



The Coppel - Intuit  
Center for Binational Institutions  
an initiative by the U.S.-Mexico Foundation



# CBI 2023

## U.S.-MEXICO BINATIONAL INSTITUTIONS REPORT



JANUARY 2024

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Founded by the U.S.-Mexico Foundation, the Center for Binational Institutions (CBI) is a pioneering initiative **dedicated to deepening the understanding of institutions and their role in shaping the bilateral agenda and relationship between the United States and Mexico**. At the heart of the CBI's commitment to fostering collaboration, the CBI 2023: U.S.-Mexico Binational Institutions Report. This report serves as a comprehensive endeavor to offer an overview of the intricate tapestry of the U.S.-Mexico relationship woven through the lens of institutional building.

Within these pages, we delve into the myriad of initiatives, dialogues, and collaborative efforts that have defined the course of this bilateral partnership throughout the year.

We begin by **exploring the diplomatic encounters** that have been instrumental in shaping the narrative of U.S.-Mexico relations. Then, we delve into the **economic partnerships and summits** that have propelled the two nations towards shared prosperity. Next, we focus on **security and bilateral cooperation**, unfold the collaborative measures taken to combat illicit activities, preserve public health, and ensure safe communities.

Then, we highlight the **commitment to environmental and social causes**. Finally, we discuss **consular services and migration management**. This comprehensive analysis dissects the challenges and opportunities in implementing the USMCA while examining the evolving landscape of Mexican democracy and its impact on bilateral relations.

Join us on this retrospective journey as we unravel the achievements, challenges, and milestones that have marked the evolving landscape of U.S.-Mexico relations in 2023. Through the prism of binational institutional mechanisms, this report captures not just the instruments of collaboration but also the spirit of a partnership striving for shared prosperity, security, and the well-being of citizens on both sides of the border.



## 2. DIPLOMATIC ENCOUNTERS

### a. North American Leaders' Summit (NALS)

Reflecting on the past year, 2023 initiated the North American Leadership Summit, also known as the Three Amigos Summit. Held on January 10, 2023, in Mexico City, it marked the 10th North American Leaders' Summit (NALS). President Andrés Manuel López Obrador of Mexico, President Joseph R. Biden of the U.S., and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau of Canada jointly published the "Declaration of North America" (D.N.A.). This report affirmed their commitment to fortifying the region's security, prosperity, sustainability, and inclusiveness across six pillars.

These pillars are:

1. Diversity, equity, and inclusion: The leaders committed to promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion in their societies and economies.
2. Climate change and the environment: The leaders acknowledged the urgent need to address and protect the environment and committed to working together to achieve sustainable and resilient economies.
3. Competitiveness: The leaders recognized the importance of a competitive North American region and were committed to promoting innovation, trade, investment, and infrastructure development.
4. Migration and development: The leaders recognized the importance of safe, orderly, and regular migration and committed to working together to address the root causes of migration and promote regional development.
5. Health: The leaders committed to strengthening the region's health systems and addressing health challenges, including cooperating on pandemic preparedness and response.
6. Regional security: The leaders committed to working together to ensure a secure and stable region, including through cooperation on defense, law enforcement, and border security.

The leaders hope to create a more inclusive, sustainable, and resilient North America through coordinated action and targeted investment.

### b. Mexico's Foreign Secretary Marcelo Ebrard Met with U.S. senators and representatives

On February 20, 2023, Mexico's Foreign Secretary, Marcelo Ebrard, engaged with a group of U.S. senators and representatives to discuss key priorities of the bilateral agenda. The discussions centered on progress under the Bicentennial Framework, established in 2021, and international cooperation under the Sonora Plan, promoting cross-border infrastructure and collaboration in economic development.

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The discussions also highlighted upcoming investments in solar energy by American corporations in Mexico, showcasing potential benefits for both nations. He also highlighted that in 2022, trade between Mexico and the U.S. had reached an unprecedented milestone of 779.3 billion dollars.

