



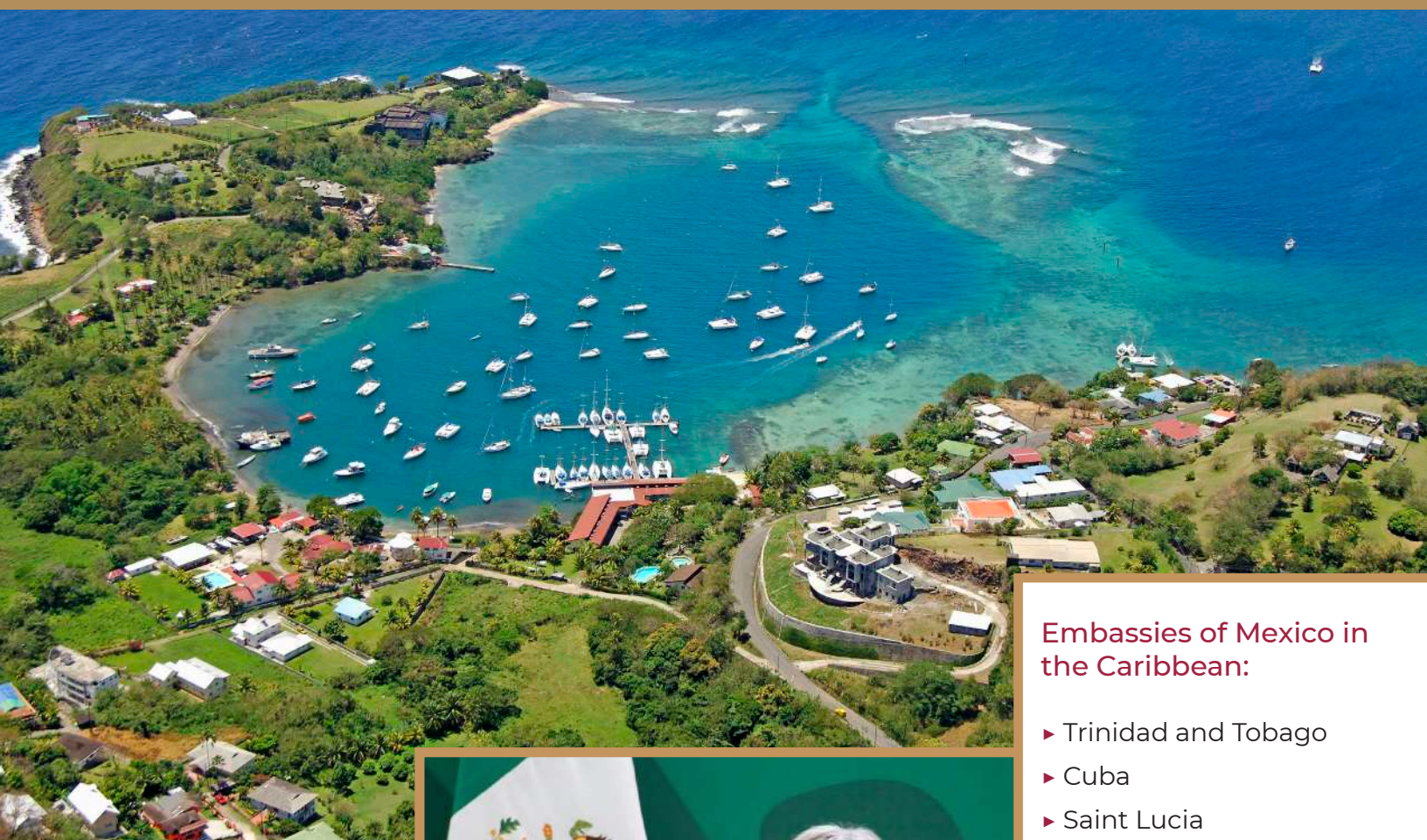
RELACIONES EXTERIORES

SECRETARÍA DE RELACIONES EXTERIORES

ANNUAL BULLETIN

Undersecretariat for Latin America and the Caribbean / General Directorate for Central America and the Caribbean

#MexicoIsCaribbean



In its strategy towards the Caribbean, Mexico is committed to consolidating diversified and self-sustainable ties in the medium and long term, while seeking to engage in priority areas of mutual interest, at both bilateral and multilateral levels.



Embassies of Mexico in the Caribbean:

- Trinidad and Tobago
- Cuba
- Saint Lucia
- Guyana
- Haiti
- Dominican Republic
- Jamaica
- Belize



ANNUAL BULLETIN 2023: MEXICO IS CARIBBEAN

Dear friends and collaborators,

It is an honor for me to present the Annual Bulletin 2023 #MexicolsCaribbean, which briefly highlights the work carried out by our embassies in the Caribbean throughout the ending year. This bulletin not only pays tribute to the tireless efforts of our diplomatic personnel but also serves as a testament to the deep ties that bind Mexico and the Caribbean in a relationship based on friendship, cooperation, trade, investments, history, culture, and solidarity.

Mexico and the countries of the Caribbean share a rich history marked by strong economic, political, and cultural connections. Together, we face common challenges in fundamental areas, including environmental issues, economics, natural disasters, connectivity, security, migration, financing, tourism, and health. Confronting these challenges has united us and inspired us to work together towards innovative and effective solutions.

In our strategy towards the Caribbean, Mexico is committed to consolidating diversified and self-sustainable ties in the medium and long term, while seeking to approach priority areas of mutual interest at both bilateral and multilateral levels.

Currently, Mexico has 8 embassies in the Caribbean, located in Cuba, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, Belize, Guyana, Saint Lucia, and Jamaica. Three of them are concurrent, and additionally, we maintain a consulate in Havana. These diplomatic representations are the operators of our ongoing commitment to the Caribbean region and our determination to strengthen our ties.

Mexico actively participates in regional and international forums based in the region, such as the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) headquartered in Port of Spain, the International Seabed Authority (ISA) in Kingston, and as an observer to the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) in Georgetown. These forums address priority issues affecting the region and promote cooperation and dialogue among our countries.

In the Annual Bulletin 2023, you will find a detailed overview of the actions Mexico is taking in its strategy towards the Caribbean, including the strengthening of political ties, the expansion of cooperation, the promotion of regional interconnectivity and trade, as well as support for the Mexican private sector in the Caribbean, identifying the attractions of Caribbean countries and the opportunities of interest that the Mexican sector could leverage.

I invite you to explore the following pages of #MexicolsCaribbean, where you will discover inspiring stories, innovative projects, and a shared commitment to a stronger, prosperous, and resilient Caribbean. We celebrate the achievements of our embassies and renew our friendship commitment to the region.

