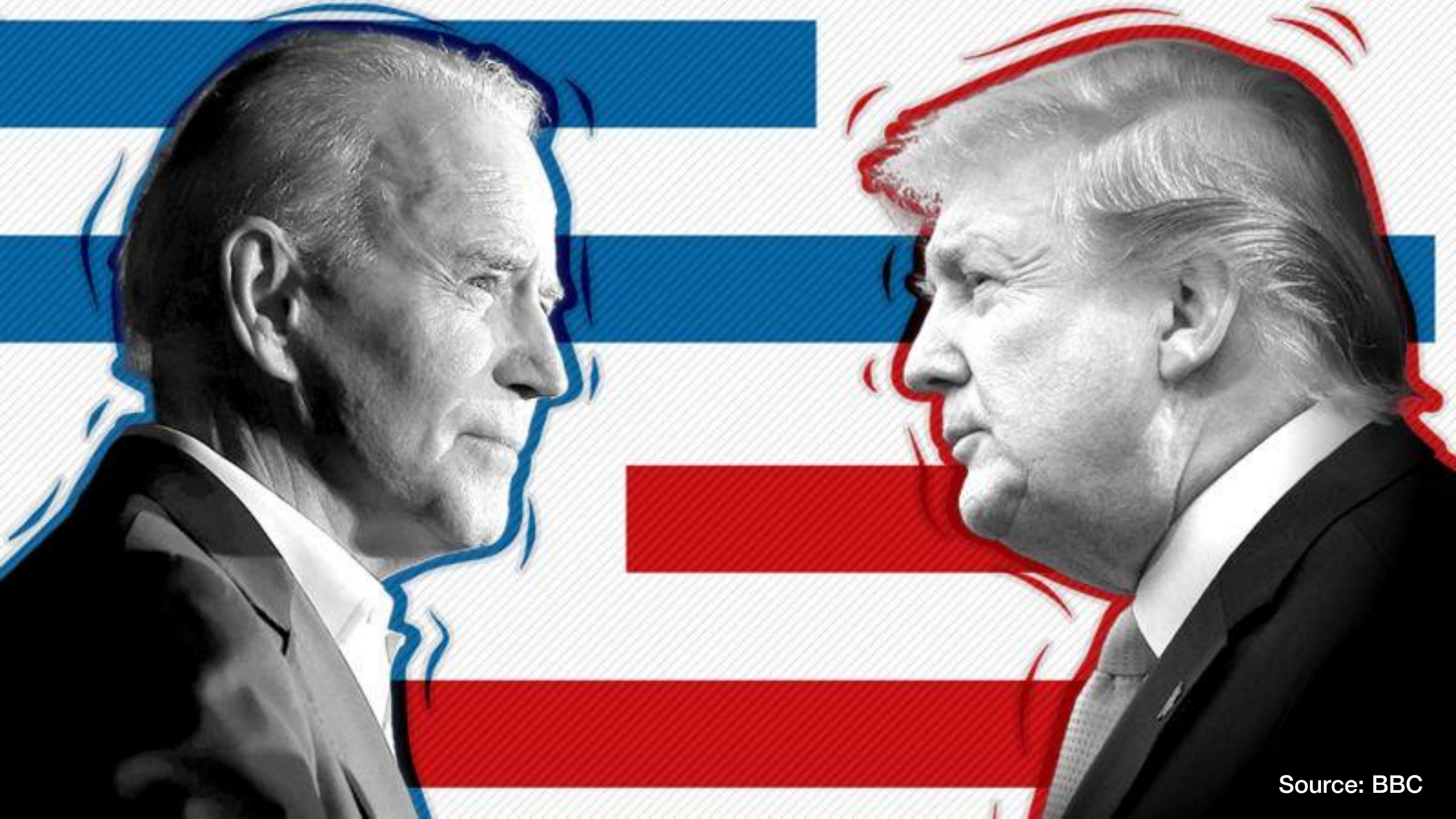




US Elections

**Learn about the possible implications
for Latin American countries**

NOVEMBER 2020




Source: BBC

Important Data

**About 150 million
people voted
during this electoral
process**

- The **popular vote does not determine the winner of the election in the United States, but the Electoral College votes do**. In 2016, for example, Hillary Clinton got almost 3 million more votes than Donald Trump; however, the Electoral College vote distribution gave Donald Trump the victory.
- Joe Biden won the popular vote and became the candidate with **the most votes in the history of the US**, surpassing Barack Obama who closed the 2008 election with 69,498,516 votes; the popular vote has also translated to enough Electoral College votes to make Joe Biden president-elect.
- **Donald Trump obtained more votes** in the 2020 election than he did in 2016, but the distribution did not help him get the 270 Electoral College votes needed to win the presidency.
- Approximately **70% of the American electoral roll participated** in these elections. This participation had not been seen since the 1900 elections.

