

Foreword

International relations are more complex than they have been for at least two decades, when the international system, dominated by globalization, was shaken to its very foundations by the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. This event caused the world's more developed countries and regions to reassess their strategic security and trade interests, and analyze how best to maintain their respective spheres of influence in a process that has not always been free of stumbling blocks. Meanwhile, other countries have focused their efforts on achieving goals in the areas of development, social well-being, inclusive economic growth, gender equality, non-discrimination and respect for human rights.

In the current international scenario, plagued by pandemics, the urgent need to take effective environmental measures, the growing number of people impacted by international migration, armed domestic conflicts and, in some cases, conflicts between States, a global economic slowdown and the social cost of rising inflation worldwide, to mention just a few of the most pressing problems facing us today, have affected, without exception, multilateral organizations and the financial institutions committed to economic development.

It is in the context of these challenges and the questions raised by today's international scenario that issue 125 of the *Revista Mexicana de Política Exterior* (RMPE) has been conceived as a space for expounding critical assessments and reflections, all documented and based on strategic criteria,

on the importance and efficacy of multilateralism, not just today, but over the next 15 years—a crucial period in which we will have reached the deadline for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda that were agreed to by developed and lesser-developed countries.

In this essentially pragmatic, forward-looking exercise in analysis that constitutes this issue of the RMPE, strategic thinking is the guiding principle underpinning the various topics analyzed. Following brief overviews, the authors turn their attention to the future in a series of articles grounded on specific factors and the actual installed capacity of multilateral organizations and their member States.

On a different note, partner countries and allies need to develop and share their strategic visions within a functional legal framework. Multilateralism, renewed after a period of relative lethargy, implies considerable diplomatic effort. Given the important contributions Mexico has historically made in terms of the negotiation of international legal standards and, in the current context, coherently promoting values and principles at the multilateral organizations and forums to which it belongs, our country is no exception in this scenario. Mexico has an obligation to promote a multilateralism that enables countries to address today's challenging global agenda, reason why it is essential to reflect on and analyze what it is that constitutes *effective multilateralism*, *i.e.* a multilateralism that fosters, within the framework of international law, actions designed to protect persons, improve their lives and ensure their rights are respected, while revitalizing a system States can place their trust in as a guarantor of international peace and stability.

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