Even within 2012’s complex global context, Mexico’s economy grew 3.9%. It is ranked as the 13th largest in the world.

If current trends continue, it could become the 8th largest by 2050, according to projections made by Goldman Sachs.

At the beginning of the new Administration, the major political forces signed the “Pact for Mexico”, a set of agreements that reflect a shared commitment to promote economic development and social welfare.

Mexico is a young and middle class country

In 2010, half of Mexico’s population was 26 years of age or younger. According to the World Bank, 17% of the population joined the middle class in the last ten years. Moreover, National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) records show that 42% of Mexican women work outside their home. School coverage for children aged 5 to 14 is almost universal (on average, 8.6 school years).

Mexicans find more opportunities within their communities

According to a 2013 Gallup poll, the proportion of people who said they would consider emigrating from Mexico declined between 2007 and December 2012, from 21% to 11%, the same percentage was recorded among respondents in the US. Among other factors, the reduction is explained by improved macroeconomic and working conditions in Mexico.

The Mexican “baby boom”, which contributed to increase migration to the United States, is over. In the early sixties each Mexican woman had on average 7.3 children. Today the average is 2 children. Changes in Mexico’s demographic profile and a decrease in emigration have a significant impact on the dynamics between the two countries.

Inclusive and peaceful Mexico

The National Campaign Against Hunger was launched at the beginning of the new Administration, in order to abate the conditions of extreme poverty suffered by 7.4 million Mexicans. To ensure that children that lose their mothers receive financial support and finish their studies, the Life Insurance Program for Female Heads of Households will be implemented.

The objective of the Mexican State is to promote equal opportunities and social inclusion. Additionally, to strengthen security and reduce violence, a national strategy has been adopted, to foster government coordination at all levels, looking to act against impunity and to enforce the law.
Mexico invests in human capital

The objective of the education reform, adopted in February 2013, is to improve the overall education of students, and have a deeper impact on every community’s prosperity. The reform aims to achieve quality education for all, based on the professionalization and evaluation of teachers. Mexico spends more on education, as a percentage of its GDP (5.8%), than the OECD average, and the number of public high schools in the country has doubled in the past ten years.

According to INEGI and the National Association of Universities and Higher Education Institutions (ANUIES), over 700,000 students were enrolled in engineering undergraduate programs in Mexico, during 2010–2011 academic year. According to the American Society for Engineering Education, 470,000 students were enrolled in similar programs in the United States in 2011.

Engines of growth

The current public budget allocation to boost scientific, technological, and innovation development is 18.7% higher than in the previous year. The new Administration has pledged to increase credit to finance strategic areas and to promote the formal economy.

A reform of the telecommunications sector is expected to increase growth of the Mexican GDP by 1 percent. This initiative seeks to improve quality and reduce prices, by stimulating competition in telephone, data, TV and radio services, and to provide stronger legal certainty in this sector.

Sustainable use of natural resources

Mexico has an Interagency Commission on Climate Change and a specific law on the subject. The objective is to transit to a low carbon economy, create green jobs, and innovate in clean technologies, as well as in renewable energy. Mexico is the only developing country that has submitted five national communications to the United Nations on the implementation of its international commitments in this area.

The enactment of energy reform will accelerate Mexican growth, based on three principles: efficiency, energy security, and sustainability. Petróleos Mexicanos (PEMEX) will have a new organizational structure, strengthen its capacity for investment and technological development, and shift investment towards activities with higher added-value and more returns to the country. Mexico will benefit from a cutting-edge oil industry.

An immigration framework that better responds to our regional reality will 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. North America can only benefit from an improved immigration framework that better responds to the needs of a 21st Century global marketplace, and that promotes safer, more efficient, and orderly flows of people and goods between our economies. Legislation on this issue could stimulate economic growth and prosperity in this country and throughout the region. 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.