

Reaction to Trump's tariffs against Mexico.

President Trump has announced the intention to sequentially raise tariffs on all imports from Mexico, reaching 25% by October, if it does not contain the Mesoamerican migratory flows towards the United States of America.

This unprecedented measure is a commercial sanction linked to migration policies and problems. *A priori*, the motivation is not only protectionist, although the effect is. Neither is it a sanction to a breach of an international obligation subscribed to by Mexico. It's the club to force the application of measures that eliminate flows of people from other jurisdictions that seek the US as a destination.

Applying trade restrictions is allowed by the World Trade Organization (WTO) in certain circumstances, such as unfair competition, or to facilitate adjustment to unexpected situations that cause injury to a domestic production. The WTO contemplates trade sanctions against a country's exports when the dispute settlement system authorizes, after concluding that it has not repealed a measure that the system has determined is in breach of an obligation of a WTO agreement. In contrast, the trade measure of President Trump is an instrument of pressure to deal with an issue that is not contemplated or regulated by trade agreements such as the WTO, NAFTA or the new USMCA, and therefore cannot be resolved in the context of international cooperation contemplated in said instruments.

The sanction announced should alert and be of concern to the rest of the world. Today it's about Mexico and immigration issues. Tomorrow it may be another country for other non-commercial considerations. With this, one more step is taken to dismantle the post-war construction of norms and international processes to ensure cooperation, peace, security and prosperity.

The indifference or apathy of the international community will only have one reading: that we are willing to tolerate aggression and submit to the whims of President Trump. All of us who promote the validity of international law and human rights must react.

Mexico being the affected country, the governments of Latin America and the Caribbean must articulate a position that firmly rejects this sanction and expresses its will to contribute to generate conditions to mitigate migration problems.

A strategy that offers job opportunities, social and security policies that can stop the migration is certainly required. In the face of aggression, it is necessary to show effective cooperation capacity. We have the vocation and the instruments. It is up to the governments to act.

Signed

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11. José Miguel Insulza, Former Secretary General of the OAS, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs and Former Minister of the Interior of Chile.
12. Alejandro Jara P., Former Director General of International Economic Relations, Former Ambassador of Chile to the WTO, Former Deputy Director General of the WTO
13. Ricardo Lagos Weber, Senator, Former Minister General Secretary of Government, Former High Official for APEC, Former Deputy Chief Negotiator for the Chile-US FTA.
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