

Environmental legislation in the fourth transformation: progress or setbacks?

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Abstract

The objective of this article is to analyze the legislative performance in the LXIII and LXIV periods, regarding the environmental issue considering the campaign promises of the current national government. The methodology that was used was through intentional sampling, taking as a source the parliamentary groups that were organized in the LXIII and LXIV Legislatures. The originality of this article consists in being the first in Mexico to analyze and compare environmental legislative proposals from two six year terms with different political regimes. As a result, it is observed that there is an increase in the number of environmental proposals, although a large part of these are not approved or discussed. It is concluded that although there is a notable effort in terms of new environmental legislative proposals, most of them do not touch fundamental issues to prevent the serious problems and risks that our country currently faces.

Keywords: legislative initiatives, political parties, international deals, environment.

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Legislación ambiental en la cuarta transformación: ¿avances o retrocesos?

Resumen

El objetivo de este artículo es analizar el desempeño legislativo en los periodos LXIII y LXIV respecto al tema ambiental, considerando las promesas de campaña del actual gobierno nacional. La metodología que se utilizó fue a través de muestreo intencional, tomando como fuente a los grupos parlamentarios que se organizaron en las Legislaturas LXIII y LXIV. La originalidad de este artículo consiste en ser el primero en México donde se analizan y comparan propuestas legislativas ambientales de dos sexenios con distintos regímenes políticos. Como resultado se observa que existe un incremento en la cantidad de propuestas de corte ambiental, aunque una gran parte de éstas no son aprobadas o discutidas. Se concluye que aunque existe un notable esfuerzo en cuanto a nuevas propuestas legislativas ambientales, la mayoría no tocan temas fundamentales para prevenir los graves problemas y riesgos que enfrenta nuestro país en la actualidad.

Palabras clave: iniciativas legislativas, partidos políticos, tratados internacionales, medio ambiente.

Códigos Jel: D7, H23, K32

Introduction

Over the past four decades, the premise has been strengthened that markets are an efficient mechanism for regulating environmental exploitation, because orthodox economic theory assumes that an increase in the demand for a good would be accompanied by an increase in the price of it, leading to a decrease in its demand. However, while the process of exploitation, transformation and production of nature is more efficient, the cost of rival goods decreases; therefore, it increases its demand. In this sense, in developed economies raw materials are very cheap due to the industrialization and chemical substitution of these goods, as well as the ease to undertake extractive projects in countries where regulation in these subjects is limited (Azamar, 2018).

In order to correct this aspect, it is essential to carry out constant analyses and contrasts of regulatory and institutional regulations in environmental matters, especially in countries such as Mexico, where this issue has an important historical background, but it seems not reflected in the national legislative action of the last six years.

On the other hand, it is important to mention that in response to international commitments, the Mexican State, according to *Senate Gazette LXIV/1SPR-5/95687* has signed 72 environmental treaties (as of May 2019), including agreements, conventions, protocols and declarations on: protection, conservation and improvement of the environment, sustainable development or protection of the ozone layer, to mention a few. These firms link and share international concerns with the Mexican State, which according to Servi (1998) is of vital importance, because there must be an interrelationship between the local and the international to generate change and not delay global settlement initiatives. Under these conditions, this article directs its analysis to the monitoring of initiatives on environmental issues proposed during the last couple of legislatures; they are also nourished by the links they have with the treaties signed by the Mexican State, an exercise that contributes to the visibility of the importance of environmental issues in Mexican law at the international level.

The question that guides this research is the following: has the current Government improved the environmental actions, policies and efforts to which Mexico has committed itself at the international level, or on the contrary, are we in a political continuism in this area?

The objective of this work is to analyze the national legislative performance around the environmental issue, specifically review the contrast between the proposals emanated and approved within the last two legislatures, one of which preceded the new federal government and the other was executed under the new administration, this in order to know if one of the campaign promises of the current president Andrés Manuel Lopez Obrador on environmental protection and a more sustainable approach is being fulfilled.

This article is divided into four sections. The first presents the methodological process of analysis and categorization of environmental norms for Mexico. The second section briefly recovers the environmental approach prior to the election of 2018 of the Mexican government in office and the discrepancies with the execution to date. The third section reviews the weakness of the national legislative process around the environmental issue, and presents the results of the analysis of initiatives in this area in the LXIII and LXIV legislatures. The fourth article analyzes the process of Mexico's incorporation into international environmental treaties and the relevance of these treaties to current legislative processes. Finally, the conclusions are presented.

