

Intervention Amb. Ulises Canchola
Acting Head of AMEXCID
Retreat of the “Friends of Monterrey”
23 April 2017

- Ms. Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean –ECLAC-
- Ambassador Michael Gerber, Swiss Special Envoy for Global Sustainable Development
- Ambassador Marie Chatardova, Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to the United Nations and Vice President of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)
- Ambassador Dian Triayan Djani, Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations and Chair of the UNGA Second Committee;
- Mr. Stephan Reichart, Deputy Director of Division, Donor Relations and Financing for Development at Germany’s Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).
- Excellencies
- Distinguished Delegates
- Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (AMEXCID) I warmly welcome you all to this 2nd Retreat of the *Group of Friends of Monterrey*.

At the outset, I would like to express our gratitude to our fellow co-hosts, the Governments of Bangladesh, Chile, Czech Republic, Ethiopia, Germany, Indonesia, Kenya, Moldova and Switzerland. Their support was key not only for the organization of the meeting, but it also shows the importance we all provide to the FFD process and the implementation of the agreements reached in Addis.

We would also like to extend our appreciation to all our distinguished panelists and participants, who have travelled long and far to be here with us today, also as a demonstration of commitment to our common endeavor.

¡Bienvenidos amigos!

In recent times we have witnessed significant transformations in the global political, economic and development landscapes with commodity booms and busts, financial and sovereign debt crises, and the emergence of new political rhetoric that present a new series of challenges to regional integration, multilateralism and international cooperation.

Today, perhaps more than ever, we require deep, substantive and committed dialogues in order to successfully implement a comprehensive and ambitious financing for development agenda.

The *Group of Friends of Monterrey* was established in the aftermath of the First International Conference on Financing for Development held in

Mexico and the adoption of the Monterrey Consensus in 2002, already 15 years ago.

The Monterrey Conference is generally considered a turning point in the approach to development by the international community and was the first United Nations-sponsored summit-level meeting to address key financial and related issues pertaining to global development.

The *Monterrey Consensus* succeeded in placing financing for development firmly on the global agenda in a holistic manner, including the different but interconnected areas of trade, development cooperation, debt management and the need to establish international financial and economic systems which are conducive to sustainable development.

We believe that the follow-up Conferences in Doha (2008) and Addis (2015) were successful not only in reaffirming the commitments made in Monterrey, but in establishing new areas of work and updating the FFD conceptual framework. In particular, in Addis, we have agreed to the need of ensuring coordination in order to mobilize the means of implementation for making the 2030 Development Agenda a reality.

Our interest is to build an international system that supports national strategies to ensure inclusive growth in a sustainable manner. We are convinced that the FFD process can make an enormous contribution in this regard.

The upcoming ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development follow-up, which will take place in May 2017 will play a paramount role and we need to make full use of this occasion.

In this context, the purpose of this Retreat is to provide a space that encourages an open discussion on action-oriented solutions among some of the key players of the process including Governments and Stakeholders, the *movers and shakers*, which sheds some light on possible ways forward to the most pressing and even contentious issues. This is not a negotiation but, we hope, an opportunity for a constructive and candid conversation which will help us to identify the key issues and potential “landing zones” for agreement.

We will base our discussions on an in-depth analysis of the 2nd Inter-agency Task Force Report on FfD, as mandated in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

In order to make the dynamic of the meeting more interactive and ensure a vivid dialogue, we set up a number of Working Groups which are intended to address the situation in each one of the Chapters of the Report, including outstanding challenges, gaps, achievements and opportunities.

If we were to underline only one aspect of the *IATF Report*, we might choose the assertion that national actions and international cooperation can indeed change the trajectory of the global economy, supporting countries in their efforts to achieve the SDG’S in their multidimensional and cross-border nature.

As an example of how much the 2030 Agenda needs to be translated into concrete actions, I would like to share with you that the Government of Mexico will establish a ***National Council for the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals***, Chaired by the President of Mexico, next 26 of April, on the Margins of the *ECLAC Regional Forum for Sustainable Development*. The **National Council** will use the 2030 Agenda as a tool for fostering coordination and translate the SDG's into an actual national framework.

Ladies and gentlemen, dear friends,

We are already 2 years from the adoption of the SDG's and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA). We need to do our part in order to speed-up the pace and make our commitments a reality. We hope that this retreat is a modest contribution that will facilitate for all of us, Governments and Stakeholders, to do our part.

I wish you a good and fruitful event.

Muchas gracias. Thank you.