

## POSITION PAPER OF MEXICO 72th ORDINARY SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT

The 72nd ordinary session of the UN General Assembly will take place in a context of a particular convergence of the following trends:

1. The international scene is currently subject to tension and uncertainty generated by the transformation of the role of the United States, Russia, China, France and Britain, countries which since the end of World War II and the creation of the United Nations, had played an important role in the generation, conservation and implementation of balances and post-war agreements.
2. The voices that question the value and necessity of multilateralism and international organizations agreements have multiplied, but coexist with others that seek to generate a strong and effective global governance. At the same time, the perception that the major global problems require coordinated responses by multilateral organizations is strengthened.
3. Exacerbated pragmatism and extremist ideologies and policies have an even larger and direct impact on the international system than the principles of international law and the fight for the best causes of humanity, such as democracy, human rights, peaceful coexistence and tolerance. Radical thinking is emerging to counteract these trends in novel fashions and placing the person in the center of action.
4. Information and exponential technologies are increasingly transforming international coexistence by generating both risks in terms of security, defense and crime capable of creating strong tensions and even destabilization in international relations, and also fueling innovation and development, with a substantive impact in the creation of jobs representing opportunities for significant economic growth.
5. Following the adoption of major multilateral agreements in recent years (The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; the Paris Agreement on Climate Change; the Addis Ababa Action Agenda; the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction; and the Peacebuilding Architecture Review), the UN and its members seek to effectively implement such agreements to bolster the global system of the 21st century.
6. This is the first session of the General Assembly that begins with Antonio Guterres at the head of the UN Secretariat. The Secretary-General intends to promote a series of reforms to the Organization with a strategic vision of prevention, aiming to provide efficient answers to modern problems, focusing efforts in addressing the structural causes of conflicts linked largely to development sustainable, in order to achieve peace.

The subject proposed by President-elect for the 72<sup>nd</sup> ordinary session of the UN General Assembly, Ambassador Miroslav Lajčák, (*Focusing on people: in strive for peace and a decent life for all in a sustainable planet*) reflects this moment for the UN, while it represents an

unprecedented opportunity to adapt the Organization and its members to the challenges and needs of the contemporary international community, placing the welfare of human beings and their environment at the center of public policy.

In that sense, Mexico presents its position regarding the main issues to be discussed during 72nd ordinary session of the UN General Assembly.

## 1. Reform of the United Nations

**Reform of the United Nations System.** Mexico will promote the reform proposed by the Secretary-General in the areas of sustainable development, peace and security and management of the United Nations System, recognizing the opportunity for the Organization to better articulate, strengthen the results of their performance and respond effectively to the challenges it faces in its three pillars. Transformations aimed at creating a more effective, streamlined, efficient and transparent organization, focused on work in the field and shifting the paradigm by placing sustaining peace in the center both as a goal and as a process, will be encouraged to attend the roots of conflict and build a system of security based on international cooperation, international law, development and peace.

**Revitalization of the General Assembly.** As the centerpiece of the work of the UN, the General Assembly must perform as the chief deliberative, policy-making and democratic organ with universal representation in the United Nations, developing norms and promoting the respect for international law.

Mexico will continue participating substantively in the process of revitalization of the General Assembly to strengthen its role, authority, effectiveness and efficiency and to reflect the changing priorities of international society, and generate agreements on efforts to achieve peace and sustainable development.

**Security Council Reform.** Mexico will continue to advocate for a comprehensive reform of the Security Council that includes both the expansion of non-permanent members and the improvement in the working methods of this body. In addition, Mexico and the Uniting for Consensus Movement (UfC) will continue to participate in intergovernmental rounds of negotiation in the UN General Assembly to reform the Security Council, advocating a compromise proposal that promotes the creation of non-permanent seats with long-term mandates and the possibility of immediate reelection, which will allow greater participation of countries from regions under-represented in the current composition of the Security Council.

**Restricting the use of the veto.** Since 1945, Mexico has expressed its opposition to the use of the veto by the permanent members of the Security Council. Aware of the fact that the only realistic possibility to reform veto power is its voluntary regulation, since 2014 a Franco-Mexican initiative seeks to restrict –voluntarily by the Permanent Members of this organ- the use of veto power in cases of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. Approximately 100

countries have already joined this initiative, and during the 72 UNGA it will continue to be promoted as part of the need to improve the effectiveness of the Security Council.

