

Embassy of India

Mexico City

Participation of Mexico and Belize in the Voice of Global South Summit 2.0
(VOGSS 2.0) on 17th November 2023

Mexico City, 17th November 2023

India hosted the second edition of the Voice of Global South Summit 2.0 in virtual mode on 17th November 2023. Mexico and Belize participated in the Foreign Ministers' and Health Ministers' session respectively. The Foreign Ministers' session was led by the **Hon'ble External Affairs Minister Dr. S Jaishankar** while the Health Ministers' session was led by the **Hon'ble Minister of Health & Family Welfare Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya**.

2. The theme of the inaugural leaders' session was '**Together, for Everyone's Growth, with Everyone's Trust**' and that of the VOGSS 2.0 session was '**Global South: Together for One Future**'. Its purpose was to build upon the VOGSS 1.0 that was held in January 2023 that envisaged bringing together countries of the Global South and share their perspectives and priorities on a common platform across a whole range of issues. The initiative was inspired by the **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's** vision of '**Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas aur Sabka Prayas**', and also underpinned by India's philosophy of **Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam**.

3. In the Foreign Ministers' Session, Hon'ble Foreign Minister of Mexico Ms. Alicia Barcena , was represented by her Chief of Staff, **Mr. Martin Borrego**. He congratulated India for successfully hosting the G20 Leaders' Summit in September 2023 and appreciated the induction of African Union to the G20 as a member. Mexico also corroborated the September adoption of the New Delhi statement, which focused on common problems facing the countries of the Global south.

4. **Mr. Borrego** also mentioned about **The Fourth Transformation of Mexico** based on resolving these problems for the people and an unwavering commitment to social justice, the fight against poverty and inequality, and the full implementation of the **2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals**. In the G20, Mexico emphasized the need for an equitable international financial system that addresses the severe disparities between nations, with a particular focus on the multilateral development banks so that they effectively respond to the most specific financing needs of developing countries while maintaining fair prices and just concessional loans at the core to support projects that address the most urgent needs of the Global South.

5. Mexico reiterated that rich nations have to meet their financial obligations to developing nations, especially in the battle against climate change, by emphasizing technology transfer and information sharing and by championing the interests and goals of the Global South. Mr. Borrego also commented that in order to achieve inclusive development, gender equality must be prioritized as a cross-cutting issue, placing women at the heart of recovery and policy-making. Mexico was the first nation in the Global South to implement feminist foreign policy.

6. Mexico also commented that the issue of **migration**, which is significant for the majority of the Global South's countries, is another top priority for Mexico. Mexico would share with the Global south countries, the outcome document of the **Palenque Summit** held on October 22, 2023 under the leadership of President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador wherein they addressed the issue of migration based on four pillars: addressing the internal and central political causes, deciding on coordinated actions to address migration, and closely coordinating with countries of origin, transit, and destination to foster safe, humane, and orderly migrations. Mexico called for supporting communication and diplomacy in the face of the current geopolitical confrontation and armed conflicts.

7. **Mr. Kevin Bernard, Minister Of Public Health and Wellness of Belize** participated in the Health Ministers Session. He expressed his appreciation for the invitation from the Government of India to take part in VOGSS 2.0 and offered solutions on the highly relevant topic of global health. He stressed on the need for looking at healthcare as a **fundamental right**- integral to the dignity of every human life. Hence, he stated, **“Every decision we make, every policy we formulate should be guided by this principle. It is our duty to ensure access to quality healthcare for all- regardless of their social, economic or geographical circumstances”**.

8. Highlighting on the need to converge global efforts for better health outcomes, he stated that it is important to work together towards these goals. He assured of his commitment to work with all regions, organizations and individuals who share the vision of a healthier, more equitable world. He underscored the importance of building trust by ensuring transparency in the processes, accountability in the actions, and inclusiveness in the approach.

9. He concluded by urging all ministers not to regard themselves as just public figures but custodians of human health and well being. He rallied everyone towards the goal of healthier mankind by saying that **“Our collective actions today will determine the health outcomes of generations to come. Let us strive to leave a legacy of improved health, reduced inequality and enhanced truth.”**

Pictures from VOGSS 2.0 Foreign Ministers’ session are placed below:





Pictures from VOGSS 2.0 Health Ministers' Session are placed below:

