

Dear Delegates,

We gladly welcome you to the 8th Edition of TJMUN Campus Querétaro as an ambassador of the OAS Crisis Committee: Special Mission to Mexico. This committee was created with one objective, and it is to discuss the most concerning issues and controversies our country is facing. Even though everybody has a different possible solution that would fit the best at handling our country's problems, we truly believe you are the perfect candidates to work and discuss on what is the most suitable path to follow. It is in our hands to take action and it is of the utmost importance to give Mexico a real opportunity to transcend on an international level. In this committee ambassadors will be addressing only one topic, which will be "Special Mission to Mexico", this means that the OAS Crisis Committee will be discussing this country's welfare, in all of its aspects while offering prompt advice on matters that need to improve.

As your chairs, we truly expect you, not only debate the topic but to embrace all of the knowledge you can possibly can. So that in the future you can further become a better informed citizen; aware of the challenges Mexico is currently facing while building initiative to take action in every possible way.

It is your job and ours to make this experience one of the best ones you can have. We understand it can be hard to come to a resolution with your fellow delegates specially with those who may differ with you. Since we get to face this circumstance in our daily lives, this is a great way to learn how to better manage it.

We are honored to have you in our committee, and we are confident you will invest the necessary effort all these issues deserve, so together we are able to achieve the best outcome possible. We remind you that it is our responsibility to guide and help you throughout the entire event, so please feel confident to addressing any situation with us. All comments and observations are greatly appreciated. We thank you for your interest and welcome you to OAS Crisis Committee: Special Mission to Mexico.

Marión Juárez

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OAS Crisis Committee: Special Mission to Mexico

Introduction

Throughout its history, Mexico has always faced many challenges, but for the past fifteen years, the problems the nation has been facing have escalated to major dimensions. Concerned about the fact that Mexico is facing increasing political, educational, and social issues, this committee will focus on debating those matters. We'll focus on how the country and its residents are facing said challenges, and how these issues may affect the rest of the international community. Therefore we encourage all delegates to look for viable and realistic solutions for the different challenges Mexico is currently facing.

This debate will take into consideration the last 10 years in Mexico's history (2006-2016). As the committee's name suggests, delegates will only be addressing Mexico as the main topic, especially its political, educational, and social challenges. Therefore, delegates are only required to write one position paper regarding the challenges Mexico is facing from the perspective of an OAS Ambassador. The goal will be to find short and long term solutions to reinforce democracy in Mexico, by **advising** the Mexican government. Chairs will guide the debate making sure delegates stay on topic, however the debate will be mainly in the hands of the ambassadors. A perpetual moderated caucus with occasional unmoderated caucuses to discuss directives will compose our committee. This means delegates will choose the aspects of the crisis they would like to debate and then, draft **directives** to address these challenges in the order they choose.

The 3 subtopics will be the following:

- Governmental and Political Aspects
- Human Rights and Public Safety
- Public Education

Governmental and Political Aspects

Felipe Calderon's Presidency

Felipe Calderon was elected to the presidency as the second candidate for the Partido Acción Nacional party, just after Vicente Fox had finished his term the candidate of "The Change," ending 72 years of continuous PRI presidencies. Calderon was elected in one of the most controversial elections in the history of Mexico. He won the presidency by only a 0.56% difference. Such small margin, started to create doubt as to whether Felipe Calderon's victory in the election had been a fraud. It is estimated that around $\frac{1}{3}$ of the Mexican population believe he had actually won fraudulently.

In December 11th, 2006 after only ten days of being sworn into office, and without having any real strategy, Felipe Calderon launched a war against Mexico's organized crime, specifically Drug Cartels. With the support of the Armed Forces, the military and the navy, the war against "*narcos*" disturbed the balance of peace in Mexican society. Human casualties encompass tens of thousands of deaths, thousands of missing people, forced disappearances, and an increase in cases of torture. President Calderon's vision of a perfect Mexico was one with many changes, but specifically one with no drug cartels.

