

THE FUTURE OF THE NORTH AMERICAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT (NAFTA)

ABSTRACT

The North American Free Trade Agreement has been in effect for three years and is now submitted, for legal and political reasons, to an evaluation by the three parties.

Pragmatic positive and negative elements are added to the legal structural differences that have influenced its functioning. NAFTA, as a first step towards a Free Trade Area of the Americas planned for the year 2006, has fulfilled an important role, and Mexico has been a strategic factor for extending the zone discipline to the rest of Latin America, including the MERCOSUR. The Mexican experience in the legal and commercial areas constitutes a scenario that must be observed by future members of NAFTA. This paper seeks to contribute to the propagation of the ups and downs of NAFTA for our country.