## 2. International Peace and Security

**Sustaining peace.** During the 72 UNGA, Mexico will continue to promote the agreements reached at the Peacebuilding Architecture Review of 2015, including the concept of Sustaining Peace, understood as a process and a goal that represents attending the underlying causes of conflict in order to prevent it. Mexico chairs the Group of Friends of Sustaining Peace, in which 36 countries reflect on how to apply this new approach to the work of the United Nations, through its coherence and mainstreaming in all organs of the Organization. The vision of the Secretary General to restructure the work of the UN has the concept of Sustaining Peace as a common thread, thus Mexico will remain attentive to the details of his proposal.

**Peace Operations.** Mexico will continue to strengthen its participation in peacekeeping operations and special political missions of the UN. In particular, special attention will be paid to the two new missions established this year in the region: the Verification Mission of the United Nations in Colombia and United Nations mission of Support for Justice in Haiti (MINUJUSTH), whose mandate is expected to be approved by the Security Council this October.

In addition, Mexico will continue advocating for the preventive dimension of peace operations, in order for them to become means to reach political solutions to conflicts and achieve sustainable peace. Mexico will also push the analysis to improve efficiency, transparency and accountability.

With regards to special political missions, Mexico, along with Finland, presents each year an annual resolution on this type of UN missions, participating in the work of prevention, peacemaking and peace-building after conflicts and support political transitions, in coordination with local actors and the humanitarian and development agencies of the United Nations in the field.

**Peacebuilding.** Mexico currently holds the vice-presidency of the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission. Our country will promote various forms of contributions to the Fund of the United Nations Peacebuilding, including non-financial contributions, to achieve sustained peace processes in countries currently transitioning from armed conflict, or that have already transitioned from armed conflict.

**Women, Peace and Security.** Mexico will continue to fuel the advancement and empowerment of women in peace and security issues, including the promotion of the gender perspective in the mandates and decisions relating to Peacekeeping Operations. It will continue to support the increase of gender advisors and female staff in these operations.

**Palestinian-Israeli conflict.** Mexico will reiterate its call for the parties to achieve a negotiated and peaceful solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, where two States can coexist within

internationally recognized and secure borders, and in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions.

**Syrian Arab Republic.** Mexico will reiterate its support for finding a multilateral, peaceful and negotiated solution to the conflict. On other occasions, Mexico has expressed its condemnation of violence against civilians, particularly the use of chemical weapons, as well as attacks on ethnic and religious minorities.

**Africa.** The Government of Mexico observes with great attention the significant progress on democracy, human rights, political stability and peace that are taking place in Africa. It also believes that the UN should continue to support the efforts of the African Union and subregional organizations in the resolution of armed conflicts and peacebuilding processes in Africa, recognizing that the primary responsibility for the maintenance of peace and security on the continent corresponds to the governments and peoples of Africa.

### 3. Transnational challenges

**World Drug Problem.** The effective implementation of the recommendations of the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on Drugs (UNGASS 2016) remains a priority for Mexico. Consequently, our country will promote the omnibus resolution "International cooperation against the world drug problem", with emphasis on priority issues such as the gender perspective in programs and drug policy; the importance of proportionality in penalties for drug offenses, favoring the use of alternatives to incarceration; and the development of better indicators for measuring and evaluating the overall global strategy.

**UN Global Strategy against Terrorism and the Prevention of Violent Extremism.** Mexico favors prevention over coercive measures. Therefore, our country considers it necessary to have a multilateral legal framework to combat terrorism. Mexico will promote dialogue to reactivate negotiations at the United Nations General Convention on International Terrorism. Furthermore, Mexico will also present the resolution on "*Protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism*", which emphasizes aspects of humanitarian law and international human rights law.

**Corruption.** Mexico reiterates its commitment to prevent and combat any act of corruption. In line with the implementation of national anti-corruption system, Mexico supports multilateral efforts on transparency, integrity and accountability in the public and private sectors, as actions that contribute to consolidate a global anti-corruption culture. The combined efforts of governments, civil society, the private sector and academia are key to address this phenomenon.

Looking ahead to the celebration of the 7th session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention in Merida, Mexico will continue giving priority to this body and its Review Mechanism as the most universal forum for promoting international cooperation on transparency, accountability and fight against corruption. At the same time, it will work together with like-minded

delegations to promote greater coordination with similar mechanisms in other regional and international bodies to avoid duplication and streamline the implementation of the Convention.