During Calderon's presidency, inflation was lower than it had ever been in the history of the country, with its lowest rate at 3.76%. The international debt rate had lowered a considerable amount, even though it never completely eradicated. Calderon accomplished economic reforms that empowered the Federal Competition Commission to sanction any kind of monopolistic actions and companies, but this new "power" was never really enforced. During Felipe Calderon's government, an estimated 2.5 million jobs were created in various different sectors, however the "informal" economy grew by almost 30%. Informal economy is to be understood as the trade system or economic exchange used outside state controlled financial transactions.

Felipe Calderon's years in power were mostly focused to improve Public Safety. He firmly maintained a commitment to the fight against organized crime, and reduce the overwhelming violence that had unleashed around the country. Similar to other wars,

collateral damage took its toll on human lives, many innocent civilians were attacked, others killed in the crossfire, while many more were kidnapped. Confrontations between police and the military against criminals, along with violence between Cartels, have deeply affected society.

Areas like education and the economic sector also saw great development however, not nearly enough as needed to recover the country's stability, from a scarring war against organized crime.

Enrique Peña Nieto's Presidency

December 1st, 2012 marked the return of the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) to power after 12 years. Former Governor, Enrique Peña Nieto was elected as the new president of Mexico. This success was not very well accepted by a large amount of the population since he only had a 38% of people's approval. His election triggered tens of thousands of people to go out in the streets and protest against the return of the PRI to the highest office in the country; discontent came from the fact that PRI has a large history of being a corrupt party.

Peña Nieto's presidency has been known for the proposal of eleven reforms that would lead the country to a better future and would improving different sectors of the country. The reforms were presented as the following: Energetic Reform, Reform of Telecommunications, Economic Competitiveness Reform, Financial Reform, Fiscal Reform, Labour Reform, Educational Reform, National Code of Criminal Procedures, Amparo Act, Electoral-Political Reform, and Transparency Reform.

Enrique Peña Nieto's proposals have been the most ambitious reforms Mexico has ever seen. Before launching his second State of the Union, President Peña Nieto proudly announced that his reforms had been approved by Congress and embraced by the different sectors. The matter that led to many of these reforms to be approved was the "Pacto por México," a document also proposed by the President, later approved and signed by the three most important parties in Mexico (PRD, PRI, PAN). This document

was a commitment from the government to provide economic growth, boost new political agreements, and reinforced the importance of human rights.

This document signed in December of 2012 was presented as a promising way to put into action the Reforms proposed by the president. Amongst these reforms, the Energetic Reform that has become a controversial issue during President Peña Nieto's administration, since it has only completed 2 of the 14 initiatives. As a result, the credibility of the three parties was deeply affected.

There is still a bigger list of things that need to be fixed in the country and there is a lot of discontent within the Mexican population. People had stated that Peña Nieto's years in the government have been a failure so far. He is ranked as the president with the lowest acceptance rate, 35%,⁶ which reflects unconformity from citizens who claim his presidency lacks responsibility and commitment to the nation.

A considerable part of society has condemned his “incapacity” to tackle many of challenges that have risen during his time as president. These challenges include the escape of Joaquín Guzmán Loera (Chapo Guzmán), the second most dangerous and powerful criminal in the world and leader of Sinaloa Cartel. Who was first captured but escaped two times within Peña Nieto's term. Furthermore, he has been involved in a series of corruption scandals. The New York Times stated, it's impossible to explain with credibility how a relatively young man that comes from a middle class family has managed to accumulate as much wealth as our president has. The most widespread but not only evidence for this sudden wealth is the mansion he owns worth seven million dollars, that he justifies as property his wife, an actress who has not worked since 2007. This is just the most prominent example of many other corruption scandals Peña Nieto is blamed for.

