

Joint communiqué Mexico – The Netherlands

(The Hague, April 24, 2018)

1. On 23 and 24 April 2018, President Enrique Peña Nieto of the United Mexican States paid an official visit to the Kingdom of the Netherlands. President Peña Nieto's program included a meeting with His Majesty King Willem-Alexander and Her Majesty Queen Máxima, as well as with Prime Minister Mark Rutte. In addition, President Peña Nieto met with representatives of Dutch companies operating in the Mexican market and those which are keen to invest there.
2. The President and Prime Minister expressed satisfaction at the longstanding and historical friendship between Mexico and the Netherlands, and the celebration this year of the 190th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two nations. In recent years, Mexico and the Netherlands have cooperated bilaterally on a variety of issues, such as water management, agriculture, energy and development cooperation. In the past five years, Dutch ministers of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade, Agriculture and Infrastructure have visited Mexico, while Mexican foreign ministers and several state secretaries have visited the Netherlands. On the global stage, Mexico and the Netherlands are close allies, working together on such issues as climate change, sustainable development, migration, gender equality and human rights.
3. The President and Prime Minister reiterated that Mexico and the Netherlands share common values of democracy, pluralism, respect for human rights, including gender equality, and rule of law. They confirmed their shared interests and responsibilities in addressing a broad range of global issues, including climate change, peace and security, free and fair trade, sustainable development, a free open and secure cyberspace and an open, just, inclusive and rules-based international order.
4. During an official signing ceremony with the President and the Prime Minister as witnesses, both countries signed an Air Services Agreement, that offers great operational and commercial opportunities to the Mexican and Dutch designated airlines, as well as a Joint Declaration on Bilateral Cooperation to boost and foster strategic cooperation projects in areas of mutual interest.

Economy, trade and investment

5. The Mexican economy is the 15th largest in the world and has a forecasted growth rate between 2 and 3% in 2018. In 2017, bilateral trade reached 4.4 billion dollars, 2.0 billion dollars of Mexican exports and 2.4 billion dollars of Dutch exports. Mexico continued to be the second export market in Latin America for the Netherlands in 2017. The Netherlands is the 5th investor in Mexico with Dutch companies mainly active in the manufacturing sector, financial services, insurance and real estate. Investment opportunities and cooperation possibilities are in sectors like energy, logistics, infrastructure, agribusiness and automotive.
6. The Netherlands and Mexico welcome the political accord that was reached on the modernized Global Agreement on April 21st. The new agreement, once in effect, will further facilitate and

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strengthen trade and investment relations between the parties and intensify political dialogue and cooperation.

7. ProMéxico and its counterpart Rijksdienst voor Ondernemend Nederland (RVO) concluded a Memorandum of Understanding last year. The objectives of the MoU are: 1) to strengthen and to assist cooperation aimed at enhancing trade and investment between Mexico and the Netherlands, 2) to design favourable conditions for sustainable growth of economic cooperation and 3) to develop direct contacts between business circles in Mexico and the Netherlands.
8. During the visit of President Peña Nieto, the Confederation of Netherlands Industry and Employers (known as VNO-NCW), in co-operation with ProMéxico, organized a roundtable in which various Dutch multinational companies participated. The aim of the round table was to enhance the economic ties between Mexico and the Dutch enterprises and to explore new investments possibilities.
9. Also during the visit a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Atradius Dutch State Business NV and Banco Nacional de Comercio Exterior SNC (BANCOMEXT). The objective of this MoU is to stimulate the exchange of information and multisourcing operations to mutually acceptable countries. Cooperation will take place in individual projects on a case-by-case basis. Partners involved are suppliers, partner banks and parties themselves.
10. Additionally, Mexico announced it will join *the Network for Open Economies and Inclusive Societies* (NOEIS) which was launched by the Netherlands at the OECD Ministerial Council Meeting in 2017. The Network has a dual purpose of peer learning and effective exchange of good practices, with a view to providing a new voice in the international policy arena. It is a valuable channel to proactively join forces in advancing a well-functioning open global economy while reducing excessive inequalities.
11. President Enrique Peña Nieto and Prime Minister Mark Rutte welcomed the opening of The Netherlands Business Support Office (NBSO) in Queretaro, Mexico, as well as ProMéxico's decision to base its BENELUX office in The Hague, Netherlands. This will contribute to strengthen the bilateral trade relation and to increase business exchanges between both countries.
12. Tourist flows from Mexico to the Netherlands and from Dutch nationals to Mexico have increased in recent years. In 2017, almost 75,000 Dutch tourists traveled to Mexico, an increase of more than 17% in comparison to 2016. Daily direct flights from Mexico City to Amsterdam operated by AeroMéxico and KLM have had a favorable impact on the tourism sector in both countries.
13. Mexico and the Netherlands agreed to share their experiences and best practices on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as to work together to help other countries establish their institutional architecture for the follow-up of this Agenda. The current cooperation between Mexico and the Netherlands in their efforts to contribute to

