

U.S. – Mexico Second Presidential Meeting

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Institutional Context

The meetings among Mexican and American Presidents provide evidence of a historic binational relationship. With the first Presidential meeting taking place in 1988 between Former Presidents Salinas and Bush, this institutional space has provided a way for both nations to advance their national interests through a bilateral agenda. Throughout the years, the Presidential meetings have enabled the creation of a number of institutions, in the form of agreements, programs, dialogue mechanisms, and organizations; one example is the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), created in 1994.

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On July 12th, U.S. President Biden and Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador met at the White House. This meeting took place in a context of record migration in the hemisphere and high inflation. Both nations agreed on the launching of a bilateral working group on labor migration pathways and worker protection, as a follow up to the meeting. During the meeting, joint actions to improve border infrastructure were also announced, such as investing in ports of entry; enhancing law enforcement cooperation to disrupt the distribution of fentanyl; and promoting clean energy, economic innovation and prosperity. Other areas of discussion were disrupting networks and detecting the chain from start to finish of the different actors involved in the criminal movement of people.