**Illicit financial flows.** Mexico recognizes the importance of combating illicit financial flows and considers that the various international organizations should address phenomena such as money laundering, bribery and tax evasion, among others, with renewed commitment to close all spaces to practices of corruption and organized crime that feed on illicit financial flows. We are also working in favor of the recovery of illicit assets within the international established frameworks and through the exchange of better practices.

**Arms trafficking.** Mexico aims to revitalize multilateral discussions on illicit arms trafficking, due to the fulfillment of the goal 16.4 of Agenda 2030. A key element for this is the generation of synergies between conventions and international and regional mechanisms that have a link with this global phenomenon, such as the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing and Trafficking in Firearms of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the Program of Action on Small Arms, Arms Trade Treaty, the Inter-American Convention Inter-American Convention Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and other related material.

**Cybersecurity.** Mexico recognizes that the use of information technology and telecommunications has also grown among criminal organizations. Therefore and in order to address cybersecurity challenges Mexico favors multilateral dialogue and the strengthening of cooperation in order to strike a balance between three main pillars: cyberspace and the digital ecosystem as an enabler of development; as a space for the full exercise of human rights; and as a secure environment for individual users, as well as the productive and government sectors.

**Human trafficking.** Looking towards the negotiations of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, as well as the High-level Review of Progress of the Global Plan of Action against Trafficking, Mexico will seek to promote the ratification and full implementation of the Protocols of the Palermo Convention concerning migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons, emphasizing the role of the Conference of States Parties as the main multilateral forum for promoting international cooperation against these crimes.

## 4. Disarmament

**Nuclear disarmament.** The adoption of the "Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons" represents major progress in multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations, which were stalled for more than 20 years. However, more work is required in the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime, in order to achieve and maintain a world free of nuclear weapons. In this regard, Mexico will continue to support any initiative that contributes to this end.

Mexico will actively participate in the negotiation of the following resolutions, of which it has been one of the original cosponsors:

- *"Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: accelerating the implementation of nuclear disarmament commitments"*.
- *"Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty"*.
- *"Taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations"*.
- *"Ethical imperatives for a nuclear-weapon-free world"*.
- *"Humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons"*.
- *"Humanitarian pledge for the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons"*.
- *"Nuclear disarmament Verification"*.

**Conventional Weapons.** Mexico will continue to support disarmament measures and arms control. In particular, our country will push an ambitious implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), which Conference of States Parties will be held in Geneva from September 11 to 15, 2017.

## 5. Sustainable Development

**The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.** Mexico assumes the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as a State commitment. Our country will continue promoting its implementation in a holistic fashion rather than through sectorial approaches. In doing so, Mexico reaffirms its commitment and will to work with civil society, the private sector and academia in the implementation, measurement and monitoring of Sustainable Development Goals. Mexico presented, the progress made and agreed to a second review in 2018, a year after its Voluntary National Review in 2016, in order to share with the United Nations the strategies undertaken to implement the Sustainable Development Goals.

**United Nations Development System (UNDS).** Mexico will continue to promote the coherence and effectiveness of the United Nations Development System (UNDS) for an effective and more efficient implementation of 2030 Agenda. In this way, it will drive the alignment of the work of the agencies with mandates of the resolution *"Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review of Operational Activities for Development"* adopted within the framework of the Second Committee of the 71st session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

**Funding for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.** Mexico will give priority to the effective mobilization of resources and alternative ways of funding, in accordance with the commitments initiated in Monterrey in 2002 and resumed in the 2015 Agenda for Action of Addis Ababa. It will promote that international cooperation include Middle Income Countries, in which 73% of the world's poor people live, and will continue to insist on the dialogue about "development transition" of the countries in graduation process of receiving Official Development Assistance. Also, our country will boost the role of technical cooperation in the economic, social, environmental and sustainable peace areas with a view to the United Nations High Level Conference on South-South and Triangular Cooperation, in order to commemorate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Buenos Aires Action Plan, taking place in Argentina in 2019.

**SDG 1. Ending poverty in all its forms everywhere.** Mexico will continue to promote a multidimensional approach to poverty that, in addition to considering the income of people, takes into account people's effective access to other basic rights such as food, education, health, social security and basic services in housing.

**SDG 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.** During the review of the SDG3 on health at the High Level Political Forum, Mexico launched, along with the United Kingdom, China, Ghana and South Africa, the **Group of Friends against antimicrobial resistance** given our national leadership. In the following weeks, our National Plan will be presented, which was elaborated by an interagency commission in order to add public support for the proper use of antibiotics and its development, as well as new vaccines and diagnostics.