Sincerely,



Alicia Bárcena Ibarra

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mexico
Mexico City, December 2023



Embassy of Mexico in Trinidad and Tobago



Delegation of Mexican entrepreneurs in Port of Spain at the Business Seminar to promote trade between both countries.



Trinidad and Tobago is an exemplary country, recognized for being classified as a Very High Human Development society (UNDP) and for being the leading economy in the Eastern Caribbean with a per capita income of \$19,600 USD(IMF). It is also a robust democracy, as demonstrated in this year's local elections. Additionally, it stands as an undisputed leader in the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), as reflected in the organization of the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Chaguaramas Treaty in Port of Spain, which established the integration process.

2023 is the year in which full normalcy is experienced post-pandemic. It is a year in which new ways to address security challenges are being discussed, and it is a year to rethink the forms of labor organization in Trinidad and Tobago.

In this context, the Embassy of Mexico has worked diligently to advance the fulfillment of essential bilateral relationship objectives. Some of the achievements include:

Mexico strategically raised awareness about the issue of illicit arms trafficking in Trinidad and the broader Caribbean, highlighting its role as a significant contributor to insecurity. This effort garnered robust support for the Mexican cause from the Heads of Government of CARICOM who participated in the Symposium on Crime and Violence in the Caribbean. Mexico emerged as a leader in promoting human rights, particularly in combating human trafficking, and took a



Mexican participation in the Symposium on Crime and Violence in the Caribbean. Port of Spain.



The Embassy of Mexico promoted food security in coordination with FAO and CARICOM.

bold stand against discrimination by organizing the First LGBTQ+ Short Film Festival in Trinidad.

In a significant development, a business delegation from the Mexican Council of Foreign Trade, Investment, and Technology (COMCE) conducted its inaugural visit to Port of Spain. This historic occasion included the organization of the Trinidad and Tobago-Mexico Business Seminar, aimed at promoting bilateral trade.

The effects of climate change on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) were placed on the working agenda of the Second International Habitat Summit for Latin America and the Caribbean held in Guadalajara.

In collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and CARICOM, Mexico successfully promoted food security through resilient aquaculture and resilient school feeding.

Furthermore, progress was made in establishing a Geospatial Observation Center at University of the West Indies (UWI) to collaborate on disaster prevention throughout the Caribbean.

In accordance with the presidential directive, the Embassy fulfilled the task of disseminating the legacy of Francisco Villa on the centenary of his death. This included organizing three conferences, crafting a press article, curating an exhibition, and unveiling a bust.

Additionally, the Embassy took proactive steps in regional outreach by organizing two webinars. One focused on regional financial education, while the other addressed preventative measures for the rainy season and tropical cyclones.



Barbados

Stands out as a distinguished country in the Eastern Caribbean, renowned for its captivating geography that makes it a hub for tourism. With a per capita income exceeding \$21,000 USD (FMI), Barbados boasts a robust economy. It holds the classification of a nation with a High Human Development Index (UNDP), reflecting its commitment to human well-being.



The Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Mexico and Barbados signed a Memorandum of Understanding in New York.

Furthermore, Barbados showcases strong political leadership, gaining increasing international prestige.

The year 2023 holds particular significance for Barbados as it witnesses substantial progress in the national dialogue aimed at crafting a new constitution for the world's youngest republic.

As a significant diplomatic mission with concurrent jurisdiction, the Mexican Embassy in Barbados has been dedicated to enhancing bilateral relations, achieving noteworthy milestones:

Celebrating 50 years of bilateral relations, negotiations resulted in the signing by Foreign Ministers Kerrie Symmonds and Alicia Bárcena of the Memorandum of Understanding for the Establishment of a Mechanism for Consultations on Matters of Common Interest between Mexico and Barbados.

As a demonstration of mutual understanding and bilateral friendship, a meeting took place between Minister Alicia Bárcena and Prime Minister Mia Mottley, on the sidelines of the United Nations activities in New York, to



Foreign Minister Alicia Bárcena and Prime Minister Mia Mottley of Barbados in a meeting in New York.

reaffirm the strong bonds of friendship and cooperation between Mexico and Barbados.

In coordination with FAO, CARICOM, and the Mexican Agency for International Cooperation and Development (AMEXCID), efforts were successful in advancing a project addressing the water-energy nexus in agriculture, thereby contributing to achieving food security in Mexico.



First Mexican Film Festival in Barbados.

Barbados lent its support to the Mexican cause in the litigation against arms manufacturing companies in the United States.

The Embassy orchestrated the highly successful inaugural Mexican Film Festival, a landmark cultural event. This initiative not only showcased the richness of Mexican cinema but also effectively positioned one of Mexico's primary cultural expressions within Barbadian society.

The festival's triumph represents a significant cultural exchange, fostering a deeper appreciation for Mexican arts in the Barbadian community.

an increase in the quality of life. As a young democracy in the Americas emerging from decades of uncertainty, Suriname is currently undergoing economic restructuring, earning international recognition.

Anchored in South America yet with a Caribbean inclination, Suriname holds significant importance for the Mexican Embassy as it endeavors to strengthen bilateral relations.



Suriname

Is a country with a promising future. Energy development is underway, and it is expected that in the coming years, it will provide improved opportunities, higher incomes, and



The Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Mexico and Suriname signed the Bilateral Consultation Mechanism Act.



Mexico participating in ACS activities.

Achievements in 2023 include the First Meeting of the Consultation Mechanism on Matters of Common Interest between Mexico and Suriname at the Deputy Minister level, marking a milestone in decades-long relations.

In a gesture of mutual understanding, a significant meeting took place within the framework of the UN General Assembly between Minister Alicia Bárcena and Suriname's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Albert Ramdin.

At this diplomatic encounter, both leaders formalized the outcomes of the First Meeting of the Consultation Mechanism on Matters of Common Interest between Mexico and Suriname by signing the Final Act. The discussions encompassed a comprehensive agenda, addressing matters of bilateral, regional, and multilateral importance.



Association of Caribbean States (ACS)

The Embassy of Mexico proudly serves as the Permanent Representative to the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), headquartered in Port of Spain. With a membership spanning 25 nations across the Greater Caribbean, the ACS represents a vital diplomatic forum for Mexico in its Caribbean dimension.

The ACS serves as the platform where the notion “Mexico is also Caribbean” comes to life. A wholehearted commitment and an increasing emphasis on its functions contribute to better positioning, greater influence, and enhanced dialogue with all 25 member countries of the Association.

The year 2023 holds particular significance for the ACS for several reasons. Firstly, it hosted the IX Summit of Heads of State, setting



forth guidelines for the future. Secondly, debates and decision-making stemming from the management audit concluded to improve the governance of the Association. Thirdly, 2023 marks a year of introspection in anticipation of the 30th anniversary in 2024, commemorating three decades of the Greater Caribbean's integration.

