

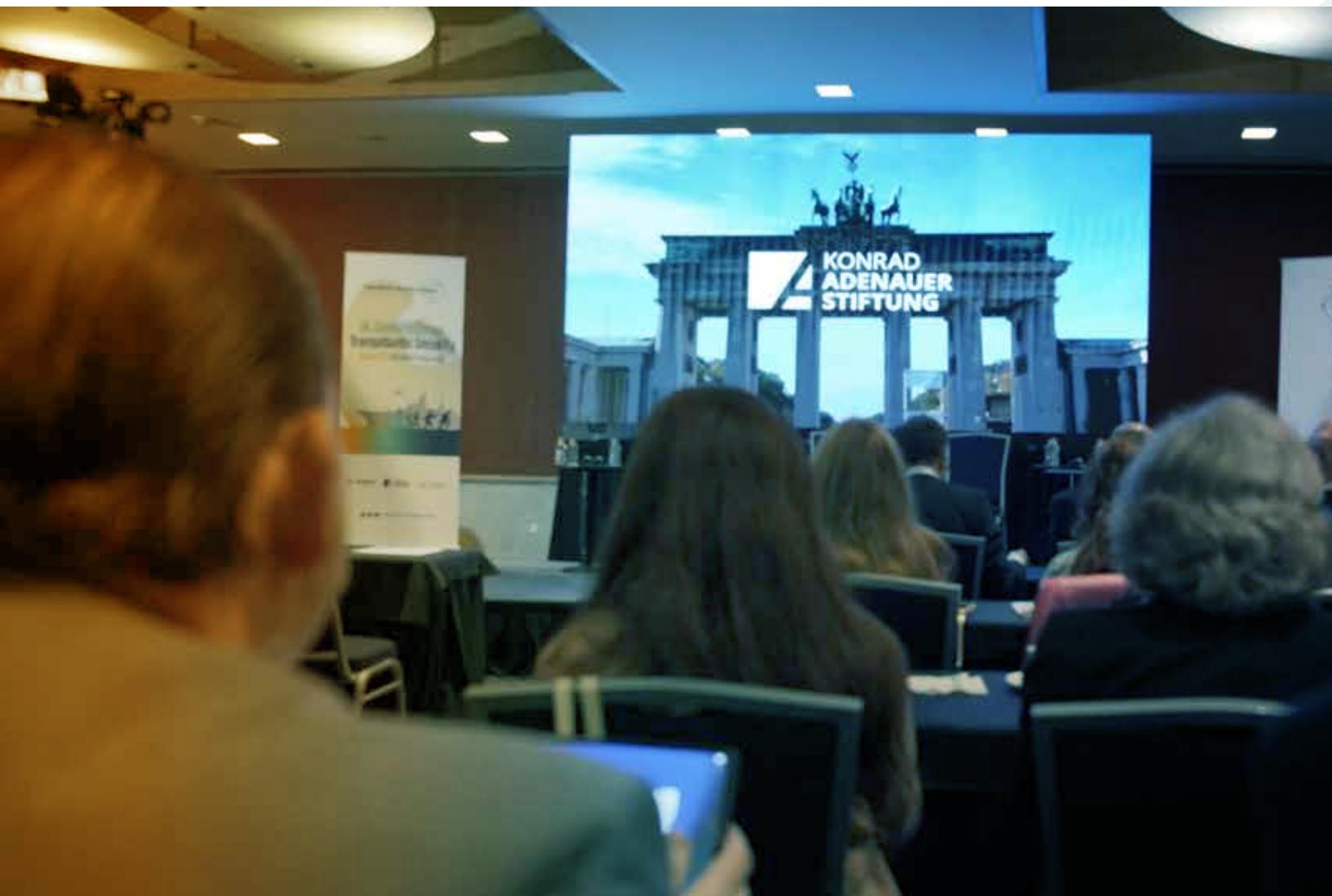
Transatlantic Security Dialogue

Diálogo Transatlántico de Seguridad



DIGITAL MEMORY

SEPTEMBER 2025, MEXICO CITY





The third edition of the Transatlantic Security Dialogue (TSD) took place on September 29 and 30, 2025, in Mexico City. Organized by the Konrad Adenauer Foundation (KAS), the Institute for Strategy and Defense Research (ISDR), and Universidad Anáhuac, the event brought together national and international speakers from academia, think tanks, the armed forces, members of the diplomatic corps, and security communities.

