

## **Mexico**

Mexican is proud to be considered a modern developing nation of 103 million people with ancient Mayan and Aztec roots. We gained our independence from Spain in 1810. We had to fight for our freedom again when France attempted to make us their colony. By 1821, we had established ourselves as a free and independent nation. Our last wars were territorial wars, in 1848, with the United States. We are proud of the fact that we have remained neutral and free of war with others for over 150 years. Yet, to leave behind the feudal ways and learn the true meaning of democracy and respect for all has been an ongoing experience in our nation. We are a nation of contrasts. We are the 6<sup>th</sup> largest global oil producer and have the second largest GDP and per capita GDP in the Central and South American regions. We have achieved a 90% literacy rate, in spite of the internal battles we associated with poverty, health care child labor. Our citizens have an average life expectancy of 72.5 years, yet our women did not gain the right to vote until 1946. The blending of the traditional and the modern values give us cause for constant reflection and have always encouraged internal revolution and discussion. We are proud of our recent steps in becoming active members of our global society.

### **Child labor**

Child labor is an issue in Mexico. We have laws that prohibit child labor below age of 15, but it is hard for us to enforce it. In our nation, 8 out of 10 people begin working before 10-14 years. In the year of 2000 1,022,859 children between of 10- 14 were working, and 4,463,952 children between 15-19 were working. About 28% of child laborers work in northern Mexico, where they are engaged in agricultural work. There are 115,000 children working in the streets, markets, tourist and other areas of 108 cities in Mexico. 70% are boys and 30% girls, and around 60% of them are found in just 20 cities. Some 20% of the children survive by begging, 24% by selling goods, and others by doing subcontracting work. We are trying to stop child labor so kids could go to school.

### **International Finance**

Our economy is improving because it is coming out of debt. We are a just developing the economy. Since 1980, our debt is going down. We are resaving dollars from the people who work in the United States and send money back home. During the 1990's, we made a rule of putting the price of the oil higher. And use the money to pay some of the debts.

We also need to keep a balance economy so that they can pay the debt. They also need to pay attention in what things they spend money. Mexico also needs to export more products to another countries. This will increase the jobs, and more productions. We are trying to make more deals with other countries so that we can grow as a powerful nation. NAFTA is an example of a free trade agreement that has been good for us.

### **International Trade**

Significant oil discoveries made in the '70s turned us from net import into a significant exporter of oil and petroleum products. Our people that did not sell oil or

petroleum products had a hard time because the peso(dollar) became increasingly overvalued.

In 1988-1993 we entered a free trade agreement with Latin American countries. We became the first Latin American member of the World Trade Organization.

2001-2003 Corn farmers in Chihuahua, and Chiapas demonstrated against U.S. corn shipment, and many fear we will go out of business when the corn market opens fully in 2008.

Back in 1966-1975 several guerilla organizations operated in rural areas, but remain fragmented. Drug trafficking and production engender a new form of criminal activity.

In 1986-1993, President Zedillo tried to keep the military law enforcement and anti-drug efforts. Zedillo, and others started suspecting that police brutality, torture, wrongful arrests, and involvement in drug, trafficking among government and law enforcement official continue. Mexico, and the U.S. try to combat drug trafficking, but Mexico fears that corruption among countries officials. We are under pressure to deal with drug trafficking. Immigration causes tension along the border.

### **Gender and Minorities**

In minorities, we are talking about how the woman want to be treated equal and on the rights they want to have to be paying the same and they don't want to have to be killed by the men when they are treated bad and the government don't do anything about that. In Ciudad Juarez, they found dead 178 women in 1993 and the police don't do anything about. Women don't like to get shot and they tried to speak. We, the people of Mexico, try to do something or found who is killing people. The women want the government to something about it. They want to have the same work like man and they want to get divorce when they treated bad of the mans. They don't like to do only work at house or get cheated by the man. The woman's want to be talking about this

The national woman's program monitored the situation of women, made recommendations to the government regarding women's issues, and worked with government agencies, international organizations, and NGO's to support women's causes. Over 1 million women each year, according to the CMDPDH, seek emergency medical treatment for injuries sustained because of domestic violence's, the fourth highest cause of death for women. Groups such as the nongovernmental center for research and care of women are working to educate both men and women in an effort to counter the widespread view of domestic violence as a private act that is common and therefore tolerated, and to deter future violence. In February 1997, our government initiated an antipoverty program called pase. In five of nine targeted micro regions designed to try the break the circle of property by tying together health, education and nutrition benefits with special emphasis on woman and girls.

### **Terrorism**

There is terrorism all around the world and even here in Mexico. When the attack on the empire state buildings happened [9/11], we realized how important it was to stop

terrorism, but when the U.S. wanted to go to war with Iraq, we could not support them in the war with no prove of weapons of mass destruction. We told U.S. not to take it to a vote in U.N. because we would vote against them. We would help in any other way it could but not in a violent way. We said that we could not support a war just on the evidence that was giving.

U.S punished us for not supporting them. It was the first time that Mexico went against the U.S. since they have been allies; so the U.S punished us by taking away the compromise that would help legalize teens in the U.S and help so immigrants can come the U.S. to work and support their family.

### **Regional Conflict Management**

Is our honor to represent two-issues: one inside in Mexico is in Chiapas and another international is with USA in the war Iraq. The problem in Chiapas is the problem of the Indians. The problem of the Indians was the Spanish people that arrive 500 years ago that during which the Latinos pushed the Mayans off their land. This continued today. The indigenous people of Chiapas were forced to move to the thin, rocky slopes of the highland and also to the nearby lower elevation levels. But the region of Chiapas, the surrounding cities, and the countries involved with the economic oil boom are most affected by this. The country of Mexico and its leaders were the main attributers to the Chiapas revolt.

The impact of the Iraq war on us will depend on the length of the conflict, how it affects the U.S. economy, and whether the U.S. homeland experiences retaliatory terrorist attacks. The big question seems to be whether President Fox's reluctance to support President Bush in taking action to disarm Saddam Hussein's regime will hinder U.S. - Mexico relations is to the economic, political, social, and diplomatic ebbs and flows created by the conflict in Iraq.

### **World Health**

Little girl with pigtails clenches her mother's arm with a look of sadness. A man hangs his head down while massaging his temples. An elderly woman wipes her eyes with a tissue. These people in our country are part of the 60 percent of their region's population who cannot afford health care. That's why they wait patiently to receive primary care from Loma Linda University's Students for International Mission.

AIDS is not such of big problem here, because we have a bigger problem. The big problem is the respiratory system because of the mass pollution we have. We don't have that many Doctors per person but we have at least one clinic per every little town.

### **Global Warming:**

Mexico was once a country that you could breath fresh air, but now if you live in the northern part or in Mexico City it is very hard to get non polluted air. In Mexico City the pollution is trapped by mountains and the population is at its highest. Nowadays there are more cars and buses that produce greenhouse gases. To the north, around the borders, the United States has built factories that pollute the air and make life hard for the people

who live there. These are all factors that made us become one of the first countries that is a major producer of green house gas emissions to ratify the Kyoto Protocol.

We ratified the Kyoto Protocol during the United Nations Millennium summit; we became the 29<sup>th</sup> country in the Protocol.

**Conclusion**

World health is important to everyone, just as all of the other issues are. We are starting to create programs, here at home, to reduce smog and to improve the lives of our citizens. Yet, many of our problems do not have borders that can keep them in or make a solution work for all of us. We look forward to working with all nations to discuss our common problems and concerns. We hope this would help to the humanity to have a better future.