

Mexico Political Chatter

July 2, 2026

The week was marked by a long-anticipated decision: on July 1, the United States officially informed Mexico and Canada that it will not extend the USMCA for another 16 years. U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer communicated that Washington is not in a position to renew the treaty in its current form, so the agreement will remain in force until 2036 with annual reviews instead of the extension that would have carried it to 2042. Economy Secretary Marcelo Ebrard is expected to attend the president's morning press conference today to detail the scope of this decision.

Far from a rupture, the mechanism avoids an immediate termination: each party will annually present the issues it wishes to address, and the next bilateral round is scheduled for July 20. As some observers note, the U.S. decision should be understood as a calculated political move to manage timing, pressure, and narratives in an election year. Although some voices consider the outcome a failure of the Mexican negotiation, the real challenge will be to translate the annual-review agenda into a mechanism of certainty for regional trade.

The importance of this announcement paled in comparison to the World Cup euphoria, which, following another victory by the Mexican national team, once again lit up the streets of Mexico City and other cities across the country. This time, the World Cup celebrations left a tragic toll in the capital: four people died during the festivities, prompting Head of Government Clara Brugada to ask fans to celebrate in alternate locations, though she ruled out banning celebrations at the Ángel or installing barriers. In parallel, the mobilizations of searching mothers continue, taking advantage of the tournament's visibility to demand attention to the phenomenon of disappearances.

Meanwhile, the bilateral relationship continued to generate friction following a New York Times report on alleged U.S. informants in Mexico, which Sheinbaum publicly questioned during her morning press conference. Amid this barrage, a report revealed that the former director of Pemex, Víctor Rodríguez Padilla, earned a salary higher than that of the president herself, while his wife filed a domestic violence complaint before the capital's prosecutor's office, accompanied by the release of a video that unequivocally showed Rodríguez's aggressions.

Finally, the start of July brought a renewal of the party landscape: five new organizations obtained their registration as national political parties, among them Somos México, whose challenge, as Jorge Zepeda Patterson analyzes, will be to demonstrate that it represents a programmatic and citizen-based alternative, avoiding being perceived as a rerun of the old opposition bloc, even though many well-known figures are among its ranks. In San Lázaro, meanwhile, a report documented that the bureaucracy grew again with 7,501 new positions, reviving the debate over austerity in the legislature.

Washington shakes up the future of the USMCA

The United States officially notified Mexico and Canada that it will not support extending the USMCA to 2042, so the treaty will remain in force until 2036 under the established mechanism of annual reviews. Although the agreement does not disappear nor imply an immediate trade rupture, the decision alters the scenario that Mexico and Canada were seeking, as they had bet on a 16-year renewal to provide certainty for investment.

The Mexican government maintained that negotiations will continue and that the treaty will remain the axis of North America's economic integration.

The decision set off alarms in the political and business spheres. Opposition legislators questioned that the government failed to anticipate Washington's stance and warned that the annual reviews could become an instrument of pressure on issues such as energy, rules of origin, or security. The concern takes on greater relevance because more than 80% of Mexican exports go to the United States, with sectors such as automobiles, auto parts, machinery, electronic equipment, and agri-food products highly dependent on the U.S. market. The challenge for Mexico will be to preserve certainty for investment and maintain its competitive advantage during a negotiation that, in practice, will be permanent.

 [El Universal: U.S. officially informs Mexico it will not extend the USMCA to 2042; it will remain in force only until 2036, Ebrard confirms](#)

The Tri's celebration has already claimed lives and raises concern ahead of the England match

The celebrations over the Mexican national team's advance in the World Cup have escalated in intensity and ceased to be merely a sporting celebration. Following the victory over Ecuador, four people died during the mass gatherings near the Ángel de la Independencia, as thousands of fans flooded Paseo de la Reforma. The Mexico City government confirmed that it will reinforce civil protection and security operations, though it ruled out canceling the spontaneous celebrations in the event of another Tri triumph.

