

## CEC Council Statement

### Mexico City, Mexico, 25 June 2019—

For the past twenty-five years, the Governments of Canada, Mexico and the United States, in collaboration with civil society across North America, have worked together through the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) to advance our shared environmental priorities. Created in 1994 through the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation (NAAEC), the CEC has been an innovative and successful forum for our federal, subnational and Indigenous representatives, including governments, communities, academia, the private sector, and youth, to increase cooperation between our countries to better conserve, protect, and enhance the environment.

### From Oklahoma to Mexico City

On this 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we are implementing the initiatives on extreme weather and climate events and innovation hubs announced at our 2018 Council Session in Oklahoma City. These projects are designed to improve our preparedness, response and resilience to extreme weather and climate events through enhanced capacity for drought monitoring, costing of floods, monitoring of wildfires and smoke, and remote sensing of fires. We also launched the North American Eco Innovation Network to provide the necessary knowledge, resources, and tools to cultivate youth and community leadership in innovation, entrepreneurship, and sustainable development.

Today, our public forum provided us a rich dialogue with experts from government, nongovernmental organizations, the private sector, as well as members of the public on “Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency.” We explored synergies and opportunities between our domestic and regional efforts with activities in civil society and the private sector to achieve positive results in addressing marine litter and food loss and waste and their environmental, ecosystem, climate and economic impacts.

### CEC Operational Plan 2019–2020

We are pleased to successfully complete our 2017–2018 operational plan and announce our new operational plan. Over the last two years we have developed trilateral approaches to reduce marine litter in shared watersheds, piloting these efforts in the US-Canada border Salish Sea and US-Mexico Border Tijuana watersheds. We also provided tools to manufacturing supply chains in the chemicals and automotive sectors to manage energy use, and reduce costs and greenhouse gas emissions to improve competitiveness. We developed [voluntary](#) guidelines and tools for our food supply chain and consumers to measure and minimize food waste to maximize the potential economic, sustainability, and climate benefits of such initiatives. Building on these successes, our new operational plan continues to strengthen our capacities in these key areas as well as in the areas of hazardous waste management and transfers, marine protected areas, pollinators and ecosystems, weather and climate resiliency, and traditional ecological knowledge. Our regional work on marine litter and extreme events produces valuable information that is also supportive of efforts in other fora, such as the G20.

### Youth Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Partnerships for Green Growth

We completed the third edition of the Youth Innovation Challenge, promoting youth entrepreneurship and innovation for sustainable development. We are proud to support the winning projects focused on transforming waste into sustainable materials to replace masonry blocks and furniture pieces, turning

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organic waste into quality animal feed, and using robots to deliver ultraviolet light as an alternative to pesticides in strawberry farms.

### **Stakeholder engagement and community action**

We acknowledge the valuable contributions made by the Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC) and its continued engagement with civil society to inform our work on building communities that are more resilient to extreme weather and climate events. We are also continuing to empower civil society and local and Indigenous communities to act on sustainability issues by devoting resources to another round of the North American Partnership for Environmental Community Action (NAPECA) for local community action projects.

Our stakeholders continue to capitalize on the Submissions on Enforcement Matters (SEM) mechanism with eight submissions over the last year intended to promote the effective enforcement of environmental laws in our three countries.

### **Looking forward**

As we conclude the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary meeting of the Council, we are proud that the CEC was the first trilateral forum for promoting a regional collaborative approach to environmental protection in North America. As we look to the future and to the modernization of our continued cooperation, we share a vision for this forum to continue advancing environmental and ecosystem protection, and innovation and partnerships for sustainable growth. In closing, we thank César Rafael Chávez for his valuable contribution and commitment in leading the CEC Secretariat these last three years.

We look forward to meeting next year in Canada.

APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL:

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Government of Canada

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Government of the United Mexican States

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Government of the United States of America