

Foreword

Thirtieth Anniversary of Mexico's Membership of the OECD

This year, Mexico celebrates the 30th anniversary of its entry into the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Three decades ago, this nation became the first Latin American State and the first emerging economy to join this international organization, representing a historic milestone for both Mexico and the OECD.

On the one hand, Mexico established itself as a bridge between developing countries and advanced economies, paving the way for other states in the Latin American region to join. On the other hand, the OECD incorporated, for the first time, the valuable experiences and perspectives of the Global South into its discussions, enriching the inputs of its analyses and considerably increasing their scope, relevance, and influence. This publication commemorates these thirty years of close collaboration and mutual benefits.

The OECD was founded on 14 December 1960 in Paris, France, with the mission of helping governments promote international cooperation and design policies for resilient, inclusive, and sustainable growth. The overarching goal was to strengthen economic development, improve living standards and boost the global economy. Today, its 38 member States identify, compare, and share best practices in government work to address common problems, set international standards and promote prosperity, equal opportunities and well-being for all people: better policies for better lives, leaving no one behind.

Since May 18, 1994, the date on which Mexico formally joined the Convention, the OECD has been a key instrument in the country's efforts to promote the development of better public policies for Mexicans. As the voice of developing countries, Mexico has introduced the point of view of emerging countries on a wide variety of significant issues, as well as in its discussions and committees, contributing to diversifying the awareness and approach of the OECD to understand global economic challenges in a more comprehensive manner. Similarly, Mexico has positioned itself as a strong promoter of the systematization of South-South cooperation, as well as of triangulation practices and multi-sectoral synergies for development.

Close collaboration between Mexico and the OECD has resulted in the Organisation acquiring closer ties to the Latin American region. Since 1994, Mexico City has been home to the OECD Centre for Latin America and the Caribbean. This office covers a wide range of important international outreach activities, including promoting the OECD's work in the region, disseminating comparative studies and statistics, contact with the media and civil society, as well as the promotion of collaborative projects with governments, parliaments and non-governmental organizations. More recently, between 2019 and 2021, Mexico chaired, together with Brazil, the OECD Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Programme. During this period, ministerial meetings were held with the Programme partners on issues of productivity, governance, and social inclusion. A useful platform was also established for political dialogue and the exchange of best practices to address the covid-19 pandemic, which exposed the structural vulnerabilities of the region. This has allowed Latin American countries to benefit more than ever from the OECD's accumulated knowledge to implement public policies aimed at a resilient, inclusive, and sustainable recovery.

The success of this collaboration can be seen in the growing formal participation of Latin American countries in the work of the OECD. On the one hand, Chile (2010), Colombia (2020) and Costa Rica (2021) joined as members of the Organisation, and since 2022, Argentina, Brazil and Peru are in the process of admission. On the other hand, through the OECD Development Centre, there is growing cooperation with other countries in the region, such as Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, Paraguay, the Dominican Republic, and Uruguay.

During the government of President Andrés Manuel López Obrador (2018-2024), the Permanent Delegation of Mexico to the OECD, led by Helena Sybel Galván Gómez, stood out for its defense of sustainable and inclusive growth, and the fight against inequality and poverty. Mexico's initiative to promote greater representation and diversity in leadership positions in the Organisation stands out, promoting the creation of a position of 5th Deputy Secretary General to strengthen the representation of the Latin American region in the management of the OECD. Another achievement in which Mexico has played an important role has been the promotion of gender mainstreaming in the different areas of public policy, particularly in the inclusion of gender policy reviews in OECD economic studies. Mexico also co-chaired the OECD Ministerial Council Meeting on two occasions, in 2022 accompanying Italy and in 2024 Japan, the latter as part of the celebration of three decades of cooperation between Mexico and the OECD.

In February 2024, the OECD presented the most recent economic study of Mexico (*OECD Economic Surveys: Mexico*) which recognized the progress achieved in macroeconomic indicators during the government of President Andrés Manuel López Obrador. This report acknowledges that the Mexican economy is advancing in a stable manner in an uncertain global environment, driven by sustained growth in domestic demand, a strong labor market and increased investment, including several important public infrastructure projects in the south of the country. The study also welcomes the decisive reaction of monetary policy to inflation and highlights the potential benefits of relocalization strategies, such as nearshoring, and the significant increase in the minimum wage. The OECD recognizes the efforts of the Government of Mexico to promote a more inclusive development model that generates well-being for all, paying special attention to the most vulnerable sectors.

This issue of the *Revista Mexicana de Política Exterior* explores the participation of Mexico in the OECD and of the OECD in Mexico, with contributions from OECD and Mexican government officials, as well as academics specializing in the subject. This volume highlights the role of Mexico as a bridge with Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as that of the OECD as a catalyst for information, studies, statistics and recommendations for the design and implementation of better public policies. The specific topic of joint work on development cooperation and gender equality is also

addressed, together with the different areas on which both the Permanent Mission of Mexico to the OECD and the OECD Centre for Latin America and the Caribbean act as channels of communication between the Government of Mexico and the Organisation.

We are delighted to be able to celebrate these 30 years of collaboration and to continue working to strengthen it.

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