The Mexican delegation included the head of the Criminal Investigation Agency, Felipe de Jesús Gallo, and the National Center for Planning, Analysis, and Information to Combat Crime, Edna Patricia Cepeda.

The U.S. delegation included Senator Tom Carper, Senator Maggie Hassan, Rep. Lou Correa, Rep. Dan Kildee, Rep. Don Beyer, Rep. Jerry Carl, and Counselor for Political Affairs Charles Sellers.

### c. U.S. Congress and Mexican President Engagements

Fast-forwarding to March 13, 2023, Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador engaged with U.S. legislators and representatives. The focus was on combating international supply chains of fentanyl and other chemical precursors. During this meeting, the President emphasized the importance of coordination and respect for sovereignty to strengthen productive processes and consolidate North America. Attendees from both sides, including Secretary of Economy Raquel Buenrostro Sánchez and U.S. Ambassador to Mexico Ken Salazar, highlighted the significance of economic integration.

Mexican attendees were Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador; Secretary of Economy Raquel Buenrostro Sánchez; the Undersecretary of Finance and Public Credit, Gabriel Yorio González; and the Chief Officer for North America of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Roberto Velasco Álvarez.

From the U.S., Ambassador to Mexico Ken Salazar, as well as Democratic congressmen Terri Sewell (Alabama) and Jimmy Panetta (California), and several other public servants including Republican congress members Beth Van Duyne (Texas), Carol Miller (West Virginia), Michelle Fischbach (Minnesota), Mike Carey (Ohio), and Kelly Armstrong (North Dakota), were in attendance.

Continuing the dialogue, on March 19, 2023, a bipartisan delegation of American legislators and representatives led by Republican Senator John Cornyn from Texas visited the National Palace in Mexico City to discuss the common challenges facing both countries.

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The Mexican President, Andrés Manuel López Obrador, acknowledged the work being done by the Biden administration concerning migration and discussed Mexico's efforts to promote development in Central America and the Caribbean. The Mexican Foreign Secretary, Marcelo Ebrard Casaubon, shared the results of U.S. policies, highlighting the significant decrease in irregular migration from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua, and Venezuela. The Mexican Secretary of Defense, Luis Cresencio Sandoval González, presented priority projects in the border infrastructure portfolio. Furthermore, the Mexican Secretary of Security and Citizen Protection, Rosa Icela Rodríguez Velázquez, reported on Mexico's efforts to combat fentanyl. Finally, the President emphasized Mexico's commitment to working jointly with the U.S., respecting each country's sovereignty.

#### d. Delegation of U.S. Congress Members at the Mexican Foreign Ministry

After they met with President López Obrador, a U.S. congressional delegation engaged with the Mexican Chief Officer for North America, Roberto Velasco, at the Foreign Ministry on March 19; during the meeting, they discussed bilateral cooperation on migration and labor mobility with the U.S. lawmakers thanking Mexico for their work on these issues. Both sides agreed on the need to open new legal pathways for managing migration flows in an orderly, secure, humane, and regular way. They also highlighted the importance of addressing the situation of millions of undocumented immigrants who have contributed to U.S. society for decades without a solution to their migration status. The Mexican delegation included officials from the National Institute of Migration, while the U.S. delegation was composed of bipartisan senators, representatives, and embassy officials.

#### e. Phone Call Between President Biden and President López Obrador

Reflecting on a pivotal phone call on May 9, 2023, between President Biden and President Andrés Manuel López Obrador, the focus was strengthening the U.S.-Mexico bilateral relationship. Priorities included enhancing cooperation to manage unprecedented migration, close coordination between border authorities, and strong enforcement measures. The commitment to managing migration humanely and orderly, with expanded legal pathways, was highlighted. President Biden's commitment to using all available means to address arms trafficking to Mexico, and joint efforts in addressing the root causes of migration were significant milestones.



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## f. Mexican Delegation to Washington, D.C.

