

# DECLARATION OF OBJECTIVES FOR THE CANADA-MEXICO RELATIONSHIP

## 1 - INTRODUCTION

Few countries in the world have conditions more suited to establishing a solid and mutually beneficial relationship than Mexico and Canada. Both share a common geopolitical space, a broad range of overlapping interests and similar positions on a number of the world's problems.

The bilateral relationship has grown dramatically in the last decade. The growth has been based on three important elements: convergence, coincidence, and complementarity.

*Convergence* is the result of a process of redefinition of foreign policies in both Mexico and Canada. The process has focused on the strengthening of ties among the countries in North America, and the search for economic and trade opportunities in Latin America, which is emerging as an important engine of the global economy. These efforts led, inter alia, to the signing of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). At the same time, both countries made it a priority to further develop their relations in other geographic areas of common interest such as the E.U., Latin America and the Pacific Rim.

*Coincidentally*, this redefinition of policies was accompanied by a growing awareness of common interests. Given their respective non-violent traditions, each country continues to stress the importance of multilateralism and the rule of international law in the global context. Equally, both countries share a strong respect for such fundamental principles as peaceful relations among states, peaceful conflict resolution, equality among States, and international cooperation. These common objectives have been pursued in the areas of disarmament, democracy and development through various international organizations and agencies.