

United States and Mexico: Our Future Is in Good Hands

Estados Unidos y México: nuestro futuro está en buenas manos

Stephanie Syptak-Ramnath

Deputy Chief of Mission, U.S. Embassy in Mexico

Ana Luisa Fajer Flores

Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Mexico in the United States

afajer@sre.gob.mx



Abstract:

The authors show how young people on both sides of the border are working hard with new ideas to transform the situation of North America; how the governments of Mexico and the United States are supporting these efforts through specific programs in education, entrepreneurship, climate change, participation and leadership; and how they are developing a legal framework to guide bilateral cooperation between citizens and the governments of both countries.



Resumen:

Las autoras exponen cómo los jóvenes de ambos lados de la frontera trabajan arduamente con nuevas ideas para transformar la realidad de América del Norte; la manera en cómo los gobiernos de México y Estados Unidos apoyan estos esfuerzos mediante programas específicos en materia de educación, emprendimiento, cambio climático, participación y liderazgo, y, a la vez, elaboran un marco legal para encauzar la cooperación bilateral entre los ciudadanos y los gobiernos de ambos países.



Key Words:

Cooperation, young people, border, innovation, inclusion, participation, migration, security.



Palabras clave:

Cooperación, jóvenes, frontera, innovación, inclusión, participación, migración, seguridad.

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*Stephanie Syptak-Ramnath
and Ana Luisa Fajer Flores*

Our countries are united by two hundred years of diplomatic history, two thousand miles of shared border, close to forty million people of Mexican descent in the United States, and almost twelve million U.S. citizens living in or visiting Mexico each year. Each of these elements constitutes an important fiber in the unbreakable ties that bind the people of our two countries together as a family—one that, like all families, recounts histories of joys and tribulations, separations and reunifications, and periods of strife and harmony.

As we celebrate this bicentennial year of our diplomatic relations, President Joseph Biden and President Andrés Manuel López Obrador have directed their respective administrations to work even closer to build a more prosperous and secure future for the people of North America.¹ More than four hundred and sixty million people live in the United States² and Mexico.³

¹ “President Biden and President Lopez Obrador Joint Statement,” in The White House, July 12, 2022, at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/07/12/president-biden-and-president-lopez-obrador-joint-statement/> (date consulted: September 12, 2022).

² Brynn Epstein and Daphne Lofquist, “U.S. Census Bureau Today Delivers State Population Totals for Congressional Apportionment,” in U.S. Census Bureau, April 26, 2021, at <https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2021/04/2020-census-data-release.html> (date consulted: September 12, 2022).

³ National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI), “Estadísticas a propósito del Día Mundial de la Población,” press release no. 358/22, July 7, 2022, at https://www.inegi.org.mx/contenidos/saladeprensa/aproposito/2022/E.AP_Poblac22.pdf (date consulted: September 12, 2022).

All have the potential for unprecedented shared economic prosperity as both of our countries fully emerge from the global COVID-19 lockdowns.

Our presidents are committed to continuing to advance the friendship and cooperation between our countries. With that goal in mind, they further strengthened the frameworks that we have together created. The United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), the High Level Economic Dialogue, the Bicentennial Framework for Security, Public Health and Safe Communities, adopted at the 2021 meeting of the High Level Security Dialogue, and our presidents' July 12, 2022 Joint Statement, serve to keep our governments focused and united in both the intent and the direction of our cooperation.

Each of these frameworks includes specific goals aimed at benefiting our populations today and into the future. This is particularly relevant for our youth, who make up 22.1%⁴ and 31.4%⁵ of the U.S. and Mexican populations, respectively. Their ideas and activism are already shaping our societies as they bring knowledge, creativity, and determination to address current challenges and to contribute to making our communities more equitable and humane.

Attention to our youth is critical. Rapid advances in technology and innovation coupled with the spiraling needs of national and international markets mean that the youngest generations—those who are currently seated in classrooms—will enter labor markets that are very different from the ones we have today. It is essential that our binational collaboration be based on a shared vision of the competitive North America we strive to be in the years to come.

President López Obrador has been clear about the important role youth plays in the development of our countries, an issue he highlighted

⁴ Stella U. Ogunwole, Megan A. Rabe, Andrew W. Roberts and Zoe Caplan, "Population Under Age 18 Declined Last Decade," in U.S. Census Bureau, August 12, 2021, at <https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2021/08/united-states-adult-population-grew-faster-than-nations-total-population-from-2010-to-2020.html> (date consulted: September 23, 2022).

