United*

*Nations to guarantee the effective implementation of the concept of sustaining peace and its contribution to the Peacebuilding Architecture, in order to ensure peaceful, fair and inclusive societies*

**Election to the Security Council (2021-2022).** In June of 2020, Mexico was elected by the 187 votes at the General Assembly to be a member of the Security Council for the 2021-2022 period. Starting on October 1, 2020, Mexico will participate as an observer in the Council, and on January 1, 2021, as a member for a two-year period. During its membership of the Security Council, Mexico commits itself to defend the rule of law, enhance mediation efforts, preserving people's dignity, promote human rights and international humanitarian law, strengthening the protection of civilians during armed conflicts, improving transparency and the working methods of the Security Council, preventing and countering the illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons, and promote a gender perspective. Mexico will guide its actions within the Council with full respect to international law, particularly the Charter of the United Nations and the constitutional principles of our foreign policy, while promoting our national interest.

**Peacekeeping operations.** Peacekeeping operations are adapting to the changes brought on by the current pandemic to their operating environment and the way in which they fulfill their mandates. For the first time, Mexico will be a member of the Security Council while participating in United Nations Peacekeeping Operation. This participation allows us to contribute with an accumulated institutional experience to areas that are parts of the Council's agenda and in which Mexican Armed Forces are deployed such as the Operations in Mali, the Central African Republic, and Colombia among others.

**Special political missions.** Mexico will present, in cooperation with Finland, a resolution in the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly that focuses on prevention, establishment and consolidation of sustainable peace. With this resolution, Mexico seeks to contribute to improve the transparency, efficiency, accountability and regional representation of these missions. During the 75<sup>th</sup> UNGA, adjustments to the implementation and fulfillment of the objectives of these Missions will be discussed.

**Women, peace and security.** The Government of Mexico, who has formally assumed the commitment to a Feminist Foreign Policy, supports the mainstreaming of a gender-based perspective in all the actions and programs of the UN. Within the framework of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of UN Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), that recognized the disproportionate impact of armed conflict on women and highlights the importance of their contribution to the prevention and resolution conflicts, Mexico will present its first National Action Plan for the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda.

In line with Mexico's Feminist Foreign Policy, advancing this agenda will be a priority issue during its membership on the Security Council, promoting greater participation of women at the negotiation and decision-making processes. Likewise, Mexico will promote an increase in the number of female personnel in UN Peace Operations and maintain an active participation at both the Group of Friends and the Focal Points Network for Women, Peace and Security.

**Sustaining peace.** Mexico will continue to support the shift that the United Nations seeks to achieve by making sustaining peace the paradigm that improves coherence in the

Organization's actions. As president of the Group of Friends for Sustaining Peace – which has 44 members – Mexico will support all efforts aimed at implementing the United Nations Secretary General's recommendations emanated from the third review of the Peacebuilding Architecture in 2020, particularly strengthening the Organization's ability for conflict prevention and peacebuilding based on the three pillars of the UN, in a strategic and coherent manner, as well as on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

**Children and armed conflict.** The promotion and the respect for the rights of the child continues to be a priority for Mexico. Therefore, during its membership of the Security Council, Mexico will continue to promote initiatives to prevent the suffering of children in armed conflicts, who continue to be victims of recruitment by armed groups, sexual abuse, kidnapping, mutilations and murder. In commemoration of the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UN Security Council resolution that established the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict, Mexico will work to strengthen the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism.

**Mediation.** Mexico will continue to privilege mediation as an essential instrument for conflict resolution and will reiterate the importance of involving women and youth in UN-facilitated mediation initiatives. Likewise, it will continue to support the actions of the Group of Friends of Mediation.

## II. Transnational challenges

*The constant evolution of threats to international security demand a comprehensive reflection on national security policies and strategies, public safety, law enforcement and citizen security, from a perspective that encourages the generation of more dynamic responses to emerging challenges and that considers attention to its underlying causes.*

**Global health.** In order to effectively respond to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, a more robust health response based on international cooperation is required. Therefore, it will be necessary to ensure universal access to an eventual COVID-19 vaccine, which is why Mexico will follow-up on the resolution that was presented at the 74<sup>th</sup> General Assembly on the access to medicines, medical equipment and vaccines, in order to promote effective and equitable access to an eventual COVID-19 vaccine and promote that it is consider a global public good, in order to leave no one behind. Equitable access will not only be an act of global solidarity, but one of collective interest as it is a global crisis with repercussion for all of humanity. Furthermore, Mexico will actively participate in a Special Session of the General Assembly on COVID-19 in order to achieve these objectives.

Likewise, Mexico will continue to support the strengthening of the World Health Organization and all instruments, regulations and protocols in the field of international public health.

