

Country/entity	Mexico
Region	Americas
Agreement name	Agreement Regarding the Joint Proposals between the Federal Government and the EZLN
Date	16 Feb 1996
Agreement status	Multiparty signed/agreed
Interim arrangement	Yes
Agreement/conflict level	Intrastate/intrastate conflict

Zapatista Uprising (1994 -)

The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) between United States, Canada and Mexico implied the removal of the Article 27 of Mexico's constitution that protected the native communal landholdings. In reaction, the left-wing Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN) declared war against the Mexican government on the day of the signing of the NAFTA agreement, 1 January 1994.

Led by charismatic Subcomandante Marcos, the EZLN rapidly gained popularity among the left-wing youth in the Americas and in Europe and established a considerable global media presence.

Peace negotiations started in 1995, leading to several agreements, the San Andrés Accords signed in 1995 and 1996. However, socio-political tensions with the Mexican state and the lack of protection of the indigenous peoples and subsistence farmers remained unresolved. Nowadays, the Chiapas Conflict continues as a low-intensity conflict.

Close

Zapatista Uprising (1994 -)

Stage	Implementation/renegotiation
Conflict nature	Government/territory
Peace process	Mexico-Chiapas peace process
Parties	EZLN, Mexican Government

Third parties	-
Description	<p>This document lists the reservations made by the EZLN to the terms of the Agreement on indigenous rights and culture of Chiapas, which consists of four sub-agreements: Document 1. Joint Declaration that the Federal Govt and the EZLN shall submit to national debating and decision-making bodies; Document 2. Joint Proposals that the Federal Govt and the EZLN agree to remit to the National Debating and Decision-Making Bodies in accordance with Paragraph 1.4 of the Rules of Procedure; Document 3.1. Commitments for Chiapas by the State and Federal Govts and the EZLN under para. 1.3 of the Rules of Procedure; Document 3.2. Actions and Measures for Chiapas Joint Commitments and Proposals from the State and Federal Govts, and the EZLN</p>
Agreement document	MX_960216_Agreement Regarding the Documents.pdf (opens in new tab) Download PDF
Groups	
Children/youth	No specific mention.
Disabled persons	No specific mention.
Elderly/age	No specific mention.
Migrant workers	<p>Groups→Migrant workers→Rhetorical</p> <p>Page 2, B. The EZLN, through its delegation, expresses its acceptance of said documents. In regard to the issues on which it formulated, at the session on February 14, 1996 of this second part of the Resolutive Plenary Meeting, proposals for additions and substitutions or eliminations in the text of same, in accordance with the results of the consultations carried out by the EZLN, it expresses the following:</p> <p>... 6. The delegation of the EZLN considers it essential that legislation be passed to protect the rights of migrants, both indigenous and non-indigenous, within and outside national borders. (Document 1 “Joint declaration that the Federal Government and the EZLN shall submit to national debating and decision-making bodies”, page 5, point 8, subtitle “Protecting indigenous migrants”).</p>
Racial/ethnic/national group	No specific mention.
Religious groups	No specific mention.
Indigenous people	<p>Groups→Indigenous people→Substantive</p> <p>[Summary] The agreement in its entirety deals with the rights of indigenous peoples.</p>
Other groups	No specific mention.

Refugees/displaced persons	Groups→Refugees/displaced persons→Other Page 1, B. 1. 'the EZLN insists in pointing out the lack of solution to the grave national agrarian problem, and the need to amend Article 27 of the Constitution, which should reflect the spirit of Emiliano Zapata, summarized in two basic demands: the land belongs to those who work it, and Land and Freedom.'
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Social class	No specific mention.
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Gender

Women, girls and gender	Page 1, B. 3. In regard to the topic Situation, Rights and Culture of Indigenous Women, the delegation of the EZLN considers the present points of agreement insufficient. Owing to the triple oppression suffered by indigenous women, as women, as indigenous persons and as poor persons, they demand the building of a new national society, with another economic, political, social and cultural model that includes all Mexicans, both women and men. (Document 3.2 "Actions and measures for Chiapas. Commitments and joint proposals of the State and Federal Governments and the EZLN", page 9.)
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Men and boys	No specific mention.
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LGBTI	No specific mention.
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Family	No specific mention.
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State definition

Nature of state (general)	No specific mention.
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State configuration	No specific mention.
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Self determination	No specific mention.
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Referendum	No specific mention.
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State symbols	No specific mention.
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Independence/secession	No specific mention.
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Accession/unification	No specific mention.
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Border delimitation No specific mention.

Cross-border provision No specific mention.

Governance

Political institutions (new or reformed) No specific mention.

Elections No specific mention.

Electoral commission No specific mention.

Political parties reform No specific mention.

Civil society No specific mention.

Traditional/religious leaders No specific mention.

Public administration No specific mention.

Constitution No specific mention.

Power sharing

Political power sharing No specific mention.

Territorial power sharing No specific mention.

Economic power sharing No specific mention.

Military power sharing No specific mention.

Human rights and equality

Human rights/RoL general No specific mention.

Bill of rights/similar No specific mention.

Treaty incorporation No specific mention.

Civil and political rights No specific mention.

