

# **THE FOREIGN POLICY OF MEXICO**

**Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador**

President

*For a Stronger and Better Mexico*

*Lopez Obrador believes in the principles of self-determination,  
cooperation and international peace for a stronger and better world.*

*Mexican Presidential candidate Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador laid out his vision for Mexico's foreign policy on March 21, 2006, in Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua. After the French invasion of Mexico, it was in Ciudad Juarez that President Benito Juarez established the branches of the federal government and organized the resistance to defend national sovereignty. After some time in what was then Paso del Norte, President Juarez returned in a triumphal march to the capital of the country to achieve the second Independence of Mexico.*

*With the defeat of the invading empire, Mexico firmly established its indisputable right to sovereignty. From that time, founding fathers such as President Juarez have reaffirmed the right of Mexico to self-governance. At the turn of the century, with agreement of the political parties, the fundamental principles for Mexico's foreign policy were established in the Constitution of 1917. These principles are the product of Mexico's history and national sentiment, and they continue to resonate today.*

## PRINCIPLES OF FOREIGN POLICY

In accordance with his vision for a stronger and better Mexico, Lopez Obrador is committed to a stronger and better world through self-determination, cooperation and international peace.

### SELF-DETERMINATION

Self-determination is strongly linked to sovereignty, which emanates from Mexico's independence. It also encompasses the right of people to freely pursue economic, social, and cultural development.

- **Respect.** Mexico's foreign policy will be an extension of its domestic policy. Mexico's foreign policy will strengthen its domestic policy. If there is stability, prosperity, justice, and democracy in Mexico, Lopez Obrador believes Mexico will be respected in the international arena.
- **Expertise.** Lopez Obrador will seek the expertise of the Mexican diplomatic corps in conducting Mexico's foreign affairs. Those in charge of executing foreign policy will be career members of the Foreign Service. The tradition of the Foreign Service has been to use diplomatic instruments to defend Mexico's constitutional principles in a manner conciliatory to all interests.

### COOPERATION

Cooperation should be a priority, above the integration of economic states. Lopez Obrador will maintain amicable relationships with all states and governments of the world. He will seek deeper economic integration with Latin America and the Caribbean. He will also seek to diversify Mexico's foreign policy, from free trade to international initiatives aiming for the peaceful coexistence of countries so that globalization does not mean hegemony.

- **Development.** International cooperation can advance development of opportunities for all peoples, encompassing economic, social, cultural, and environmental aspects and respect for diverse cultures across the world.
- **Equality.** For cooperation to be successful, it must be mutually-beneficial, recognizing the legal equality of states. This principle challenges threats from military or economically stronger states and affirms the international cooperation of states as equals.
- **Multilateralism.** Lopez Obrador will ensure a moderate foreign policy, one that maintains credibility and is neither passive nor isolationist. He will seek solutions to and participate in solving the great problems of humanity. Mexico will sustain its multilateralism, which is the only instrument of diplomacy capable of establishing legal equality amongst states.

- **United Nations.** After World War II, the UN assumed the interests of the international community: security, disarmament, colonialism, and the obligations and rights of states. Mexico must participate in this sphere of international relations.

## **INTERNATIONAL PEACE**

Mexico must maintain a position that favors peace above all other actions. Since 1945, Mexico has not participated in any armed conflict, and has supported world disarmament. The Tlatelolco Treaty of Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America is a universal benchmark in the promotion of peace.

- **Peaceful Resolution.** International disputes can be peacefully resolved. Mexico's disputes in the international arena should be settled peacefully, following the lead of the United Nations, to promote international peace, security, and justice. One of the greatest accomplishments of Mexico's foreign policy has been the consistent rejection of the use of force throughout our history. Mexico has always supported the resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly, which condemns the use of force by a country or group of countries against other sovereign states.
- **No intervention.** Lopez Obrador embraces the principle of no intervention, giving Mexico the responsibility to be prudent. Mexico has been subject to interventions that have had profoundly negative effects. This principle does not contradict Mexico's commitment to democracy and human rights. History has shown that democracy can only be achieved through local political effort, and that democracy has seldom been imposed through force.

