

Interview: Mexico's ruling PRI seeks to enhance exchanges with China, LatAm's political parties

MEXICO CITY, Dec. 4 (Xinhua) -- Mexico's ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) seeks to enhance exchanges with political parties of China and Latin America at an upcoming forum in Beijing, a PRI official said.

Lila Abed Ruiz, the PRI's secretary of international affairs, told Xinhua in a recent interview that her party is "very interested" in learning from other parties their good practices and ideas.

Representatives from political parties of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) will visit Beijing to attend the first meeting of the China-CELAC Forum of Political Parties next week.

The forum aims to strengthen exchanges between the Communist Party of China (CPC) and political parties from Latin America and the Caribbean, and to promote comprehensive cooperation between China and the region, according to its organizers.

Abed, who will attend the Beijing meeting on behalf of PRI President Manlio Fabio Beltrones, said that "we'll see how we can support each other (and) analyze the realities and major challenges that lie ahead."

Abed said political parties, especially those in Latin America, are facing "a crisis of credibility and legitimacy," but they must "assume responsibility and see how we are going to tackle these challenges."

She said the PRI "has made it clear that it wants to listen to the people, return to basic principles and regain the trust from all political parties and institutions."

Abed, who previously served as an adviser on international affairs to the Foreign Affairs Committee of Mexico's Chamber of Deputies, said she plans to continue strengthening ties with other political groups, such as the CPC, with which the PRI has had exchanges for some time.

Abed added that Mexico's ties with China have been marked by exchanges at all levels, ranging from meetings between Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping, to exchanges between the two ruling parties, and even "student exchanges, as well as investment in several sectors, as China opens up and expands" its international relations.

Asked which of China's recent measures the PRI can adopt to improve the livelihood of the Mexican people, Abed underscored "the great investment China makes in its young entrepreneurs," a factor she believes "will be the real engine of future growth," and its fight against corruption.

CELAC, founded in 2011 to promote regional integration, groups 33 countries in the Americas.