

Joint Communiqué between Mexico and the United Kingdom

2 May 2016

Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Claudia Ruiz Massieu Salinas and Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Philip Hammond held the 19th Session of High Level Political Talks between the UK and Mexico on 2 May 2016, in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Talks were an opportunity to evaluate the state of the bilateral relationship and the progress made in the areas of political dialogue, co-operation and economic interchange. It was a chance to discuss rule of law, human rights, migration, refugees and the politics of gender. It also allowed both sides to discuss the situations in their respective regions, and reaffirm their shared views and common interests in the international arena.

Both sides welcomed the success of the State Visit by President Peña Nieto, from 2-5 March 2015 and the celebration of the Dual Year, the same year. They agreed to continue to work together to deepen the strategic relationship between the two countries and reiterated their commitment to the full implementation of the Joint Declaration that was adopted by the two Foreign Ministers during the State Visit.

They emphasised that the political dialogue and the reciprocal high level visits are an important means of identifying new areas of co-operation.

The Foreign Ministers underlined the important advances made in the promotion of bilateral trade and investment. They agreed to continue actively promoting greater links between Mexican and British businesses in order to make the most of the available business opportunities. Within this context, they celebrated the second meeting of the Senior Business Leaders Group on 6 April 2016 and looked forward to the eighth Session of the High level Economic Talks and the fifth meeting of the Trade Task Force.

Mexico was grateful for the support that the British Government had given to Mexico, through the Prosperity Fund, which supported research and development projects in areas like education, energy efficiency, rule of law and sustainable planning, amongst others. The UK announced an allocation of £6 million for Mexico in 2016/17, from the new Prosperity Fund, a large proportion of which will be allocated to working on projects focussed on strengthening the rule of law.

The Foreign Ministers expressed interest in continuing and deepening the exchange of best practice and expertise in consular services, especially consular crisis response and responding to emergencies overseas.

Recalling the Memorandum of Understanding signed between their respective diplomatic academies on 21 September 2015, both sides committed to building further links between their diplomatic services through visits, learning and development initiatives and the exchange of expertise and ideas, including on the professional development of their diplomats.

Both parties commended the successful conclusion of their first ever trilateral co-operation project in Belize. Both sides expressed a keenness to identify further potential projects.

The Foreign Ministers discussed issues of mutual interest in Latin America, North America, Europe, multilateral fora and the G20. Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Ruiz Massieu highlighted the importance of updating the EU-Mexico Global Agreement. She welcomed the additional fora for dialogue and collaboration offered by the EU-Mexico relationship and the participation of the UK as an observer in the Pacific Alliance. She underlined the fruitful dialogue that had been developed through the EU-CELAC relationship.

The Foreign Ministers discussed global issues of shared interest. The UK thanked Mexico for its contribution to the Supporting Syria Conference in London in February 2016 and committed to promoting bilateral dialogue on the Middle East through sharing UK diplomatic expertise.

Mexico applauded the UK's organisation of the Anti Corruption Summit on 12 May, at which Mexico will be represented by a High level delegation. The UK and Mexico agreed to work together to prevent and tackle corruption.

The UK warmly welcomed the announcement that Secretary Ruiz Massieu will become one of the global champions of the UK's preventing Sexual Violence Initiative. Both sides agreed on the vital importance of tackling sexual violence and impunity internationally. The UK and Mexico committed to working closely together on these issues in multilateral fora.

Both parties recognised the importance of peacekeeping operations in supporting and sustaining international peace and stability. The UK reaffirmed its commitment to share its experience in this area.

Discussions were conducted in a positive, constructive atmosphere of mutual respect and understanding. The two countries looked forward to strengthening the bilateral relationship further in 2016 and beyond.