Socio-economic rights No specific mention.

Rights related issues

Citizenship	No specific mention.
Democracy	No specific mention.
Detention procedures	No specific mention.
Media and communication	Rights related issues→Media and communication→Media roles Page 2, B. 8. With regard to the communications media, the delegation of the EZLN considers it necessary that access be guaranteed to reliable, timely and sufficient information on the government's activities, as well as access by indigenous peoples to existing communications media, and that the right of indigenous peoples to have their own communications media (radio broadcasting, television, telephone, press, fax, communication radios, computers and satellite access) be guaranteed. (Document 2 “Joint proposals that the Federal Government and the EZLN agree to submit to national debating and decision-making bodies, in respect of point 1.4 of the Rules of Procedure”, page 9, point 8 “Communications media”.)
Mobility/access	No specific mention.
Protection measures	No specific mention.
Other	Page 2, B. 5. With regard to guarantees of full access to justice, the delegation of the EZLN considers that the need to appoint interpreters in all trials and lawsuits involving indigenous persons should not be ignored, ensuring that said interpreters are expressly accepted by the accused and that they know the language and are familiar with the indigenous culture and legal system; 6. The delegation of the EZLN considers it essential that legislation be passed to protect the rights of migrants, both indigenous and non-indigenous, within and outside national borders.

Rights institutions

NHRI	No specific mention.
Regional or international human rights institutions	No specific mention.

Justice sector reform

Criminal justice and emergency law No specific mention.

State of emergency provisions No specific mention.

Judiciary and courts Page 2,
B. 5. With regard to guarantees of full access to justice, the delegation of the EZLN considers that the need to appoint interpreters in all trials and lawsuits involving indigenous persons should not be ignored, ensuring that said interpreters are expressly accepted by the accused and that they know the language and are familiar with the indigenous culture and legal system. (Document 2 “Joint proposals that the Federal Government and the EZLN agree to submit to national debating and decision-making bodies, in respect of point 1.4 of the Rules of Procedure”, page 6, subtitle “Guarantees of full access to justice”).

Prisons and detention No specific mention.

Traditional Laws No specific mention.

Socio-economic reconstruction

Development or socio-economic reconstruction Socio-economic reconstruction→Development or socio-economic reconstruction→Socio-economic development
Page 2,
B. 2. With regard to sustainable development, the delegation of the EZLN considers it insufficient for the government to compensate indigenous peoples for damage caused on their lands and territories, once the damage has been caused. There is a need to develop a policy of true sustainability that preserves the lands, territories and natural resources of indigenous peoples, in short, that takes into account the social costs of development projects. (Document 1 “Joint declaration that the Federal Government and the EZLN shall submit to national debating and decision-making bodies”, page 3, in the subtitle “Principles of the new relationship” subparagraph 2.)

National economic plan No specific mention.

Natural resources No specific mention.

International funds No specific mention.

Business No specific mention.

Taxation No specific mention.

Banks No specific mention.

Land, property and environment

Land reform/rights No specific mention.

Pastoralist/nomadism rights No specific mention.

Cultural heritage No specific mention.

Environment No specific mention.

Water or riparian rights or access No specific mention.

Security sector

Security Guarantees	No specific mention.
Ceasefire	No specific mention.
Police	No specific mention.
Armed forces	No specific mention.
DDR	No specific mention.
Intelligence services	No specific mention.
Parastatal/rebel and opposition group forces	No specific mention.
Withdrawal of foreign forces	No specific mention.
Corruption	No specific mention.
Crime/organised crime	No specific mention.
Drugs	No specific mention.
Terrorism	No specific mention.

Transitional justice

Transitional justice general	No specific mention.
Amnesty/pardon	No specific mention.
Courts	No specific mention.
Mechanism	No specific mention.
Prisoner release	No specific mention.

Vetting	No specific mention.
Victims	No specific mention.
Missing persons	No specific mention.
Reparations	No specific mention.
Reconciliation	No specific mention.

Implementation

UN signatory No specific mention.

Other international signatory No specific mention.

Referendum for agreement No specific mention.

International mission/force/similar No specific mention.

Enforcement mechanism Convention 169 of the ILO invoked.
Page 2,
B. 4. 'In general terms the delegation of the EZLN considers it necessary that, in each case, the times and terms in which the agreements should be put into practice be specified and that, to that end, the indigenous peoples and the pertinent authorities should program and schedule their implementation by mutual accord.'

Page 3,
D. The parties shall submit to national debating and decision-making bodies and to other pertinent bodies the three accompanying documents, which contain the agreements and commitments reached by the parties.
E. Both parties assume the commitment to submit the present resolution to national debating and decision-making bodies and to the pertinent bodies of the state of Chiapas, in the understanding that the points indicated in subparagraph B should also be considered by said bodies as material resulting from the dialogue.

Related cases Page 3,
The present document and three documents that accompany it have been duly legalized as agreements under the terms of the Rules of Procedure and of the Law for Dialogue, Conciliation and Dignified Peace in Chiapas, and are incorporated as such into the Agreement for Concord and Pacification with Justice and Dignity.

Source UN Peacemaker [peacemaker.un.org]