Implications for Argentina with the election of Joe Biden

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- **Economy:** The Argentinian Government is currently undergoing an instance of negotiations with the International Monetary Fund. Because of this, the National Government is trying to show the world that the country is heading towards the economic solvency, in this sense, the Ministry of Economy has already launched several orthodox measures to promote the dollars entry to the country through a competitive scheme and is working on a bill by which the credits issued in foreign currencies, and the programs negotiated with the IMF, will have to count with the prior approval of the Congress. Thus, because of the U.S.' determinative role in the decisions taken by the IMF, the insight of the recently elected American President on the Argentinian situation will be an essential topic to considerate for the National Government, regarding the debt negotiation and the necessity of the local authorities to stabilize the fragile financial situation.
 - **Environment:** Joe Biden and Alberto Fernández have both placed environmental policies as a fundamental pillar of their political platforms and agendas. Specifically, they addressed them as an issue that cannot be neglected when it comes to the production and industrial activity.
 - **Bilateral trade:** Due to Joe Biden's overview on international trade, his presidential period may be an opportunity for Argentina to strengthen the commercial relationship, in a way that is beneficial for both parties. Argentina is currently displaying economic and social containment measures to ease the effects of the crisis on the most vulnerable sectors of the society –such as fixing maximum prices for essential massive consumption products-, which are currently a topic of concern while Argentinian authorities are expecting a more presence and support from the WTO.
 - **External Relations:** Biden's election could inaugurate a new period for both countries' institutional affairs, since President Alberto Fernández is closer to Biden's view on social and economic matters, for what the role of the Argentine Ambassador Jorge Argüello will become central during this era.

Opinions in Argentina



Alberto Fernández
Argentinian President

“I congratulate the American people on the record turnout in the elections, a clear expression of popular will. I greet Joe Biden, the next president of the United States, and Kamala Harris, who will be the first vice president of that country”



Felipe Solá
Minister of International Affairs

“This means a change for the U.S. relationship with the world, considering Europe, Latin America, and specially, with multilateral organisms. ”



Jorge Argüello
Argentinian Ambassador in the United States

“Some weeks ago we received the visit of two important officials of the Fund, and this week, the negotiation instance will begin. We are optimistic, and hope that Biden’s Administration maintains the proper conditions for an understanding of the debt issue, so that it’s renegotiated in a sustainable way.”

Implications for Brazil with the election of Joe Biden



- **Environment:** Biden, a critic of Brazilian environmental policies and the management of the Amazon, suggested that he may allocate the US \$ 20 billion to investments in protecting the Amazon, subject to certain conditions. Biden's victory could alter Brazilian environmental policy.
- **Economy:** Joe Biden's victory is seen as positive for the Brazilian economy with the maintenance of agreements such as the recently signed Trade and Economic Cooperation Agreement (ATEC), and greater stability and predictability in the political-economic relationship.
- **Bilateral trade:** Biden is a center liberal and conciliator and as a result, the commercial relationship should not be harmed. The main themes are expected to be a broad free trade agreement devised since 2019 and the continued American influence in limiting Chinese technological growth.
- **External Relations:** Biden's election could lead Brazil isolated in the geopolitical scenario if it does not change its foreign policy, strongly aligned with the Trump administration. Brazil's desired entry into the OECD, which had the support of Trump, may become more difficult. The Brazilian government should adjust its discourse and posture about issues such as the environment and human rights.
- **Bilateral Policy:** Biden's victory could affect the Bolsonaro government and cause him to review his strategy in the interests of running for re-election in 2022.

Opinions in Brazil



Jair Bolsonaro
President of Brazil

Not yet commented on Joe Biden's victory



Rodrigo Maia
President of the Chamber of Deputies

“Biden's victory restores the values of truly liberal democracy, which values human, individual, and minority rights. I congratulate the elected president and, on behalf of the Chamber of Deputies, reinforce the bonds of friendship and cooperation between the two nations. ”



Luís Roberto Barroso
Minister of the Supreme Federal Court

“Democracy means clean elections, alternation in power, and respect for results. And also, civility. Greetings Joe Biden, President-elect of the United States, and Vice President Kamala Harris, the first woman elected to the position in the country ”