The visit of the Mexican Government Delegation to Washington, D.C., on May 10, 2023, led by Dr. Laura Carrillo and Roberto Velasco, aimed to strengthen efforts in addressing the causes of migration. Starting at the White House, meetings with U.S. authorities delved into collaborative initiatives through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and AMEXCID. This collaborative effort, exemplified by programs like Sembrando Vida and SURGES, seeks to generate opportunities, prosperity, and hope while addressing environmental concerns.

## g. President López Obrador and U.S. Department of Transportation Meet

On June 8, 2023, President López Obrador and U.S. Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg met to strengthen transportation links and address Mexico's aviation safety rating downgrade. The discussions at Felipe Angeles International Airport (AIFA) emphasized a commitment to its development, promoting commercial expansion, and providing flexibility for U.S. carriers. Optimism was expressed about Mexico's aviation safety rating recovery, reinforcing the commitment to the successful development of AIFA and the U.S.-Mexico Air Transport Agreement as foundations for bilateral relations.

## h. U.S. Deputy Secretary Verma's Trip to Mexico

Deputy Secretary of State Richard R. Verma's visit to Mexico City and Ciudad Juárez from July 24-26 included participation in the second meeting of the Trilateral Fentanyl Committee. Discussions focused on coordinating efforts to combat the synthetic drug threat, addressing drug demand, and discussing migration-related issues with stakeholders on both sides of the border.

## i. Collaborative Measures by Mexico and the U.S. to Combat Illicit Fentanyl, Disrupt Arms Trafficking, and Humanely Manage Migration

On July 24, 2023, President Andrés Manuel López Obrador and senior Mexican officials hosted a U.S. delegation to discuss collaboration on combating illicit fentanyl, arms trafficking, managing migration, and modernizing the shared border. Reaffirming their commitment, both nations pledged to continue modernizing infrastructure projects, combating drug traffickers, and expanding legal pathways for orderly migration.

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## j. Foreign Secretary Alicia Bárcena's Inaugural Trip to Washington, D.C.

In a historic visit, Foreign Secretary Alicia Bárcena Ibarra traveled to Washington, D.C., on her first diplomatic visit on August 9, 2023. Meetings with U.S. government officials and leaders of the Mexican community aimed to strengthen dialogue, discuss bilateral issues, and underscore Mexico's contribution to the well-being of the U.S. and North America.

On August 10, 2023, National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan met with Secretary Bárcena and Mexican officials at the White House. Discussions encompassed migration, border enforcement, arms trafficking, drug flow, and collaborative efforts to establish a multipurpose space in southern Mexico for refugees and labor pathways. Additionally, discussions revolved around promoting inclusive prosperity in North America and mobilizing financing from the World Bank.

## k. Utah Governor Spencer Cox holds a meeting with Foreign Secretary Alicia Bárcena

The Mexican Government and the Utah State Government announced on October 24, 2023, a strategic collaboration program to promote economic growth, job creation, and knowledge and technology exchange. The Joint Utah-Mexico Partnership (JUMP) aims to encourage Mexican companies to expand into Utah and vice versa. The initiative is expected to strengthen trade and cooperation between the two countries. Trade between Mexico and Utah currently supports over 51,000 jobs, and the agreement could extend benefits to neighboring states.

## l. Foreign Secretary Alicia Bárcena Second Visit to Washington, D.C.

Foreign Secretary Alicia Bárcena represented Mexico's President Andrés Manuel López Obrador at the first Americas Partnership for Economic Prosperity (APEP) summit in Washington, D.C. on November 5, 2023. Bárcena called for a partnership between public and private sectors in Latin America and the Caribbean, promoting nearshoring and reshoring to boost the region's economy. She also urged the Inter-American Development Bank and the North American Development Bank to invest in border infrastructure. Bárcena met with U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen and other leaders to discuss economic growth challenges.

## 3. ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIPS AND SUMMITS

### a. 2023 North American Business Leaders' Summit

The [North American Business Leaders' Summit](#), led by Mexican Foreign Secretary Marcelo Ebrard, Canadian Foreign Minister Mélanie Joly, and U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, emerges as a cornerstone event. Held on January 10, 2023, before the 10th North American Leaders' Summit, its purpose was clear: to enhance cooperation between North America's governmental and corporate sectors. The discussions aimed to intensify the three-way economic partnership, fostering investment, hastening economic expansion, and reinforcing the stability and durability of the North American economic system.

