

Toward a New City¹

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In great societies, everything important is decided by elections. Their honesty, transparency, certainty and legality guarantee citizens and authorities alike the governability we all need to live in peace and carry out our productive activities in complete security.

Society, political parties and organizations and in general all the new political actors, should unite to strengthen a culture that fosters tolerance, inclusiveness, plurality, competition and legality.

Democracy is not subject to discussion. There should never be haggling over building it. We will be equal to the task of building bridges to all the political forces in the field to reach the necessary consensuses, all the while perfecting democracy.

I am firmly convinced when I say that, trusting in the support of the public, I will be equal to the task of loyally fulfilling my obligations to residents of the Federal District, at the same time that I exercise my rights as a citizen based on the ideology and positions of my party. This is the spirit of democracy and the principles upon which I will base public policy and the actions needed to implement it in the public interest.

I will be equal to the task of guiding this city in such a way that it is governed with respect for everyone's free-

doms, dignity and rights, with the public trust we hope to be awarded.

We aspire to continue renovating the city's legal framework. We will do this on the basis of the needs and



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¹ Speech made before the Federal District's Assembly of Representatives.

the principles that the public determines and in a way that furthers democracy.

The inhabitants of Mexico City's Federal District and its political forces have come to a historic agreement to elect their own officials as the best way of guaranteeing that the government act positively. This agreement is compatible with maintaining the seat of federal government in the same place and with a fully democratic public life for capital residents.

The proposal by some opposition parties that Mexico City become our thirty-second state is not realistic today. It would mean going back to outmoded forms that would mean a heavier burden for residents, a considerable increase in the size of public administration, a deterioration in the coordination needed to provide public services and, fundamentally, a step back in development.

We want this city to continue to be the capital of all Mexicans. It would only be fair to recognize steps forward in city management. However, because of its size, complexity and the imbalances accumulated over the years, more effective means must be adopted for city management.

The election of borough delegates in the year 2000² forces us to begin now to prepare a broad transitional city management program to match up exactly with the political reform, which extends the boroughs' jurisdiction and obligations.

This city is the mirror of what goes on in the rest of the country. Everything that happens here has both national and international impact. The D.F. cannot be experimented with, much less does it warrant untried exercises with incalculable costs.

Our solutions must take into account the fact that we are dealing with a metropolitan area that is actually several cities in one, which multiplies the problems and creates new needs in terms of equipping and investing in public services, as well as difficulties arising out of the density of the population, this means we must change our outlook in order to organize and manage it efficiently.

Public participation and welfare must be the starting point and the mechanisms for public service provision.

Our solutions must take into account the fact that we are dealing with a metropolitan area that is actually several cities in one.

People demand public safety; no one is willing to tolerate physical aggression, robbery, muggings and the other forms of organized crime. No one is willing to tolerate the violence around us and peace officers' and public officials' inability to deal with it and reduce it to a minimum. The most important desire of every individual is to live in peace.

We will be inflexible with criminals. Society demands order and safety. We will make the city a safe place. I will propose a profound reform of the peace-keeping apparatus and the administration of justice, and I will promote a review of the different jurisdictional boundaries of public functions.

It is urgent that we integrate each of these functions to strengthen crime prevention campaigns and to broaden and deepen policing operations; to perfect informational and communication systems, data bases and computerized patrol cars; to better coordination among institutions and different states; to deepen the fight against police corruption at the same time that we give dignity to the police officer's job; to strengthen the strategies against organized crime; and to increase real wages and benefits for police officers.

We will further the administration of justice and law enforcement by increasing the District Attorney's operating capabilities and strengthening the Public Defender's Office, modernizing and improving the information, orientation and complaints services of the Judicial Police,³ offering the public, particularly the needy, legal aid and making it easy for any citizen to make a legal complaint.

Before the Assembly of Representatives, we will promote an increase in the budget for the judicial branch and

² In the year 2000, for the first time, Federal District residents will vote in universal elections for their political delegates, the officials responsible for running the 16 boroughs into which the D.F. is divided. [Editor's Note.]

³ Mexico's Judicial Police are locally at the service of District Attorneys' Offices and, federally, of the Attorney General's Office. [Editor's Note.]



Campaigning.

Photo: The PRI Press Office

will support the Federal District's Supreme Court in its efforts to be more effective.

The public demands order and the government must provide it: the kind of order that combines freedom and law, in which all actions of the authorities are rooted in law.

We do not want our legislation to be a dead letter; we want the kind of order that will help make a fairer, more humane city. Sponsoring policies outside the law spurs discretionary decision making, weakens our institutions and strikes a blow against the rule of law.

My aim is to encourage non-violence, eliminating arbitrariness and maintaining respect for the individual. I am committed to the promotion, defense and protection of human rights and the causes most keenly felt by the public.

Mexico City has an enormous potential for generating its own progress. Economic development is the only way to make it viable.

We have to understand that government must be exercised intimately linked to metropolitan development as well as the national political and geographic situation, which always provides us with feedback.

Mexico does not want a broken or divided city, but a vigorous city where solutions to the great problems the Federal District faces and that hinder its development are sought. For this reason, I am committed to moving forward in the tasks of government, strictly according to the real situation, making an overall effort to coordinate with the federal government and our neighboring states and municipalities.