Opinions in Brazil



Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva

Former President of Brazil

“The world breathes a sigh of relief with Biden's victory (...). The American people spoke out against Trumpism and everything it represents, against the rejection of human values, hatred, abandonment of life and aggression against our beloved Latin America (...) that relations with the world and with America, be guided by the humanistic values that characterized its campaign ”



João Doria

Governor of São Paulo and possible candidate for president in 2022

“Happy with the victory of the candidate elected President of the United States, Joe Biden. He is an advocate for democracy and multilateral relations. Good for the US, good for Brazil”



Nestor Forster

Ambassador of Brazil to the USA

Not yet commented on Joe Biden victory

Implications for Chile with the election of Joe Biden

- **Economy:** Biden's triumph would favor Chilean assets. The election of the democrat would imply a lower value of the dollar, so the cost of raw materials that Chile exports would increase. It is important to note that the tension between the United States and China would be reduced, and with that, a greater demand for copper and lithium is expected from the Asian country.
- **Migration:** Biden is expected to implement changes regarding his foreign policy with Venezuela. The democrat would move away from Trump's hostile positions and would again press politically for a peaceful solution. The Venezuelan crisis has generated a regional security problem and a migratory wave to Chile, bringing with it more than half a million Venezuelans.
- **Commerce:** Biden is expected to seek to resume negotiations to re-enter the Trans-Pacific Treaty (TTP) as a way to impose tougher conditions on China on intellectual property issues. According to the former Chilean ambassador to the United States, Juan Gabriel Valdés, this could bring complications since "the Bachelet government decided not to continue advancing in the TTP if the intellectual property logics sought by the United States were imposed.
- **Bilateral policy:** The former ambassador of Chile to the OAS, Darío Paya, points out that drastic changes should not be expected in this matter in Chile, except predicting that Biden will have a more predictable government and a more fluid and natural relationship with multilateral institutions and organizations.

Opinions in Chile



Sebastián Piñera Echeñique
President of Chile

“We hope that the US can make a great contribution and collaboration to the protection of the environment, the fight against climate change and global warming and that it can also make a great contribution to free trade throughout the world“.



Andrés Allamand
Minister of Foreign Affairs

“Now we have to think ahead, both countries have a deep relationship that goes beyond who their rulers are. The US is the first investor in our country, and the density of the relationship is deep”.



Alfonso Silva
Ambassador of Chile to the USA

“It should not be ignored that President Trump got around 70 million votes (...) but it should also be noted that the voting received by the president-elect is the highest in the entire history of the United States”.

Implications for Colombia with the election of Joe Biden

- **Security:** During the administration of Donald Trump, fighting against drug trafficking was a priority. With Biden, this issue will remain at the top of the US agenda. However, there will be changes in the approach. The president-elect Joe Biden was one of the original authors of Plan Colombia. Probably, he will continue to support eradication efforts, but Biden would pay more attention to alternative development programs that create jobs in areas affected by this problem.
- **Economy:** No major changes are expected in the economy. However, the unilateral imposition of tariffs on Colombian products, as happened in the case of aluminum, and the renegotiation of the FTA will not probably be on the top of the bilateral agenda. Colombia should continue to strengthen the ties with both the U.S. and U.S. companies to become exploit "near shore opportunities" and continue to become a hub for U.S companies.
- **Migration:** Colombia should continue to work on easier transit of Colombian and American citizens. The country must continue their efforts on doing U.S. immigration in Colombian soil. In the case of Venezuela, it is expected that the United States will continue to push for the approval of resources to cover the emergency caused by the entry of millions of refugees. Probably, the new US Government will speak out about the return of democracy in Venezuela, but without the warmongering discourse that characterized Donald Trump's Administration. We may see more help for humanitarian causes and centralize the speech towards the people and their struggles and not towards the regime.
- **Peace implementation:** Biden's administration will increase the pressure to implement the peace agreement with the FARC. The Obama administration supported the negotiations from the beginning. It also gave life to Paz Colombia, an initiative presented to Congress to finance the commitments.
- **Environment:** Biden's administration will focus on environmental causes. The country should take advantage of this policy change as we have become a leader in the region in the area. Renewable and clean energies as well as the protection of the environment will be central in the agenda.

Opinions in Colombia



Iván Duque
President of Colombia

“We congratulate Joe Biden, new President of the United States and Kamala Harris, US First Female Vice President. We wish you every success in your tenure. We will work together to strengthen the common agenda on trade, environment, security and the fight against transnational crime.”



Francisco Santos
Ambassador of Colombia to the USA

“Congratulations to President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris. We will continue working with enthusiasm on our common agenda, as we always have. Together, we look to the future with optimism”



Juan Manuel Santos
Former President of Colombia

“The world won, the United States won, Colombia won. Congratulations, friend!!”