**Diversion and trafficking of arms.** Mexico grants a high priority to preventing and combatting the illicit trafficking of weapons, their pieces, components and ammunitions, as well as for generating better controls in the arms trade. With the evidence of the repercussions of this phenomenon for the country and the region, efforts will be made to bring international attention to the links between the illicit arms trade and the increase in

violence, intentional homicides and the commission of high-impact crimes, which together, severely affect citizen security, damage social fabric, and affects women and children, limiting the development opportunities of people across various regions.

With the objective of joining efforts to combat this scourge, Mexico will prioritize its focus on the implementation of SDG Goal 16.4 and will promote synergies between international and regional instruments, such as the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), the UN Program of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons (UNPoA), the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition (Firearms Protocol) of the Palermo Convention and the Inter-American Convention Against the Illicit Manufacturing and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and other Related Materials (CIFTA).

Mexico will reiterate the importance of addressing the entire life cycle of weapons and ammunition and of safeguarding their final destination, destruction, and of strengthening import and export controls.

**World drug problem.** The world drug problem is still one of the main challenges for countries all over the world. Mexico will present the project of omnibus resolution *International cooperation to address and counter the world drug problem*", in order to reaffirm the importance of moving towards a more comprehensive drug policy, that prioritizes a public health approach and a preventive vision, the respect for human rights, and addresses the causes and consequences of the illicit drug market, violence and crime.

**Crime prevention.** Mexico considers the fight against all forms of organized crime as a fundamental issue and is committed to combating financial flows and illicit arms trafficking, as well as with the recovery and return of stolen assets, in accordance with Goal 16.4 of the 2030 Agenda. Therefore, our country will promote the importance of transitioning from security policies based solely on punitive, policy and militaristic approaches, to one of prevention that includes strategies aimed at recovering peace, the procurement and administration of justice, the restoration of the rule of law and the reintegration of offenders with a human rights perspective.

**Corruption.** Mexico is firmly convinced that corruption undermines governance, institutional trust and represents a significant obstacle in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. In keeping with its commitment towards preventing and combating corruption, impunity and in favor of promoting accountability and integrity at all levels of public life, Mexico will participate in the organization of the Special Session of the UN General Assembly (UNGASS) on Corruption that will take place in 2021. Efforts will be made to strengthen the implementation of the United Nations Conventions against Corruption, as well as links with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

**Terrorism and prevention of violent extremism.** Terrorism and violent extremism that can be conducive to terrorism represent important challenges to international peace and security that are not limited to a single country or region, representing a threat to human rights and community development. Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, an increase in the recruitment of terrorist organizations and the proliferation of violent extremist ideologies is likely to take place due to the aggravation of political, social and economic grievances. Therefore, Mexico will continue to promote values of tolerance and respect,

and condemn all expressions of xenophobia, hate speech and extremist ideologies that seek to use violence as a means to obtain a political or ideological goal. Mexico will also reiterate the need to adopt effective measures to address this phenomenon, including its underlying causes. Likewise, we will promote with other universal and regional organizations specific actions that allow for a better understanding of this phenomenon, as well as the exchange of best practices and national capacity-building.

In order to ensure that all efforts aimed at preventing and countering terrorism are implemented in a comprehensive manner, our country will present the draft resolution on the “Protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the fight against terrorism”, and promote that the fight against terrorism should not imply broad interpretations of the use of force that leads to the abuse of international law, in particular international human rights law. Furthermore, and due to the increase in humanitarian needs derived from the COVID-19 pandemic, Mexico will continue to advocate that sanctions and measures against terrorism ensure access to humanitarian assistance at all times and do not criminalize humanitarian actors whose work is neutral, impartial and independent.

**Cybersecurity.** Mexico maintains that a multilateral approach is the only one that can guarantee, with a long-term vision, the legitimate and peaceful uses of cyberspace, resilience in the digital environment, the potential of information technologies as enablers of sustainable development and the protection of human rights in cyberspace.

In line with this vision, Mexico will participate in the meetings of the Open-ended Working Group and the Group of Government Experts on advances in the Field of Information and Telecommunications, both are mandated by the General Assembly of the United Nations. Within these groups Mexico will support the applicability of international law to cyberspace, institutional strengthening, capacity-building, improved regulations and the standardization of best practices, as well as the promotion of the exercise of rights and freedoms.

Furthermore, and aware that cybercrime is a transnational problem that requires cooperation among States and other interested actors, Mexico will participate in the work to implement resolution 74/247, including to elaborate an international convention against the criminal use of information technologies.

### III. Disarmament

*Mexico is fully committed to the non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament regime which is why it will continue to promote the implementation of legally binding instruments that prohibit weapons that do not respect the principles of international humanitarian law, particularly weapons of mass destruction. Furthermore, Mexico will continue to lead specific initiatives in favor of the Secretary General’s Disarmament Agenda “Secure our common future”, in particular those that focus on education for disarmament and non-proliferation.*

**Disarmament.** Mexico will support multilateral solutions aimed at achieving the effective application of international instruments that prohibit the use of weapons of mass destruction and those weapons that endanger the essential principals of international humanitarian law.

