

MEXICO

REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION IN MEXICO OF SOME OF THE SPECIFIC OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES SET OUT IN THE "INTER-AMERICAN PROGRAM FOR THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF MIGRANTS, INCLUDING MIGRANT WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES" OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

The following information describes the actions of the government of Mexico under the aegis of various programs, notably the National Migrants' Human Rights Program, and other institutional initiatives for protecting migrants. They overlap with some of the specific optional activities suggested to the member states of the Organization of American States (OAS) in the Inter-American Program for the Promotion and Protection of Migrants' Rights.

Exchange information about the migratory phenomenon, its characteristics, dimensions, statistics, and implications. Improve statistical information systems and foster the exchange of information and best practices through the use of information and communication technologies.

The webpage of the National Migration Institute (www.inami.gob.mx) includes a section on "Migration Statistics," which presents information collected at the Institute's regional and local offices throughout the country and provides annual and monthly data for the main migration variables. It offers statistics on Migration Records and Control; Migratory Regulation; Rejections, Seizures, and Returns; Migrant Protection; and Repatriation of Mexicans from the United States.

On December 27, 2005, the Secretariat of the Interior, the National Migration Institute (INM), the National Statistics, Geography, and Informatics Institute (INEGI), and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) signed a Cooperation Agreement covering execution of the project "Statistical Information System on Migrations in Meso-America" (SIEMMES), the chief aim of which is to furnish information for presenting and monitoring the dimensions and characteristics of international population movements taking place among the nations of the Meso-American region, as well as of those occurring into and out from that part of the world.

Additionally, in January 2001 work began on the implementation of the Statistical Information System on Migrations in Central America (SIEMCA), which was designed and executed by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), with assistance from ECLAC through the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE).

In April 2005, SIEMCA was transformed into the Statistical Information System on Migrations in Meso-America (SIEMMES). With the incorporation of Mexico, SIEMMES seeks to consolidate the results already obtained by SIEMCA and, at the same, to complete and further develop the production of information for the Central American countries and Mexico, thus guaranteeing its future sustainability.

The information that SIEMMES contains comes from interconnecting and collating data generated by various sources in the countries: records of international arrivals and departures, population censuses, and door-to-door surveys. A set of statistical charts and tables show the most noteworthy indicators that best describe the migratory processes, and users are able to access information by means of different search methods.

Facilitate the access of migrants to public information, in accordance with domestic legislation.

Empower migrants to make informed decisions by disseminating information on the legal avenues for migration and on the dangers associated with the smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons.

The documentary "Del Sur al Norte" was produced, as a joint effort between the INM and *Promoción de los Derechos Humanos A.C.*, with the aim of discouraging migration, informing migrants about the geography and climate of the areas where they cross and thus preventing possible deaths. This material is distributed by the INM's regional offices, the national coordinator of Migrant Assistance Offices, the Central American embassies (for dissemination in those countries), and captive audiences. In addition, the material was distributed among the Central American consuls, for further distribution in their countries. A total of 306 copies of the documentary were handed out.

During the first quarter of 2004, 200 copies of the documentary "Del Sur al Norte" and 250 copies of the report entitled "Grupos Beta" were given to the company Autobuses de Oriente (ADO) and its coordinated services for free distribution at the 400 bus stations they maintain in the south and southeast of the country. The video-segment "Grupos Beta" was produced by XEIMT (Channel 22) for the program "Conexión México," a television production that aimed to report on the situations faced by migrants on both sides of the northern border.

In addition, 50 two-minute videos (copies) were produced, containing the public information films "Denuncia Coyotes" on human smuggling, "Grupos Beta," and "Sásabe Grupo Beta," a newly created group of the Migrant Protection Program in the state of Sonora, for distribution among the consular corps accredited in Mexico.

A hundred copies of the eight-minute video titled "Autobuses" were made for the Migrant Protection Program and delivered to the coordinating offices of Migration Oversight and Verification.

A three-minute video titled "Repatriación Voluntaria" was produced to encourage acceptance of the Voluntary Repatriation Program and for transmission to captive audiences.

In the fields of prevention and guidance, during February, April, August, and October, the Grupos Beta were provided with 260,000 Human Rights Booklets and 270,000 preventive pamphlets on risks, for distribution among migrants.

The Secretariat of the Interior (SEGOB), through the National Migration Institute (INM), produced a special 3,000-copy edition of the Convention, which it then distributed among personnel of both SEGOB and the INM for them to read and comply with.

The INM is distributing 5,000 copies of an information pamphlet about the Convention's main provisions, intended for the migrant population and for those civil servants that work alongside the INM in enforcing migration law. It should be noted that at the Regional Conference on Migration (CRM), the member countries have been urged, on several occasions, to ratify the Convention.

Consider the signing, ratification, or accession to all universal and inter-American human rights instruments, and take specific measures at the national level to strengthen respect for the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all persons, including those of women, children, senior citizens, indigenous peoples, migrants and their families, repatriated and disabled persons, and anyone who belongs to any other vulnerable group, among others.

Within inter-American forums, in resolutions AG/RES. 1404 (XXVI-O/96) and AG/RES. 1480 (XXVII-O/97), of 1996 and 1997, respectively, Mexico supported the creation of the office of the Special Rapporteur for Migrant Workers and Members of their Families under the aegis of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

Resolution AG/RES. 2027 (XXXIV-O/04), "The human rights of all migrant workers and their families", adopted by the General Assembly of the Organization of American States on June 8, 2004, contains the same basic criteria as the corresponding resolutions of the United Nations.

It should be noted that the resolution invites the member states to consider the possibility of inviting the Special Rapporteur on Migrant Workers and Their Families of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to visit their countries to assist him in discharging his duties effectively.

Thus, in response to the invitation extended by the Mexican government, the office of the Special Rapporteur on Migrant Workers and their Families of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights visited Mexico on July 25 to August 1, 2002, in order to collect information on the situation of migrant workers.

During their stay, officials from the Rapporteur's office visited three cities: Mexico City, Tapachula, and Ciudad Juárez, together with various other points along Mexico's border with Guatemala and on the northern border between Mexico and the United States. The delegation from the Rapporteur's office met with various government officials and representatives of civil society organizations.

In its report, the Rapporteur's office drew up a series of recommendations for the government of Mexico, which are as of this date being analyzed with a view to their effective implementation.