President Santos also asked for a return to bipartisan policies and accused Colombia’s Ambassador of wanting to intervene in the U.S elections in favor of Donald Trump.

Implications for Ecuador with the election of Joe Biden



- **Security:** One of Biden's security priorities will be cybersecurity, which will be a sector with important investment and attention in the coming years. The development of a commercial agreement between Ecuador and the United States, and the advances in this field, may favor the importation of technologies, talent, and knowledge in cybersecurity to Ecuador.
- **Migration:** Biden has spoken out against the immigration policy led by Donald Trump. Within the promises of the new president, in his first 100 days, he promised to reverse Trump's policies and remove limits on the number of asylum applications and travel bans from various countries. The Venezuelan migration will probably be approached by humanitarian causes.
- **Economy:** The president-elect announced a stimulus plan to combat the economic effects of the pandemic, so the United States is expected to keep interest rates at a lower level. Consequently, international credit interest rates will be low, so debt payments and indebtedness will be favorable for the rest of the countries, including Ecuador.
- **Commerce:** Also, according to the economic stimulus plan, the United States could establish a rate policy to keep the dollar low. Therefore, considering that Ecuador is a dollarized country, this could favor its net exports.
- **Bilateral Policy:** Ecuador expects that negotiation for a trade agreement with the United States continues in the Biden era. However, the change of government could delay the conversation between both parts while Biden defines the new US foreign policy and settles a new conversation team. It should be noted that Biden proposes more symmetrical relations between states, changing the approach developed by Trump.
- **Energy:** Biden is in favor of environmental protection and against the threats of climate change. He promised to reduce emissions and return to the Paris Agreement. Thus, the oil industry could see fewer incentives, which would mean a global decrease in the supply of crude oil, with the return of greater demand for crude from the United States.

Opinions in Ecuador



Lenin Moreno
Ecuadorian President

“Congratulations Joe Biden and Kamala Harris, President and Vice President-elect of the United States. May the relationship of our countries remain firm and prosperous during this period, always in the benefit of common objectives. Success in your duties!”.



Luis Gallegos
Ecuadorian Chancellor

“Ecuador and the United States maintain a fruitful relationship based on mutual respect for the interests of our States and guided by the principle of achieving optimal levels of development and well-being for our populations”.



Iván Ontaneda
Minister of Production, Foreign Trade, Investment and Fisheries

Do you think that an election of Joe Biden would alter plans to achieve an agreement?

“I don't think so. I met with the Republican and Democratic parties; the United States is a country with strong institutions”.

Implications for Mexico with the election of Joe Biden

- **Security:** Biden has promised to work on banning the purchase of firearms in the USA, which would directly impact the black market of firearms in Mexico.
- **Migration:** Mexico will be attentive to see if the following promises are fulfilled: reestablish the DACA program to protect young Dreamers and their families; eliminate the “Remain in Mexico” policies which forced thousands of asylum seekers to wait in Mexican border cities while their cases were processed; and end the separation of families at the border.
- **Economy:** Biden is expected to direct more resources to the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, limiting the reactivation of economic activities while reducing the participation of the US in Mexico's economic recovery.
- **Commerce:** The new free trade agreement between US, Mexico and Canada (USMCA) was not supported by Kamala Harris during the US Senate’s hearings on the matter. Joe Biden has been vocal on his disagreement with certain points of the treaty; however, it cannot be modified for a 5-year period.
- **Bilateral policy:** According to Roberta Jacobson, former US ambassador to Mexico, "Joe Biden wants to have a relationship of respect, dignity and collaboration, especially in the fight against corruption and promoting transparency“.
- **Energy:** Biden announced during his campaign that he would support renewable energy, seeking to reach zero net emissions by 2050, a different perspective from the Mexican Federal Government committed to the recovery of the national oil company, PEMEX.

Opinions in Mexico



Andrés Manuel López Obrador
President of Mexico

"I want to inform the people of Mexico that regarding the elections in the United States, our government's position is to wait until the US authorities in charge of the electoral process decide who is the winner of the presidency".



Marcelo Ebrard
Minister of Foreign Affairs


"At that moment [when all votes are counted] we will recognize the result and we will work to make our relationship with the United States the best possible, which is what we have always looked for".



Martha Bárcena
Mexico's Ambassador to the USA

"Mexico does not intervene in the electoral process or position itself in favor of any candidate (...) the Mexican administration will always be willing to continue working and forging cooperation networks".

