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STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP
JOINT EXECUTIVE PLAN**

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PREAMBLE [¹]

Mexico and the European Union (EU) are global political and economic players committed to the defence of the principles of international law, multilateralism, international development cooperation, international peace and security. Both parties also share a common will to unite their efforts in constructing an international architecture to respond to the risks and expand the opportunities of globalisation.

The establishment of a Strategic Partnership between Mexico and the EU reflects the readiness of both players to strengthen coordination on matters of global importance and further intensify their political, economic and cooperation links. The guiding objectives of the Strategic Partnership between Mexico and the EU are the consolidation of democracy and the rule of law; the protection of human rights; sustainable economic development; equal opportunities and a mutual commitment to fighting poverty and social exclusion.

To fulfill those objectives, both parties agree to cooperate on three levels. First, Mexico and the EU will work together at bilateral, regional and multilateral level on global issues of common interest.

Secondly, through this Strategic Partnership Mexico and the EU can extend their dynamic links to third countries and regions in which the two parties have shared interests, such as Latin America and the Caribbean. Consequently, Mexico and the EU undertake to strengthen the areas of political dialogue in the region, encouraging bi-regional dialogue, especially with the Rio Group, at Latin America and Caribbean-European Union Summits and promoting triangular cooperation via the Mesoamerican Integration and Development Project. Mexico and the EU will also explore possibilities on engaging in triangular cooperation with other regions of the world, such as Africa.

Both Parties will also take advantage of their experience on electoral matters to collaborate with third countries.

Thirdly, Mexico and the EU will take forward the most significant bilateral subjects on their agenda: economic and trade relations; cooperation in the field of the environment and sustainable development, in particular combating climate change; security matters; human rights; education and culture; science, technology and innovation; regional development, social cohesion, statistics and public health.

¹ [References in this text to the « European Union » shall be deemed to mean the European Union and the Member States and shall be without prejudice to the division of competences between the European Union and the Member States]

Using mainly the institutional structure that has been developed in the context of the *Economic Partnership, Political Coordination and Cooperation Agreement* (Global Agreement) concluded by Mexico and the European Union, which entered into force in full on 1 October 2000, both Parties subscribe to this Joint Executive Plan with the aim of implementing the priority projects referred to in this Strategic Partnership and reviewing progress within two years.

The mechanisms for institutionalised dialogue between Mexico and the EU are: the Summit (biennial); the Joint Council (biennial); the Joint Committee (annual); the Civil Society Dialogue Forum (biennial); the Joint Parliamentary Commission (six-monthly), and various sectoral dialogues for subjects on the international agenda such as Education; Science and Technology; Social Cohesion, and the Political Dialogue on the Environment.

1. MULTILATERAL ISSUES

As global players, Mexico and the European Union must foster bilateral cooperation on the international issues that are discussed in multinational fora.

These international issues may be discussed in the context of bilateral, regional or multilateral meetings. In particular, international meetings may offer valuable opportunities for dialogue between Mexico and the EU.

To this end, Mexico and the EU agree in particular to establish a consultation mechanism enabling representatives of Mexico and the EU to hold regular talks in the framework of the United Nations. These meetings will enable the two Parties to consult on multilateral agenda items, promote mutual support and possibly develop joint initiatives. These meetings will be primarily held in New York and other UN capitals.

The subjects on the agenda will be agreed jointly, but may include, inter alia:

1.1. International financial crisis

Mexico and the European Union recognize the complex dynamics resulting from the globalization of the economic and financial systems, and understand that the existing challenges must be dealt with through internationally concerted policy efforts. Hence, the Parties agree to set up a Macroeconomic Dialogue, which will be a useful instrument to exchange views, enhance mutual understanding and promote coordination on economic and financial issues.

Mexico and the EU will seek increased convergence to assist the recovery of the global economy, the implementation of cooperative and coordinated exit strategies once durable recovery is secured, the strengthening of financial regulation and supervision, and the reform of the international financial institutions. This will include ensuring the swift implementation of the quota share reforms in order to increase the voice of underrepresented countries to the benefit of developing and emerging economies at the IMF and World Bank, as promised at the Pittsburgh G20 Summit increasing the voice of developing and emerging economies. Mexico and the EU commit to sustaining appropriate macroeconomic policies and promoting employment, social protection and poverty reduction as essential components of the policy response to the current crisis and to cushion its social impacts, notably on the Millennium Development Goal (MDGs)

They recognise the importance of encouraging concrete cooperation measures to promote employment-generating investment, with special emphasis on those sectors of the population in disadvantage, including in developing countries, especially the long-term unemployed, women, minority groups, young people and persons with disabilities.

1.2. Food crisis

The food crisis represents a huge challenge to the achievement of the first MDG: to reduce extreme poverty and hunger by half until 2015. The EU and Mexico aim at identifying food security programmes that strengthen international coordination and governance for food security in order to increase sustainable food production, facilitate small farmers' access to the means of agricultural production (including seeds, tools, fertilizers, services) , plant protection products, natural resources (such as land and water) and help improving vulnerable people's incomes to facilitate the access to food and the realization of the right to food. In this regard, emphasis is placed on an enhanced global governance to build a political framework for supportive cooperation.

Mexico and the EU will jointly seek to strengthen their support for food security in order to advance the implementation of the Global Partnership for Agriculture and Nutrition of which the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) is a central component. In addition they want to stimulate cooperation between the UN organizations active in the area of food security, namely FAO, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Food Programme (WFP).

1.3. Disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems

Mexico and the EU reiterate their determination to promote concrete and effective measures in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation and in arms control at a time when renewed desire to advance these objectives has emerged. They reiterate their commitment to seeking a safer world for all and to creating the conditions for a world without nuclear weapons, in accordance with the goals of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation treaty (NPT) co-operation.

The EU and Mexico express particular concern at the current major challenges to the non-proliferation regime that the Security Council has acted upon, demand that the parties concerned comply fully with their obligations under the relevant Security Council resolutions, and reaffirm its call upon them to find an early negotiated solution to these issues.

By way of concrete measures, the parties will exchange information on draft resolutions which they table in the UNGA First committee, with a view to providing mutual support. Where necessary, an attempt will be made to accommodate the interests and concerns of both parties in any draft resolutions put forward.

Both Parties are committed to preserve and strengthen the authority and integrity of the NPT. The NPT, based on its three mutually reinforcing pillars of non-proliferation, disarmament, and peaceful uses of nuclear energy, represents a unique and irreplaceable framework for maintaining and strengthening international peace, security, and stability. They will work actively for the successful outcome of the 2010 Review Conference, with the view of setting concrete and realistic goals in all the Treaty's three pillars.

