Mexico

**1) In your view, how and to what extent has the right to development been implemented and realized, at the national, regional and international levels?**

The Government of Mexico is actively working to guarantee the full enjoyment of human rights for all individuals, including the right to development. As explained in the National Development Plan 2013 – 2018, in order to crystallize a democratic state, Mexico recognizes that all institutions and authorities need to adopt a respectful stance towards ensuring human rights for all people. Therefore, since the beginning of the current administration, several law reforms have been implemented in order to guarantee human rights for all individuals in the country, including the right to development.

The Mexican Ministry of Social Development has progressed towards the full enjoyment of the right to development. First, social policy has been substantially redirected towards a comprehensive approach that focuses on guaranteeing the protection of human rights of individuals as a priority. Second, several changes have been made within the social programs in order to increase availability as well as to include a broader range of services, the latest being financial inclusion and productive capacities by redesigning the social inclusion program called PROSPERA. Lastly, the Ministry, with the support of other 18 federal institutions, has enforced a National Crusade against Hunger, in which 7.1 million people suffering from extreme and food poverty have been the primary target, seeking to alleviate their ailments and providing a social protection floor with the aim to eradicate hunger.

The National Development Plan guides the implementation of national targets in Mexico, such as promoting inclusiveness. In addition, to accomplish our development goals and targets at the national level, the Mexican system of international development cooperation was strengthened by the enactment of the International Development Cooperation Law (LCID) in 2011.

The LCID establishes and regulates the necessary tools to transfer and receive cooperation and it sets the basis on which the country’s cooperation system must work, including the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (AMEXCID). The main function of this Agency is to arrange, coordinate and promote the actions and policies of IDC with all the Mexican Ministries. The LCID and AMEXCID have been key to improve the development cooperation of Mexico, supporting the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and its role will be fundamental for the implementation of the new SDGs at the national, regional and global levels.

For Mexico, the MDGs represented an opportunity to count with an agenda of priorities to pave the path for national development. Besides guiding our public policy actions for the past 15 years, our commitment in accomplishing the MDGs enabled our country to build and strengthen new statistical capacities, create innovative mechanisms for coordination and evaluation, as well as pioneer monitoring systems internationally known as an example of best practices.

Mexico’s commitment and leadership on implementing the MDGs has been remarkable. It has accomplished 37 of the 51 indicators (72.5 per cent) that the country agreed to focus in since the beginning of the negotiations. The latest MDG’s implementation report showed important advances in poverty eradication. Notably, the proportion of the population with an income below the international poverty line fell from 9.3% in 1989 to 3.7% in 2014.

Monitoring progress on the MDGs has become an opportunity to set mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating Mexico’s public policy and has contributed to change the working dynamic of the government institutions in becoming aware of their actions and in improving our national public policy. According to the Human Development Index, Mexico achieved a development of 0.757, placing the country in place 71 of 187 analyzed countries.

At the regional level, Regional UN Commissions have played an important role by working as intergovernmental platforms that promote discussions among countries on the implementation and review of the MDG’s. At the international level, according to the 2015 Global Monitoring Report, many important results have been achieved: The number of people living on less than $1.25 a day has been reduced from 1.9 billion in 1990 to 836 million in 2015, the goal of having the proportion of people without access to clean water, and the goal of achieving a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020, had also been achieved ahead of time in 2010. The goal of eliminating gender disparity in primary education was also accomplished in 2010.

**2) In your view, what are the main obstacles to the implementation and realization of the right to development at the national, regional and international levels and what measures should be taken to overcome them?**

In order to achieve the full realization of the right to development facing the challenges posed by the size of the population and the international economic context, in Mexico a major government campaign is implemented to coordinate and collaborate among national and international agencies to ensure the full enjoyment of this and all human rights.

At the international level, some of the main obstacles are the following:

* Insufficient coordination between agencies and organizations as well as lack of coherence in policies and in the implementation of programs, causing duplication of efforts, contradictory policies and misallocation of resources.
* Weaknesses in the institutional capacity of Sates, bad governance and lack of oversight or accountability from the authorities to the citizens/taxpayers.
* Big inequality levels within countries causes unequal opportunities and access to services, thus hindering the most marginalized and vulnerable segments of the population, perpetuating the intergenerational transmission of poverty.

