

JOINT STATEMENT ON BILATERAL COOPERATION MEXICO - IRELAND

The President of Ireland, Michael D Higgins, paid an official visit to Mexico at the invitation of President Peña Nieto. The Presidents met today in Mexico City and underlined the importance of this excellent opportunity to pursue a medium and long term vision to build a strong, deep and diverse relationship, including through strengthening political contacts, cooperating in the scientific, technological and cultural areas, and fostering trade and reciprocal investments.

The Presidents and their delegations acknowledged the economic benefits that Mexico and Ireland offer as a gateway to their respective regions. Ireland is an attractive destination for Mexican businesses, as President Higgins will outline during his participation as keynote speaker at the Mexico Business Summit in Guadalajara on Tuesday 22 October. In addition, Mexico is Ireland's main trading partner in Latin America and bilateral trade between Ireland and Mexico exceeded a billion dollars in 2012. This figure means that Mexico is one of the twenty most important global trade partners for Ireland.

Also, Irish businesses and Universities have a growing interest in Mexico in areas including aviation, agribusiness, information technology, the pharmaceutical sector and cooperation in nanotechnology and the environment, as well as in strategic areas such as food production and sustainable water management.

In this regard, the Presidents and their delegations noted with enthusiasm the contracts and agreements reached and memoranda signed by Irish Universities and businesses, together with their Mexican partners, in areas including the aerospace sector, manufacturing, sustainable water management, information technology, the pharmaceutical sector as well as in academic exchanges and research cooperation. They emphasized that these contracts will have a positive impact on promoting trade, academic, scientific and investment links between Ireland and Mexico, strengthening existing opportunities for business sectors in both countries.

They also noted with satisfaction that various meetings had taken place and that other networking opportunities for representatives of Mexican and Irish companies and Universities would be provided by the economic events organized as part of the visit of President Higgins, noting these contacts as a way to open new business opportunities.

The Presidents and their delegations noted that there is significant potential for further development of cooperation in science and technology as part of the bilateral relationship and agreed that both countries should work more

closely together to consolidate the existing links amongst the various academic institutions and explore opportunities for further collaboration.

The Presidents and their delegations emphasized that the celebration in 2015 of the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between both countries represents an excellent opportunity to strengthen cooperation, promote trade, academic and investment partnerships and to share artistic and cultural exchanges to the benefit of both countries.

They agreed to develop a joint programme of activities in Mexico and Ireland to mark the anniversary and to highlight the friendship, the significant potential and the shared interests that are central to the relationship between Mexico and Ireland.

Both delegations availed of the opportunity to underline the satisfaction of both Governments at the many artistic and cultural exchanges underway and they acknowledged in particular the richness of the ancient cultures of both countries.

Emphasising the values that Mexico and Ireland share in the global arena, it was agreed to stimulate closer collaboration in key international fora to advance shared positions on issues such as the protection and the promotion of human rights, disarmament, climate change and the fight against hunger.

The Presidents and their delegations expressed their satisfaction at the 15th anniversary of the New Agenda Coalition, of which Mexico and Ireland are founding members and which has been instrumental in seeking a commitment from the holders of nuclear weapons to eliminate such arms. They reiterated their deep concern in respect of the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of a potential nuclear explosion and expressed their commitment to continue to raise awareness of this issue and to renew their efforts to reach and maintain a world free of nuclear weapons. In this context, they welcomed the intention of Mexico to host the 2nd International Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons in February 2014.

They also underlined the importance of the Global Partnership for Aid Effectiveness and looked forward to the 1st High-Level Meeting that will take place in Mexico on April 15th and 16th, 2014. Both countries remain committed to continued collaboration in the building of a more solid, inclusive and efficient international architecture in order to accelerate progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals and to agree and attain an ambitious, unified and comprehensive set of development goals in the framework of the post-2015 Development Agenda.

They emphasized, in particular, the importance of food and nutrition security as a key global issue and acknowledged the global role of Mexico and Ireland in prioritizing the fight against hunger and malnutrition, especially with

respect to mothers and young children, and they expressed their intention to work together more closely to eradicate hunger.

In light of the shared emigration experiences in both nations, the Presidents and their delegations recalled the importance of engaging with diasporas and looked forward to on-going exchanges in the period ahead.

They agreed on the importance of the Mexico-EU Strategic Partnership and on the need to continue strengthening that relationship. In this regard, they noted the ongoing work underway to modernize and deepen key aspects of the Mexico-UE Global Agreement.

They reiterated their commitment to work closely together to attain concrete outcomes that will benefit the bilateral relation between Mexico and Ireland.

Signed in Mexico City, on 21 October 2013

THE SECRETARY OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS OF THE UNITED MEXICAN
STATES

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF TRADE
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