

## Mexico's president proposes green jobs and humane labor migration

By Alvaro Rodriguez



**T**he Biden administration invited 40 world leaders to a virtual Leaders Summit on Climate Change April 22-23, 2021. The goal was to keep the rise in global temperature to less than a 1.5 degree centigrade increase from where it was in the pre-industrial era. Biden committed the U.S. to reduce its emissions to 50% by 2030.

Attendees included President Xi Jinping of China, India's Narendra Modi, Vladimir Putin of Russia, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Emmanuel Macron of France, Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador of Mexico, Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa of South Africa, Nguyễn Phú Trọng of Vietnam, Pope Francis, U.N.

Mexico stood out because of the uniqueness of its proposal, however, a plan that would simultaneously fix both the environment, the migration and immigration crises faced by his country and the U. S.

López Obrador, or AMLO as he is known, proposed a number of initiatives that would mitigate the harmful effects of climate change and, while doing so, set up a more humane immigration policy.

First, Mexico plans to stop exporting oil and importing gasoline. He wants the country to only refine sufficient oil to meet Mexico's internal demands. Second, AMLO proposes to keep more oil in the ground. Mexico will reduce its reliance on fuel oil and coal for electrical utilities. It would generate more of its electrical power through clean energy

and upgrading hydropower from existing dams, with new, more efficient, electrical generator turbines. Third, and perhaps most unique of all, Mexico plans to continue to plant millions of trees (called Sembrando Vida – Growing Life) to reduce carbon dioxide. So far, 700 million trees have been planted, and the goal is to reach 1 billion trees on 1 million hectares (2.4 million acres). Mexico's tree planting currently provides jobs for more than 400,000 Mexican farmers at a cost of \$1.4 billion per year, an

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investment that lets people stay in their homeland.

AMLO has made it clear that workers should leave their native land only out of necessity. Climate change has caused droughts, driving many campesinos (small agricultural producers) off the land. Hurricanes, poverty, and rising levels of crime

**Our neighbor to the south has a unique idea that would radically improve the environment in both Mexico and the U.S. and also help solve the causes of the immigration crisis faced by both countries.**

have driven other Central American families to leave their countries. Also, Central America is heavily affected by the economic impact of the pandemic.

Many workers and their families from the region (particularly from Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador) are arriving in the U.S. The number of apprehensions of people traveling in families increased 168% recently (Pew Research Center), but particularly painful is the increase in detentions of unaccompanied children, placed in what are essentially “baby jails” and sleeping on gym mats with aluminum foil sheets.

This policy can’t be called humane in any sense of the word. Biden has promised to “reform our long-broken and chaotic immigration system.” VP Kamala Harris stated during the opening of the summit on Climate Change that “jobs can be created and climate change attacked simultaneously.”

Mexico often reminds the U.S. that its economic might was mainly created by immigrants. The U.S. GDP growth plans, which will require many

additional migrant workers, are proof of that. The only way to grow the GDP is to increase worker participation in the economy or labor productivity (automation), and the U.S. has a current population growth rate of 0.58% annually. Raising the minimum wage and creating new green jobs will reduce unemployment and help increase the GDP. Immigrant workers will be needed.

Mexico proposes that the U.S. incentivize small producers in Central America to continuously plant trees for three years, after which time they could then apply for temporary work visas from the U.S. After an additional three years, the workers would have the opportunity to apply for permanent U.S. residence or dual citizenship in the U.S. This would be a more humane and just migration policy for the U.S., providing a humane policy that simultaneously incorporates measures to improve the environment.

The proposals make Mexico a country to look to when it comes to innovative approaches to fix inhuman migration and the climate crisis.

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## Protests demanding vaccines sweep pandemic-ravaged India

By Combined Sources

**C**ommunist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M) supporters are staging demonstrations across pandemic ravaged India demanding adequate supplies of COVID-19 vaccines and life-saving medicines for government hospitals.

The party is calling for universal mass vaccination across India, funded by the central government. It accused the government of trying “to absolve itself of the colossal health crisis that it has created” after New Delhi announced on Tuesday that would shift responsibility for vaccination to regional and state administrations.