Both call upon all States that are not Parties to the NPT to accede as non-nuclear-weapon States to achieve universality. They stress the importance of the full implementation of the provisions of the NPT. Mexico and the EU will work with regional states to advance the objectives of the 1995 and 2000 NPT Conference Final Documents including the establishing of a Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction and to accelerate the implementation of the practical steps towards nuclear disarmament.”

During the NPT Treaty Review Conferences and their Preparatory Committees, the parties will conduct consultations in order to exchange information on their positions.

As a means to strengthen nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, they will push for the Conference on Disarmament to resume its work in 2010 on the basis of the program of work adopted in May 2009, particularly in order to launch negotiations on a Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty, including verification provisions. In the meanwhile, Mexico and the EU call on all States concerned to declare and uphold an immediate moratorium on the production of such material.

The EU and Mexico shall continue to call for the universalisation of multilateral instruments relevant to all weapons of mass destruction, namely the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC), the Chemical Weapons Convention and the 1925 Geneva Protocol and the entry into force as soon as possible of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). The parties shall stay committed to submit their annual BTWC confidence building measure (CBM) declarations and shall consider an evaluation and possible improvement of the BTWC CBM mechanism as well as the development of verification mechanism, and continue their commitment to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

1.4. Conventional arms control, including SALW, explosives, mines and ammunition, especially cluster munition. Cooperation in the field of illegal trafficking and manufacturing of weapons

Mexico and the European Union will support the two processes underway: the series of consultations on an Arms Trade Treaty, in particular the first Preparatory Meeting to be held in July 2010, and the IVth Biennial Meeting of States to revise the application of all aspects of the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons, to be held in June 2010 under the chairmanship of Mexico.

Both Parties will endeavor to present joint initiatives which promote the implementation of the Action Programme and provide mutual support in carrying out their tasks in this context. They will also support the negotiation of a legally binding Arms Trade Treaty in the short term which includes rules for the trade in armaments, based on respect for international humanitarian law and aimed at avoiding the trafficking and diversion of arms, arms systems, their parts and ammunition.

Both Parties shall equally continue to work closely together to promote the universalisation and implementation of the 1997 Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction, the so-called Ottawa Convention, with a view to support the ongoing international efforts to ban the recourse to land mines. Both Parties share the international concern about the humanitarian impact of cluster munitions, therefore both Parties shall continue to work closely together to seek effective legal measures to minimize the risk of the use of cluster munitions, including through the Convention on Cluster Munitions, the so-called Oslo Convention, as well as through other relevant international mechanisms, such as the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons.

1.5. Reform of the United Nations

In order to continue promoting effective multilateralism, Mexico and the EU remain willing to cooperate in the reform of the United Nations as agreed upon at the 2005 World Summit, with the aim of strengthening the capacity of the UN to face the many challenges posed by the new millennium. Both Mexico and the EU recognize the need to pursue the reform of the main UN bodies, among them the General Assembly, ECOSOC and the Security Council, with a view to enhancing the representativeness, transparency, accountability and effectiveness of the system.

In this context, Mexico and the EU also agree to continue pressing for improving the functioning of UN institutions as well as for greater coherence and coordination between the various bodies in the United Nations system, in order to promote and increase transparency, accountability and efficiency in the administration of the organisation, in advancing the development, security and human rights agendas, as well as in upholding the international law.

1.6. International peace and security

Mexico and EU fully support the UN in the fields of **conflict prevention, conflict resolution, peacekeeping and peacebuilding**. In this context, Mexico and the EU underline the importance of strengthening the **preventive diplomacy** capacity of the UN, including enhanced mediation capacity as well as integrating the peace building perspective in peace keeping efforts at an early stage. Both Parties welcome the enhanced coordination of conflict prevention efforts and steps to ensure that early warning information and analysis is shared among all relevant parts of the UN.

They also support the ongoing **review of UN peacekeeping**. This focuses on reinforcing the UN Secretariat's capacity to plan and manage operations more effectively, delivering more realistic and achievable mandates, taking better account of **police**, troop, logistical, financial and other requirements, and better engagement with **police- and troop-contributing countries** and reflection of partnerships. Gaps in the policing field should also be addressed. Looking ahead, the key will be to provide support to the UN's implementation efforts as well as further developing work on the Protection of Civilians, Robust Peacekeeping and to seek a firmer link between peacekeeping and longer-term development which prevents relapse into conflict.

Both Parties are committed to the implementation of the concept of the **responsibility to protect** populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity as agreed at the 2005 UN World Summit and confirmed in its resolution 63/308. Both sides will see to it that the concept now gets implemented and operationalized and to that end will take into consideration the Secretary General Report.

Both Parties reaffirm their commitment to a rule-based international order and to strengthening international law. Mexico and EU also commit themselves to fight impunity in all its forms. The most serious crimes of concern to the international community as a whole, especially crimes against humanity, war crimes and genocide should not go unpunished and their prosecution should be ensured by measures both domestic and international level. Both Parties reiterate full support and respect for the International Criminal Court and cooperation with it.

Furthermore, both Parties recognise the importance of the Review Conference on the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, both to advance universal adherence to the Statute and to strengthen the criminal justice system created by this international instrument; and reiterate their commitment to work in a constructive and positive way in the deliberations that will take place prior and during the Conference where proposals for a provision on crime of aggression and stocktaking of international criminal justice will be priority issues of discussion

1.7. Transnational organised crime

Mexico and the European Union recognise the destabilising effect of organised crime on States and societies and agree that enhancing international cooperation is a key means of combating this phenomenon efficiently.

The Palermo Convention and its supplementary Protocols provide the general framework for dealing with this phenomenon. The United Nations Convention against Corruption (Merida Convention) which focuses on combating corruption also provides invaluable support for increasing the efficiency of the fight against organised crime. The strategic dialogue between Mexico and the EU will aim at jointly promoting mechanisms for effective implementation of those instruments.

In the framework of the Conference of States Party to the Palermo Convention, the EU and Mexico will also seek the necessary consensus for establishing a mechanism for reviewing the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols that is impartial, effective, multilateral and respects States' sovereignty. The ultimate objective is that the mechanism contributes to ensuring the full application and validity of these instruments.

According to Resolution n. 179 adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 18 2009, Mexico and the EU will press jointly for further political commitment by the international community to the fight against organized crime by promoting the universality and full implementation of the Palermo Convention and its three supplementary Protocols to prevent the smuggling of migrants, trafficking in *human beings* and illicit manufacturing trafficking in firearms, both within and outside the UN framework.

1.8. Combating corruption

Mexico and the European Union recognise that corruption is an obstacle to democracy and economic growth.

Mexico and the EU will endeavour to strengthen coordination and cooperation to combat corruption within the framework of the Conference of parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (Merida Convention) and other anti-corruptions instruments they are adhering to.

In this context, both sides reiterate their commitment to working to ensure that an increasing number of countries ratify or accede to the Convention, in order to increase the number of parties and thereby contribute to universal accession to this instrument.

Both Parties recognize the importance of the mechanism for reviewing the implementation of the Convention, recently approved at the Third session of the Conference of the States Parties to UNCACC (Doha, 9-13 November 2009), and commit themselves to encourage civil society participation in review processes and to publish their review reports in full.

1.9. International migration

Mexico and the European Union agree addressing migration issues, in particular in the context of the EU-LAC biregional dialogue on migration, according to a comprehensive approach, which considers the contributions made by migration while addressing its irregular aspects, based on the principle of shared responsibility embodied in the Lima Declaration. In this context, the respect for migrants' human rights is fundamental.

Mexico and the European Union recognize the usefulness of the Global Forum on Migration and Development as a forum for discussion and sharing experience. After the Third Meeting held in Athens the 4 and 5 November 2009, the EU welcomed the acceptance of Mexico to organize the Fourth Meeting in Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco in November 2010.

1.10. Development, including development funding and effective aid

Both Parties recognise the importance of increasing their coordination in multilateral fora and on a country level including the high level plenary meeting in September 2010 in view of achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015.

Coordination will be based on the principles for improving aid effectiveness as laid down in the Conference of Rome on Harmonization (2003), the High Level Forum on aid effectiveness held in Paris (2005) and in Accra (2008) and look towards to the next High Level Forum in Seoul (2011).

Moreover, both Parties highlight the importance to coordinate their action in order to progress in the field of financing for development, as come out from International Conference on Financing for Development held in Doha (Qatar) from 29 November to 2 December reviewing the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus.

1.11. Humanitarian aid

Mexico and the European Union are both committed to upholding principles of humanitarian assistance, as recognized in UNGA resolution 46/182, as well as, for instance, contained in the Good Humanitarian Donorship initiative, strengthening the existing mechanisms for humanitarian aid within the United Nations, in particular through the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and giving preference to a preventive approach for avoiding humanitarian crises.

Mexico and the European Union are both committed to respecting international humanitarian law and upholding principles of humanitarian assistance, and providing humanitarian assistance based on assessed needs, as recognized in UNGA resolution 46/182, as well as in the principles of Good Humanitarian Donorship approved by the OECD DAC high level meeting in 2006. Furthermore, they are committed to advocating for these principles and strengthening the existing mechanisms for humanitarian aid within the United Nations, in particular through the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and giving preference to a preventive approach for avoiding humanitarian crises.

Mexico and the European Union will keep up their efforts to ensure that the UN has flexible and predictable emergency resources by strengthening the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), that the capacity for action by humanitarian workers is increased and that the deployment of humanitarian action is not interpreted restrictively or in an interventionist way, to the detriment of people in need.

1.12. Terrorism

Mexico and the European Union are united in their rejection and unequivocal condemnation of terrorism in all its shapes and forms, and agree on the need to further strengthen international cooperation at all levels in order to prevent and combat the scourge of terrorism while fully respecting human rights law, international humanitarian law and refugee law and promote the rule of law, the universality of international instruments and the values of cultural and religious diversity.

Mexico and the European Union will continue their efforts to promote the universality of the 16 instruments against terrorism and their effective implementation at the level of national legislation, and will work towards the implementation of relevant Security Council resolutions and the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Both parties will undertake joint efforts with a view to conclude, as soon as possible in a decidedly manner, a Comprehensive General Convention on International Terrorism within the framework of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Both Parties will reinforce their efforts to tackle the terrorism financing including money laundering and related crimes.

Mexico will work towards an improved exchange of information and sharing of best practices regarding good governance of cultural diversity, as coordinated through the UN Alliance of Civilizations, in general, and its so-called clearing-houses in particular.

1.13. Drugs

In order to expand the scope of coordination between the EU and Mexico in the fight against drugs, both parties will seek to cooperate closely in the United Nations' Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

In the context of the Political Declaration of the Vth EU-LAC Summit held in May 2008 in Lima, both Parties undertook, under the principle of shared responsibility, to tackle the world drug problem and to strengthen EU-LAC's Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs, as a framework for more effective bi-regional dialogue.

Within the framework of the Regional Strategy for Latin America 2007-2013, the Parties should explore innovative mechanisms of cooperation building upon within the recently established LAC and EU Programme of Cooperation on antidrug policies (COPOLAD), a programme that will focus on anti-drugs policies within Latin America as well as between the EU and Latin America, in order to support anti-drugs policies started by Latin American countries.

1.14. Human security

Mexico and the European Union share common positions regarding the need to view human security from a comprehensive and multidimensional perspective and people centered approach, independently of the form this takes, and agree to move forward in their dialogue on the scope and definition of the concept of human security as part of their commitments under the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document.

To this end, and in the framework of the Friends of Human Security forum set up at the United Nations, Mexico, in its capacity as co-chair, will seek increased backing from the EU for promoting human security in the UN's activities, placing special emphasis on measures to reduce poverty and achieve the MDGs.

Likewise, both Parties will promote human security in multilateral fora and in other relevant dialogue fora.

2. REGIONAL ISSUES

Mexico and the European Union agree to establish, as an essential part of their Strategic Partnership, a strong regional and triangular cooperation dimension, so as to enable the potential benefits of this Partnership to extend to relations with other regions of the world.

2.1. Bi-regional dialogue.

With a view to strengthening bi-regional dialogue, Mexico and the EU will undertake the following actions:

- I. Promote a deeper political dialogue between the Rio Group and the EU.
- II. Promote the practical implementation of commitments generated by the EU-Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) Summits.
- III. Reinforce cooperation on anti-drugs policies between Latin America and the EU within the framework of the EU/LAC drug coordination and cooperation mechanism

2.2. Triangular cooperation

Against the background of the current financial crisis, both Parties agree on the need to strengthen triangular cooperation towards developing nations, with a view to maximise the resources allocated to development and increase their impact and effectiveness.

The dual role of Mexico as recipient and provider of international development cooperation can contribute to a more effective framework, since, on the one hand, it shares many of the challenges and realities facing those nations and, on the other, it has well-established institutions and human resources dedicated to the promotion and management of international cooperation.

Triangular cooperation enables Mexico and the European Union to unify their efforts to prevent the effectiveness of actions from being diluted. It also provides greater certainty by creating a structure for cooperation actions, and it multiplies the best practices generated by bilateral cooperation, allowing for a greater impact to be achieved. Consequently, it reinforces the presence of Mexico and the European Union in the countries in which such cooperation is provided. Both parties therefore agree to:

- define guidelines for action, identify priority sectors and key countries for both parties, towards which joint Mexico – European Union cooperation should be channelled;
- adopt a common strategy for planning and implementing, effectively and efficiently, triangular cooperation in the priority areas agreed by the two parties;

- draw up a manual of procedures governing triangular cooperation taking into consideration the common principles on triangular cooperation discussed in the framework of the Heiligendamm L'Aquila Dialogue Process as well as in other multilateral fora. .

