



Mexico and the EU strengthen their cooperation in the Human Rights field

The 6th edition of the High Level Dialogue on Human Rights between the European Union and Mexico was held on 20 and 21 June in Brussels. The EU side was co-chaired by the EU Special Representative on Human Rights, Stavros Lambrinidis and the Director for Strategic Communication, Parliamentary Affairs and General Affairs, Silvio Gonzato. The Mexican side was presided over by the Deputy Minister for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, Ambassador Miguel Ruíz Cabañas. The Mexican Deputy Minister of the Interior, Roberto Campa, the Deputy Attorney General for Human Rights, Eber Omar Betanzos, and Mexico's Ambassador to the EU, Eloy Cantú, were also in attendance, together with other high-level officials from the EU.

The Dialogue allowed both parties to reaffirm their shared values and highlighted human rights as a central element of their Strategic Partnership, at the bilateral, multilateral and global levels.

Mexico and the EU stressed the importance of continued cooperation and mutual understanding for effectively addressing their human rights challenges on issues such as the rule of law and the fight against impunity, missing and disappeared persons, torture eradication, discrimination and xenophobia, migration, protection of vulnerable groups, and human rights defenders and journalists. Moreover, the EU and Mexico took stock of their bilateral cooperation projects in the field of children's rights, business and human rights, as well as for capacity-building on issues relating to the eradication of torture, missing and disappeared persons and the protection of human rights defenders and journalists.

At the multilateral level, Mexico and the EU committed to further engagement and cooperation at relevant UN bodies on subjects such the human-rights based approach of the 2030 UN Agenda for Development, international migration, gender issues, discrimination against LGBTI groups, terrorism and human rights, death penalty, civil society space, and transparency and access to information. Both parties stressed the importance of strengthening global responses to today's human rights global challenges.

For the fourth time, the Dialogue was preceded by a civil society seminar gathering 30 organizations both from the EU and from Mexico. The Seminar served as a space for the exchange of experiences on both sides and allowed participating NGOs to identify areas of opportunity for a strengthened human rights cooperation in the EU and in Mexico. The conclusions of the civil society seminar were presented and discussed at the Dialogue for consideration and the corresponding follow-up. Mexico and the EU acknowledged the role of civil society in their partnership in the field of human rights and stressed the importance of working together to strengthen collaboration in that regard.

The 6th edition of the EU-Mexico High Level Dialogue highlighted the strong like-minded relationship between both partners and evidenced the trust and mutual understanding between them. It also stressed the importance of continued cooperation at the bilateral level and with international bodies for an effective promotion and protection of human rights in the EU and in Mexico.

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