

## Foreword

**I**t gives me great pleasure to present this second edition of *Getting it Right* for Mexico. As never before, Mexico has a historic opportunity to build consensus in a number of areas that will make it possible to embark on far-reaching structural reforms, representing a qualitative leap in the country's development. The 13 Presidential decisions for Mexico, contained in President Enrique Peña Nieto's Message to the Nation on taking office on 1 December in the National Palace, laid the foundations for promoting those changes. These commitments have been supported and developed in greater depth by the 95 commitments of the Pact for Mexico (*Pacto por México*), which was signed by the leaders of the main political parties. The challenge now will be to turn those historical agreements into decisions and practical policies. This study aims to support Mexico tackling that challenge, contributing analysis, comparisons, and recommendations in the reform areas.

*Getting it Right* is one of the most complete toolkits that the OECD has designed to help a country at the start of a new government administration. In this publication, the focus of the Organisation's multidisciplinary knowledge is on Mexico; the discussion is enriched with international experience, and comparison based on best practices. In addition, the report identifies the Mexican economy's strengths and weaknesses so as to support the design, promotion and implementation of key public policies for better economic performance.

This document is intended to assist President Enrique Peña Nieto's government in implementing a new generation of structural and comprehensive reforms. The country urgently needs to build a responsive and robust fiscal system that provides a solid financial basis for serving expenditure needs, meeting economic and social challenges, and helping reduce inequalities. It also needs a state-of-the-art education system; a budgetary process targeted on long-term results; a more effective and fairer rule of law; a more dynamic and inclusive labour market; a set of incentives that promote competition; an open and effective national innovation system; an energy strategy with a long-term

vision; and a sustainable and high-quality health service. These are some of the key challenges on which the new government will need to focus.

That President Peña Nieto has decided to sign a memorandum of understanding for a strategic partnership between Mexico and the OECD, and took time to attend a seminar with OECD experts during his visit to Paris to consider some of these issues, are very positive signs of a serious commitment towards a strategic agenda of structural changes for Mexico. The OECD wants to continue supporting that agenda.

I have had the opportunity to promote major reforms in various member countries of our Organisation – *e.g.* on taxes in Japan, education in the United States, social policy in the Republic of Korea, and competition in Italy. It is an honour for me, not only as OECD Secretary-General but also as a Mexican, to serve Mexico and work with the administration that will be leading the country for the next six years. As I told President Peña Nieto, the new Mexican government should consider the OECD an extension of its own capacities.

A public policies forum, *Mexico: Public Policies for Inclusive Development* is to be held in January 2013 in Mexico City, co-ordinated by the OECD's Mexico centre with support from other international organisations. I hope that this study, in conjunction with the forum, will help enrich the debate and build the consensus needed to promote the reforms discussed here and enable Mexico to improve its economic performance, reduce inequalities, and progress to a higher development level, benefitting all its people.



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