1. Methodology

The environmental initiatives proposed during the LXIII and LXIV legislatures were reviewed, analyzed and categorized. The first of these includes the period of work from 1 September

2015 to 1 September 2018, with 10 parliamentary groups,² whose composition was 40.4% for the Partido Revolucionario Institucional (PRI), 21.4% for the Partido Acción Nacional (PAN), 10.2% for the Partido de la Revolución Democrática (PRD) and 10% for the Movimiento de Regeneración Nacional (Morena). While the LXIV Legislature covers from September 1, 2018 to September 1, 2021, with nine parliamentary groups³ composed of 50.4% for Morena, 15.8% for PAN, 9.8% for the PRI and 8.8% for the Partido del Trabajo (PT). The importance of specifying the composition of the actors participating in parliamentary groups is to clearly identify the relevance of environmental issues for each party. During the review of both legislatures, the axes considered for the analysis of environmental initiatives are those shown in table 1.

Table 1
Number of environmental legislative initiatives in each legislature

<i>Tema</i>	<i>Legislatura</i>	
	<i>LXIII</i>	<i>LXIV</i>
Agua	7	15
Emisiones contaminantes y salud	3	8
Energía renovable	5	8
Forestal	2	8
Fracking	3	1
Hidrocarburos	11	2
Minería	2	14
Plásticos	7	13
Residuos de manejo especial	4	12
Residuos sólidos urbanos	11	9
Total	55	90

Source: own elaboration

² Parliamentary groups are the way in which deputies are organized and also senators in Mexico (although they also exist in other countries in a similar way) to participate in a collegiate way in carrying out legislative activities so that agreements are reached to establish specific positions around their daily issues. The statutes for the formation of parliamentary groups are contained in articles 26 to 30 of the Organic Law of the General Congress of the United Mexican States. In addition to those mentioned above, the other parliamentary groups are: Partido Verde Ecologista de México (PVEM) with 7.6%; Movimiento Ciudadano (MC) with 4.2%; Nueva Alianza (NA) with 2.6%; Partido Encuentro Social (PES) with 2.2%; Independientes (IND) with 0.2%, and Sin Partido (SP) with 1.2% (Cámara de Diputados, 2022a).

³ The other parliamentary groups are: Movimiento Ciudadano (MC) with 4.8%; Partido Encuentro Social (PES) with 4.6%; Partido de la Revolución Democrática (PRD) with 2.4%; Partido Verde Ecologista de México (PVEM) with 2.2%, and Sin Partido (SP) with 1.2% (Cámara de Diputados, 2022b).

Specifically, these axes were considered for presenting the largest number of initiatives in aspects related to environmental impact actions and/or activities. Subsequently, the initiatives were organized by parliamentary group in order to identify where most of the efforts to pursue these issues come from, as shown in table 2.

Table 2
Environmental initiatives and issues by parliamentary group in the two legislatures

<i>Partido político</i>	<i>Legislatura</i>	
	<i>LXIII</i>	<i>LXIV</i>
Alianzas partidistas	1	6
MC	2	8
Encuentro social	0	1
Morena	2	33
NA	1	0
PAN	7	21
PRD	7	6
PRI	19	3
PT	8	5
PVEM	7	7
Total	54	90

Source: own elaboration

In this first approach to the follow-up of the initiatives of the two legislatures there was no distinction about their status; that is, if they had been accepted, rejected or were pending, the important thing is to highlight the variation in the promotion of environmental initiatives by legislature and political party. The more detailed review of this issue was addressed in paragraph 3.1.

After completing the matrix with the results of these observations, the link between Mexican legislation and international environmental instruments and agendas to which our country is attached was revised.⁴ To this end, the international environmental treaties and instruments to which our nation is a party are identified, to mention later whether in the last six years of legislative exercises interest has been maintained on these topics that are contained in the aforementioned treaties.

⁴ The total number of international environmental treaties to which Mexico is linked is 59, which are divided into three emissions; four of water; 22 flora and fauna, biodiversity and environmental protection; eight hydrocarbons; eight foresters; seven special handling waste; two of the ozone layer; four on climate change, and one on eco-technology (CEDRSSA, 2020; CESOP, 2006).

Since the objective of this work is to analyze the legislative performance around the environmental issue in the framework of the political transition of the year 2018 in Mexico, the sampling of the data was intentional, selecting only the parties with the most representative power in this topic, also analyzing the legislative proposals and the results of these.

The process of national legislation in Mexico is briefly mentioned below.

