

Gustavo Iruegas, *Mexico's Relations with Latin America and the Caribbean*

The author explains how Mexico has mapped out, due its strategic position, not simply a foreign policy, but an international doctrine, a set of principles and values of universal application, which govern its relations with other countries and that are conducive to harmonic interchange between States. He describes the international context in which this policy is implemented and pinpoints its priorities, one of which concerns Mexico's relations with Latin America and the Caribbean. The author then expounds upon the principles, strategic lines of action and objectives of Mexico's activities on the international arena, particularly the actions it is currently promoting in the region in connection with the new international agenda, and those it intends to promote in the future.

Mariclaire Acosta, *Toward a Policy that Favors Human Rights as Universal Values*

This article describes the actions that the Mexican government has taken to further human rights and democracy in the year 2002 as part of its foreign policy. According to the author, these activities fall within the parameters of a comprehensive human rights policy with two main objectives. The first of these is to encourage contributions by international organizations, thereby propitiating the structural changes the country requires. The second is to promote the recognition and diffusion of human rights worldwide as fundamental values of a universal character. As a result of this new, participative approach, Mexico's image as a "problem country with a difficult

human rights situation” is gradually being replaced by that of a country that has striven to make a valid contribution to dialogue on several items of the global agenda.

Samuel Lichtensztein, *Conditioning Factors to Political Transition in Latin America*

This article analyzes the problems, dilemmas and challenges posed by political transition in Latin America during the course of the 20th century and the early 21st century, a process that has been characterized by a complex interaction of economic and political factors. According to the author, when authoritarian governments were in power in the region, economic stability and democracy came to be viewed as diametrically opposed to each other. As regards the region’s emerging or revived democracies, the challenge here has been to demonstrate that these can flourish in an environment of macro-economic and political stability. Finally, the article makes a comparison of the recent economic crises in Argentina and Uruguay.

Víctor L. Urquidi, *Perspectives on the Rio and Johannesburg Summits. Will Sustainable and Equitable Development Strategies become a Reality?*

The author analyzes the suggestions and recommendations put forward at the Johannesburg Summit and the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (1992), otherwise known as the Rio Summit. This summit, he says, pointed the way toward a new concept in sustainable, equitable development, marking a turning point for humanity. The author also weighs up the results of the Johannesburg Summit in general terms and underlines the most serious effects economic activity has on the environment. He con-

cludes by stating that sustainable and equitable development depends on creating the conditions that will enable human beings to live together in peace and harmony and that will ensure their survival in the long term.

Francisca E. Méndez Escobar, *The Johannesburg Summit and Mexico's Participation: 30 Years of Multilateral Efforts in the Progression toward Sustainable Development*

This article provides details of the background, the preparation process and the results of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, which took place in Johannesburg in August and September of 2002. It reviews the international political circumstances that served as a backdrop to the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, held in Stockholm in 1972, and the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, which took place in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. In addition to the scientific, legislative and institutional achievements of these conferences, the author also describes Mexico's participation in these meetings, specifically its contribution to the Johannesburg Summit.

Celma Agüero, *Nepad: An Expression of African Rebirth*

The first part of this article explains the background, nature and meaning of African Rebirth on the threshold of the 21st century. This rebirth, which began to take shape in South Africa through Nelson Mandela, implies a break with colonialism and paternalistic forms of bilateral cooperation with industrialized nations. It also calls for a revitalized historical awareness and a fresh vision of the future. The second part of the article describes the emergence, structure, development and functioning of the New Partnership for African Development

Programme (Nepad), which is an expression of one of the underlying concepts of African Rebirth.

Luis Landa, *Mexico-World Bank-International Monetary Fund: Opportunities, Challenges and the Drive toward better Practices and International Standards*

In this article the author describes the background and current situation of the international financial system, identifying the opportunities and dilemmas presently facing the global economy. In the author's opinion, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank need to address problems such as wide-scale volatility and the preservation of their resources, a large part of which are channeled into rescue and stabilization programs. In this context, he feels Mexico's commitment resides in adhering to international standards and implementing better practices within the financial system, with a view to averting crisis situations, reducing poverty and guaranteeing the development of the country.

Didier Operti, *Uruguay's Foreign Policy in the Current International Context*

The author gives a general overview of Uruguay's foreign policy as of 1985, the year in which the country's democratic institutions were reinstated after a period of military dictatorship. He refers to the principles, objectives and priorities of this policy, whose fundamental concern is peace. Uruguay's actions on the international arena, he says, are based on the rule of law, democratic government, regional integration and the concept of open regionalism. Finally, the author explains his country's standpoint on issues such as public safety, development and the inseparable values that bind human rights and democracy.