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**To whom it may concern,**

We write to express our support for the students and faculty of the Centro de Investigacion y Docencia Económicas, CIDE.

As faculty affiliates of the Latin American Studies program of the University of California, San Diego, we are gravely concerned with the recent developments at the Centro de Investigacion y Docencia Económicas. The news we have received from both public sources and colleagues are worrying. The abrupt appointment of a General Director with no previous affiliation to CIDE seems to have occurred through an opaque process that had little consultation with faculty and students. Similarly, Prof. Catherine Andrews, a distinguished historian, was removed forcefully from her position as Academic Secretary without clear arguments. These events suggest a worrying erosion of academic freedom and institutional governance at CIDE and within the wider system of public institutions of higher education in Mexico.

We join other voices in stressing the importance of academic freedom, institutional transparency, and open democratic dialog as essential for excellent and socially oriented scientific research. As faculty who often work with colleagues in Mexico, we hope that the situation will be resolved and that the structures of governance in science and higher education policy that have been built over decades through the ongoing participation of civil society will be respected. We hope these will provide the basis for dialogue and a peaceful resolution of the conflict that takes into account the contributions and international standing of CIDE, its faculty, and its students and staff.

**A quien corresponda:**

Escribimos para manifestar nuestro apoyo a los estudiantes y académicos del Centro de Investigacion y Docencia Economicas, CIDE.

Como profesores afiliados al Programa de Estudios Latinoamericanos de la Universidad de California, San Diego, estamos profundamente consternados por los eventos recientes en el CIDE. Las noticias que nos han llegado, tanto por medios impresos como por

comunicaciones personales de colegas, son preocupantes. La decisión abrupta de colocar a un nuevo Director General sin afiliación previa al CIDE parece ser el resultado de un proceso opaco que no tomo en cuenta las opiniones de estudiantes y académicos. De manera similar, la destitución de la Prof. Catherine Andrews, una destacada historiadora, como Secretaría Académica parece haber ocurrido sin argumentos claros. Estos eventos sugieren una erosión preocupante de la libertad académica y de cátedra así como de los sistemas de gobernanza, tanto en el CIDE como en el sector de educación superior en México.

Nos unimos a otras voces en estresar la importancia de la libertad académica y de cátedra, la transparencia institucional, y el diálogo abierto y democrático como elementos esenciales para una ciencia excelente y virada a compromisos sociales. Como académicos con colegas en México, esperamos que la situación se resuelva y que las estructuras de gobernanza del sistema científico y de educación superior que se han construido a lo largo de décadas en México y con la participación activa de la sociedad civil sean respetadas. Esperamos que estos mecanismos sirvan de base para el diálogo una la resolución pacífica del conflicto que tome en cuenta las contribuciones y el porte internacional del CIDE, sus profesores, sus estudiantes, y su personal.

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