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Cámara Nacional de la Industria Electrónica, de Telecomunicaciones y Tecnologías de la Información

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U.S. - Mexico AI Innovation Forum

Working Group Summaries and Recommendations

Executive Summary

The U.S.-Mexico AI Innovation Forum convened on March 19, 2026, in Mexico City as a landmark initiative designed to advance artificial intelligence adoption and innovation in Mexico. Hosted by the American Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM) in coordination with the United States Embassy and key Mexican technology sector leaders, the Forum established a structured platform for strategic collaboration comprising six working groups addressing critical dimensions of AI development, governance, and deployment.

1. Overview of the Initiative

1.1 Event convocation and organization

The U.S.-Mexico AI Innovation Forum was convened and organized by the United States Embassy in coordination with prominent Mexican technology sector leaders and institutions, including AmCham, CANIETI, AMITI, Eon Institute, and The Dot Network.

1.2 Organizational structure

The Forum operated through a carefully structured mechanism consisting of six working groups, each tasked with addressing specific dimensions of artificial intelligence policy, implementation, and governance. This multi-stakeholder approach ensured comprehensive coverage of technical, regulatory, financial, and human capital considerations essential to advancing AI adoption across Mexico.

2. Core Objectives and Strategic Purpose

The U.S.-Mexico AI Innovation Forum pursued the following strategic objectives:

- Emphasize bilateral collaboration to advance Mexico's AI ecosystem, focusing on priority areas where joint efforts can deliver the greatest impact.
- Support the White House America's AI Action Plan and the export of the American AI tech stack.
- Democratize access to technology and digital infrastructure.
- Boost productivity and innovation in SMEs and national value chains.
- Align AI deployment with the vision of inclusive development.

3. Strategic Context and Reference Frameworks

3.1 The Global Imperative for Collaboration

The Forum's conceptual foundation acknowledges that accelerating technological transformation and rapidly evolving digital systems create unprecedented competitive pressures at the global level. A massive transfer of economic value is occurring worldwide as artificial intelligence reshapes markets, productivity, and competitive advantage. Bilateral collaboration is not merely advantageous but strategically essential to ensure that Mexico and the broader North American region maintain competitiveness and successfully navigate technological transitions.

Bilateral Collaboration

Strengthen institutional and technical ties between Mexico and its strategic partners to build AI capabilities.

Technology Access

Expand access to advanced technology, digital infrastructure, and computing capacity for public and private actors.

Productivity and Innovation

Drive productive transformation through the adoption of AI in strategic sectors of the national economy.

SME Enablement

Develop specific mechanisms so that small and medium-sized enterprises can access and benefit from AI.

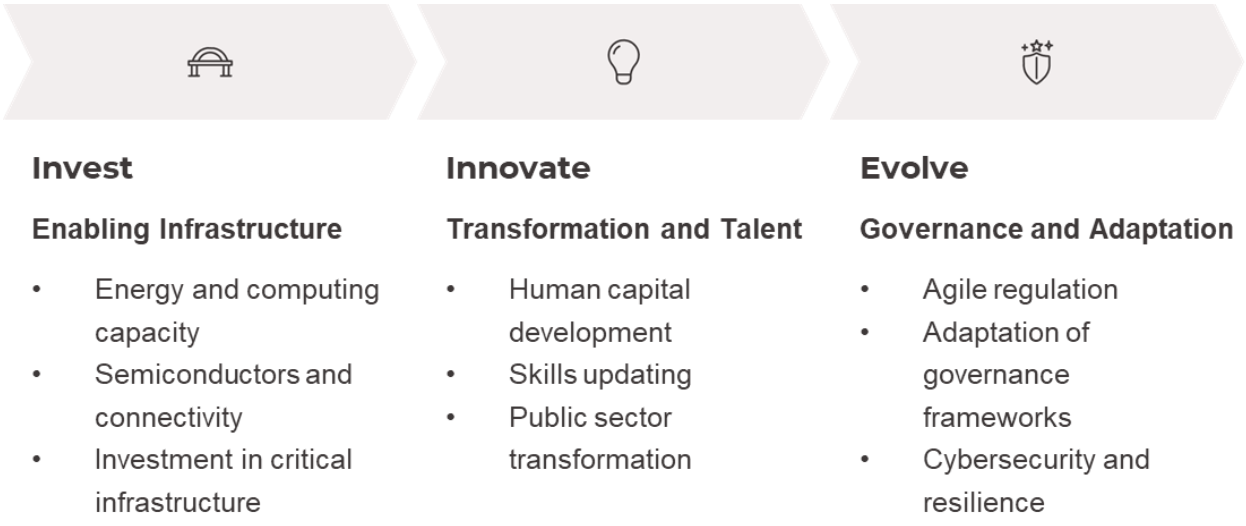
Inclusive Development

Ensure that the benefits of AI reach all sectors of the population, with a focus on regional and social equity.