2.2.1. *Latin America and the Caribbean*

- Mexico and the European Union will promote joint projects to contribute to the efforts of Latin America and the Caribbean in the areas of public management (institutional strengthening, justice, security and fight against drug-trafficking), agricultural development (agricultural and farming techniques), environment (forest development, land conservation and water management), technical and professional education, science (vulcanology, disaster prevention, geodesy), tourism (small and medium-sized enterprises, ecotourism), industrial development (quality control, regulations).
- The possibility of launching triangular cooperation projects in the framework of existing initiatives will be explored. Support will focus, in particular, on the Mesoamerican Integration and Development Project and the Integrated Security and Justice Programme.

– **Mesoamerican Integration and Development Project**

Mexico and the EU will seek to reinforce their cooperation and work together to support the development of the other countries which, with Mexico, form the Mesoamerican Integration and Development Project (Belize, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Dominican Republic and Panama), in order to facilitate the management and implementation of projects aimed at improving the quality of life in the region. That cooperation will focus on Mesoamerican initiatives in the areas of transport, electricity interconnection, biofuels, renewable energy, public health and risk prevention in the event of natural disasters.

Both Parties therefore agree to set up a dialogue to address the economic, social and scientific/technical challenges arising from regional integration in the light of European experiences, in order to contribute to encouraging the integration of Mesoamerican countries. These annual meetings will open a permanent communication channel between the Mesoamerican region and the European Union, with the aim of facilitating familiarity with mutual realities and promoting knowledge amongst the participants in the dialogue, ensuring detailed follow-up of the agreements and progress achieved.

- (a) **Transport.** Mexico and the EU will explore mechanisms to promote private investment and assign cooperation funds to develop transport infrastructure in the Mesoamerican region. To achieve this objective, priority will be given to the financing of the International Network of Mesoamerican Highways (RICAM), which will enhance the connectivity of the region's productive centres in particular "The Pacific Corridor".

- (b) **Electrical interconnection.** Mexico and the EU will seek to foster investment opportunities for public and private enterprises interested in the development of the energy infrastructure, through the Central American Electric Interconnection System (SIEPAC) and its complementary interconnections. EU private companies have been an important partner in this effort.
- (c) **Biofuels and renewable energies.** In order to contribute to energy and food security in the region, Mexico and the EU will encourage the exchange of experiences, technology and **knowledge** in the field of sustainable biofuels production¹, within the framework of the Mesoamerican Network of Research and Development into Biofuels. Strengthening cooperation ties will also facilitate the exchange of best practices and recommendations on generating energy from renewable sources, so as to pave the way for the creation of a Mesoamerican Solar and Wind Map, which could be used to identify the areas of most potential for the development of renewable energies and to foster regional investment and development.
- (d) **Public health.** Mexico and the EU will work together to contribute to providing an efficient and timely response to the region's health needs in six areas of common interest: eradication of child malnutrition, maternal health, epidemiological surveillance, control of dengue and malaria, universal vaccines and enhancing human resources in the health sector. In this connection, consideration will be given to mechanisms to provide financial and technical support to the Mesoamerican public health system (SMSP).
- (e) **Risk prevention in the event of natural disasters.**
- Mexico and the EU will work together to reduce the vulnerability and risks associated with natural disasters by exploring possibilities in creating an accessible and up-to-date territorial management and information instrument (Mesoamerican Territorial Information System), which would enable the threats and dangers facing countries in the Mesoamerican region to be taken into account in planning and implementing development actions.

– ***Integrated Security and Justice Programme***

Mexico and the EU will strive to reinforce triangular cooperation with Central America and the Caribbean by organising joint training programmes and exchanges of experiences in the following areas: law enforcement, fight against drugs, money laundering, organised crime, trafficking in human beings, kidnapping, corruption and illegal arms trade.

¹ Incorporating sustainability criteria as laid down in the Renewable Energy Directive, Directive 2009/28/EC

In order to step up this cooperation, Mexico and the European Union will collaborate in the implementation of the Integrated Security and Justice Programme 2009-2011, which was designed jointly by the Mexican government and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and which consists of 21 projects aimed at combating the above-mentioned crimes.

The Programme was designed with a dual vision. On the one hand, each of the projects reflects priority issues for Mexico and draws on UNODC's experience to build up national capacities. On the other, a regional component was incorporated in all the projects to allow other Central American and Caribbean countries to benefit from the experience and skills acquired by Mexican experts, via the Security Strategy of Central America and Mexico concluded within the framework of the Central American Integration System (SICA).

Some of the projects will require financing from international donors, and Mexico and the European Union will therefore explore the possibility of making financial contributions to the Programme.

Mexico and the European Union will also foster cooperation in the context of the Association of Caribbean States. Areas of prime importance to the region include trade, sustainable tourism, transport and natural disasters.

2.2.2. Africa

Mexico and the European Union agree to contribute to the efforts of African nations to achieve the Millennium Development Goals established in the framework of the United Nations Organization.

Therefore, the Parties will work towards coordinating their international cooperation efforts with the view to explore possibilities for comprehensive projects of high impact with African nations, following the principles of appropriation, alignment and harmonization. The cooperation areas should be based on the priorities to be identified by the interested partner countries.

2.2.3. Electoral cooperation

Mexico and the European Union are committed to democracy as the system of government which best guarantees respect for, and the protection of, human dignity and the development of nations, and contributes to maintaining international peace and security.

Mexico and the EU will study the possibility of signing an agreement to implement a triangular cooperation strategy under the International Program of Electoral Training and Research, which is developed in partnership among the federal electoral authorities of Mexico, the Federal Electoral Institute, the Electoral Court and the office in Mexico of the United Nations Program for Development.

Mexico and the European Union will explore ways to coordinate their efforts in other countries, by implementing programs aimed at: 1) the strengthening of democratic electoral institutions; 2) the professionalisation and modernisation of the authorities and their systems; 3) the analysis and evaluation of the processes and related legislation, as instruments to promote and reinforce democratic governance and sustainable development.

- Electoral training for senior electoral officials –decision-makers-, in order to improve the quality, infrastructure and equity conditions of the elections or modernize or consolidate democratic institutions, in particular for countries in transition to democracy and countries emerging from conflict.
- Technical Electoral Assistance contributing to the efficiency of the three stages of the electoral cycle (before, during and after elections).
- Electoral observation missions to enhance confidence, preventing unfair electoral practices and consolidating the legality and legitimacy of the peaceful transfer of power.