Within this framework, the Permanent Representation of Mexico to the ACS has been engaged in persistent efforts to fortify the Association. Key outcomes during 2023 include:

- The Mexican proposal to declare tourism as an essential activity for economic and environmental development in the Greater Caribbean was incorporated into the Declaration of the IX Summit of Heads of State and/or Government of the ACS, held in Guatemala.
- Mexico chaired the proceedings of the 31st Special Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction, contributing to the identification of preventive actions in the field.
- Mexico's leadership in the ACS played a pivotal role in advancing the adoption of an Implementation Plan, ensuring the General Secretariat implements the recommendations from the management audit, thereby enhancing governance within the Association.
- The promotion of the Caribbean Territorial Platform for Disaster Prevention (PIT-CA), supported by Mexican cooperation, aimed at building a resilient Caribbean. This initiative seeks to reduce vulnerability in the region through risk analysis, strengthening decision-making for policy planning and development.

Embassy of Mexico in Cuba



Presidents López Obrador and Díaz-Canel met in Campeche in February 2023.



Visit of the President of Cuba to Campeche

At the invitation of president Andrés Manuel López Obrador, the president of Cuba, Miguel Díaz-Canel Bermúdez, made an official visit to Campeche, Mexico, on February 11th, 2023.

At the Edzná archaeological site, the Mexican president conferred upon his Cuban counterpart the “Orden Mexicana del Águila Azteca” in the rank of Grand Collar, in recognition of his merits in elevating the strategic relationship between Mexico and Cuba to a historic level of friendship and understanding.

During the bilateral meeting, the president of Mexico declared his intention to join efforts in the international community to eliminate the economic, commercial, and financial blockade imposed by the United States on Cuba. Additionally, he publicly expressed Mexico’s stance against Cuba remaining on the United States Department of State’s “List of State Sponsors of Terrorism.”

The presidents of Mexico and Cuba also agreed to expand cooperation in the health sector and celebrated the significant progress in implementing the “Sembrando Vida” cooperation program, coordinated by AMEXCID. Cuba accepted Mexico’s invitation to co-spon-

sor the Regulatory Agency for Medicines and Medical Devices in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Cuban President has made five official visits to Mexico since the beginning of the current administration, highlighting the enduring and cooperative relationship between the two nations.

Consular and Migratory Affairs

In a testament to Mexico’s commitment to strengthening ties in the Caribbean, significant milestones were achieved in the consular and migratory domain.

On September 15th, 2023, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Alicia Bárcena Ibarra, inaugurated the new headquarters of the Consulate of Mexico in Havana. Established on November 1st, 2022, this Consulate represents a strategic move to expand and enhance consular services on the island, underscoring Mexico’s dedication to fostering stronger connections.

Further, on October 22nd, president Miguel Díaz-Canel actively participated in the Palenque Encounter: “Por una Vecindad Fraterna y con Bienestar”. This event, convened by Mexican president Andrés Manuel López Obrador, brought together leaders from Colombia, Haiti, Honduras and Venezuela to address pivotal migratory issues.



Peace Talks Table between the Colombian government and the ELN in Havana.

The Embassy accompanied the third cycle of negotiations of the Peace Dialogue Table

Between the Government of Colombia and the National Liberation Army (ELN), which took place in Havana from May 2nd to June 9th, 2023. The parties signed the Cuba Agreements, establishing a six-month ceasefire starting from August 3rd,

2023, as well as outlining the process for society's participation in peacebuilding.

Furthermore, from July 10th to 15th, a plenary and in-person session of the Peace Dialogue Table also took place in Havana.



Program 'Sembrando Vida' for the Cuban provinces of Artemisa and Mayabeque.

"Rural Development and Strengthening of Local Capacities" (Sembrando Vida)



This event was led by the Undersecretary for Latin America and the Caribbean, Dr. Laura Elena Carrillo, former Executive Director of the AMEXCID.

The AMEXCID (Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation) carries out a Cooperation Project with Cuba titled "Rural Development and Strengthening of Local Capacities" (Sembrando Vida)

On June 28th, 2023, the official launch of the project took place in a ceremony led by Dr. Laura Elena Carrillo Cubillas, then Executive Director of AMEXCID. In this context, the first part of the technical package was delivered in two provinces of Cuba: Artemisa and Mayabeque. A total of 5,000 farmers will benefit from the cooperation, which will be provided in collaboration with the cooperatives of both provinces.



Culture, history and heritage

From February 9th to 19th, 2023, Mexico participated in the XXXI International Book Fair of Havana (last year, Mexico was the guest country). Various cultural activities were held, along with the replenishment of new copies for the “Tuxpan” bookstore of the Economic Culture Fund in Havana. This is the only foreign bookstore in Cuba and serves as a space for talks, exhibitions, poetry readings, debates, workshops, as well as book sales for cultural promotion.

Mexico was the guest country at the Festival of the Caribbean (Fiesta del Fuego) in the Province of Santiago de Cuba in July 2023. Mexican participation received extensive coverage from Cuban media and was

recognized for the high artistic level of the events organized.

On October 12th and 13th, the Gilberto Bosques Saldívar Ambassador Forum took place at Casa Benito Juárez. The event featured the participation of the Diplomatic Historical Collection of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Cuba, the Fidel Castro Ruz Center, the National Library of Cuba “José Martí”, the University of Havana, and the Office of the Historian of Havana.

On November 1st, the celebration of the Day of the Dead 2023 took place with a parade of Calaveras in Old Havana and the opening of the offering dedicated to Pablo Milanés and Armando Manzanero.



Inauguration of the Mexican Studies Center of UNAM at the University of Havana.



“Casa UNAM” (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México)

On June 23rd, the UNAM Mexican Studies Center at the University of Havana, known as “Casa UNAM,” was inaugurated, joining the ranks of 14 such centers worldwide. Its primary objective is to promote student and faculty exchange, facilitate academic mobility, and contribute to collaborative project development. Remarkably, it stands as the exclusive UNAM Center in the Latin American and Caribbean region, emphasizing its pivotal role in strengthening educational and cultural ties between Mexico and the Caribbean.





Trade and Investment Relations

Throughout 2023, bilateral economic relations have experienced substantial strengthening. A paradigm shift from the traditional model, engaging exclusively with state-owned enterprises, has occurred, ushering in a new era characterized by active participation from Micro, Small, and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs/MiPyMEs). Diverse trade missions from different regions of Mexico have received support, fostering a dynamic and diversified economic landscape.

An important milestone includes facilitating a significant engagement between Mexican entrepreneurs and the World Food Programme (WFP), aiming to enhance Mexican participation in WFP tenders.

