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by

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on

“Innovation in the Mexican Chamber of Deputies”

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Honorable Najib El Khadi, President of the Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments,

Fellow Secretaries General and Parliamentary representatives,

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen,

I am happy to be with you all today; I thank the Association for its kind invitation. It is my honor to be here.

When I knew about these exciting themes, I chose to speak about innovations. Forty years after the inauguration of San Lázaro, which is the name of the historical building in east Mexico City, designed by the renowned Architect Pedro Ramírez Vázquez that houses 500 Representatives elected every three years, and 200 years after the constitution of the Legislative Branch of independent Mexico, Congress is today more austere and with greater institutional solidity.

Even so, there are still challenges, and innovation has been faced with extreme seriousness and dedication: strengthening Career Civil Service and Research Centers to make them one of the pillars of the Legislative Branch as is the case in the main parliaments in the world; achieving gender equality in administrative areas, both in terms of positions and salaries and work culture; developing a 25-year master plan with a focus on sustainability to conserve the heritage of the San Lázaro site, which is known as the Home of the People, meaning the home to all Mexicans and visitors. We are consolidating San Lázaro Cultural Space as a platform for academic, social, and humanistic activities open to all citizens.

In the context of the pandemic, investment was made in developing an application to record attendance and voting remotely with all the security protocols in terms of safeguarding personal data and transparency. The voting registration system in the session hall was

changed with technological development that made it possible to migrate to its system, which is supported by mega screens in the plenary session room, where deputies can verify the direction of their vote.

The LXIV Legislature reduced its total Budget for 2019 by nearly 25% from the previous year. Even so, it invested more than 1500 million pesos to improve infrastructure and conservation of the entire building. To do so, a solid commitment to austerity was displayed by all members.

On the other hand, after 16 years, the Chamber redesigned its official website. The Citizen Website was created with information on the history of the Mexican Congress, legislative work, and cultural activities to satisfy the need for an institutional communication channel with all citizens. In a simple and direct language, it ensures and strengthens direct communication with the public and is translated into English, Nahuatl, and Mayan.

The Chamber has received two recognitions from the National Institute for Access to Information (INAI) for carrying out proactive transparency practices that are useful to society after carrying out an evaluation and recognition of practices in 2023, with 90 Obligated Subjects such as autonomous organizations, unions, universities, institutions of the Legislative and Judicial Branch, as well as the Federal Public Administration.

The recognized practices are the Information Service for Parliamentary Statistics (INFOPAL) and the Citizen Website of the Chamber of Deputies.

The object of INFOPAL is to provide legislators and society with the tools that allow them to access the information that took place in the Plenary session room, documentation, and access to parliamentary databases. Both INFOPAL and the Citizen Website are tools available to citizens to provide them with information on legislative work, thus strengthening the mechanisms of transparency, accountability, and linkage with citizens to

bring them closer to the Legislative Power. The Chamber of Deputies also received the U-GOB 2022 award in the category of Digital Transformation and Government, thanks to its website's renovation and the Citizen Website's creation. U-GOB Technology in Government seeks to promote the continuous professionalization of public administration through innovation and digital transformation in the public sector. The awards ceremony recognizes the best public innovation projects at the federal, state, and municipal levels in Ibero-America, the objective of which is to transform, for the better, the lives of citizens.

Two key elements, Career Civil Service and Research Centers, have been strengthened since 2018. The first makes it possible to identify the best profiles of civil servants to work as parliamentary researchers and thus provide objective and impartial analyses on all subjects for legislators' decision-making.

This relaunch has been possible thanks to the will and leadership of all the Parliamentary Groups. Sixty-four career civil servants entered the service through internal and external competitions in which almost 1,300 applicants were rigorously, impartially, and objectively evaluated, making the career service already a reality in progress and already present in 12 administrative units of the Chamber, in particular in the Research Centers.

To guarantee access to the information of the academic and research materials produced by the five Research Centers and the Coordination of Information Services, Libraries, and the Museum of the Chamber, the LXV Legislature of the Chamber of Deputies presented its Digital Repository. This system brings together all the production from these areas in one place.

It was created to integrate all information into a digital website to facilitate public, open, and free consultation. Although the information is public, the main objective is to make access easier among researchers, students, academics, public servants, legislators,

and the public that is interested in the topics that are analyzed and studied in both the legislative work and the reflections of specialists on various problems of the country.

I am proud to say that with the commitment of all Representatives and every public servant, in the past five years, the House has become more vital and involved than ever with the community it owes itself to.

My distinguished colleagues. It has been my privilege to speak before you. I hope the Mexican experience has been helpful to you, and I am eager to take note of the work of others,

Thank you kindly for your attention, and I wish you all a good day.