A massive wave of coronavirus cases has hit the country since mid-March, with hospitals running out of oxygen supplies amid desperate pleas for beds and medicine. The country has confirmed 16 million cases so far, second only to the United States in a country of nearly 1.4 billion people. Its death toll so far is 186,920.

The situation is worsening by the day with hospitals taking to social media to plead with the government to replenish their oxygen supplies and threatening to stop admissions of new patients.

A major private hospital chain in the capital,

Max Hospital, tweeted that one of its facilities had one hour’s oxygen supply in its system and had been waiting for replenishment since early morning. Two days earlier, they had filed a petition in the Delhi High Court saying they were running out of oxygen, endangering the lives of 400 patients, of which 262 were being treated for COVID-19.

A year ago, India was able to avoid the shortages of medical oxygen that plagued Latin America and Africa after it converted industrial oxygen manufacturing systems into a medical-grade network. But many facilities went back to supplying oxygen to industries and now several Indian states face such shortages that the Health Ministry has urged hospitals to implement rationing.

A total of 332,730 new cases and 2,263 deaths were recorded Friday, the highest figures yet. With vaccines increasingly hard to come by, the crisis is likely to escalate. In Rajapalayam, CPI-M local secretary B. Mariappan said that the hospital there had run out of vaccine four days ago.

“Even today, people had to return home disappointed, as the hospital authorities said that they did not have stocks of vaccine,” he said.

**Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M) supporters are staging demonstrations across the country as infections rapidly climb.**

# Selective Service Repeal Act introduced in Congress



By Edward Hashrouck

**T**he Selective Service Repeal Act of 2021 (H.R. 2509 and S. 1139) was introduced in Congress on April 14 with bipartisan support in both the House and the Senate. If passed, it would end draft registration and abolish the Selective Service System altogether.

“No young person, regardless of gender, should be subject to a military draft or be forced to register in the United States,” Rep. Peter DeFazio, D-Ore., co-sponsor of the bill, said while introducing it.

“The military draft registration system is an unnecessary, wasteful bureaucracy which unconstitutionally violates Americans’ civil liberties,” DeFazio declared. “We should be abolishing military draft registration altogether, not expanding it.”

Republican Senate co-sponsor Rand Paul of Kentucky said, “If a war is worth fighting, Congress will vote to declare it, and people will volunteer.” DeFazio and Paul were joined by Rep. Raymond Davis, R-Ill., and Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore.

Other co-sponsors of the bill include Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton, D-D.C. Residents of the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and other U.S. territories are subject to the military draft. Still, they have no voting representation in Congress, only nonvoting “Delegates” to the House of Representatives, like Holmes Norton.

The Selective Service Repeal Act would repeal the Military Selective Service Act in its entirety and eliminate the presidential authority to order regis-

tration for a military draft. It would abolish the SSS, including the data center, national and regional offices, and local draft boards that have been appointed and trained for every county in the U.S. Federal sanctions related to failing to register for Selective Service would be repealed, also pre-empting state sanctions for not registering.

The same day the Selective Service Repeal Act was introduced in Congress, the Biden administration filed its brief in the Supreme Court asking the court not to consider a case challenging the constitutionality of the current Selective Service registration requirement. The Supreme Court’s decision on whether to hear this case is expected in May or June. If the court takes the case, it will be argued in the fall.

The administration’s argument against Supreme Court review is based primarily on judicial “deference” to political and military decisions. But we need more judicial oversight, not less, over decisions to wage endless, unlimited, undeclared wars.

The administration’s brief to the Supreme Court mentions the possibility that Congress might try to expand draft registration to women. Still, it ignores the possibility that Congress might end draft registration altogether. Both options could be considered part of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2022. The future of Selective Service registration deserves full hearings and public debate, not just a fast-track decision in closed-door markup sessions, as part of that process.