From November 6th to 11th, the International Fair of Havana (FIHAV) took place, featuring the participation of 26 stands in the Mexico Pavilion. This event stands as a cornerstone for promoting Mexican entrepreneurs in Cuba, representing the most significant platform for business promotion and networking.



Visit of the Training Ship “Cuauhtémoc” to Cuba

As part of the Training Cruise “IBERO-BIZANTINO 2023,” the Training Ship ARM “Cuauhtémoc” (BE 01) visited Havana from April 18th to 23rd, 2023. This port of call marked the ship’s inaugural stop on its journey for the year.



Havana was the first port of arrival during the 2023 journey of the Mexican ship “Cuauhtémoc”.

Health Cooperation

Based on the Cooperation Agreement on Collaboration in the field of Health, signed during President Andrés Manuel López Obrador’s visit to Cuba (May 7-8, 2022), the following activities have unfolded:

806 Cuban specialist doctors have traveled to Mexico since July 24th of last year to provide services in public health centers across 16 states, particularly in municipalities facing high levels of marginalization.

Currently, 529 Mexican doctors, recipients of the National Council for Science and Technology (CONACYT) scholarships, are in Cuba, pursuing studies in 13 medical specialties: Pathological Anatomy, General Surgery, Hygiene and Epidemiology, Clinical Genetics, Geriatrics, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Intensive and Emergency Medicine, Internal Medicine, Pulmonology, Ophthalmology, Clinical Laboratory, Psychiatry, Orthopedics, and Traumatology.

Mexico has acquired the Cuban vaccine Abdala, following approval by the Federal Commission for the Protection against Sanitary Risks (COFEPRIS) for the emergency use of Abdala, Soberana, and Soberana PLUS in COVID-19 vaccinations.



Mexico acquired the Cuban vaccine ‘Abdala’ for emergency use against Covid-19.

Embassy of Mexico in Saint Lucia



The Eastern Caribbean States and Mexico

The six Eastern Caribbean States: Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Saint Lucia, are Small Island Developing States with economies heavily reliant on tourism, contributing 28% to 43% of their Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and employing 40% to 90% of their populations.

Another significant source of revenue for five out of the six countries is their Citizenship by Investment Programs, generating up to 50% of government recurring income and up to 25% of their GDP.

In 2020, the economies of the Caribbean region experienced contractions of up to 20% of their GDP due to travel restrictions stemming from the pandemic. Currently, their recovery prospects are intricately tied to the revitalization of tourism, with an anticipated average growth of 4.7% in 2023, as projected by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The Eastern Caribbean States confront developmental challenges stemming from their small size and susceptibility to natural disasters and external shocks, such as health emergencies or increases in international prices.

Moreover, the costs of essential services are significantly high. Hurricanes, floods, and volcanic eruptions have, at various times, devastated their infrastructure and severely impacted their economic activities.

The countries in this subregion prioritize the combat against climate change, ensuring food security, sustainable development linked to green and blue economies, and the establishment of resilience and capacity-building in the face of natural disasters.



OECS

ORGANISATION OF EASTERN CARIBBEAN STATES

Furthermore, the classification of these states as high-income or upper-middle-income hinders their ability to access preferential financing for development. In October 2023, at the annual meeting of the World Bank and the IMF in Morocco, their leaders insisted on the adoption of a “vulnerability index” that considers not only their per capita GDP but also their vulnerability to climate change and natural disasters. In this context,



the countries in the subregion take advantage of every opportunity in international forums to demand greater attention from the international community and contributions of resources for their development.

The Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (ECS)

The Eastern Caribbean States are nations that achieved independence from the United Kingdom in a span ranging from 1974 to 1984. The establishment of diplomatic relations with Mexico varied in duration, spanning from 1974 to 1990. Their historical trajectory is notably distinctive, marked by shared similarities that allowed them to cultivate close historical, cultural, and economic ties. As a result of these connections, a high degree of integration was achieved through the establishment of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (ECS) in 1981. This organization stands as a testament to their commitment to regional collaboration and solidarity.

Since 2010, the ECS has instituted an Economic Union, ushering in a single market, a customs union, and an economic space where goods, people, and capital can move freely. Notably, citizens can work in any of the six Member States seamlessly.

Furthermore, the six states share a common currency (the Eastern Caribbean Dollar), a Central Bank, a Supreme Court, and a Civil Aviation Authority. This integration framework reflects a concerted effort to foster economic collaboration, streamline regio-

nal interactions, and enhance the collective strength of the Eastern Caribbean nations.

Bilateral Relations with Mexico

The strategic significance of the Eastern Caribbean States renders them historically and presently important for Mexico. Throughout 2023, the Embassy dedicated efforts to strengthen bilateral ties with the six countries. This involved fostering closer political dialogue with their leaders to capitalize on shared interests in the bilateral, regional, and multilateral arenas.

In this context, the visits by the Head of the Embassy to Grenada, Dominica, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Saint Kitts and Nevis have proven to be particularly sig-



The Mexican Ambassador conducted a working visit to Saint Kitts and Nevis.



The Embassy of Mexico strengthened its bilateral relationship with the six countries of the OECS.

nificant. These visits included direct engagements with the highest levels of government in Saint Lucia and Antigua and Barbuda.



Presentation of letter of credence in Grenada.

The Embassy envisions a gradual increase in Mexico's trade with the six Eastern Caribbean countries through economic, commercial, and investment promotion. To facilitate this, the Embassy consistently shares economic information about Mexico with chambers of commerce, investment agencies, and private enterprises in the region.

Recognizing concerns about perceived logistical challenges for importing Mexican products, the Embassy conducted virtual meetings with local chambers of commerce and importers. These sessions aimed to demonstrate the existing logistics infrastructure, with support from BRK Internacional, a specialized logistics company. The Embassy successfully involved the Embassies of Mexico in Guyana, Haiti, and Trinidad and Tobago in these efforts, promoting collaboration and fostering a more favorable environment for trade initiatives.



In addition, efforts have been made to collaborate with various Mexican companies offering a wide range of Mexican products. For instance, Mexican Flavours, specializing in fresh and processed products, conducted virtual meetings with local importers.

In September of this year, during the celebrations of Mexico's independence, they visited and set up a product exhibition, engaging in business meetings with independent importers and buyers from the region's major supermarket chain, Massy. Additionally, the Tequila Hijole production company is gearing up for future exports to Saint Lucia.

In other activities, the Embassy continued to support the development of the bilateral



In this regard, we invite and urge Mexican companies to take an interest in trading with the region. While the total population is approximately 800,000 people, the tourism sector attracts over six million visitors. According to IMF data, this number is growing. Hence, both the population and hotels require external supplies, as they import more than 75% of the products they consume. The Embassy has the expertise and information to facilitate this trade with the region and is at your disposal.

and regional educational cooperation and academic mobility offered by the government of Mexico for nationals of the countries in the Eastern Caribbean.