3.2 The Three-Pillar Strategic Framework (IIE)

A key point of the presentation was that successful AI adoption and governance are built around three interdependent pillars

- **Invest** | Direct capital and resources toward critical enabling infrastructure, including energy systems, computational capacity, and semiconductor manufacturing. This pillar recognizes that advanced infrastructure is foundational to AI deployment at scale.
- **Innovate** | Develop human talent through systematic upskilling and workforce development programs across all skill levels. Concurrently, transform governmental institutions to leverage AI in delivering improved citizen services, reducing bureaucratic friction, and enhancing public sector efficiency.
- **Evolve** | Transition toward agile regulatory frameworks that accommodate rapid technological advancement without stifling private sector initiative. Such frameworks must adaptively address emerging technologies—including autonomous agent systems—while effectively managing escalating cybersecurity threats.



3.3 U.S. Vision and Recommendations for AI Adoption: Enabling Trusted, Secure, and Collaborative Technology Ecosystems

The U.S. vision for AI centers on creating enabling environments that promote trusted, interoperable technology ecosystems aligned with democratic values, while avoiding censorship-based or centrally controlled models. Key

recommendations include establishing technically sound, flexible, risk-based, and sector-specific governance frameworks rather than overly broad regulations; removing regulatory barriers related to data protection, digital trade, and cybersecurity; and ensuring AI readiness through appropriate governance, secure digital infrastructure (telecommunications, cloud systems, data centers), and workforce capacity.

Effective AI adoption requires partnerships and collaborative approaches, offering technical guidance, commercial diplomacy, financing tools, and project development support to enable inclusive market participation for businesses of all sizes. Strategic priorities include accelerating AI deployment through aligned policies, strengthening cybersecurity and digital trust, securing AI supply chains (critical minerals and semiconductors), expanding nearshoring and regional innovation ecosystems, and ensuring critical infrastructure remains secure from adversarial influence—all aimed at advancing fair trade, private-sector innovation, and regional competitiveness through investment, standards alignment, and project-based collaboration.

3.4 The Opportunity for Mexican Differentiation

The Forum highlighted a strategic opportunity for Mexico to advance its AI agenda by aligning with existing regional infrastructure and capabilities, while concentrating national efforts on higher-value technological layers that can strengthen its competitive position. Under this approach, bilateral collaboration can serve as a catalyst for innovation, investment, and capability-building, while supporting Mexico's economic autonomy and long-term development objectives. Realizing this opportunity will require sustained coordination across the private sector, government, academia, and civil society.

4. Foundational Reference Standards Framework (NIST)

Recognizing that effective AI governance requires consistent technical and procedural foundations, the Forum identified cross-cutting security standards as essential reference frameworks. The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) frameworks—encompassing both the voluntary cybersecurity risk framework and the AI risk management framework—were designated as foundational instruments for coordinating AI adoption efforts.

4.1 Horizontal standards as flexible governance infrastructure

These standards operate on a 'horizontal' basis—remaining sector-independent and broadly applicable across industries and government agencies. This approach offers critical advantages in regulating technology that evolves substantially faster than traditional regulatory frameworks can be updated. By establishing sector-agnostic technical baselines, organizations can implement proven, internationally harmonized risk mitigation methodologies rather than duplicating governance efforts across sectors.

Notably, the ISO 42001 certification standard—focusing on risk controls and governance structures—provides a concrete, implementable foundation for systematic AI governance across sectors and jurisdictions.

4.2 Standards development as a governance model

Beyond their technical utility, international standards development processes themselves exemplify effective governance models. The NIST accelerated development methodology ('Zero Drafts') demonstrates how structured collaboration among industry, governments, academia, and civil society can generate solutions that are simultaneously technically rigorous and responsive to public expectations.

Since artificial intelligence is inherently a 'sociotechnical' phenomenon—shaped equally by developer design choices and end-user implementation practices—applying these standards transversally across institutions and sectors is vital to connecting technical rigor with actionable principles that generate stakeholder trust and social legitimacy.