This edition stood out not only because of the caliber of its participants but also because, for the first time, Mexico hosted an active NATO official.

The discussions at the 2025 TSD converged around the growing strategic importance of the North Atlantic and the role that Mexico must assume in transatlantic security and cooperation dynamics. Although geographically Mexico forms part of the North Atlantic, it has historically remained outside the geostrategic structures linking the United States, Canada, and Europe. However, new international configurations, emerging threats, and the need to strengthen global alliances make it clear that Mexico's geopolitical future is intrinsically tied to the transatlantic sphere.

**The world is shifting.
Questions are no longer theoretical.
They are urgent.**

An international environment in flux

Throughout the various roundtables and keynote presentations, there was extensive discussion on how global tensions are reshaping the transatlantic security architecture. Europe faces the direct threat posed by Russia, while the United States and Canada are refocusing their attention on the Indo-Pacific region. This realignment requires rethinking existing cooperation models and

incorporating new relevant actors in the transatlantic relationship.

All participants agreed that the transatlantic partnership must be reimagined and expanded: it needs to be more flexible, more inclusive, and better suited to contemporary security challenges, which are no longer limited to the military domain. Across all sessions, speakers emphasized the need for North America and Europe to coordinate common strategies in the face of shared threats such as disinformation, cybersecurity vulnerabilities, energy (in)security, and transnational organized crime.

organizado transnacional.





Mexico: between the tradition of non-intervention and an emerging geostrategic role

One of the recurring themes at the TSD 2025 was the analysis of Mexico's role within the transatlantic space. Despite its strong economic ties with Europe and North America, its political integration remains limited. Mexico's foreign policy—historically shaped by the principle of non-intervention and the lack of long-term strategic thinking

have hindered its active participation in global geostrategic affairs.

Several experts noted that Mexico's absence from key international forums in recent years has widened the gap between the country and global power dynamics.

Nevertheless, there is a growing consensus among national and international actors: Mexico must assume its strategic role within the North Atlantic, even if this does not entail formal accession to NATO.

Various non-member countries already collaborate actively with the Alliance through flexible formats, dialogues, and cooperation mechanisms that could serve as a model for Mexico.

In this context, speakers underscored that the construction of international security requires consensus, agreements, and coordination. In Mexico's case, where the predominant focus remains domestic, combating organized crime represents a shared challenge with the United States and

Canada. While the United States employs a multidimensional approach —economic, military, and political— Mexico has maintained a primarily military strategy. The potential for mutual learning and coordinated strategies is therefore a key point for strengthening regional cooperation.

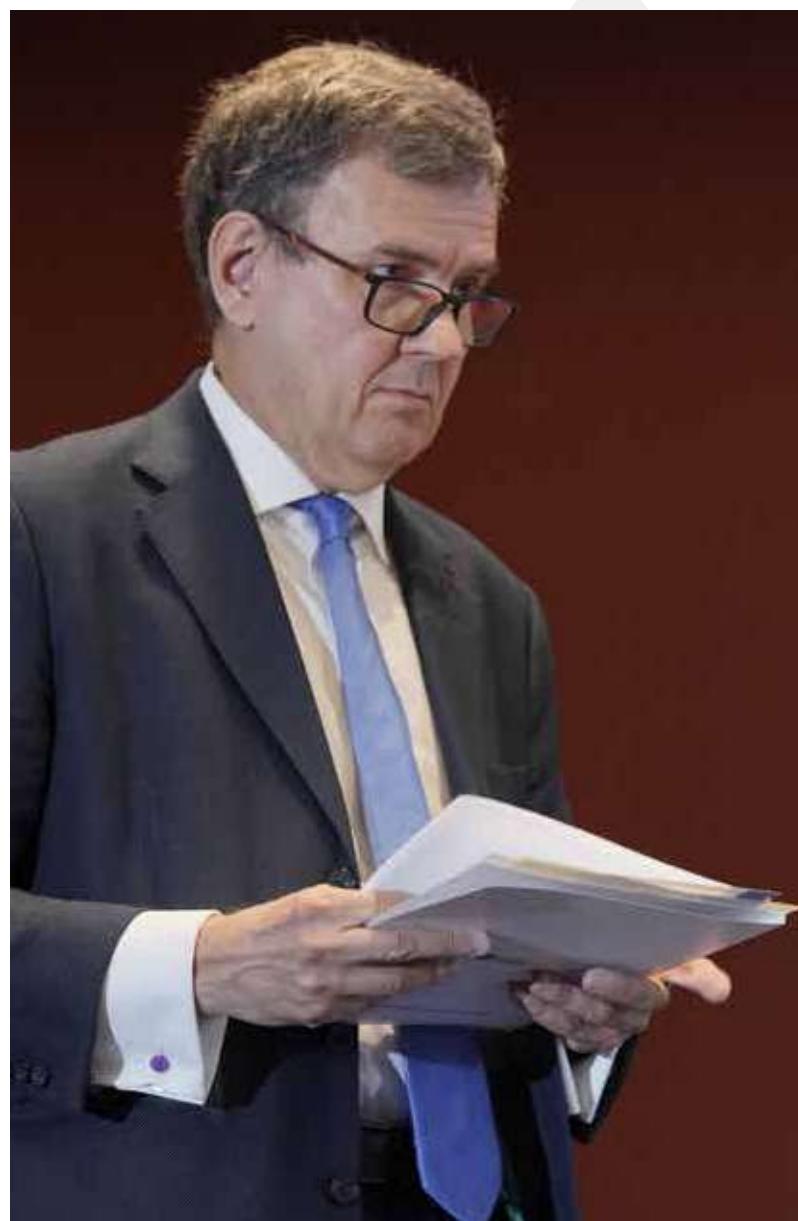
need to create new multilateral formats and thematic coalitions in areas such as energy security, cyber defense, media, democratic resilience, and digital sovereignty.

