

## **MEXICO IN THE 71<sup>ST</sup> SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The 71<sup>st</sup> session of the United Nations General Assembly (71UNGA) will begin on September 13, 2016, under the presidency of Ambassador Peter Thomson, Permanent Representative of Fiji. The 71<sup>st</sup> UNGA will begin with a general debate of the heads of delegation, the theme for the debate is “The Sustainable Development Goals: a universal push to transform our world”.

The selection of the theme proposed by President Thomson is not fortuitous. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda – adopted in a historical United Nations Summit in September of 2015 – officially came into effect on January 1, 2016. As a result, the international community now has a roadmap to boost national development, bringing together Member States to work concertedly in the organism of the United Nations System.

Along with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (March 2015), the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development (July 2015), and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change (December 2015), the Objectives of the 2030 Agenda integrate a new paradigm for global development, based on the principles of inclusion, comprehensiveness and transversality. The 71<sup>st</sup> UNGA has the task of articulating this new vision within all the themes of the agenda in order to address the major global challenges.

In recent months, the world has witnessed the largest refugee flow since the end of World War II. Furthermore, migration is a constant in all latitudes, with effects in countries of origin, transit, and destination. The moment has come for the UNGA to reach agreements that will allow the international community to jointly and collectively face this 21<sup>st</sup> century challenge.

Furthermore, the 71UNGA will have the task of choosing the new United Nations Secretary General, who will come into office on January 1, 2017. As a result of this unprecedented exercise of openness and transparency, the world has had the opportunity to know the candidates and familiarize itself with their professional trajectory and points of view; and for the first time, the possibility that a woman can be head of the Organization has been encouraged.

The 71UNGA will be marked by an important transition in the Organization, from its thematic perspective to its leadership. Mexico has a contribution for each one of these subjects.

## **Mexico: Multilateralist Vocation**

Historically, Mexican diplomatic action has favored dialogue and agreements created within international fora, which create an ideal space to find global solutions to global problems. Mexico has been able to promote its foreign policy principles and objectives in the international organization with tangible benefits to our population.

However, in order to be effective, this fora need to evolve and adapt to the necessities, dynamics and new challenges that the international community faces in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Therefore, Mexico has committed itself to the United Nations reforms, in order to make it an organization in accordance with our time.

Thus, Mexico's participation in the 71UNGA becomes strategically important. In order for the Organization to continue generating global agreements that impact the population, Mexico's delegation will promote an agenda committed to human well-being. Our work will be organized around the following areas: sustainable development, human rights, international peace and security, disarmament, United Nations reform and international prosperity.

### **1. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: THE 2030 AGENDA**

Mexico has assumed a firm commitment to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. During the first meeting of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, which took place after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, Mexico became the first country to present its Voluntary National Review, which shared the progress made on the work and strategies being carried out to implement the Sustainable Development Goals. For example, in February of 2016 the renewed Specialized Technical Committee on the Sustainable Development Goals, responsible for adequately implementing these measures, began its sessions. Furthermore, Mexico has stated its interest in establishing an Inter-Agency Commission that will oversee the 2030 Agenda and coordinate national implementation efforts.

Mexico, therefore seeks to advance in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through integrated efforts that consider the three dimensions of sustainable development: social, economic and environmental.

**Antimicrobial Resistance:** Mexico gives the highest priority to this item on the agenda of the 71UNGA. During the High-Level Meeting that will take place on September 21, we will promote ambitious commitments to the highest level, with the objective of improving international coordination response efforts to the causes of antimicrobial resistance, and effectively face this health and development challenge, by focusing on developing research on the effects that it has on health, the economy and the environment.

**Renewable Energies:** In the framework of the Second Committee, Mexico will promote the innovation, production and use of affordable, safe and clean energy for all. Energy is key to eradicate poverty, guarantee access to healthcare and quality education, reduce inequality gaps, and reduce the production of greenhouse gas emissions. Its use contributes to the effective fulfillment of at least 14 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

**Eradication of Poverty and Food Safety:** Mexico will promote that international cooperation includes middle-income countries, where more than 70% of poor people live in the world; and will seek to reach agreements focused on guaranteeing access to food in both developing countries and in economically developed ones. Mexico's support to the resolution on "Agricultural Development, Food Safety and Nutrition", will be part of this effort.