In this context, a useful next step would be to translate these cross-cutting standards and governance principles into sector-specific implementation pathways. Doing so would help align institutions, incentives, financing, talent, and regulatory approaches under a shared framework of trust, security, and practical coordination. The following section presents the priority recommendations identified by each working group in support of that objective.

5. Working Group Results and Recommendations

5.1 Working Group One: Mexico's Strategic Sectors for AI Adoption

Diagnosis and Priority Sectors

The working group identified AI adoption in several economic and social sectors as particularly urgent for Mexico. These priority sectors were selected based on high economic impact and significant social benefit potential: manufacturing (which constitutes a substantial portion of Mexico's GDP and export revenues), financial services, retail commerce, logistics and transportation, public administration, healthcare, and public security.

Manufacturing • Predictive maintenance • Supply chain optimization	**Financial Services** • Fraud detection • Alternative credit for SMEs	**Transportation and Logistics** • Route optimization • Predictive fleet management
Public Administration • Process automation • Data analysis for public policy	**Health** • AI-assisted diagnosis • Intelligent hospital management	**Public Safety** • Predictive risk analysis • Emergency response coordination

Central Challenge

The group identified a critical challenge: maintaining Mexico's competitive positioning and successful integration into bilateral value chains requires overcoming institutional resistance to technological change and identifying with precision where AI-enabled solutions can address systemic challenges. Specific

examples include reducing logistical burdens at bilateral borders and expanding healthcare service coverage.

Identification of Key Applications and Opportunities for AI Adoption

Sector	Key Applications	Opportunity
Manufacturing	Digital Twins; Predictive maintenance; Smart Manufacturing	Sustain Mexico's competitiveness in manufacturing
Financial & Retail	Agentic AI for citizen services; Confidential computing; Digital Payments; Fraud & risk management	Increase consumer welfare and adoption of digital services
Transportation & Logistics	Autonomous transportation & AV; Automation of logistics operations; Digital Twins; Traffic management	Boost Mexico's competitiveness and reduce logistics burden in airports, ports and trade zones
Public Administration	Agentic AI for citizen services; Customs & tax fraud detection	Augment citizen satisfaction and access to public administration
Healthcare	Agentic AI to support clinicians; Medical diagnosis; Remote health	Increase health care coverage and improved health care services
Public Safety & Security	Autonomous systems and drones; AI for cybersecurity; Command and control; Predictive policing	Enhanced security for citizens, including U.S.–MX border and secure digital services

Recommendations

- Promote awareness of successful process changes and support private sector campaigns to reduce resistance in priority sectors.
- Launch public-private programs for pilot projects and proofs of concept to drive wider AI adoption.

- Develop a project bank in key sectors for consideration by the working group in charge of bilateral financing initiatives like the AI Export Program or EXIM Bank.
- Hold discussions between ATDT and other relevant public institutions with AI stack leaders in the U.S. and Mexico to apply selected AI solutions, identify infrastructure needs, and build public sector capacity.

5.2 Working Group Two: Cybersecurity

Foundational Diagnosis

The cybersecurity working group concluded that cybersecurity is not an ancillary consideration but rather a fundamental prerequisite for safe, large-scale AI adoption. The group identified profound concern regarding the manner in which rapid AI adoption is expanding global cybersecurity risks, including through deepfakes, manipulation of information, exposure of sensitive data, model bias, vulnerabilities in training pipelines, autonomous and agentic AI systems, and—critically—the growing 'industrialization of cybercrime,' which increasingly enables automated, sophisticated attacks at scale. The group concluded that without digital trust, AI adoption cannot scale across strategic sectors or generate sustainable economic impact.

Recommendations

- Both governments should collaborate to establish secure digital infrastructure.
- Both governments should work together on deploying trusted vendors and reliable technology suppliers.
- Create robust governance frameworks that integrate security from the design phase ('security by design') rather than treating it as a reactive incident response mechanism

5.3 Working Group Three: AI Governance

Core Problem Identification

The governance working group identified distrust of technology as one of the primary barriers to AI adoption. The group diagnosed an acute need for regulatory

certainty that can simultaneously protect public interests while preserving space for innovation.

