**Advisory Committee of the Human Rights Council**

**Questionnaire on current levels of representation of women in human rights organs and mechanisms**

1. **Do current processes in the State allow for, or encourage, a consideration of gender balance when nominating, electing and appointing** **experts for human rights organs such as the Advisory Committee and treaty bodies? Do these processes ensure publicity, transparency, and participation by civil society organizations and/or other actors?**

Historically, Mexico has been characterized by leading the gender perspective and the human rights approach in its bilateral and regional agenda, as well as in the negotiations of multilateral mechanisms and instruments.

At the regional level, the Government of Mexico has been an essential promoter for the strengthening of the main organs of the Inter-American Human Rights System, in order to ensure sufficient conditions for the fulfillment of its mandate.

Although, there is not a predetermined process for the selection of candidates that Mexico will present, each Administration determines the process it will use for the identification and selection of applicants.

Traditionally, the processes that have been used are not public. Notwithstanding the foregoing and aware of the importance of civil society participation, the government makes auscultations to hear their opinion before submitting the aspirations.

1. **Does the State take into account the gender composition of the treaty bodies or the Advisory Committee at the time of nomination or election?**

The process seeks, above all things, to identify the best possible candidates to expand their election possibilities. The experts, women and men, are selected to hold positions in international organizations for their proven ability and experience to occupy the positions for which they compete and not for their gender.

This situation, coupled with the efforts made by our government to promote its aspirations, is what has allowed us to have favourable results in the elections which a Mexican aspiration has been presented.

1. **Does the State have any good national practices related to the nomination, election and appointing processes for human rights organs such as the Advisory Committee and treaty bodies? Do these processes take into account gender when nominating, electing, or appointing?**

In Mexico, women's political participation has been a priority objective in the national equality agenda, considering that their contributions in public affairs - in addition to being a human right based on the International Convenant on Civil and Political Rights - is the basis for creating peaceful and inclusive societies.

For our government, the selection of an applicant focuses on two fundamental issues: that experts, women and men, have extensive experience in the field, and that they fully comply with the requirements established by the corresponding agency.

At national level, Mexico has approved in 2019 the Constitutional reform of gender parity in the three levels of government and in the three Powers of the Union. This reform is available in: http://dof.gob.mx/nota\_detalle.php?codigo=5562178&fecha=06/06/2019#:~:text=SE%20REFORMAN%20LOS%20ARTÍCULOS%202,MATERIA%20DE%20PARIDAD%20ENTRE%20GÉNEROS.&text=Art%C3%ADculo%204o.,el%20desarrollo%20de%20la%20familia.

With respect to the Judicial Branch, the Council of Federal Judicature implemented a gender equality policy that seeks more women in decision-making positions in the Judicial Branch of the Federation. Some of the most relevant measures are the following:

* **Exclusive contest for women to access the category of District Federal Judges.** This contest was launched in 2019, with the participation of 1168 women, representing 25% of all women who have participated in all competitive examinations for the position of judge or federal judge. In this contest, in addition to the gender criteria, the disability condition and women who were heads of families were considered. The contest mentioned the importance of two General Recommendations of the CEDAW Committee (23 and 35). *See Annex 1.*
* **Exclusive contest for women to access the category of Magistrate of Circuit.** This contest was launched, for the first time, in 2019, with the same criteria of the above-mentioned contest. The contest had 49 participants and 13 women won it. The contest mentioned the importance of two General Recommendations of the CEDAW Committee (23 and 35). *See Annex 2.*
* **Contest of labour judges, in which exclusive places for women were allocated.** This contest has mainstreamed gender perspective. Of the 45 vacancies, 23 were obtained by women. *See Annex 3*.

For more information about these contests, see *Annex 4*

1. **How does the State take into consideration its obligations concerning non-discrimination and women’s right to equal access to participation, as well as its obligations under Article 8 of CEDAW to ensure women’s equal participation in the work of human rights organs when nominating or appointing candidates for those organs and mechanisms?**

One of the main objectives of the Government of Mexico is to follow up on the latest observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) of 2018, through the installation of a Commission within the framework of the National System for Equality between Women and Men.