This cooperation could be organised as follows:

(a) Planning. Hold a yearly meeting between Mexico and the European Union to draw up a programme of activities with a view to:

- Consult on and explore programmes and harmonising methodologies for the implementation of cooperation modalities mentioned above.
- Coordinating the agenda with the electoral authorities of the third country the program is addressed to.
- Coordinating the cooperation according to three main criteria for the development of the program: a) electoral calendar, b) renewal of the electoral officials –partial or total-, c) previous to the implementation of an electoral reform.
- Reviewing projects carried out, evaluating the results and auditing resources.

(b) Coordination and Implementation. Hold a coordination meeting between the representatives of Mexico and the European Union before carrying out joint projects to:

- Define the mechanisms and logistics for participation,
- Coordinate the participation of international experts, and
- To establish the criteria for sharing financial expenses.

- (c) **Evaluation.** Hold an evaluation meeting to analyse the programs' results, achievements and impact in the addressed third countries in order to improve future projects.

3. BILATERAL ISSUES

3.1. Economic and Trade Relations

Mexico and the European Union agree that their Free Trade Agreement, in force since July 2000, has led to a major increase in trade and investment flows in both directions, making the European Union Mexico's second largest trading partner.

The economic and trade relations between the parties have been consolidated in the nearly ten years the Treaty has been in force: likewise, the bilateral agreements for the promotion and reciprocal protection of investment concluded between Mexico and 16 EU Member States have contributed to establishing a framework of legal certainty for the development of investment. However, the Treaty still offers considerable potential for expanding economic relations between Mexico and the European Union by deepening trade liberalisation and facilitating trade.

Mexico and the European Union agree that the trade component of the Global Agreement has been implemented efficiently through the joint bodies, including the special committees provided for in the Treaty. Issues relating to the bilateral trade agenda are resolved by those bodies and the relevant consultation takes place, an on-going process which enables solutions to be found to differences, and to discuss issues of common interest such as rules of origin, customs procedures, technical barriers to trade, sanitary and phytosanitary measures and intellectual property rights, including geographical indications and denomination of origin, which arise in the context of an increasingly intense trade relationship.

Mexico and the European Union also share the view that the discussion of economic issues (such as sustainable development and macro-economic stability) within the framework of the Strategic Partnership will provide important guidelines for progress on the trade agenda and matters relating to the Treaty.

In response to the world economic and financial crisis, Mexico and the European Union have discussed in various fora their concerns about the necessary measures to return to the path of growth. They share the view that exit strategies from the extraordinary measures taken to mitigate the crisis must be designed expeditiously and implemented as soon as the recovery takes a firm hold. They agree that it remains a high priority to regulate financial markets better, and to curb protectionism

Mexico and the EU confirm their adherence to the G20 stand against protectionist measures and to the commitment of rectifying any such measures so as to avoid further deterioration of international trade. Both Mexico and the EU express their determination to continue working to achieve the necessary agreements in order to move forward towards a prompt conclusion of the Doha Round. Leaders affirm their commitment to reach an ambitious, comprehensive and balanced agreement to fulfil the development objectives of the Doha Round, to significantly foster trade flows in agriculture, industrial goods and services among and between developed and developing countries, as well as to promote effective trade rules, trade facilitation and all other remaining issues. Mexico and the EU believe that closure of the Doha Round in 2010 should take place on the basis of progress already made. The EU and Mexico underline that the time has come to move to a phase of direct, intense and specific engagement.

Against that backdrop, Mexico and the European Union agree to continue working within the framework of the institutional mechanisms established in their Free Trade Agreement in order to strengthen their economic and trade links, and agree in particular to:

- Promote coordination within the framework of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in pursuit of a Doha Round agreement that is ambitious, balanced and comprehensive in order to combat protectionism, foster trade flows and address the needs of developing countries.
- Pursue joint efforts in order to improve the conditions for bilateral trade and investment relations as provided for in the EU-Mexico Free Trade Agreement.
- Work to enhance economic integration with our common partners in Latin America in order to encourage economic development in the region and enhance competitiveness.
- Establish a dialogue on transport in order to increase air links between Mexico and the EU, expanding trade and tourist flows.

3.2. Environment and sustainable development

Mexico and the European Union agree that protection of the environment and sustainable use of natural resources will enhance international security and are essential for social welfare and economic growth.

Recognising that there is a world environmental governance crisis, reflected in a plethora of structures and work plans, duplication of action and a waste of resources, they agree on the need to adopt specific measures to remedy this situation.

Both Parties recognise the need to strengthen their technical and scientific cooperation in the environmental field.

They emphasise the importance of sharing information and experiences on the framing and implementation of environmental policies.

Mexico and the European Union acknowledge the importance of carrying out joint projects in the priority areas of this strategic dialogue.

They have decided to press ahead with the following priority issues:

(a) International Environmental Governance (IEG)

Mexico and the European Union agree that it is a matter of urgency to strengthen IEG in order to obtain greater consistency between the different legal instruments and their respective organs of government and better coordination between the various institutions, agreements and bodies specialising in the environment.

Taking into account the informal consultations in the United Nations General Assembly, the process agreed at the 25th session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in February 2009 and at the 11th special session of the Governing Council of the UNEP in February 2010, Mexico and the EU will continue their work on the broader reform of the international governance system, building on the set of options, but open to new ideas, in the consultative group of ministers or high-level representatives and will identify proposals which could be jointly promoted in the UNEP itself or the United Nations General Assembly.

(b) United Nations Conference in Rio 2012

Mexico and the European Union will discuss:

- the merits and possible outcomes of United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012
- Mechanisms for cooperation and information exchange in order to promote the implementation of the sustainable development approach in public policy.
- Policy approaches to transfer to green economy and to use green economy tools to fully benefit sustainable development, including poverty eradication.

- The possibility of the establishment of a cooperation agreement between Mexico's National Ecology Institute and the European Union's Joint Research Centre designed to establish joint research initiatives on environmental matters of shared interest, including information exchange and the development of strategic training programmes for both institutions.

(c) Climate change

Mexico and the European Union have decided to continue strengthening cooperation on climate change in order to ensure effective implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol now, up to and beyond 2012. This means stepping-up efforts at the ongoing international climate change negotiations aiming at achieving global and comprehensive agreements ensuring that the increase in global mean temperature is kept below 2 degrees. To this end, both parties will work together to reach ambitious agreed outcomes at the UNFCCC COP-16 and COP/MOP-6 Conferences to be held in Cancun, Mexico, from 29 November to 10 December 2010. Mexico and the European Union stressed the relevance of the provisions of the Copenhagen Accord. The European Union expresses its support to the efforts by Mexico, as host country of COP-16/MOP-6, to lead a transparent, effective and inclusive process aimed at facilitating understandings among countries

Mexico and the European Union will exchange their views and experiences on the Clean Development Mechanism under the Kyoto Protocol, its reform, and on possible new carbon market mechanisms, with a view to facilitate Mexico's understanding of the carbon markets, enhance its capacity and further carbon trading between Mexico and the European Union and its Member States. Also, and on the basis of Europe's experience in cap and trade, the EU will contribute to Mexico's deliberations on the feasibility of developing a domestic carbon market.