The following measures can be taken in order to overcome obstacles. They apply at all levels (national, regional and international):

* The effective use of resources must be ensured. This can be done through the implementation of the following principles of effective development co-operation: country ownership, focus on results, inclusive partnerships, and *transparency and accountability*.
* Strengthening developing country leadership over planning and managing all development finance (including through strengthened institutions and country systems), acknowledging developing countries’ ownership in setting their own priorities in pursuit of the future SDGs, through a vision that is strongly anchored in national development and accountability processes.
* Helping ensure development finance deliver results, by being more predictable, transparent, and aligned to countries own systems and priorities
* Engaging the broad range of development cooperation stakeholders to strengthen the impact and quality of development partnerships based on inclusivity and mutual accountability, including through country-led efforts to monitor the quality of partnerships.

Among these measures, promoting effective multi-stakeholder partnerships (for example, between the public and private sectors) to support development will be critical for ensuring that nobody is left behind and that plans are inclusive and effective. All relevant development stakeholders, including inter allia, civil society business sector, parliaments, local governments, as appropriate, need to be engaged.

**3) What steps, including the formulation, adoption and implementation of policy, legislative and other measures, have been taken by your country at the national, regional and international levels to implement the obligations enshrined in the United Nations Declaration on the Right to Development, inter alia, with regard to:**

**a. formulating appropriate national and international development policies;**

As mentioned before, the National Development Plan recognizes that all institutions and authorities need to adopt a respectful stance towards ensuring human rights for all people. Therefore, since the beginning of the current administration several law reforms have been implemented in order to guarantee better social and economic conditions, including the right to development.

Furthermore, according to the UN Declaration on the Right to Development, Mexico has worked in promoting the right of development in order to accomplish the mandate of formulating national development policies. Therefore, after the launching of the MDGs in 2000, Mexico established a coordinated plan between various government institutions to exchange information and work accordingly. Mexico provided technical, managerial and budgetary autonomy to the national statistics office in 2006, as a necessary condition to guarantee its independence and ensure the technical reliability of the statistical data.

The next step was to institutionalize a monitoring framework for the MDGs as established by the National System of Statistics, Geography and Information Law, which had as its main objective to provide statistical data for the development of indicators through the creation of 37 statistical committees with several government agencies in all relevant areas.

In 2010 the Specialized Technical Committee of the MDGs Information System (CTESIODM) was created, led by the Office of the Presidency, and supported by National Institute of Geography and Statistics and the National Population Council, to integrate the intergovernmental work related to monitoring the achievement of the MDGs and prepare reports on their progress.

In 2013, Mexico presented the results of the implementation of the MDGs disaggregating the data by each federal entity. This innovative analysis allowed us to visualize the progress made, the challenges and priorities by region, thus generating a precise diagnosis for defining the roadmap and the public policies needed to advance in Mexico´s development.

The practice of monitoring the MDGs and the development of indicators will serve as a platform for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It also marks an important policy step since Mexico never counted before with a system of relevant indicators with disaggregated data that included data from the different levels of government, and engaged states into submitting reports on their progress.

**b. achieving effective international cooperation;**

To achieve effective international cooperation, Mexico has maintained and strengthened the commitments agreed on Monterrey in 2002, and reaffirmed at Doha in 2008, regarding the financial, technical and human mobilization of resources. These resources could be financial and non-financial, human and technical using a human rights perspective. Thus, in July 2015, Mexico adopted the Addis Ababa Action Agenda at the Third International Conference on Financial for Development aiming to transform the financing for development narrative, focusing the FFD agenda primarily in the domestic mobilization of resources and in strengthening institutional capacity. Hence, ODA and other cooperation modalities have become a complement to catalyze national efforts, and reaffirms the importance of having an international financial architecture that is conducive for sustainable development. Also, Mexico promoted a more effective allocation of ODA to MICs for supporting their path to sustainable development by recognizing the significant challenges that these countries still face.

Mexico has promoted the mobilization of national and international resources for the achievement of the MDG’s, including a review of modalities of cooperation such as SSC and TrC that enrich conventional aid relationships and will play a key role on the matter.

Mexico agreed to host in April 2014 the first high level meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC), becoming also one of its three co-chairs. The GPEDC is a forum that promotes a multi-stakeholder dialogue and the exchange of experiences to maximize the impact and quality of international development cooperation. The main aim of the GPEDC is the implementation of the four principles for effective development cooperation, established in four international conferences on the subject (Rome 2003, Paris 2005, Accra 2008 and Busan 2011): national ownership, focus on results; inclusiveness; and transparency and mutual accountability.

Mexico’s key objectives by hosting the meeting and becoming a co-chair were to strengthen the international environment to attain the MDGs, to contribute to the implementation of the post-2015 agenda, and to further the effectiveness agenda and its principle of inclusive partnerships at all levels – national, regional and international.