2. Political transition in Mexico and environmental promises

The presidential victory of Andrés Manuel López Obrador (AMLO) in July 2018 suggested a broad change in national political activity. The Coalition "Together we will make history," formed by the National Regeneration Movement parties (Morena), Partido del Trabajo (PT) and Partido Encuentro Social (PES) presented a government plan (Plan Nacional de Desarrollo, 2019-2024) focused on compensating for the environmental damage caused by previous governments, focusing on the rescue of the most disadvantaged, as well as the prohibition of multiple destructive productive practices such as *fracking* and mining (Peñaloza, 2018).

This work plan explains several elements, such as: direct denunciations of the damage caused by extractivism, abandonment of the countryside, vulnerability of indigenous peoples, among others. It also expresses the need to incorporate the rural population into decision-making, as stated in Organización Internacional del Trabajo (OIT) Convention 169, to which Mexico is attached, and emphasizes the mention of good living, a criterion for the protection of the rights of nature.

The government plan presented by this coalition broadly describes the axes of protection of water, sustainable growth, socioenvironmental development, as well as migration towards the use of alternative energies to hydrocarbons. Also, part of the text mentions that the use of national natural resources will be made through intensive state control practices (in reference to the contemporary neodevelopment that has been implemented in other countries), but these proposals lack specific mechanisms to transform them into concrete actions.

For example, the program "Sembrando vida" has been actively promoted, which focuses on granting economic subsidies to small and medium sized rural producers who sow fruit and wood trees in their territories. The interest of this program is to promote the recovery of the countryside, strengthen the rural population and improve the capacities of food independence for these social groups. However, this programme is not a policy, therefore it should have been articulated together with the improvement of environmental and forestry institutions that could have supported it. But the opposite has happened, the

financing of these institutions has been cut, weakening the program's capacity for action and its own results.

Despite the foregoing, it is important to recognize that the *Sembrando vida* program is probably the administration's greatest effort in environmental matters, because other issues have not materialized, such as promises to ban *fracking*, as this practice has intensified (De la Fuente, 2020). Likewise, on mining activity little has been done besides restricting exploration/exploitation permits, freezing several of the environmental initiatives that have been presented to regulate this activity (Azamar, 2021).

Therefore, it is essential to understand the approach and the change that has been undertaken in this new public administration on the environmental issue. The following is the relevance of the environmental issue in the national legislative process.

3. Importance of national legislation

How our country's various natural resources have been exploited, exploited or conserved depends directly on what it says (permit) national legislation,⁵ therefore pollution, deforestation, environmental degradation and impunity for these problems can be considered to be the result of the capacity or operational incapacity of the public representatives in power. This can be confirmed by the fact that the responsibility and subsequent effects of generating national implementing regulations have been granted to the state legislature; that is, to deputies and senators, who during their period of work (three and six years, respectively) lead to the formation, issuance, correction and/or suppression of reforms and amendments of existing laws through bill initiatives. Sometimes these initiatives are often promoted and promoted based on the political ideology of the parliamentary group in power, so sometimes they are not in function of the common good, they simply strengthen themselves (Garita, 2018); however, these events should be the exception and not the rule in healthy institutions.

What is significant about an appropriate legislative exercise is that it changes and redirects social evolution. economic, environmental and cultural in the country, fostering development frameworks that empower and oblige one another, they allocate and guarantee rights or take them away, but they seek to generate social benefit and to foster opportunities for those governed by such regulations. In this sense, the legislative initiative is the means by which the president and his parliamentary group can carry out the Plan Nacional de Desarrollo (PND) in turn, which gives legal support to the actions carried out, as well as tools that allow it to lead the country according to the political context and the interpretation of needs from those who govern (Villaseñor, 2018).

⁵ It is the normative body composed of regulations implementing laws and standards that operate at the national level.

In this sense, from an environmental perspective, the changes and modifications that Mexican regulations have undergone over the years have been insufficient for the improvement in the ecosystem and do not represent a real contribution in the normative framework of the country in terms of the protection of the environment; on the contrary, it is permissive and harmful, as it promotes the overexploitation of natural resources as an economic strategic axis; for example, activities such as mining and fracking are not regulated, considering all environmental problems arising from their practice (Azamar, 2021); as well as pollution of water, soil and air, characteristics that later affect the health of the environment and of the human being. For this reason, the need arises to modify and, where appropriate, to create better rules that preserve ecological balance, as well as to reverse environmental deterioration, which has also been legalized for several decades (Villaseñor, 2018).

