# THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF DENMARK AND

### THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED MEXICAN STATES



# JOINT STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN 2023-2027

August 2023

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# 2. PREAMBLE

When Denmark and Mexico established diplomatic relations on 19 July 1827, Denmark was among the first countries in the world to acknowledge a sovereign Mexico. Since then, solid bonds of friendship and cooperation between our two countries have developed and expanded substantially.

Although separated by the Atlantic, our countries share common interests and values. We are committed to international rules-based multilateral system. We share challenges such as ensuring equal access to universal and high quality healthcare for all citizens through economically sustainable healthcare, climate change, urbanization, and environmental degradation. We also have a shared interest in improving social and sustainable welfare for all people. primary healthcare, promoting free trade, new advances in science, technology and innovation, anti-corruption, respect for human rights and international law, and protecting international norms institutions. Against this backdrop, there are many areas with a potential for further cooperation between Denmark Mexico.

In 2017, Denmark and Mexico took bilateral relations to a new level with a joint statement to launch strategic а partnership. This joint strategic action plan follows up on the joint statement presenting objectives for bilateral cooperation and joint activities between Denmark and Mexico in a broad range of areas including political dialogue, trade and investment, health, energy, environment and climate change, food and agriculture, culture, education, science, technology and innovation.

The following pages lay out a number of key areas for cooperation, with concrete actions to guide a joint implementation.

As an indicator of our common support for sustainable development and multilateralism, the UN Sustainable Development Goals will be a cross-cutting priority throughout the action plan.

Both sides will actively and comprehensively implement the joint strategic action plan, assess it and modify it as necessary.

By mutual agreement and taking into account their shared visions and interests, the parties may incorporate new sectors, actions and modalities of cooperation, which will be agreed upon in a timely manner.

The bilateral cooperation between Denmark and Mexico has never been as close and diverse as it is today.

With this joint strategic action plan, we take our strong relationship to the next level.

#### 3. Political dialogue

#### Background

The strategic partnership between Denmark and Mexico is carried out by several public institutions in both countries. To underpin and provide a backbone for the actions contained in this joint strategic action plan, the bilateral relationship should be reinforced with appropriate dialogue and exchange of views in political fora. This will ensure the continued robustness of the strategic partnership as well as a vigorous relationship between Denmark and Mexico.

#### **Actions**

- Hold regular high-level political meetings to discuss issues of mutual interest. When possible, the consultations will take place in capitals, and alternatively on the sidelines of international fora.
- Facilitate exchanges and dialogue between the Danish and Mexican legislative bodies. This could address topics such as good governance, anti-torture, anti-corruption, the sustainable development goals, health, education, gender equality, migration, human rights, and specific rights for women and children, indigenous peoples/minorities, and LGBT+. The dialogue could include delegations to and from the Danish Parliamentary Ombudsman, as well as roundtables addressing relevant legislation, best practices etc.
- Learn from each other's experiences with international candidacies, particularly with regard to the United Nations Security Council, where Mexico was recently a member (2021-22) and where Denmark aspires to become a member (2025-26).
- Advance the bilateral treaties on extradition and mutual legal assistance in criminal matters to strengthen each country's ability to investigate and prosecute crimes, and to extradite serious offenders wanted for a wide variety of crimes.
- Continue addressing initiatives to combat the illicit trafficking of light and small weapons in the most comprehensive manner, including stricter control, supervision and traceability measures in their sales or transfers.

- Create an open dialogue to discuss gender equality and related issues that can lead to bilateral exchanges and cooperation between both parties, and promote a progressive agenda for the benefit of women and girls in their diversity in multilateral and regional forums.
- Share good practices, information and programs on the adoption and implementation of Gender Policies.

#### 4. Trade and Investment

#### Background

Denmark and Mexico agree that free trade is a powerful force in advancing the wealth of nations, and support lowering barriers to trade in goods and services. Both countries aim to encourage their private sectors to identify business opportunities that increase bilateral trade and investments.