Governance Objectives

The working group defined a vision of prioritizing regional harmonization on AI governance, technology adoption, and regulatory certainty. The group identified several protective goals requiring regulatory attention: safeguarding minors, preventing censorship, protecting intellectual property rights, and managing open data. Simultaneously, the group emphasized that regulation must not stifle private sector innovation, target intermediaries, or demand disclosure of legitimate commercial secrets, including source code or model weights.

The group highlighted the importance of taking a risk-based approach when considering AI regulations, with a focus on technically sound, flexible, and sector specific governance. The group further noted that model developers and model implementers (deployers) operate at distinct stages of the value chain with different responsibilities, and governance frameworks must account for this differentiation.

Recommendations

- Establish an informal, multistakeholder group to promote harmonizing AI regulations and policies.
- Look to NIST for governance best practices via seminars, forums, and trainings with a goal of adopting regional standards.
- Conduct a study of Mexico's current AI institutional framework, including public policies, initiatives, and enacted laws, along with an analysis of technical definitions from the U.S., Mexico, and the OECD aimed at building mutual understanding.
- Explore possibility of a joint declaration on pro-innovation governance that reflects shared principles between the United States and Mexico

5.4 Working Group Four: Finance and Capital Options

Diagnosis: The Capital-Connectivity Gap

The financing and capital working group identified a structural deficiency: while significant talent and promising projects exist in Mexico, efficient mechanisms connecting these assets with necessary capital for implementation are fragmented and inadequate. The group further identified that financial ecosystem fragmentation and technological ecosystem fragmentation create barriers to project development, adoption, and systematic talent development.

Structural Recommendation: The AI Financing Committee

The group recommended the immediate establishment of a bilateral AI Financing Committee to function as a 'one-stop shop' for connecting AI initiatives with capital resources. The committee would be responsible for identifying strategic sectors, preparing bankable projects, developing a comprehensive ecosystem directory, and facilitating connections with capital sources. The group recommended the Mexican government, development and commercial banks, multilateral organizations, technology companies, and industry associations participate in the Bilateral AI Financing Committee.

How Would It Be Implemented?

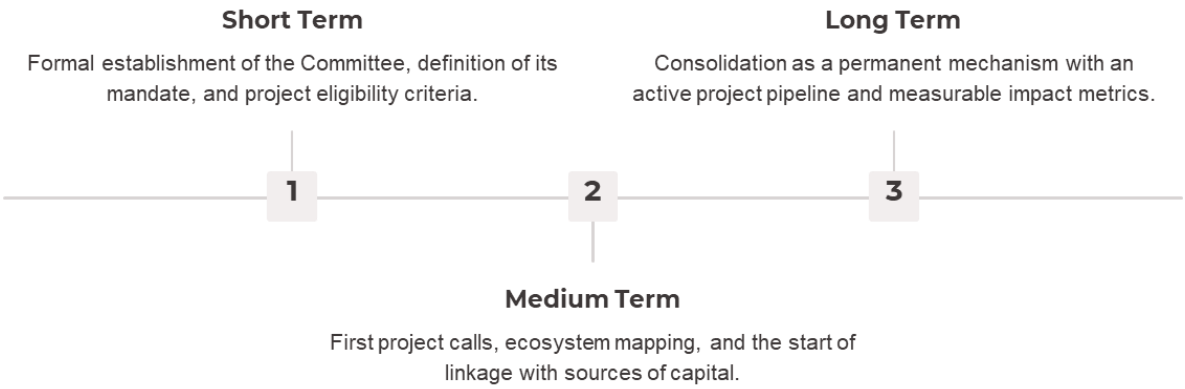
The Committee would operate as a comprehensive coordination platform, structured around the following lines of action:

- **Identification and prioritization of projects:** Define strategic sectors (e.g., advanced manufacturing, digital industry, import substitution) and promote use cases with clear return on investment or economic impact.
- **Preparation of bankable projects:** Drive feasibility studies, technical assistance, and pilot development in coordination with multilateral organizations and development agencies.
- **Development of a financial ecosystem directory:** Map projects, stakeholders, financing instruments (debt, equity, grants), and existing capabilities in infrastructure, talent, and technology.
- **Mechanism to connect projects with capital:** Facilitate the connection between projects and funding sources according to their maturity level, aligning appropriate financial instruments.
- **Strengthening institutional coordination:** Promote collaboration between government agencies (economy, finance, science and technology) and

regulatory actors, including the potential implementation of a "one-stop shop" scheme.
- **Leveraging existing capabilities:** Identify and use already-installed technological infrastructure, avoiding duplication and promoting progressive adoption models.
- **Driving talent development:** Integrate financing mechanisms for skilling, upskilling, and reskilling as part of the ecosystem.

