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Good Morning! Mexico time, to all the participants, it is a pleasure being here, on behalf of the e-Mexico National System, and its General Coordinator, Mr. Javier Pérez,

I thank Oleg Petrov, and the staff of the World Bank for the opportunity of participating in this important meeting where we have heard about the experience, of our two neighbors and partners, in the North American Free Trade Agreement, on the subject of their strategies and actions towards, the establishment of the Information Society in their countries.

First, and in order to establish the proper framework, let me begin by introducing the e-Mexico National System, which is the tool of public policy, of the Mexican government to achieve the same aims. The System deploys three areas: connectivity, contents, and systems.

We have four fundamental areas for the development of Mexico, which are related to the increased use digital means.

They are: e-Learning; e-Health; e-Economy and e-Government.

In our path to the Information Society we require programs and tools that coordinate efforts that, in a decentralized manner, each of the government entities, at city, state and federal level have to be developed. We have developed a cooperation tool that we have called "Digital Sharing", that is nothing less than the integral cooperation between all the stakeholders of society in order to achieve the ultimate goal of reaching the Information Society. Since these goals have to be achieved by all sectors of society, Government as well as private sector, striving for the same end.

At the national level we use digital sharing for the creation and the deployment of connectivity, content design, operation and management of our efforts with the

participation of several entities of the government at all levels, that are shown in several thematic portals.

At the international level we have had the opportunity of developing and using this tool for Digital Sharing with our two neighbors, Among which we can mention the annual trilateral meetings between our countries where the best practices of each country are introduced and shared. The invitations to officials of the e-Mexico National System to meet and get to know their counterparts in the other two countries, and to learn first-hand, about the applications that have been developed have also been very welcomed.

In the Canadian case I would like to mention that as a result of the Memorandum of Understanding signed between our two countries the '@Campus .- at campus-', was developed, it has the of the training seventy thousand public servants

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on-line. The program began this year and to date it has shown extraordinary results.

All these has been very important in order to attain the installation of seventy five hundred digital community centers where the poorest members of our society can access Internet. As an instrument of public policy and given the very low level of Internet access that we had in Mexico, our first efforts were focused on the challenge of connectivity.

These Digital Community Centers receive the broadband Internet service via satellite and therefore they can be deployed in areas where there is no telephone service and in this sense it is similar to the strategy followed by Canada that also has a difficult geography. These Centers display more than one hundred million pages every month..

Aside from Spanish, the the e-Mexico portal presents contents in indigenous languages such as Mayan and Mazahua, as well as English and French.

In order to organize and manage the more than nine thousand contents of the e-Mexico Portal we have deployed several thematic portals, this being an area where also our two neighbors are leaders. From these to countries we have received best practices and know-how. Our portals, sixteen so far, aim to include all sectors of society, in particular those of disadvantaged, as for example one focused on migrants, disabled people,

The e-Mexico National System, apart from those installed in Mexico, sponsors through Conevyt, -the agency dedicated to the education of adults and the education for life and work- more than two hundred Digital Community Centers in the United States. These centers help the education of the people of Mexican origin that live in the

United States |. We have started to deploy some of them also in Canada.

To finish I want to add that in the year of 2004 our management expenses were less than 4% of the total budgetary expenditures.

In the future, it is of paramount importance that we continue increasing our Digital Sharing Programs, both at the National and International level. Increase next year the amount of Digital Community Centers, to at least ten thousand; increase contents in quality and number and the digital services to the population.

And what we have always had in mind, but never mentioned before is that these efforts have to be focused on the user, in such a way that they adopt the technology as a way of life and therefore increase the quality of their lives.

Many thanks on behalf of the e-Mexico National System

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