Mexico and the European Union will give the Clean Development Mechanism under the Kyoto Protocol and the development of new carbon market mechanisms particular consideration in the international negotiations, with special emphasis on a reform of the CDM mechanism in order to increase its environmental integrity and broaden the participation especially of least developed countries and on wider approaches to increase the scale of climate investments and emission reductions in developing countries.

The EU will share with Mexico Europe's experience with the EU emission trading system, in order to support Mexico considering how it might establish a similar mechanism and identifies the International Carbon Action Partnership as a platform for countries to exchange informally on emissions trading.

They will also cooperate on mitigating the effects of climate change on biodiversity and enable the formulation of appropriate mitigation and adaptation strategies and policies.

Under the sectoral policy dialogue on the environment and climate change between Mexico and the European Commission, both Parties will define the necessary lines of cooperation and set up the relevant technical meetings.

Appropriate measures could involve cooperation on:

- The development and implementation of policies for mitigating climate change and adapting to it.
- The implementation of emission-reduction projects in accordance with Mexico's special programme on climate change, particularly in the following areas: renewable energies, including, inter alia, sustainable biofuels, wind and hydroelectric power; energy efficiency in the heat and power sectors; waste management particularly in landfills; energy-efficient housing and green mortgages; reduction of emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD) and also of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries (REDD+); payment for environmental services; sustainable transport.
- Research and development of regional vulnerability, adaptation plans, including disaster risk prevention and management;
- The transfer of technology to support action on mitigation and adaptation.
- Experiences in implementing carbon sequestration projects in forest and other eco-systems, in particular in protected areas to promote co-benefits between biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation.

d) Biological diversity

Since the global target to significantly reduce the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010 will not be achieved Mexico and the European Union agree to enhance their efforts to conserve biodiversity in order to contribute to the achievement of all Millennium Development Goals, especially MDG 7 Mexico and the European Union will review biodiversity policies in order to reflect revised global biodiversity commitments and identify options or approaches for use in the multilateral process as well as in the processes intended to identify areas for cooperation, under the arrangements and headings agreed by the two parties.

In preparation for the Tenth Conference of the parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (Nagoya, Japan, October 2010), Mexico and the European Union will exchange views on the expected outcomes of the Conference.

Other issues that could be addressed include the establishment of an Intergovernmental Panel on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), and the findings of the ongoing international project on The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB).

Cooperation measures between the two parties could include:

- Evaluating ecosystem services and the economic and social impact of the change in ecosystems.
- Generating knowledge and promoting policies that encourage ecosystem based approaches to climate change mitigation and adaptation to maximize co-benefits for biodiversity and climate change.
- Exchanging information on our respective biodiversity strategies and measures to achieve biodiversity conservation objectives, sustainable use of biodiversity, access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources.
- Promoting the establishment of biodiversity inventories, management of information systems, strategic planning, and investment in science and technology. This would help create scenarios on the future trends in biodiversity and frame the appropriate policies and strategies.

(e) Management of dangerous chemical substances

Mexico and the European Union share the objective of moving forward on the sustainable management of chemical products and substances, taking into consideration the level of economic and technological development of each Party.

Mexico and the European Union agree to identify cooperation arrangements to create and strengthen capabilities for achieving multilateral environmental conventions on dangerous chemical substances and waste (Basel, Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions; Montreal Protocol and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)), and to foster dialogue on future negotiations to draw up a legally binding instrument on mercury.

With that purpose, Mexico and the European Union will focus their discussion on the following issues:

- The final disposal of technical equipment, in accordance with the provisions of the Strategic Plan of the Basel Convention for this international instrument.
- Identification, monitoring, evaluation and final disposal of unintentionally produced persistent organic pollutants, such as dioxins and furans, in the context of possible financial resources to be allocated by the Global Environment Fund (GEF).
- The establishment of national registers and databases on chemical safety which encourage the exchange of information and technical assistance for developing the infrastructure and capacity needed for the safe handling of chemical substances.
- The projects and activities intended to manage and destroy, in a sustainable manner, Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS), including access to new technologies and funding initiatives, in accordance with the criteria of the Multilateral Fund of the Montreal Protocol and other agreements and initiatives on management of hazardous substance including PoPs, GHG etc.
- Mexico's implementation of the SAICM and other international instruments relating to the handling of chemical substances and waste.
- The drafting of a legally binding instrument on mercury between 2010 and 2013 (Decision 25/5 of the UNEP Governing Council), including ways to promote bilateral cooperation on capacity-building in Mexico.

- Enhanced cooperation and coordination among chemical conventions and agreements to avoid further proliferation of instruments.

(f) Improving fisheries conservation measures

Mexico and the European Union acknowledge that global fishing stocks are facing an environmental crisis and that an improvement in exploitation and conservation is crucial to being able to preserve them.

Both Parties will, in the competent multilateral fora, promote conservation measures which comply with scientific recommendations and will cooperate in urging other countries to adopt the same position.

Both Parties will discuss and exchange information on illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, management of fisheries resources, and the establishment of a mutual recognition agreement between fishing authorities.

3.3. Security and law enforcement matters

Given the importance of strengthening cooperation ties between Mexico and the European Union in order to effectively combat transnational organised crime, like: drug trafficking, illegal manufacturing of and trafficking weapons, explosives, trafficking in human beings, and other public security and law enforcement issues, Mexico and the European Union have agreed to encourage a set of specific measures in that area which include:

- Combat organised transnational crime, drug trafficking, illegal manufacturing and trafficking of weapons, explosives, trafficking in human beings, and other public security and law enforcement issues
- Continue working on the definition of a cooperation project regarding security issues.
- Formally establish a sectoral dialogue on public security and law enforcement in order to stimulate bilateral cooperation. This direct and regular dialogue between senior officials will guarantee continuity and follow-up in matters of mutual interest and will facilitate exchanges between experts and political leaders as well as coordination on security and law enforcement matters in the relevant international fora.

