Preface

Mexico’s telecommunication reform illustrates how better policies can lead to better lives. Since 2013, this unprecedented structural reform has allowed the Mexican authorities to introduce important changes to modernise the telecommunication and broadcasting sectors, challenging a highly concentrated status quo and moving into a more competitive future. The results have been remarkable and demonstrate what can be achieved with evidence-based policy making.

Two key developments stand out from this reform. The first is Mexico’s resolve to address long-standing inequalities in the access to telecommunication services. Not so long ago, many people in Mexico could not afford to use services their peers in other countries took for granted. Today, they can use voice and data services at a lower cost than in the past, both at home and when travelling abroad. Since the reform was introduced, for example, more than 50 million additional people in Mexico have subscribed to mobile broadband. This is a remarkable empowerment. The second development is the opening of the telecommunication and broadcasting sectors to greater competition and choice, thereby creating opportunities from connectivity for broader economic and social development.

This new OECD Telecommunication and Broadcasting Review of Mexico 2017 documents these changes, but also sheds light on how the momentum following the initial reform can be maintained. The nature of the telecommunication and broadcasting sectors, which are converging, is one of constant change. Mexico needs to remain resolute and continue with the implementation and development of this reform. This is crucial to seize the many benefits from “going digital”, from improving the business environment, productivity and competitiveness, to promoting inclusion and better outcomes in health, education and transport. In the 21st century, an efficient communication network benefits all sectors of the economy. At the same time, greater connectivity and better skills to use digital technologies are needed to empower people with tools for improved civic engagement, as well as for helping them to be both informed and entertained.

We know there are still challenges ahead, including in opening opportunities for more people to enjoy such services, and we commend this report as a contribution to making that possible.

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