Timeline

- **Short-term (0–6 months):** Committee installation and governance definition.
- **Medium-term (6–18 months):** Project pipeline development, directory creation, and first financing schemes.
- **Long-term (18+ months):** Ecosystem consolidation and scaling of financed projects.



5.5 Working Group Five: Workforce Development

Critical Labor Market Misalignment

The workforce development group identified a profound disconnect between formal education and labor market demand. While nearly 50% of university enrollment in Mexico remains concentrated in traditional disciplines, the labor market demands AI-related competencies at an accelerating pace. Additionally, the

group noted widespread conceptual confusion between basic AI literacy (practical use) and advanced AI engineering (development), which distorts workforce planning.

The group documented a significant gender gap in AI employment, with women occupying only 28% of AI roles in Mexico. However, the group identified a strategic asset: Mexico's demographic youth dividend and professional surplus provide the perfect complement to the structural talent shortage affecting the United States.

Bilateral Cooperation Between Mexico and the United States

The group identified that Mexico has a surplus of skilled but unemployed tech professionals, while the U.S. faces a structural talent shortage—a natural bilateral match. Mexico's demographic advantage (a young population) complements U.S. infrastructure build-out needs facing an aging workforce. While English proficiency remains a critical barrier, there is a considerable opportunity and need for remote collaboration frameworks to enable Mexican talent to serve U.S. companies from Mexico. The group noted the Baja California model (where a Calif.–Baja consortium supplies talent to U.S., Chinese, and Japanese manufacturers in Tijuana) is a proven blueprint for replication at scale.

Recommendations

1. Formalize AI Microcredentials Within the National Education Framework

Proposal: Establish official recognition of AI microcredentials by linking them to SEP, so that completion of AI training programs carries academic and professional value equivalent to formal coursework.

How: SEP to define microcredential accreditation framework in coordination with training providers (e.g., Iber-Ostec, Saberes MX, university consortia), Secretary of Labor, universities, and private sector (especially SMEs). Criteria should include minimum curriculum standards, assessment protocols, and issuing institution vetting.

Timeline: Short-term

2. Deploy a National AI Literacy Baseline Program

Proposal: Before pursuing advanced technical training at scale, implement a structured AI literacy program targeting the general workforce, secondary school teachers, and SME owners, establishing a minimum digital fluency floor across the population.

How: Leverage existing platforms with standardized AI literacy modules. Design completion incentives for educators. Engage SMEs through business associations (CANIETI, COPARMEX, CANACINTRA) with practical, productivity-focused content.

Timeline: Short-term

3. Define a National AI Workforce Impact Metric

Proposal: Establish a shared, government-endorsed indicator framework to measure AI workforce outcomes, distinguishing between: a) mitigating automation-driven job displacement, and b) increasing productivity of the existing workforce.

How: Convene a working group of the Secretary of Labor, INEGI, SEP, private sector, academic institutions, and civil society organizations to define indicators, baselines, and reporting cadence. Align metrics with OECD and ILO frameworks for international comparability. Publish an annual AI Workforce State Report.

Timeline: Short-term

4. Scale the Border Talent-Export Model to Other Mexican Regions

Proposal: Replicate the California–Baja California higher education consortium model, where Mexican graduates are directly absorbed by foreign manufacturers, across additional states and industrial corridors.

How: Map existing networks and employer demand in target regions. Establish bilateral agreements between state governments, universities, and anchor employers. Use SmartWater Coalition and similar organizations as operational intermediaries. Prioritize English-language and remote-work readiness as part of the curriculum.

Timeline: Medium-term

5. Launch a Joint U.S.–Mexico AI Talent Fund

Proposal: Create a co-funded investment mechanism, modeled on the Northern Triangle of Central America initiative, to finance AI workforce infrastructure in Mexico, retraining talent in-country while channeling it toward U.S. market needs through remote work and nearshoring.

How: Identify specific AI value chain segments where Mexico has comparative advantage. Structure the fund to support infrastructure, training programs, and employer incentives.

Timeline: Medium-term

6. Invest in Early Childhood Education as Long-Term AI Readiness Foundation

Proposal: Expand early childhood education enrollment (primary education), recognizing that cognitive and digital readiness begins in early development.