These alliances must be flexible, results-oriented, and capable of transcending the internal political cycles of participating countries.

Transatlantic security as a long term project

The TSD highlighted that transatlantic security remains strategically important for both sides of the Atlantic. In a historical moment marked by uncertainty, polarization, and tensions among major powers, cooperation, multilateralism, and the building of bridges between regions become even more relevant.

All participants stressed that alliances must evolve to respond more comprehensively to the threats of the 21st century. This includes the





Main Areas of Discussion

1. Reorientation of international trade relations

Experts addressed how trade policy can no longer be considered independent from security and democratic values. In the face of global protectionism, partnerships must incorporate issues such as sustainability, common standards, secure supply chains, and the reduction of strategic dependencies.

2. Security in Europe and North America

Europe faces an immediate threat from Russian aggression, while North America is diversifying its attention toward Asia. This strategic mismatch

requires new mechanisms for coordination and information-sharing to preserve transatlantic cohesion.

3. Democracy and the rule of law as pillars of cooperation

The conference emphasized the importance of anchoring transatlantic alliances in robust democratic standards. Participants discussed the possibility of a "democratic clause" to ensure respect for the rule of law in multilateral partnerships and in relations with Mexico.

4. Civil society and youth as strategic actors

The fundamental role of non-state organizations, think tanks, academia, and youth was highlighted. These actors contribute innovation, dialogue, and a critical perspective elements that help overcome political deadlocks and foster more sustainable cooperation.



Ten Key Conclusions of the TSD 2025

1. Conceiving North America as a shared strategic platform Greater coordination among Mexico, the United States, and Canada is essential for the region to function as an integrated geopolitical unit.
2. Integrating Mexico more firmly into transatlantic structures Mexico must move from being a peripheral actor to becoming a strategic partner within the transatlantic space.
3. Creating new flexible, issue-based alliances Thematic coalitions should complement and strengthen traditional alliances.
4. Rethinking security beyond the military dimension Hybrid threats require the inclusion of digital, economic, and law-enforcement components.
5. Strengthening civil society and track-2 diplomacy Unofficial dialogue can be decisive for building trust and articulating consensus.
6. Democratic values as the foundation of international cooperation Democratic standards should guide all transatlantic partnerships.
7. Improved coordination in the transatlantic pursuit of crime Joint, institutionalized cooperation is needed to counter organized crime, cartels, and cybercrime.
8. Foreign trade adapted to new geopolitical realities Trade policy must incorporate security, sustainability, and resilient supply chains.
9. Promoting strategic thinking and long-term vision Transatlantic countries must move beyond reactive approaches and plan for the future, including Mexico in the agenda.
10. Actively involving youth as co-creators Youth must cease to be a passive audience and become active agents of foreign policy.



