

Vicente Fox Quesada, *Mexico's Foreign Policy in the Twenty-First Century*

This article offers a general overview of Mexico's current foreign policy, developed as of the democratic change in the country and the new conditions posed by the international system. It is made clear that this policy combines the best of Mexican diplomatic tradition with current needs, and that its objective is to continue protecting the nation's key interests, as well as to strengthen its presence abroad. In this regard, an explanation is given of the two main factors around which Mexican foreign policy has been hinged: the first consists of carrying out more intensive activity in multilateral fora, and the second of strategically deepening relations with the United States and Canada.

Miguel Hakim Simón, *The Monterrey Consensus and Commitments*

The author points out that the new agenda for development began with the Millennium Declaration and the Doha round of trade negotiations. He also underlines Mexico's role in the organization of the International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Monterrey, which showed the need to strengthen a comprehensive alliance in favor of development. Thus, whereas the developing countries have to adopt appropriate and transparent economic policies, good public management and respect for human rights, the developed countries should support such efforts with greater volumes of aid, access to their markets, cancellation of unsustainable debt and the creation of a more appropriate international context. He con-

cludes that Mexico must transform itself, from facilitator of the Monterrey Consensus, into the best promoter of the *Monterrey Challenge*.

Salvador De Lara, *The Importance of the Monterrey Conference*

This article provides details of the background, objectives and main topics of the International Conference on Financing for Development, as well as the structure and achievements of this event. It stresses that the primordial objective was the search for viable options to promote the mobilization of financial resources intended for promoting economic growth and attaining the goals of global development in order to eradicate poverty. The text describes the central assertions of the Monterrey Consensus and the most important proposals of the Conference, which signified the formalization of the dialogue between the UN and the main international financial agencies.

Jorge G. Castañeda, *Monterrey: A Success Story*

In this article the author lists the positive results of the International Conference on Financing for Development. He explains that the Monterrey meeting was marked by the organization; the tranquillity and the spirit of concord that prevailed in the streets of the city, as well as in the passages and halls of the Conference itself; the quality of the debate, and the favorable repercussions for Mexico's foreign policy. The author offers data and figures that indicate the magnitude of the event. He also mentions some of the agreements reached in reference to Official Development Assistance (ODA).

Patricia Olamendi Torres, *A United Nations Convention against Corruption*

The author analyzes the phenomenon of corruption and explains the purposes and scope of a United Nations Convention against Corruption. She refers to its background, and highlights the Inter-American Convention against Corruption, adopted in 1996. She states that, even though this type of practices particularly burdens countries in the process of consolidation such as Mexico, it represents a worldwide problem and as such it should be combated. She gives an account of the discussion process and the characteristics of the project for the United Nations Convention against Corruption. Throughout the article, she sets forth the proposals of the Mexican government and the actions it has undertaken in the area of the fight against corruption.

Porfirio Thierry Muñoz Ledo, *Mexico's Role in the United Nations Security Council*

The first part of this article describes and analyzes the characteristics, functions and historical evolution of the United Nations Security Council. In particular, it describes the most radical changes it has undergone with the end of the cold war. The second part offers a general overview of Mexico's contributions in favor of international peace and security. It also states the reasons for which the Mexican government decided to participate for the third time in the Security Council, and evaluates the benefits of this participation.

Alfonso de Maria y Campos and Alberto Fierro Garza, *Toward a North American Community: Mexico's Strategic Relations with Canada*

In this collaboration the authors state that over the past decade the relations between Mexico and Canada have experienced a substantial qualitative change which has led them to consider themselves today as "strategic partners". They maintain that both countries have pledged to build a wide-range political and trade agenda of cooperation, in which not only the respective governments and business groups participate, but also academic and civil organizations. From a historical point of view, they address the main factors of these bilateral relations, in order to understand their present circumstance and the challenges faced, as well as the prospects for the construction of a North American community.

Héctor Orestes Aguilar, *How to be a Cultural Attaché in the other Europe (without dying in the Attempt)*

The author narrates his experiences as cultural attaché in the embassy of Mexico in Hungary, concurrent for Bulgaria and Croatia. He remarks on the beauty of Budapest and its intense cultural activity. He comments on the current situation of bilateral exchanges with these countries in the area of culture, education and science. He mentions cooperation agreements and programs. He points out the differences presented by this type of exchange with Hungary, Bulgaria and Croatia, which make it necessary to develop different strategies to balance and broaden Mexico's cooperation with these nations in the above-mentioned areas.

Felipe Ehrenberg, *Adding Culture*

In a pleasant and direct style, the author intermingles accounts, reports, precise information, comments and analysis to set forth his work plan and the activities he has carried out as cultural attaché of Mexico in Brazil. He mentions that his designation forms part of the tradition of Mexican diplomacy of naming intellectuals to promote the country's culture abroad. He explains that the projects and progress of his term of office are based on a model of gradual cultural penetration, in a comprehensive concept of culture—which addresses both the fine arts and the cultural industries—and a broad vision of the post of cultural attaché.

Gerardo Ochoa Sandy, *Dissemination of Mexico's Culture in the Czech Republic*

The author, by way of introduction, makes reference to the historical links between the cultures of Mexico and Bohemia. He then notes certain aspects of the lively cultural dynamics that distinguish the Czech Republic, and details the characteristics and objectives of the new Agreement on Educational and Cultural Cooperation between Mexico and that country. He also highlights the priorities of the Mexican government's cultural policy abroad. In this context, he offers data and comments on the first year of his work as cultural attaché in the Czech Republic.

William Graham, *Canada, Mexico and North America: A Community of Neighbors*

In this text the author analyzes the relations between Mexico and Canada. He states that they have experienced greater dynamism in

recent years, as a result of two qualitative changes: the first refers to the implementation of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), and the second to the presidential election in Mexico in July 2000. In this regard, he underscores the growing links between ministries, parliaments, private sectors, universities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and citizens. Lastly, he reflects on both countries' interest in the development of trilateral relations with the United States and the creation of a truly North American community.

César Gaviria, *Democracy, Globalization and the Institutions of the Inter-American System*

This work describes the problems stemming from the process of economic globalization in the Americas. Reference is made to phenomena such as the volatility of capital, the low growth of economies and its negative consequences for democracies. Opinions are also stated on political globalization, greater participation by civil society and their effects on political systems. A new generation of citizens' rights is mentioned. Emphasis is placed on the challenges and responsibilities of the State, among them the transformation of the educational system. Likewise, mention is made of the proposals that have emerged from the Organization of American States (OAS) to address the hemisphere's problems and provide suitable solutions.