



## **Movimiento Semilla's Government Plan for Guatemala**

Bernardo Arévalo is set to take office as the President of Guatemala on January 14, 2024. The Movimiento Semilla party that he founded in 2017 was born out of the massive demonstrations against corruption in Guatemala. **Here is WOLA's summary of the incoming government's key agenda items.** The plan has been called "10 seeds to recover the future" or "10 semillas para recuperar el futuro".

The party doesn't use an ideology to define itself but rather bases its beliefs on [five fundamental principles](#):

- Democracy building
- Establishing equity as a guiding principle for public action
- Recognizing a diverse country
- Promoting a humane economy
- Respecting Nature

Bernardo Arévalo proposes substantial changes to lay the groundwork for re-democratization. But he will receive a broken country and in order to implement his [ambitious agenda](#), he will need to build key alliances, push for measures to purge institutions of corruption, and promote regional coordination on security issues and climate change, among other issues. Structural changes will require a sustained effort over time, but Arévalo's first year in office will be key in determining how successful his government will be in moving forward with these plans.

### **1. Social development**

Improve living conditions through public goods and services implemented with a rights-based approach. As part of this goal, two major deficits of the educational system will be addressed: the scarce coverage, especially in early childhood and middle school, and the poor quality of education. For this, GTQ110 million will be invested in education. Another part of this objective will be to preserve and promote the multiple cultural expressions of Guatemala's indigenous communities and to establish programs for greater cultural, linguistic, and artistic national production. For this, a fund of GTQ125 million will be established. In terms of health, there is a commitment to transform and to move towards a universal and free system. During the 4 year



term, an investment of at least GTQ61 billion will be allocated to health. Lastly, the administration is committed to reducing the housing deficit and improving household access to basic public services, as well as restructuring the labor market and ensuring vast support for entrepreneurship, and the economic empowerment of women and young people.

## **2. Social protection, assistance and security**

In an effort to guarantee rights and transparency, both social assistance and protection programs will fall under the Ministry of Social Development, based on a Single Registry of Beneficiaries. Additionally, this strategy is designed to improve the coverage and quality of the services provided by the Guatemalan Social Security Institute (IGSS). During the four year presidency, a Network of Child Care Centers will be created to serve 350,000 children, aiming to benefit 224,000 mothers and fathers.

## **3. Fight against malnutrition**

Eliminate the structural causes of chronic malnutrition, reducing malnutrition by 10%. The program “Protegiendo la Nueva Cosecha” (Protecting our harvest), to which GTQ16.5 billion will be allocated, is complemented by investment projects found in Seeds 1, 2, 4, and 5.

## **4. Economic infrastructure**

Create the conditions for smart economic growth based on productive linkages and communication routes for development throughout the country. This includes significant investment in rural roads, the development of a plan for the improvement of ports and airports, and a guaranteed maintenance of the total registered road network. To this end, more than GTQ27.1 billion will be allocated. Similarly, through an Irrigation Program, there will be an increase and diversification of agricultural production aimed at supporting small and medium producers, with an investment of approximately GTQ2.1 billion. Lastly, GTQ7.8 billion will be invested towards the development of the metropolitan transportation system.

## **5. Technology and innovation**

Reduce the digital divide by encouraging science, technology, education, training and productive transformation towards standards of sustainability and inclusion. This includes a technological



equipment access program for adolescents between 13 and 16 years old, public education teachers and others included in the training programs, with an investment of GTQ2.6 billion. Similarly, the National Fund for Innovation and Productive Transformation will be created, with an initial investment of GTQ1.8 billion, to stimulate the development of technological innovations to increase productivity. Lastly, the government will promote education and training programs through an investment of GTQ1 billion, as well as universal access to electricity and an electricity rebate for more than 1 million Guatemalans.

## **6. Democratic security**

Guarantee the security of goods, property and persons, and promote prompt and fulfilled justice for the entire population, within a democratic security approach. This strategy will stimulate investments in strengthening security institutions that are successful in the fight against crime and effective in protecting the rights of all citizens. This includes investing to strengthen the institutional framework of public security, strengthening the National Civil Police, professionalizing the intelligence services, retaking control of penitentiary centers, and strengthening the surveillance of maritime, air and land borders to combat illegal trafficking. This will require an investment of GTQ37.6 billion.

## **7. Protecting nature**

Transition from an extractive economy to an economy based on regenerative, clean and circular production, and at the same time generates opportunities for community entrepreneurship. More than GTQ7 billion will be invested in direct programs that align with those in Semillas 3, 4, and 5.

## **8. Citizenship without borders**

A strategy that will transform the relationship between the State of Guatemala and Guatemalan residents abroad, through a framework that allows an effective participation of the diaspora in national development, while expanding the services and protection that the State's representation abroad can provide.

## **9. Towards a legitimate and effective public function**



Restructure the strategic role of the public sector in the development of the country, investing GTQ1.5 billion to guide the public administration towards a path of greater effectiveness in the planning, budgeting and management of public policy, structurally closing the spaces for corruption. This includes creating the National Anticorruption System as a legal and institutional framework to make all dimensions of public action transparent, including mechanisms for planning, budgeting, measuring and evaluating public management to reduce arbitrariness in decision-making.

#### **10. Planting the seeds of a new social contract: Guatemala 2056**

The construction of four major pacts in strategic areas of the development and identity as a nation. These include, a National Education Pact, a National Health Pact, a National Development Pact, a National Pact for the Environment, and an Agreement on the basis of a constitutional dialogue.