

AMLO Speech – A year after the election triumph

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- **Andrés-Manuel López-Obrador (AMLO) offered yesterday a speech in Mexico's City Central Square to celebrate one year since his electoral triumph**
- **In his intervention, the President listed a series of policies that have been implemented during the seven months of his administration, pointing also to pending issues that need to be tackled**
- **It should be mentioned that, at all times, the President's speech was consistent with the promises made in his book *La Salida***

Yesterday, President López-Obrador offered a speech at Mexico's City Central Square to celebrate the anniversary of his electoral triumph. It should be noted that this is not the *Presidential Address*, akin to the State of the Union in the US, which takes place on September 1st. This speech was celebratory in nature.

Macroeconomic environment. In his evaluation of economic conditions, he highlighted that: (1) Inflation has diminished, to 4.3% yoy currently from 5.3% in the same period of the previous year; (2) foreign direct investment has kept flowing, accumulating about US\$ 10 billion during 1Q19; (3) exports have advanced 9% yoy; (4) the stock market (S&P/BMV index) has gained 3% since the start of his administration; and (5) the exchange rate has behaved very well, with the Mexican peso among the currencies with the strongest gains against the US dollar. Moreover, he reiterated that his government has been respectful of Banco de Mexico and has maintained healthy public finances.

Energy policy. López-Obrador limited himself to say that a total of \$330 billion (US\$ 17.3 billion) will be invested in oil extraction and electricity generation.

Austerity and transparency. He detailed the reduction in wages of senior public servants and the sale of government assets, such as the "*luxurious and extravagant*" presidential plane. Additionally, he stated that all bureaucrats that have been required to disclose their assets have done so.

New Mexico City Airport and Santa Lucía. He reiterated the cancellation of the *Nuevo Mexico City Airport* in Texcoco and the construction of the *Felipe Angeles Airport* (Santa Lucía), assuring that works will be in a maximum period of one month.

Social programs. The President went through a list of some of the main social programs that have been deployed by his administration, including apprenticeship programs (*Jóvenes Construyendo el Futuro*, in Spanish), transfers for vulnerable groups, scholarships, support for farmers, credit to SME's, etc.). This section was the longest in the speech, taking around 75% of his one-hour intervention.

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Public Security and National Guard. He stated that the Mexican Government is no longer the first to violate human rights, while not permitting anymore “...raids, massacres, and forced disappearances...”. In this context, it should be noted that the National Guard formally started operations yesterday, a task-force that will operate in 150 regions across the country with the adequate and legitimate use of force, without violations to human rights.

Sticking with campaign promises. In the speech, López-Obrador reiterated the series of actions and policies that will be followed going forward, including the rescue of miners trapped in the *Pasta de Conchos* site, ensure internet access for the whole population, among others. In this respect, it should be noted that his speech was always in line with his campaign promises as stated in his book “*La Salida*”¹. This helps confirm that we have not seen any meaningful changes in the policies that the new administration wishes to implement.

References

1. **López-Obrador, Andrés-Manuel.** 2018 *La Salida. Decadencia y renacimiento de México*. Ciudad de México: Ed. Planeta, 2017

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