The aim will be for the sectoral dialogue to enable the Parties, in accordance with their respective laws, to:

- (a) Exchange information, experiences, knowledge and intelligence between the competent agencies and institutions of both parties.
- (b) Strengthen cooperation under the headings of public security, justice, crime prevention, police intelligence, training and equipment, prison policies and institutional development, and human rights between the competent authorities of Mexico and its European counterparts.
- (c) Enhance cooperation on police training, the fight against drug trafficking, organised crime, terrorism, corruption and arms trafficking, and the exchange of information on the prison administration- all while respecting human rights and the principles of the rule of law.
- (d) Consider to enhance cooperation between the Mexican public prosecutor's office and other competent authorities and its European counterparts on subjects relating to law enforcement, such as combating international terrorism, promoting and protecting human rights, making mutual legal cooperation more flexible, exchanging information for the prosecution of those trafficking in human beings, illegal trafficking in arms and explosives, trafficking and diversion of chemical precursors, money laundering, and other crimes in accordance with the respective laws and regulations of the parties.
- (e) Strengthen bilateral cooperation on combating cybercrime.
- (f) Explore the opportunity and possible means to initiate cooperation between Mexico and Frontex on border security related issues.
 - Explore incorporating the public security sector in the EUROsociAL programme, or promote the setting up of a new cooperation mechanism using that programme as a model, but adapting it to public security.
 - Establish contact and cooperation activities between the Mexican authorities and Europol, including participation in seminars, training and information sessions
 - Continue exploring mechanisms for cooperation between the Ministry of Public Security of Mexico and the European Police College (CEPOL). Bilateral cooperation activities will be coordinated by the appointment of contacts points by the two Parties (officials of at least Director level who will be responsible for proper follow-up to the activities) and will be designed to implement the following measures:

- Promoting exchanges of experts, through visits in both directions by specialists from both Parties to give talks, workshops and courses in the national training centres of CEPOL and the Ministry of Public Security.
 - (a) Seek to facilitate exchange of knowledge on instruction manuals, tactics and procedures, regulations, plans and study programmes of the national training centres of CEPOL and the Ministry of Public Security.
 - (b) Promoting other training formats, such as modular police courses via internet and videoconferencing.
- Collaboration and coordination in multilateral fora and international organizations, including the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and by promoting bilateral initiatives.

3.4. Human rights

Mexico and the European Union have agreed to step up their dialogue on human rights, with the aim of increasing their cooperation in relevant international forums, including by way of joint initiatives, and promoting effective protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all.

The results of the human rights dialogue could also spill over in other areas of co-operation identified in the Partnership, and be embodied in EU external assistance initiatives. Moreover, an additional objective is to increase cooperation in relevant international forums, including by way of joint initiatives

The enhanced dialogue on human rights, based on the principles of reciprocity and cooperation, includes the following aspects:

1) Multilateral framework

The dialogue incorporates a space for consultations and information exchanges between Mexico and the European Union in the framework of United Nations' relevant human rights fora. Consultations with the EU already take place both in Geneva and New York; these consultations would be strengthened through annual meetings.

- 2) Bilateral framework: Human rights national issues; strengthening of cooperation and questions of mutual interest.
- a) An annual meeting for the purpose of discussing issues related to the human rights situation in Mexico and within the EU, and to identify or, as appropriate, step up specific cooperation activities under the existing Program of Cooperation between Mexico and the European Union on Human Rights, including its strengthening and extension, or else additional technical cooperation, as appropriate. The exchange of views and cooperation between both parties should be aimed at the fulfillment of their international obligations under the applicable international human rights law. The exchange of experiences to harmonize national legislation with the above mentioned international instruments should be a priority in the cooperation field.

Special attention shall be given to the promotion of the situation of the most vulnerable groups, such as indigenous peoples and women.

- b) Agenda. - The dialogue will involve all issues of interest to both parties, including the situation of human rights in Mexico, as well as within the European Union, including the implementation of recommendations from the Universal Periodic Review and in general from UN treaty bodies and Special Procedures. This annual dialogue will take place according to previously agreed agendas.
- c) Venues and level of representation. - An annual meeting on human rights issues of relevance to Mexico and the EU will take place in Mexico presided by the Vice Minister of Multilateral Affaires and Human Rights of the Ministry of Foreign Affaires of Mexico and, on the EU side, by the Ambassador of the EU Presidency in Mexico and representatives of the European Union at the corresponding level, who could be assisted by official experts specialized in the distinct fields of human rights.

An annual meeting will also take place in Geneva in the context of the High Level Segment of the Human Rights Council, as well as a meeting in New York during the United Nations General Assembly. These meetings will take place under the direction of the permanent delegations to the United Nations of each party, who could be assisted by representatives from capitals and the current President of the Council of Ministers of the European Union.

3.5. Education and culture

Mexico and the European Union recognize the crucial contribution of education and culture for the harmonious development of societies, and believe that increased cooperation and dialogue on culture and education is essential to foster mutual understanding and to establishing an authentic intercultural dialogue.

Mexico and the European Union will center their efforts in the following topics and institutional cooperation mechanisms:

3.5.1. Policy dialogue on education and youth and on culture

The signing of the Joint Declarations in the fields of education and culture between Mexico and the European Union during 2009 has set the ground for:

- reinforced exchanges of best practices and expertise on themes of mutual interest, such as higher education, vocational training, youth participation and basic education
- the implementation of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, and the strengthening of cultural industries.

More specifically on Education and Youth

The Parties acknowledge the importance of a close collaboration in the field of education and youth. They agree to organize regular exchanges on topics of common interest, such as:

1. Efficiency and equity of education systems.
2. Means of promoting the transferability of qualifications and furthering the recognition of non formal outcomes.
3. Modernisation of higher education, focused on the Bologna Process, which aims to create a European Higher Education area by 2010. Regarding this subject, Mexico and the EU will discuss, among other matters, the implementation of measures to ensure an adequate process for migratory permits.
4. Principles and mechanisms for quality assurance in education and training.
5. Performance measurement and methods.
6. Participation of the young people in society.
7. Vocational and technical education and training.

More specifically on Culture:

During the period 2010-2012, Mexico and the EU will organize regular exchanges on topics such as: cultural diversity, specifically the implementation of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, development of cultural industries in Mexico and the EU, intercultural dialogue between both sides, among others.

Mexico and the EU will explore effective ways to jointly ensure the protection of the historic and cultural heritage of both parties.

3.5.2. Reinforcing cooperation on education, youth and culture through projects and programmes

3.5.2.1. Mexico/EU Joint Cultural Fund and Culture Call under the EU Culture programme

The Parties also welcome the Mexico/EU Joint Cultural Fund and recognize that it constitutes a framework for broad collaboration which will foster cultural relations, enrich the cultural dialogue between Mexico and the EU, increase exchanges of artists, creators, specialists and managers from Mexico and the European Union countries and promote cultural diversity and creative industries.

To follow up the implementation of this Fund, its governing board will regularly review projects approved – including their development and funding at each planned stage – and new calls for submission of proposals; it will also supervise and validate the management and general policies of the Fund. The governing board will continue to meet twice a year regularly and will meet in extraordinary session as necessary.