Cases of conflict of interests amongst members of the cabinet and our president have also occurred. President Peña is blamed for making dubious negotiations with “Grupo Higa” a construction company that has received millions in government contracts, among them the contract to build the president's controversial “Casa Blanca.” This has been an enormous scandal, since Mr. Juan Armando Hinojosa Cantú (part of the cabinet) was director of Grupo Higa when Enrique Peña Nieto was acting governor of Estado de Mexico.

Upon his election President Peña Nieto, sworn to continue the fight against organized crime. However during the third year of his mandate, Peña Nieto did not achieve a significant advancement, which led to society's utter exhaustion due to the constant violence unleashed by the War on Drugs. Rather than diminishing the problem, the number of organized crime groups has actually increased from 8 to 13, active Cartels.

According to the Pew Research Center our current president has lost 7 percent of his credibility in one year, and only 35% of the Mexican people believe he is handling the country right.

Enrique Peña Nieto still has 2 years to prove his credibility. Now he faces two major challenges, which are the low economic growth Mexico has had so far and the lack of public safety around the country. He has committed to use every resource at his disposal to improve economic stability of the country while working to upgrade public safety conditions.

Human Rights and Public Safety

Although in the past decade, Mexico has been going through many beneficial changes, such as economic growth and an increase in foreign investments, there has also been an escalation in violence, increase in poverty rates, and a lack or inefficiency of public safety.⁶ The increase of violence and human rights violations are a consequence from the lack of substantial political and social change, which always ends up affected the lowest sectors of society. The conditions in which the population lives according to the Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía (INEGI) can be divided into 6 main classes:

- "High, high class" -1% of the population
- "High, low class" - 5% of the population

- "Middle, high class" - 14% of the population
- "Middle, low class" - 20% of the population
- "Low, high class" - 25% of the population
- "Low, low class" - 35% of the population

The factors taken under consideration to break down the 6 categories mentioned above are: income, nutrition, health, social security, educational level, and living conditions, among others. There has been a 7% increment of income in the “low, high class” or “low, low class” particularly in the states of Chiapas, Oaxaca, and Guerrero, which are among the poorest states in the country.

Experts on the subject see this increment as an answer to the growth of violence and insecurity in those states. According to the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights, (CIDH) Mexico is suffering one of the largest human rights crises in its history. It stated that there are “serious violations, in particular forced disappearances, extrajudicial executions, and torture; critical levels of impunity insufficient legal counseling to the victims and their families ”.

Freedom of speech is another aspect of Mexican society that’s at risk. Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein (current United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights) mentioned that the Mexican government is quite “intolerant” to public critique, which results in the violation of basic human rights such as freedom of speech. The UN also made remarks regarding the government’s inability to punish crime, which according to official statistics, 98% of them remain unsolved. There are other alarming figures regarding public safety, the UN estimated that 151,233 people have been murdered since 2006 (around 27,000 murders only in 2012) making Mexico one of the countries with the highest rates of murder in Latin America.

On September 26, 2014, indignation spread among the Mexican people after 43 students from Ayotzinapa went missing. Little after that protests erupted in different cities around the country, in which they demand justice for the missing students and their families. A group of students from the Normal Rural de Ayotzinapa traveled to Iguala, hoping to get a couple buses to join the “ Marcha del 2 de Octubre” in Mexico City, that same night the buses were attacked and the 43 students went missing. After a

long investigation, witnesses and experts linked the police to their mysterious disappearance, while looking for the students in clandestine graves, subsequently, on October 4th they find 28 dead bodies in 6 different graves in a close location to Iguala. News reports bring to the light that there were 55 found corpses. Ten days later, the Republic General Attorney, Jesús Murillo Karam, informed the detention of 26 people, approximately, in which four were members of the cartel “Guerreros Unidos”, and also 22 local policemen. Approximately 3 weeks after this matter, on October 23, Ángel Heladio Aguirre Rivero is forced to quit as Guerrero’s governor in the face of all the critics about his government. He is replaced three days later by Rogelio Ortega Martínez. On November 28, the parents of the 43 students go to Los Pinos to see Enrique Peña Nieto looking for answers. As the star Media, a news and information portal published that December 6th, information about the identification of a missing student emerged, but it wasn’t until a day after this that the University of Innsbruck in Australia revealed that the remains of a male were found on the landfill in Cocula. The victim was Alexander Mora Venancio.

