HELPFUL INFORMATION

TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION FROM AIRPORT TO HOTEL

- For airport transfer to your hotel, purchase a pre-paid ticket from an authorized airport taxi booth located within the airport. Their booths are labeled "Transportación Terrestre."
- You can buy your ticket inside the baggage claim area while waiting for your luggage. Tell the vendor, "Four Seasons Hotel" to get the proper fare (approx. $12 USD). The fare is per cab, not per person.
- The drive to the hotel should take approximately 20-45 minutes depending on traffic and the time of the day.

TRANSPORTATION IN GENERAL

- For your personal security, it is not recommended that you hail taxis in the street at any time during your stay in Mexico. It is preferable to hire hotel taxis or taxis parked at authorized cab ranks or "sitios."
- Uber also operates in Mexico City.

MONEY

- United States dollars are generally not accepted in Mexico City.
- Credit cards are widely accepted. Advise your bank of your travels.
- ATM machines give you pesos and are located at our hotel. *(Remember the Mexican peso also uses the $ sign. Be wary as this can cause confusion).*

TIPPING

- Airport porters: 10-20 pesos (US $.60-1.25) is sufficient. You do not need to hire an airport porter, but they will guide you efficiently to the authorized taxi rank and to your cab.
- Taxis and transportation services: It is not necessary to tip cab drivers in Mexico.
- Hotel: 10-20 pesos (US $.60-1.25) per person is a good tip. It is considered a courtesy to tip the maid who services your hotel room. A $20 peso per day tip is adequate.
- "Propina no incluida" means tip not included.
- "IVA incluido" means that tax (VAT) is included.

WATER

- The water in the hotel is drinkable. However, if you drink bottled water at home, you will probably wish to do the same here in Mexico City.

WHAT TO WEAR

- Mexico City is dressy and rather formal. Business attire is appropriate for all meetings and events on our agenda.
- Business casual - "sport coat and slacks with no tie" - is fine for the Welcome Reception.
- Wear comfortable shoes, as there may be some walking from the motor coach to ministries and restaurants.
- Like other large cosmopolitan cities such as New York or Paris, you should watch your belongings and not exhibit or expose expensive jewelry in public.

HELPFUL INFORMATION

CELL PHONE USE

- Cellular telephones work throughout Mexico. Call your cell phone provider to add a Mexico plan for the week in order to avoid roaming charges.
- To make calls to the U.S. while in Mexico, dial 001 then the area code and number.
- To call Tijuana or elsewhere in Mexico dial 01 then the area code and number. It is less expensive to use your cellular phone than the telephone in your room.

SIGHTSEEING SUGGESTIONS

WALKING

- **Reforma**, where the hotel is located, is one of Mexico's most famous and important avenues. It is surrounded by an increasing financial district as well as some of Mexico's notable historic, cultural and artistic museums and sights.
- **Polanco**, is another wonderful and safe neighborhood for walking, shopping and dining. There are dozens of great restaurants in walking distance. Many restaurants feature outdoor dining so you can enjoy the great weather.

Among the interesting places you can visit in the Polanco/Chapultepec area:

- **Auditorio Nacional (The National Auditorium)**: This auditorium is situated on Reforma Avenue, at the artistic and cultural section of Chapultepec Park. It also includes some theaters: El Granero, Orientacion and El Bosque.
- **Bosque de Chapultepec**: Willow trees, ash trees, evergreen oaks and Mexican coniferous trees make this green area the largest one in the city. Historic and cultural places of interest in addition to recreational areas are all found here.
- **Casa del Lago**: Several cultural activities sponsored by the Autonomous University of Mexico take place here.
- **Castillo de Chapultepec**: This splendid neoclassic castle has been the stage for such historic events as the United States Army invasion in 1847. It served as the residence for Emperor Maximiliano and his wife Carlota in 1866 and later for President Porfirio Diaz.
- **Lago de Chapultepec**: Two artificial lakes measuring eight and seventeen acres respectively are ideal for canoe rides.
- **Monumento a los Niños Heroes**: This monument is to honor the Niños Heroes (Heroic Children) who defended the Castle against the United States invasion. It is located in one of the entrances of the Chapultepec Park.
- **Museo Nacional de Antropologia (The National Museum of Anthropology)**: This museum is located on Paseo de la Reforma Avenue and Gandhi Street in the first section of Chapultepec Park.
- **Museo Nacional de Historia (The National Museum of History)**: This museum is found on the top of the Chapultepec Hill, inside the Chapultepec Castle in the old park. It was built in the XVIII century and is surrounded by a wall. It has 20 halls.
- **Parque Zoologico de Chapultepec (The Chapultepec Zoo)**: The zoo was founded in 1923. It has an area of 14 hectares where animals from all the continents are exhibited. It is said that zoo and botanic gardens already existed in Tenochtitlan and Chapultepec before they were known in Europe. Among its attractions there is a panoramic train that runs around the zoo.
- ***Note: Museums in Mexico City are free on Sunday (and more crowded), and closed on Monday.***

HELPFUL INFORMATION

SHOPPING

- **Avenida Presidente Masaryk** in Polanco is lined with international shopping. It's the Rodeo Drive of Mexico. Mexico's two most important department stores, Palacio de Hierro and Liverpool, have facilities in Polanco and anchor their respective shopping malls. It's a bit of a long walk from the hotel, so ask the doorman to call a cab if you wish to shop at either mall.
- **Antara Polanco** is an upscale outdoor mall a block north of the Palacio de Hierro across Ejercito Nacional on Calle Moliere. Further north is Plaza Corso shopping and office complex with the iconic Soumaya Museum as its centerpiece.
- **The Ciudadela** complex on Balderas, also in the Centro Historico, is the place to bargain for what many call "arts and crap." Nevertheless, there are treasures to be found in Talavera, mirrors, silver, leather, tablecloths, and art objects. Various stalls cover the entire area. Prices are low, but you still can bargain. Elsewhere on Balderas, sidewalk stalls sell bargains in clothing, ties and pirated CDs/DVDs.
- **Reforma 222** is a modern complex opened in 2007, the two towers of the complex became some of the tallest buildings in Reforma. The towers hold a glass-covered shopping center where you can find a great variety of stores, entertainment and restaurants.

RESTAURANTS

- Mexico City is home to some of the world's great restaurants. The quality of meals is incredibly high and the prices, especially in the fancier restaurants, go right up the scale with the quality. Along with all of this great food comes some of the most impeccable service you're likely to experience anywhere.
- Not all restaurants in México City are fancy and expensive; there are many comfortable sidewalk cafes and family style restaurants that offer great food at reasonable prices. These restaurants are around every corner, in all of the colonias (neighborhoods), and many offer their own delicious specialties.
- Although it smells wonderful and can taste great, we do not recommend that delegates eat food prepared by street vendors.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- Surrounded on the north, east and west sides by the State of Mexico, and on the south by the State of Morelos.
- Population of the city is 8.918 million and that of the adjacent State of Mexico is 16.187 million. This makes a metropolitan area of more than 25 million (2015 estimate).

GOVERNMENT

- Mexico (official name Estados Unidos Mexicanos—or United Mexican States) has a Presidential form of government with a bi-cameral legislature.
- The country is divided into 32 states . The states are divided into municipalities. Mexico City, formerly known as the Federal District, became the country's 32nd state in 2016.
- The President, Senate and Governors are elected for one six-year term.
- Members of the lower house of Congress and Mayors (Presidentes Municipales) are elected for a three-year term.
- Starting 2018, members of legislature and local Mayors will be able to run for re-election for the first time in Mexico.