Banxico – Changes in the forward guidance reaffirm our vision of a first cut in March

- In a unanimous decision, Banxico's Board kept the reference rate unchanged at 11.25%, in line with our view and consensus
- We consider that the most relevant point was that the forward guidance had an important change, removing the quote that "... the reference rate must be maintained at its current level for some time ...", now arguing that "...in the next monetary policy meetings, it will assess, depending on available information, the possibility of adjusting the reference rate..."
- Also, quite relevant considering the current inflationary backdrop, the Board emphasized the decline in the core, while they argued that the non-core is characterized for being more volatile
- In this context, headline inflation was revised to the upside by +18bps on average in 2024, with the remaining forecasts unchanged. As such, the convergence to the target stood in 2Q25. On the core, only the figure for 1Q24 was revised down by 10bps
- The balance of risks for inflation stayed skewed to the upside, although with the factors that make it up showing few changes. In particular, we highlight an additional point to the upside that includes geopolitical risks —element that also gathered more importance when analyzing global conditions—
- Regarding local activity, despite the deceleration in 4Q23, they classified full-year growth as robust, on top of stating that the labor market is strong
- In our opinion, the combination of these changes clearly opens the door for a reduction in the reference rate as soon as next meeting -on March 21st-
- As such, we reiterate our expectation of a 25bps cut in said decision. After this, we
 forecast a pause in May –with the latest minutes reaffirming the possibility that
 adjustments will not be continuous–, with cuts resuming in June, August and
 September by the same magnitude
- Lastly, we see 50bps reductions in each of the last two meetings of the year, taking the reference rate by December 2024 to 9.25%, view that we have held since September 2023
- In a relevant manner, we believe the central bank has carried out an orderly and efficient management of its communications, providing more clarity for market participants
- In this sense, we will be looking into further information in both the upcoming minutes (February 22nd) and the 4Q23 Quarterly Report (February 28th)

Banxico: CPI forecasts

% y/y, quarterly average									
	4Q23	1Q24	2Q24	3Q24	4Q24	1Q25	2Q25	3Q25	4Q25
Headline									
Current	4.4*	4.7	4.3	3.9	3.5	3.2	3.1	3.1	3.1
Previous	4.4	4.3	4.1	3.8	3.5	3.2	3.1	3.1	3.1
Difference (bps)		40	20	10	0	0	0	0	0
Core									
Current	5.3	4.6	4.1	3.7	3.5	3.2	3.1	3.1	3.1
Previous	5.4	4.7	4.1	3.7	3.5	3.2	3.1	3.1	3.1
Difference (bps)		-10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24									

*Actual data Source: Banxico February 8, 2024



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Banxico's decisions in 2024

Date	Decision
February 8 th	0bps
March 21st	
May 9 th	
June 27 th	
August 8th	
September 26 th	
November 14th	
December 19th	

*The minutes of the decision will be published on February 22nd Source: Banxico



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Winners of the 2023 award for best Mexico economic forecasters, granted by *Focus Economics*



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