

THE G-50 AND THE 2022 MEXICO BUSINESS SUMMIT: TWO GREAT EXPERIENCES



Forums are essential spaces to get out of the daily routine, meet new people and participate in a variety of topics of public interest. For these and many more reasons, I go to them regularly. In this sense, I recently attended two, from which I learned a lot, as it always happens to me: the G-50 and the 2022 Mexico Business Summit.

The G-50 was founded by my friend Moisés Naím and **brings together some of the most distinguished businesspersons in Latin America.** In recent days we had a remote conference where a first-class panel was held with Ian Bremmer, one of the most renowned political scientists today; and Brian Winter and Javier Corrales, experts in the Latin American region.

Bremmer spoke on the conflict in Ukraine. He commented that the use of Russian nuclear weapons cannot be ruled out, although fortunately it is a remote possibility. I asked him if he believed that the expansion of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) to the Russian borders had caused the war, to which he replied that **the fundamental reason for the conflict had been the arrival of liberal-democracy in Ukraine and its consequent threat to Russian authoritarianism.** Likewise, Winter and Corrales commented that, in Brazil, evangelicals already make up a third of the electorate and overwhelmingly supported Bolsonaro. They also affirmed that López Obrador has a very faithful voter base despite the existing insecurity (comparable to a war, they declared). And, finally, they confirmed my perception: that

AMLO will return to the *dedazo* (finger) to choose his successor.

On the other hand, the **2022 Mexico Business Summit was held in person after two years.** It was organized by Claude Smadja, who was second to Klaus Schwab at the Davos Forum and whom I met precisely there; his daughter Yael and my cousin Alfonso García Cacho. It was held in Querétaro, a very thriving city and state, with high levels of economic growth, security, and employment. The topics were diverse: the state of the world economy, the future of renewable energies, startups as transformers of Mexico, the transcendental issue of water and the phenomenon of insecurity in Mexico, among many others.



Ian Bremmer y Moisés Naím

Of special interest to me was the future of the global economy and the repercussions in Mexico. Much was said that the three main factors causing uncertainty were energy prices derived from the Russian invasion, the continuous rise in interest rates (not seen since the 1980s), and the persistence of COVID-19 in China. However, **every crisis brings opportunities, and there will certainly be for Mexico** through nearshoring, a strategy by which the country can attract investment due to the geopolitical tension between the United States and China. By the way, I asked a question to Amb. Esteban Moctezuma (Mexican ambassador to the US) during his presentation on the matter, to which he told me that it was indeed a great situation for the country and that for that reason they had plans to expand the border infrastructure.

Much more was discussed: Bimbo's purchase of a thousand electric vehicles and the consequent decrease in its distribution costs, the growth of Mexican exports to the United States and the bilateral relationship, and the need to build a middle-class country to strengthen our democracy. **I had the pleasure of participating in the Summit's last panel with my friend Miguel Gallardo** on a topic that I am particularly passionate about: ESG criteria (environmental, social, governance). I commented that every company needs a purpose, vision, and mission in order to ground these criteria, that previously they were not heard of and today they are discussed in the main world forums and that, above all, it pays to be a socially responsible company. Marhnos's achievements in this regard make me particularly proud.

These have been days of great activity, where I have had the opportunity to meet many people and learn about highly relevant topics. It is worth remembering that **the best way to strengthen our democracy is by solving many of these problems**, and a first step towards this is to get involved to the extent of our possibilities.