

CONSUL...TANDO

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Relaciones Exteriores
Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores

37TH AMBASSADORS' AND CONSULS' MEETING (REC)

GENERAL FOREIGN POLICY GUIDELINES



On January 5, Mexico's Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Juan Ramón de la Fuente, opened the 37th Meeting of Ambassadors and Consuls [REC] at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with the aim of establishing shared priorities and specific objectives to strengthen Mexico's Foreign Service over the coming year.

Addressing Mexico's diplomatic representatives, Secretary de la Fuente highlighted the government's broad public mandate and the international standing of President Claudia Sheinbaum.

He also underscored the importance of unity, dialogue and negotiation as the only legitimate means of pursuing peace.



The Secretary reaffirmed Mexico's commitment to non-intervention in the internal affairs of other countries, respect for self-determination and the right of every nation to determine its own future.

At the first plenary session, Mexican Supreme Court Chief Justice Hugo Aguilar explained that Mexico's judiciary was evolving towards increased public engagement.

He also highlighted ongoing dialogue with different sectors of civil society and adherence to constitutional principles in judicial decisions, and he encouraged diplomatic missions to communicate these developments in their jurisdictions.

At the session "National Security, Defence and Sovereignty", National Defence Secretary Ricardo Trevilla Trejo noted that the Mexican government is tackling national security challenges through all means available.

He stressed the role of the Mexican Foreign Service in this effort and highlighted his ministry's participation in coordination and cooperation mechanisms with 28 countries.

At the session "Safeguarding our Maritime Borders", Navy Secretary Raymundo Pedro Morales Ángeles stressed the importance of effective maritime border management and the protection of natural resources.



And at the session titled "Advances in Public Security Strategy", Secretary Omar García Harfuch presented the four pillars of Mexico's security strategy: addressing root causes; consolidating the National Guard; enhancing investigative and intelligence capabilities; and reinforcing coordination within the Security Cabinet.

The first day of meetings also included a session exploring Mexico's role as a hub for technology and innovation, which emphasized science as a pillar of international cooperation.

The last session of the day dealt with Mexico's cultural heritage as a means of promoting the country, exploring culture and cultural diplomacy as tools for fostering mutual understanding and social cohesion.



37TH AMBASSADORS' AND CONSULS' MEETING (REC)

MULTILATERALISM, COOPERATION AND CONSULAR SERVICES

XXXVII Reunión Anual de Embajadas y Consulados

Ciudad de México, 7 de enero de 2026



They also highlighted the work carried out on consular protection and assistance mechanisms throughout 2025, recognizing the efforts of Mexico's diplomatic missions to provide Mexican citizens with the services they need. In this context, it was agreed to repeat and build on these results in 2026, incorporating translation and interpretation services to expand consular service access to Indigenous communities.

During the second day of sessions, the Under-Secretary for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights, Enrique Ochoa, organized a discussion on the UN80 Initiative, with the participation of UN Under-Secretary-General for Policy Guy Ryder and the President of the Mexican university El Colegio de México, Ana Covarrubias.

On the second day of the 37th Meeting of Ambassadors and Consuls, working groups and dialogue sessions were held to analyze questions of international cooperation, multilateralism and consular services as key factors guiding Mexico's foreign policy this year.

Foreign Affairs Under-Secretary María Teresa Mercado and Director General for Europe Octavio Tripp co-chaired a working group on modernizing Mexico's Global Agreement with the European Union, analyzing this instrument as a comprehensive agreement founded on three pillars: politics; economics and trade; and cooperation.



In the exchange with diplomatic representatives, participants underscored the central role of multilateralism in advancing national interests, as well as the opportunities for Mexico to present concrete initiatives that can contribute to strengthening international law and the political and operational capacities of the United Nations.

Finally, Foreign Secretary Juan Ramón de la Fuente chaired a panel titled "Beyond the Soccer Pitch, Mexico 2026," which discussed the opportunity offered by this year's FIFA World Cup to showcase Mexico's culture, cuisine and diversity, while also having a positive impact on tourism, employment, culture and the economy in the country.



The discussion covered a wide range of issues and sectors, including global governance, investment, digital trade, agriculture, science and technology, and education, highlighting the agreement's cross-cutting nature and its importance for expanding institutional and economic ties between Mexico and the European Union.

On the issue of consular protection, the Director of the Institute for Mexicans Abroad, Tatiana Clouthier, and Consular Protection Director General Vanessa Calva thanked the heads of Mexico's diplomatic and consular missions for their work in 2025 to support the welfare of Mexican nationals in their respective jurisdictions.



37TH AMBASSADORS' AND CONSULS' MEETING (REC)

FEMINIST FOREIGN POLICY

In the context of the 37th Meeting of Ambassadors and Consuls (REC), the panel “Society of Care and Feminist Foreign Policy” was held to promote the cross-cutting priorities guiding Mexico’s foreign policy.

The panel was moderated by Jennifer Feller, Director General for Human Rights and Democracy with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who stressed the importance of developing care systems as a national priority and as an opportunity to build consensus at the global level.

Patricia Carranza, Director General for Intelligence, Innovation and Strategic Planning for the Continuous Improvement of Programmes at the Ministry of Women, pointed out that Latin American thinkers have contributed greatly to the concept of care.



It was also noted that the Mexican government, at the instruction of President Claudia Sheinbaum, is promoting the development of a National Care System with the objective of addressing a range of social challenges.

The panel explored the impact of the disproportionate burden of unpaid care work on women, as well as its effects on their professional development and on the country’s development as a whole.

