

Foreword

It has been a tumultuous year that marks the fifth anniversary of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Unanimously approved by the members of the United Nations in September 2015, the agreement provides comprehensive guidelines, common development targets and a roadmap designed to reduce inequalities, achieve economic growth, substantially improve the environment and create conditions that foster a fairer, more peaceful world.

This five-year milestone in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda is an opportunity to reaffirm the multilateral commitments undertaken, but above all, it compels us to pause and analyze, in its full dimension, the task countries have ahead of them, given that the majority will have to make adjustments and take new internal actions if achieving the Agenda is to be viable.

From the perspective of a large country like Mexico that has a federal system in place, complying with the Agenda entails certain complexities. Ensuring the country's states and municipalities reap the benefits of public policies aligned with the main multilateral arrangements requires balancing development goals with national priorities, political will and the budgets of all the authorities involved.

The Instituto Matías Romero has dedicated issue number 118 of its *Revista Mexicana de Política Exterior* (RMPE) to an overview and analysis of the concrete actions Mexico has taken during the first five years of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in areas such as: the environment,

gender equality, the eradication of hunger and the impact of exponential technologies on sustainable development. Mexico's Pro Tempore Presidency of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (Celac) and its leading role at multilateral forums to address the Covid-19 pandemic are also analyzed. Finally, this issue of the RMPE identifies and reflects on what remains to be done, measures that need to be followed up on, and Agenda goals that require more concerted action by the country's various social actors.

In her essay, Martha Delgado, Undersecretary for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights, explains how Mexico's feminist foreign policy fits into the social sustainability agenda, while Rebecka Villanueva Ulfsgard looks at the current administration's sustainable development strategy and puts it into the context of the Comprehensive Development Plan for El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala. José López Portillo discusses the impact of exponential technologies on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Miguel Ruiz Cabañas makes specific recommendations as to how the international community can step up its efforts to achieve SDG 2, which seeks to "eradicate hunger, achieve food security and promote sustainable agriculture." Gema del Socorro García Luján Ávila and Sílvia Albareda Tiana's essay examines the connection between gender inequality and other types of inequalities (economic, social, labor), as well as synergies and areas of opportunity between SDG 5 (gender equality) and SDG 4 (quality education), while Francisco Ernesto Romero Bock summarizes the main environmental actions Mexico has taken over the last five years and outlines the major challenges we will face in the decade to come. In their article, Roberta Lajous and Lourdes Sosa describe Mexico's actions within Celac and explain how these have helped combat the social and economic fallout of the Covid-19 pandemic. Finally, Eduardo Jaramillo Navarrete analyzes the obstacles the pandemic poses to achieving the SDGs and discusses some of the measures Mexico has taken to strengthen global governance and multilateral cooperation.

We have only ten years left to achieve the most ambitious agenda ever designed and adopted by the international community. The United Nations has declared a Decade of Action for the implementation of the 17 SDGs and their 169 targets. This decision to regroup indicates that we need

to mobilize the international community and especially national actors that have the capacity to bring us closer to achieving the SDGs. We hope this issue of the RMPE not only serves as a testament to the important actions taken to date, but that it invites readers to reflect on what remains to be done and come up with proposals for the years ahead.

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