Due to the above, it is relevant to monitor legislative initiatives on environmental issues, since depending on the discussion and support of these, instruments and mechanisms can be created that benefit the population and nature not only at the national level, but also seeking to coincide with international interests, because our country must comply with the signed international commitments, among which those of environmental content and protection of natural environments stand out, since these are the ones that provide vital substances for human life: water, air, food, energy and raw materials that are also used for the production of goods (Morán and Gonzaga, 2018).

The following is the analysis of the environmental initiatives presented during the LXIII and LXIV legislatures in Mexico.

3.1. Environmental political transition in the Mexican legislature (2015-2021)

Sometimes the composition of legislative initiatives would tend to be aimed at fulfilling the National Development Plans, as mentioned above; in this sense, it is clear that the LXIII and LXIV legislatures were diverse in themes and objectives, since each of them represents a different government. For example, the Term LXIII was present during the second half of the presidential period of Enrique Peña Nieto and it is characterized by programs like the National Crusade against the Famine, Prospers, Life insurance for family Chiefs,⁶ the privatization of Pemex and of the electric power (Cypher, 2019); while in the LXIV Legislature the work was carried out during the first half of the current government of President Andrés Manuel López Obrador, who has directed the forces to: to boost fossil energies, megaprojects that cross extensive natural areas, as well as assistance policies for the most vulnerable population and the attempt to eradicate corruption at all public levels (*Diario*

⁶ The constant denouncement of diversion of public resources is not taken into account.

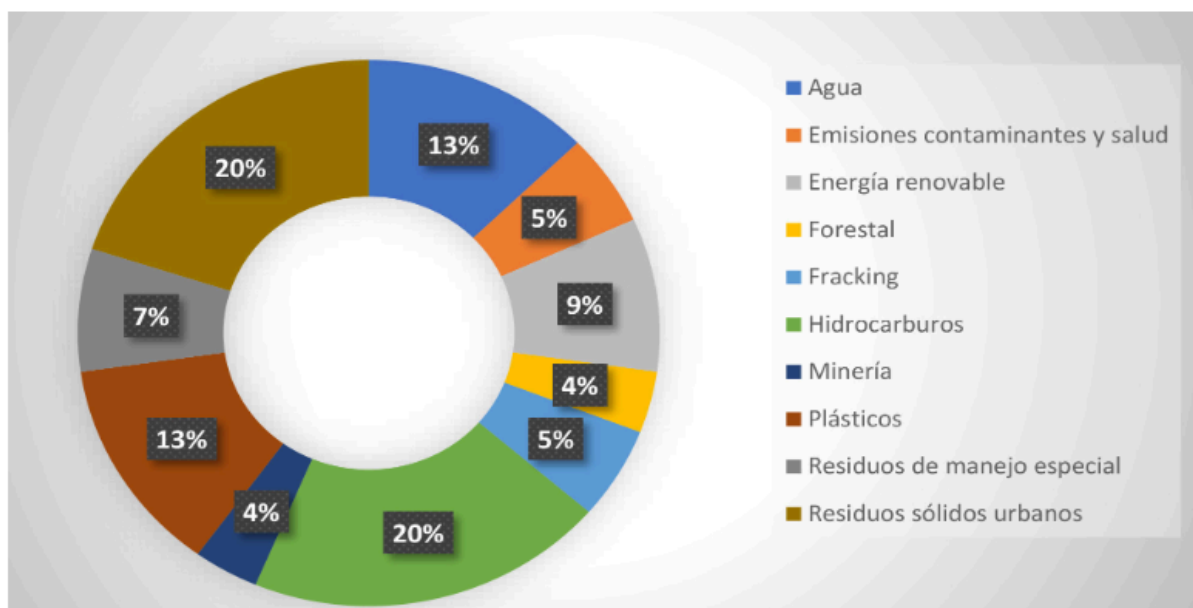
Oficial de la Federación [DOF], 2019), thus demonstrating that each period would have its own concerns to carry out its plans of action.

This same difference can be seen and highlighted in three moments for the two legislatures: a) the first is through the *number of initiatives proposed* by each in terms of environmental issues;⁷ (b) the second, by *the number of initiatives promoted* by parliamentary group; and finally (c) the third by the *initiatives that were discarded, rejected, pending or accepted*.

Table 2 shows the comparison of initiatives generated by each legislative period; the LXIII Legislature contemplated 55 initiatives related exclusively to the environmental issues mentioned above and the main ones were: hydrocarbons and urban solid waste, representing 20% each (see graph 1). Unlike the LXIV Legislature, which presented 90 initiatives with topics such as water, plastics and mining, with 17, 14 and 16% respectively (see graph 2), leaving aside the discussion on hydrocarbons.

