

Declaration by the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the United Mexican States Concerning the U.S.-Mexico High-Level Economic Dialogue

The Government of the United States of America and the Government of the United Mexican States, hereinafter referred to collectively as the “Participants,”

Acknowledging our shared interest in strengthening a partnership that enhances the region through economic and commercial cooperation and promotes sustainable growth, prosperity, job creation, and global competitiveness for the United States and Mexico;

Understanding that a more integrated and efficient regional energy sector promotes energy security, lowers emissions, and plays a crucial role in driving economic growth and furthering environmental stewardship;

Highlighting the importance of the border between Mexico and the United States as a place where communities and industries regularly interact, and as a platform to enhance and facilitate the secure and orderly flow of lawful visitors and legitimate trade, strengthen cultural ties, and reduce the cost of doing business in North America;

Recognizing the strengths of our respective domestic workforces and the need to enhance cooperation to encourage the development of a more competitive and better prepared workforce through education, research, and skills development, to meet the needs of the 21st century economy;

Sharing a desire to foster entrepreneurship and innovation through collaborative support for organizations and individuals that create opportunities for sustainable economic development and commercial investment;

Recognizing the importance of telecommunications to foster productivity, job creation, innovation, and market development of emerging sectors;

Understanding that increased regulatory cooperation may create efficiencies that lower costs and provide greater benefits to consumers;

Partnering for regional and global leadership to further strengthen our bilateral ties and translate our shared values into common efforts to address global and regional issues;

Appreciating that our stakeholders provide valuable commercial acumen and economic insight, and are crucial to the success of our respective economies; and

Expressing their commitment to maintaining the U.S.-Mexico High-Level Economic Dialogue (HLED) as a tested and effective mechanism for advancing bilateral economic integration and cooperation on regional priorities;

Have reached the following understandings with regard to the ongoing work of the HLED:

I. Areas of Collaboration

The Participants plan to continue their work in a collaborative and coordinated fashion across a wide-range of economic-related activities, including but not limited to the following:

Energy

- Advancing work on a North American energy data cooperation and mapping.
- Increasing collaboration on the improvement of infrastructure in the electricity, oil, and natural gas sectors, in order to enhance efficiency and sustainability, and promote economic growth.
- Convening experts and companies to provide technical assistance that fosters the continued development of competitive energy markets, and promotes the sustainable development of renewable energy and unconventional oil and gas resources.
- Maintaining energy regulatory cooperation as a priority to support the responsible development of energy resources through sharing of best practices and lessons learned and efforts to increase alignment in regulatory approaches, the benefits of which are reflected in higher certainty for investors and better prices for consumers.
- Working to expand existing cooperation particularly regarding offshore safety, environmental protection, and regulatory oversight and enforcement of hydrocarbon activities.
- Working together to advance energy education programs, drive clean energy innovation, promote regulatory training, and share health, safety, and environmental best practices within the energy sector.

Modern Borders

- Strengthening our binational coordinating processes to collaborate through the 21st Century Border Management Initiative with its mission of proposing, leading, coordinating, monitoring, and ensuring progress on issues and projects to enhance security and facilitate travel and trade, specifically including work on priority border crossing infrastructure projects and related policy issues.
- Identifying bilateral projects and initiatives to further facilitate trade and travel between our two countries.
- Promoting and expanding our supply chain security and trusted traveler programs to facilitate the efficient and secure flow of travelers and goods between the two countries.

Workforce Development

- Expanding educational and economic opportunities and the development of a smart and competitive North American workforce through the ongoing work of the Bilateral Forum on Higher Education, Innovation and Research (FOBESII).
- Promoting educational exchanges to diverse populations through new funding sources, engagement with the private sector, and by promoting educational advising network centers to increase participation in exchange programs for students, teachers, professionals, and scholars.
- Promoting joint research and innovation on agreed strategic sectors through ongoing collaboration to facilitate the creation of a knowledge economy in North America.
- Supporting the development and growth of women-led businesses and making gender issues an integral component of our respective public policies in an effort to create a more diverse and capable workforce.