the Sustainable Development Goals has also brought both governments closer in their bilateral relationship.

14. Bearing in mind that energy is a central element of sustainable development and as a contribution to combat climate change, both countries agreed to continue their collaboration in multilateral fora such as the United Nations, The Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture, the International Energy Agency (IEA) and the International Renewable Energies Agency (IRENA) in order to promote energy security and the sustainable access to energy for all.

Academic and cultural cooperation

15. Since August 2006, Nuffic, the Dutch Organisation for Internationalisation in Education, has had an office in Mexico City (Nuffic Neso Mexico) to promote studying in the Netherlands, improve cooperation between Dutch and Mexican institutions and organise activities for the 1,200+ Mexican alumni of Dutch institutions registered in the Holland Alumni network.
16. Dutch universities offer almost €1 million worth of scholarships exclusively for Mexican students through the Orange Tulip Scholarship programme, administrated by the office of the Dutch Organisation for Internationalisation in Education (Nuffic Neso office) in Mexico City. Mexican universities and government academic institutions also offer scholarships for postgraduate studies in the best academic institutions to Dutch students every year.
17. Each year, about 500 Mexican students go the Netherlands for academic purposes. Currently over 800 Mexicans are enrolled in Dutch higher education institutions. These numbers have tripled in the last 10 years. Mexican and Dutch universities work closely together in double degree programmes, exchange of teachers and students and scientific cooperation.
18. During the visit, Erasmus University Rotterdam and Erasmus Medical Centre (MC) signed scholarship agreements with the National Council for Science and Technology (CONACYT), joining the other Dutch institutions which already have signed joint-scholarship agreements with CONACYT to facilitate academic mobility at postgraduate level.
19. Cultural cooperation between Mexico and the Netherlands is flourishing, especially in design where Dutch designers are participating in the framework of Mexico's designation as World Design Capital 2018.
20. In the contemporary arts, there is also an increasing artistic exchange between both countries. Mexicans artists are collaborating with famous Dutch institutions such as the Rijksacademie and Witte de With, while Dutch artists frequently have expositions in Mexico.
21. In the framework of the 190th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Mexico and Kingdom of the Netherlands, and as a sign of this friendship, Mexico's sail training vessel, ARM Cuauhtémoc, will visit the port of Willemstad, Curaçao, in July 2018.

Scientific and Technical Cooperation for Development

22. Mexico and the Netherlands acknowledge the strengthening of bilateral cooperation in areas of mutual interest such as: energy, water management, agriculture and health sciences. In this sense, both governments welcomed the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Center for Research and Advanced Studies of the National Polytechnical Institute (CINVESTAV) of Mexico and the Erasmus MC, University Medical Center, in the Netherlands.
23. The President of Mexico and the Prime Minister of the Netherlands considered relevant carrying out for a second year the Dutch Strategic Exchange Energy Executives, which is an exchange programme for Mexican managers and startups in the energy sector financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands.
24. Mexico and the Netherlands resolved to continue cooperation on water management, which mainly evolves around, their work together on the High-level Panel on Water; and which has encouraged exchange of information and resulted in the creation of a series of meetings and workshops for the implementation of the Bellagio Principles on the value of water use.
25. The current cooperation between Mexico and the Netherlands has supported both countries in their efforts to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals and has also brought both governments closer in their bilateral relationship.