⁵ Secretaría de Gobernación, "31.4 por ciento de la población en México son niñas, niños y adolescentes, de 0 a 17 años: CONAPO," press release no. 088/2019, at <https://www.gob.mx/segob/prensa/31-4-por-ciento-de-la-poblacion-en-mexico-son-ninas-ninos-y-adolescentes-de-0-a-17-anos-conapo> (date consulted: September 23, 2022).

to President Biden and to Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau at the Ninth North America Leaders' Summit, noting “[as a region] we have many advantages, among them a young and creative workforce.”⁶

In his January 20, 2021 inaugural address, President Biden observed that “with unity we can do great things. Important things.”⁷ And that is true for the citizens of Mexico and the United States as we look together to a future full of possibilities.

Young people on both sides of our border are bringing fresh ideas and hard work to transform their reality and the reality of millions of other young people throughout North America. It behooves us as governments—state, local, and tribal—communities, and families to support their education and training and to create openings for them to assume greater positions of leadership in the future.

Inclusive Economic Growth

Our countries are united by multifaceted ties that have deepened progressively, especially over the last 40 years, and even more so through agreements such as the USMCA. While the pandemic and the international economic crisis caused by Russia’s unjustified invasion of Ukraine continue to impact the global economy, our governments reaffirmed a commitment to “build back together by improving the regional business environment and strengthening the resilience of U.S.-Mexico supply chains”⁸ through our High Level Economic Dialogue. We are determined to make

⁶ Andrés Manuel López Obrador, “Discurso del presidente de México en la IX Cumbre de Líderes de América del Norte,” November 18, 2021, at <https://lopezobrador.org.mx/2021/11/18/discurso-del-presidente-andres-manuel-lopez-obrador-en-la-ix-cumbre-de-lideres-de-america-del-norte/> (date consulted: September 23, 2022).

⁷ “Inaugural Address by President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.,” in The White House, January 20, 2021, at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/speeches-remarks/2021/01/20/inaugural-address-by-president-joseph-r-biden-jr/> (date consulted: September 16, 2022).

⁸ “Fact Sheet: U.S.-Mexico High-Level Economic Dialogue,” in The White House, September 9, 2021, at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/09/09/fact-sheet-u-s-mexico-high-level-economic-dialogue/> (date consulted: September 16, 2022).

our North American region the most prosperous and competitive in the world, and, in doing so, to create better jobs for our youth.

Critical to these efforts is the prioritization of inclusive growth that is part of the agendas of both President López Obrador and President Biden. The pandemic's economic setbacks profoundly affected our younger, less educated, and more racially and ethnically diverse segments of the workforce,⁹ thus making it a priority for the Mexican and U.S. governments to cooperate to protect our most vulnerable workers.

This pandemic created significant challenges for women around the world to participate in the global economy. According to the United Nations, the pandemic pushed an additional 47 million women and girls into extreme poverty.¹⁰

These situations underscore the importance of developing gender-based policies that provide opportunities for women to participate in the economy and help eliminate the gender gap. Mexico, through the Institute of Mexicans Abroad, partnered with Arizona State University's Thunderbird School of Global Management to develop a program to train Mexican women entrepreneurs in the United States, to facilitate their participation in the local economy and to strengthen their financial independence by creating or expanding their businesses.

Through this initiative, which started in 2021, 400 women—many of them in their 20s and 30s—have completed training in business, marketing and sales strategies, finance, leadership, public speaking, and human resources to develop and execute business plans for their projects. The participants connected with chambers of commerce, non-governmental organizations, and local allies to receive mentorship and participated in networking events to increase their businesses' chances of success. The program's positive results and the increasing interest of the Mexican community ensured the initiative's longevity, currently in its third edition, and benefited an additional six hundred Mexican women entrepreneurs.

⁹ Nicole Bateman and Martha Ross, "The Pandemic Hurt Low-wage Workers the Most—and so far, the Recovery Has helped them the Least," in Brookings, July 28, 2021, at <https://www.brookings.edu/research/the-pandemic-hurt-low-wage-workers-the-most-and-so-far-the-recovery-has-helped-them-the-least/> (date consulted: September 23, 2022).