**If passed, the bill would abolish the military draft completely.**

**New satellite network to locate and monitor methane super-emitters**

By Climate Nexus

**L**ess than three years after California governor Jerry Brown said the state would launch “our own damn satellite” to track pollution in the face of the Trump administration’s climate denial, California, NASA, and a constellation of private companies, nonprofits, and foundations are teaming up to do just that.

Under the umbrella of the newly-formed group Carbon Mapper, two satellites are on track to launch in 2023. The satellites will target, among other pollution, methane emissions from oil and gas and agriculture operations that account for a disproportionate amount of pollution.

Between 2016 and 2018, using airplane-based instruments, scientists found 600 “super-emitters” (accounting for less than 0.5% of California’s infrastructure) were to blame for more than one-third of the state’s methane pollution. Now, the satellite-based systems will be able to perform similar monitoring, continuously and globally, and be able to attribute pollution to its source with previously impossible precision.

“These sort of methane emissions are kind of like invisible wildfires across the landscape,” Carbon Mapper CEO and University of Arizona research scientist Riley Duren said. “No one can see them or smell them, and yet they’re incredibly damaging, not just to the local environment, but more importantly, globally.”

**Thrive Act: un movimiento imparabile que redefinirá el futuro**

BY FABIÁN CAPECCHI

**T**hrive busca apoyar y presionar al gobierno de Biden para que sea aprobado un gran proyecto de infraestructura que logre sacarnos del estancamiento y redefina a la nación hacia un país más justo, inclusivo y consciente de la importancia del valor del medio ambiente.

La pandemia nos ha aislado socialmente, pero también nos ha dado tiempo para pensar que la realidad que vivimos debe cambiar, puede y debe ser mejor. Tenemos la oportunidad de redefinir nuestro rol en la sociedad y en la economía, y para eso hace falta implementar un plan, en un contexto donde el desarrollo no signifique destruir el medio ambiente y comprometer el futuro de las generaciones venideras.

De eso se trata el Thrive Act, un audaz plan de infraestructura verde propuesto por varios legisladores capaz de crear 15 millones de empleos bien pagados y protegidos, reducir drásticamente la contaminación climática a la mitad para el 2030 y promover la justicia en una sociedad con mayores oportunidades para todos.

La Ley Thrive proporcionaría \$10 mil millones para cubrir gastos en infraestructura federal durante la próxima década. Proyectos como: inversiones masivas en energía renovable, inversiones en una red eléctrica confiable, el reemplazo de todas las tuberías de plomo o corroídas del país, la construcción de una red de transporte público ecológico accesible a todos y más eficiente, entre otras cosas. Todo esto generaría 5 millones de nuevos empleos bien pagados y protegidos, edificios con cero emisiones y el desarrollo económico en algunas de las

partes más contaminadas del país.

Este proyecto presenta una visión expansiva de cómo reducir a la mitad las emisiones de la nación y equilibrar las brechas raciales y regionales en riqueza y salud, temas que han reanimado el debate sobre la financiación de carreteras y ferrocarriles con la energía de un movimiento de derechos civiles.

El proyecto de ley establecería una meta de 100% de electricidad limpia para el 2035, cero emisiones de nuevos edificios para el 2025, ampliaría las opciones de transporte público limpio a la mayoría de los estadounidenses para el 2030, y obligaría al Congreso a dirigir gran parte de su gasto hacia esos objetivos.

“Esta es una oportunidad única en una generación, y puede que no haya oportunidad de volver a intentarlo en dos años”, dijo Kaniela Ing, directora de la campaña de justicia climática de la organización sin fines de lucro People’s Action Network. “No tenemos más remedio que planificar el futuro”.

Llegó el momento de romper el paradigma, sólo así podremos salir del estancamiento en el que hemos estado, e impulsarnos con fuerza hacia el futuro, pero no siguiendo el curso destructivo que llevamos, inundando el planeta de plástico, envenenando las aguas, la tierra y el aire y comprometiendo la salud de millones de personas, especialmente las más desasistidas.

Se trata de generar impulso hacia una nación más justa, con un objetivo en común, retomar la vanguardia como país y como sociedad, donde todos seamos ciudadanos de primera, desterrando para siempre el racismo y la discriminación.

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