

Mexico's candidacy to the United Nations Human Rights Council 2018-2020

- Mexico's candidacy to the United Nations Human Rights Council stems from the **Government's firm commitment to human rights**, both at the national and international levels. Such commitment is solidly grounded in our **Constitution**, which clearly establishes the obligation to respect human rights as an axis of the Government's work.
- Mexico is convinced that the **three basic pillars** of the United Nations are **interdependent and interrelated**: peace and security, development and human rights. In order to ensure peace, security and development for all peoples, it is **indispensable to guarantee the human rights** of the population.
- Therefore, Mexico has worked decidedly to **consolidate and strengthen the Human Rights Council (HRC)**, as the body responsible for promoting universal respect for the protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction of any kind and in a fair and equal manner, as mandated to the Council by the United Nations General Assembly.
- Mexico has undertaken this commitment by serving as member of the Council on **three previous occasions** (2006-2009, 2009-2012 and 2014-2016). We had the honour of **chairing the Council during its first year**, a mandate that carried with it the responsibility of conducting the negotiations that led to laying out the Council's institutional framework. Subsequently, Mexico has actively participated in the **five year review of the HRC and in several reflection exercises leading to the Council's 10th anniversary**. In that context, we fostered initiatives to fully achieve the HRC's potential and to promote dialogue regarding the challenges that must be addressed.
- Mexico has significantly contributed to the discussion and substantive decisions of the Human Rights Council, **seeking to strengthen the protection system** promoting an **objective and effective treatment of human rights situations in any part of the world**.
- Our country promotes initiatives which have a **substantial impact at the international level** and that **positively influence national contexts**, seeking to protect and enhance the rights and living conditions of migrants, indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities; promote the empowerment to women and girls; ensure the right to identity and birth registration; strengthen the human rights approach in the fight against terrorism; promote the right to privacy; and eliminate violence and discrimination under any grounds.
- Mexico commits to preserve **its proactive and constructive role** in the Human Rights Council, **strategically fostering the development** of international human rights standards required to fulfill protection gaps and reinforcing the international normative framework.
- With our candidacy we also seek to contribute to **mainstreaming human rights within the United Nations system**, encouraging cooperation and dialogue within the Human Rights Council as well as with other UN bodies, in order to support and

complement their work regarding promotion and protection of human rights, especially concerning the prevention and early warning functions.

- We will **maintain our openness policy to scrutiny of international bodies and mechanisms**, keep on **collaborating with them** to follow up on their recommendations and uphold our **support to their mandates** in relevant fora. The 11 visits of international and regional mechanisms received since Mexico's last appointment to the Council in 2013, are proof of our determination on this matter.
- Mexico will shortly publish the document presenting its contribution to the protection and promotion of human rights, and its voluntary pledges and commitments that support its candidacy, according to UN General Assembly resolution 60/251. This document will describe in more detail the progress made at the national level and the actions undertaken to further human rights.