

Foreword

The taking of office of President Andrés Manuel López Obrador in December 2018 has made a unique mark on Mexican diplomacy. The President's administration views foreign policy as essential to achieving the priority goals set forth in its governance plan: economic and social development, the combatting of corruption and inequalities, including a more equitable distribution of income, and austerity measures to curb unnecessary government spending.

To this end, all three branches of the federal government will need to work closely with state and municipal authorities and other actors in order to meet the foreign policy expectations of the Mexican people, who voted for change.

This, the first fully bilingual Spanish-English issue of the *Revista Mexicana de Política Exterior* published by the Instituto Matías Romero, explores at length how Mexico plans to deploy an inclusive form of diplomacy, based on a foreign policy that fosters cooperation, trade and the economy, tourism and culture, and that safeguards both the interests of Mexico and those of Mexican citizens overseas, as of today and into the future.

By way of introduction, Foreign Affairs Secretary Marcelo Ebrard Casaubon outlines in an in-depth interview the underlying principles of the diplomacy of President López Obrador's government, which range from taking responsibility and seizing opportunities to addressing the challenges facing Mexico's foreign representations as they actively take on the task of economic, tourism, trade and cultural promotion, combining strategies

to which international recognition and respect for the country's foreign policy can traditionally be attributed with an all-encompassing, yet highly specialized approach to public diplomacy that new members of the country's diplomatic corps will be trained in from the outset.

Issue number 117 of our review also features articles by high-ranking government officials, and those that were selected following a competition open to members of the Mexican Foreign Service, who were invited to express their views on this all-important task that directly involves them.

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