



# An Economy that Functions for the Many

NAPOLEÓN GÓMEZ URRUTIA

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As things stand, Mexico needs a real change in its economy to combat the rising tide of anxiety and frustration felt by a broad section of the population. We Mexicans are facing a constant decline in our living standards, serious instability about the permanence of our jobs, a deterioration in public services, health indicators and public safety, and a general sense of tension and fatigue that very few have been able to avoid.

Young people's potential for development is becoming stagnated by debt, living costs and a lack of opportunities to get ahead. Equally, many families have had to adjust their expectations about the prospect of achieving shared happiness through greater wellbeing and living conditions. The same thing is happening with many companies, which have put their expansion and growth plans on hold in light of uncertainty about the upcoming elections and the lack of security offered by the government.

The future for Mexican people cannot be measured by the economic success of handful of multimillionaires; it needs to be based on our capacity, effort and ability to ensure that the majority of the population experiences a material improvement in living standards. Wealth creation is a collective effort by workers, the business sector, investors and government: each of us contributes to the productive process, and its benefits should be shared out fairly. This is why the national economy must constantly improve, and the rules governing this strengthening process be rewritten to ensure justice and fairness, in order to gradually and yet swiftly reduce the extremely widespread poverty that currently exists in Mexico.

Our country is preparing for a change. It is only the privileged - and those with positions close the halls of political power who pass benefits and concessions onto them - who don't want to see the situation change or for there to be any shift. The circumstances are different now, with more than 50 per cent of the population, i.e. 62.5 million Mexican people in poverty, of which 20 per cent are in extreme poverty. The rest of the nation's wealth is carved up between 300 families and a growing group of new billionaires who pop up every six years, principally the very same corrupt politicians responsible for the entire situation of social inequality.



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At the same time, Mexico's trade and foreign policy have deteriorated and weakened to such an extent in the face of pressure from the US government, which has been threatening us not only with building an egregious, racist wall along the border with our country, but also with cancelling the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and imposing tariffs and duties on Mexican exports. As if that weren't enough, some authorities seem completely incapable of diversifying and promoting international economic relations and strengthening Mexico's image to the outside world. This is why sovereignty and our national interests must come first.

So it is that when these groups and Mexico's powerful economic elites become concerned about the possibility of a different direction in national politics and take to criticising the MORENA party and its candidate Andrés Manuel López Obrador, they are doing so because they are terrified of things changing. Their lack of sensitivity and arrogance prevent them from realising that the real threat they face is not the party or its candidate, but the attitude of the people themselves who feel aggrieved by their daily marginalisation and exploitation. It is true too that nobody can stand in the way of evolution and history.

Mexico's future could remain stuck in suspended animation if the economy is not re-evaluated, with a prominent position given to the role played by society's main economic agents. We have to change this inadequate and failed system that has engendered such major corruption.

The same thing happens when we look at the fact that Mexico is one of the few countries in Latin America where people's income has reduced despite productivity increasing, especially in manufacturing industries. This means that most members of the working class today earn less in real terms than they did more than twenty years ago. Moreover, many workers are in poorly paid jobs with even poorer working conditions, making it starkly apparent that the children of today will have fewer opportunities than their predecessors.

Mexico urgently needs a new investment and economic development plan, something that can only happen under a responsible government, committed to democratic change that can lead to real social justice, with respect for the rule of law and guaranteed security and protection of the population's labour and human rights. There will no longer be a place in our country for pretence and deceit in the years to come, and those who currently languish in the comfort of exploiting and enslaving the country's workforce and natural resources without a shred of social responsibility won't be able to get in the way of our the country's heading and destination.

The next government will have an enormous challenge on its hands, but also a great opportunity to put an end to corruption and make history with a new economic policy that will fundamentally alter the country's reality, transforming it into one that benefits the many.