

Report on Workshop on Intergovernmental Relations in Mexico

On 16 November 2000, the Forum of Federations organized a workshop in Mexico City on institutional mechanisms for the effective functioning of federalism. Practitioners from Canada, the United States, Germany, Brazil, Argentina and Australia shared best practices with their counterparts in Mexico. The goal of the workshop was to provide the new Mexican government with the opportunity to examine a variety of models for managing intergovernmental relations and to assist it in determining which models would provide the most effective governance structure for Mexico. The success of this small workshop also allowed the Forum to forge close links with several key figures involved in the President Vicente Fox's federalism reform team. The workshop also led to an invitation, by the Fox Administration, for the Forum to assist in implementing a major international conference on the topic of Mexican federalism for November 2001 in Mexico.

Objectives and Goals:

- The goal of the workshop was to provide the transition cabinet of Vicente Fox with an opportunity to examine a variety of models for managing intergovernmental relations and to assist in determining which models would provide the most effective governance structure for Mexico.
- This goal was achieved through an exchange of information, including best practices, with practitioners from Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Germany, and the United States of America.

Major project activities:

- One-day workshop held at the Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas (CIDE) in Mexico City on November 16 2000, with a special emphasis placed on the mechanisms for coordinating the activities of the office in charge of intergovernmental relations and other federal departments.

Attainment of anticipated objectives: in terms of specified outputs, outcomes and impact (with indicators)

- Practitioners and experts identified by the Forum attended the workshop, imparting their experience to their Mexican counterparts
- The Forum has received encouraging feedback from a number of participants and fellow organizers, particularly those from Mexico and Canada.

- The Forum has been engaged with the National Centre of Municipal Development to build on the success of the November workshop and is planning an International Conference on Federalism in Mexico to take place in November 2001.
- A compendium on intergovernmental relations will be published as a result of this exercise.

Partnerships:

- Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas (CIDE)
- The Canadian Embassy in Mexico
- The transition team of President-elect Vicente Fox
- National Centre of Municipal Development (CEDEMUN)