### b. The Americas Partnership for Economic Prosperity

On January 27, 2023, the [Americas Partnership for Economic Prosperity](#) unfolded as a joint initiative of the governments of Latin America, the U.S., and the Caribbean. Aiming to enhance economic progress and elevate the standard of living for people in the Americas, this alliance prioritized creating job opportunities, providing access to education, strengthening supply chains, reducing poverty, promoting the fairer distribution of wealth, and building a brighter future.

During this summit, Mexico's Foreign Secretary Ebrard reiterated Mexico's dedication to achieving equal distribution of wealth. Secretary of State Blinken emphasized the significance of collaborative efforts in pursuing prospects that benefit the region's people and working together to address global challenges.

### c. High-Level Economic Dialogue

#### *High-Level Economic Dialogue: 2022 Midterm Review*

On April 18, 2023, co-chairs of the [U.S.-Mexico High-Level Economic Dialogue \(HLED\)](#) [convened virtually for a midterm review](#) to reflect on critical achievements since the HLED ministerial meeting on September 12, 2022. This review included discussions on priority initiatives and stakeholder commitments, setting the stage for the HLED ministerial meeting in the fall of 2023.

The HLED has been instrumental in advancing strategic economic and trade priorities for Mexico and the U.S., fostering development and economic growth, promoting job creation, enhancing competitiveness, and reducing poverty and inequality in both countries. Notably, the open and inclusive dialogue valued diversity of perspectives and transparency, involving civil society, the private sector, academia, labor unions, and other non-governmental organizations.

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## High-Level Economic Dialogue 2023

Fast forward to September 28, 2023, senior government officials from the U.S. and Mexico met in Washington, D.C., for the third [U.S.-Mexico High-Level Economic Dialogue \(HLED\)](#) meeting. Against the backdrop of U.S.-Mexico total trade reaching an all-time high of \$864 billion in 2022, the HLED focused on building together, promoting sustainable economic and social development, securing future prosperity, and investing in people.

The comprehensive agenda included strengthening supply chains, supporting economic development in Central America and southern Mexico, enhancing workforce development, addressing environmental issues, cybersecurity, and facilitating medical device and pharmaceutical trade. The commitment to holding annual HLED meetings is a testament to the enduring partnership and shared vision for greater regional prosperity.

### d. Meeting: Independent Labor Experts Board of Mexico (IMLEB) under the USMCA

On April 20, 2023, the [Independent Labor Experts Board of Mexico \(IMLEB\)](#) convened to discuss the progress made in implementing and complying with the labor obligations of the US-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA). Representatives from various sectors, including labor unions, academia, and the private sector, participated in this crucial meeting.

The IMLEB's role in promoting a worker-centered trade policy and identifying areas of opportunity in Mexico to improve labor rights underscores the commitment to fair and equitable economic practices. Established by the U.S. Congress, the IMLEB monitors progress in Mexico and advises the Interagency Labor Committee of the USMCA, highlighting the dedication to transparency and adherence to labor standards.

### e. US-Mexico C.E.O. Dialogue 2023

On September 29, 2023, Mexican and U.S. business leaders and government officials gathered at the [13th U.S.-Mexico C.E.O. Dialogue](#), marking a significant engagement to enhance economic growth, competitiveness, trade, and investment. The event, held on September 28, brought together high-ranking officials from both nations and executives from various companies.

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C.E.O.s emphasized measures such as ensuring compliance with the USMCA, improving the business climate, promoting cross-border trade, investing in clean energy, and expanding connectivity and financial inclusion. The call for bilateral cooperation and dialogue to attract nearshoring and enhance regional economic integration underscores the commitment to fostering mutually beneficial economic ties.