**Nuclear disarmament.** Mexico will continue to promote the total elimination of nuclear weapons under strict international control and in accordance with the principles of irreversibility, verification and transparency. The prevention of the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons is at the center of our country's actions on this issue. Therefore, Mexico will continue to work to strengthen and complement the existing non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament regime. In particular, the signing and ratification of Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, until their entry into force. Furthermore, Mexico will continue to highlight the importance of observing compliance with the obligations contained in the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), as the cornerstone of the regime. Mexico will also continue to support the fundamental work of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in the implementation of the safeguards regime aimed at preventing the diversion of radioactive material and the use of nuclear technology with peaceful purposes.

#### **IV. Sustainable Development**

*Mexico maintains a strong commitment to the international sustainable development agenda, for it considers issues such as climate change, the 2030 Agenda, rapid technological change, food security, biodiversity and global health, require a global approach.*

**2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.** At the start of the Decade of Action to deliver the SDGs by 2030, Mexico will actively participate to ensure that the challenges presented by COVID-19 in the face of possible setbacks in the achievement of SDGs are taken into account. For a third time, our country will present its National Voluntary Review to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. Likewise, it will work to ensure that the 2021 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) addresses the Sustainable Development Goals in a universal and comprehensive manner, with the participation of local governments, civil society, the private sector and academia, in order to implement innovative solutions.

Mexico will continue to chair the Group of Friends of National Voluntary Reviews (VNR) and for the follow-up and review of the HLPF. Furthermore, Mexico will continue to support countries in the preparation of their VNR presentation and encourage more substantive question-and-answer sessions.

Mexico will participate in the SDG Moment, convened by the UN Secretary General. Furthermore, it will advance in the implementation of the SDG Acceleration Actions, subscribed during the SDG Summit, held in September of 2019. The consolidation of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean will continue to be supported as an ideal space to share challenges and opportunities in the regional implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the sustainable recovery from COVID-19.

**Financing for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.** Mexico will reiterate its commitment towards the Financing for Development Process as an essential component for the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda and will participate in the process launches by the Secretary General, along with Canada and Jamaica on Financing for Development in the era COVID-19 and beyond. Focus areas will be recovery for sustainability, debt

sustainability and illicit financial flows. Mexico will also preside the Group of Friends of Monterrey which will serve as a platform to exchange experiences and best practices. Finally, Mexico reiterates its support to the full implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda as a key element for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other global development agendas.

**Social development.** Mexico has joined the Alliance for Poverty Eradication with the goal of joining efforts to eradicate poverty and will therefore, seek to raise awareness about the negative impacts of poverty on world peace, human rights and sustainable development. In addition, the vision of well-being and the development of people throughout their life cycle will be promoted, along with the respect, protection and guarantee of their human rights without exclusion, as a condition for the development of human capacities and to strengthen the culture of peace.

**Agricultural development, food security and nutrition.** For Mexico, the eradication of hunger, food security, nutrition, and sustainable and inclusive development in the agricultural and aquaculture-fisheries sectors have the highest priority. Therefore, our country will promote the adoption of decisions that contribute to the promotion of sustainable and inclusive agriculture to work towards the effective compliance of SDG 2: Zero Hunger, as well as cooperation initiatives aimed at taking advantage of scientific and technical innovation that promote biodiversity in the agricultural sector, food safety, tackle antimicrobial resistance, and promote healthy and accessible diets. Particular attention will be focused on initiatives that promote the elimination of malnutrition in all forms, including excess weight and obesity.

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Mexican Government has been working at the national and international levels to prevent the health crisis from becoming a food crisis. For this reason, it has carried out action to ensure the continuity of production, distribution, supply and consumption of food. The 2019-2024 National Development Plan, considers the theme “Food self-sufficiency and rural rescue”, establishing policies and support mechanisms for this important sector.

**Climate change.** The Government of Mexico will continue to participate in the context of negotiation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, particularly on the pending issues for the conclusion of the Paris Agreement Work Program. For Mexico, it is a priority to achieve the mainstreaming of a gender perspective, a human rights approach and the defense of indigenous peoples in international climate action, as well as to promote the participation of local governments.

As a co-leader, along with Canada, of the Global Adaptation Commission Working Group on Nature-based Solutions, Mexico will continue to promote the importance of adaptation and the need to devote the same efforts and resources to this as to mitigation. In particular, the role of nature-based solution in improving resilience as well as their social and economic co-benefits will be highlighted in the comprehensive implementation of the sustainable development agenda.

While the COVID-19 pandemic has forced negotiations to be delayed, Mexico will continue to advance in reviewing its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), in line with the commitments made last year during the Secretary General’s Climate Action Summit.

