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PRESS RELEASE

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Humberto Martínez Cantú Takes Oath of Office as President of the National Council of the Maquiladora and Export Manufacturing Industry

Today, Humberto Martínez Cantú took the oath of office as president of the National Council of the Maquiladora and Export Manufacturing Industry (index) for the 2024-2025 period, alongside the Board of Directors composed of General Secretary Alfonso Valdés and Treasurer Fabiola Luna.

Luis Abel Romero, Assistant Secretary of Foreign Trade of the Ministry of Economy, administered the oath of office to the board and its national president in a formal ceremony that fostered an atmosphere of unity among the presidents and directors of the 18 associations that are part of index, as well as among members and special guests.

In his first speech after taking office, Martínez Cantú mentioned that the national maquiladora and manufacturing industry has become the largest component of trade between the United States and Mexico, as it is the sector that best combines comparative advantages and productive trust for capital investment.

"With the 6,440 IMMEX companies in Mexico, we must play a more significant role in governmental synergies, in the growing importance of global value chains in national interest. With the \$220 billion in goods exported by the IMMEX workforce in 2023, our sector always supports Mexico's plans and its development," he said.

In addition, Luis Abel Romero, Assistant Secretary of Foreign Trade of the Ministry of Economy, highlighted the strength of our country's industrial policy, as well as the economic boost generated by the export manufacturing sector.

Meanwhile, José Abugaber, president of Concamin, mentioned that this industry plays a fundamental role in the country's economic development and noted that it is necessary to work on import substitution, emphasizing the promotion of the local industry, reducing external dependence, improving the trade balance, and promoting growth.

The president of index Nacional emphasized that "in 2024, structural changes in government are coming, so we must be more prepared and united than ever for the benefit of our sector." Martínez Cantú will focus his presidency on four pillars: competitiveness, legislative aspects, regulation, and development of new talents.

"As president for the years 2024-2025, the central office and the Associations in several cities across the country hope that the year and period that are starting now will be one of advancements in business, personal, and institutional achievements, reflecting the actions we will undertake for the benefit of the export sector and the companies we represent," he said.