Entrepreneurship and Innovation

- Enhancing competitiveness, trade, and innovation between our two countries through the continued work of the Mexico-U.S. Entrepreneurship and Innovation Council (MUSEIC).
- Supporting entrepreneurs, businesses, economic development organizations, and academics by providing a cluster mapping tool that maps assets across the United States and Mexico to better inform effective economic development strategies, and to promote more efficient decision making about where to invest and do business.
- Providing a collaborative framework to advance gender equality and women's economic empowerment in support of the growth of women-owned enterprises in North America through the trilateral Memorandum of Understanding signed on June 28, 2016 under the framework of the North America Leaders' Summit (NALS) in Ottawa, Canada.

Regulatory Cooperation

- Continue working under the High Level Regulatory Cooperation Council (HLRCC) in order to define a Second Work Plan that takes into account the interests of both countries.

Regional and Global Leadership

- Affirming their commitment to seek rapid approval of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Agreement as soon as possible and to coordinate closely on the implementation of the Agreement.
- Supporting affordable, reliable, and open internet access as a key component to economic growth, to include encouraging international adoption of the Open Data Charter to expand access to information to all citizens.
- Fostering actions that strengthen the anti-corruption agenda in international fora.

- Providing support in capacity building and the promotion of sustainable social development to Central America and cooperating with the Inter-American Development Bank to deepen regional electrical and natural gas integration in the region.

Stakeholder Engagement

- Enhancing and expanding engagement with relevant stakeholders (private sector, academia, and civil society) in an effort to inform the work and agenda of the HLED.

II. Implementation and Oversight

Following the most recent HLED chaired by Vice President Joe Biden and Mexican Secretary of Finance and Public Credit Luis Videgaray on February 25, 2016, the two governments intend that the HLED will be co-chaired at the cabinet level by the Ministries of Foreign Relations, Finance and Public Credit, and Economy for the Government of Mexico, and the Department of State, Department of Commerce, and the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative for the U.S. Government, with full participation in the Dialogue from other departments and agencies, as appropriate. To more effectively coordinate and execute the initiatives aimed at furthering the goals noted in this Declaration, the Participants intend to establish an HLED Secretariat. The United States section of the HLED Secretariat is expected to be led by representatives from the Departments of State and Commerce, while Mexico's section will be led by representatives from the Ministries of Foreign Relations, Finance and Public Credit, and Economy. The HLED Secretariat will work with representatives from the appropriate federal government agencies to coordinate interagency and binational planning and the execution of the HLED's work stream.

It is further intended that the HLED will direct the Executive Steering Committee of the 21st Century Border Management Initiative to propose, advance and prioritize projects and initiatives aimed at furthering HLED goals, specifically with respect to border crossing projects and bilateral trade and travel facilitation initiatives.

The HLED expects to continue meeting annually at the cabinet level to advance the activities of this Declaration.

III. General Principles

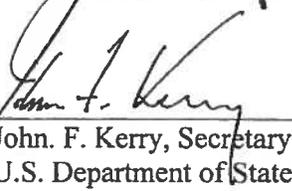
This Declaration represents the best endeavor between the Participants to work on the areas of collaboration under the framework of the HLED, even though it does not constitute a legally binding agreement. The Participants understand that activities in support of the goals mentioned in this Declaration are to be carried out in accordance with the laws and regulations of the Participants' countries, applicable international agreements to which the Participants' countries are parties, as well as international law. The Participants are expected to bear their own costs in engaging in any such activities. All such activities are subject to the availability of funds and human resources.

For the Government of the United States
of America:



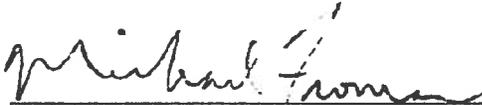
Penny S. Pritzker, Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce

Date: 22 July 2016



John F. Kerry, Secretary
U.S. Department of State

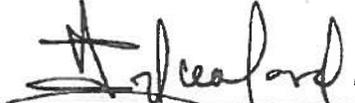
Date: SEP 12 2016



Michael B. Froman, U.S. Trade
Representative

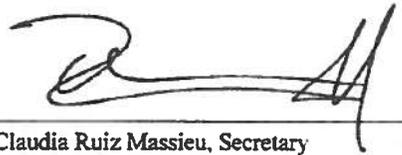
Date: 22 July 2016

For the Government of the United
Mexican States:



Ildefonso Guajardo Villarcal, Secretary
Ministry of Economy

Date: 22 July 2016



Claudia Ruiz Massieu, Secretary
Ministry of Foreign Relations

Date: 22 July 2016



Luis Videgaray Caso, Secretary
Ministry of Finance and Public Credit

Date: 22 July 2016