**Rapid technological change.** Mexico will continue to promote debate on the social, ethical, legal and economic consequences of the rapid technological change. In particular, a new draft resolution will be presented at the General Assembly on the impact of rapid technological change on the 2030 Agenda, with the goal to position this issue as a cross-cutting theme in the implementation of the Decade of Action to Deliver the SDGs and to generate ethical guidelines that analyze and seek to diminish the digital gap.

In order to promote cooperation based on shared human values, such as inclusion, the respect for human rights, international law, transparency and sustainability, our country will follow the implementation of the Secretary General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation, mainly as a one of the champion of recommendations 1C and 1D (relative to digital inclusion and its metrics) of the Secretary General's High-Level Panel on Digital Cooperation.

**Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence.** Mexico also participates enthusiastically in shaping a global governance scheme aimed at the worldwide responsible use of artificial intelligence and considers this an issue of great relevance to the multilateral agenda.

**Disaster risk reduction.** Mexico will reaffirm its commitment with the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Action by participating in the negotiation of the annual General Assembly resolution on disaster risk reduction. Likewise, it will seek to promote a text that reflects the need to consider the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on emergencies caused by natural disasters. Furthermore, and with the objective of improving disaster risk governance, it will support international cooperation efforts aimed at encouraging national and local strategies that address the systemic nature of risk and multiple risks, and to also prioritize prevention as we build back better. In order to achieve this, Mexico will maintain close cooperation with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR).

**Humanitarian assistance.** Considering the elevated number of people that require humanitarian assistance for their survival, particularly in the light of COVID-19 pandemic aggravating their living conditions, Mexico will continue to ensure respect for the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence when delivering humanitarian aid, as well as for the strengthening of the coordination of United Nations agencies, funds and programs in this matter. As a member of the Executive Boards of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Mexico will promote the link between humanitarian action and development.

**Population and development.** Mexico will continue to participate within the framework of the Commission on Population and Development in order to ensure that it continues to be a space in which adequate follow-up is given to the Cairo Program of Action and to avoid a trend in weakening this and other regional follow-up agreements. Thus, Mexico will continue to work in favor of a Commission that is truly functional and that is increasingly aligned with the goals and objective of the 2030 Agenda.

**Urban sustainable development.** Mexico will continue to promote the implementation and acceleration of the New Urban Agenda, along with the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement. It is essential for our country to resolve the profound social and economic inequalities that exist in urban environments. This is particularly important in order to

address the profound effects left by the COVID-19 pandemic in cities, as well as to prevent and protect urban populations, mainly those with some degree of vulnerability, from the most pressing development challenges, such as climate change. This requires mobilizing and counting the resources and infrastructure needed to achieve sustainable urban development. Therefore, as current presidents of the Urban Assembly, we will call on all parts to reiterate their political and economic commitment towards the work of the United Nations Human Settlement Program (UN Habitat).

**Green growth.** Mexico is committed with a post-COVID green recovery as part of a transitioning strategy towards a low-carbon economy that is fair for the workforce. Therefore, Mexico recognizes the importance of working with the private sector, academia and civil society in order to avoid the disproportionate impact of climate change and environmental degradation on marginalized populations while at the same time generation sustainable well-being while harnessing opportunities and innovation of green sectors that are socially inclusive.

**Convention on Biological Diversity.** Biodiversity is fundamental to achieve food security, reduce poverty and achieve equitable and inclusive development. This year during the Biodiversity Summit, Mexico will highlight the links between biodiversity, societies and the economy, and it will promote the adoption of sustainable production and consumption patterns in order to significantly reduce its impact on the planet. In particular, the importance of conserving and restoring ecosystems will be underlined as a measure to prevent emerging infectious diseases that can derive into pandemics, such as COVID-19.

Mexico will continue to actively participate in the negotiations for a Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework (Post-2020 Framework). Priority will be given to setting ambitious global targets for 2030 and identifying a clear and realistic strategy to meet them, including mobilizing the necessary means for implementation. Priority will be given to the participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, as well as subnational governments, the private sector and civil society in the design and implementation of the Post-2020 Framework.

**Ocean sustainability and marine waste.** Ocean sustainability is a priority for our country. Mexican seas are an immense source of wealth for the national economy and are a fundamental part of climate regulation. Therefore, Mexico promotes the sustainable use of its resources, in benefit of local communities. As members of the High-Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy, Mexico will continue to promote the responsible and inclusive use of the ocean and its resources. At the same time, measures have been taken to prevent and mitigate the potential adverse effects of marine debris, particularly plastics and micro-plastics on biodiversity and marine and coastal habitats, favoring the “polluter pays” principle.

**Fishing.** Mexico promotes sustainable use and conservation within the framework of Regional Fisheries Management Organizations, in order to minimize bycatch of juvenile fish and non-target species in fisheries, considering the need to substantially improve fishing methods. The national policy on the management of fish species is oriented and fully consistent with the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (CONVEMAR).

**Environmental rights.** Mexico will continue to promote an inclusive and human-rights vision in the protection of the environment. Proof of this is the Government of Mexico's current commitment to advance in the ratification of the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Escazú Agreement.

**Conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ).** Mexico will continue to actively participate in the negotiations on a new legally binding instrument on this issue. The Intergovernmental Conference (CIG) Bureau of which Mexico is a part of, has concluded three of its four sessions, and is expected to achieve an agreement on the text of a treaty that considers, amongst other issues: the establishment of marine protected areas, the exploitation of marine genetic resources and the elaboration of environmental impact assessments. In light of the delays of the negotiation process due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Mexico will seek that negotiations advance during the extended inter-sessional period, in order to facilitate agreements during the 4<sup>th</sup> session of the CIG.

**Harmony with nature.** For Mexico it is important to recognize bioculturality as the link between nature and culture, reflected in the traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities. Through the concept of bioculturalism, Mexico will continue to promote agreements at the multilateral level that will enable humanity to achieve the 2050 vision of the Convention on Biological Diversity: to live in harmony with nature.

## V. Human Rights

*In the defense of and respect for human rights, Mexico will continue to promote initiatives aimed at guaranteeing the rule of law, justice and the empowerment of women and girls, as well as the protection of vulnerable groups, particularly in the context of the health crisis caused by COVID-19. Mexico will also support efforts aimed at combatting gender-based violence and towards eliminating discrimination and related forms of intolerance.*

**International migration.** Mexico will insist on the recognition of the valuable contribution of migrants to the development of their communities of origin and in those of destination, and of their fundamental importance in the reactivation of the world economy. In this regard, it will resolutely promote that this recognition be accompanied by the respect of their human rights, the effective fight against all forms of rejection and discrimination, and will stress the need to build balanced narratives on migration and on migrants, based on evidence and not on prejudicial perceptions, as well as the urgent need to make progress in the design of migration schemes that allow migrants to access decent work, public health, education, housing and social security services.

In the context of the current COVID-19 pandemic, Mexico will highlight the urgency of designing actions that privilege the integrity of migrants, ensure their access to health services and reduce their vulnerability, particularly of children, adolescents, elders and sick people.

**Internal displacement.** Mexico recognizes that internal displacement is a multifaceted phenomenon that give rise to human rights violations and serves as an obstacle to the full participation of people in sustainable development. Given the increase in this

phenomenon on a worldwide scale, Mexico will support the work of the High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement, convened by the UN Secretary General, and will share its experiences with its members. Our country will advocate for a deeper understanding of internal displacement in all its dimensions in order to assess public policy options that support national development.

**Gender equality and rights of women and girls.** In accordance with our Feminist Foreign Policy, Mexico reaffirms its commitment with gender equality, human rights of women and girls, the eradication of all forms of discrimination and gender-based violence. The health emergency due to COVID-19 has highlighted structural inequalities and differentiated impacts on the lives of women and girls, which is why it is vital to put them at the center of the response, considering the twelve areas of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BAP), which this year marks its 25th anniversary, which will be marked by the the Generation Equality Forum that will be held in 2021 and led by Mexico and France. Under the leadership of civil society, and the participation of multiple actors, including the private sector, academia, unions, philanthropic institutions, and interested artists, the Forum will launch a series of concrete and ambitious actions to accelerate progress towards achieving gender equality by 2030.

**Rights of children and adolescents.** Aware that a significant number of children and adolescents live in a context of violence, including physical, sexual and psychological violence, as well as discrimination and neglect, situations that have increased exponentially due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Mexico will support resolutions on the human rights of children and adolescents that include issues of family relations, adoption and alternative care, the economic well-being of children, the right to food, and the prevention, elimination and response to violence against children. In particular, Mexico will present the draft resolution on the protection of children from harassment (bullying) as a contribution to the discussions surrounding the issue of the elimination of violence against children. Mexico will reiterate its commitment towards the protection of the rights of children and adolescents, including children and adolescents that particular conditions of vulnerability such as migrant children and children in armed conflict.

**People with disabilities.** Mexico will remain committed to being a lead country in the recognition of people with disabilities as full rights-holders, placing them in a more just legal position. In the face of the emergency caused by COVID-19, Mexico will promote actions to protect the health of people with disabilities in accordance with the highest standers on this issue.

**Indigenous peoples and people of African descent.** As a president of the Group of Friends of Indigenous People, Mexico will continue to promote the protection of their rights and their participation in UN meetings, in compliance with the agreements of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples. In the face of the health emergency caused by COVID-19, Mexico will promote the highest standards for the protection of the rights of indigenous peoples and people of African descent, including rights to physical and mental health, as well as to ensure access, without discrimination, to all services, including health services. Furthermore, Mexico will continue to promote the conservation, promotion and revitalization of indigenous languages, particularly in preparation for the International Decade of Indigenous Languages (2022-2032).

**Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and all related forms of intolerance.** Facing an increase in violence related to hate speech, xenophobia, intolerance, white supremacist ideologies, as well as an increase in hate crimes of homophobia, transphobia and ideas based on racial superiority in all regions of the world, Mexico will promote initiatives aimed at the total eradication of racism and all forms of discrimination and intolerance.

**Economic, social, cultural and environmental rights.** Mexico will reaffirm its commitment towards the protection and guarantee of economic, social, cultural and environmental rights as a priority in the current context in which the COVID-19 pandemic has had differentiated impacts on people living in poverty, street situations, women, girls, older persons, people in villages and from indigenous communities, people with disabilities, among others who face a situation of vulnerability. In this context, the urgency of joining efforts to guarantee the right to education, water, food, decent housing as well as labor rights will be highlighted in the context of the pandemic and post-pandemic, with the goal of leaving no one behind and mitigating the consequences of the worldwide economic lag.

**Moratorium on the death penalty.** For Mexico, the abolition of the death penalty, or at least, a moratorium on its application for those countries that have not abolished it, is a priority given that it considers capital punishment to be a fundamental violation to human rights. For this reason, Mexico has reiterated in various multilateral forums its willingness to continue collaborating to promote action aimed at the moratorium on executions, and eventually, the worldwide abolition of the death penalty. In keeping with this, during the 75<sup>th</sup> UNGA, Mexico and Switzerland will co-chair the Inter-regional Task Force for a Moratorium on the Death Penalty, an informal group of 47 countries with fine-tuned positions on the matter. In this capacity, Mexico will present a draft resolution within the Third Committee on the moratorium on the death penalty.

**National human rights situations.** Mexico will follow-up on the resolutions presented on issues relating to serious human rights situation in some countries, seeking objective discussions on these issues, privileging cooperation and linking the States with the international system, as well as with constructive positions aimed at the advancement of the human rights of all people.

**Vulnerable groups.** Mexico will promote the respect and protection of the rights of vulnerable groups, particularly in the current context of the COVID-19 pandemic. In its capacity as President of the corresponding Group of Friends, will lead 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. As a member of the Group of Friends of Older Persons, Mexico will promote the full respect for the dignity and rights of older persons, particularly in the context of the current COVID-19 pandemic in order to mitigate negative impacts on their health, life, rights and well-being during and after the pandemic.

**Youth.** Mexico believes that youth is a vital sector of the population, which is why it will continue its commitment with the fulfillment of the human rights of every young person in the development of their capacities and in recognizing their contributions as agents of

change. Likewise, our country will continue to support the Secretary General's Youth 2030 strategy.

## VI. United Nations Reform

*Convinced that it is necessary to improve the working procedures of the Organization in order to increase its effectiveness, relevancy and its capacity to fulfill its principles and objectives and meet the needs of people, Mexico has assumed a clear leadership position in the discussions surrounding UN reform.*

**Reform of the United Nations Development System.** Mexico will continue to support of the reform undertaken by the Secretary General as well as the implementation of resolution 72/279 in order to align the work of the UN with the 2030 Agenda. Innovative solutions that integrate the vision and joint efforts of all development actors, national, local and parliamentary governments, civil society, the private sector, academia and others will be promoted. Efforts will be made to promote the United Nations agencies, funds and programs to advance in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, in line with their respective mandates and building on their comparative advantages, thereby reducing gaps, overlaps and duplications between institutions. The new Resident Coordinator System (RC) will be consolidated and will promote a regional perspective as a transition point from the national to the global level as the main space to support national SDG implementation. To achieve this, Mexico will seek to guarantee secure, predictable and sustainable financing.

**Administration and budget.** Our country will continue promoting that the Organization meets the criteria of spending rationality, responsible and disciplined management of resources and their efficient use, privileging budgetary austerity and ensuring transparency and adequate oversight by the Membership. It will also follow-up on the implementation of measures related to the Secretariat's management reform and the improvement of the organization's financial situation.

**Revitalization of the General Assembly.** During the 75<sup>th</sup> UNGA UN Member States must analyze the role that the General Assembly plays in the face of emergencies such as the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as its role in the election and reelection of the Organization's Secretary General. Therefore, Mexico will participate in the process of revitalization of the General Assembly in order to strengthen its role as the universal body by excellence, as well as its authority, effectiveness and efficiency to generate agreements aimed at ensuring peace and sustainable development.

**Security Council reform.** In the framework of the intergovernmental negotiations for the Security Council reform, Mexico will seek to continue being a constructive actor in this dialogue, in order to ensure that the reform is truly comprehensive, and not only focused on the possible expansion of the Council, but rather seeks the improvement of its working methods in order to be a more representative, democratic, transparent and efficient body.

For Mexico, the creation of new permanent seats is contrary to the equal sovereignty of States. Therefore, our country will individually, and as a member of the United for Consensus Movement (UfC), work to achieve a reform that only increases non-permanent seats with long-term mandates and with the possibility of immediate reelection.