Graph 1

Participation of environmental initiatives in the LXIII Legislature
(%)

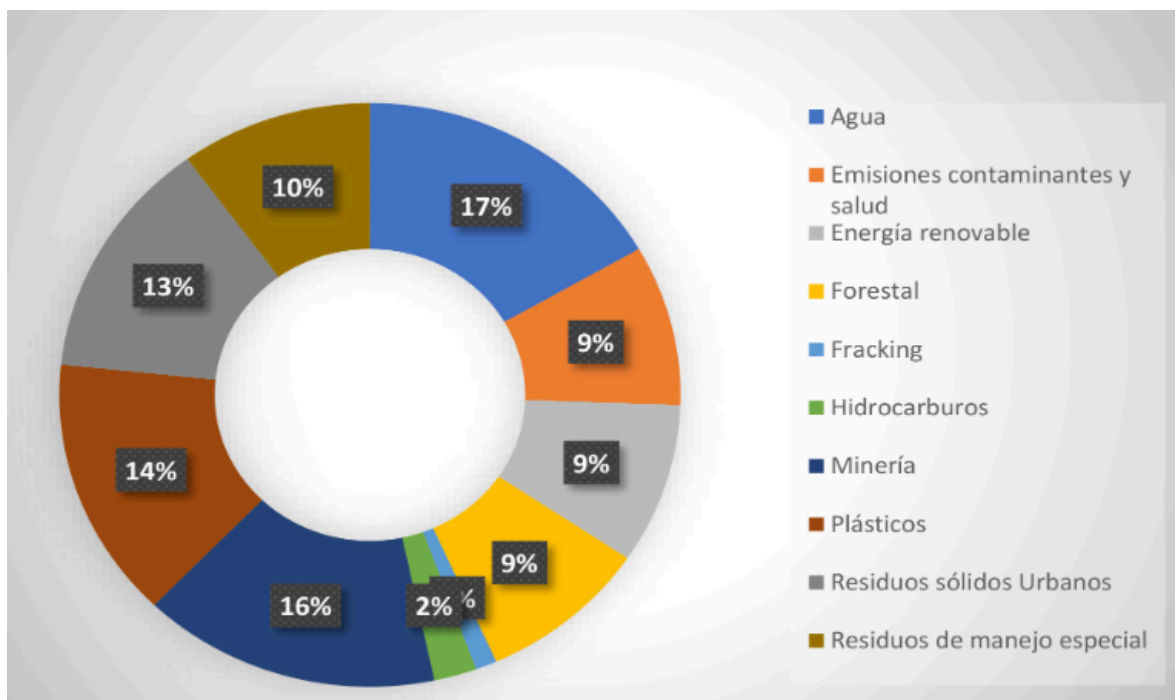


Source: own elaboration.

⁷ Water, polluting emissions and health, renewable energy, forestry, fracking, hydrocarbons, mining, plastics, special handling waste, solid waste.

Graph 2

Participation of environmental initiatives in the LXIV Legislature
(%)

