

**JOINT STATEMENT BY
EDWARD VAIZEY, MINISTER FOR CULTURE, COMMUNICATIONS
AND CREATIVE INDUSTRIES AND
RAFAEL TOVAR Y DE TERESA, PRESIDENT OF CONACULTA**

The United Kingdom Minister for Culture, Communications and Creative Industries, Edward Vaizey, and the Mexican President of The National Council for Culture and the Arts CONACULTA, Rafael Tovar y de Teresa, hereinafter referred to as “the Parties”, have expressed their satisfaction with the depth and frequency of educational, cultural, scientific, and creative contact between the two countries and underlined the importance of cultural relations as a means of strengthening ties between individuals, organisations and governments as well as building bilateral engagement and trust.

The Parties noted and welcomed the very positive talks in May 2013 between the UK Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Hugo Swire and Mexico’s Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Carlos de Icaza, those in April 2013 between the UK Minister of State for Science and Innovation, David Willetts and Mexico’s Secretary for Education, Emilio Chuayffet Chemor, and those in July 2013 between the UK Minister for Culture, Communications and Creative Industries, Edward Vaizey, and the Mexican President of CONACULTA, Rafael Tovar y de Teresa, at which they discussed ways of building on the already strong links between the two countries.

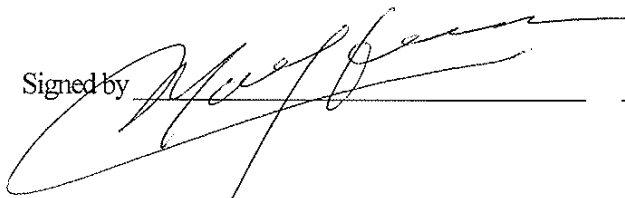

In order to further develop this strong relationship, the Parties agree to encourage joint projects in education, science, culture and the creative industries, and participation in international cultural festivals and conferences, and pledge their support for the exchange of information and personnel in these fields.

The Parties expressed their willingness to give an impetus to contact at all levels and to encourage programmes, including the facilitation of visits and exchanges, in education, the arts, science and innovation and the creative industries.

The Parties have therefore agreed the following steps:

1. 2015 will be designated as ‘the Year of the UK in Mexico and the ‘Year of Mexico in the UK.’ Exact timings will be agreed between the Parties. During the Year programmes, particular emphasis will be put on the promotion of British culture in Mexico and Mexican culture in the UK.
2. The Parties will encourage the widest possible representation of cultures of their countries in terms of geographical, ethnic and creative diversity.
3. The Year programmes will include activities in spheres including, but not limited to, education, language learning, the arts, science and innovation and the creative industries.
4. Coordination of the British events in Mexico and the Mexican events in the UK in relation to the Year programmes will rest with the respective Embassies, with the support of the British Council, CONACULTA and the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation AMEXCID.

5. The respective ministries pledge their support for the 2015 Year of the UK in Mexico and Year of Mexico in the UK, and their commitment to facilitating the administrative arrangements relating to events by the United Kingdom in Mexico, and by Mexico in the United Kingdom.
6. Following the Year programmes, the Parties agree to continued collaboration in the fields of education, language learning, science and innovation, the arts, culture, and creative industries.

Signed by  _____  _____

At LONDON

Date 4 JULY 2013