¹⁰ "COVID-19: Rebuilding for Resilience," in U.N. Women, at <https://www.unwomen.org/en/hq-complex-page/covid-19-rebuilding-for-resilience> (date consulted: September 23, 2022).

Similar success can be found in our work to implement programs for women entrepreneurs and to coordinate with Small Business Development Centers to expand their professional networks in southern Mexico. For example, the United States government works with private-sector partners through the Academy of Women Entrepreneurs (AWE), a State Department program that emerged in 2019 to foster the talent of female entrepreneurs, as well as to promote networking and access to tools that help them succeed. Two successful examples of this program are Monserrat Vázquez, who works with native corn, and Alba Peña, who exports her marzipan to the United States thanks to the training and opportunities she obtained through this program.

In southern Mexico, United States Agency for International Development (USAID) assists small-scale producers, including youth, and partners with the private sector to promote sustainable value chains and products, while placing more land under sustainable management. USAID's rural development work in southern Mexico will mobilize USD 100 million in investment into the region over the next five years, leading to the sustainable management of an additional 450 000 hectares of land. Not only does this program help North American youth today, but these efforts help also protect the land for their children.

The border: a landscape in motion

With its more than three thousand kilometers and fifty-six ports of entry, our shared border region is one of the most dynamic in the world. Our border communities interact daily across a multitude of issues including education, health, trade, security, immigration, water, and the environment.

In 2021, trade between both countries reached USD 661 billion, representing a flow of almost USD 1.3 million of trade across the border per minute.¹¹ However, despite the massive volume of trade that crosses the border every single day, its most important and distinctive appeal is the sense of community and integration that makes the border region a catalyst for development in both countries.

¹¹ "USA Trade Online," in U.S. Census Bureau, at <https://usatrade.census.gov> (date consulted: September 23, 2022).

At the border, it is not uncommon for young people to combine their talents and resources to support projects that benefit their communities. One example of these collaborations is the project Las Hermanas, where young female brewers from Querétaro, Mexico City, Sonora, Jalisco, Mexico State and Arizona worked together to advance in a traditionally male-dominated field and create a new style of “West Coast” beer that celebrates the shared relations between our two countries. Through their joint efforts, these young women not only developed a new product, but they also pooled their talent to propel their businesses in a competitive field.

Another example of cross-border collaboration is The Frontera Project. This interactive theatrical experience combines the participation of artistic companies from both countries in a performance that conveys a clear message about the identity, cultural richness, contradictions, and particularities of the border communities in aspects as diverse as the evolution of language, the uniqueness of binational family relationships, the pain and difficulties of separation, and the advantages and joys of biculturalism.

Through these projects, Mexican and American artists and entrepreneurs demonstrate that the border is a landscape in motion with an enormous potential to serve as an engine of innovation and entrepreneurship for the benefit of our two countries. The governments of Mexico and the United States continue to modernize border infrastructure, streamline processes for the transit of goods and people, and strengthen security in the opportunities of its population.

Education and innovation

People in the United States and Mexico have benefited from decades of educational exchanges and research partnerships that contribute to our joint prosperity and economic growth.

One of the best examples of the priority our governments place on educational cooperation is the Fulbright-García Robles Program that unites educational institutions and our two governments through the Mexico-United States Commission for Educational and Cultural Exchange (COMEXUS). Thanks to COMEXUS, thousands of students, researchers and teachers have participated in academic exchange programs and returned to their home countries more aware of North America’s potential.

Former scholarship recipients of this program have distinguished themselves in their leadership in our bilateral relationship. Some of them have gone on to become Mexican ambassadors to the United States, negotiators of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the USMCA, as well as other positions of leadership in business, government, non-profit organizations, academia, and the arts.

In 2017, the governments of Mexico and the United States challenged the private sector and universities in both countries to create a program aimed at bringing aspiring entrepreneurs together to strengthen their skills and vision. The response was a pilot program for high-impact entrepreneurs created by Fernando Sepúlveda in Silicon Valley. What began as a pilot program with UNAM and ITAM expanded within two years to multiple Mexican universities. In partnership with the United States, young Mexican entrepreneurs participated in programs in seven U.S. universities.

