## Mexico and the United States coordinate to strengthen supply chains

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The governments held a high-level dialogue on economic cooperation in which they addressed topics on semiconductors, migration and the provision of medical equipment.

The governments of Mexico and the United States agreed to work together on four pillars of commercial and economic strengthening, derived from the High Level Economic Dialogue (DEAN) carried out this September 29, among which strategies to strengthen the supply chain of semiconductors to reduce the risk of their interruption in the face of threats from the current international context.

According to both countries, the strategy has four objectives: support the integration of regional chains, expand activities with improvements in the investment climate, promote greater attraction of operations in assembly, testing and encapsulation, promote diversification to other types of activities and foster dialogues at the state and local level, as well as support workforce development efforts.

To achieve this, some of the strategies implemented since 2021 have been the development of the workforce through the selection of Mexican students who will be sent to Mesa Community College in Arizona to study the Automated Industrial Technology program, as well as the launch of the Single Window for Investors of the Ministry of Economy.

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Another of the fundamental pillars addressed in the DEAN is the improvement of border conditions to facilitate travel and legal trade.

As part of the strategy is to resume in-person meetings of the Binational Group on bridges and International Crossings to coordinate infrastructure projects in the northern strip of Mexico, among which are improvements at the Calexico East port of entry, in San Luis, the construction of a Douglas commercial port of entry and the evaluation of the Santa Teresa-San Jerónimo expansion.

They also agreed to meet state and municipal governments, the private sector and civil society organizations, to request their cooperation in planning mobility between countries and binational transportation.

Added to the plan is the search to facilitate the commercialization of medical equipment through the streamlining of processes and reliability of the decisions of the FDA (Food and Drug Administration).

In the dialogue, it was also agreed to promote sustainable economic and social development in southern Mexico and Central America with programs such as the Sowing Life in Guatemala project during the second half of 2023 and the Root Causes Strategy of the US government.

"Mexico and the US supported the establishment of a coordination mechanism between state governors in the south and southeast of Mexico to promote sustainable development in the region. The mechanism aims to encourage greater collaboration between states on projects such as the creation of a regional network of Small Business Development Centers (SBDC)," the document says.

Both governments also agreed to ensure technological tools in telecommunications to mitigate risks in this sector and the telecommunications sector, as well as promote measures to improve the workforce in industries such as semiconductors, electronics, medical devices, agri-food and automotive.