Noteworthy is the on-site delivery of advanced scanners to digitize archives in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Saint Lucia. The purpose is to recover and preserve historically significant documents for both countries, and arrangements were made for the training of experts in this regard.

In Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves directly received the scanner, and in Saint Lucia, it was received by Foreign Minister Alva Baptiste. It is worth noting that this cooperation was well-received by the governments as it contributes to the preservation of historical-documentary heritage in both countries.





The Mexican Ambassador visited Prime Minister Gonsalves of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

Mexico's cooperation in the Eastern Caribbean Countries encompasses various aspects. This includes initiatives such as strengthening the agricultural sector, particularly in the development of the coconut industry, which was carried out in collaboration with Grenada, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Other areas of collaboration involve disaster risk reduction, data management, and addressing the threat of sargassum in the Caribbean, through partnerships with the University of the West Indies and Mexican institutions such as UNAM. Additionally, courses on Non-Proliferation and Nuclear Disarmament were conducted in Mexico City, with the participation of representatives from the ECS countries.

Progress was made in cooperation projects related to the management of georeferenced data on coastlines for beach protection and water resource management. These projects are part of the First Cooperation Program with Saint Lucia. Additionally, cooperation schemes with multilateral and regional organizations were successfully concluded through the Mexico-CARICOM-FAO Initiative "Cooperation for Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience in the Caribbean."

This initiative developed projects in areas such as school feeding, the connection between agriculture and energy, and the production of edible fish species, among others. These projects, financed by AMEXCID and coordinated with FAO and CARICOM, were deployed in the six ECS countries, benefiting thousands of people in the region.

This summary highlights the importance of the Eastern Caribbean Countries for Mexico and underscores the significance of Mexico for the ECS. It reaffirms that foreign policy actions significantly impact the relationship and recognizes Mexico as a reliable and supportive partner. This translates into a strengthened relationship with the populations and governments of the Eastern Caribbean States, fostering mutual trust and cooperation.





Embassy of Mexico in Guyana



Bilateral Relationship

On January 31st, 2023, the President of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, Irfaan Ali, received the Letters of Credence from Ambassador Mauricio Vizcaíno Crespo, marking the commencement of his diplomatic mission in this Caribbean sibling nation.

In 2023, Mexico and Guyana commemorated the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. To mark this occasion, the Embassy organized various activities and meetings in celebration of this milestone.

Trade and Investment Promotion

Guyana has emerged as the world's fastest-growing economy, registering an impressive 56% increase in its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2022, primarily driven by advancements in the oil and gas industry, as highlighted by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the World Bank.





The Embassy of Mexico promotes trade and investments with Guyana.

Notably, the non-oil sector in Guyana witnessed substantial growth, particularly in agriculture (11.9%), services (6.3%), and construction (19%). The Guyanese economy has experienced rapid development in key sectors such as energy, mining, and agriculture. With a population of 808,726 and a per capita GDP of \$18,990 USD, Guyana stands as an influential player in the region's economic landscape.

As part of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Guyana enjoys preferential access to regional markets, making it an attractive prospect for trade and investment from Mexico. The Embassy remains actively engaged in promoting economic ties and exploring avenues for mutually beneficial collaboration.



Mexican entrepreneurs operate in Guyana.

Opportunities

The Government of Guyana consistently shares its comprehensive development vision, highlighting various sectors and specific business opportunities that may be of interest to international companies

eager to contribute to Guyana's progress. Key areas actively promoted for investment include support for the oil and gas industry, infrastructure projects, energy generation, agricultural development, tourism, transportation, healthcare, medical services, food production, manufactur-



Collaborative efforts are underway for the establishment of a Mexico-Guyana Chamber of Commerce.

ing, and information and communication technologies.

The Embassy consistently engages in collaborative efforts to promote trade and investment, working closely with both the Guyanese public and private sectors. It is noteworthy that Mexican companies, including CEMEX, QUALFON, IGOT, and VERIDOS, have successfully established operations in Guyana.

Among others, Mexican companies such as RENGEN Energy Solutions, KOOR INTER-COMERCIAL, Zulu Investments, Georgetown Guyana's Group, Freeman Financial, have conducted working visits to Guyana to explore trade and investment opportunities. Various videoconference meetings have been held with Mexican companies already present in Guyana to continue the efforts in forming a Mexico-Guyana Chamber of Commerce.

Tourism Promotion

The Embassy conducted presentations for a group of tour operators and executives from Copa Airlines with the aim of showcasing the tourism landscape of Mexico.

Guyana aims to develop ecotourism, particularly at the community level, so that the local economy can benefit from tourist expenditures and generate income that contributes to the well-being of local communities.



Conference for Copa Airlines executives.



Mexican entrepreneurs are attended to at the Embassy of Mexico.

Education

On August 17th, 2023, the Embassy participated in a meeting with Dr. Paloma Mohamed, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Guyana (UG), to follow up on the expressed interest in developing cooperative programs in education. The focus areas include Spanish language instruction and seminars on migration.

Subsequently, on August 28th, 2023, a meeting was held with Dr. Coreen Jacobs-Chester, Head of the Center for Migration Studies and the Diaspora at UG. The purpose was to explore common interests and potential collaboration in an academic program with the College of the Northern Border (COLEF) in the field of migration studies and diasporas in Latin America and the Caribbean. The envisioned collaboration spans various aspects, such as:

1. Offering postgraduate, master's, and doctoral programs.

2. Promoting outreach, social engagement, and organization in migration research.
3. Identifying and exchanging information on diasporas and migration in the region.
4. Coordinating academic exchanges for both professors and students.

Culture

As part of the cultural activities organized by the Embassy to foster connections with the Guyanese and diplomatic communities in Georgetown, Mexican films were showcased throughout the year. Additionally, a photographic exhibition featuring images of Mexico's cultural heritage and diverse landscapes captivated the audience, serving as an excellent means to promote Mexico's rich cultural tapestry.



On September 15th, the Embassy hosted a reception and commemorative ceremony for Mexico's Independence Day, known as the "Grito de Independencia de México." The event drew a diverse crowd of 205 attendees, including the Mexican community, diplomatic corps, entrepreneurs, media representatives, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) members, and individuals from the Guyanese community, along with government representatives. The festivities featured mesmerizing performances

of Mexican folk dances by the professional ballet group "Libertadores," adding a vibrant touch to the celebration.





Mexican Distinguished Citizens Prize 2023

During the commemorative ceremony for Mexico's Independence Day, Ambassador Mauricio Vizcaíno Crespo delivered a brief message, highlighting the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations. In a significant moment, Mr. Isidro Ubaldo Espinosa was honored with the Mexican Distinguished Citizens Prize 2023.