#### f. The North Capital Forum 2023: The Essential North American Way

The North Capital Forum took place in Mexico City from October 4-6, 2023, hosted by the U.S.-Mexico Foundation. The event served as a platform for addressing North America's challenges and fostering collaborative solutions. It featured influential figures like New York City Mayor Eric Adams and World Economic Forum President Børge Brende. Topics discussed included diasporas, supply chain resilience, and financial opportunities. The event also included networking dinners and a panel on effective governance in North America, emphasizing the importance of collaboration across different government levels.

#### g. 30th Mexico-US Teacher Exchange Program Binational Meeting in Zacatecas

The 30th Binational Meeting of the Mexico-U.S. Teacher Exchange Program (PROBEM) 2023 occurred from October 8-10 in Zacatecas. With over 6,000 K-12 students participating, this meeting facilitated the exchange of experiences between educators from both nations. Emphasizing the program's role in promoting students' identification with Mexico, teaching civil responsibility, and fostering respect for human dignity, this event celebrated the dedication of the 79 teachers who participated.



## 4. SECURITY AND BILATERAL COOPERATION

### a. Bicentennial Framework for Security, Public Health, and Safe Communities and Regional Economic Integration

#### *Launch of Phase II of the Bicentennial Framework for Security, Public Health, and Safe Communities and Regional Economic Integration*

The U.S. and Mexico jointly announced the [launch of Phase II of the Bicentennial Framework for Security, Public Health, and Safe Communities](#). The implementation of Phase II follows the North American Leaders' Summit in January, where the leaders of Mexico, Canada, and the U.S. pledged to combat the synthetic opioid epidemic in North America.

At the high-level meeting on March 9, 2023, in Mexico's National Palace, the two delegations agreed to deepen their law enforcement cooperation in combating illicit fentanyl production, trafficking of high-caliber weapons and ammunition, and transnational organized crime. They also pledged to launch a binational public health campaign to reduce drug consumption risks.

Additionally, the U.S. returned approximately \$25 million in funds stolen by criminal actors to the Mexican government. This money will be used to further the goals of the Bicentennial Framework. Finally, the leaders of both countries expressed their commitment to disrupting criminal networks affecting both countries, including those responsible for the recent kidnapping of U.S. citizens in Matamoros.

#### *Joint Statement on Bicentennial Framework for Security, Public Health, and Safe Communities*

On April 13, [U.S. Homeland Security Advisor Dr. Elizabeth Sherwood-Randall met with a delegation led by Mexico's Secretary of Security Citizen Protection Rosa Icela Rodríguez at the White House](#). Focused on shared security priorities under the U.S.-Mexico Bicentennial Framework, the discussions aimed at countering fentanyl and arms trafficking across North America. Highlighting a recent presidential decree, the Mexican delegation introduced a commission to combat illicit synthetic drugs and firearms trafficking, enhancing coordination among federal entities. Both nations pledged to dismantle the fentanyl supply chain and target major cartels. A key aspect involved combating illegal firearms trafficking, with the Department of Justice and A.T.F. deploying new authorities. Operations Southbound and Desert Lightning were emphasized for disrupting firearms trafficking and expanding weapons seizures. A bilingual, binational public awareness campaign addressing synthetic drug dangers was agreed upon, building on recent national initiatives.

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This collaborative effort, involving key officials from both countries, reflects a comprehensive strategy to address pressing security challenges.

## b. North America Trilateral Fentanyl Committee

### *First North America Trilateral Fentanyl Committee Meeting*

During the North American Leaders' Summit in January 2023, Presidents Biden, López Obrador, and Prime Minister Trudeau established the Trilateral Fentanyl Committee to address the escalating illicit fentanyl threat in North America. The Committee convened its inaugural meeting on April 13, 2023, led by U.S. Homeland Security Advisor Dr. Elizabeth Sherwood-Randall, Mexican Secretary of Security Rosa Icela Rodríguez, and Canadian National Security and Intelligence Advisor Jody Thomas. Recognizing synthetic opioids, particularly fentanyl, as a critical concern, the Committee outlined four priority areas under the North American Drug Dialogue. These include coordination on synthetic drugs, addressing drug demand, combating trafficking methods, and tackling illicit finance. The commitment involves disrupting the global transfer of fentanyl and precursor chemicals. The three governments pledged to strengthen drug surveillance, share best practices, and convene again in the summer to build upon existing cooperation frameworks. The delegations from Canada, Mexico, and the U.S. highlighted a collaborative and united approach to combat the complex challenges posed by synthetic drugs.