Attention now turns to the round-of-16 match against England, scheduled for this Sunday, considered the highest-turnout event since the start of the tournament. Authorities face the challenge of preventing a possible victory from once again leading to an emergency due to overcrowding and stampedes, while governments such as the United Kingdom's have already updated their travel advisories for their fans. The combination of sporting enthusiasm, massive gatherings, and a national team that keeps advancing has turned logistics and public safety into a first-order challenge for the capital.

 [El Universal: Death toll rises to 4 after World Cup celebration in Mexico City; 3 from asphyxiation](#)

INE gives green light to two new parties ahead of 2027

The National Electoral Institute (INE) delivered the registration certificates to Somos México and Partido PAZ, with which both organizations officially acquired the status of national political parties and will be able to participate for the first time in the federal and local elections of 2027. With this recognition, they will have access to public financing, official airtime on radio and television, as well as prerogatives and institutional representation. The incorporation of these forces expands the political offering ahead of the upcoming elections, though both will face the challenge of consolidating a national structure, differentiating themselves from the rest of the parties, and obtaining the citizen support needed to retain their registration in a scenario marked by Morena's dominance and the reconfiguration of the opposition.

 [El Heraldo de México: INE delivers official certificate to 2 new political parties](#)

us Sheinbaum pushes back on report about alleged Morena informants

President Claudia Sheinbaum questioned a report claiming that Morena officials and legislators allegedly collaborated as informants for U.S. authorities, stating that her government has no knowledge of such cooperation and criticizing that the accusations rest on anonymous sources. The president insisted that any allegation must be backed by evidence and framed the publication within a context of growing political tension between Mexico and the United States. The episode once again places the bilateral relationship under the spotlight and increases pressure on the federal government, which faces international questioning over alleged ties between political actors and organized crime, as it seeks to contain the political and diplomatic impact of these reports.

 [Forbes: Sheinbaum questions Times report on U.S. informants](#)

Víctor Rodríguez case escalates: criminal complaint and new scrutiny

The case of former Pemex director Víctor Rodríguez Padilla added a new chapter after his wife, María Felicia Jiménez, filed a formal domestic violence complaint before the Mexico City Investigation Prosecutor's Office. In parallel, it was revealed that during his tenure at the helm of the oil company he earned a salary higher than that of President Claudia Sheinbaum, despite the austerity policy establishing that no public servant should earn more than the head of the Executive. The information again placed under scrutiny both his time at the state productive enterprise and the control mechanisms over the remuneration of senior officials.

The case has transcended the personal sphere to become a political problem for the federal government. Sheinbaum reiterated that there will be no protection for the former official and that he must answer to the authorities, while the complaint and the revelations about his earnings keep attention on one of the administration's closest collaborators. The combination of alleged aggressions, questions over his remuneration, and the media impact of the case has intensified the pressure for the investigations to advance with transparency and without privileges.

 [El Universal: Wife of Víctor Rodríguez files complaint before Mexico City Investigation Prosecutor's Office; accuses domestic violence](#)

San Lázaro fattens its bureaucracy again

The Chamber of Deputies increased its workforce during the current Legislature, reaching 7,501 positions, nearly a thousand more than those reported when Morena took control of San Lázaro in 2018. The growth represents a cost of 5.199 billion pesos, equivalent to 54% of the Chamber's annual budget, a figure that contrasts with the austerity discourse promoted by the ruling party in its early years, when it denounced the existence of thousands of unnecessary positions and promised to slim down the administrative apparatus.

The increase revives the debate over the consistency between the government's discourse and practice. In 2019, Morena announced the elimination of nearly 3,000 positions, considering that many corresponded to "ghost employees" or posts without clear functions; however, seven years later, the number of employees exceeds even that recorded then. Beyond the budgetary impact, the growth of the legislative payroll fuels criticism over the management of public resources and once again places the republican austerity policy — one of the main political emblems of the Fourth Transformation — under scrutiny.