**Working methods of the Security Council.** Mexico will promote a review of the working methods of the Security Council in order to strengthen its transparency and accountability. This includes the relationship between the Security Council with other UN bodies, in particular the General Assembly, the distribution of workloads within the Council, the transparency of negotiations and decision-making processes, including those cases in which legitimate defense is invoked under Art. 51 of the UN Charter.

**Restriction of veto power.** Mexico continue its proactive support of the France/Mexico initiative (which has the backing of 106 States) for the voluntary suspension of veto powers in cases of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes.

## VII. Regional Issues

*The UN's work continues to be fundamental in advancing political dialogue and the peaceful resolution of conflicts between and within States, in favor of global stability. The Organization must contribute to regional development and to the attention of specific situations that have generated political tensions, escalated conflicts and caused relevant humanitarian crises.*

**Mexico: promoter of Latin American and Caribbean integration.** As President Pro Tempore of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), for the year 2020, Mexico has sought to overcome common convergences and challenges in the face of any bilateral or subregional tension that impedes a unified voice in Latin America and the Caribbean.

In the context of the current situation caused by COVID-19, the Mexican Presidency has convened regional health, economy, food security and education specialists to share good practices and define common strategies to address the challenges posed by the coronavirus.

Mexican efforts to encourage regional integration are now materialized with the joint initiative of the governments of Mexico and Argentina to manufacture a vaccine against COVID-19, developed by the University of Oxford and the pharmaceutical company Astra-Zeneca, with the collaboration of the Carlos Slim Foundation. This initiative estimates an initial production of between 150 and 250 million doses that will be distributed equitably among the CELAC membership. The vaccine is expected to arrive six to twelve months earlier than expected.

In addition to these efforts, Mexico has also sought agreements with pharmaceutical companies in China, the United States, Italy and Russia to ensure that Mexico and the region have timely access to the first approved vaccine against COVID-19.

**Comprehensive Development Plan for the South of Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador (CDP).** Aware that achieving the Sustainable Development Goals requires international cooperation, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico established an international development cooperation strategy to address the structural causes of forced migration. This effort has strong technical support based on the diagnosis and recommendations of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), which has accompanied the four countries since the beginning of the strategy.

The involvement of the international community in this development effort is essential to the success of the CDP. Twenty United Nations agencies, funds and programs have contributed with 108 project proposals aligned with the 4 areas of action envisaged in the Plan's short and medium-term. The work of these actors is coordinated by the Executive Secretariat of ECLAC and reports its progress to the UN Secretary General every six months.

ECLAC proposals were articulated in four areas of action (economic development, social welfare, environmental sustainability and risk management, and comprehensive management of the migration cycle), agreed by the four partner countries. Based on these areas of action, Mexico launched two programs in the area of economic development and social welfare that it shared with Honduras and El Salvador: "*Sembrando Vida*" and "*Jóvenes Construyendo el Futuro*". To date, the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (AMEXCID) has registered more than 9,000 beneficiaries in those countries.

**Economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba.** For Mexico, any unilateral measure designed to motivate changes in the political, economic or social system of a country from abroad, violates the norms of international law and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations. Therefore, our country will reiterate its firm rejection of the application of unilateral extraterritorial trade laws and will continue promoting the elimination of the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba, even more so at a time when all countries are facing a severe health crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic which has highlighted the need for solidarity and mutual support between nations in order to boost economic growth and the development of our peoples.

**The question of the “Falkland Islands (Malvinas)”.** In August 2020, Argentina passed two laws that reaffirm and give status to the Argentine claim to sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas). Mexico recognized the legitimate rights of the Argentine Republic in the sovereignty dispute over the Falkland Islands and had supported all calls for a peaceful and negotiated solution to that dispute. Therefore, Mexico will continue to support the call Latin America and Caribbean countries to the UN Secretary General to provide good offices in this issue. Likewise, Mexico also condemns the use of force in the resolution of the dispute and has urged respect for the principles of international law available for the peaceful settlement of disputes. It will also insist on maintaining an open dialogue between Argentina and the United Kingdom in the search for a just, peaceful, definitive and mutually acceptable solution between the parties, in a framework of institutionalism, mutual respect and in accordance with international law.

**The situation in Haiti.** Mexico will take advantage of its position as a non-permanent member of the Security Council to join actions in bilateral and other forums aimed at promoting technical and scientific cooperation with Haiti, support democratic reconstruction, political economic and social stability, as well as institutional strengthening and sustainable development.

**Peace process in Colombia.** Based on the foreign policy principles established in article 89 of the Mexican Constitution, specifically the peaceful settlement of disputes and the fight for peace and security, Mexico reiterates its vow towards the continued establishment of peace in Colombia and the implementation of the 2016 Peace

Agreement. Mexico will use its position as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council to contribute to peace dialogues in the region and in the world. In this regard, Mexico calls on the parties, including friendly countries and facilitators of the peace process in Colombia, to support the implementation of all the provisions of the Peace Accords and to comply with the commitments in order to achieve full national reconciliation.