### *Second Trilateral Fentanyl Committee Meeting*

On July 25, 2023, Mexico's Secretary of Security Rosa Icela Rodríguez virtually hosted the Second Trilateral Fentanyl Committee Meeting with the U.S. Homeland Security Advisor Dr. Elizabeth Sherwood-Randall and Canada's National Security and Intelligence Advisor Jody Thomas to discuss the Committee's efforts to combat the trafficking of synthetic drugs. The three co-chairs reaffirmed their commitment to confront the issue jointly. They discussed steps such as prosecuting drug traffickers, targeting precursor chemicals, preventing drug trafficking across borders, and promoting public health services. They also agreed to create an expert working group and an agile mechanism to share emerging drug trends. The three countries will present progress at the next meeting of the Global Coalition to Address Synthetic Drug Threats.

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### *3rd Trilateral Fentanyl Committee Meeting Involving the U.S., Mexico, and Canada*

On December 19, 2023, Homeland Security Advisor Liz Sherwood-Randall hosted [3rd Trilateral Fentanyl Committee Meeting](#) with her Mexican and Canadian counterparts. The TFC, established by the leaders of the three countries, aims to address the illicit fentanyl threat in North America. The meeting discussed progress on regulatory frameworks related to fentanyl production and shared information on illicit drug trends. The committee plans to meet in person in Mexico in 2024 to further counter the fentanyl issue.

### c. High-Level Security Dialogue

On October 13, 2023, the U.S. and Mexico reaffirmed their partnership to enhance security cooperation through the U.S.-Mexico Bicentennial Framework for Security, Public Health, and Safe Communities at the [2023 High-Level Security Dialogue](#). This framework, designed to combat illicit drug trafficking, human trafficking, and transnational organized crime, also addresses irregular migration, and aims to disrupt criminal organizations.

The progress made through the framework, including plans and actions to protect people and prevent transborder crime, stands as a testament to the commitment of both countries. The remembrance of those who have lost their lives in the pursuit of peace and justice further highlights the gravity and significance of these joint efforts.

## 5. ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL INITIATIVES

### a. Texas A&M AgriLife's Transboundary Aquifers Map

A team of researchers, led by Rosario Sanchez, Ph.D., a senior research scientist at the Texas Water Resources Institute (TWRI) part of Texas A&M AgriLife, published the first-ever [comprehensive map of transboundary aquifers between the United States and Mexico](#).

The map highlights 72 aquifers, including five between Baja California and California, 26 between Sonora and Arizona, and 33 between Texas and Mexican states. Notably, 45% of these aquifers are in "good to moderate" condition. This research gains significance as the region's surface water faces increasing pressure from climate change, drought, and population growth. Despite the importance of shared groundwater resources, they have been overlooked at the binational level, leading to limited knowledge among researchers and policymakers along the U.S.-Mexico border.

### b. The North American Partnership for Equity and Racial Justice

The [North American Partnership for Equity and Racial Justice](#), declared on January 10, 2023, marked a significant step forward. U.S. Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken, Mexican Foreign Secretary Marcelo Ebrard, and Canadian Foreign Minister Mélanie Joly joined hands to reaffirm their commitment to establishing just, inclusive, and equitable democracies that combat systemic racism and discrimination.

This declaration outlined specific goals based on past 2021 North American Leaders' Summit efforts. The Partnership aimed to work within each country to promote equity and justice, remove barriers to equal opportunity for marginalized communities, and establish a Trilateral Racial Equity and Inclusion Expert Network. Collaboration with regional and multilateral organizations was also emphasized, such as the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the International Decade for People of African Descent.

