## Holland & Knight EYES ON MEXICO POLITICAL OVERVIEW MONTHLY REPORT



August 2025



**Federal Executive Appointments.** The Permanent Commission confirmed María del Carmen Bonilla Rodríguez as Undersecretary of Finance on Aug. 13, 2025, a role that had been vacant since Édgar Amador Zamora became Minister of Finance. Ms. Rodríguez previously led the Public Credit and International Affairs Unit, overseeing sovereign debt management and key financing operations. Meanwhile, Omar Reyes Colmenares was appointed as head of Mexico's Financial Intelligence Unit (UIF), pledging to combat illicit financial activities, promote cooperation with civil society and implement training programs on money laundering prevention.

First State of the Union Address. President Claudia Sheinbaum delivered her first state of the union address on Sept. 1, 2025. She highlighted key social and economic achievements, including the reduction of poverty by more than 13 million people between 2018 and 2024, and noted that progressive increase in the minimum wage positioned Mexico as the second country with the lowest inequality in the Americas. President Sheinbaum also stressed economic resilience, with 1.2 percent growth projected for 2025, while underscoring that Mexico maintains the lowest average tariff rates in the world thanks to its bilateral relationship with the United States. On the same day, the judges elected on the first national judicial elections that took place in June were sworn in, with President Sheinbaum participating in the event. Subsequently, a public celebration in honor of President Sheinbaum will take place in Mexico City's Zócalo on Oct. 1, 2025, to mark her first year in office.

Advances on United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) Review. The "Cuarto de Junto" (a consultative mechanism that brings together Mexico's private sector with government negotiators to align positions during trade negotiations) and the federal government met on Aug. 26, 2025, to review procedures and train participants for the upcoming USMCA renegotiation, which will now advance through sector-based dialogues rather than chapter-based talks. Minister of Economy Marcelo Ebrard noted that this inclusive approach will address new priorities, such as semiconductors, that were absent in earlier negotiations. On another note, President Sheinbaum announced that U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio will visit Mexico on Sept. 3, 2025, with the agenda centered on signing a bilateral security agreement to strengthen coordination.

Supplement to the National Quality Infrastructure Program 2025. The Ministry of Economy published the Supplement to the National Quality Infrastructure Program 2025 in the Federal Official Gazette (DOF) on Aug. 25, 2025. The supplement serves as a complement to the program originally released on Feb. 17, 2025, and proposes the development of new Official Mexican Standards (NOMs), as well as modifications to existing ones. The initiative involves several key committees and agencies, including the Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT), Ministry of Energy (SENER), National Consultative Committee for Standardization of the Secretariat of Economy (CCONNSE), National Agricultural Council and National Consultative Committee for the Standardization of Health Regulation and Promotion (CCNNRFS).

Launch of "Made in Mexico is Better Made" Campaign. The Business Coordinating Council (CCE) and 30 companies launched the nationwide "Made in Mexico is Better Made" campaign to promote national pride, local consumption and the quality of Mexican products and services. The initiative, backed by the Mexican government and the Ministry of Economy, brings together leading brands across diverse sectors, including food, construction, finance, retail and consumer goods. Minister of Economy Ebrard highlighted that the "Made in Mexico" certification is part of President Sheinbaum's "Plan México," aimed at protecting national industries, jobs and strengthening supply chains.

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**Extraordinary Period of Sessions.** The work of the Permanent Commission corresponding to the second recess of the first year of the LXVI Legislature was declared concluded on Aug. 27, 2025.

**Board of Directors in Congress.** Sen. Laura Itzel Castillo of the National Regeneration Movement (Morena) was elected president of the Senate's Board of Directors on Aug. 28, 2025. She reaffirmed her commitment to advancing the "second phase" of the Fourth Transformation and Constitutional Welfare State through dedicated legislative work. She previously chaired the Senate's Energy Committee. Meanwhile, in the House of Representatives there was no consensus, so the current board of directors will remain in office until Sept. 5, 2025, while the National Action Party (PAN) proposes Margarita Zavala, Kenia López Rabadán, Germán Martínez and Federico Döring as potential representatives.

**Legislative Agenda.** President Sheinbaum outlined the legislative priorities for the new ordinary session starting Sept. 1, 2025, which includes 1) secondary laws of the judicial reform, which aim to streamline judicial processes, 2) customs law and 3) 2026 Economic Package, which will be presented on Sept. 8, 2025, to the House of Representatives.



**Strategic Plan for Petróleos Mexicanos (PEMEX).** PEMEX presented its 2025-2035 Strategic Plan on Aug. 5, 2025, outlining a financial, operational and environmental transformation to strengthen its role in Mexico's energy sovereignty. The plan introduces a simplified fiscal regime to ease the company's tax burden and an integral capitalization and financing strategy to reduce debt and secure long-term investment. PEMEX aims to maintain stable crude oil production at 1.8 million barrels per day, as well as relaunch the petrochemical and fertilizer industries and rehabilitate logistics infrastructure. Strategic goals include modernizing refining capacity, expanding gas infrastructure and boosting natural gas as a transitional fuel.

**Ministerial Declaration.** On Aug. 25-26, 2025, 22 countries from Latin America and the Caribbean adopted the Mexico City Ministerial Declaration ahead of the 2025 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP30) that will be held in Brazil. All countries reaffirmed their commitment to a just and ambitious climate transition. The declaration emphasized accelerating mitigation and adaptation efforts, strengthening climate finance and protecting biodiversity and ecosystems, as well as recognizing the key role of Indigenous peoples and local communities. In parallel, Mexico and Brazil held high-level meetings in Mexico City between secretaries of state and more than 150 business leaders to promote trade, investment and economic complementarity.

**Electoral Reform.** A Presidential Commission was created by decree to <u>draft an electoral reform</u> for Congress in the September 2025 to December 2025 session, led by former UIF Chief Pablo Gómez. In its first meeting with electoral councilors, a permanent liaison mechanism was established between the Commission and the National Electoral Institute (INE), along with clear deadlines to build a bill. Furthermore, new members joined the process – Former Supreme Court Justice Arturo Zaldívar, Former Presidential Spokesperson Jesús Ramírez and Federal Digital Transformation Agency Head Pepe Merino – strengthening the Commission's political and technical team.

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