People are still looking for answers. The whole world got together to help these students and their families. And after two years of their disappearance, mobilizations are being held on the states of Guerrero and Oaxaca. The inquiries haven’t had a justification yet, but people are still trying to figure out what happened to our 43.

Public Education

Public education in Mexico has taken a significant leap during the last 15 years thanks to the improvements and work of former politicians. During Fox’s presidency Mexico experienced some positive changes as Fox was one of the presidents to invest a higher budget in public education throughout the country by implementing the National Education Program 2001-2006, a three main point plan which included

- Expansion of the education system favoring equality
- Provide quality education to meet the needs of all Mexicans
- Promote educational federalism, institutional management, social integration and participation in education

This Program turned out to show good results in the educational levels of the country.

As Fox's presidency ended it was clear that educational levels had increased. However, there was still a lot of work left and many children to educate.

As Mr. President Felipe Calderón started his presidency in 2006, he committed to address one of the biggest issues of the country, the educational system. Setting as a goal, granting an educational system that would help Mexico become a more competitive nation before this globalized world. During his presidency, President Calderón promoted the "Alianza por la Calidad de la Educación" (ACE.) Calderón was known for his eagerness to reform the Mexican Educational System by applying diagnostic Exams such as "Evaluación Nacional de Logro Académico en Centros Escolares" (ENLACE) to students. Teachers and Schools were also tested. President Calderón did not only applied this diagnostic exam but gave public access to the results, this was a very effective strategy because there would not only be an evaluation completed but an accurate diagnosis about the educational content that allowed the knowledge on teacher training.

During Calderon's six years there was a 30% advance in public education though, there was a 70% advance expectation. This results Mexican population and left Felipe's successor Enrique Peña Nieto with a lot to work with.

Unfortunately for him, Enrique Peña Nieto started his tenure with Mexico's public education at a concerning point, with Mexico standing at one of the bottom places in the Organization of Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD) educational list. Within his commitments in "Pacto por México" Peña Nieto included an educational reform which would strengthen all Mexicans rights to receive an education. He also mentions constant improvement and maximum educational achievement of students, as the State The Reform guarantees scholar materials and teaching methods, school organization, educational infrastructure and the suitability of teachers and administrators for the achievement of objectives.

One of the president's biggest projects has been the "Sistema Nacional de Evaluación Educativa" which is in charge to assess the quality, performance and results of the national education system in preschool, elementary, middle and high school. Mr

Peña Nieto's work has shown results such as the adequacy of 40,000 full-time schools of basic education in the country has an advance of more than 50%, with 23 thousand 182 schools rehabilitated, the other 50% will be developed by the end of this administration.

Mexico is a developing country filled with opportunities and the only way we will be able to reach a 100% development is by giving younger generations the opportunity to learn the most they can and the best academic level that can be offered. That is why during this committee sessions ambassadors will debate viable and realistic ways to advice the Mexican government on how to improve the educational system.

Teachers from the CNTE (Coordinadora Nacional de Trabajadores de la Educación) have been marching because of their disagreement with the new educational reforms that have been imposed by the government. They are claiming a dialogue regarding their demands against this reform. The last march was on Mexico City on the National Auditorium, in which the call-up was headed by the members of the political direction of the CNTE and also by the parents of the 43 disappeared students the last September 26, 2014. In Oaxaca there are 162 schools that are still with no classes. Of course this is causing things go out of control. They have been taking urban transport vans so later on that they can have possession of the booths that are on the highway. After having complete power of these counters, they could finally do whatever they wanted. This is just one of many ways educators are trying to be heard.

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