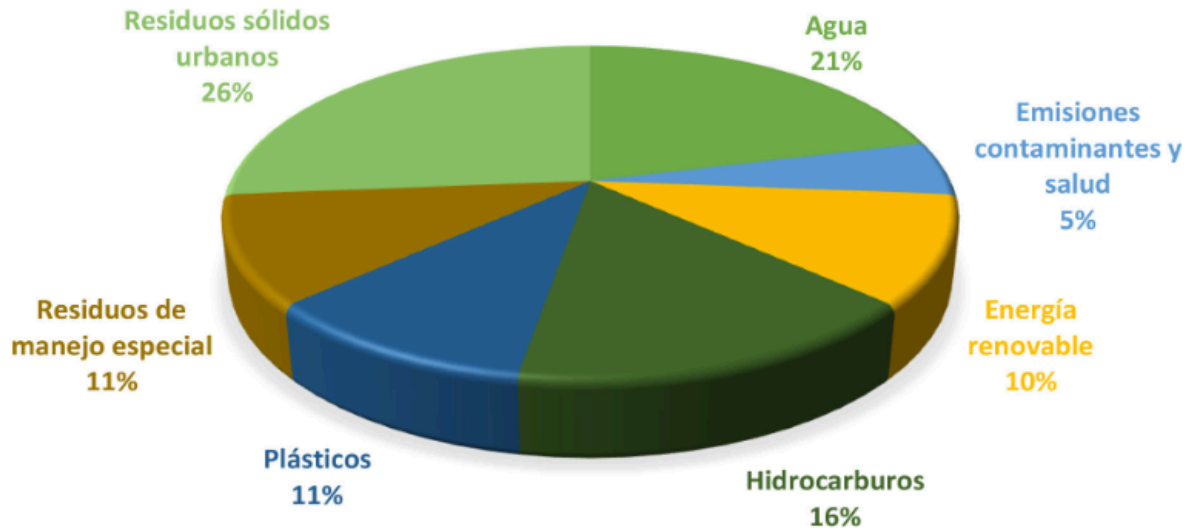


Source: own elaboration.

The next significant change is the participation of the parliamentary groups in terms of the number of proposals for initiatives, since from one period to another, the most representative groups of each legislature demonstrate a considerable variation (see Table 3), this is visualized with the Morena and PRI groups. While the PRI parliamentary group that was majority for the number of legislators during the LXIII Legislature, went from making 19 proposals with a greater focus on solid urban waste in the first period of analysis, to the second that only proposed three initiatives (it is worth noting that it was already the third political force); however, for her part, Morena, in her exercise during the LXIV legislature, went from postulating two initiatives to 33 from one period to another when she became the first political force, highlighting the issues of water and mining (see graph 3 and 4).

Graph 3

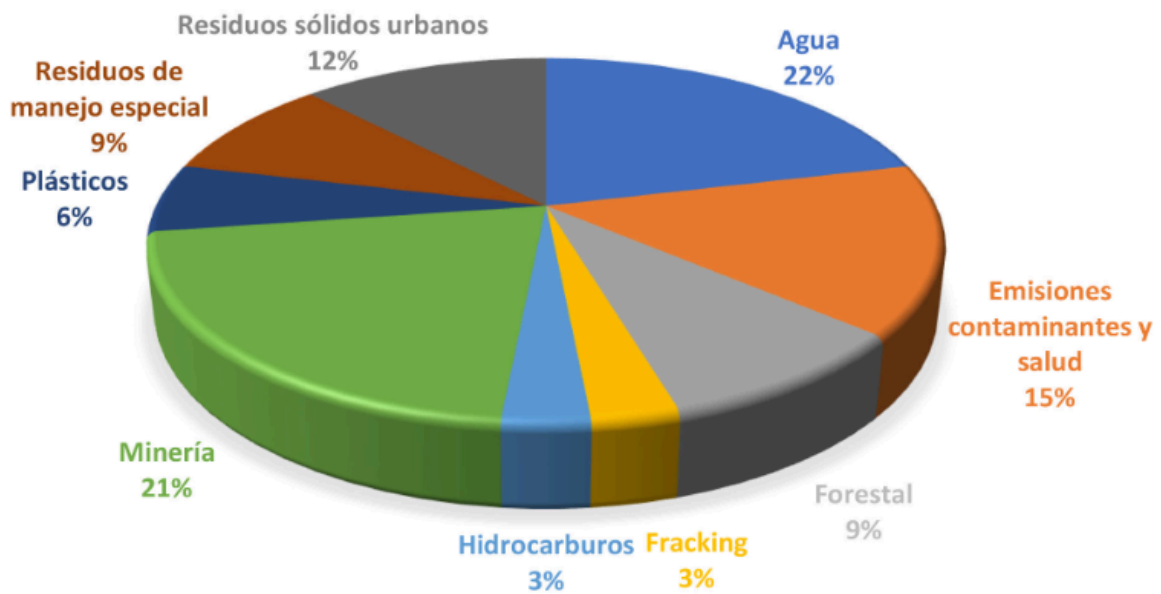
Initiatives of the PRI parliamentary group
(%)



Source: own elaboration.

Graph 4

Initiatives of the Morena parliamentary group



Source: own elaboration.

Finally, it can be noted that there is a change in the interest being given to the environmental issue. since the number of initiatives proposed in the current Government with the previous legislature is seven times greater than in the previous one, although it is worth noting that this does not necessarily imply that these are to be discussed or approved, and is that in the LXIII Legislature, of the 11 initiatives elaborated only one remained pending, six more were rejected, one discarded and only three approved, while 44 initiatives were left pending in the LXIV Legislature, one rejected, 26 passed and six completed, so it can be said that there is a positive difference in favor of the latter legislature.