Mr. Ubaldo, a distinguished individual, had previously secured the Innovation Award in Guyana for 2022-2023 in April. His noteworthy achievement involved the development of Green Biomaterial Blocks, showcasing his commitment to innovation and sustainable practices.



Embassy of Mexico in Haiti



Throughout the year 2023, Mexico reiterated its solidarity with the Republic of Haiti by promoting cooperation projects aimed at helping improve security conditions, supporting the response to the cholera outbreak, and addressing the food insecurity crisis in the country.

Cultural ties were also strengthened through participation in the prestigious International Jazz Festival of Port-au-Prince and support for the involvement of Mexican artists in FestiGraffiti.

Cooperation with the Armed Forces and National Police of Haiti

Mexican cooperation dates back to 2018 when the Memorandum of Understanding on the Exchange of Experiences, Training, and Cooperation in Military Education, Disaster Support Activities, and Logistics was signed between the Ministry of National Defense, the Navy Secretariat of the United Mexican States, and the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Haiti.

During 2023, 110 elements of the Haitian Armed Forces and 12 officers of the Haitian National Police received specialized training in Mexico.



Cooperation between the Armed Forces of Mexico and the Republic of Haiti.

Due to the positive results of Mexican cooperation, and by mutual agreement, the mentioned Memorandum of Understanding was renewed for another five years this year, ensuring that Mexico will continue to provide support to Haiti in matters of security.



Rehabilitation of the Levy Germplasm Center

As part of the “Mexico-CARICOM-FAO, Cooperation for Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience in the Caribbean” initiative, the rehabilitation of the Levy Germplasm Center continued throughout 2023.

The goal of this project is to promote sustainable agricultural practices and improve food security by developing capacities and professionalizing the Germplasm Center. This involves establishing satellite nurseries in germination areas and cultivating fruit and forest species that are more resistant to climate change.

Mexico's participation in the International Jazz Festival

In January 2023, the Mexican artist Ingrid Beaujean graced the stage at the International Jazz Festival in Puerto Prince, accompanied by guitarist Juan José Gómez. This rendition of the festival unfolded in Cabo Haitiano, with a captivating stage set against the historic city's waterfront.

Before an audience of nearly 2,000 attendees, the renowned Mexican jazz artist delivered an hour-long performance. Her repertoire included original compositions and jazz interpretations of well-known Mexican melodies, showcasing the versatility and cultural richness of Mexican music. This participation underscored Mexico's commitment to fostering global cultural exchanges through the universal language of jazz.





Visit of Mexcalti and Náyari to Cap-Haïtien

Náyari, the Jaguar Man and Mexcalti, the Blue Deer, embarked on a journey to the historic city of Cabo Haitiano, nestled on the northern coast of Haiti. Once the colonial capital of Saint-Domingue, it earned the moniker “the Paris of the Antilles” for its architectural splendor and vibrant economic life.

During their visit to “Okap,” they explored the Notre-Dame Cathedral, the renowned Labadee Beach, a mural crafted by Mexican artist Eva Bracamontes, and the awe-inspiring Citadelle LaFerrière. This formidable fortress, along with the Sans Souci Palace, earned UNESCO’s recognition as a World Heritage Site in 1982. The journey of Náyari and Mexcalti reflects the cultural bonds and shared history between Mexico and Haiti.

Embassy of Mexico in the Dominican Republic



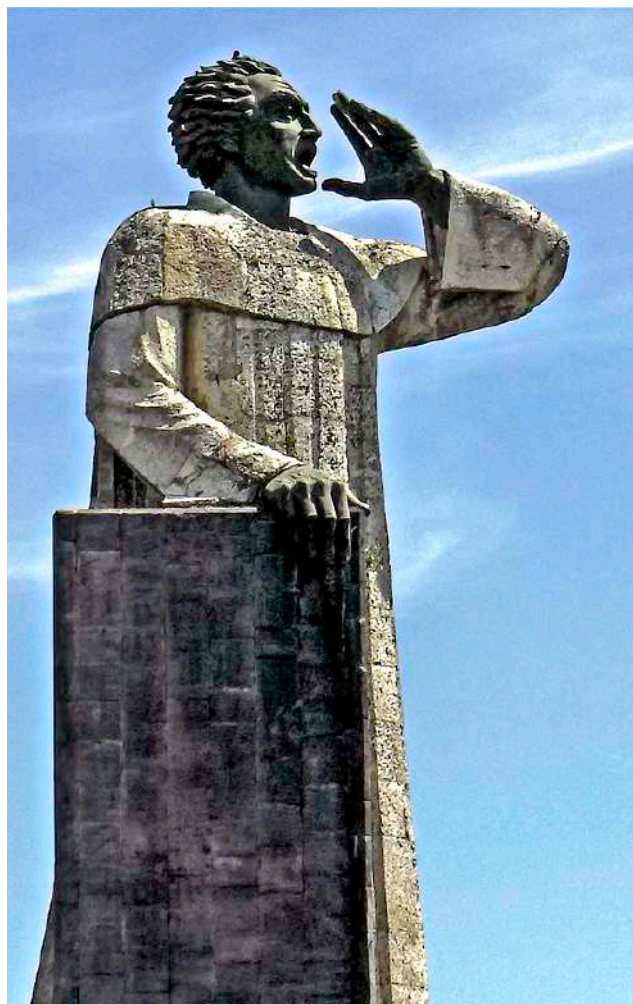
What allows the Dominican Republic to project a new international image and assume a renewed regional role? Firstly, its priv-

ileged geographical location in relation to major global markets has enabled the consolidation of a thriving economy, with sustained GDP growth over the past 20 years. In the post-pandemic period of 2021 alone, the economy expanded by 12%, and its per capita GDP now exceeds eight thousand dollars. Its trade routes reach more than 73 countries through a first-rate port and airport infrastructure.

Currently, the country has 84 free trade zones, housing around 770 companies and contributing to more than 190,000 jobs. The most impactful production activity in terms of exports is the medical and pharmaceutical sector, representing 25% of the total sector, followed by tobacco and derivatives, electronics, garments, textiles, and jewelry, among others. Free trade zones contribute to approximately 5.3% of the GDP.

The Dominican Republic is one of the largest recipients of foreign investment in the Caribbean and Central America. This dynamism is supported by a diverse legal and commercial framework that links it to free trade agreements with the United States and Central America, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), and Panama (partial scope), as well as an Economic Partnership Agreement with the European Union.

It is noteworthy that in the last two years, Mexico has positioned itself as the second-largest investing country in the Dominican Republic, with a total accumulated investment of 10 billion dollars in sectors such as tourism, construction, telecommunications, and food. Among the major Mexican companies with a presence in the country are



Monument to Fray Antonio de Montesinos in Santo Domingo.