How: Increase federal and state budget allocation to CENDI and early education infrastructure. Establish public-private partnerships for childcare and early simulation programs. Integrate digital literacy foundations into early education training programs.

Micro-credentials

Modular programs and short-duration certifications recognized by the labor market.

AI Literacy

National basic AI training programs for the workforce across all sectors.

Talent Metrics

National system for measuring capabilities and gaps in the AI labor market.

Regional Scaling

Training models adaptable to state and regional contexts with an equity focus.

Bilateral Talent Fund

Joint financing mechanism for programs to develop AI human capital.

Timeline: Long-term

5.6 Working Group Six: SMEs and Startups

The Systemic Challenge

Mexico's SME and startup ecosystem faces interconnected barriers requiring urgent, differentiated action. Current policy treats both as a single category, yet SMEs need capital and formalization while startups require venture capital and regulatory flexibility — existing programs like Impulsora de Innovación (250 million USD) remain insufficient. Structural gaps compound the challenge:

- Credit systems exclude 54% of the informal economy despite viable cash flows, and cash-based transactions generate no digital trace for creditworthiness assessment.
- The core problem is not technology access — 80% of SMEs connect via smartphones — but rather leadership gaps in identifying AI use cases, siloed

collaboration across sectors, and supply chain inefficiencies that force components abroad for finishing before returning to Mexico.

Shifting to digital payments and breaking data silos are foundational steps to unlocking credit access, formalizing the economy, and integrating SMEs into competitive supply chains.

Structural Barriers

- An economy heavily reliant on cash transactions prevents SMEs from generating verifiable credit histories or accessing formal value chains
- Rigid bureaucratic processes and inflexible data management regulations hinder technological integration
- Federal tax authorities hold 30 data banks largely unused
- SMEs vs. Startups require distinct pathways—SMEs need capital and formalization mechanisms; startups need venture capital and regulatory flexibility. Current one-size-fits-all policy frameworks fail both segments.
- Government operates according to slow planning cycles (18-month traditional government planning cycles) that cannot match AI's weekly pace of change, creating urgency regarding the 'nearshoring' opportunity window, which the group assessed will close in 24 to 36 months if Mexico fails to synchronize its technology integration policies

The proposal

To develop an AI-driven strategic framework (with 5 operational pillars) that identifies barriers preventing SMEs from integrating into the formal economy, accessing credit, and participating in global value chains, and design an institutional roadmap with binding policy mechanisms to enable rapid implementation. This strategy should be based on the following principles: i) abandon the binary paradigm of 'formal versus informal' economic organization and explicitly embrace 'semi-formality' as a valid, recognized economic model; ii) Digitalize transactions through simple, familiar networks to generate verifiable payment histories and credit evidence without requiring formal documentation; iii) Simplify administrative registration and compliance requirements to reduce bureaucratic friction

Map workforce gaps -deploy dual-track technical curriculum	**Supply mapping** -integrate federal tax and statistics data - match SMEs to multinationals	**Digitalize payments** -digital payment trails eliminate cash-based opacity and enable credit qualification
A customer journey tools for regulatory simplification of procedures for SMEs. - Regulatory sandboxes; - streamline registration weeks→day via AI	**Condition Foreign Direct Investment on local SMEs procurement;** -regional data hubs -automate government processes (patents, registration)	

How

- The Secretariat of Finance will lead adoption of a strategy through the National Productivity Committee (CNP). The strategy's design and implementation will also involve the Secretariat of Economy, NAFIN, COPARMEX, multilateral banking institutions, and technology enterprises.

Conclusion

The AI Innovation Forum represents a significant commitment to advance artificial intelligence adoption through structured bilateral collaboration. The Forum's six working groups identified concrete barriers to AI adoption, developed specific recommendations, and designated implementing institutions responsible for translating recommendations into policy and practice. The Forum's reference to international standards frameworks, its emphasis on risk-based and sector-specific governance, its commitment to workforce development across all skill levels, and its recognition of SMEs' critical role in the Mexican economy reflect a sophisticated, inclusive approach to AI governance.

Success will require sustained commitment from multiple stakeholders—government agencies at federal and state levels, academic and research institutions, the private sector, and civil society organizations—operating across the three strategic pillars of Invest, Innovate, and Evolve. The Forum has established the architectural framework for this collaboration. Implementation of the recommendations will determine whether Mexico successfully harnesses artificial intelligence's transformative potential to enhance competitiveness, improve public services, and create inclusive economic opportunity throughout the region.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