**SDG 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.** Mexico will establish a Global Center of Excellence in Gender Statistics, in order to capitalize on the work done at global, regional and national levels, which will include the participation of various government institutions, and cooperation of countries and private companies.

**SDG 6. Ensure the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.** As co-chair of the High Level Panel on Water and Sanitation and in support to SDG 6, along with Mauritius and 10 Heads of State, the UN Secretary General and the President of the World Bank, Mexico took the lead in the disaster and water initiative. In March 2018, the Panel will deliver its recommendations in order to put water in the center of the UN agenda as the next big global challenge after climate change.

**SDG 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.** Mexico will continue promoting the development of sustainable energy as a key element of sustainable development. Our country will seek that the subject receives the appropriate attention given its relation to the eradication of poverty, education, health, climate change, food security, and the protection and conservation of biodiversity, among other issues.

**SDG 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.** Following the adoption of the New Urban Agenda, our country was invited to co-chair a High-Level Panel for the evaluation of UN-Habitat Program, whose results will be presented in the fall of 2017.

**SDG 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.** Mexico will promote that economic opportunities are seized, that competitiveness and coordination are promoted to face the effects of climate change by protecting environmental goods and services; that marine ecological zoning processes are conducted; that regional planning (continental, marine and coastal) projects are designed, and the establishment of marine and coastal protected areas. Similarly, Mexico will continue to join efforts to convene an intergovernmental conference that allows the United Nations Member States to negotiate a treaty that regulates the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction.

**SDG 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.** Mexico will continue to promote the strengthening of the rule of law at the national and international levels. As every year, Mexico, along with Liechtenstein, will present a resolution to advance those areas where Member States and the UN itself can strengthen these areas.

**Science and technology for development.** Mexico will promote that the UN explore the impact on the employment of artificial intelligence and automation, as well as its benefits, aiming towards avoiding an increase in technology gaps within and between countries. Mexico considers of vital importance that within the UN a space for discussion and policy recommendations is provided to take advantage of the benefits of exponential technologies in favor of the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and other agreements adopted internationally.

**Biodiversity.** Under the presidency of Mexico, at the COP13, from 2016 to 2018, we will promote the creation of a *troika* with the incoming presidencies of Egypt and China, in order to bring the adopted commitments for 2020 to results in key sectors such as agriculture, forestry, fishing and tourism.

**Climate Change.** Mexico will continue leading in the fight against climate change to defend the universal validity of the Paris Agreement. Mexico will urge all countries to maintain their commitment to implement it and make efforts to increase its climate ambition in nationally determined contributions submitted in the future. Our country will also promote comprehensive responses that take into account the new generation of development tools from 2015 -including the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

**Disaster Risk Reduction.** Mexico will reaffirm its commitment to the implementation of the Sendai Framework and will contribute to the promotion of the results of the 5th Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GP2017). Mexico will also seek to promote the link between disaster risk reduction, the 2030 Agenda and the climate change agenda, due to their complementary nature and in order to promote new areas of opportunity for international cooperation for development.

**The Use of Outer Space for Peaceful Purposes (COPUOS).** Mexico will support the work of the COPUOS for the on satellite and space monitoring of the Earth to help prevent natural disasters, especially through UN-SPIDER. It will also support the efforts of the Working Group on Long Term Sustainability of Activities in Outer Space, seeking to preserve outer space as a world heritage site, preventing militarization and promoting international cooperation for its peaceful uses, with a solid regime multilateral verification that contributes to building confidence among States.

**Technical Cooperation Program of IAEA on nuclear applications and technologies for peaceful uses.** Mexico will continue to promote this program, since it has an impact on the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals on energy, agriculture, food, human health and climate change mitigation.

## 6. Human Rights

**International migration.** Mexico will reiterate its commitment to the New York Declaration on Refugees and Migrants (9/19/2016), supporting the process for the adoption of a Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, which consider the following elements:

- The focus on human rights, including gender equality.
- The vision of shared responsibility.
- Recognition of the contributions of migrants.
- The focus on social inclusion.
- The consolidation of a governance framework for migration.
- Strengthening international cooperation.
- Consideration of climate change and natural phenomena as causes of migration.

As part of that process, a preparatory meeting in December 2017 will be held in Mexico.