This resolution also urges the OAS member states to participate constructively in the International Labour Conference, with a view to achieving consensus on the topic of "Migrant workers (general discussion based on an integrated approach)." On December 9, 1997, Mexico also asked the Inter-American Court of Human Rights for an advisory opinion on the obligations set out in international law with respect to the right to consular assistance of foreigners arrested by the authorities in a destination state.

The consultation was in connection with minimum judicial guarantees and due legal process in legal cases involving the imposition of the death penalty on foreigners whom the receiving state

failed to apprise of their right to communicate with and request assistance from the consular authorities of their home countries.

In response to Mexico's request, on October 1, 1999, the Court issued Advisory Opinion OC-16/99, in which it concluded that Article 36 of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations recognizes, with respect to detained foreigners, a series of individual rights including the right to information on consular assistance, in connection with which the corresponding duties are incumbent on the receiving country. The Court also concluded that the article deals with the protection of the rights of a national of another state and is a part of international human rights law.

The opinions offered in OC-16 were used as the basis for Mexico's arguments in the Avena Case, described above.

Additionally, based on the government's concern for ensuring that Mexican migrants (both documented and undocumented) in other countries receive fair treatment, Mexico again asked the Inter-American Court of Human Rights for an advisory opinion setting guidelines for states' relations with migrants, in compliance with the obligations set out in international human rights law.

In reply to this request, on September 17, 2003, the Court issued Advisory Opinion OC-18/03, specifying that the human rights of migrants must be upheld, irrespective of their legal or illegal migratory status. The Opinion holds that the migratory status of a person cannot be used by the state as a justification to deny that person the enjoyment and exercise of his human rights, including those relating to work.

In addition, Mexico actively promoted the Inter-American Program for the Promotion and Protection of the Human Rights of Migrants, including Migrant Workers and Their Families.

It must be noted that Mexico has been one of the main advocates of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Their Families ever since the Mexican government placed the issue before the UN General Assembly in 1980. The Mexican State signed that instrument on May 22, 1991, and ratified it on March 8, 1999; the Convention was promulgated in the Official Journal of the Federation on August 13 of that year, and came into force on July 1, 2003.

The agency responsible for oversight of the Convention is the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. That committee consists of ten experts, including Dr. Francisco Alba, a Mexican national.

On November 18, 2005, the government of Mexico submitted its First Report on the implementation of the Convention to the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

On June 16, 2004, the National Migration Institute organized a Dialogue Workshop for following up on the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Their Families, at which representatives of the government, academia, and civil society spoke about Mexico's implementation of the commitments set out in that Convention.

On April 26, 2004, the National Migration Institute (INM) and the National Women's Institute (INMUJERES) signed a General Cooperation Agreement, with the aim of strengthening actions for promoting, protecting, respecting, and publicizing the human rights of Mexican and foreign women migrants.

Under that General Agreement, Regional Forums on Women Migrants and Human Rights were held, together with a permanent publicity campaign about the human rights of Mexican women living and/or working in the United States, and for women living in the communities of origin: Forum on "Women and International Migration on the Southern Border" (November 4 to 5, 2004, in Tuxtla Gutiérrez, Chis.); Forum on "Internal Migration" (December 2 to 3, 2004, in Guanajuato, Gto.).

June 1, 2005, saw the establishment of the "Interinstitutional Panel on Gender and Migration," coordinated by INMUJERES and the INM and made up of various federal government agencies and civil society organizations. The aim of this panel is to assist in coordinating comprehensive and combined interinstitutional and inter-state policies, programs, projects, and actions to guarantee the respect and promotion of the human rights of women affected by migratory phenomena.

Binational Training Days in Gender and International Migration (southern border) were held on June 15 to 16, 2005, in Cancún, Quintana Roo; and on August 10 to 11, 2005, Binational Training Days in Gender and International Migration (northern border) were held in Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua. The aim of these events was to sensitize, from a gender and human rights perspective, the staff of public and private bodies that work with women affected by migration; and to promote, through training activities, the incorporation of gender awareness into the policies, plans, and programs of government agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and associations of Mexicans abroad.

The third working meeting of the Interinstitutional Panel, held on August 26, 2005, agreed to hold the "National Migration and Gender Day: Origin, Transit, and Destination" in the city of Guanajuato, Guanajuato, on November 8 to 10, 2005. The aim of this event was to provide a forum for reflection and analysis about the array of problems faced by women migrants, and by those who live in high-migration areas, in order to devise proposals and initiatives for gender-aware public internal migration policies to help the development of strategies and programs for those women in Mexico who are affected by the migration phenomenon.

The Interinstitutional Program for Assisting Borderland Children has been in operation since 1996. It is coordinated by the National System for Integral Family Development (SNDIF), with participation by the INM and the SRE, and aims to comprehensively address the risks and problems faced by vulnerable children living in the borderlands between Mexico and the United States. It provides them with care and upholds their human rights, from the moment they are brought into custody until they are returned to their families or communities of origin.

The Interinstitutional Program has a network of 22 transit shelters along the northern border, in which the three levels of government and civil society organizations work together in assisting repatriated minor migrants.

Consider signing, ratifying or acceding to the UN Convention against Organized Transnational Crime and its Protocols.

Mexico worked for the adoption of the Convention of Palermo and its additional Protocols, which are currently in force. On March 4, 2003, Mexico deposited with the Secretary General of the United Nations its instruments of ratification of the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and of two of its additional protocols dealing with the illicit trafficking of migrants and preventing and punishing trafficking in human lives, particularly women and children.

It is currently engaged in an internal process to incorporate the provisions of those international instruments into federal and state law and practice, and to disseminate them at the national level.

Train government officials involved in migratory functions, on migratory legislation, protection of the human rights of migrants and their families, conditions of vulnerability of migrants and their families, identification and protection of refugees and potential asylum seekers, the modus operandi of networks involved in smuggling of migrants and human trafficking, and the identification and assistance of the victims.

The INM regularly holds technical training courses for officers and administrative staff, and these address the protection of the human rights of migrants and their families, with special emphasis on the rights of women migrants. Thus, for example, on December 9 to 10, 2003, the Workshop on the Human Rights of Women and Children Migrants was held in Veracruz. The goal of this workshop was to provide basic human rights tools, with gender awareness, for public employees with responsibilities in attending to migrants.