In nine years, including during the pandemic, more than ten thousand students have been trained through this program. One of the program's most impressive outcomes is that of Nowports, a company founded by two Mexican entrepreneurs, Alfonso de los Ríos and Maximiliano Casal. Their digital freight forwarding business, which works throughout Latin America to automate supply chain processes, recently gained unicorn status, meaning they have received over one billion dollars of venture capital investment.

Our two governments are committed to investing in our people. Programs such as these create the perfect synergies to continue generating success stories in both countries. We are working to expand collaboration on apprenticeships, dual education programs, and career and technical education in priority sectors via the High Level Economic Dialogue to meet the challenges of our time and help our peoples thrive in the future.

Environmental cooperation in the fight against climate change

The future of North America depends on our ability to face the impact of climate change. And it is in this area particularly that we depend on the clarity, courage, and innovation of our countries' youth.

Youth are playing a crucial role in combating climate change and have been an example in caring for the environment. According to the United Nations: “Young people are not only victims of climate change. They are also valuable contributors to climate action. They are agents of change, entrepreneurs, and innovators. Whether through education, science or technology, young people are scaling up their efforts and using their skills to accelerate climate action.”¹²

Examples abound on both sides of our border. Xiuhtezcatl Roske-Martinez is an American environmental activist who addressed the U.N. General Assembly in 2015 in Spanish, English, and Nahuatl, urging immediate action on climate change. He now uses hip hop music to spread awareness on climate issues.

Mexico and the United States have also worked to build binational academic and technological collaboration schemes aimed at exchanging experiences, adopting good practices, and developing professional capacities that favorably affect the environment. An example is the collaboration between the University of Arizona and the University of Sonora that in 2020 developed the project “Cerro Johnson Urban Park.” The project strengthened the ability of university students, local authorities, and civil organizations to promote the creation of public green spaces accessible to the most vulnerable populations. Young undergraduate and graduate students, civil organizations and local authorities from Arizona and Sonora worked hand in hand on a green infrastructure project in Hermosillo, Sonora, to promote a culture of water conservation, resilience to climate change in an equitable way, and social cohesion through a model of inclusive participation of their communities.

The Biden Administration has made climate action a core national security priority for the United States, and that focus extends to our work with Mexico. President Biden signed the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) into law on August 16, representing the most significant climate legislation to date and the single largest investment in clean energy and climate solutions in U.S. history. This law allocates USD 369 billion in climate and clean energy investments in a variety of technologies and serves as a catalyst for Mexico and the United States to transition our industries into more competitive and sustainable models.

¹² “Youth in Action,” in U.N. Climate Action, at <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/youth-in-action> (date consulted: September 16, 2022).

In addition to this historic legislation, our two governments cooperate on a variety of initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions through working groups on short-lived climate pollutants, clean transportation, nature-based solutions, and community contributions determined at the national level. This not only allows us to combat climate change and strengthen our efforts to protect our planet, but also to generate greater opportunities for young people to seize their potential in the economic sector with a vision of environmental responsibility.

At the U.S. Embassy, through the Jóvenes en Acción Program, we encourage Mexican high school students to develop their leadership potential across numerous sectors, including the environment, by working together and learning with other youth of the same age and with whom they share interests. They travel to the United States to improve their language skills and to learn leadership best practices they can implement in their own communities in Mexico.

In September of this year, the 2021 cohort concluded their program, with the participation of fifty-one young people from several Mexican states. Two of their many projects focused on community synergies to help protect the environment through joint work with state authorities and the participation of other young people.

Cooperation on diversity and inclusion

The Dalai Lama famously urged the world to “never forget the paramount importance of inclusion and equal opportunity.” That is what both our countries strive to achieve as we look for ways to ensure that all our citizens are empowered and valued as they realize their true potential.

Through the Study of U.S. Institutes (SUSI) Program, the United States Embassy promotes the leadership of indigenous and Afro-descendant communities in Mexico, so leaders like Jair Lamas of the Yaqui group from Sonora are empowered and motivate other young people. As part of this program, Lamas highlighted the hope that he has for his community and their future, noting his intention to encourage others to fulfill their personal and professional potential.

Another example of the importance of educational exchanges is Diana del Ángel, a Oaxacan poet, essayist, and human rights defender

who participated in the 2021 International Writing Program Residency at the University of Iowa. Holding a doctorate in Mexican poetry, Del Ángel is interested in protecting and spreading the languages of the indigenous communities, especially Nahuatl, the language of her parents.

