



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

The Honorable  
Charles E. Grassley, Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

NOV 07 2018

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your October 23 letter. Under Section 208(a)(2)(A) of the INA (8 U.S.C. § 1158(a)(2)(A)), the United States may enter into an agreement enabling the United States to remove asylum seekers to another country (other than the individual's country of nationality or habitual residence) where the individual would have access to a full and fair procedure for determining a claim to asylum or equivalent temporary protection.

The current Mexican administration has not signaled a willingness to pursue a safe third country agreement. The Department will raise this issue with the incoming Mexican administration following its December 1 inauguration. The Administration continues to engage Mexico on a broad range of issues including that of illegal immigration and border security. A successful partnership with Mexico is essential to advancing U.S. national security objectives.

The Department is working to address the root causes of migration and increase humanitarian assistance and protection efforts so vulnerable populations will not seek assistance abroad at great personal peril. U.S. diplomats support the work of our international humanitarian partners on strengthening local asylum capacities throughout the region, including in Mexico.

The current Mexican administration has shown a willingness to improve its capacity to address asylum and refugee integration issues. The United States, through our international humanitarian partners, is supporting Mexico's efforts to expand shelter capacity and help integrate refugees through cash assistance, job placements, and access to education.

We hope this information is useful. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Mary Elizabeth Taylor  
Assistant Secretary  
Bureau of Legislative Affairs