**Biodiversity:** Mexico is one of the 17 megadiverse countries in the world, in which 70% of the planet's biodiversity can be found. With that vocation in mind, in December of 2016, Mexico will host the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP13), in the city of Cancun. During the 71UNGA, Mexico will benefit from agreements that lead to the incorporation of biodiversity as a crosscutting theme in key sectors of production, such as agriculture, forestry, fishery and tourism.

**Urbanism:** In preparation for the New Urban Agenda that will be adopted in the III Habitat Conference (Quito, October 127-20, 2016), Mexico will seek to impulse actions within the framework of the 71UNGA that will facilitate the effective implementation of said Urban Agenda; it will also evaluate achievements made in combating poverty in cities.

## **2. HUMAN RIGHTS**

Mexico has a long tradition of cooperating with organizations and international and regional human rights mechanisms, all while being a State party to leading international treaties on the subject. During the 71UNGA, Mexico will maintain its active and propositional character in the following subjects:

**High-Level Meeting Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants:** In congruence with its historical vocation, Mexico will promote in this meeting an approach of unrestricted respect for the human rights of all migrants, no matter what their migratory condition. It will also focus on supporting the recognition of the human dimension of migration and the expansion of current migratory regimes, so that they go beyond the simple management of migration, and strengthen their governance by allowing migrant flows to be regular, safe and organized, and propelled by the positive links between migration and sustainable development.

Mexico will co-chair a round table of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development and achieving the full respect for the human rights of migrants, promoting their recognition as equal human rights' holders, and important allies for the sustainable development of both countries of origin and final destination.

We reiterate our commitment to contributing to the construction of a Global Pact for regular, safe and organized migration, which will be adopted at a United Nations conference in 2018.

We will underline that this Pact needs to be based on a Political Statement, and its annexes, that will be adopted in this occasion, constitute a compendium of orientations and principals generated in the last ten years under the leadership of Mexico in various platforms such as: the High-Level Dialogue on Migration and Development, the Sustainable Development Agenda and the MDGs, the World Forum on Migration and Development, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and other areas within the United Nations.

In this context, and in the framework of the High-Level Meeting, Mexico will also welcome the formal decision to integrate the IOM as an organism of the United Nations; an action that we actively promote in order to strengthen multilateral responses to migration. This will allow us to advance towards better responses in the effective governance of migration, promoting synergies and avoiding duplicating efforts and resources.

**Leaders' Summit on Refugees:** Mexico will co-chair this summit with strong political will to comprehensively respond to the challenges posed by providing attention to asylum seekers and refugees, it will promote dialogue and cooperation based on a shared responsibility. Mexico will confirm its commitment to contribute financially to the cause of Syrian refugees; and will also announce commitments to strengthen institutions, to find alternatives to the specific detention of children and teenagers, and in order to respond to the need of international protection – in particular in the North Triangle of Central America – we will disseminate the right of refugee in our country

**Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Children:** Mexico will promote the transversality of the gender perspective in the initiatives presented at the 71UNGA; we will participate in high-level events such as the Meeting of Foreign and Development Ministers and the High-Level Event of the *HeForShe* Initiative; we will promote the recognition of the sexual and reproductive rights of women and children, as well as the multiple forms of discrimination that they suffer on a daily basis; and we will also promote the empowerment of indigenous women, migrants, and women with disabilities in the resolutions linked to the development of women and children, a key factor in advancing towards the objectives of the 2030 Agenda.

**People with Disability:** Mexico will participate in the High-Level Meeting of Experts to commemorate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the “Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

and its Optional Protocol”, with the objective of promoting its universalization and exchanging best practices in its complete national implementation.

