

Foreign Policy Priorities with the United States, January 23, 2017

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Principles

"Based on the basic principles mandated by our Constitution, we will continue working hard so that Foreign Policy contributes to the internal development of Mexico": EPN

The President of the Republic, Enrique Peña Nieto, defined the following five principles that will guide the negotiation with the government of the United States:

First: National Sovereignty.

"We are a sovereign nation and we will act as such. The exercise of sovereignty implies that in the process of negotiation our only interest is that of Mexico and that of Mexicans.

Mexico and the United States will engage in dialogue as sovereign countries. We will do so with security, with dignity, firmness and confidence in our strengths.

Let us always keep in mind: while for Mexico, the relationship with the United States is fundamental; for the United States, the relationship with Mexico is also of the highest importance. "

Second: Respect for the rule of law, respect for the laws of Mexico and the United States.

"Mutual respect for the rule of law in our countries is and should continue to be the basis of our interaction.

Today, more than ever, the maxim of President Benito Juárez prevails: Among individuals, as among nations, respect for the law is peace. "

Third: Constructive and purposeful vision.

"We believe that this must be a win-win negotiation, and our position will be creative and open to innovative and pragmatic solutions, aware of the new reality that faces the United States and the international environment."

Fourth: Integration of North America.

"Our region is composed of three countries, their dynamism and competitiveness depends on what we do together: Canada, the United States and Mexico."

Fifth: Integral negotiation.

"Mexico will openly and completely address each and every issue of our relationship, and we will bring to the table all the issues: trade, but also migration and security issues, including border security, threats of terrorism and illegal trafficking in drugs, weapons and cash.

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"These are the five principles that will guide our negotiation. However, to be successful in it, we must also have clarity on what are our objectives": EPN

10 Objectives of the Government of the Republic in the negotiation with the USA

The President instructed the Foreign Ministry, in particular the Embassy and the Consular Network in the United States, to redouble the effort of consular protection and assistance to defend and support Mexicans to assert their rights, according to the law.

"In the coming weeks and months, the new rules of our relationship with North America will have to be defined. Throughout this process, the protection of Mexicans, inside and outside the country, will be the highest priority": EPN

Goals:

FIRST

That there be a **commitment from the US government** to guarantee humane treatment and respect for the rights of Mexican migrants.

SECOND

That any process of repatriation of undocumented migrants, be carried out by the United States government in an orderly and coordinated manner; and that **the protocols and agreements that have been reached are maintained and improved**, always on the basis of dignified and respectful treatment.

THIRD

The development of the Hemisphere should be a shared responsibility. The governments of Mexico and the United States must **make a concrete commitment to work together** to promote the development of the countries of Central America.

This commitment is increasingly important. While the number of Mexican migrants to the United States declines each year, the flow of undocumented migrants who cross Mexico to the United States, has grown by more than 100 percent in the last three years.

FOURTH

Ensure the free flow of remittances from the nationals living in the United States, avoiding that it becomes more difficult or expensive to send money. As of November last year, remittances from Mexicans totaled more than 24 billion dollars.

FIFTH

The United States government must make a commitment to work with Mexico **to stop the illegal entry of weapons and money from illicit sources**.

SIXTH

Preserve free trade between Canada, the United States and Mexico. Trade between the three countries should be exempt from any tariff or quota since 2008.

We will seek to strengthen the competitiveness of North America and its regional supply chains by increasing Mexican exports to the United States and Canada on the basis of healthy competition and the development of higher value-added sectors.

SEVENTH

In modernizing the North American trade framework, **the governments should include new sectors** such as telecommunications, energy and e-commerce.

EIGHTH

Any new trade agreement with the United States should also translate into **better wages for workers in Mexico**. Mexico does not compete in the world with low-quality jobs or cheap labor.

Mexico must participate in international trade on a basis of greater productivity and complementarity, making trade a powerful instrument to protect existing jobs, create new jobs and improve wages in Mexico.

NINTH

Protect the flow of investments to Mexico. The Government of Mexico will ensure that our country remains a reliable and attractive destination in which to invest.

Agreements will be sought to give certainty to investment and trade between Mexico, Canada and the United States. Investments from domestic sources and from any other country, which have had the trust in Mexico to invest, will be defended.

TENTH

Work for a border that does not divide.

"While Mexico recognizes the rights of every sovereign nation to guarantee its security, Mexico does not believe in the walls. Our country believes in bridges, road and railroad crossings, and the use of technology as the best allies, to promote a good neighborhood [or neighborliness].

Our border must be our best space for living together; a space of security, prosperity and shared development ": EPN