This has meant that the principles of effective development cooperation have become part of and embedded in Mexico's official program for International Development Cooperation.

**c. undertaking appropriate reforms at the national and international levels;**

Mexico, has undertaken a series of law reforms aimed at improving wellbeing of its inhabitants. These reforms, targeting specific sectors, such as energy, communications, innovation, taxation, law enforcement, corruption, income protection, education, health, housing and development, have the objective of enhancing work-life balance, public services and closing the gap among the most vulnerable groups such as people leaving in extreme poverty, women, older personss and persons with disabilities.

**7) Is the right to development recognized in the constitution, a bill of rights, a basic law, or other national legislation of your country and, if so, are there any limitations attached to it? If so, please provide details.**

Article 1 of the Constitution states that in the United Mexican States every person shall enjoy the rights recognized by the Constitution and international treaties to which the Mexican State is a party. In addition, the first chapter of the Constitution named “Human Rights and its guarantees” includes references to the right to development related to indigenous populations, environment, children’s rights, and culture.

Regarding the right of peoples to self-determination, the Constitution establishes this right for indigenous peoples, in article 2.

Articles 25, 26, 27 and 28 of the Constitution refer to the State’s responsibilities in relation to development: ensuring sustainable development, strengthening democracy, economic growth, fair distribution of wealth, full enjoyment of guarantees, among others.

**9) Has the jurisdiction of any regional human rights court or any international human rights mechanism competent to rule or express views on the right to development been accepted and, if so, what is the nature and progress of any recent or pending cases and follow-up to any rulings made?**

In accordance with article 26 of the American Convention on Human Rights, “the States Parties undertake to adopt measures, both internally and through international cooperation, especially those of an economic and technical nature, with a view to achieving progressively, by legislation or other appropriate means, the full realization of the rights implicit in the economic, social, educational, scientific, and cultural standards set forth in the Charter of the Organization of American States as amended by the Protocol of Buenos Aires”. Since Mexico accepted the competence of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights on December, 16, 1998, then the Court is competent to determine the responsibility of Mexico for a breach of this provision.

Additionally, under article 19 (6) of the Protocol of San Salvador, the Inter-American Court has competence to determine violations to economic, social and cultural rights recognized by the Protocol, committed by States Parties [México ratified this Protocol on March, 08, 1996].

**10) Have you submitted information to regional or international human rights monitoring mechanisms on the steps taken by your country in implementing the right to development? If so, please provide details.**

In fulfilling its obligations arising from the implementation of international human rights treaties, Mexico reports periodically to the treaty bodies on public policies to guarantee the right to development. As part of our commitments with the universal human rights system, our country has submitted reports to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and other bodies responsible for overseeing the implementation of treaties that address the rights of specific groups, such as, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the Committee for the Protection of rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families, the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. At the regional level, Mexico recently presented its first report to the Working Group responsible for observing our compliance with the Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights in the Area of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights better known as, "Protocol of San Salvador".

**11) What statistical methods are being used by your country to assess progress made in the realization of the right to development?**

In Mexico, there is not a specific statistical method to assess progress made in the realization of the right to development, as such. However, the National Council for the Evaluation of Social Policy (CONEVAL) regulates and coordinates the evaluation of national policies, programs and actions on social development executed by public agencies. The Council also establishes the guidelines and criteria used to define and measure poverty, guarantee transparency, objectivity and technical rigor in the aforementioned activities.

CONEVAL issues guidelines and criteria for poverty measurement using information generated by the National Statistics and Geography Institute (INEGI) for the following indicators: Current income per capita; Educational gap; Access to health services; Access to social security; Quality and spaces of the dwelling; Access to basic services in the dwelling; Access to food, and Degree of social cohesion. Poverty measurement is done in a two-year periodic basis for federal entities and every five years at municipal level. Additionally, the criteria to identify priority attention areas shall be issued.

It is important to note, that even when the realization of the right to development in the country is not directly measured, several components towards its fulfillment are currently assessed.

In addition to this, Mexico developed indicators to measure progress in the implementation of the MDGs. The Millennium Development Goals Information System (MDGIS) follows up and provides information on the eight goals set by the UN through the 16 targets applicable to developing countries, as well as the 51 indicators that correspond to the UN Official List and the group of those that have been reformulated. In total, MDGIS follows up on 80 indicators of which 41 are from the UN Official List proposed in 2008 (51.3%), 10 are Reformulated indicators (12.5%), seven are Proposed by Mexico (8.7%) and 22 added as Targets Beyond the Millennium (27.5%). The System will follow up with the Sustainable Development Goals in the 2030 Agenda.