In other subjects covered by the Third Committee, Mexico will support the resolutions aimed at the protection of vulnerable groups, the strengthening of civil and political rights, as well as the advancement in the implementation of economic, social, and cultural rights. Following the historic resolution presented in 2014 on school harassment or *bullying*, Mexico will present in the 71UNGA a follow-up resolution based on the report requested by the Secretary General. Furthermore, Mexico will join the core countries that promote the resolution on the moratorium of the death penalty.

### 3. INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

Since its creation, the main objective of the United Nations has been to achieve and safeguard international peace and security – conditions necessary for development. Within this framework, Mexico has continued to strive for political and peaceful solutions to international conflict, by promoting prevention and comprehensive approaches that seek to respond to the root causes of conflict; the efficient and transparent financing of prevention mechanisms and tools; and the construction and consolidation of peace. Therefore, Mexico will place special attention to following subjects:

**Sustainable Peace:** Mexico will continue to lead the Group of Friends of Sustainable Peace, made up of approximately 30 countries. This new paradigm integrates the 2030 Agenda as a fundamental element for peace. Mexico will promote new and comprehensive approaches focused on the three pillars of the Organization (peace and security, development and human rights), in order to respond to the root causes of conflict, and therefore contribute to building lasting peace.

**Pledging Conference for the Secretary General’s Peacebuilding Fund:** Mexico will co-chair this conference (September 21) with the objective of achieving a continuous and sustained support to peace process currently being carried out in countries that are transitioning, or have transitioned, from armed conflict. With this goal in mind, Mexico will promote various forms of contributions, including non-financial ones.

**UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and Prevention of Violent Extremism:** Mexico privileges prevention over coercive means, and considers it necessary to have a normative framework to combat terrorism. Therefore, we will continue to insist on the importance of reactivating the negotiations of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism. Furthermore, we will promote the full implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. On the subject of violent extremism, during the 71UNGA, Mexico will support

discussions regarding the Secretary General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism; particular focus will be placed on the importance of a preventive approach to extremism, and the need to include human rights and international law in any effort to counter this threat that can be conducive to terrorism.

#### **4. DISARMAMENT**

Historically, Mexico has played an important role in the negotiations of international treaties regarding disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control; included amongst these are those that prohibit nuclear tests, biological weapons, chemical weapons, antipersonnel land mines and cluster munitions, as well as the Arms Trade Treaty. Therefore, Mexico closely follows the resolutions presented in the First Committee on these issues, and promotes the decision of the General Assembly that focus on making the world a safe and more peaceful place through cooperation and international law.

**Nuclear Disarmament:** In 2014, and as a follow-up to the First Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons (Oslo, Norway), Mexico convened the Second Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons (Nayarit). Based on the fact that there are still 15 thousand nuclear weapons to date, this conference focused on new scientific and technical evidence on the devastating humanitarian, health, environmental, food, economic and development impact of a nuclear detonation. This discussion continued during the Third Conference (Vienna, Austria, December 2014). As a result of these conferences, Mexico and another 126 countries committed themselves that the stigmatization, prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons is the only guarantee in avoiding their use.

In 2014, the General Assembly established an open-ended working group to address the substantive measures, dispositions and legal rules needed to effectively and decisively establish and maintain a world free from nuclear weapons. The group convened in 2016 in Geneva, and concluded its work this past August with an important recommendation: that the 71 General Assembly summon a conference in 2017 to negotiate a legally binding mechanism that prohibits nuclear weapons, and that strives to their complete elimination. Therefore, the resolution "Taking Forward Multilateral Nuclear Disarmament" presented in the First Committee, represents the highest priority for Mexico.

**Arms Trade Treaty:** Mexico was one of the main proponents of the Arms Trade Treaty adopted in the framework of the UN General Assembly. After the entry into force of the Treaty, Mexico sponsored and chaired the First Conference of States Parties, and has actively promoted both its universalization and full implementation. During the 71UNGA, and in order to strengthen the export control measures of conventional weapons across the world, Mexico will continue to promote this important legal instrument.