The U.S. government also supports LGBTQI civil society organizations in representing their voices in public decision making and advancing their rights. By equipping two local organizations in the states of Jalisco and Chihuahua with improved know-how in organizational management, strategic planning, and outreach, USAID helped increase access to specialized medical, psychosocial, and legal services for LGBTQI persons and their families.

Mexico similarly continues promoting the rights of the LGBTQI community, most recently through reform that will allow Mexican persons in the United States to obtain birth certificates and identification documents through Mexican consulates in the United States that recognize their gender identities.

Strengthening political leadership and participation

According to the United Nations, young people between the ages of 15 and 25 constitute a fifth of the world's population; however, only 1.65% of parliamentarians worldwide are in their 20s, and 11.87% are in their 30s.¹³ This disparity in young people's political and social participation not only deprives our societies of the creativity and stamina that naturally prevail in youth but also contributes to a lack of policies that help integrate young people as an engine of societal development.

However, the young Latin@ community, specifically those of Mexican origin, have distinguished themselves by their active political and social participation in the United States. In California, for example, U.S. citizens of Mexican origin increasingly hold elected offices at the local and state levels. This participation has led to the enactment of laws and public policies that address the concerns of the Latin@ community.

¹³ United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Focal Point on Youth-UNDESA, *Youth, Political Participation, and Decision-Making*, New York, U.N. Youth, 2013, p. 1, at <https://www.un.org/esa/socdev/documents/youth/fact-sheets/youth-political-participation.pdf> (date consulted: September 23, 2022).

Women's record level of participation in public life is particularly encouraging. For example, in the case of California, for the first time nearly a third of the state legislature is made up of women, occupying 38 of 120 seats. Another encouraging element is their youth. Many were born in the 1980s and 1990s, making them part of the Millennial generation. They are characterized by increased interest in social issues such as community empowerment, the fight against climate change, gender equality, the promotion of the rights of native and LGBTQI communities, technological development, and the circular economy.

All these elements point toward a change in our societies for greater inclusion of the most vulnerable communities in both countries. Our countries must continue reaping our youth's creativity and social commitment to strengthen the bilateral relationship and build a humane and inclusive North America that favors the well-being of our populations.

Migration cooperation

The United States and Mexico are together facing an unprecedented flow of migrants from across Central and South America as well as the Caribbean. This phenomenon requires a comprehensive and regional approach. We partner to enforce our migration laws, address the root causes of irregular migration, and expand legal labor pathways that facilitate the safe, orderly and regular movement of people that contributes to North American competitiveness.

Our presidents have prioritized addressing the root causes of migration and the critical needs of youth. In their Joint Declaration of July 12, 2022, they highlighted that “we have joined efforts to address the underlying economic and security drivers of migration and, recognizing that development must be at the center of all migration policies, we will accelerate and expand international cooperation programs focused on the most marginalized communities.”¹⁴

¹⁴ “President Biden and President Lopez Obrador Joint Statement.”

Our countries are working together throughout north Central America to provide economic and educational opportunities to those most susceptible to irregular migration, so they are not pushed to seek better opportunities elsewhere. For example, the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (AMEXCID), is providing crucial inputs and technical training to small farmers so they can increase their yields while USAID links them with large buyers and markets to turn their surplus crops into higher incomes. For the youth most inclined to make the dangerous migration journey, AMEXCID provides a stipend and placement in local internships while USAID connects them with local jobs and supports them with vocational and life skills such as interviewing and *résumé* writing so they can leverage their knowledge and experience into meaningful employment.

In 2019 Mexico launched the Jóvenes Construyendo el Futuro program as an initiative that recognizes the role of young people at the center of irregular immigration and their need for education, training, and participation in the labor market as essential elements to promote development in their communities and reduce their need to seek opportunities elsewhere. The program trains women and men between the ages of 18 and 29 who do not currently study or work, providing them with the tools to join the workforce in their communities.

During Vice President Harris' visit to Mexico in June 2021, our governments signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the goal of coordinating actions and complementing Mexican programs for development that currently operate in the region. For the first time, the governments of both countries are working in a synchronized manner to address the structural causes of irregular migration throughout the region.