Round Table 3: Defense Capacity-Building
Amidst Weaponization of Trade



Sebastian Abrol
Associate Professor, University of Washington

III Conference
Transatlantic Security



Conclusion

The Third Transatlantic Security Dialogue (TSD 2025) made clear that the world is undergoing a decisive stage of reconfiguration in power, institutions, and global alliances. Recent geopolitical transformations—the resurgence of great-power competition, the war in Europe, the growing importance of the Indo-Pacific, economic volatility, and the expansion of hybrid threats—have revealed that the traditional transatlantic architecture is no longer sufficient to address the challenges of this century. In this context, the TSD 2025 established itself as an indispensable space for rethinking alliances, generating new ideas, and building broader, more inclusive, and more flexible strategies. One of the most significant contributions of the dialogue was its insistence on understanding security from a multidimensional perspective.

Security can no longer be confined to the military realm: it must incorporate elements of energy, digital, food, media, economic, and climate security. The participants agreed that today's threats intersect and evolve rapidly, crossing borders and weakening state structures when substantive international cooperation is absent. Transitioning toward a comprehensive security vision requires recognizing that isolated or reactive responses are not only insufficient but counterproductive.

Within this framework, the TSD 2025 underscored the importance of strengthening transatlantic alliances – building bridges – not as rigid blocs, but as political communities grounded in shared values, particularly democracy, the rule of law, and the defense of fundamental freedoms. These principles, more than rhetorical commitments, constitute the normative foundation that enables deeper and more trustworthy cooperation between Europe, North America, and, increasingly, Mexico. The idea of a “democratic clause” or mechanisms to safeguard adherence to these values emerged as an essential tool for preserving the integrity of partnerships amid

growing polarization and rising authoritarianism. The potential integration of Mexico into these dynamics was one of the most discussed topics. The country finds itself at a pivotal moment: its geographic, economic, and strategic weight is undeniable, yet its international role has remained ambiguous for decades. The TSD 2025 demonstrated that Mexico cannot remain on the margins of transatlantic conversations if it aspires to shape the issues that will define global equilibrium in the decades ahead. Cooperation with Europe, the United States, and Canada—not necessarily through formal structures like NATO but through new flexible formats, ongoing dialogues, institutionalized projects, and thematic alliances—represents an opportunity for Mexico to redefine its foreign policy, strengthen its national security, and position itself as a bridge between regions.

Finally, the conference highlighted that the North Atlantic is now an evolving and open space. The inclusion of new actors, such as Mexico, and the creation of new cooperation methodologies are essential steps toward shaping a stronger, more plural, and more resilient transatlantic community. In a time marked by tensions, polarization, and disinformation, building bridges is a strategic and political act that may define the trajectory of international relations in the coming years.

In sum, the TSD 2025 not only analyzed the current situation but also outlined a horizon: a renewed, more

inclusive transatlantic space capable of confronting the global challenges of the 21st century. International collaboration will be the driving force behind building shared stability, prosperity, and security. Mexico, for its part, faces a historic opportunity to transition from geostrategic periphery to constructive leadership in the transatlantic conversation.