Implications for Paraguay with the election of Joe Biden



Politics: Paraguay's relations with the United States have long been of extreme affinity and focused on cooperation regardless of who is in the executive position. During the last time, the fruitful relationship of the current president of Paraguay with Donald Trump has been very commented by public opinion. Mario Abdo visited the United States in late 2019, a fact that was shown as an important "sign" for the country as he was the first President to be received by an American president in a long time. Although there were opinions from the political arc about the advisability of a Trump victory due to the relationships they have managed to harvest, it is also expected good terms with the president-elect will be kept since both parties are open to continue cooperating.

- **Economy:** the agendas between these two countries have not been very advanced in economic terms, however, Paraguay hopes to achieve a trade agreement with the northern country considering that it is one of the few countries with which has not yet achieved one.
- **Commerce:** Paraguay is waiting for Mercosur to reach a trade agreement with the United States. Also, they hope to reverse the negative trade balance by achieving a greater export of meat to the northern country, in addition, investment flows are expected to grow with the support of financial agencies.
- **Bilateral policy:** cooperation in terms of security is an important issue for Paraguay. The struggle against criminal groups, especially those related to terrorism, is an issue that is on the agenda in relations between these countries, while for the Biden administration there would be also focused in fighting corruption and supporting such efforts in that regard.

Opinions in Paraguay



Mario Abdo Benítez
President of Paraguay

“We extend our congratulations to the President-elect of the United States @JoeBiden. We wish him the best of success and reaffirm our commitment to continue strengthening bilateral relations based on the democratic principles and values that we share.”



Federico González
Foreign Affairs Minister

“President Mario Abdo spoke about it. The policy of relations with the United States will remain the same. We have very good contact with them and all the projects they carry out will continue.”



Manuel Cáceres
Paraguayan Ambassador to the United States

"I have no doubt that with whoever is in the White House, we will continue our country's relationship with the United States with greater intensity."

Implications for Peru with the election of Joe Biden



- **Migration:** Biden promised the reinstatement of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, a beneficiary for young Dreamers.
- **Economy:** According to the ambassador of Peru in the United States, Hugo de Zela, the export of Peruvian agricultural products to the North American country is considerable. It is expected that the US investment will grow in the national territory.
- **Commerce:** Specialists point out that the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between Peru and the United States does not have to be altered. It is an agreement that has benefited both countries, allowing to increase exports of the goods that each should export.
- **Bilateral policy:** The Peruvian ambassador to the United States, Hugo de Zela, pointed out that the management of President-elect Joe Biden would be positive regarding Peru's interests.
- **Energy:** Peru is aligned with Biden's position in favor of the promotion of clean energies since the High-Level Commission on Climate Change was recently installed to design a new energy matrix in Peru using renewable energies.

Opinions in Peru



Hugo de Zela

Ambassador of Peru to the USA

“Biden spoke about relevant issues both for our country and globally: climate change, the return to the Paris Agreement, and the World Health Organization (WHO), as well as multilateralism”.



Aldo R. Defilippi

Executive Director of American Chamber of Commerce of Peru (AmCham)

“It seems to me that he would resume relations with Europe, mainly with Great Britain, with NATO, the problem with China would continue, and with Latin America, I do not foresee changes”.

Implications for Uruguay with the election of Joe Biden



- **Context:** Despite the fact that the Lacalle Pou's government agreed with the Trump administration in central aspects regarding the position in the OAS, the election of the IDB authorities and in the position regarding Nicaragua, Cuba and Venezuela, the historical link that the National Party maintains with The Democrats will serve to generate new ties between the two countries.
- **Economy:** There are no substantial changes in sight that could have an effect on Uruguay within the short term.
- **Commerce:** The arrival of the Democrats to the White House may mean a de-escalation in the trade conflict between China and the United States, which could allow Uruguay greater mobility when trying to attract investment and close agreements with both countries, which represent respectively the first and fifth destinations for Uruguayan exports.

Opinions in Uruguay



Luis Lacalle Pou
President of Uruguay

“I congratulate US President-elect Joe Biden. We will work to strengthen relations between our countries for the good of our people ”



Beatriz Argimón
Vice President of Uruguay

“I congratulate President-elect of the United States Joe Biden on the electoral victory and first female Vice President-elect Kamala Harris. We will undoubtedly continue to forge the close ties that our countries have historically kept. ”



Ernesto Talvi
Former Foreign Affairs Minister

“American citizens spoke loud and clear: Joe Biden is the new President of the United States. The Trump era is over. The world today is a little better place than yesterday. ”