In 2003, the College of the Northern Border conducted an assessment of the Paisano Program, which recorded a 98% satisfaction level with the services provided by that program. However, work is still needed on expanding preventive information and dissemination in the United States; civil society participation; greater training for public officials and enhanced awareness; and generating trust among Mexicans abroad so they can present their complaints and their complaints can be given specific processing.

Parallel to this, the INM is working on training its officers in the practical enforcement of the Vienna Convention, in order to prevent violations of migrant workers' rights.

The INM has signed two consensus-building agreements with the Red Cross. The first deals with the holding of training courses for the members of the Grupo Beta migrant protection groups; and the second states that the Red Cross is to be responsible for checking the health of all persons taken into custody throughout the Republic.

Training for Grupo Beta members is continuous and permanent. During 2003, a total of 19 courses were held, at which 125 Migrant Protection Agents were trained. Notable courses included: (1) Second Binational Academy, taught by the Border Patrol (Borstar), including topics such as first aid, search and rescue, water rescues, CPR, and personal defense techniques; (2) Ethics and Values: Mystique in Public Service, taught by the ITAM; and (3) Seminar on Human Rights, taught by the INM. During 2004, 355 Beta agents were trained at 59 courses, covering topics such as first aid, water rescues, CPR, abseiling, human rights, dehydration, blackouts and comas, teamwork, and civil

service ethics. During the months of March and April 2004, the diploma course titled "Operational Diploma in Migrant Protection and Rescue" was taught. It was held in two sessions, each with a duration of 19 days, at which 60 Beta agents received training in such substantial issues as first aid, search and rescue, medical emergencies, personal defense, human rights, individual guarantees, and civil service ethics. It also introduced constant knowledge updates, with weekly practices inside each group, supported by video-recorded materials supplied by the Border Patrol.

On July 20, 2005, the coordinating bureau of INM offices gave a seminar on the operations of the Grupos Beta in Guatemala City. It was attended by 34 officials from the General Migration Directorate, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the office of the Ombudsman of Guatemala.

Develop programs to promote authorized migration and migrant worker agreements.

Mexico-Canada Temporary Agricultural Workers Program. This program began in 1974 with the signing of the "Memorandum of Understanding and Agreement for the Temporal Employment of Agricultural Workers." Its purpose is to document temporary Mexican migrant agricultural workers and to send them to work in Canada, ensuring that they are hired in compliance with the applicable labor rights.

The following agencies are involved in the program: the Secretariat of Labor and Social Welfare (STPS) selects the workers, oversees timely compliance with the requests made by the Canadian employers, and draws up the documentation covering each one; the Secretariat of Health (SSA) carries out the medical tests required by workers to be considered suitable for the agricultural work they are to perform; the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (SRE) coordinates the Program through its embassies and consulates in Canada, issues traveling documents for the workers, and in coordination with the airlines that carry them, oversees and assists their journeys to Canada; and the Secretariat of the Interior (SEGOB), through the National Migration Institute (INM), prepares ID documents for the workers' designated beneficiaries, based on the Sole Workers' Form (FUT) drawn up by the STPS. The workers' current passports are stamped, authorizing their departure from the country. Support is also given in filling out the Statistical Migratory Form for Mexicans (FME).

The agricultural workers are classified into the following groups: nominal workers are those that have fulfilled contracts in previous years with a given employer; selected workers are those with first-time assignments from the STPS; and substitute workers are those who replace nominal workers who, for whatever reason, are unable to travel to Canada.

The main states these workers come from are México, Tlaxcala, and Puebla. The main destination provinces in Canada are Ontario, Québec, Manitoba, and Alberta. Most of the workers arrive in Canada during the summer, with some reporting as early as February. They are allowed to stay for up to eight months. Since the program's creation and as of November 2005, a total of 134,518 Mexican agricultural workers have participated in it.

Documentation program for the legal and migratory security of Guatemalan agricultural workers. The National Migration Institute launched this program in 1997 to issue Agricultural Visitor Migratory Forms (FMVA), which authorize their entry and the activities they pursue with the migratory status of nonimmigrant visitors (Article 42, section III, of the General Population Law).

They are issued, free of charge, at all entry points in the state of Chiapas, and holders can remain in that state for up to one year, leaving and re-entering the country on multiple occasions during their stay. Bearers are authorized to work exclusively on a specified estate or *ejido*, with a specified employer. They are also granted free transit exclusively in the state of Chiapas.

Currently the government of Mexico is negotiating with the Guatemalan authorities with a view to establishing streamlined mechanisms for addressing the needs of these agricultural workers from a multidisciplinary and jointly responsible perspective. In the year 2004, a total of 42,895 agricultural visitors were recorded. Between January and October 2005, the figure was 36,697.

Promote and implement voluntary repatriation programs as an alternative to deportation or expulsion.

On May 17, 2005, the "Agreement for the Orderly, Streamlined, and Safe Terrestrial Repatriation from Mexico of Salvadoran Migrants" was signed. It aims to set the basis for the ordered and safe return of migrants of Salvadoran nationality who are taken into custody in Mexico. It also provides for the special treatment of vulnerable groups, such as minors under the age of 18, people with special needs, those aged over 60, and trafficking victims.

On June 10, 2005, the Mexico–United States "Internal Voluntary Repatriation Program" was launched in the Sonora-Arizona region. Its aim is to make progress with ensuring human flows between the two nations that ensure that the human rights of our countrymen are upheld. The basic principle of the program is its voluntary nature – in other words, the Mexican citizen's express recognition before the U.S. authorities, confirmed before the Mexican consul, of his desire to be repatriated to his place of origin in Mexican territory. Particular emphasis is placed on migrants deemed "at risk," such as the elderly, children, the disabled, the weak and the sick, pregnant women, and Mexican nationals who have previously been rescued in the desert.

On June 28, 2005, a new version of the "Agreement for the Safe and Orderly Repatriation of Guatemalan, Salvadoran, and Honduran Nationals at the Borders of Mexico and Guatemala." It sets the basis for their safe and orderly return. The two countries agree to take care of migrants' basic needs.

Issue identity documents to migrants by their states of origin at their consular representations.

Since 1871, the Mexican Consular Matriculation Card is the Mexican government's official way of recording its citizens abroad. The issuing of such documents is recognized by the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations. Mexican consulates distribute these cards to Mexican nationals abroad.