### c. U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Climate Travels to Mexico

On March 22, 2023, [Presidential Climate Envoy John Kerry embarked on his seventh trip to Mexico](#). During his March 20-22 visit, discussions with President Andrés Manuel López Obrador and his cabinet centered around addressing the climate crisis and transitioning to clean energy collaboratively.

The talks delved into the prospects of solar and wind energy projects and the necessary steps to reduce emissions. Recognizing the crucial role of the private sector, both nations acknowledged that private sector investments and technological advancements are essential for providing affordable and reliable

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clean energy. Emphasis was laid on the urgent need to address the climate crisis, referencing the recent report by the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The commitment to consolidating leadership in the fight against climate change echoed the potential for better-paying jobs, increased investments, and a more optimistic future

#### d. Collaborative Efforts to Preserve the Mayan Jungle and Promote Clean Energy: 7th Meeting with U.S. Southeast Governors and the Mexican Government

In their 7th meeting on April 18, 2023, U.S. Southeast governors and the Mexican government achieved significant progress in addressing issues related to preserving the Mayan jungle, community development, and promoting clean energy. The collaboration between authorities and the private sector emerged as a crucial aspect of these endeavors.

The meeting underscored the importance of a comprehensive approach to complex issues such as security and migration, emphasizing the need for concerted efforts to tackle these challenges.

#### e. Special Envoy Stern Travels to Mexico City for LGBTQI+ Matters

On July 19, 2023, Jessica Stern, U.S. Special Envoy to Advance the Human Rights of LGBTQI+ Persons, delivered a keynote address at the Conference of LGBTI Political Leaders of the Americas and the Caribbean in Mexico City. The conference aimed to promote equality and democracy by sharing best practices and advocating for LGBTQI+ rights across the Western Hemisphere.

In addition to her speech, Stern engaged with LGBTQI+ political leaders and activists during her visit, fostering meaningful dialogue and collaboration.

#### f. Archaeological artifacts from California to be repatriated by Mexico

On September 19, 2023, Mexico announced the repatriation of 1,294 archaeological artifacts from California, including daily ceremonial objects such as figurines, necklaces, and wind instruments. This repatriation was done to commemorate Mexican Independence Day and the start of Hispanic Heritage Month in the U.S. The San Bernardino County Museum returned the artifacts through diplomatic channels, marking a significant effort by Mexico to combat the illicit trafficking of cultural property and reclaim artifacts integral to its national heritage.



## 6. CONSULAR SERVICES AND MIGRATION MANAGEMENT

### a. Joint Humanitarian Plan on Migration

On May 2, 2023, Mexico's President López Obrador and U.S. Homeland Security Advisor Dr. Elizabeth Sherwood-Randall convened in Mexico City to address the pressing migration situation. Joint actions to counter human smuggling were intensified, and collaborative efforts with Colombia and Panama were bolstered. A shared commitment to addressing the root causes of migration in Central America and expanding legal pathways marked a significant stride.

Mexico lent its support to the United States regional processing centers, and discussions ensued regarding its potential contribution. The U.S. unveiled plans to welcome 100,000 individuals from Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador through family reunification parole. The successful joint initiative for individuals from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua, and Venezuela was reaffirmed. The shared border underwent modernization, including the expansion of the Calexico East Land Port of Entry, presenting a testament to the enduring collaboration benefiting both economies.

### b. The Intermediary Meeting of the Mexico-U.S. Consular Dialogue

The Intermediary Meeting of the Mexico-U.S. Consular Dialogue was held at the Secretary of Foreign Affairs (S.R.E.) in Mexico City on April 24, 2023. Established in 2013, this bilateral mechanism aims to strengthen cooperation in consular assistance and protection between the two countries. During the meeting, progress was shared on issues such as dual nationality, consular notification, training for consular authorities, collaboration in child abduction cases, child support, and international adoptions. Good consular practices were also exchanged to prevent and respond to natural disasters, drawing on the experiences of the respective foreign services. The meeting also focused on labor mobility, the H2 visa process, and Mexico's proactive efforts to inform and defend the rights of its population through its consular network.