Security cooperation

The United States-Mexico Bicentennial Framework for Security, Public Health, and Safe Communities, adopted on October 8, 2021 at the High Level Security Dialogue, was built on the premise that “as two nations with an enduring partnership based on sovereignty, mutual respect, and the extraordinary bond of family and friendship, the United States and

Mexico need and want to face security challenges together.”¹⁵ The framework envisions, among other priorities, a “modern approach of public health and development as part of a holistic cooperation strategy between our countries”¹⁶ and a focus on community solutions to push back against rising violence and substance use in both of our countries. It defines the security of our nations as a shared responsibility and as a key part of our bilateral cooperation, one in which we work together and in which the youth of our nations have a central role.

Youth on both sides of our border lead the way in this regard. Edna Chavez, a young woman from south Los Angeles, came to national attention in the United States for her impassioned speech at the 2018 March for our Lives in which she detailed the painful reality of having lost many relatives to gun violence. In front of hundreds of thousands of young people, she stated the following: “We need to focus on changing the underlying conditions that foster violence and trauma in the first place, and that’s how we will transform our communities and uplift our voices [...]. We are a movement, and we will not only be heard, but we will create change because we are that change.”¹⁷

As part of the solid partnership between Mexico and the United States, both countries are engaged in a continuous, constructive, and candid dialogue about our security priorities, shared responsibilities, and collaborative mechanisms, all while respecting our national sovereignties. The Bicentennial Framework underscores our shared commitment to empowering tomorrow’s leaders through programs focused on strengthening communities and encouraging youth participation.

For example, over the course of five years, the United States and Mexico have together supported over five thousand at-risk youth with life skills and employment opportunities. The United States and Mexico also

¹⁵ “Joint Statement: U.S.-Mexico High-Level Security Dialogue,” in The White House, October 8, 2021, at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/10/08/joint-statement-u-s-mexico-high-level-security-dialogue/> (date consulted: September 12, 2022).

¹⁶ *Idem*.

¹⁷ Edna Chávez, “March of Our Lives,” in YouTube, March 28, 2018, at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BinNvKznlTA> (date consulted: September 16, 2022).

committed, as partners, to tackle the synthetic drug threat, which in 2021, contributed to the deaths of approximately 108 000 people in the United States from overdoses, most from synthetic opioids like fentanyl.

In addition to disrupting the networks of the transnational criminal organizations which are also responsible for migrant smuggling and human trafficking, the Bicentennial Framework prioritizes combating illegal arms trafficking. This is one of Mexico's topmost priorities, given that more than half a million guns enter the country each year through illicit trafficking from the United States, contributing to crime and gun violence that affects young people and their opportunities for development both in Mexico and the United States.

As part of our joint efforts, our law enforcement agencies traced forty percent more firearms with a U.S.-Mexico nexus over the past year. These firearm traces yielded criminal intelligence that resulted in nearly 300% more criminal referrals in the United States over the past twelve months, the seizure of thousands of firearms in the United States and Mexico before they could reach criminal groups, and dozens of criminal convictions related to firearms smuggling.

Our youth deserve communities that are secure and prosperous. That is why our countries are committed to collaborating on security matters to ensure that our youth have a safe environment in which to thrive and grow.

Conclusion

Over the course of history, Mexico and the United States have transitioned from being distant neighbors to embracing our historic familial, cultural, and business ties. Over time, both countries have worked to create a pragmatic, respectful, and mutually beneficial bilateral relationship. The complex interconnections that define our two countries provide myriad opportunities for deepening bilateral relations and finding innovative solutions to our shared challenges. Two hundred years of bilateral relations have set us on a solid and promising path forward.

Each of the examples we have cited demonstrate that the shared history, and future, of our nations is shaped through the personal efforts of millions of people—particularly our young people—who work every day for a better future for our nations. We are confident that the best way for that future

to be more prosperous, secure, and sustainable is by uniting our peoples, especially our youth, and providing them with the necessary opportunities to unleash their potential and ingenuity for the benefit of our two nations.

Families in both countries treasure their children, in whom they invest and upon whom they bestow both the wisdom of previous generations and their dreams for a better, more prosperous, and secure future. The United States and Mexico must do the same for our shared family.

The many examples of young people already changing our shared world fill us with hope. We have seen the future, and the future is bright.