Claro-America Movil, Bepensa Dominicana, Sigma Alimentos, CEMEX- Dominicana, Grupo Palace Resorts, Grupo Posadas, Original Group, Grupo RCD Hotels, and the ITM Port Investment consortium.

In September 2021, the initiative to establish the Alliance for Development in Democracy (ADD) emerged, involving Costa Rica, Panama, and Ecuador. This alliance aims to promote democratic values and human rights while jointly addressing political, cooperation, environmental, trade, and investment



It hosted the XXVIII Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government.

aspects. The ADD also seeks to leverage access to major markets, particularly the United States.

To achieve this, the ADD has signed a Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen and protect supply chains (nearshoring) and to work towards realizing commercial opportunities arising from U.S. legislative initiatives related to semiconductor production, infrastructure, and inflation reduction.

On the multilateral front, the Dominican Republic stands out for its significant proactivity in international organizations and regional integration mechanisms. In 2023, the country hosted the XXVIII Ibero- American Summit of Heads of State and Government and assumed the Pro Tempore Presidency of the Central American Integration System



**135 ANIVERSARIO
DE RELACIONES DIPLOMÁTICAS**
 **MÉXICO - REPÚBLICA DOMINICANA** 

(SICA). Additionally, it was chosen as the venue for the X Summit of the Americas, scheduled to take place in 2025.

The relationship between the Dominican Republic and Mexico has been characterized by strong bonds of friendship and co-



operation. Currently, we commemorate the 135th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between both countries (1888-2023), and several activities were carried out throughout the year to mark this occasion.

A notable event was the visit in April of Dr. Beatriz Gutiérrez Müller, Special Envoy of President Andrés Manuel López Obrador, who delivered a state-of-the-art scanning device as a donation for the preservation of historical archives. This donation was made within the framework of international cooperation for development with Caribbean nations.



Visit of Dr. Beatriz Gutiérrez Müller to donate scanning equipment as part of cooperation for the rescue of historical archives.



On July 18th, 2023, within the framework of the III CELAC-EU Summit, Secretary Alicia Bárcena met with President Luis Abinader and Foreign Minister Roberto Álvarez to review the priorities of the bilateral agenda and strengthen the bonds of friendship, trade, and cooperation, marking the 135th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Mexico and the Dominican Republic.



Mexico and the Dominican Republic share culture, history and traditions.

In celebration of the 213th Anniversary of Mexico's Independence, the Diplomatic Representation orchestrated a series of notable events. These included the laying of a Floral Offering, the performance of national anthems, and a compelling speech.

Following these activities, more than 500 individuals took part in the official "Grito de Independencia" ceremony, comprising members of the Mexican community, government officials, diplomatic representatives, executives from Mexican companies, and media representatives. The event showcased traditional music, paid tribute to the heroes of independence, and was made possible through the sponsorship of various companies, the majority of which have Mexican capital.

Cooperation with the Dominican Republic is extensive, as evidenced by the celebration of the VI Meeting of the Joint Commission on Technical and Scientific Cooperation between Mexico and the Dominican Republic in February. The new cooperation portfolio for the period 2023-2025 was formalized, encompassing five projects related to coconut cultivation, geological services, agricultural irrigation, biodiesel production, and labor statistics.



Official ceremony of the Mexican Independence Day.

Despite the current uncertain international context, the Caribbean is experiencing a favorable moment for growth. Mexico aims to consolidate its presence and strengthen its ties with the region, particularly with the second-largest island in the Caribbean. This is achieved by leveraging cultural proximity, enhancing cooperation, and increasing trade and investment flows.



Embassy of Mexico in Jamaica



The Mexican representation, adorned in its finest folkloric attire, strengthening ties with the Caribbean island nation.



Mexico and Jamaica established diplomatic relations in 1966. Since then, the relationship has been characterized by traditional ties of friendship and cooperation. Today, the connection has strengthened in various areas, including the environment, regional security, and a significant presence of Mexican investments in Jamaica, spanning industries such as cement, airports, hospitality, services, construction, among others.

Historical Archives Preservation in the Caribbean

One of the noteworthy events of 2023 was the visit to Jamaica by Dr. Beatriz Gutiérrez Müller. In a poignant ceremony, she presented a special scanner to the wife of the Prime Minister of Jamaica, Congresswoman Juliette Holness, for the preservation of historical archives in the Caribbean. Dr. Gutiérrez Müller was accompanied by high-ranking officials from the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (AMEXCID), as well as by Jamaica's Minister of

Foreign Affairs, Kamina Johnson-Smith, and the Minister of Culture, Olivia Grange. The visit strengthened the bonds of friendship with Jamaica and reinforced the educational, cultural, scientific, and technical cooperation provided by Mexico.

Similarly, AMEXCID officials, in collaboration with representatives from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), conducted a field visit to agricultural initiatives promoted by Mexico and held a meeting with the Jamaican Minister of the sector.



Dr. Beatriz Gutiérrez Müller in Jamaica.



Meeting between the Mexican Foreign Minister and the Prime Minister of Jamaica

An event of great significance for the relationship between Mexico and Jamaica was the meeting between the Mexican Minister of Foreign Affairs, Alicia Bárcena, and the Prime Minister of Jamaica, Andrew Holness, accompanied by Foreign Minister Kamina Johnson-Smith on July 18, 2023. This meeting took place within the framework of the III CELAC-EU Summit held in Brussels, Belgium.

During the meeting, both Foreign Ministers signed the Final Act of the 10th Meeting of the Permanent Binational Commission Mexico-Jamaica Mexican Companies in Jamaica.

In 2022, it was reported that Mexican investments on the island amounted to US\$1.3 billion, with the potential to reach US\$1.437 billion. Among the notable Mexican companies are Palace Resorts, CEMEX, Dolphin Cove, Grupo Aeroportuario del Pacífico, Grupo Karisma and AM Resorts.

International Seabed Authority



The Embassy of Mexico in Jamaica also serves as the Permanent Representative of Mexico to the International Seabed Authority (ISA). This organization, comprising 168 member countries, is responsible for overseeing and regulating the seabed and subsoil beyond national jurisdictions, covering more than 50% of the world's oceans.

As part of its crucial role within this organization, Mexico was elected President of the Council for the 28th session of 2023-2024.

It is tasked with coordinating and moderating discussions on the legal framework for the exploitation of minerals on the surface of the seabed.

Currently, within the ISA Council, member countries are deliberating on the future international legal framework. At present, deep-sea mining is not authorized in international waters. Mexico has advocated for not authorizing any exploitation activities until a robust legal framework is approved, ensuring the protection of the marine environment and the seabed as the common heritage of humanity.

