



**SEMARNAT**

SECRETARÍA DE MEDIO AMBIENTE  
Y RECURSOS NATURALES



**2019**

ANNO DOMINI MCMXCVII  
EMILIANO ZAPATA

UNIDAD COORDINADORA DE ASUNTOS  
INTERNACIONALES  
DIRECCIÓN GENERAL ADJUNTA DE COOPERACIÓN  
INTERNACIONAL

OFICIO UCAI/ 00643 /19

MEXICO CITY, 16 ABR 2019

**MS. SABAA KHAN**  
**CHAIR, JOINT PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**COMMISSION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION**  
**393, RUE ST-JACQUES OUEST, BUREAU 200**  
**MONTREAL QC H2Y IN9**

Dear Ms. Khan,

On behalf of the Council of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC), I would like to thank the Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC) for your advice to Council No: 18-01 highlighting outputs from the JPAC Public Forum on the Future of Environmental Cooperation in North America, held in Oklahoma in June 2018.

**Cooperation toward promoting and enhancing implementation of the SDGs**

Canada, Mexico, and the United States are aware of the importance of implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Efforts to implement the SDGs are seen in the framework of the CEC, through the ongoing Strategic Plan and the implementation of forty-two projects contained in the CEC`s Operational Plans which are consistent with several SDGs, including: zero hunger; good health and well-being; affordable and clean energy; industry, innovation and infrastructure; sustainable cities and communities; sustainable consumption and production; climate; life below water; and life on land.

We take note of your advice and recognize there is an opportunity to better promote and give visibility to the synergies among our work and the SDGs.

The CEC reflects a shared vision of our three countries, on a path to building a more dynamic, competitive, and integrated region by placing emphasis on environmental protection, building resilience to the impacts of climate change, transitioning towards the usage of clean energy, and sustainably growing our economies.

In this context, we agree that the CEC could be a means to advance the exchange of knowledge on business models for sustainable innovation in North America increasing both social and environmental values. The two Youth Innovation Challenges (2017 and 2018), have been an effort to promote and link sustainable business management practices by taking advantage of the role youth have been playing on seeking solutions to our current environmental challenges. The Council's initiative to develop and network





innovation hubs in North America to promote entrepreneurship, innovation, and sustainable development is another concrete activity in line with the SDGs.

**Increase the local and regional impact of the CEC**

The CEC has made efforts to involve new actors in its cooperation programs. A clear example of this was the announcement of three new initiatives that will advance trilateral innovation partnerships in green growth, atmospheric monitoring, as well as preparedness and resilience to extreme weather and climate events in our region. To achieve this, the CEC has engaged universities, federal agencies, Indigenous representatives, non-government organizations, and private sector associations to participate in these initiatives.

In addition, a number of federal agencies/departments are involved in the development and implementation of our cooperative projects in partnership with the Council, including agencies/departments working in health, transportation, energy, environment, natural resource management, atmospheric monitoring, and others.

However, the CEC can improve engagements with national industry, commerce associations, the private sector, and a broad range of civil society in new CEC initiatives in order to address the three interconnected elements of sustainable development: economic growth, social inclusion, and environmental sustainability.

**CEC´s focus on spearheading North America´s transitions to a low-carbon economy**

We are convinced that transitions towards a low emissions economy can be more effectively achieved by increasing regional cooperation.

The three Parties are partners in a number of global coalitions, networks, and initiatives to advance transitions to a low-emissions economy, for example, by investing in innovation. We are part of Mission Innovation, aimed to accelerate widespread affordable and clean energy as a global response to our climate challenges while promoting economic growth and providing greater energy security.

We have demonstrated our determination to position our economies on more sustainable pathways and recognized that each natural resource must be used efficiently and through sustainable consumption and production patterns. In the Operational Plans 2015-2016 and 2017-2018, the CEC included several projects related to food waste reduction and recovery







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as well as organic waste diversion and processing, and projects on energy efficiency in the industrial sector.

The CEC continues to seek ways to engage and value contribution that local and indigenous communities can contribute to our environmental management activities. Opportunity exists for indigenous communities and indigenous private sector engagement in the cooperative work projects and Council initiatives.

The Council sincerely appreciates the JPAC's recommendations as well as bringing to our attention the need of considering the links between the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs and the CEC cooperation program. These recommendations are timely and will help guide the new Operational Plan which is in construction by the Parties.

**SINCERELY,**

**NORMA MUNGUÍA ALDARACA**

**HEAD OF THE INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION UNIT  
AND ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE FOR MEXICO**

- cc. Isabelle Bérard, Alternate Representative for Canada  
Jane Nishida, Alternate Representative for the United States  
César Chavez, CEC Executive Director  
Marcela Orozco, JPAC Liaison Officer



