



Kevin Lamarque/REUTERS

Mexico in the United Nations Security Council

In a single decade, Mexico has twice been a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council. This was a break with its tradition of remaining on the sidelines of the UN's most important body because it thought that being a member could interfere, at least implicitly, with its non-interventionist foreign policy. The debate about the importance of being on the council or not is closely related to Mexico's actions in the two periods: 2002-2003 and 2009-2010. A first reading reveals an important change in Mexican foreign policy: both the administration of Vicente Fox and that of current President Felipe Calderón decided to step up and accept the challenge of contributing to international peace and security from the vantage point of the Security Council (SC). However, many questions remain that need answering: Will it become a tradition for Mexico to participate in the SC, and how often? What benefits and costs can accrue to the country by being part of the United Nations' highest body? What real contributions has Mexico made to the solution of global problems from inside it?