In March 2002, the Mexican government designed a new version of the consular matriculation card – the High Security Consular Matriculation (MCAS) – and began to promote it amongst U.S.-based Mexican communities.

In addition to serving as a form of official registration, the consular matriculation card is used as an ID document by Mexicans abroad – for instance, in dealings with state government offices and police departments, to open bank accounts and to join public libraries, and, in certain states, to obtain

driving licenses. The use of the consular matriculation card catalyzes a series of positive economic transactions and provides access to a countless number of everyday formalities.

All consular matriculation cards are issued for a period of five years. The old cards are expected to be replaced by MCAS cards by 2007. Since March 2002, the MCAS cards have incorporated new cutting-edge technologies and new security measures, to prevent their falsification.

The Government of Mexico has developed a database, with which consulates can keep closer control over the MCAS cards. Consular employees have been trained in how to detect typical forgery errors and to check up on personal information when an MCAS card is requested.

With the launch of the new security measures, between March 2002 and July 2004, the Mexican government has issued 2,214,738 MCAS cards.

Currently, 377 cities, 163 counties, and 33 states, along with 178 financial institutions and 1,180 police departments in the United States accept MCAS cards as a valid form of ID.

MCAS cards have become important instruments for obtaining financial services, with a positive impact on everyday life. MCAS cards also help prevent crime, by curtailing such informal channels as black markets. MCAS cards help police forces by facilitating communications with migrant communities and guaranteeing that people who report or witness crimes are not afraid of being deported. They also assist in identifying people. MCAS cards reduce the vulnerability of migrants as potential crime victims. Before these cards were accepted as forms of ID by financial institutions, undocumented workers were forced to keep their earnings in cash, making them easy targets for crimes such as robbery.

On July 16, 2003, the United States House of Representatives adopted an amendment requiring the Department of State to regulate the use of MCAS card as a valid form of ID in that country.

On October 1, 2003, the United States Treasury Department defended in Congress its decision to allow U.S. banks to accept MCAS cards as a form of ID.

In addition, on April 16, 2004, the Blue Cross association of health-care companies began accepting MCAS cards as valid forms of ID and promoting, through the Mexican consulate in Fresno, California, health services for card holders. Thanks to this decision, Mexican migrants lacking a Social Security number can obtain medical services by using their MCAS cards.

Offer broad public information campaigns and basic and secondary education programs on non-discrimination to encourage the understanding and appreciation of the contribution of migrants to the home and host societies.

The Federal Law to Prevent and Eliminate Discrimination (LFPED) was published on July 11, 2003. The text of this law reiterates the ban on discrimination for any reason and promotes a new culture whereby discrimination is recognized and tackled and human rights enjoy unrestricted and universal respect.

To enforce the LFPED, a National Anti-Discrimination Council (CONAPRED) was established. This council's mission is to pursue actions to prevent and eliminate discrimination and to formulate and work for public policies that ensure equal opportunities and equitable treatment for all individuals. This body has a Consultative Council and a Management Board that provide for participation by both the government and citizens. It hears and investigates complaints alleging acts of discrimination committed by private citizens, or by civil servants or federal authorities in discharging their functions.

The Council can apply administrative measures to those individuals or institutions, including public employees, who are deemed responsible for acts of discrimination. These administrative measures can only be enforced with respect to private citizens if they have previously agreed to submit themselves to the corresponding conciliation agreement.

In addition, Title 10, "Crimes against personal dignity," of the Criminal Code for the Federal District, published in the District's Official Gazette on July 16, 2002, criminalizes the offense of "Discrimination" and provides for a punishment of between one and three years in prison and a fine of between 50 and 200 days' minimum wages for mistreating or excluding any person or for denying or restricting labor rights.

Mexico is also a signatory of the following international instruments, which uphold nondiscrimination: the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

Civil society organizations have expressed concerns with respect to migratory matters. They maintain that the applicable legislation tends to be discriminatory, in that it restricts the right of standing in divorce proceedings between foreigners and in marriages between foreigners and Mexicans – in particular, Article 67 of the LGP, which states that to pursue any legal formality before a federal, local, or municipal authority, or a notary public, foreigners must provide evidence of their legal presence in the country. However, the spirit of that provision is intended to keep foreigners from committing or being victims of crimes such as the falsification of documents, human smuggling, or trafficking in human lives, in particular in what are known as servile marriages.

Provide suitable mechanisms for reporting and filing complaints made by migrants and civil society organizations of violence and alleged violations of human rights, without prejudice to their right to access to the applicable protection mechanisms of the inter-American and universal systems.

A mechanism for regular oversight by staff from the central sector has been launched, mainly at the most isolated migration stations. As a part of this mechanism, at the request of the National Migration Institute, a permanent office for CNDH personnel was set up within the Iztapalapa migration station on August 1, 2003. The Tapachula migration station will be equipped with a permanent office of the State Human Rights Commission (CEDH).

With respect to sending of remittances, take concrete actions to promote the establishment, as soon as possible, of necessary conditions, in order to achieve the goal of reducing by at least half the regional average cost of these transfers, if possible, no later than 2008. Also, adopt as needed or appropriate, measures such as the promotion of competition between the

providers of these services, the elimination of regulatory obstacles and other restrictive measures that affect the cost of this transfers, as well as the use of new technologies, while maintaining effective financial oversight.

Mexico places no restrictions on international funds transfers and has worked to make international payments more efficient.

The U.S. Federal Reserve and the Bank of Mexico (BANXICO) have established an "Electronic International Funds Transfer" system (TEFI). This recently came on line for transfers from the USA to Mexico and, it is hoped, by 2005 it will be functioning in both directions to provide a simple, safe, and cheap means of transfers between bank accounts in the two countries.

Mexico and the United States included the issue of remittances in their "Partnership for Prosperity" bilateral initiative, which was created in late 2001 and aims basically at increasing competition in order to reduce the cost of those transfers and to tie them in with productive projects. The main achievements of this initiative include the following: a reduction in the average cost of remittances, between 1999 and 2003, from US\$31 to \$14 per transaction, with alternatives available today for less than ten dollars; the growing incorporation of Mexican migrants into the formal U.S. financial sector, using the Mexican consular matriculation card as a form of identification; the expansion and diversification of innovative financial products and services; and the regular dissemination of information on the exchange rate and the cost of remittance transfer services.