Denmark and Mexico acknowledge the need for trade to contribute to sustainable development. This includes that free trade must go hand in hand with strong labor rights in order to facilitate inclusive global growth and socially sustainable development.

#### Actions

- Promote bilateral trade to stimulate inclusive, social, and sustainable economic growth in our respective countries.
- Work together in conducting trade promotion and delegation visits, as well as organizing seminars and fairs. Including the exchange of experiences in terms of digital inclusion for innovation, the development of productive projects and electronic commerce.
- Continue to support global free trade and protection of intellectual property as key to global sustainable development, including through multilateral fora, and specifically through the World Trade Organization, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, and the United Nations.

- Promote private and public investments in each other's economies, private
  as well as public. The investment should focus on innovative economic
  sectors that contribute to social inclusiveness and wellbeing of our
  societies. From the Danish side, this includes investments by the
  Investment Fund for Developing Countries and Denmark's Export and
  Investment Fund.
- Promote an increase in tourism flows between the two countries.

#### 5. Health

#### Background

As a consequence of a close cooperation and continuous technical exchange on the health agenda, both governments agreed in 2018, and for a second period of equal duration in 2023, to extend the validity of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Health of the Kingdom of Denmark and the Ministry of Health of the United Mexican States on cooperation in the field of Health signed in 2013.

Likewise, in the framework of this MoU, a new specific cooperation agreement focused on primary health care was signed in 2021, which reflects the priorities of both governments on the importance of prevention of diseases, effective access to health services and the improvement of people's health.

The COVID-19 pandemic has proven to be an unprecedented global health crisis that calls for new and better ways to cooperate on global health issues, including future pandemics.

#### **Actions**

The governments of Denmark and Mexico will:

Implement the Strategic Sector Cooperation Project to strengthen primary healthcare between the Danish Ministry of Interior and Health and the Secretariat of Health of Mexico. This includes peer-to-peer capacity building, technical exchanges, and research cooperation in areas including primary healthcare, telemedicine, health data, pandemics, chronic diseases, mental health, maternal health, sexual and reproductive health-care services, health economy, access to health care services and medicines, etc.

- Ensure closer dialogue and collaboration between the Danish Medicines Agency and the Federal Commission for Protection against Sanitary Risks (COFEPRIS) in Mexico.
- Explore new areas of cooperation between Danish and Mexican experts to strengthen the health system's preparedness and response to any kind of present and future pandemics (e.g. through exchange of experiences to support the implementation of video consultations).
- Collaborate within international organizations like the World Health Organization, World Health Assembly, and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development on issues relating to global health, including any kind of present and future pandemics. This could include hosting side events or issuing joint statements at the United Nations General Assembly.

# 6. Climate change, environment and energy

#### **Background**

Denmark and Mexico have a history of constructive engagement in international efforts towards combating climate change. Both countries will continue to work for greener, cleaner, and more sustainable global growth. Mexico has committed to reduce national greenhouse gas emissions 35% by 2030, below baseline level, and Denmark has committed to reducing by 70% below the 1990 level. Both countries aim to create conducive framework conditions in order to support the implementation of the Paris Agreement and to facilitate green transition.

Denmark and Mexico are committed to work for better use of renewable energy and promoting energy efficiency that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Denmark and Mexico are committed to a cleaner and healthier natural environment and recognize that supporting sustainable production methods can lead to both a better environment and development of the green sector.

Denmark and Mexico know the challenges of avoiding environmental degradation while supporting economic sustainable growth, including challenges in water and waste management, urban environments, preservation of biodiversity and more.

