

**STATEMENT BY ELENA ZUÑIGA HERRERA, SECRETARY GENERAL OF
THE NATIONAL POPULATION COUNCIL OF MEXICO, DURING THE
41ST SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND
DEVELOPMENT**

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First of all, on behalf of the Mexican Government, I would like to thank the General Secretariat and the United Nations Economic and Social Council and Population Division for their invaluable contribution to the organization of the 41st Session of the Commission on Population and

Development.

Since its institutionalization in 1974, one of the main aims of my country's national population policy has been to encourage the territorial distribution of the population in keeping with the potential of sustainable regional development. On that time, Mexico was characterized by its rapid urbanization process, resulting from high demographic growth, but

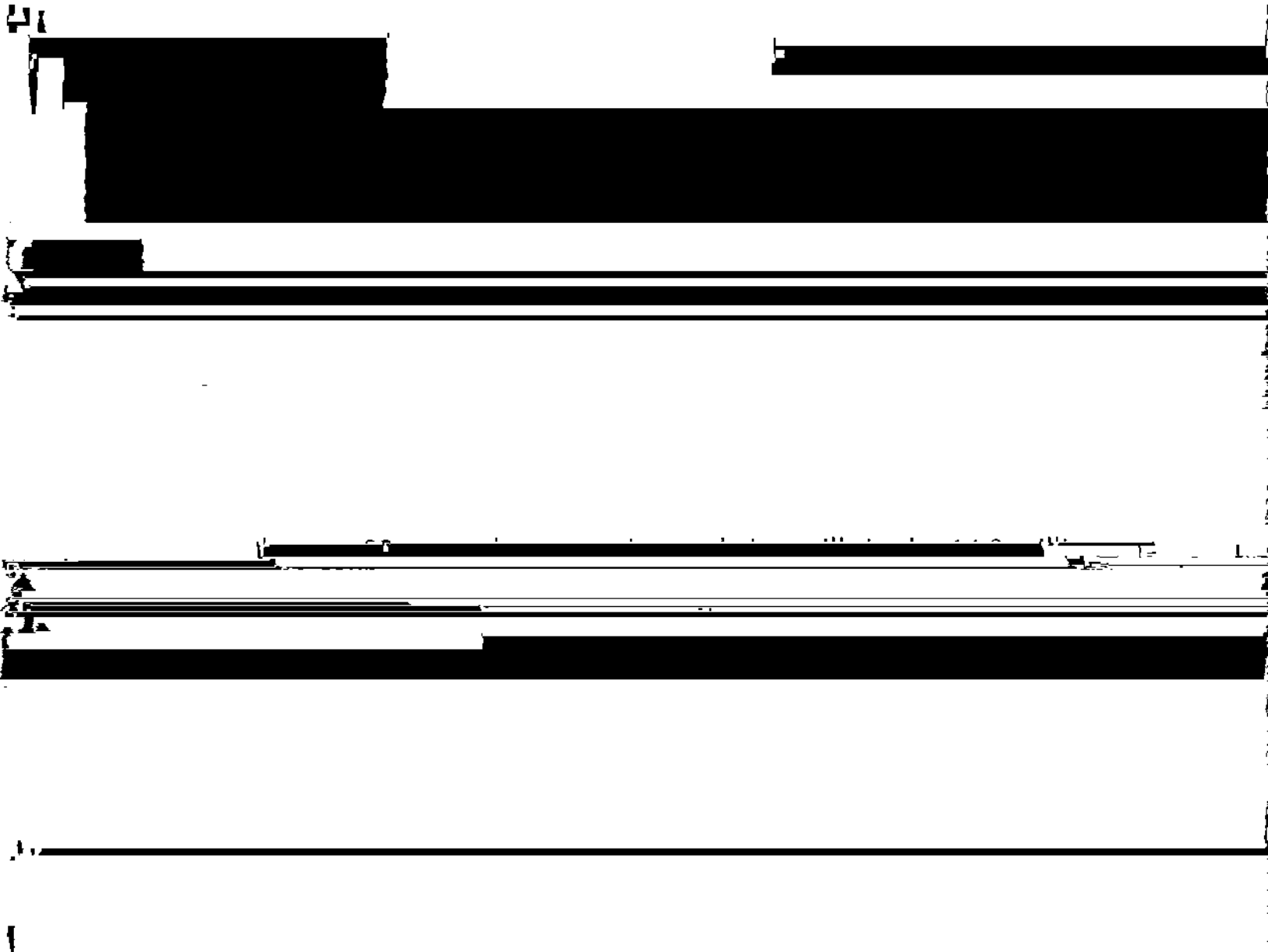
above all, mass migration from the country to the cities, the main feature of which was the excessive concentration of the urban population in the country's three main metropolises.

In recent decades, we have seen a new geography of internal migration,

skills poverty. Urban zones, however, comprise slightly more than half the population suffering from asset poverty.

Over the next few decades, Mexico will reinforce its urban profile.

Source: United Nations, "World Urbanization Prospects: The 2008 Revision,"



on improving the physical accessibility of rural communities and reinforcing the centrality of those with greater advantages for providing basic services, as alternative means of attending the population living in small, scattered, isolated localities.

Territorial approach of public policies has also made it possible to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of programs designed to achieve urban and rural development, through the convergence of multisectoral actions and projects, such as coordinated participation of the three orders