In 2002, BANXICO issued a series of regulations to be observed by credit institutions and other companies that provide fund transfer services. With this, BANXICO obliges those service providers to furnish information in order to make them more transparent and improve book-keeping. During 2003, almost 98% of all remittances sent to Mexico arrived by means of formal channels. Efforts continue to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of formal transactions, in order to involve migrants and their families into the financial system so they can benefit from reduced costs and channel their funds into productive projects.

It should be noted that in 2003 remittances increased by 35.16% over the figures for the previous year. Mexicans resident in the United States sent a record total of US\$13.265 million back to Mexico in 2003 and more than \$16.000 million in 2004. With this, remittances consolidated their position as Mexico's second most important source of foreign earnings.

To promote ties of identity between Mexicans living abroad and their communities of origin and to encourage the productive use of remittances and migrant initiatives, thus assisting the development of those communities, in 2002 the federal government launched the "3x1 Citizen Initiative Program" (the 3x1 Program), which seeks to support and strengthen citizens' initiatives in carrying out projects to improve local residents' quality of life by combining federal, state, and municipal funds with the contributions of migrant organizations and groups.

The 3x1 Program is a part of the micro-regions strategy, under which the creation of basic social infrastructure, provided by the projects submitted by the migrants and the community, furthers the local development of those communities

Notable among the main results attained by the 3x1 Program by late 2004 are its coverage in 23 states and 343 municipalities around the country and its support for a total of 1,263 investment

projects; additionally, scholarships have begun to be awarded to migrants' children, and joint investment programs are receiving greater promotion.

Now, in compliance with the commitments Mexico assumed at the Working Group on Migration (WGM) of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the Technical Seminar on Migration, Remittances, and Development was held on November 17 to 18, 2004, with the participation of officials from the OECD, government agencies, academic circles, and civil society. Among the main conclusions reached at this seminar: making good use of the productive potential of remittances requires a state migration policy that is comprehensive, endures from one administration to the next, and involves the migrant community by taking on board their economic, political, and cultural needs and aspirations and systematically analyzing local demands from a transnational perspective.

In addition, the development of a comprehensive policy must include, foremost among its basic premises, the provision of an environment of trust, security, and certainty so migrants can invest in their communities of origin; and, secondly, the state must assist migrants' initiatives to optimize the funds sent back, by making projects viable, ensuring access to funding for them, and strengthening those programs that already exist, such as the 3x1 Program, against a backdrop of closer institutional ties among all the stakeholders, provided that this does mean that the state shirks its responsibilities in promoting development and productive investment. The migrant population must be informed about the programs, initiatives, alternatives, and successful experiences that exist with the productive use of remittances, as well as about whom they must contact in order to participate in them.

Although the decline in migratory returns and the trend toward permanent migration have led to reductions in remittance volumes, they have become a determining factor in halting macroeconomic imbalances by totaling more than US\$16 billion in 2004 and accounting for 2.4% of GDP. For that reason those members of the migrant population with the economic potential for investing in their communities must be identified, bearing in mind that one out of every four Mexicans in the USA live in poverty and are thus unable to save and invest and, for the most part, send remittances home to take care of their families. Collective remittances for project funding account for only 1% of the total sent home.

Provide the means to preserve the health of every person through sanitary measures relative to medical assistance to the extent permitted by public and community resources, consistent with each state's constitutional and domestic legal framework and applicable international human rights law.

As regards urgent medical attention for migrant workers on an equal basis to the treatment received by nationals, Article 36 of the General Health Law states that foreigners entering the country with the main purpose of making use of health services are to be charged in full for the cost thereof, except in emergency cases.

In addition to private medicine, health services in Mexico are provided by institutions that attend to insured and noninsured populations: IMSS and ISSSTE for the first group, and IMSS-Solidaridad and the Health Secretariat for the second.

Among the Mexican migrant population in the United States, the 2001-2006 National Health Program included the "Vete Sano, Regresa Sano" action program, which offers health protection at

the place of origin, in transit, at the destination point, and during the return. To this end, dissemination, educational outreach, training, and medical attention activities were carried out. The actions put in place included the creation of a network of support services for migrants' families, providing for the holding of Binational Health Weeks in the United States, with simultaneous, complementary, and sustained actions for promoting health messages; the preparation of a Meso-American health diagnosis for migrants between Mexico and Central America starting in January 2005; design and dissemination of the "ABC of Migrant Health"; and publicizing migration routes, with the location of medical units and facilities.

To date, migrant health actions have progressed along different lines: health promotion actions, seeking direct contact with the population, through exchanges of health professionals and nurses; the systematization of information of use to migrants; and support for binational research into migrant health issues.

The IME maintains "Health Windows" at consulates, which serve to provide information and advice on health issues, enabling migrants to obtain timely health care, irrespective of their migratory status. These Health Windows have yielded good results, since they assist, educate, and guide Mexican migrants with information on the clinics, hospitals, and all other services available to them and their families in the United States.

Implement the actions and programs needed to improve the effective access of all migrant children to the educational systems wherever they find themselves, consistent with each state's constitutional and domestic legal framework and applicable international human rights law.

Implement the actions and programs needed to improve the effective access of all migrants and their families to education, consistent with each state's constitutional and domestic legal framework and applicable international human rights law.

Facilitate the participation of migrants in the cultural life of communities.

With respect to access to education, Article 3 of the Constitution provides that all individuals have the right to receive education. In working to uphold this right, our country has signed various international instruments, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1990, International Labour Organization Convention 138 in 1973, and the International Conference on Child Labour in 1997.

Since 1981, the Secretariat of Public Education (SEP) has had a program called "Primary Education for Migrant Children" (PRONIM), which offers basic education at the primary level for school-age children traveling with their families to different states of the Mexican Republic in search of work as temporary agricultural workers. In 2004 the Program operated in 15 of the country's states: Sinaloa, Baja California, Baja California Sur, Colima, Durango, Hidalgo, Jalisco, Morelos, Nayarit, Nuevo León, Oaxaca, Puebla, San Luis Potosí, Sonora, and Veracruz. The top three states – Sinaloa, Oaxaca, and Baja California Sur – account for 54% of the children enrolled in primary education and, at the same time, Oaxaca is one of the main states of origin of migrants. This Program applies to internal migrations; if provided with the necessary resources, it would be ideal for expanding to cover the children of international migrants.

