

María Antonieta Jáquez Huacuja, *The Deligitimization of Arms, Disarmament and the Protection of Human Security*

Disarmament, a subject on which Mexico is acknowledged as an opinion leader, has had a place on the country's foreign policy agenda for the last 60 years. Yet within the context of modern-day international relations, the keeping of international peace depends on many factors and security issues arise in response to a diversity of events. To speak of disarmament, then, specifically nuclear disarmament, would seem disconnected from reality and the daily concerns of States like Mexico. In this essay, María Antonieta Jáquez asks whether the goal of general and complete disarmament is practicable or whether we should be rethinking our position on the disarmament agenda in light of the realities of the 21st century. The vast majority of rules, perceptions, institutional practices and multilateral negotiating strategies on disarmament —as of early 2011 there were 20 500 nuclear warheads in the world— are a reflection of the state-centric, confrontational power structure of the Cold War years and despite its best efforts, the machinery of disarmament has not yet managed to create legal instruments for the banning of nuclear arms. In light of this, Jáquez offers two recent examples of the successful prohibition of conventional weapons (antipersonnel landmines and cluster munitions), which serve as a lesson in the building of a new style of multilateralism that has negotiated tough regulatory standards outside the traditional multilateral forums for disarmament. According to the author, these experiences can help guide Mexico's contributions to the nuclear disarmament cause, from a new standpoint that seeks the deligitimization of such weapons

to protect human security, with the focus being on the security of the individual as opposed to that of the State.

Judith Arrieta Munguía, *Sustaining and Sharing Development: Mexico's Approach to Multilateral Cooperation in the New Era*

In her paper, Judith Arrieta suggests a mechanism for multilateral cooperation within the context of Mexico's foreign policy. The fact that the United Nations Development Programme (UNPD) has recognized Mexico as an "upper" middle income country, the need to achieve sustained economic growth that translates into actual development, the fact that Mexico is the tenth-largest financial contributor to the United Nations and that it enjoys prestige in several multilateral forums, coupled with the coming into effect on April 2011 of an International Cooperation and Development Law that paved the way for the creation of the Mexican Agency for International Cooperation and Development (Amexcid) are just some of the factors that make it clear Mexico needs to play a more proactive role in the multilateral arena, one that allows it to exploit its full potential, while closing inequality gaps at home. According to Arrieta, Mexico, with the support of Amexcid, should seek more uniform, sustainable economic development and to wield greater political influence as a medium-sized power.

Liliana Padilla Rodríguez and Gisèle Fernández Ludlow, *Toward a New Moment in Mexico's Human Rights Foreign Policy*

Mexico's human rights foreign policy finds itself at a new moment characterized by the strengthening of ties to the inter-

national system. The country has opened itself up to scrutiny, established a policy of complying with its obligations and promoting the enforcement of international standards. It has also adopted a constructive attitude and taken the lead at human rights forums. Notwithstanding, both the international and domestic context have undergone changes since the current administration took office. Recent constitutional reform on human rights and the passing of a federal law on international cooperation are an invitation for Mexico to revise its priorities and strategies in these areas. On an international level, as Fernández and Padilla point out, the process of gradually building a new human rights agenda and the adoption of the notion that States are responsible for complying with their obligations are evolving areas to which Mexico can actively contribute. In this respect, the authors suggest Mexico consolidate and promote a comprehensive human rights foreign policy by seizing opportunities to foster the participation of civil society, mainstreaming and cooperation in the area of human rights, the new human rights agenda, the universal character of human rights and the “responsibility to protect” principle.

Martha Cecilia Amero Coutigno and María Victoria Romero Caballero, *Diplomats of the Digital Era*

The impact of telecommunications on diplomacy, specifically, the role of diplomatic agents in a context in which technical know-how is just as important to multilateralism as politics and traditional diplomacy, is the subject of this essay by Martha Cecilia Amero and María Victoria Romero, who take stock of the global telecommunications scene and the important part the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) plays in this process. The authors go on to look at the challenges Mexico’s

telecommunications policy faces and attempt to determine its potential compared to that of other countries. They suggest how foreign policy can be redirected to have a greater, long-term impact, allowing us to better forecast Mexico's position on the international arena. Finally, Amero and Romero stress the importance of producing government officials capable of understanding and functioning in an increasingly digitalized diplomatic environment, given that foreign policy has embraced ICT as a tool of modern-day diplomacy.

José R. López de León and Luis Antonio Medina Romero, *Innovation as an Element of Foreign Policy. Mexico's Role in the WIPO*

New paradigms relating to economic development, technological progress, scientific discoveries, climate change, demographic explosions, global security and the polarization of wealth determine the international agenda in today's complex world in which regional powers emerge strengthened by their territorial or demographic characteristics, the performance of the economy and international trade. As such, States need to adjust their domestic and foreign policies to account for these realities and foster a level of economic development that effectively contributes to the wellbeing of their populations. Mexico is no exception. According to José Ramón López de León and Luis Antonio Medina, despite progress in the search for macroeconomic stability, Mexico has not consolidated its position as a high-impact, high-quality producer of science and technology. In the authors' opinion, links between the academic/scientific community and the business apparatus need to be strengthened, which will require an intellectual property system designed to achieve lasting innovation, spurred by an enterprising spirit, access to

capital, smart fiscal policies, a skilled workforce, and a responsible, respectful attitude toward the environment. The Department of Foreign Affairs (SRE), they say, has a vital role to play in promoting an economy based on knowledge and innovation, by endorsing public policies that protect intellectual property, exploit the experience and knowledge of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and help coordinate the various functions of the Mexican Institute of Industrial Property, the National Copyright Institute, the National Science and Technology Council, universities and scientific and technological research centers. López de León and Medina go on to underline the importance of drawing up a long-term strategy *vis-à-vis* the WIPO and training diplomatic corps in intellectual property issues so the full potential of the WIPO can be effectively deployed in the interests of Mexico's economic development.

Miguel Ángel Toscano, *Health. Accessible to All? An International Perspective*

In the past, to speak of health was to refer to the wellbeing of the population; today, the term encompasses national security, economic development, changes in population and vector-borne diseases, and a whole host of other issues. In his article, Miguel Ángel Toscano discusses relevant topics on the international agenda and that of the World Health Organization (WHO), including the AH1N1 flu pandemic and Mexico's undertaking in this context, non-contagious diseases, HIV/AIDS, disability in the world, traffic accidents and other threats to world health, such as bio-terrorism, climate change, the strengthening of health agencies worldwide and WHO reforms. Toscano rounds off with a discussion of WHO policies, the role Mexico has played in these and the way in which they have been implemented.