

Executive Summary – Special Program on Climate Change (*Programa Especial de Cambio Climático 2014-2018* – PECC)

Evaluation serves as a tool to strengthen the National Climate Change Policy (*Política Nacional de Cambio Climático* or PNCC) by providing information on the effectiveness and efficiency of public interventions of the three spheres of government, thus contributing to mitigating greenhouse emissions and compounds emissions and transiting towards a low-carbon economy, as well as reducing vulnerability and improving capacities of the society, ecosystems and productive systems to better address the adverse effects of climate change.

Strengthening climate change policy also leverages to the safeguard of the human right to a healthy environment and other environmental rights protected by the Mexican Constitution, and by international instruments signed by our country. It also supports consolidation of national and global climate governance, as it helps to fulfill the necessary conditions to meet our commitments embodied in the Nationally Determined Contributions stemming from the Paris Agreement.

The General Law on Climate Change (*Ley General de Cambio Climático* or LGCC) mandates the assessment of adaptation and mitigation objectives. It also establishes the Coordination of Evaluation (*Coordinación de Evaluación* or CE) with a mandate to systematically assess attainment of adaptation and mitigation objectives biannually. This, in accordance with the *Guidelines and specific criteria for the evaluation of the PNCC*. CE incorporated the evaluation of PECC 2014-2018, as well as the federal budget included in the Climate Change Annex (*Anexo Transversal en materia de Cambio Climático* or AT-CC); these are the first-ever evaluations on climate change policy implemented in Mexico under the authority of LGCC.

PECC sets out the objectives, strategies, lines of action and goals that the Federal Public Administration applies transversally for mitigation and adaptation to climate change. The evaluation of the program aims to increase the country's institutional capacity to carry out actions aimed at reducing vulnerability and increasing capacity to adapt to climate change, as well as progress in the decarbonization of the national economy.

In this vein, this strategic evaluation¹ addresses the extent to which the design, processes and results of the program contribute to the achievement of mitigation and adaptation policies objectives.

¹ Pursuant to the Specific Guidelines and Criteria for the Evaluation of the National Policy on Climate Change, the strategic evaluation is applied to a set of interventions which contribute to one or several objectives of the PNCC, aiming to analyse, as appropriate, the coherence among such interventions,

Due to the prominent cross-cutting nature of climate change, the elaboration, implementation, follow-up and evaluation of policy instruments such as the PECC require sound planning and effective and efficient coordination of the ministries and entities responsible for their lines of action.

Being the first special program stemming from a legislative mandate, PECC has allowed mainstreaming of climate change actions in the Federal Public Administration. This evaluation identifies areas of opportunity seeking to prioritizing and targeting actions in the design and elaboration of the program that could result in major benefits in mitigation and adaptation; it is expected that the experience achieved in these initial years implementing the program will greatly enhance its role as an instrument governed by the LGCC and the Planning Law.

In this context, the evaluation process has been useful to enhance communication amongst the various stake-holders responsible for implementing climate policy, and has uncovered the need to strengthen the cross-cutting nature of government actions to effectively and efficiently deal with the effects of climate change.

On the other hand, since public financing is a necessary condition for achieving the objectives of the climate change policy, it is imperative to intertwine PECC and AT-CC, the federal budget earmarked for climate change.

LGCC establishes the National System of Climate Change (*Sistema Nacional de Cambio Climático* or Sinacc) as a permanent forum for concurrence, collaboration, coordination and consultation regarding PNCC. In this evaluation, discusses that it is necessary to enhance Sinacc's role in the elaboration, implementation, follow-up and mainstreaming of the PECC. Along the same line, the Inter-Secretariat Commission on Climate Change (Comisión Intersecretarial de Cambio Climático or CICC) is the Federal Administration coordination venue on climate change. Participation in the desing, elaboration and implementation are areas under CICC's purview. However, its CICC's actions regarding PECC have been limited to formally approving the program in 2014, leaving its monitoring to the program's working group (otherwise known as *Grupo de Trabajo del PECC* or GTPECC).

The aim of this GTPECC is to support CICC in the implementation and monitoring PECC, in addition to facilitating a transversal dialogue among its participants. On July 2015, the group presented a first progress report on the lines of action, and on

the articulation of its operative processes and its results or aggregated impacts, among other aspects. This type of evaluation may comprehend interventions of different sectors and levels of government.

March 2017, in a new compliance review of those lines, it was found that only 43% of those lines achieved their programmed goals.

This evaluation PECC confirms that climate change, as a complex and development-related phenomenon, requires strong and consolidated institutions to understand it and address it effectively.. This is due to the multifactorial and multisectorial nature of this phenomenon that falls under the responsibility of the three orders of government to address the public problems generated by climate change in a given territory. In this sense, strengthening and institutionalization of the recently created Coordination of Evaluation is an uncompleted task.

In the light of the results of the PECC evaluation, the recommendations made in this report are aimed at promoting a more effective and efficient coordination in the design, implementation and follow-up of the program amongst agencies with a legal mandate, such as Sinacc and CICC, which in turn have to incorporate the participation of the academia, social and private sectors. Equally, it is essential to ensure the congruence between PECC and AT-CC, as well as to improve its follow-up and monitoring system in order to ensure fulfillment of the former's goals in a timely manner according to what has been programmed. The recommendations formulated by this Coordination are the following:

- It is recommended that the CICC identify the goals and actions lagging behind in the implementation of the PECC, in order to implement pertinent measures for sound fulfillment of its goals in 2018.
- It is recommended that the CICC, through its Technical Secretariat, coordinate, starting with the Federal Expenditure Budget of 2018, the necessary work to align the PECC with the AT-CC -present and subsequent- in order to ensure that all lines of action of the PECC have a specific definition of resources, and identify the budgetary program to which they belong.
- The Sinacc is recommended to strengthen the implementation of the bases of coordination which establish the obligations of the Congress of the Union, the CICC, the C3, INECC and state and municipal authorities to achieve with the purpose of the system, particularly in relationship with the design, processes and results of the PECC, as well as the coordination, liaison and coordination actions required to attain the objectives of the program regarding the National Policy on Climate Change and Mexico's international commitments in this area

- It is recommended that the CICC strengthen its monitoring and reporting with regard of meeting the PECC's goals in a timely and objective manner, and include an annual report on the expenditure of financial resources.
- It is recommended that the CICC make its annual reports available to the public and agree on the periodical publication of progress and results of stemming from implementation of PECC in the Climate Change Information System (SICC).
- It is recommended that the CICC take the necessary steps to ensure the robustness of the monitoring and reporting system for the objectives, strategies, indicators and lines of action of the following PECC, considering Mexico's national circumstances and international best practices in monitoring, reporting and verification, as well as its integration into the PECC design.
- It is recommended that CICC consider all PECC's design elements as mandated by both, the Law of Planning and the LGCC, and engage all members of Sinacc in this process.
- It is recommended that CICC foster broad participation of the social, private and academic sectors, as well as allow for an appropriate timeframe to receive substantive proposals in the elaboration of the PECC.
- It is recommended that CICC have technical data sheets of PECC's lines of action publicly available and methodologically sound in order to enable regular and systematic follow-up.
- It is recommended that in the preparation of the next PECC, CICC take into account the scope of the energy reform and the commitments made by Mexico in the Paris Agreement and the SDG, in particular, those that contribute to the transition to sustainable, resilient and low carbon national development.