In order to follow up the activities of the Mixed Cultural Fund Mexico-European Union, the Fund's Directive Council will approve, during 2010, the two calls to receive projects that will be financially supported.

In the same way, the Parties will encourage public policy dialogue meetings on cultural issues, to be held in Mexico and Europe, which will include Mexican cultural institutions, Member State and EU cultural policy experts, cultural representatives of the Commission and of the National Council for Culture and the Arts. Exchanges between the cultural enterprises of the two parties will be facilitated.

A special action for Mexico will be launched in December 2010 in the framework of the EU Culture Programme. The budget will be of at least 1.0 million EUR (under the EC culture programme). The aim of this activity is to support cultural projects, involving both Mexican and European cultural operators, and taking place equally in Europe and Mexico.

3.5.3. Higher Education, research and youth mobility and cooperation

Both Parties recognize the need to continue promoting and encouraging academic mobility and cooperation between European and Mexican higher education and research institutions, and to foster youth participation and mobility. They will make the best possible use of existing programmes (such as Erasmus Mundus, Alfa, Marie Curie, Jean Monnet, Youth in Action), taking steps to facilitate their implementation, to assess them and to ensure their full development. They will also make the best use of monies earmarked for higher education cooperation under the Mexico CSP to encourage cooperation between European and Mexican higher education and research institutions (for instance through the setting up of Joint Masters or PhD Projects) on topics of common interest.

3.6. Science, technology and innovation

Mexico and the European Union recognise the importance of widening and deepening their collaboration in science, technology and innovation and agree to:

- Strengthen their Sectoral Agreement for Scientific and Technological Cooperation, to such an extent to provide the frame to support and reflect the intense cooperation between both regions;
- Hold annual bilateral meetings to review progress made in these areas and to promote different and new ways of deepening cooperation,
- Promote the participation of the Mexican Innovation System's actors in the EU's Programmes such as the Framework Programmes for Research and Technology Development, the Competitiveness and the Innovation Framework Programme, and others;
- Encourage an effective way to promote the joint calls and joint actions for the execution of collaborative projects in selected thematic areas, that will take place under the above mentioned Programmes;
- Institutionalise the Mesoamerica/EU dialogue on science and technology, with an integrated approach that allows to explore opportunities for triangular cooperation with Central America and that can be implemented through trilateral annual reviews with the ministries of science and technology of Central America, Mexico and the European Union Member States.

Institutional and capacity enhancement

Mexico has developed an active and relevant role in the various aspects of cooperation projects that it has engaged in (reception, offer, exchange), particularly with Central America and the Caribbean. The European Union has an important experience on institutional and capacity enhancement that could contribute to improve capacities of Mexican personnel responsible for cooperation projects and proposals, through courses that would help to better formulate, monitor and evaluate projects of interest to Mexico. This could be done through the following actions:

- Shaping a programme for international development cooperation trainers and developers, through which training would be given to Mexicans in the design and administration of international development cooperation projects and in the main points of international development cooperation and the various trends in that field around the world.
- Providing on-site training residencies in the training offices of the European Commission's EuropeAid Co-operation Office and sets of refresher courses on global trends in international development cooperation, with European and Mexican experts working as trainers.

3.7. Regional development

- Mexico and the EU will begin an exchange of experience in the field of regional development, in which the EU has a wealth of experience, especially in creating and implementing regional policies, organising forms of government at various levels, and developing regional strategies and methods for multiannual programmes.

Likewise, both Parties will encourage decentralised cooperation, local economic development and exchanges between the local and regional authorities of Mexico and the EU.

3.8. Social cohesion

Mexico and the EU will explore ways of improving cooperation under their sectoral dialogue on social cohesion. This dialogue will continue both with fora and seminars.

The Parties reaffirm their commitment to promote the strengthening of the ILO's Decent Work agenda and increase their dialogue on the subject. To that end, both parties will exchange experiences and identify best practices on health and safety at work, to contribute to strengthening the culture of prevention of work-related accidents and illnesses, particularly in high-risk industries such as mining, construction and chemicals, and also on voluntary schemes.

3.9. Cooperation regarding statistics

Mexico and the European Union recognise the wealth and multiplicity of forms of cooperation offered by their combined experience in public information, geographical information systems and statistics. Mexico and the EU agree to share lessons and best practices, particularly in matters concerning statistics.

The signing in 2009 of the Memorandum of Understanding by Mexico's National Institute of Statistics and Geography (*Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía de México* - INEGI-) and the Statistical Office of the European Communities (EUROSTAT) makes it possible to direct efforts towards statistical areas in which there is a shared interest. In particular:

- Holding courses, seminars, conferences, workshops and other forms of training on various subjects, in order to exchange experiences and best practices as regards public information and its dissemination via electronic or traditional media.
- Exchanging methodological information on integrating regional data to provide good quality regional and local statistical information.
- Producing joint publications on subjects relevant to bilateral relations, and advice on updating their web sites and on reliable statistical records.
- Cooperating and exchanging information on tools such as the business cycle clock.
- Sharing experiences on geographical information systems, through reciprocal visits, exchanges of experts and research periods in Mexico and Europe.
- Establishing mechanisms to make it possible to obtain access to technology to share and exchange statistical data.

3.10. Public health

Mexico and the EU agree on priority fields of action for public health which include increasing and modernising protection against health risks and natural disasters. They agree that international cooperation is a key aspect for stepping up and integrating measures to promote health and prevent and control certain contagious diseases.

Mexico and the EU favour cooperation within the World Health Organization (WHO) in the framework of International Health Regulations (IHR) in order to improve the identification and international coordination of technical measures to prevent and control non-communicable and communicable diseases including influenza pandemics. Mexico and the EU have been cooperating closely since 2001 in the framework of the Global Health Security Initiative (GHSI) launched by the members of the G-7 countries (Germany, the United States of America, France, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, the EU and Mexico with the WHO as an observer.

As specific measures, the European Commission, via the Health and Consumers DG, and the Mexican Ministry of Health:

- will increase the sharing of information on risks and communication strategies in the event of crisis, including national case studies and the Mexican experience concerning the A/H1N1 influenza virus;
- will share best practices in identifying and assessing public health risks and threats as well as information on the national plans of Mexico and the EU Member States in order to respond in an effective and sustainable way.

3.11. Nuclear Safety

Mexico and the European Union share the view that Nuclear Safety is paramount to ensure the safety of the populations and the environment and for the continued use of nuclear power.

Following exploratory discussions between officials of the European Commission and the Mexican Ministry of Energy, the parties agree to cooperate in the field of nuclear safety with a view to further enhance the safety of nuclear installations in Mexico. The cooperation may cover the fields of design safety, operational safety, regulatory issues and waste management.