## U.S.-MEXICO RELATIONS

### **Lopez Obrador recognizes that Mexico's relationship with the U.S. is one of mutual respect and vital importance.**

There are great opportunities and complexities that arise from this close relationship. Mexico and the U.S. are neighbors who should work together for the development of the people of our countries. The geographic proximity to the world's foremost market and the most politically, economically, and militarily important country in the world, confers upon Mexico a strategic position of the utmost importance. This is the most intense bilateral relationship in the world.

### **MIGRATION**

**Migration is central to Mexico's foreign policy with the U.S.** Mexico sends more immigrants to the U.S. than any other country. In 2000, the 9.5 million Mexican immigrants in the U.S. represented almost thirty percent of the U.S. immigrant population. In the state of California alone, the purchasing power of the Mexican immigrant community has increased sixty-five percent since 1990, and in Los Angeles county, businesses owned by Mexican immigrants grew from 57,000 in 1987, to half a million today.

**The Mexican and U.S. governments must seek solutions to address migration problems while encouraging economic and social development.** Even though Mexico has forty-five consulates in the United States—more than any other country in the world—the massive migratory flows and the growing opposition at the border constitute a major friction between the two countries. Lopez Obrador is committed to preventing the violation of human and labor rights of Mexicans, who out of necessity, cross the border to work in the United States. Upon taking office, Lopez Obrador will convert the forty-five Mexican consulates in the United States to advocacy offices for the defense of Mexicans who live and work in the United States, to protect them from maltreatment, discrimination and the violation of their human rights. A sovereign government cannot subscribe to a treaty that permits rubber bullets to be fired at its citizens.

**Cooperative agreements with the United States can help to ameliorate these migration issues, through programs that solve the problems of rural areas and encourage economic development.** Nothing will be resolved with the construction of walls, with a greater number of border patrols, with more severe laws, or heavy-handed threats. All these measures will only provoke more human rights violations and more conflicts in between our governments.

**The Mexican government must transform its economic policy to prevent its countrymen from abandoning Mexico.** Lopez Obrador will seek to create an accord with the United States that will result in cooperation and beneficial outcomes for both countries. It is clear that the massive immigration to the United States is solid evidence of the failure of Mexican economic policy over the last twenty years.

## **DEVELOPMENT IN BORDER CITIES**

**There are job offers at the maquiladoras, but without minimum conditions of welfare. As a result, there is growth in border cities, but minimal development.**

This social problem originates because in too many places in Mexico, economic production is lacking and people do not have jobs. As a result of these problems, thousands of Mexicans are abandoning their communities to emigrate to the United States, and many remain in border cities.

In the last 20 years, the population growth of Ciudad Juarez has been disproportionately high. In 1950, the state of Chihuahua had 225,000 inhabitants and in 2000, the population was 2.5 million people, without taking into account the transitory population.

Today, one of two inhabitants of Baja California come from states all over the country. In Tijuana alone it is estimated that 70,000 people arrive every year. This massive growth has produced a serious lack of city services. In Tijuana and Mexicali more than 100,000 families live in extreme poverty. There are areas without electricity, water, sewage, schools, or health centers, and lacking adequate housing and rights to their land. And, in Ciudad Juarez, there are serious problems with violence and personal safety.

## **JOB GROWTH IN MEXICO**

**It is clear that without economic growth and the creation of jobs in Mexico, we will not be able to solve the migration problem.** Millions of Mexicans have had to emigrate from the country because of the failure of the current economic policy to generate jobs. During the presidency of Vicente Fox, more than 2 million workers have abandoned the country out of necessity. The failure of the current economic policy is the failure of the migration policy of President Fox.

**Lopez Obrador will reactivate the economy to generate the jobs needed by Mexicans.** His objective is that no one must abandon the country and their family to find work and live with dignity. As president, he will propose to the United States government a migratory agreement that will create jobs in Mexico and at the same time offer legal status to Mexicans who, out of necessity and poverty, have moved to the United States.

**The best policy between a strong economy and a weak one is not the construction of walls but the cooperation for the development of Mexico.**