Holland & Knight EYES ON MEXICO POLITICAL OVERVIEW MONTHLY REPORT



April 2025



Tariff Discussions Continue. Mexico President Claudia Sheinbaum stated that there is still ongoing dialogue with the U.S. regarding tariffs on the automotive sector, as well as aluminum and steel. President Sheinbaum emphasized that the priority is to prevent consumer price increases. Additionally, Mexico's Secretary of Economy Marcelo Ebrard traveled in recent days to Washington, D.C., to advance talks.

National Development Plan (PND). The Federal Executive published the 2025-2030 PND in the *Official Gazette of the Federation* (DOF) on April 15, 2025. The PND sets goals for national transformation based on well-being, social justice and sustainability. It reaffirms a commitment to honest, democratic and human-centered governance. The PND also establishes cross-cutting policy taxes and a long-term vision through Plan Mexico, a six-year economic strategy of Sheinbaum's Administration. In accordance with the Planning Law, all sectoral, special, institutional and regional programs that define the government's actions must be prepared in accordance with the PND. The sectoral and special programs determined by the Federal Executive must be published within six months after the publication of the PND.

Pre-Economic Policy Criteria 2026. The Ministry of Finance and Public Credit (SHCP) submitted the Preliminary Economic Policy Criteria for 2026, forecasting a gross domestic product (GDP) growth of 1.5 to 2.5 percent, inflation at 3 percent, an oil price of \$55.3 per barrel and an exchange rate of 19.9 pesos per dollar. The strategy focuses on boosting revenue without new taxes, strengthening regional supply chains under the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) and Plan Mexico. Despite global risks, Mexico expects positive growth supported by strong domestic demand. The SHCP must send the Programmatic Structure to the House of Representatives for the draft Expenditure Budget by June 30, 2025.

Ban on High-Calorie Foods in Mexican Schools. The Ministry of Public Education (SEP) has published a manual for individuals who prepare, distribute and sell food in schools to promote healthier eating habits among students. The manual encourages the consumption of fresh, nutritious foods such as fruits, vegetables, whole grains, proteins and natural beverages without added sugars. It also establishes a ban on the advertisement and promotion of packaged foods and beverages with low nutritional value and high energy density within school premises.



Bureaucratic Procedures. President Sheinbaum proposed a bill for a National Law to Eliminate Bureaucratic Procedures to the House of Representatives. The goal is to streamline government services by standardizing and simplifying processes across all levels of government. It was approved by the House of Representatives and turned to the Senate for analysis.

Simplification and Digitalization Procedures. A constitutional reform was published in the DOF on April 15, 2025, mandating all levels of government to implement policies for administrative simplification, digitalization of procedures and strengthening public technological capacities. The reform empowers Congress to issue a national law to set principles and obligations in these areas.

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Public Sector Procurement, Leasing and Services Law. The Federal Executive published the new Public Sector Procurement, Leasing and Services Law on April 16, 2025, replacing the previous framework to modernize the use of public resources. The law introduces key changes, including a digital public procurement platform, strategic dialogue with suppliers, stronger support for small and medium enterprises in Mexico, cooperatives, vulnerable groups and incentives for integrity and sustainability policies.

Public Procurement System Law. The Federal Executive published the reform to update the public procurement system and ensure compliance with Article 134 of the constitution on April 16, 2025. The reform promotes efficiency, transparency and effective contracting practices. A key aspect to consider is that Mexico's armed forces are exempt from following the same procedures as other public institutions.



Executive Branch

Binational 1944 Treaty. Mexico and the U.S. reached an agreement to address water deliveries from Rio Grande under the 1944 Treaty, ensuring supply for human consumption and planning for additional transfers during the rainy season. Technical meetings defined the actions, which will be formalized through the International Boundary and Water Commission. Both countries agreed that the 1944 Treaty remains beneficial and does not need renegotiation.

Regulations for Ministry of Energy's New Allocations, Contracts and Permits Committee. On April 23, 2025, the Ministry of Energy published the regulations that the Ministry of Energy's new committee will have regarding the approval of key decisions related to electricity, hydrocarbons and the energy transition under binding national policy criteria. The committee is chaired by Mexico Secretary of Energy Luz Elena González Escobar and includes subsecretaries and senior officials, with an internal control body participating as a nonvoting guest. The committee oversees permits, concessions and sanctions, ensuring energy justice, sovereignty and the sustainable development of the sector.



Judicial Branch Elections. Campaigns for the 2024-2025 extraordinary election of federal and local judicial officials began on March 30, 2025, and ends on May 28, 2025. More than 99 million Mexicans can vote, and all branches of government may promote candidates with educational, nonpartisan messaging.

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