Mexico has played an increasingly important role within the Authority by bridging divergent positions, encouraging good-faith negotiations to strengthen the institutional framework of the ISA, and advocating for respect for international law and the construction of the international rule of law.



Mexico presides over the 60th Meeting of the International Seabed Authority.

Binational Commission Meeting

Another significant event in 2023 was the convening of the X Meeting of the Permanent Binational Commission Mexico-Jamaica.

Established in 1993, the Binational Commission serves as a mechanism for both governments to assess the state of bilateral relations, particularly the fulfillment of commitments under the cooperation program, and to identify new areas of collaboration. Discussions also encompass regional and multilateral matters of interest.

The Commission comprised three Sub-commissions: Political Affairs; Economic, Trade, and Financial Affairs; and Technical and Scientific Cooperation – Educational and Cultural Affairs. Representatives from Mexico and Jamaica engaged in discussions covering topics on the bilateral, regional, and multilateral agendas. Deliberations took place in a spirit of friendship, understanding, and collaboration, reflecting the mutual desire to strengthen the relationship and cooperation based on common interests.

On July 27th, 2023, the II Meeting of the Joint Commission on Technical and Scientific Cooperation between Mexico and Jamaica took place. During this meeting, the IV Cooperation Program was formalized, approving six projects for the period 2023-2025, addressing areas such as agriculture, bioengineering, institutional capacity building, renewable energies, and training for the Marine Police and Coast Guard.

Support for Lawsuit Against Arms Manufacturers in the United States

Thanks to the successful efforts of the Embassy of Mexico in Jamaica, the governments of The Bahamas and Jamaica decided in March 2023 to participate as Friends of the Court (*Amicus Curiae*) in the lawsuit filed by the Government of Mexico against manufacturers, distributors, and sellers of arms for their negligent and illicit practices that facilitate arms trafficking to our country. This legal action is being pursued in federal courts in the city of Boston, Massachusetts, in the United States of America.



Embassy of Mexico in Belize



Celebration of the 40th anniversary of Technical High School “Mexico”.



On January 20th, the Embassy took part in the celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Escuela Secundaria Técnica México (ESTM), located in the City of Corozal. The Head of the Embassy delivered a message to the student community, emphasizing the ongoing commitment to academic excellence. Subsequently, in May 2023, the ESTM received a significant donation of books on Mexican culture and history from the Mexican government to enhance the collection of its library.

Within the framework of the agreement between the Mexican Agency for International Cooperation and Development (AM-EXCID) and the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security, and Enterprise of Belize, cooperation was established for a sum of 3 million dollars to launch the “Sembrando Vida” project

in Belize. The project will benefit more than 2,000 small Belizean farmers and their families, who, once registered, will receive economic incentives for 4 months, along with agricultural inputs such as fertilizers, seeds, irrigation systems, among others. Project funds were used to hire extension officers, provide stipends to farmers, and obtain agricultural inputs.

On March 9th, the X Meeting of the Joint Commission on Technical and Scientific Cooperation between Mexico and Belize was held, approving 3 new bilateral cooperation projects: 1) Apiculture diagnosis, to be executed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Mexico (SADER) and the Ministry of Agriculture of Belize (MAFSE); 2) Reproductive technology in livestock production, to be executed by the National Institute of Forestry, Agriculture, and Livestock



The Mexican government made a significant book donation to the Central Library of Belize City.

Research (INIFAP) and MAFSE; and 3) Spatial data, spatial analysis, and remote sensing applications, to be executed by the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) and the Statistical Institute of Belize (SIB).

As part of the Technical and Scientific Cooperation Agreement between Mexico and Belize, Dr. Beatriz Gutiérrez Müller, and Dr. Laura Carillo, then Executive Director of AMEXCID, traveled to Belize on April 18th to donate a professional planetary scanner to support the “preservation and rescue of historical archives” project. The handover ceremony took place at the House of Culture in Belize City, with the presence of Mrs. Rossana Briceño, First Lady of Belize, and high authorities from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other ministries. The equipment will be used by the Belize Archives Department, based in Belmopan.

During the month of May, a significant donation of books on the history and culture of Mexico was handed over by the Mexican government to the Central Library of Belize City, as well as to the library network across the country, including the main ones in Corozal, Orange Walk, Belmopan, San Ignacio, and

Benque. In the latter city, a trip was organized with the Benque Viejo Library (Cayo District) for elementary school children, taking them to the Cultural Institute of Mexico in Belize City, where they were offered a painting course led by the maestro Fernando Reyna.

The joint working visit conducted by AMEXCID-FAO from June 5th to 8th received significant support, aimed at assessing the progress of the regional cooperation program “Mesoamérica sin Hambre” in Belize. Two participating schools, namely San Joaquín Primary and Chan Chen Primary in the Corozal District, were visited during this mission.

Through the program, a commitment to providing at least one nutritious meal for all girls and boys is ensured, with menus carefully tailored to local products and traditions. Notably, the initiative has facilitated the establishment of school gardens where teachers and students alike actively engaged in the cultivation and harvesting of some of their own food, fostering a sense of ownership and ensuring the project’s sustainability.

This collaborative effort not only aligns with the goals of the “Resilient School Feed-



ing Program,” also championed by AMEXCID, FAO, and CARICOM but also creates synergies that contribute to the overall resilience and well-being of the school communities involved.

In the economic sphere, support was provided to the organization “Empresarios pro Quintana Roo” in hosting the “First Mexico-Belize Business Encounter,” held in Belize City on May 18th. This meeting facilitated the connection between entrepreneurs from Quintana Roo and Belizean entrepreneurs to explore partnerships in various productive sectors and to boost tourism flow in both directions.

The Embassy has continued its information efforts to ensure that the Belizean government gains a deeper understanding of Mexico’s litigation against U.S. arms manufacturers. Documents, discussions, and statistical information generated by the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs have been shared with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Belize and relevant authorities. These actions led Belize to join the amicus brief promoted by Mexico, addressing the strategic lawsuit against negligent arms trade in the United States and its illicit trafficking to Mexico.

On the multilateral front, support from Belize was sought for various Mexican candidacies, with highlights including the election of Dr. José Luis Caballero Ochoa as a member of the Inter-American Commission

on Human Rights (CIDH) in September and the re-election of Prof. Claude Heller to the Committee against Torture (CAT) in October.

In August, a bilateral meeting on security and border issues was held in Mexico City between authorities from Mexico and Belize. The discussions addressed challenges related to organized crime activity along the common border, the exchange of information on illicit trafficking of arms, drugs, and people, and the scheduling of coordinated operations on both sides of the border. The reactivation of the High-Level Group for Border Security was proposed, along with an increase in the frequency of Border Commanders’ Meetings.



First Mexico-Belize Business Encounter connecting entrepreneurs from Quintana Roo with Belizean business owners.