With reference to the right of access to education, through its Education Information Days, the IME establishes and cultivates close ties with leaders, authorities, and educators in the United States with responsibility for education programs targeted at Hispanics. These events serve to publicize the educational services that the Government of Mexico and public and private institutions offer in the United States for Mexicans and people of Mexican origin living in that country.

The IME also works to ensure that migrant workers and their families maintain cultural ties with Mexico, their country of origin. Thus, the Institute has the following programs:

- “Lazos” is an information service, designed by the IME and launched on June 2, 2003. It is published in two versions: (1) an information summary, distributed from Monday through Friday, containing a selection of news stories published in the Mexican and U.S. press, about Mexicans and Hispanics in the United States; (2) an information bulletin, issued as and when major stories break, reporting on matters and events of importance to Mexican and Hispanic communities in the USA.
- The IME also has a webpage, which in addition to allowing users to learn about what the IME is and how it is structured, provides information on issues of importance such as the migration debate, votes for citizens abroad, statistics, competitions, institutional offerings, etc. It also gives a list of the web pages of the various communities of Mexicans or people of Mexican origin found in the United States.
- The IME also organizes competitions for young Mexicans living abroad, such as “Éste es mi México” and “Otra Mirada.” These competitions encourage pride in their country of origin among Mexican and Mexican-American children living in the United States, in order to strengthen ties with their roots and traditions.

Various civil society organizations have stated that, in their opinion, the LGP and its regulations contain provisions that are not favorable to irregular migrants in asserting their rights. They have also stated that there have been cases in which public employees have violated the law by failing to allow migrant workers to register their undocumented children, even though the LGP allows the timely registration of the children of foreigners born within the territory of the nation without requiring prior proof of the legal presence there of the parents. The Constitution states that Mexican nationality is acquired by birth by *ius soli* or *ius sanguini*. In addition, the LGP provides that when foreigners have children who were born in the country, the Interior Secretariat may authorize their entry or permanent presence therein.

Cooperate and exchange information among states regarding migrant smuggling networks and develop individual and collective strategies in order to prevent these acts, investigate, prosecute, and punish smugglers, and to protect and assist migrants.

Letter of Understanding on Trafficking in Human Lives (LOA). On August 18, 2005, the Governments of Mexico and the United States formalized a program to implement cooperation projects to fight trafficking in human lives and related crimes, through the signing of an amendment to the Letter of Understanding on Anti-drug Cooperation (LOA), under which a total of US\$8.2 million would be assigned to cooperation programs to fight trafficking in our country.

The Letter of Understanding sets out seven collaborative projects intended to strengthen activities aimed at combating human trafficking. These projects entail investigating cases, dismantling criminal organizations, administering justice, attending to victims and social

reincorporation, dissemination of information, and raising public awareness about trafficking in human lives, support for a network of shelters, and protection mechanisms for victims.

Under the LOA, on October 12, 2005, the Technical Group on Trafficking in Persons was set up, comprising officials from the two countries, with the goal of establishing points of contact of the agencies involved and priority geographical areas for jointly tackling this problem.

October 19 saw the first meeting of the Working Group on Trafficking in Persons, which agreed to begin immediate work on addressing specific cases, through exchanges of information between the Center for Investigations and National Security (CISEN), the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic (PGR), and the U.S. Department of Justice and the Department of Homeland Security.

The 10th Interministerial Meeting of the Subgroup on Human Trafficking was held on November 28, 2005. On that occasion it was agreed that, during the first two months of 2006, the Interministerial Commission on Trafficking in Persons would be set up, with the aim of coordinating the efforts of all the government agencies involved, chiefly as regards: (i) prevention and victim services; (ii) training and punishment; and (iii) monitoring reforms and initiatives in Congress relating to human smuggling and trafficking in human lives.

On December 15, 2005, a bilateral teleconference of the Subgroup on Trafficking in Persons was held, during which Mexico agreed to strengthen its anti-trafficking coordination efforts among the three levels of government, through the Coordination Groups deployed in each of Mexico's 31 component states and the Federal District. In turn, the U.S. government, through the Department of Justice, agreed to appoint its Advisor for providing Mexico with procedural technical assistance. In early 2006 there will be a meeting to identify the NGOs that are to participate in the bilateral cooperation projects aimed against trafficking in human lives.

OASISS Program (Operation against Smugglers Initiative on Safety and Security). As for the trafficking of undocumented migrants, the INM participated actively in defining the terms for the implementation of the **OASIS Program** (*Operation against Smugglers (and traffickers) Initiative on Security*) and it assists other agencies, within the limits of its competence, in presenting a common front on those crimes.

On June 21 to 24, 2005, a bilateral meeting was held in Yuma, Arizona. It was attended by officials from the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (SRE), PGR, CISEN, and the INM, who worked to identify the cooperation necessary to criminally prosecute human traffickers and smugglers in either or both of the countries.

A binational meeting was held about the OASIS Program on October 17, in order to present the program's current results and to analyze the possibility of extending it to other points on the border.

The OASIS Program's most notable results include:

- (i) training for public officials in California (San Diego) and Arizona (Yuma and Tucson);
- (ii) a database containing the contact points of all sectors and ports of entry;
- (iii) the outstanding teamwork in drafting the joint press release that announced the program;
- (iv) the local-level prevention campaigns, carried on radio and television;
- (v) major results in terms of arrests and prosecutions in the two countries.

Between January 1 and September 28, 2005, at the national level, a total of 2,136 operations were conducted under the aegis of the Permanent National Operation against Human Smuggling and Trafficking and Related Crimes.

On April 23, 2004, during the official visit to Guatemala of President Vicente Fox, the Memorandum of Understanding for the Protection of Women and Children Victims of Human Smuggling and Trafficking on the Border between Mexico and Guatemala was signed; this document then came into effect on February 22, 2005.

The INM and the Guatemalan foreign ministry have worked together to draw up an annual work plan and an operational framework for implementing the Memorandum of Understanding.

During the first quarter of 2006, the first meeting of the Binational Technical Commission responsible for implementing the annual work program is planned to take place. We are waiting for Guatemala to inform us of the establishment of the Commission.