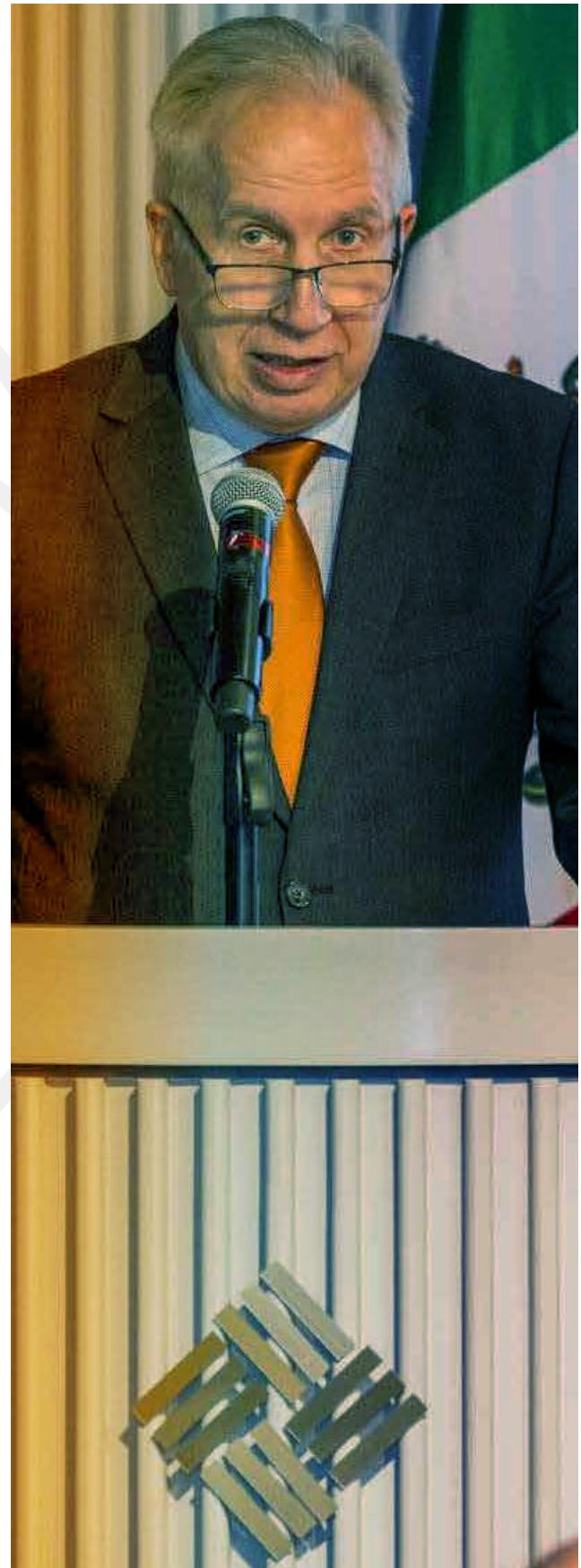
The dialogue is only beginning, but the path forward is already drawn.



Perspectives for the TSD 2026

1. Consolidating the TSD's leadership as a platform shaping strategic discussion in Mexico

The TSD has become a space that elevates the visibility of transatlantic debate in Mexico, positioning it where previously a conceptual and political void existed. The challenge for 2026 is to strengthen this role by expanding its influence within governmental, academic, and media agendas. To achieve this, it will be essential to integrate more institutional voices, enhance the presence of international experts, and ensure that the TSD's conclusions translate into concrete inputs for foreign and security policy. In doing so, the TSD can consolidate itself not only as a forum for reflection but as an indispensable reference point in the country's geostrategic conversation.



2. Giving public officials and the armed forces a more active and structural role

For the TSD's debates and recommendations to generate real impact, it is crucial that the participation of key public officials—from foreign affairs, security, defense, intelligence, economy, and communications—be expanded in 2026, and that the Mexican armed forces continue to play a central role in the dialogue. Their involvement will allow strategic reflection to connect with effective policy implementation, while enriching the conversation with operational experience and technical knowledge essential to understanding contemporary threats. The challenge will be to build a format where civilian and military authorities engage in structured, open, and collaborative dialogue with specialists and international actors.

3. Bringing the discussion to the public to make the relevance of the transatlantic sphere visible

The TSD has helped bring visibility to an issue historically absent from Mexican public debate: Mexico's relationship with the North Atlantic. To deepen this progress, TSD 2026 must incorporate dynamics that bring the conversation closer to

society. Public activities, hybrid spaces, outreach materials, university forums, informational capsules, and citizen dialogues across different regions of the country will help democratize strategic knowledge and counter the perception that security issues are the exclusive domain of political or academic elites. Public visibility will strengthen the legitimacy of a more active foreign policy and help cultivate a strategic culture among the population.

4. Building permanent multi-actor mechanisms and a results-oriented agenda

To move toward more effective cooperation, the TSD 2026 can take a qualitative leap by establishing permanent networks among government, armed forces, think tanks, academia, civil society, the private sector, and youth. These groups can operate year-round, producing analyses, proposals, or concrete roadmaps in areas such as transnational organized crime, cybersecurity, energy security, democratic resilience, or Mexico–NATO cooperation. The challenge will be to transform the TSD from an annual meeting into a continuous process with measurable results, systematic follow-up, and tangible outputs that strengthen and structure Mexico's transatlantic agenda with greater solidity and strategic vision.

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With speakers from



