

## Mexican Youth Climate Movement



April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021

To the esteemed Heads of State and Government at the Leaders Summit on Climate,

We, as Mexico's youth, would like to deliver a message of the utmost urgency. We are addressing you not only as political leaders, but also as the captains of our common ship — this unique, gorgeous planet Earth that is home to everything you cherish and everyone you love.

The climate crisis is the biggest threat humanity has ever faced. The future of today's youth and generations yet born depends on our capacity to transcend our divisions to think and act collectively to meet this existential challenge.

As you gather for the Climate Summit, we are deeply concerned that President Lopez Obrador is actively working to take our country **backwards** with the adoption of reforms to our electric industry law that would **increase Mexico's annual greenhouse gas emissions in 2024 by 32% over 2020 levels** according to analysis by the Mexican Climate Initiative.<sup>i</sup> The reforms erect major new barriers to clean energy deployment to ensure new markets for dirty, heavy fuel oil produced by our national oil company, PEMEX.

As you know, the next generations around the world will experience much greater global temperature and climate change impacts—increased and more severe floods, cyclones, droughts, heat waves, water scarcity, etc.— than older age groups, who will not live to see the more extreme impacts of climate change materialize.

On March 24<sup>th</sup>, 16 Mexican youth climate organizations and more than 200 individual young people filed a petition for protection of constitutional rights challenging these reforms to the Electricity Industry Act that would reverse the nation's transition to clean energy.<sup>ii</sup> The legal cases seek to block the reforms<sup>iii</sup> arguing that they violate our constitutional rights to a healthy environment (Article 4) which requires a transition to clean energy to mitigate the effects of climate change.

We, the youth of Mexico, will keep doing everything we can to change our government's dangerous and irresponsible actions that would turn Mexico from a climate leader to a climate laggard. We are urging you, global leaders, to please do everything you can within the principles of public international law to work with our government to change course and restart an ambitious energy transition in Mexico. Keep your own children's and grandchildren's future front of mind during the Summit and in this critical year

for increasing national ambition, and to do all you can to ensure that youth around the world will be able to enjoy a livable and prosperous future.

Yours very truly,

- [Nuestros Derechos al Futuro y al Medio Ambiente Sano, A.C. \(Our Right to the Future and Healthy Environment\)](#)
- [Alianza Juvenil por la Sostenibilidad, A.C. \(Youth Alliance for Sustainability\)](#)
- [Fridays For Future: México](#)
- [Extinction Rebellion México, Mexico City, Chihuahua, Mérida and Pachuca](#)
- [Naj Hub, A.C.](#)
- [Consejo Interuniversitario Nacional de Estudiantes de Derecho, A.C., CINED \(National Interuniversity Council of Law Students\)](#)
- [Ágora Ciudadanos Cambiando México, A.C. \(Agora Citizens Changing Mexico\)](#)
- [Activismo Por la Gente \(Activism for the People\)](#)
- [Demos+](#)
- [Juventudes Disidentes \(Dissident Youth\)](#)
- [Kokún: Eventos Ambientales \(Kokún: Environmental Events\)](#)
- [División Juvenil de Cambio Climático \(Youth Division for Climate Change\)](#)
- [Embajada Pro-Acción Climática \(Embassy for Climate Action\)](#)
- [Colectivo Estudiantil Proyecto EcoCiencias \(Student Collective Eco-Science Project\)](#)
- [Sociedad Estudiantil de Ingeniería Ambiental Xoxoctic Tlalli \(School Association of Environmental Engineers Xoxoctic Tlalli\)](#)
- [Contaminantes anónimos](#)
- [Misión Planeta \(Planet Mission\)](#)
- [Sociedad de Energía y Medio Ambiente, Facultad de Ingeniería SOEMA \(Energy and Environment Society, Engineer Faculty, SOEMA\)](#)
- [Radar Verde \(Green Radar\)](#)
- [Escazú Ahora México \(Escazu Now Mexico\)](#)
- [Eco Ruby](#)

---

<sup>1</sup> *Environmental implications of the Electricity Industry Law reform*. Iniciativa Climática de México, April 2021. Available at [http://www.iniciativaclimatica.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/LIereform\\_ENG.pdf](http://www.iniciativaclimatica.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/LIereform_ENG.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> NGOs: [Our Right to the Future and Healthy Environment](#), [Youth Alliance for Sustainability](#), [Naj Hub](#), [National Interuniversity Council of Law Students](#), and [Agora Citizens Changing Mexico](#). Organizations: [Colectivo Activismo Por la Gente](#), [Demos+](#), [Colectivo Fuego Verde](#), [Colectivo Juventudes Disidentes](#), [Colectivo Kokún: Eventos Ambientales](#), [Cambio Colectivo Mx](#), [División Juvenil de Cambio Climático](#), [Colectivo Embajada Pro-Acción Climática](#), [Fridays For Future: México](#), [Colectivo Estudiantil Proyecto EcoCiencias](#), [Sociedad Estudiantil de Ingeniería Ambiental Xoxoctic Tlalli](#).

<sup>3</sup> The reforms to the Electric Industry Act (Ley de la Industria Eléctrica) promoted by President Lopez Obrador would reverse the energy transition in Mexico by, among other measures:

- a) Abandoning "merit order" electricity dispatch, which dispatches the cheapest electricity – almost always wind and solar – first. The reforms establish priority dispatch for electricity generated by the national utility, largely heavy fuel oil and gas generation, irrespective of price, reliability, or sustainability. This means less renewable energy, more fossil fuel generation, and more GHG emissions.
- b) Undermining the country's Clean Energy Certificates program by granting certificates the state-owned utility's old hydroelectric plants and nuclear plants, increasing the total number of certificates, and diminishing their value and ability to attract new investment in clean power.

- c) Eliminating the requirement to hold auctions for the sale of electricity. The three Mexican Long-Term Auctions, in 2015, 2016 and 2017, led to \$6.6 billion of investment in least-cost, reliable clean energy.