On May 17, 2005, the "Memorandum of understanding for the protection of victims of illicit human trafficking and smuggling, particularly women and children" was signed with El Salvador. It covers forms of collaboration among the two countries to protect the victims of illegal human trafficking and migrant smuggling.

Two memoranda, with Brazil and Ecuador, are being prepared to help combat human trafficking and smuggling.

Develop information and assistance programs aimed at migrants and their families who return to their countries of origin.

Protect the physical integrity of migrants and take appropriate measures to prevent, combat and eradicate violence and other forms of crime, such as fraud, extortion and corruption, against migrants.

Grupos Beta. The "Grupos Beta" Migrant Protection Groups of the National Migration Institute were created in 1990. They have played an important role in protecting all those migrants who face serious dangers in their attempts to cross the border at locations where their physical integrity is at greatest risk.

Currently 17 Migrant Protection Groups are in operation: 13 Grupos Beta on the northern border: Tijuana, Tecate, and Mexicali in Baja California; San Luis Río Colorado, Sonoyta, Nogales, Sásabe, and Agua Prieta in Sonora; Piedras Negras and Cd. Acuña in Coahuila; Ciudad Juárez and Puerto Palomas in Chihuahua; and Matamoros in Tamaulipas. A further four operate on the southern border: Comitán and Tapachula in Chiapas; Tenosique in Tabasco; and Acayucan in Veracruz. An additional four subordinate offices operate in Naco, Sonora, and Tuxtla, Pijijiapan, and Cd. Cuauhtémoc in Chiapas. The Grupos Beta of Puerto Palomas, Cd. Acuña, and Acayucan are still being formalized by municipal, state, and federal government officials.

The Grupos Beta were set up with skilled physicians specializing in traumatology, and their new members are paramedics and/or rescue personnel; the aim of all this is to provide migrants with an eminently humanitarian form of protection.

With support from the Mexican Red Cross, the INM established its *Program of Humanitarian Assistance to Vulnerable Populations*, which entails the installation of two mobile clinics, operated by emergency medical staff and rescue personnel, which patrol the area around San Luis Río Colorado, Sonoyta, Sásabe, and Naco in the state of Sonora, which is the area with the highest number of migrant deaths along the entire U.S. border.

The Grupo Beta has high-technology radiocommunications gear, consisting of 460 mobile and portable MATRA radios; in April 2004 it installed a telecommunications tower in the Sásabe region of Sonora, and a repeater station in Tubutama, Saric municipality, is also planned. This enables it to cover the Altar-Sásabe route, which has intense migratory flows, and to link it with the National Public Security Radiocommunications Network, thus facilitating interinstitutional coordination for the more effective protection of migrants across the nation's territory.

The oversight mechanisms necessary to ensure that all complaints of human rights violations made by migrants and received by the Grupos Beta are channeled to the competent authority have been put in place. In addition, in cases involving public employees, the complaints are referred to the Civil Service Secretariat for the relevant processing. At the same time, Interinstitutional Coordination Meetings are being held, attended by all the law enforcement agencies. These events study the situation observed in the areas of endeavor of the Grupos Beta, so that the steps needed to prevent migrants from being attacked in their persons and property can be taken.

The Grupos Beta install and conduct permanent maintenance on the *Preventive Signage*, in high-risk and high traffic areas, alerting migrants about the climatological and orographic dangers they face in traveling to the United States, with the aim of minimizing harm to migrants' physical integrity. The Grupos Beta also regularly update the *Atlas of Risks and Migratory Flow Routes*.

In the desert regions of the state of Baja California, particularly around Tecate and Mexicali, 25 water deposits have been installed and are being operated with assistance from international humanitarian organizations, thereby ensuring they are kept clean and with enough water for the migrants who pass through those desert areas.

Notable among the rescue operations conducted by the Grupos Beta during 2005 were the following:

- In January 2005 the Coordination Agreement on Actions for Protecting Migrants and the Specific Agreement for the creation of the Cd. Juárez Grupo Beta were signed by the three orders of government in the city of Chihuahua.
- In February, twenty-two new off-road trucks were put into operation to increase patrols in high-risk areas. In addition, during May an ambulance was put into operation in the southern zone, to assist in cases of medical emergencies involving injured migrants.
- In April the second Attention Module for Repatriated Minor Migrants in Sonora began operations, in coordination with the state DIF, at the facilities of the local INM office in Nogales, Sonora. It is intended to provide social and humanitarian assistance for that vulnerable segment of the population.
- Updates were performed on the Atlas of Risks and Migratory Flow Routes, which contains reliable technical information on the geographical areas traversed by migrants on their way to the United States, in order to establish permanent patrols in the regions with the highest risks and greatest levels of mass migrant traffic.
- In June the Grupos Beta of Puerto Palomas, Chihuahua, and Cd. Acuña, Coahuila began operations; they are currently being formalized.
- In order to reinforce rescue, first aid, and humanitarian social assistance operations, in August 15 new Migrant Protection Agents began work: nine to provide support on the northern border and six on the southern border.
- As part of efforts to professionalize rescue efforts and the effective protection of human rights, 31 courses were taught, with a total of 261 participants. Particularly notable were the Technical-Legal-Operational Update Workshops held in March and April in the cities of Tijuana, Piedras Negras, and Comitán, targeting the operational personnel of the Grupos Beta and addressing such issues as human rights, first aid, desert rescues, crisis interventions, CPR, the harmful effects of extreme temperatures, and fractures and immobilizing injuries. In addition, two Binational Mexico–United States Academies were held, dealing with search and rescue operations for at-risk migrants in the cities of El Centro, California, and Comitán, Chiapas, with the participation of specialized personnel from the Border Patrol.
- During June and September 2005, the Internal Voluntary Repatriation Program was put into practice in order to reduce the number of migrant deaths in the Sonora–Arizona region. It served to repatriate 20,590 Mexican nationals by air from Tucson to Mexico City, and thence by land to their home communities.
- The 2005 Summer Program was instituted on the northern border with aim of preventing risks and saving lives in the high-risk Sonora–Arizona corridor, which has been identified as the one with the densest migratory flows.

- During July and September, the Emergency Migrant Protection Plan was implemented on the northern border, with measures aimed at providing effective physical protection from the high temperatures recorded during that season.
- In December, the Winter Protection Program for Migrants was implemented on the northern border, with strategies and lines of action that provide the Grupos Beta with more and better resources for tackling the effects of low temperatures, enabling them to provide migrants with effective protection.
- In figures, the most important migrant assistance activities carried out by the Grupos Beta during 2005 included: rescuing 5,839 migrants; attending to 1,530 injured migrants; social assistance for 143,563; repatriating 120,002; and helping 96 crippled migrants.

