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Environmental Legal Challenges

By Carlos del Razo

ADEQUATELY ASSESSING, PREVENTING, MITIGATING AND COMPENSATING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS, IS ONE OF THE MAIN CHALLENGES OF LARGE PROJECTS, SAYS THE PRESIDENT OF THE MEXICAN ACADEMY OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT (AMIA).

A crucial area for the law is environmental matters. Its constant evolution and the needs that increase day by day in terms of protection of the biosphere represent a challenge that requires attention and efforts. Carlos del Razo, environmental lawyer, president of the Mexican Academy of Environmental Impact (AMIA), considers that Mexico, being a megadiverse country, depends a lot on its forest, jungle and mangrove ecosystems, among others.

Although the challenges are many, there are red lights that are in the public and legal eye, such as climate change, the fight against decertification, the protection of the oceans, mitigating the increase of microplastics, reducing the intensive use of natural resources and migrating towards production models based on the circular economy.

He assures that the AMIA plays a fundamental role, as it is integrated by an interdisciplinary group of consultants, academics, professionals and public officials, who contribute to environmental public policy, mainly through the creation of criteria, good practices and knowledge around the environmental impact assessment instrument.

ECOLOGICAL BALANCE

Although the challenges are many and there are cases that require more attention and even turn out to be more mediatic than others, Del Razo considers it important to add urgent actions such as the following: the regulation of the use of natural resources. He recalls that, with the Paris Agreement, it must be known how to create even floors to combat biodiversity loss and avoid deforestation, issues that are often sensitive and pending to work on the environmental agenda.

“The important challenge is to know how to standardize goals. Environmental law seeks to preserve an ecological balance, protect and control polluting emissions and, if possible, prevent, mitigate and compensate them”.

The objective, he assures, is that when regulating the use of our natural resources, is to think about protection, administration and care, and that they can be used for the benefit of future generations. “There are several issues that are gaining relevance in environmental regulations, both in the national and international agenda, among them, harmonizing public policies on climate change, since it is an issue that, although it occurs at a local level, ends up impacting everyone because of its impact on the environment Although it occurs at a local level, it ends up impacting everyone equally,” he says.

The responsible use and management of water, mobility to reduce polluting emissions in cities, the fight against heat islands and adverse environments in the cities themselves are, without a



doubt, the red focus for improvement in environmental matters in order to convert traditional urban planning into one that is friendlier to the inhabitants.