The results of the comparison present aspects such as: the modification of the main themes to which the initiatives are directed; it is also observed in the quantity, since these have increased by a little more than 60% from one Legislature to another on the issues mentioned. It is also worth mentioning that in changing the political powers within the legislatures there is a relationship with the change in quantity, as well as the aspects contained in the initiatives, although it could not be determined that it is causal, but it does show a connection between these elements; finally, it may therefore be argued that the political transition has fostered an interest in proposing new regulations on the environmental issue, although this does not necessarily imply that these rules will be adopted.

It is also necessary to underline that most of the proposals adopted focus on reforms to waste laws, forest issues and pollutant emissions, leaving out the issues of greatest current concern such as water degradation, mining pollution, hydrocarbons, *fracking* and plastics.

The following is a review of Mexico's incorporation into international environmental treaties, as well as the relevance of legislation on these points in the context of our country's participation as an important global player in this issue.

4. Incorporation of the Mexican State into international treaties

International treaties are part of the promotion of peace, friendship and trade, but above all bilateral or multilateral agreements on various issues such as health, migration, security, trade or the environment, among others (Centro de Estudios para el Desarrollo Rural Sustentable y la Soberanía Alimentaria (CEDRSSA), 2020). While the current international concerns focus on environmental issues, this was not always the case.

The international interest in the regulation of environmental issues begins in a remarkable way from the second half of the twentieth century, partly derived from the report *The Limits of Growth*, where economic growth and the limitation presented by natural resources were analyzed to make the latter infinite.

This document explains various questions, such as the impossibility of sustaining a society that is constantly growing in population and faces a scenario of food insecurity due to the production model, as well as pressing the intensity of agricultural and industrial

production at the expense of the natural resources consumed, in addition to not contemplating contamination resulting from previous processes (Gallastegui, 2011). Although it is a work with an extensive and indepth analysis of these aspects, it presented a catastrophic vision in which the underlying problem seemed to be the demand for overpopulation, warning that this would affect mainly developing countries.

In spite of the above, one of the great achievements of this Report was the increase in international concern about the damage that human beings cause to ecosystems to meet their needs, which allowed to boost the visibility of the contamination of water sources, air, land, the depletion of non-renewable resources and the harmful emerging health conditions of the productive and economic system governing the world, which is why it escalated to become a political concern.

Concerns about the risks of continued economic growth were subsequently heightened, to the extent that the Conference on Environment and Development, also known as the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, was convened in June 1992, with 179 countries participating in the establishment of principles such as: healthy living and production that protects the environment as an integral part of the process and sustainable development (Centro de Estudios Sociales y de Opinión Pública [CESOP], 2006).

Faced with the conjuncture of carrying out common activities and exchange for a better future, it is that the Mexican State has joined the international arena; for example, it has become the country with the most treaties and economic agreements signed in the world. It has also subscribed to other topics of global interest, walking along with international concerns, such is the case of environmental deterioration as a consequence of the economic processes that human beings have developed during their history, which proves to be a constraint on present and future life, why Mexico has been a participant and is concerned with contributing to the achievement of goals and objectives proposed through international treaties, whether bilateral or multilateral, in which the intention is to mitigate and restore damage already caused or to prevent new damage, which may lead to the modification of present harmful conditions and hostile forecasts for the direction of humanity.

In this way, the Mexican State has signed conventions, agreements, conventions and protocols in environmental matters. Since 1936 it had signed its first convention with the United States on the protection of migratory birds and mammals. Subsequently, it continued on course and is now part of a large repertoire of treaties in matters of water, ozone layer, climate change, ecotechnologies, environmental emissions, flora and fauna, forestry, hydrocarbons, sustainable development and special management residues, which are intended to contribute to the improvement of the social and environmental conditions of the world population.

Although it was mentioned earlier that there are 72 treaties signed by Mexico, with the follow-up and analysis of them it was possible to identify that there are agreements and/or conventions that are part of others already signed; that is, they are amendments, the inclusion

of annexes or the modification of deadlines of an existing treaty, a situation that, by rejecting such agreements, represents a decrease in treaties signed by the Mexican State for environmental purposes, from 72 to 59 treaties. So for this work only 59 treaties of our country in environmental matters are considered; this omission is done to avoid double accounting.

4.1. Environmental legislation and links to international agreements

The issues contained within international treaties, as well as in national initiatives, are diverse and could not be exactly tied if they were to be analysed together; therefore, those related to the environmental elements proposed in this document were selected (see the axes in the methodology). For example, those containing references to polluting emissions and health, water, hydrocarbons, forestry and special management waste become a point of inference on the Mexican government's efforts to contribute to the solution of global problems.