Paisano Program. This program aims to ensure that Mexicans who enter, cross, or leave the country receive decent treatment, in accordance with law, by providing them with information and outreach services regarding their rights and obligations; the protection of their persons and property; awareness-raising and training for public employees and society in general; and attending to and following up on complaints and accusations. Since the start of President Fox's administration, Paisano has been a permanent program to provide prevention and guidance.

Its main achievements include the following:

- It created confidence in the Mexican government's efforts to fight corruption, protect property and lives, simplify bureaucratic procedures, and provide personalized attention.
- It developed and conducted a major educational effort among the Mexican community in the USA, informing them of their rights and obligations when visiting Mexico.
- It created and continues to promote a culture of prevention and compliance with domestic laws among Mexicans abroad, covering an information shortfall that existed between them and the institutions.
- It enjoys a high level of acceptance among communities of Mexican origin in the USA, and it ties their demands in with the procedures and services of offices and agencies.
- It encouraged state governments to create programs for their people living in the USA.
- The level of interinstitutional coordination enables it to maintain a small structure, with minimal costs that do not require additional spending.

Among the main results of the actions carried out in 2005 was the Personalized Information initiative. In 2005, 56,761 Mexicans abroad were provided with information over the telephone, through the mail, and at the program's offices; 3,579 public employees and members of civil society with direct contact with Mexicans abroad were given training on procedures, attention, and service quality. In addition, 106,903 visits were made to the webpage www.paisano.gob.mx.

Complaints and accusations are given prompt and personalized attention; they are channeled to the internal oversight organs of the state agencies and offices, and the parties involved are kept informed about their processing and results. In 2005, a total of 129 complaints and accusations were received and processed.

The **Guía Paisano** continues to be a vital source of information. Updating and expanding it is the work of 20 agencies of the federal public administration. The clear wording of these texts was achieved with the participation of the users, who modified and approved the language, making them easier to read. The 2005-2006 edition had a print run of 2 million copies, which are being distributed as follows:

- Consulates: through the consular network in the United States and Canada, with the support of the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs, where to date 722,400 copies have been handed out.
- In the Mexican Republic it is distributed chiefly through the 32 regional offices of the National Migration Institute, which to date have handed out 569,040; support is also given by the state offices of SECTUR, which distributed 45,120, and of SEDESOL, which distributed 42,720 copies. In addition, other government offices, such as the Agrarian Attorney's Office and the Secretariat of Health, through the "Vete Sano, Regresa Sano" Program, are also involved with distributing the Guide.

The INM bolsters its efforts with three **observer operations**, carried out at Easter, in the summer, and at year's end. To coordinate this, 119 meetings of state, local, and technical committees were held, together with meetings of the Interministerial Commission. These operations served to inform and guide almost 1.5 million people at the Paisano modules installed at entry points into Mexico and manned by 3,230 members of civil society. This led to a reduction in corruption levels.

Make the best efforts to secure compliance with labor laws, with a particular focus on the situation and working conditions of migrant workers, by building transparency, knowledge and professionalism, and by sharing best practices.

Migrant workers employed in our country have the same rights as Mexican nationals as regards earnings. The Constitution states that: "Equal work shall earn equal remuneration, irrespective of sex or nationality."

In line with this, the procedure for setting general minimum wages is applied equally across the country, irrespective of the person's migratory status.

Should the principle of legal equality or other labor rights be breached, workers, their beneficiaries, and their trade unions have the legal remedies afforded by the Federal Labor Law available for asserting their employment rights. The Federal Attorney for the Defense of Workers (PROFEDET) of the Secretariat of Labor and Social Welfare (STPS) offers workers and trade unions free advisory, conciliation, and legal representation services, thus promoting a culture of prevention and favoring reconciliation as a way to resolve conflicts speedily. If necessary, the PROFEDET also represents workers, their beneficiaries, and their trade unions before labor tribunals, courts of law, administrative hearings, and any other public or private institution.

With respect to social security, there are no impediments to keep migrant workers from joining the Mexican Social Security Institute (IMSS), provided that they meet the requirements set out in the Social Security Law.

The Social Security Law is an instrument of public benefit and it provides insurance for invalidity, old age, illnesses and accidents, life assurance, and any other aimed at protecting and upholding the wellbeing of workers and their families, without distinction between nationals and foreigners.

Employers are required to register their workers with the IMSS, giving the Institute the workers' Single Population Registration Number after previously investigating the migratory status of any foreigners they hire and checking that they have the authorization of the competent authority to perform the paid activity in question.

If migrant workers are registered with the IMSS, they then own the funds deposited in their individual accounts, in accordance with the Social Security Law; persons who retire or who reach pensionable age following a dismissal when already at an advanced age also receive, in addition to the pensions to which they are entitled, the funds that have accumulated in the retirement insurance subfunds.

In addition to this, the IMSS has entered into a Social Security Agreement with the government of Spain, signed on April 25, 1994, and in force since January 1, 1995, which applies to workers who are nationals of either country who give evidence of having been registered in the corresponding social security system, and to the members of their families recognized as beneficiaries. The agreement states that in Mexico the voluntary and obligatory regimes provided for in the Social Security Law shall apply with respect to pensions arising from on-the-job risks, disability insurance, old age, dismissal at an advanced age, and death. In Spain the General Regime and the Special Regimes apply with respect to pensions for on-the-job accidents and industrial illnesses, and pensions for disability, old age, death, and survival.

On April 27, 1995, Mexico signed an Agreement on Social Security with the government of Canada; it applies to any person who is or has been subject to the social security laws of either of the two countries. On June 29, 2004, Mexico and the United States signed an Agreement on Social Security, which is currently being ratified by the Senate; and it is currently working on the negotiation and ratification of an Agreement for the Exportation and Oversight of Social Security Benefits with the Government of the Netherlands.

As for Mexican workers employed abroad who are not covered by any of these agreements, Article 28(c) of the LFT states that they are entitled to the benefits extended to foreigners by the social security institutes in the country in which they worked and to the right to receive compensation for on-the-job risks.