Finally, Jorge Mario Martínez, Acting Director General of ECLAC’s Subregional Headquarters in Mexico, underscored the importance of the Tlatelolco Commitment adopted at the 16th Regional Conference on Women as a benchmark to guide the international community to prioritize care from a comprehensive perspective.



COMMUNITY

MEXICANA BUSINESS ALLIANCE: FIRST GENERATION

The closing ceremony of the first edition of the Mexicana Business Alliance was held on Tuesday, December 9 to celebrate the successful completion of the training program by nine Mexican women professionals.

The graduates were accompanied by their mentors, who provided guidance and support throughout the program, helping them to strengthen their professional competencies and leadership skills. The event provided an opportunity to celebrate the participants’ commitment and professional growth, as well as the collaborative work undertaken by this first generation of graduates.



The meeting also served as a platform to present the initiative to others who may be interested in participating as mentees or mentors, opening up discussion on future editions of the program.



MESSAGE FROM THE CONSUL GENERAL, AMB. PORFIRIO THIERRY MUÑOZ LEDO



As my consular mission in Toronto comes to an end, I would like to express what an honour and privilege it has been for me to represent the best interests of Mexico and of Mexicans in Ontario and Manitoba.

I extend my highest recognition to our seasonal migrant workers, who contribute to the growth of the local economy and enrich the cultural life of the communities that welcome them. I have the greatest respect for the hard work of our Mexican workers, who keep agricultural supply chains operating and help strengthen food security.

I have devoted these years of my life to promoting and protecting the rights of all migrant workers and their families, inspired by Mexico's work in multilateral forums and by my own contribution to negotiations that have led to the signing of international agreements and the establishment of human rights protection mechanisms.

The growing presence of Mexicans in Canada has made community advocacy and support an extremely important task. This has included strengthening community leadership, creating support networks for women and children, and developing programs and activities to promote gender equality.

My mandate has been a valuable learning experience and an inexhaustible source of memories that will remain with me always. As I take my leave, I wish to express my sincerest gratitude to all current and former personnel of the Consulate General.

With appreciation,

Ambassador Porfirio Thierry Muñoz Ledo
 Consul General



INTERVIEWS WITH MEXICANS: ELIA HERRERA; EL TECOLOTE



Originally from Córdoba, Veracruz, Elia Herrera grew up in a family deeply connected to cooking. From an early age, she was surrounded by flavors, techniques, and tradition—both her grandmother and her mother are chefs who spent many years working in the catering industry.

She studied at the Culinary Institute of Mexico in Puebla and completed her professional training in Europe. After graduating, she was invited to work in Spain and later followed chef friends to Toronto. The city opened new opportunities for her, and what was meant to be a one-year stay turned into a 22-year journey.

One of the greatest challenges in her migration process was the language. English represented a significant obstacle at first; however, she consistently found support within the Canadian community, which allowed her to grow professionally.

She began her career in Canada as a pastry chef, working in the field for 10 years until achieving one of her most important goals: becoming Executive Pastry Chef at what was then considered the best restaurant in the country, Canoe.

Later on, she had the opportunity to open her first Mexican restaurant. To do so, she competed for private funding alongside five well-known chefs in the city. Thanks to the recipes and knowledge passed down from her grandmother and mother, she won first place, giving rise to Los Colibrís.

Representing Mexico through her cuisine is a deep source of pride for her. Sharing her culture in Toronto has become a joy that allows her to stay connected to her family. Through her dishes, she brings back memories of her childhood while showcasing the cultural and gastronomic richness of her country of origin.

After her experience with Los Colibrís, she continued the Colibrí project within Chef's Hall. Once the lease ended, she and her sister decided to begin a new chapter.

This new phase sought to honor her grandmother, whose lucky bird was always the owl. This is how El Tecolote was born—as an opportunity for both personal and professional renewal.

In a multicultural and highly competitive environment like Toronto, Elia values the growth of the Mexican culinary scene. The presence of new proposals motivates her to keep evolving. Although El Tecolote is a simpler concept than her previous projects, she strives to express her creativity in every dish.

Returning to Mexico, reconnecting with her roots, and drawing inspiration from tradition are essential parts of her creative process. Flavor has always been her strength, both in pastry and savory cuisine. Through each preparation, she enjoys adding her personal touch to tradition.

Looking back, her most important lesson has been to never forget her origins. Honoring her roots, being authentic, and staying true to what she represents have guided her professional journey.

For migrant women who dream of starting their own business, Elia acknowledges that fear is always present. However, she believes it is also a sign that a great opportunity lies ahead.

Her advice is to take the leap: if you fall, get back up and try again, knowing that each attempt brings greater knowledge and experience.



Currently, Elia feels motivated and grateful for the opportunities she has found in Canada. At the same time, she deeply values the gastronomic and cultural richness of Mexico. Looking ahead, El Tecolote will continue to grow and share its concept across different provinces, always centered on a love for Mexico and its cuisine.

Follow Elia on social media:
Instagram: [@chefeliaherrera](https://www.instagram.com/chefeliaherrera)
Facebook: [@tecolote.ca](https://www.facebook.com/tecolote.ca)





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Schedule an appointment:
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Tel. 1 424 3090009

Mexican secretariat of foreign Affairs:
www.sre.gob.mx




Mexican Embassy in Canada

<https://embamex.sre.gob.mx/canada/index.php/es/>

Mexican population statistics abroad
www.ime.gob.mx/estadisticas

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