

# **Perspectives on the Future of the Border**

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## **Some Political Considerations...**

- The border's future depends to a growing extent than in the past on the national policies of the countries.**
- The results of the US presidential election determine the path that must be followed to improve future opportunities in the border.**
- The Mexican government has to regain the edge it lost after 9/11 in claiming its special relationship with the US.**

# How to Proceed After One Decade of Nafta?

- **The agenda must be more realistic than the pipe-dreams the Mexican government imagined were viable four years ago that ignored political realities in the US.**
- **Does the Mexican government have what is necessary to retake the initiative with two only years left in office?**
- **Is there enough interest in Washington now to follow through meaningful progress in the Mexico-US connection?**

## **The Revised Mexican Agenda Must Include...**

- **Relearn the successful lobbying strategy that the government used so successfully for the battle of NAFTA between 1990-94.**
- **Develop the enormous potential support base that Mexico has in the US with the important Mexican-American community, the large US investment stock and two-way trade.**
- **Work on migration policy improvements on an incremental and realistic basis that recognizes US political limitations.**

# **The Revised Mexican Agenda Must Include...**

- **Large investments in infrastructure that begin correcting the competitiveness loss that with respect to China and other countries in the US market.**
- **Continue solving the trade problems that for the most part have been worked out within NAFTA, although not all of them.**
- **Closer cooperation on binational social payments in such a way that the populations of each country can live in the other and receive their benefits and medical coverage.**

## **The Revised Mexican Agenda Must Include...**

- Revise the institutional framework in both countries to lower the costs of money transfers and implement transnational credit schemes.**
- Mexican students can fill in the gaps left by other foreigners that find more obstacles to access the US, helping to solve the serious problem thus created in its university system.**
- Continue and intensify cooperation in national security areas under the concept of a tighter peripheral border around NAFTA countries and easier, friendlier ones among them.**

# Conclusion

- **It is imperative to resume the vision, resolve and ingenuity that characterized the original NAFTA proposal fifteen years ago, as the best way to restore the economic boom and high hopes that filled the border region at that time.**