Our city has enormous comparative advantages which we can transform into great opportunities for creating productive, better paying jobs. It is the country's most important financial center, the place with the best means of transportation, the most visited, the place with the

greatest historical patrimony and which offers the greatest number and the most diversified opportunities. That is why we are in a position to offer companies the latest services and the technical, legal, consulting, computer and marketing services that make it possible to expand the income sources that industry needs to develop.

We will create a climate of confidence and certainty for investment, so that profitability will be fully guaranteed, and jobs and income will increase. Economic development should be consolidated through competitiveness, strengthening regional links and international projection. Achieving greater productivity in the economy will also make it possible to increase the buying power of wages through a significant effort to foster formal employment, the reduction of corporate costs and better systems for distribution of the goods families need.

The economic strategy I propose can be summarized in the idea of promoting investment to create jobs in a framework of two basic conditions: certainty and ease of investment.

The economic sectors with the greatest potential for development will be boosted through planning and creating infrastructure, setting up integral service provision and inter-institutional coordination whereby the D.F. government becomes a promotor and agent for investment. But government action is not sufficient to open up the opportunities for capital residents to progress. Growth must be based on the enormous potential of the residents themselves and their ability to organize.

We must encourage a return to neighborhood life, recover lost values and customs that make people want to keep up communication and strengthen identity. The July 6 election process offers us one of the best possible opportunities to reaffirm a sense of belonging and pride in this, the capital of all Mexicans.

In the power of neighborhood organization with government support are to be found new opportunities for jobs, housing, infrastructure and the creation of new businesses. We pledge ourselves to generate reasonable expectations and the confidence that we will all be able to live better and be better.

The Mexico City of all of us who live here is the possibility for having new lives and a healthy environment for our mental and physical health. It requires a city with bal-

anced growth that can overcome its urgent problems of air and water quality, that has the means to regulate its own expansion and has enough public areas.

Government action must be aimed at raising educational, training, health and housing levels for the population, particularly for the most vulnerable. In a word, the government must be understood as an equalizer of opportunities.

Without this kind of social policy, the fostering of economic, productive and profitable activities would permanently exclude the marginalized population which, because of its current situation, does not participate in the process of the creation of wealth and, therefore, would never be able to benefit from it.

No one can deny the sense of frustration that both young people and adults have when they lose their jobs, when they cannot find new ones, when their real wages drop. Therefore, the difficulties they face in satisfying basic needs is a social problem that we must resolve with many different actions, particularly those aimed at prevention and that offer decent, permanent solutions.

Human problems cannot be measured simply in terms of cold statistics. Homeless children living on the streets, the unemployed, the retired, old people, the disabled and all citizens who suffer from inequality and extreme poverty demand to be recognized. They demand that the authorities act with more determination to mitigate the injustice and inequity arising from a lack of opportunities.

The world's great capitals distinguish themselves for their high cultural level. We all want a city that provides the places and conditions to be able to reach this very important objective in order to reaffirm our historic values, our national values.

Our aim is to decentralize artistic services, promote and support neighborhood initiatives that generate identity and establish fiscal stimuli for cultural activities.

To do this, we call upon the artistic and intellectual community and the public in general to act in two ways: supporting activities which tend to develop sensitivity and creative ability among all citizens and, simultaneously, fostering greater participation.

We want a city where sports are a basic element of social welfare, of living together and of health promotion. We aim to reorient policy to correct the uneven distribu-



Photo: The PRI Press Office

Visiting poor neighborhoods.



Photo: The PRI Press Office

With PRI members and leaders.

tion of installations and to train young people who already play sports to train others.

On every block, street and neighborhood, in every town and rural community, we will ask people about their needs. We will listen to how people think they should be met, and we will make their voices a guide for our actions.

All programs should reflect the determination to use resources efficiently. Productivity in public endeavors must translate into greater social well-being, and this must be a permanent commitment of public servants.

There must be a direct correlation between the quality of services, the productivity of public spending and the income that make Mexico City's functioning viable.

I do not share the idea that the city must be expensive to be viable.

The government must rigorously comply with planned spending and subject itself to the terms laid out in regulations about how to do that. Making public investment more efficient is the fundamental axis of the economic proposal we want to put forward.

Clearer actions are required so that tax money translates into public works for the benefit of all and public monies have the best possible effect on the life of the population. Also, a fiscal policy should be established that, without upsetting financial balances, makes it possible to lessen the tax burden on capital residents' pocket books.

To ensure that financing public spending does not mean higher taxes for capital residents, I propose com-

pletely reviewing the fiscal relationship with the federal government. This must be done on a fair basis that takes into consideration what our city contributes, proposing a change in the tax earnings distribution ratio between the local and federal governments. The new distribution ratio must reflect the city's real contribution in tax monies, as well as federal funding of metropolitan infrastructure, to be able to share both income and spending linked to service provision that involves surrounding states.

I pledge that all increases in productivity and efficiency in public spending will be directly reflected in lower taxes for the public.

I consider it a priority to strengthen the authority of the Assembly of Representatives, broadening out its responsibilities to include reviewing how public monies were spent, with the aim of ensuring that appropriate management and resources are available for reaching established objectives.

This vision of the future makes us look ahead with the knowledge that Mexico City is governable and that its problems will be overcome by the determination of its inhabitants and the constructive spirit of its government.

We can create a better city for all and for future generations. We have the experience, the drive and the irrevocable determination to be able to head up a democratic government, a government of safety, confidence and opportunities, a government that is honest, effective and productive; a government to meet the next century with optimism, hope and determination. ❧