 [El Universal: Bureaucracy fattens again in San Lázaro; 7,501 positions reported](#)

💰 ASF brings 21 complaints to the FGR over alleged 600-million-peso diversions

The Federal Audit Office (ASF) filed 21 criminal complaints before the Attorney General's Office (FGR) over the alleged diversion of more than 600 million pesos, involving around 30 public servants across the three levels of government. Among the cases are alleged irregularities at Talleres Gráficos de México, Cofepris, the government of Nayarit, the Benito Juárez Autonomous University of Oaxaca, and various municipalities in the State of Mexico, Veracruz, Michoacán, and San Luis Potosí. In addition to the criminal complaints, the ASF opened 30 files for serious administrative responsibilities related to possible acts of collusion and improper contracting, marking the beginning of a more aggressive strategy by the new auditor, Aureliano Hernández Palacios, to judicialize cases of alleged corruption detected in the audits.

 [La Jornada: ASF files 21 criminal complaints over the alleged diversion of 600 million pesos](#)

🗣️ Opinion express

🗣️ What happened yesterday with the USMCA — Enrique Quintana, *El Financiero*

Quintana recounts that the first trilateral meeting of the USMCA review, held on July 1 with Jamieson Greer, Dominic LeBlanc, and Marcelo Ebrard, lasted only a few minutes per participant under a previously agreed format, and that no one informed expected more. What matters, he argues, is what it foreshadows: annual reviews almost certainly for the duration of Trump's tenure in the White House. He analyzes that the U.S. statement contains a phrase for Trump's consumption — "the USMCA is not renewed" — that already defines the Republican messaging ahead of November's midterm elections, while the rest of the text sends businesses and markets the signal that the treaty remains in force until 2036 and that negotiations will continue. Quintana highlights a mitigating factor for Mexico: the recent growth of the U.S. economy rests on artificial intelligence ecosystems, and Mexico is — alongside Taiwan — one of the two main external suppliers to the United States in that field.

 [El Financiero: What happened yesterday with the USMCA](#)

- **The 4T's informants — Raymundo Riva Palacio**

Riva Palacio argues that the recent revelations about alleged U.S. government informants within Morena expose internal fractures in the Fourth Transformation and a growing climate of distrust among its main leaders. The columnist contends that, faced with U.S. investigations into possible ties between Mexican politicians and organized crime, some ruling-party actors have opted to collaborate with U.S. authorities to protect their own interests. In the author's view, this dynamic reflects a power struggle within the governing movement that could intensify as the investigations advance and international pressure mounts on various Morena figures.

 [El Financiero: The '4T's' informants](#)

- **Who are or will be Somos México? — Jorge Zepeda Patterson**

Zepeda Patterson analyzes the birth of Somos México and argues that the new party's main challenge will not only be to consolidate an electoral structure, but to build its own identity that goes beyond rejection of Morena. The author contends that the new political force will have to demonstrate that it represents a programmatic and citizen-based alternative, avoiding being perceived as a rerun of the

old opposition bloc. In that sense, he argues that its viability will depend on attracting new leaderships, offering differentiated proposals, and convincing an electorate that demands distinct options in a political scenario marked by polarization and the dominance of the ruling party.

 [Milenio: Who are or will be "Somos México"?](#)

- **Two new parties — Luis Carlos Ugalde**

Ugalde argues that the authorization to register two new political parties expands the electoral offering but will hardly substantially alter the balance of Mexico's party system. The author considers that both Somos México and Partido Paz will face the challenge of building competitive structures and differentiating themselves from the traditional forces in an environment dominated by Morena. He also warns that the success of both will depend less on their legal registration than on their capacity to connect with a disenchanted electorate and present credible political projects ahead of the 2027 elections.

 [Reforma: Two new parties](#)

 Agenda in brief

This Sunday, July 5, Mexico City and other major cities across the country will remain on maximum alert for the match between Mexico and England in the World Cup round of 16. Authorities will deploy a special operation at the Ángel de la Independencia and other gathering points amid the expectation of massive celebrations, after the festivities over the national team's recent victories left fatalities and dozens of people treated. The goal will be to prevent new incidents, regardless of the match's outcome.