

Joint Communiqué between Finland and Mexico

MEXICO AND FINLAND: CONSOLIDATING THE RELATIONSHIP IN THE 21st CENTURY

1. Upon the invitation of H.E. Mr. Enrique Peña Nieto, President of the United Mexican States, H.E. Mr. Sauli Niinistö, President of Finland, made a visit to Mexico on May 25-26, 2015.
2. Over the past two years there have been several high level events between Mexico and Finland. Presidents Peña Nieto and Niinistö met when they both attended the Boao Forum, on the island of Hainan, China (April 2013). Finnish Ministers and high level politicians have visited Mexico, as in the case of Mr. Alexander Stubb, Minister for European Affairs and Foreign Trade (May 2013); Mr. Eero Heinäluoma, Speaker of the Parliament (July 2014); Mrs. Krista Kiuru, Minister of Education and Communications (September 2014); and Mrs. Lenita Toivakka, Minister for European Affairs and Foreign Trade (March 2015). Mr. José Antonio Meade, Mexican Secretary of Foreign Affairs (February 2015), Ambassador Carlos de Icaza, Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs (April 2014), and Mr. Juan Manuel Valle Pereña, Executive Director of the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (January 2015) visited Finland.
3. Mexico and Finland reaffirmed their decision to deepen their relationship, given the potential of their economies, as well as the enormous opportunities that exist for cooperation on multilateral affairs where both countries play an important role.
4. The two sides reiterated their support to the principles of international law, the peaceful resolution of conflicts, strengthening of multilateralism, respect of territorial integrity, eradication of poverty, environmental protection, as well as democracy, human rights, and the rule of law. They underlined the importance of economic stability and their full commitment to free trade.

Within this framework, both sides decided on the following:

5. Mexico and Finland decided to continue consultations on bilateral, regional and global issues through the existing instruments of cooperation, including the Mechanism of Political Consultations.
6. Both countries acknowledged that the current volume of their trade and economic relation does not correspond to the potential of our countries. To this end, they expressed the need to facilitate and promote the development of bilateral economic ties as well as to encourage cooperation in other areas, e.g. innovation, science and technology.
7. The two sides offer each other a favourable legal framework that fosters trade and investment. In this regard, Finland supports the updating of the Global Agreement between Mexico and the European Union.

8. Both sides decided that it is important for Finland and Mexico to encourage and facilitate the participation of their private sectors in fairs and exhibitions to be organized in their respective countries, as well as to continue to arrange visits of business delegations.
9. Both countries highlighted the importance of the private sector in promoting business, and in identifying and developing niches of investment in our nations and third markets in a more efficient and effective way.
10. Finland and Mexico decided to cooperate more closely to encourage exchanges in the fields of education, culture, science, and technological innovation.
11. The two sides decided to strengthen bilateral cooperation on renewable energy, information and communications technologies, clean energy technologies, naval, maritime and offshore industry, power generation, sustainable mining, and the education sector.
12. Both sides highlighted the importance of the cooperation on forestry management, and decided to continue exploring further cooperation options, including the exchange of professors and students, between the relevant stakeholders such as CONAFOR, VITRI, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. In this regard, the two countries expressed their satisfaction with the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the National Forestry Commission of the United Mexican States and the University of Helsinki in the Republic of Finland.
13. Both parties further acknowledged the great potential cooperation between Finnish institutions such as the VTT (Technical Research Centre of Finland) and both the Ministry of Energy (SENER) and the Ministry of Innovation, Science and Technology of Jalisco, to the training of highly qualified engineers specialized in energy matters. Furthermore, we recognized the potential for collaboration between Pemex and Finnish institutions on innovation and training programs in order to increase their human resources capacity on the hydrocarbons industry.
14. Both countries welcomed the inter-institutional collaboration between Mexican and Finnish universities, in particular Aalto University, University of Helsinki, UNAM (National Autonomous University of Mexico) and ITESM (Monterrey Institute of Technology and Higher Education), and encouraged the projects Aalto Lab Mexico, New Global Mexico and Aalto Design Factory.
15. Mexico and Finland are pleased by the reciprocal increase of bilateral scholarship rates, aiming to accomplish specializations, masters or doctorate degrees, conducting graduate level research or taking part in an undergraduate or graduate-level academic mobility program. This important initiative took shape through a letters exchange between the Mexican Agency of International Cooperation for Development (AMEXCID), the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland and the Finnish Centre for International Mobility (CIMO), which was finished in September 2014.