**Venezuela.** Mexico is carefully following the development of the complex situation in Venezuela, in particular the living conditions for the 28 million Venezuelans and the human rights situation. Mexico remains committed to ensuring that Venezuelan society finds, through its own peaceful means, a negotiated and lasting solution. Any international accompaniment must be complementary to national efforts and must always follow the path of dialogue. Mexico rejects any initiative, threat or action aimed at the use of force, which, far from resolving the situation, would exacerbate its deterioration.

**Palestinian-Israeli conflict.** Mexico will continue to support a negotiated and peaceful solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Likewise, it will reaffirm international parameters for this solution which is based on two-Sates and the right of both peoples to live in peace within safe and internationally recognized border, and in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions. Our country will continue to call on the dialogue between all parties and to avoid unilateral violent actions that can endanger the prospect of peace and regional stability.

**Iran.** Aware of the importance of the civilian and peaceful used of nuclear energy, Mexico will reiterate its support for the effective implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) and will urge the international community, particularly the parties involved, to work in a coordinated manner to ensure that the agreements of this Plan are respected.

**Democratic People's Republic of Korea.** Mexico will continue to call on all parties involved to work on a constructive dialogue aimed at achieving the total denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and lasting peace that guarantees the stability of the region. In accordance with our country's position on the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems, Mexico will strongly condemn any nuclear or ballistic missile test that could take place.

**Syrian Arab Republic.** Mexico will reiterate its concern over the continuation of the Syrian conflict that began in 2011. We regret the humanitarian cost and loss of human lives as a direct result of the conflict. Mexico will reaffirm its condemnation of violence against the civilian population, including attacks against ethnic and religious minorities, as well as humanitarian personnel by any of the parties involved. For Mexico, the only viable solution to the conflict in Syria must consist in a negotiated political arrangement between the parties involved, with the Syrian people being the only ones that determine their future. Therefore, Mexico welcomes the negotiations carried out by the Syrian Constitutional Committee under the auspices of the United Nations in order to achieve a solution to the conflict.

**Situation in Yemen.** Mexico will continue to express its concern about the crisis in Yemen, and its impact on the humanitarian situation and the regional stability. Our country will reaffirm the relevance of dialogue between all parties involved as the only

solution to problems facing the people of Yemen. Likewise, it will support the political compromise for the implementation of the Stockholm Agreement in order to achieve a ceasefire throughout the entire country and advance towards a political solution. Furthermore, we reiterate our call to implement UN Security Council resolutions, including support for the mandate of the United Nations Mission in Support of the Agreement (UNMHA), established to maintain a ceasefire in Hudaydah, and its cooperation with the Secretary General's Special Envoy for Yemen.

**Africa and regional organizations.** While the primary responsibility for the maintenance of peace and security in the continent rests with the African peoples and governments, Mexico will promote UN Security Council's attention to the political and integral solution of African conflicts under its agenda. It will also promote efforts aimed at achieving political stability, the protection of human rights and the consolidation of peace in Africa, based on collaboration with the African Union and subregional organizations and the vision of African members of the Security Council. The actions of the Economic Community of West African States should continue to be supported in the light of recent developments in Mali and the Sahel. Strong support from the international community is also required to ensure that Sudan continues to make progress in its democratic transition process, along with other processes under way in various parts of the continent. Of particular relevance to Mexico are the advances in the African Union's initiative to "silence arms in Africa 2020". Currently, Mexico has observers and staff in three UN peacekeeping operations on the African continent.

**Afghanistan.** Convinced that peace and security will only be possible if reconciliation and development processes include all sectors of the population, Mexico will continue to closely follow the situation in Afghanistan including the establishment of a new Government, the implementation of the Agreement between the United States and the Taliban, and the development of the Inter-Afghan Dialogue, in which the participation of women and youth is fundamental.

**Myanmar.** Mexico will closely follow the cases that have been sent to the International Court of Justice as well as to the International Criminal Court. Mexico will continue to call for respect of the human rights of religious groups and ethnic minorities and will continue to closely follow political developments and in the matter of human rights protection.

**Libya.** Mexico will continue to support a political solution to the crisis based on the points identified by the Berlin Conference. In order to achieve this, it is necessary to fully comply with the arms embargo imposed by the Security Council and will call on the respect for the human rights of migrants that are in Libyan territory.

**Sahel and the Lake Chad Basin.** Concerned over the proliferation of terrorist groups in the Sahel and their repercussions for regional peace and security, Mexico will continue to closely follow the security situation in Sahel, particularly regarding the cooperation efforts of the G5-Sahel (Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger) in order to combat terrorist groups in the area.

In addition to the aforementioned situations, as a member of the Security Council, Mexico will closely follow the situations in Burundi, Guinea-Bissau, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Somalia, Sudan and South Sudan.

