

A NEW CHAPTER IN THE MEXICO-US RELATIONSHIP



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In November 2020 Joe Biden won the presidential elections in the United States. Shortly after, President Andrés Manuel López Obrador joined the list of leaders who did not congratulate Biden on his win, which generated criticism from media all over the world. By stating the recognition would come until all legal matters were resolved, there was an implication that the triumph might have not been official yet. The long-awaited celebratory message came on December 14, followed by the resignation of the Mexican Ambassador. In January, after the irruption at the Capitol, Mexico did not condemn the violence like other countries. Those are just examples of misses and errors that increased the tension between these two countries. However, the arrival of a more predictable and institutional government represents a new chapter in this bilateral relationship. A new beginning that presents the opportunity to build a more solid dialogue.

In the first 100 days in power, Biden has signed several executive orders and implemented policies to reverse the trends of his predecessor Donald Trump and to set the route of this administration. Migration and climate change have been priority issues in his first actions. The former is good for Mexican immigrants and US citizens with Mexican roots in that country; this will also foster joint actions to solve shared migration problems. The latter may be more complicated given the clear preference this government has shown for



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fossil fuels and the reluctance to transition to greener policies. However, Biden's administration will be more institutional and, therefore, more predictable. This will allow the design of a more durable and structured bilateral strategy. Common interests such as migration, Human Rights, and equal access to public health services, among others.

The United States is Mexico's main trading partner and an ally on multiple issues, in addition to sharing the busiest border in the world. One million dollars a minute is traded thanks to the T-MEC. The entry into force of this agreement, the internal and regional security policies, as well as the dialogue groups will buffer any disagreement between the leaders. Regarding the handling of the pandemic, Mexico can learn from better practices put in place by the team entering the White House. There are many interests and problems in common, so both governments will do their part to help and foster a lasting and prosperous friendship.

Mexico gains a more solid, stable and united ally. A more consistent president with a balanced cabinet and control of Congress will make it easier to rebuild institutions and reconcile internal differences. The intertwined relationship has shown that with good communication and a willingness to collaborate, any obstacle can be overcome.