16. Mexico and Finland welcomed the collaboration between the Finnish company Rovio and different private and public institutions in Mexico, on educational projects that would offer innovative education techniques.
17. The two sides were pleased to note the increasing cultural exchanges and decided to continue to collaborate in reciprocal projects with artists from both countries in order to mutually promote their art and creative innovations.
18. Both countries welcomed the celebration of the Mexican Cultural Month in Finland, to be held on October 2015, which will contribute to promote Mexican arts and culture, and to foster cooperation in these areas.
19. Mexico and Finland will continue strengthening the collaboration in the legal field, enhancing the existing contacts between academics and lawyers of both countries, in order to promote the celebration of seminars, information forums, edition of joint publications and the subscription of cooperation agreements.
20. Mexico and Finland share a mutual understanding that the furthering of cooperation in the tourism sector greatly benefits the economic growth and development of both countries.
21. Mexico has recognized the importance of intensifying the bilateral agenda in the touristic realm with the Northern European countries, as well as the promotion of both countries' touristic destinations. Mexico and Finland celebrated, in September 2014, a seminar on opportunities within the touristic as well as the gastronomic sectors that involved the participation of distinguished members of the private and public sectors of both countries.
22. Mexico and Finland decided to enhance their cooperation and coordination in multilateral organizations, such as the United Nations, in particular on issues related to: the full implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty, the first legally binding instrument adopted by the UN, which establishes an international mechanism to control and regulate the flow of conventional weapons; the Group of Friends of Mediation as a forum for promoting prevention and peaceful settlement of disputes; and increasing the effectiveness of UN Special Political Missions including the need for greater accountability and transparency regarding the establishment and managing of UN Special Political Missions.
23. Finland welcomes the decision of the Mexican Government to participate in UN Peacekeeping Operations.
24. In this regard, both countries recognized the potential of the Finnish cooperation with Mexico in the field of peace-keeping training, as well as mutual exchange of knowledge and best practices. In this regard, Finland extended an invitation to the Mexican Delegation, from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Finnish Defence Forces International Centre (FINCENT), to pay a working visit to Finnish training centres at an appropriate time during 2015.

25. Furthermore, Finland announced that, within the framework of the Nordic Defence Cooperation (NORDEF), Finland is supporting the granting of six scholarships for training courses for Military Mexican Staff Officers –prior to assignments in UN Peacekeeping Operations.
26. Both countries stressed the urgency of combating climate change and reaffirmed their commitment to contribute constructively to successful negotiations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in order to reach an ambitious outcome in the 21st Session of the Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC in Paris in December 2015. Following the example of Mexico and the European Union and its Member States, all Parties to the Convention that have not yet done so are urged to submit ambitious and transparent intended Nationally Determined Contributions (iNDC) as soon as possible.
27. Mexico recognized the role of Finland as an Observer State in the Pacific Alliance and welcomed its willingness to cooperate in fields such as education and innovation. Finland is on its part studying how to proceed with more concrete possibilities for cooperation.
28. The two sides welcomed the signing of the following documents during the visit:
- a) Memorandum of Understanding between the Viikki Tropical Resources Institute (VITRI) of the University of Helsinki in the Republic of Finland and the National Forestry Commission (CONAFOR) of the United Mexican States;
 - b) Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Export Credit between FINNVERA PLC of Finland and the National Exterior Commerce Bank, National Credit Society (Bancomext) of the United Mexican States;
 - c) Memorandum of Understanding between FINPRO RY and ProMéxico;
 - d) Memorandum of Understanding between VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland Ltd and the Secretariat of Innovation, Science and Technology of the State of Jalisco of the United Mexican States;
 - e) Specific Agreement of Collaboration and Exchange between the Faculty of Law of the University of Helsinki in the Republic of Finland and the Faculty of Law of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) of the United Mexican States;
 - f) Letter of Intent between the Faculty of Law of the University of Helsinki in the Republic of Finland and the Legal Research Institute of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) of the United Mexican States.
29. H.E. Mr. Sauli Niinistö, President of the Republic of Finland, extended a kind invitation to H.E. Enrique Peña Nieto, President of the United Mexican States, to make a visit to Finland at an appropriate time.

Mexico City, May 25th, 2015.