

YOUTH AS A STRATEGIC PARTNER



Daniela Torres, a Global Shaper whom I recently had the opportunity to meet, said that “youth is a strategic partner, not merely a generational replacement.” I agree with that statement. Within today’s youth are the women and men leaders who will pave the way forward.

As many of you know, I love building bridges and stepping beyond my own perspective to learn from others. Through the Chair Building for the Common Good and Sustainable Development, I seek to bring young leaders from all sectors together to create meaningful dialogue. One of them is Javier Treviño, Vice President of Corporate Affairs at Walmart, who previously served as Vice President of Corporate Affairs at CEMEX, CEO of the Mexican Business Council, Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs, Chief Administrative Officer at the Ministry of Finance, and Undersecretary of Education.

I would like to recommend his most recent book, *Silos, Jealousies, and Inner Circles*, in which he reflects on leadership, the future of democracy, and youth participation. In it, he invites us to understand the systems to which we belong and to discover what each of us

can do to leverage collaborative transformation for the benefit of the majority. He challenges us to ask: Why do some nations prosper while others stagnate? What distinguishes a leader who transforms from one who merely manages?

Javier speaks of character and ethics as two essential elements of good leadership. He expands on qualities such as self-regulation, the ability to listen without prejudice, and the willingness to engage in dialogue in order to understand and build together. These qualities are cultivated in our most intimate circles—such as the family—and projected into our professional and public lives.

As Javier rightly says, integrity cannot be an argument to win sympathy; it is the backbone of leadership, cultivated in every decision, especially in times of adversity. Whenever ego and integrity compete, reason must give priority to integrity.

“Partnerships are not a sign of weakness but proof of strategic intelligence,” Javier tells us. Moving from competition to collaboration, from being served to serving, from spectators to agents of impact, from seeking my own well-being to pursuing our shared well-being, from complaint to action, from my silo to our collective abundance. As my friend Armando Regil says, innovation begins with a personal mindset shift.



Silos, celos y círculos íntimos (Silos, Jealousies, and Inner Circles).