Regarding equal access to women's participation, the recommendations constitute a framework and roadmap of great relevance to move towards substantive equality and non-discrimination towards women and girls in Mexico.

1. **How many women has the State nominated to human rights organs and mechanisms in the last five years (such as the Advisory Committee or treaty bodies)?**

During the 2013-2018 period, our government successfully presented and promoted 130 aspirations to international and inter-American organizations, of which 77 were at the expert level (58 men and 19 women). In the case of human rights organizations, there were 5 aspirations of experts (4 men and one woman). The candidate in question was Mtra. Amalia Gamio to be part of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Also, during 2019, three aspirations of experts in human rights organizations (two men and one woman) have been promoted. The candidate in question was Mrs. Irma Pineda Santiago to be a member of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (FPCI).

1. **Does the State take any action to publicize and encourage women to apply for the special procedures mandate-holders vacancies?**

The Government of Mexico is convinced that the participation of women in politics and government is essential to build and sustain an inclusive and feminist mexican policy. Consequently, the significant participation of women in national, local and community leadership roles has become an important objective of global development policy and for this, it is important to increase the political participation of women through programs that encourage and train effectively.

In that line, the application of the gender perspective in all areas reinforces the commitment to encourage women to fill vacancies in any sphere of national work and within international organizations to which Mexico is subscribed. In addition to including gender and equality issues in training, it is necessary to ensure women's leadership.

1. **What are the main challenges within your country in tackling the issue of gender balance when nominating and electing candidates for human rights organs and mechanisms such as the Advisory Committee, treaty bodies and the special procedures?**

The relations in gender are marked by unequal distribution and exercise of power; the political sphere is not the exception. In this regard, the challenges facing the Government of Mexico are based on changes to the legislative framework to ensure and promote gender equality in our country and the elimination of stereotypes of gender roles. **Another, challenge could be the lack of conciliation between family and work life, that prevent women to postulate themselves.**

However, we recognized that the Mexican Government have being implementing diverse actions to promote gender equality and parity. For further information, consult next question.

1. **Are there good practices by the State or other stakeholders that ensure gender parity? If yes, could you please share these practices?**

The actions of the Government of Mexico are aimed at contributing to the development of an agenda for substantive equality: for the first time in history, there is a joint cabinet; in which women, at the highest level can participate in the public life of our country.

As it was mentioned in the section 3, Mexico has approved in 2019 the Constitutional reform of gender parity in the three levels of government and in the three Powers of the Union.

In the multilateral and regional human rights forums, we will continue to promote the achievement of gender parity in decision-making positions. The participation of women in the highest-level forums will allow the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the fulfillment of the commitments of the States for the unrestricted rest of human rights, by having a proactive and innovative focus on these matters.

Also, Mexico is in the process of building its new feminist foreign policy that will seek to be congruent between foreign and national policies, and impulse women’s empowerment, gender equality and gender parity not only within the Mexico’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs but in every single documents, resolutions, and positions Mexico is part of.

As it was mentioned in section 3, the Judicial Branch implemented a gender equality policy that seeks more women in decision-making positions in the Judicial Branch of the Federation. More information is described in section 3.

1. **Are there recommendations directed to States, international bodies, or other entities, that you wish to make in order to strengthen and inform this report?**

In multilateral forums, in addition to presenting a Resolution within the framework of the Human Rights Council, we have promoted the debate and the promotion of agreed language on the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against women; sexual and reproductive rights; disaggregated gender statistics; inclusion of the participation of civil society organizations, empowerment of indigenous women and girls. Therefore, we encouraged all States to promote agreed language and seek for the promotion, respect and guarantee of all rights and liberties for everyone, particularly, women and girls.

Otherwise, we cannot achieve pacific, equitable, sustainable societies, where no one is left behind.