## **5. UNITED NATIONS REFORM**

Sixty years after its creation, the United Nations requires an adjustment in accordance to new global realities. Mexico seeks for the UN to be more efficient and democratic by increasing the benefits over the financial costs, and by offering a space to all international actors. Mexico promotes this reform as an opportunity for the Organization to review its working methods and the configuration of its main organs.

**Uniting for Consensus Movement (UfC):** As a member of the UfC, Mexico seeks a Security Council reform that includes both the enlargement of the non-permanent membership, and an improvement in the working methods of this body. Furthermore, Mexico and the UfC uphold a compromise position that promotes the creation of non-permanent seats, under long-term mandate and with the possibility of immediate reelection, and that are assigned under the principal of equal geographic distribution.

**Veto Restraint:** Since 1945, Mexico has expressed its opposition to veto power exercised by the Permanent Members of the Security Council. Conscious that the only realistic possibility to veto reform lies in its regulation, since 2013 the French-Mexican initiative seeks to restrict veto power in cases of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. During the 71UNGA, Mexico will promote the adherence of a greater number of countries to this initiative; it will also seek to increase the number of Security Council permanent member states that join this cause in an act of reflection and conviction over the obsolescence of veto power.

## **6. INTERNATIONAL PROSPERITY**

The 2030 Agenda is an action plan in favor of the planet, people and prosperity. Therefore, beyond promoting caring for the environment, the respect for human rights, and international peace and security, it is necessary to promote actions that stop or mitigate the negative effects of social and natural phenomena, and whose prevalence hinders global development. The following subjects, due to their indispensable character for international prosperity, constitute areas of priority for Mexico:

**International Law:** Mexico is committed to the development and promotion of International Law, and will therefore continue to boost activities dedicated to the evaluation of international legal matters. The Mexican initiative “The Rule of Law in the National and International Levels” will underline the importance of respecting the rule of law as a fundamental element to develop justice, promote sustainable development, and prevent conflicts and overall violence – factors that affect international peace and security.

**World Drug Problem:** Mexico will work in the implementation of the commitments adopted in the final document of the Special Session of the General Assembly on the World Drug Problem (UNGASS 2016). We will seek countries that, based on a comprehensive perspective of public health, human rights and development founded on social inclusion, can align their policies and programs to their realities and needs.

**Crime and Corruption:** Mexico will follow up on the efforts in favor of a culture of social prevention of violence and crime, based on citizen participation, social inclusion on the strengthening of social fabric. It will also reiterate its commitment to operational cooperation focused on combater transnational organized crime. Moreover, it will continue to promote international cooperation to face the scourge of corruption, and the participation of civil society as a crucial element towards advancing multilateral efforts in transparency, accountability and fighting impunity.

**Disaster Risk Reduction:** In mayo of 2017, Mexico will host the Fifth Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in Cancun. The implementation of the Sendai Framework for Action is one of the conditions that will allow for the success of the 203 Agenda, and is a national and foreign policy priority for Mexico. Amongst the subjects that Mexico will promote in this context is reduction of economic losses caused by natural disasters and extensive risk.

## **7. ELECTION OF THE NEW SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS**

During the 71<sup>st</sup> Session, the General Assembly will name a new Secretary General for the Organization, who will take office on January 1, 2017. Mexico has followed the selection process closely, which has characterized itself by an unprecedented transparency. The conduction of open dialogues, with an inclusive approach towards civil society, allowed for a greater visibility of the candidates and their platforms.

Mexico hopes that as a result of this first effort of openness and transparency, the General Assembly will play a greater role in orienting the recommendations of the Security Council; and finally, that the most capable personal to run the Organization will be elected.

For Mexico, as well as providing its vision on the characteristics that should distinguish the person who leads the Organization, this historic moment requires the support of new management. Therefore, along with Norway and Ethiopia, Mexico has joined a group of countries in order to present a document that will contribute to improve and strengthen the performance of the new Secretary General; including a renewed boost towards the reform of the Organization.

September, 2016.