Table 3
Mexican environmental initiatives and international treaties
signed by Mexico in environmental matters

	<i>Emisiones contaminantes y salud</i>	<i>Agua</i>	<i>Hidrocarburos</i>	<i>Forestal</i>	<i>Residuos de manejo especial</i>	<i>Total</i>
Acuerdos internacio- nales firmados por México	2	5	6	4	6	23
Regulación en materia ambiental Legislatura LXIII	3	7	11	2	4	28
Regulación en materia ambiental Legislatura LXIV	8	15	2	8	9	42

Source: own production with data from CEDRSSA (2020) and CESOP (2006).

Table 3 shows some of the international environmental agreements signed by Mexico and the environmental initiatives that tie in with those treaties presented by each legislative period; the interest of this table is to indicate whether there are active efforts (initiatives) to strengthen the international agreements reached by our country.

In the area of polluting emissions and health, two international agreements have been signed; however, in the two legislatures analysed, a total of 11 initiatives have been proposed in this area, of which only three emanate from LXIII and eight from LXIV; however, this does not mean that these initiatives are effective, that is, that they fulfill their task to be part

of the national normativity, since many of them do not become reforms or new laws, and for this specific topic none of the 11 initiatives was approved, so they only remained in intention.

Table 4
Status of initiatives

<i>Legislaturas</i>	<i>LXIII</i>	<i>LXIV</i>
Aprobada	3	26
Desechada	6	1
Pendiente	1	44
Concluida		6
Rechazada	1	
Total	11	77

Source: own production with data from CEDRSSA (2020) and CESOP (2006).

This same situation is present in the topic of hydrocarbons, because of the proposed and revised initiatives, there is no one that has been accepted. As the proportion of initiatives approved during these two periods is so low (see table 4), it is also reflected in the country's normative capacity, as well as its contribution and the importance of the last two legislatures to visualize the State's support for international environmental treaties.

Thus, of the three initiatives approved in the LXIII Legislature, one is for the issue of water and the other two for urban solid waste, which links only one initiative of the 55 proposals for that period to the international environment. While for the LXIV Legislature, similarly we find three initiatives approved from the 90 revised. Of these, it is forestry and special management waste that are related to the strengthening of international treaties.

Based on the foregoing, it cannot be said that the national efforts of the last two legislatures contribute to international treaties on environmental issues, as evidence shows that, even if there is an increase in initiatives, it is not reflected in the promotion of laws and reforms that indicate otherwise.

Conclusions

In recent years, the adverse effects resulting from the interaction between the productive system, human consumption and the environment have been discussed, which has increased concerns about sustaining these conditions for the present and the future; in this sense, the common political actions are not oriented towards the reduction of consumption, but in reducing or balancing the current consumption with the environmental recovery, seeking to provide more and better living conditions for humanity. It is in this context that the Mexican State has become involved with various organizations and countries in the search to solve

global problems, since it is understood that the environment is important, since it will determine access to water, food production, health and life itself in the present and in the future (Cuevas, 2007).

While Mexico is among the countries with the most international treaties, it does not mean that it is focused on compliance with each of them. (at least on environmental issues), so that in the normativity have been relegated, because the reality involves strengthening political forces, developing economic plans and validating governments, but it is observed that even if the groups in power have been modified, this has not represented a symbolic change in environmental matters.

Despite the fact that there is a greater concern about environmental protection at present, half of the initiatives that have been proposed are still not approved or discussed, so it is necessary to continue with the legislative follow-up in order to see from a broader level the development on environmental issues within Mexican policy. Likewise, it cannot be decreed that the efforts by the new Government are minimal in this area, since the number of initiatives submitted is not only markedly higher than in the previous period, there are also 23 initiatives approved in addition to the previous exercise.

However, most of these initiatives are reforms with little significant effect on the environmental issue. as these are reforms or additions to current laws, which do not impact the processes of waste generation or destruction of nature, for it does not intervene in the productive dynamics but in the creation of normative mechanisms of reaction to environmental threats. It is essential to remember that, as noted in the new Government's work plan, environmental protection is necessary to improve the quality of life especially for the most vulnerable population, such as indigenous and peasant communities.

Finally, it is worth mentioning that in the absence of action on this issue by political representatives, various problems can be generated, such as social degradation, conflict and impoverishment due to the environmental costs associated with the recovery of spaces affected by productive practices that are destructive with nature.

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