

## **Resolution on the situation in Mexico**

The IDC-CDI wishes to express its concern about the management of the pandemic in Mexico, which has resulted in this sister country becoming the fourth nation with the highest number of deaths from COVID-19 worldwide, with a fatality rate of 10.52% - much higher than any of other countries with similar characteristics.

It is worth mentioning that such a grim scenario emerges when a federal government's figures on COVID-19 are not reliable, because the health authorities are reluctant to carry out massive testing, as recommended on several occasions by the World Health Organization.

Mexico already had a deteriorating economy due to questionable decisions taken by the current administration, but lockdown will deepen the crisis to levels Mexico has not experienced since 1932. According to official data, 12 million people were left unemployed during the pandemic, 25% of restaurants will not be able to reopen their doors and 10% of businesses in the country will close permanently.

Despite the dark outlook, the López Obrador government continues to resist implementing a fiscal support plan for micro, small- and medium-sized businesses. It has only granted one-time support of \$1,160 to 7.8% of businesses nationwide, whereas 93.2% of businesses have been affected by the health crisis, according to data from the Mexican National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI).

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) predicts that the Mexican economy will contract by 10.2% in 2020, which will result in high levels of poverty and informal labour, due to the little support provided by the Mexican government that barely hovers around 1.1% of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP), while the average for



Latin America is 3.2%, according to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

In terms of safety, there is no improvement and insecurity is rampant; over the six-year period, 59,684 victims of intentional homicide and femicide have been recorded. Although the government claims that there has been a drop in crimes such as robbery or kidnapping, this is due to lockdown and not the result of a public safety strategy.

The National Guard sold itself as the solution to the country's problems of violence, but it has only accentuated militarization and has become a body that does not respect the law, since only 0.3% of its 97 units passed the confidence test. This was evidenced by the repression suffered by a group of farmers protesting at the "La Boquilla" Dam in Chihuahua, in the north of the country, which resulted in the murder of a walnut farmer by National Guard troops.

Violence against women is not falling, and has in fact increased, with 10 women killed every day. In the first seven months of the year, crimes against women rose by 5.4% and the government does not have a clear strategy to combat gender-based violence.

Finally, the IDC-CDI respectfully calls on the Organization of American States and the European Union to follow up on the development of the electoral process in 2021, which will renew the Chamber of Deputies as well as 30 state congresses, 15 governorships and 1,926 city councils in 30 states, in order to guarantee free, fair and democratic elections.

Executive Committee Meeting videoconference 01/10/2020.