### c. Consular Dialogue between Mexico and the U.S. in 2023

The 21st Mexico-U.S. Consular Dialogue, held on October 31, 2023, culminated the year's consular engagements. Vanessa Calva Ruiz and Rena Bitter led it; the Mexican and U.S. delegations engaged in discussions that spanned the exchange of good consular practices, bilateral cooperation for protecting vulnerable children, and providing documentation and protection services to nationals of both countries. The Mexican government, in reflection, praised the cooperative spirit with the U.S. in implementing consular actions, underscoring the mutual commitment to safeguarding the interests and well-being of their respective citizens.

## CONCLUSION

In closing, the institutional relationship between Mexico and the United States in 2023 is a testament to both nations' enduring commitment to surmount shared challenges through collaborative and multi-faceted approaches. The year has been marked by a series of impactful initiatives spanning the economic, security, and humanitarian domains, underscoring the depth of the bilateral commitment to fostering regional stability, economic growth, and a more compassionate approach to migration.

From groundbreaking economic partnerships to high-level security dialogues, the proactive engagement between Mexico and the United States has not only addressed pressing issues. Still, it has also set the stage for long-term cooperation. The joint efforts witnessed in 2023 exemplify a willingness on both sides to transcend traditional boundaries and work together in crafting innovative solutions to the complex challenges of our time.

As we bring this year-end review to a close, the ever-evolving tapestry of the Mexico-U.S. relationship emerges as a dynamic and promising landscape. The collaborative strides in diplomacy, economics, and humanitarian endeavors have laid a resilient foundation for the future. The commitment to mutual prosperity echoes through these endeavors, promising a trajectory of strengthened ties, increased resilience, and a shared vision for the years ahead.

In essence, 2023 signifies not only the accomplishments of the moment but also the groundwork for a more robust and enduring bilateral relationship. The coming together of diplomatic finesse, economic understanding, and humanitarian compassion paves the way for a Mexico-U.S. partnership that is not only adaptive to the present challenges but also poised for sustained success in the future.

## About the U.S. – Mexico Foundation



The U.S.-Mexico Foundation (USMF) is a binational non-profit organization dedicated to fostering cooperation and bilateral understanding between the United States and Mexico. Rooted in the North America Free Trade Agreement and launched in 2009 with seed funds from the David & Lucile Packard Foundation, Carnegie Corporation, and the Business Foundation in Mexico (Fundemex), the USMF is governed by a bi-national board of business and civic leaders with extensive networks in the U.S. and Mexico.

In 2018, the USMF started a new chapter with a compelling agenda focused on policy and advocacy, creating new strategic alliances, educating important stakeholders and providing a voice on the most relevant issues pertaining the U.S.-Mexico relationship.

## About Texas A&M School of Law



From our strategic location in one of the country's largest and fastest-growing legal markets (Dallas-Fort Worth), Texas A&M Law is shaping the future of legal education with unprecedented momentum. Motivated by our Aggie Core Values, our faculty are advancing knowledge at the intersection of scholarly excellence and real-world application. Through innovative and collaborative teaching, we equip service-oriented lawyers and professional and industry leaders of all kinds to address the legal, economic, and social issues that will forge the future of Texas and the global community.

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### Coppel



Coppel emerged as a nationwide department store in Mexico, characterized by providing easy credit and purchase payments through installments. Its mission is to bring its clients a world of possibilities to improve their lives. It contributes to social development through education, social welfare, and health projects. Coppel also promotes the U.S.-Mexico bilateral relationship through the granting of credits to migrants in the U.S. and its active participation in the negotiation processes of both the North American Free Trade Agreement and the North American Free Trade Agreement.

### Intuit



Intuit is an American company that specializes in financial software. This company seeks to attract the best global talent, add partners to its global platform and create exceptional corporate citizenship. Intuit's mission is to drive prosperity around the world through job creation. Intuit seeks to achieve its mission by investing in people, strengthening communities, and offering everyone the opportunity to prosper.