

Resolution: 'Let Us Build The Bridge to the Future'

This resolution was issued by the conference in Ciudad Obregón, Sonora, on Nov. 9, under the title "Build the Agreement of the Northwest; Let Us Build the Bridge to the Future; Let us Build the PLHINO of the 21st Century; Water, Energy, and Food for Mexico."

The organizations of agricultural producers, workers, intermediary organizations, businessmen, youth, and state legislators from Sonora, Sinaloa, and Nayarit, meeting this November 9, 2007 in the "Regional Forum: Let Us Build the Bridge to the Future. Let Us Build the PLHINO of the 21st Century," do hereby proclaim the following agreements and resolutions:

Whereas:

First. The nation is in the throes of an international scenario of financial instability, whose apex can be found in the crisis of U.S. mortgage debt, and whose hyperinflationary manifestation is impacting raw materials prices, primarily the food products whose prices in recent months have been inexorably climbing, which affects the entire world, and especially Mexico, which is one of the leading grain-importing nations.

Second. Said scenario is worsening as a result of a significant reduction in world grain reserves, at the same time that

the main exporter of these, the United States, has decided to allocate millions of tons of corn to the production of ethanol, thereby turning it into a commodity of the speculative energy market, and thus reducing export volumes. Add to this the fact that the emerging markets of China and India have increased their food demand, a combination of factors that threatens a prolonged critical situation within which Mexico is tremendously vulnerable.

Third. Together with the foregoing, the depressive effects of the financial crisis on the United States economy are causing a process of unemployment, whose major impact is on the construction sector, within which one finds nearly 20% of the 14 million Mexicans who have emigrated to the U.S. since 1994, and who today are being pushed to return to Mexico. This would explain why, at the close of this year, Mexico will be showing a decline of more than 2% in the dollar remittances sent by Mexican workers in the United States. This in turn means a decline in foreign exchange reserves for importing goods, along with the return of our Mexicans who had found economic refuge in North America.

Therefore, we resolve and agree:

1. That the most appropriate path to take for protecting the nation from the adversities that are joining forces under the present international situation, is to undertake a vigorous policy of public investment directed at great infrastructure projects that can increase the productive powers of our population and assure a greater availability of water, energy, and food. In that sense, the construction of works like the PLHINO should be carried out under a renewed perspective of meeting the urgent national need to strengthen basic grain-producing regions, and which have a great development potential to guarantee the growth of the national economy.

2. That the expansion of the agricultural frontier in regions with great grain-producing potential, like the country's Northwest, should be considered a state matter and national security matter. Thus, projects like the PLHINO can be delayed no longer, given that it has cost the nation too much to abandon these infrastructure projects whose economic potential has multifunctional characteristics. Assuring the interconnection of the 16 rivers that flow from the Western Sierra Madre to the fertile coasts of the states of Nayarit, Sinaloa, and Sonora, would allow the management of 28 billion cubic meters of water that would give efficient sustainability to the region, the generation of productive jobs, water for urban and industrial use, the production of electricity, the development of fish breeding, and tourism, regularization of cultivation patterns, expansion of moisture cycles that would increase the possibilities for rain in the region, thereby improving the ecology and the growth of life in general.

3. To actively support the point of agreement approved on April 24 of this year, in the Mexican Senate and presented by Senators Alfonso Elías Serrano of Sonora, Mario López Valdez of Sinaloa and Raúl José Mejía González of Nayarit, in which they call on the Federal Congress and on the Federal Executive to allocate the resources as of 2008, and to define an

annualized investment that would make feasible the completion of the Water Plan of the Northwest (PLHINO), in a period of time in accordance with the nation's urgent needs for water, energy, and food. We similarly agree to support the Rural Development and Water Resources Committees of the Federal Congress, presided over by deputies Carlos Navarro López and Jesús Patrón Montalvo, respectively, the same committees which assumed the formal commitment to request, for the budgetary year to come, a fund of 72 million pesos, that would allow the beginning of feasibility studies related to the execution of this important water infrastructure project.

4. To call on the Commission of Agriculture of the National Congress to add its support to the point of agreement of the Senate of the Republic, and to the efforts of the Commissions of Rural Development and Water Resources, to assure that the fund of 72 million marks the beginning of a resolute militancy during 2008 which, with solid arguments, establishes the necessity of achieving an annualized budgetary projection to assure the completion of the PLHINO in a period of time that is in accord with the nation's water, energy, and food constraints.

5. To call on the governments of the states of Nayarit, Sinaloa, and Sonora, as well as the municipalities of those three states and the agricultural producer organizations and others, to provide the economic funds for a feasibility study of the project, whose moral weight would represent a gesture of good will and an element of pressure, so that the federal government assumes the fundamental commitments that the general welfare demands of it.

6. To expand the deployment of the Pro-PLHINO Committee of the 21st Century to the states of Nayarit and Sinaloa, so that the region as a whole can be aware of the strategic importance of this project. In particular, that it fully understand the mission that the Mexican Northwest bears in helping the nation achieve adequate levels of food self-sufficiency.

7. To hold, with both the federal government and within the legislative arena, a broad discussion throughout 2008 on the sources of financing to which we will need to turn in order to complete projects like the PLHINO. Especially, to open up a debate on the use of a portion of the oil income surplus, to invest in infrastructure projects whose impact meets strategic needs. And to assure that the oil once again becomes a lever in the strengthening of the national economy and in the industrialization of the country.

8. We express our solidarity with the people of Tabasco, whose tragedy cannot properly be blamed on nature, but rather on the fact that for more than 30 years, the policy of investment in great water infrastructure projects was abandoned, which in the case of the Southeast demands the construction of these works on the fastest-flowing rivers of the country. The painful drama of Tabasco should be both a lesson and an inspiration to take up once again the basic criteria of economic functionality, in which infrastructure becomes the backbone for guaranteeing the economic growth and welfare of our people.