NORTH AMERICA: A REGION OF OPPORTUNITIES

A new era of opportunities stands before the region

North America is and should remain a region of opportunities for all. Under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), bilateral trade and investment within the region have grown exponentially. In 2012 alone, Mexico-US total trade reached 494 billion dollars —more than 1.3 billion dollars per day, almost 1 million dollars per minute. Mexico is the third largest US trading partner. Positive dynamics are now in place, benefitting both societies.

THE BEST FOREIGN MARKET FOR US COMPANIES CONTINUES TO BE MEXICO

The Mexican market is fundamental to the US economy

In 2012, US exports to Mexico were 216.3 billion dollars. This is more than the 210 billion dollars of combined US exports to all the countries with which it has a trade agreement in place (excluding Canada). It is more than U.S. exports to Japan and China combined (180.6 billion dollars), and the sum of its exports to France, Germany, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom (175 billion dollars).

Exports to Mexico maintain and create jobs in the United States

The US Government estimates that each additional billion dollars in new exports supports more than 6,000 new jobs. Exports to Mexico increased 18 billion dollars in 2012 alone, thus potentially helping create over 107,000 new US jobs. Almost six million US Jobs rely on trade with Mexico, according to the US Chamber of Commerce.

US states benefit from exports to Mexico

In 2012 Mexico was the main destination for exports of 3 US states (Arizona, California, and Texas), the second destination for exports from 20 states, and was ranked one of the top-five export destinations for 34 states (2012 data). 17 states send more than 10% of their exports to Mexico.
**Mexico and the United States**

**compete together in the global economy**

Production and supply chains in North America are deeply integrated. The US content of Mexican exports to the US is estimated at around 40%. In contrast, it stands at about 25% for Canadian exports, 4% for China, and only 2% for the European Union.

**Investment flows are mutually beneficial**

According to data compiled by the USTR, sales of services in Mexico by majority US-owned affiliates were 34.4 billion dollars in 2010. Sales of services in the United States by majority Mexico-owned firms were 4.8 billion dollars.

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**MEXICO**

**IS A RELIABLE GLOBAL PARTNER**

**The Mexican economy is expanding**

Mexico has maintained fourteen consecutive quarters of growth since the 2009 global economic downturn. GDP per capita in Mexico has increased from 7,979 in 2009 to 10,146 in 2011 (Current US dollars). Annual GDP growth for 2012 was 3.9%, a higher rate than the average of the twenty years prior. Mexico’s country risk, as measured by J.P. Morgan’s Emerging Markets Bond Index (EMBI+), has long been lower than Brazil’s and Argentina’s.

**Mexico is taking care of its people and businesses**

Mexico is becoming a fundamentally middle class country. The Brookings Institution has highlighted that 60% of Mexico’s population is middle class—by 2030, the proportion will be 86.5%. The number of Mexican students enrolled in higher education has tripled since 1980, and housing credit has increased more than twentyfold since the early 1970’s. Likewise, according to the World Bank’s 2012 Doing Business Report, it is easier for a business in Mexico to export and import goods than it is in China, Argentina, or India. Mexico has efficient ports in the Pacific and the Gulf of Mexico, established and developing logistics corridors, a pro-business regulatory framework, and sound economic fundamentals.

**Mexico is a global player**

The Mexican economy is open for business. The country has one of the largest trade and investment agreement networks in the world: 12 free trade agreements with 44 partners, 28 international investment agreements, and 9 trade agreements that cover important sectors. These allow for privileged access to markets in the Americas, Europe, and Asia. Mexico is part of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) negotiations, and has launched alongside other Latin American countries the ambitious Pacific Alliance liberalization mechanism.

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**An immigration framework that promotes safer and orderly flows of people and goods would benefit North America**

The conversation taking place today on immigration reform stands as an enormous opportunity for the future of the United States—and of North America as a whole. Companies established in North America have become more successful as they take advantage of the complementarities of the region’s economies. The countries compete together in the global markets. They can only benefit from an improved immigration framework that better responds to the needs of the 21st Century global marketplace, that promotes safer and orderly flows of goods and people. Mexico has an interest in this process, as it is committed to increasing the opportunities and the well-being of its citizens, at home and abroad.