Mexico will continue to participate in efforts so that the Global Compact: a) establishes principles, commitments and understandings between States, which contribute to the governance of migration, with a focus on human rights; b) can be a practical document, with clear goals and instrumentation means; c) constitutes a step towards the construction of a human vision of migration; d) contributes towards achieving the objectives of the 2030 Agenda; and e) includes a mechanism for monitoring the implementation of such commitments.

Mexico will present the resolution on Protection of Migrants. On this occasion, and in order to avoid interference with the preparatory process for the Global Compact, it will seek a resolution that is essentially procedural in nature.

**Refugee.** Mexico will continue playing an active and proactive role in the process towards the adoption of the Global Compact for Refugees, promoting the incorporation of the following principles:

- Privileging a humanitarian approach.
- Maintain and strengthen international protection standards.
- Meet the practical needs and close the gaps of protection in the field.
- Taking into account the overall strategic priorities and programs and activities of UNHCR.
- Strengthen the balance and shared responsibility in the search for durable solutions. Promote its global, regional and national implementation.

To ensure the success of the processes for the construction of both the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and the Global Compact for Refugees, it is essential that the UNGA continue supporting the consultation phase, that it seeks the institutional strengthening within its structure, that it ensures funding for monitoring and implementation of the two Compacts and provides a more robust support to the Secretariat of the Global Compact

for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, as well as to the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees.

**Gender equality.** Committed to the equality and empowerment of women and girls as a guiding principle of the foreign policy of our country, and in line with the national framework on this subject, Mexico will continue to promote the mainstreaming of gender in the initiatives presented during the 72 UNGA. In particular, the following will be promoted: the recognition of sexual health and reproductive rights; the importance of disaggregated statistics; and visibility of multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination that are against women and girls, especially indigenous women and migrants.

**People with disabilities.** Together with New Zealand and Sweden, Mexico will present the resolution on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol, which aims to promote its universalization and to address the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the situation of women and girls with disabilities.

**Children's rights.** The issue of childhood will again be prominent during this session of the General Assembly. As a country guide to the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children, Mexico will promote best practices through the resolution entitled "*Rights of the Child.*" This will constitute a follow-up of the resolution "*Protection of children against harassment (bullying)*", presented by Mexico in the 71st UNGA with a historic number of co-sponsors from all regions of the world. Mexico will seek to mainstream this issue by focusing the resolution on violence against children and adolescents.

On the other hand, Mexico will advocate for a revitalization of the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Children in Armed Conflict, whose mandate will be reviewed during this period.

**Indigenous peoples.** Mexico will continue to drive the process on the involvement of indigenous peoples in UN meetings, which currently takes place in the framework of the General Assembly, compliant with the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples and resolution 70 / 232. Additionally, Mexico will continue to promote the protection of the rights of indigenous peoples as chairman of the Group of Friends of Indigenous Peoples at the UN.

## 7. International Prosperity

**Global health and foreign policy.** Mexico reaffirms that the cross-cutting nature of the international health agenda, especially in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, is the context in which responses to the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century can be developed. We will work with member states in the preparation of multilateral processes on tuberculosis, non-transmissible diseases and antimicrobial resistance with a holistic approach that recognizes prevention as the central element of global responses to these issues.

**Implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on Combating HIV / AIDS and policy statements.** As a member of the Coordinating Board of the Joint United Nations Program on HIV / AIDS (UNAIDS), representing Latin America and the Caribbean, Mexico will seek the proper implementation of the UNAIDS Action Plan (2017), designed to revitalize the response to the disease, as well as to promote a coherent response from the United Nations system and increase the level of political and financial commitment from all stakeholders.

**Agricultural Development, Food Security and Nutrition.** In order to address the root causes of the food and nutrition insecurity, particularly among the rural population, Mexico will promote public policies that lead to inclusive rural transformation, combat informality, the disorderly growth of the sub-urban belts and over-concentration of population in mega cities, while considering extending coverage of social protection and basic services such as health, education, water and electricity for the rural population.

**Humanitarian assistance.** Mexico participates in the efforts conducted in the America Continent to advance the collaboration and cooperation to strengthen national capacities to mitigate the effects of natural phenomena on the population, as well as to achieve a rapid and coordinated response. Our country has responded the calls of countries requesting aid. In addition, Mexico is committed to work in various fora for cooperation, in which in the processes of coordination and facilitation of mobility to provide humanitarian aid are discussed, within the framework of United Nations and outside the Organization.

## 8. Civil Society

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

September, 2017.