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## **México City and Chicago Announce Innovative Economic Partnership** *Business and Elected Leaders from Across North America Gather at Global Cities Initiative Forum*

MÉXICO CITY – Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel and México City Mayor Miguel Ángel Mancera will today announce a new partnership to strengthen and formalize the economic ties between México City and Chicago, two of North America’s largest global hubs. This partnership is a result of the Global Cities Initiative, a joint project of the Brookings Institution and JPMorgan Chase, which promotes economic growth in cities through global engagement. A signing ceremony will occur at today’s Global Cities Initiative forum in México City.

The strengthened relationship between México City and Chicago will expand job growth and economic opportunities in both cities by further facilitating trade and investment between shared industries and strengthening other assets, such as research, innovation, and human capital.

While México City and Chicago have been culturally linked as Sister Cities since 1991, this new affiliation is fundamentally different: it will expand their economic ties and build on several market opportunities, such as shared industry specializations, existing foreign investments, and strong research institutions. The project is part of a new component of the Global Cities Initiative intended to promote economic exchange and learning among cities and help cities work together to develop global trade and investment strategies.

“Chicago’s position in the world economy is indivisibly linked to its growth and partnerships with global leaders,” said Mayor Rahm Emanuel. “This Global Cities agreement will further strengthen Chicago’s relationship with México City, fostering trade, productivity, ingenuity, and competitiveness between our two cities while allowing us to develop forward-thinking economic opportunities and investment strategies as we further enhance Chicago’s position in the modern global economy.”

The partnership between México City and Chicago will be a model for global engagement that will yield economic value at home and cement the cities’ economic competitiveness globally. By acting on their shared industries and assets, they will create a comprehensive and integrated economic partnership that will be distinct from the fragmented efforts that exist in most markets today.

“To compete in today’s global economy, metropolitan leaders must build enduring economic partnerships with their trading counterparts,” said Bruce Katz, Brookings vice president and co-director of the Global Cities Initiative. “México City and Chicago are ahead of the curve—metro leaders everywhere will watch and strive to keep up.”

Also at today’s forum, México City business and civic leaders will gather with delegates from metropolitan areas across the United States and Canada for a discussion about the integrated North American economy and the importance of metropolitan areas to its competitiveness. Additionally, Ildefonso Guajardo Villarreal, Secretary of Economy in México, will make remarks about México’s economy and strengthening the North American trade relationship, one of President Enrique Peña Nieto’s administration’s key priorities.

“This newly established economic partnership will continue to ensure good trade relations on a national level—and more importantly—institute growth strategies locally, with two of the most important trading cities working together to strengthen the economy across the entire continent,” said Eduardo Cepeda, Senior Country Officer for Mexico, J.P. Morgan.

The public forum follows a multi-day program in both Querétaro and México City during which delegates from México, the United States, and Canada participated in workshops, tours of key company facilities and economic development areas, and networking events to better understand the nature of trade and business in North America and foster enduring economic and policy connections.

Today’s dialogue is reinforced by new research that was released by the Brookings Institution as part of the Global Cities Initiative on November 7: “[Metro North America: Cities and Metros as Hubs of Advanced Industries and Integrated Goods Trade.](#)”

*Launched in 2012, the **Global Cities Initiative** is a five-year joint project of Brookings and JPMorgan Chase aimed at helping city and metropolitan leaders become more globally fluent by providing an in-depth and data-driven look at their regional standing on crucial global economic measures, highlighting best policy and practice innovations from around the world, and creating an international network of leaders who ultimately trade and grow together. Since inception, the Initiative has held forums in Atlanta; Beijing; Columbus, Ohio; Dallas; Denver; Houston; London; Los Angeles; Miami; São Paulo, Brazil; and Singapore. For more information please visit <http://www.brookings.edu/projects/global-cities.aspx>.*

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