



COAHUILA



NUEVO LEÓN



TAMAULIPAS



TEXAS

## **AGREEMENT FOR REGIONAL PROGRESS (Coahuila, Nuevo León, Tamaulipas and Texas)**

TECHNICAL COLLABORATION AND COOPERATION AGREEMENT, SIGNED BY, AS ONE PART, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF COAHUILA, REPRESENTED BY HONORABLE ENRIQUE MARTÍNEZ Y MARTÍNEZ; THE GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF NUEVO LEÓN, REPRESENTED BY HONORABLE JOSÉ NATIVIDAD GONZÁLEZ PARÁS; AND BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF TAMAULIPAS, REPRESENTED BY HONORABLE TOMÁS YARRINGTON RUVALCABA; HEREINAFTER "THE NORTHEAST MEXICO REGION"; AND AS COUNTERPART, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF TEXAS, REPRESENTED BY HONORABLE RICK PERRY, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF TEXAS; HEREINAFTER "TEXAS"; ALL PARTS BEING SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING BACKGROUND, DECLARATIONS AND CLAUSES:

### **BACKGROUND**

- a) The Region composed by the states of Coahuila, Nuevo León, Tamaulipas and Texas hereinafter, the "Northeast Mexico- Texas Region"), has an area exceeding 716,000 square kilometers.
- b) The Northeast Mexico- Texas Region has a population that exceeds 30 million inhabitants, and forecast indicates that it will exceed 37 million in the year 2010.
- c) More than 50% of the total border crossings between Mexico and the United States take place in this Northeast Mexico- Texas Region.
- d) The economic and population growth of the Northeast Mexico- Texas Region is one of the most dynamic in the world.
- e) Altogether, the Northeast Mexico- Texas Region, has an state-of-the-art communications infrastructure system compose by approximately 70,000 kilometers of paved highways, 23,000 kilometers of railroads, 15 deep water ports, and 26 international airports.

- f) The Northeast Mexico- Texas Region also has water, mining, natural resources, and a similar climate conditions that facilitates integration and linkage.
- g) The regional integration efforts put forth by the States of the Northeast Mexico Region, through visits, work meetings, signing of industry collaboration agreements and those signed individually by the states, confirm the possibility of achieving the integral development of regions, including the integral development of the Northeast Mexico and its linkage to Texas, and eventually the inclusion of the state of Chihuahua.
- h) The integral regional development of the Northeast Region Mexico and their linkage to Texas, represents a new option to make the best use out of the North American Free Trade Agreement.

## DECLARATIONS

I.- Through their representatives, the States declare that:

- There have been advances achieved thus far in terms of political and government relations brought forth as a manifestation of the commitment to both peoples. Specific achievements that should be highlighted are in the areas of infrastructure, road integration and telecommunications.
- The purpose of all future joint efforts shall continue being based, as always, in the inviolable respect for our constitutional orders and the corresponding sovereignties; the efforts shall also be geared to protecting liberties and protecting and promoting human rights, as well as ensuring that development is undertaken with appropriate attention to environmental concerns.
- The concerted joint efforts on the part of government authorities and representatives of all sectors of society, including private industry- and with the support of the Federal government and international organizations- are fundamental to as a driving force for regional development projects. We recognize the significance of public participation to ensure the achievement of common objectives for development, as well as the importance of financial, federal and international support.
- The parties are interested in joining efforts to establish the bases through which, within the scope of each state's competence, programs of technical cooperation and linkage of the states can be carried out in the areas of: economic development, the environment, flora, fauna, natural resources, mining and energy resources, education, science, technology, culture, security, border links, health, agriculture and livestock, tourism, communications and transportation infrastructure. Also they are interested in establishing public policies and joint actions to benefit and strengthen the Northeast of Mexico- Texas Region's development with an integral vision.
- All joint efforts will be geared to avoiding duplications of already existing plans and programs as to maximize the resources of the States. The parties shall benefit from programs already in place such as the Border Governors Conference and other venues where the U.S.-Mexico border states participate.

## CLAUSES

**FIRST (Intent):** All parties agree that the intent of this document is to establish within the bases through which they will collaborate within the scope of their respective competence, so as to benefit and strengthen, through cooperative programs and actions, the competitiveness and the integral development of each state and the Northeast Mexico- Texas Region as a whole.

**SECOND (Action Areas):** The topics of interest that have been identified by the parties as priorities are those related, within each state's competence, to: economic development, the environment, flora, fauna, natural resources, mining and energy resources, education, science, technology, culture, security, border links, health, agriculture and livestock, tourism, communications and transportation infrastructure. Also the parties are interest in establishing public policies and joint actions to benefit and strengthen the Northeast Mexico- Texas Region's development with an integral vision.

All this, as stated without limitation given that the parties may increase or diminish the amount of areas of interest according to the needs, interest and competence of each state.

**THIRD (Units):** The parties agree to establish, as units for technical cooperation and linkage, the Council of Governors and its Technical Secretariat.

**FOURTH (Council of Governors):** The Council of Governors will serve as the leading unit for Regional Cooperation and Linkage, and it will be composed of the Governors of the States of Coahuila, Nuevo León, Tamaulipas and Texas.

The Council of Governors will meet in an ordinary session once a year, and may meet for extraordinary sessions at the leisure of the Council.

**FIFTH (Technical Secretariat):** The Technical Secretariat will be a multiple-person unit, whose members will be appointed by the Council of Governors.

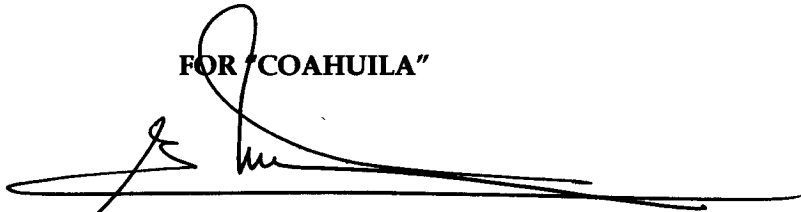
**SIXTH (Duration):** This agreement will become effective as of its signature and will remain valid until the parties determine otherwise. This agreement may be terminated at any time at the discretion of any one or more of the parties.

**SEVENTH (Unforeseen issues):** The parties agree that issues related to the intent of this document, that are not expressly stated in its clauses will be settled by consensus as long as the parties so determine.

**EIGHTH (Safeguard):** The agreements contained or derived from this document will be subject to federal legislation from both countries and the applicable laws of the participating entities.

Read this agreement by the parties, they ratify and sign it, this 22<sup>nd</sup> of June, 2004, issuing four originals of which each signatory will keep one.

FOR "COAHUILA"



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THE HONORABLE ENRIQUE MARTÍNEZ Y  
MARTÍNEZ  
GOVERNOR OF COAHUILA

FOR "NUEVO LEÓN"



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THE HONORABLE JOSÉ NATIVIDAD  
GONZÁLEZ PARÁS  
GOVERNOR OF NUEVO LEÓN

FOR "TAMAULIPAS"



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THE HONORABLE TOMAS YARRINGTON  
RUVÁLCABA  
GOVERNOR OF TAMAULIPAS

FOR "TEXAS"



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THE HONORABLE RICK PERRY  
GOVERNOR OF TEXAS