#### **Actions**

- Exchange views and best practices on environmental policies and regulations in areas such as resource efficiency in the manufacturing sector and in private households, reduction of water losses in urban water systems, wastewater management, and general waste management. This can be done through summits, workshops, delegation exchanges, and through engaging the private sector as well as research institutions and institutions of higher learning in both countries.
- Increase exchange of technology and best practices in sustainable management of natural resources that integrates the participation and knowledge of vulnerable communities, in accordance with human rights and gender equality.
- Promote circular economy initiatives and share knowledge on how to use environmental data and communication to promote a greening of the economies in both countries and explore joint initiatives regarding technological and research-related exchanges in the fields of climate change mitigation, engaging research institutions and institutions of higher learning in both countries.
- Ensure protection, restauration and conservation of biodiversity and biospheres in both countries, and work together in international fora to mitigate soil degradation, excessive deforestation and land use change.
- Exchange views on national energy policies, strategies and planning in support of a green transition and climate change response, including increase the share of clean energy in each country's energy mix, promote energy efficiency and green business and innovation.
- Continue the Mexican-Danish Energy Partnership Program (DEPP), which
  includes a cooperation with The Secretariat of Environment and Natural
  Resources (SEMARNAT) on efforts related to climate change as well as a
  cooperation with a number of Mexican states on energy efficiency.
- Promote and enhance the Partnership for Green Growth and Global Goals initiative, and public-private partnerships and projects including support climate change collaboration on local governmental levels, including through the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group, where Copenhagen, Mexico City, and Guadalajara participate.

 Work together within the framework of Rio Conventions to achieve mutual commitments in order to conserve and sustainable use of biodiversity, rise the ambition on climate change, and increase the participation and benefit of the communities in all cooperation actions.

# 7. Food and Agriculture

#### **Background**

Closer cooperation between Denmark and Mexico in the food and agriculture sectors can strengthen productivity, self-sufficiency, animal disease prevention and food safety, as well as job creation through the sustainable development of the national food production industry. In addition, the cooperation should contribute to promote the green transition of the food and livestock sectors, enabling a better adaptation to climate change and reduced climate and environmental footprint.

#### **Actions**

- Continue developing the strategic sector cooperation between the Danish Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries and the National Food Safety and Quality Service (SENASICA). The cooperation aim to promoting a resource efficient food production industry, food safety, animal health, and sustainable development in both countries by strengthening surveillance, traceability, monitoring of toxic contaminants and veterinary medicine, improved diagnostics and updating meat control to enhance overall food safety and public health through reduction in foodborne illness.
- Collaborate to prevent the spread of African swine fever and other zoonotic diseases and develop effective measures in case of an outbreak.
- Continue capacity development within the framework of the Danida Fellowship Centre, where professionals and academics are offered scholarships to university-level training in food and agriculture-related subjects, allowing them to gain experience that can be used in the development of each country's food sector.
- Explore initiatives on combatting microbial resistance including on responsible and sustainable use of veterinary medicine and antibiotics in a One Health perspective. Industry awareness plays an important role in this regard.

 The Danish-Mexican cooperation within agriculture and food production aim to improve the entire value chain of pig production and to promote a climate friendly and sustainable production line through increased resource efficiency.

# 8. Culture, Science, Technology and Innovation

### Background

Mutual cultural awareness, knowledge and understanding are key to preserve a peaceful and more secure global society and economy.

Denmark and Mexico consider Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) as one of the most important pillars of the bilateral relationship, and are also convinced that both countries can mutually benefit from the exchange of cultural and educational experiences through academic and student mobility.

Increased cooperation in STI can benefit students, academicians, researchers, artists, markers of cultural heritage, businesses, as well as bilateral cooperation in general, most importantly on a people-to-people basis, and this collaboration will deepen scientific, cultural and educational bilateral exchange.

#### Actions

- Support the exchange of information of opportunities for cooperation between cultural institutions and artists in order to strengthen the cultural ties and understanding, including cooperation to prevent illicit trafficking in cultural property.
- Increase cooperation, information and good practices exchange to fight the illicit trafficking of cultural heritage and its restitution, including the protection of cultural contents of indigenous peoples.
- Promote cultural awareness for a global and sustainable future, e.g. through existing program within the fields of architecture, design, arts and craft.
- Promote exchanges and cooperation between relevant private and public institutions and organizations on science, technological development and innovation, business incubators and startups.

- Share know-how, organizational engineering and best practices regarding the innovative Danish approach on technological diplomacy also known as "TechPlomacy".
- Promote the exchange of good practices based on the important contributions of women and girls to education, science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and innovation.

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FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF DENMARK

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