



MÉXICO

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of the Commission on the
Status of Women**

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(check against delivery)

Mr. Chairman, honorable delegates,

On behalf of the Mexican Delegation, I congratulate the Commission's Board for a well-done job regarding the 54th Session. I would also like to acknowledge the of the Division of Gender Affairs from the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the UN Secretary General for the quality of its reports as we move to evaluate and commemorate the *Beijing Platform for Action* adopted 15 years ago; the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)* adopted three decades ago; the *Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence Against Women (Convention of Belem do Pará)* which became effective fifteen years ago, and for having taken into account the *Millennium Development Goals*¹ from a gender perspective, adopted one decade ago.

This very significant year and this meeting give us a priceless opportunity to help identify the challenges and obstacles the path towards equality has. From a synergetic perspective, and transversally-speaking, gender equality turned into the objective itself, as well as the means to reach the *Millennium Development Goals*. CEDAW's third anniversary imbues my country with special importance because we consider ourselves to be part of history. Planning this Convention has been a most exceptional outcome from the works that first begun in 1975 during the *First World Conference on Women* held in Mexico. CEDAW and the *Beijing Platform for Action*, the *Belém do Pará Convention* and the *Millennium Development Goals* have given us the reference structure on which to base our commitment to work on equality.

Mexico recognizes the force of its international, regional and hemisphere commitments, signed to protect women's human rights, non-discrimination, and violence against women. Just as we did five years ago, Mexico once more reaffirms the Beijing Platform for Action and Declaration, as well as the final draft of the 23rd Special Session of the General Assembly. We used these documents as the foundation to design our regulatory, program and institutional framework. Mexico also restates its resolve and willingness to continue working with international, regional and hemisphere organizations and mechanisms, in addition to strengthening ties of cooperation with other countries and the exchange of successful experiences and lessons learned in gender-related issued.

We developed initiatives alongside several UN agencies such as with ECLAC's Division of Gender Affairs, UNIFEM and INSTRAW in topics like statistical tools designing, the *Gender and Poverty Observatory*, and last year, Mexico hosted the *Expert Group Meeting* entitled "*Analysis of the Economic and Financial Crisis from a Gender Perspective, Understanding its Impact on Poverty and Women's Work*". We continue to enrich CEDAW's *Interactive System (SICEDAW)*¹, a project which was promoted jointly with UNIFEM holding 145 digitalized reports in 26 countries in the Latin American and the Caribbean Region, of which 100 are government reports; 29 are Committee reports and 16 are shadow reports.

Mexico chairs and actively participates in the *United Nation's Group of Friends to the Chairmanship of the Commission on Statistics to Examine Indicators of Violence Against Women*. We have shared our experiences on building statistical measuring tools to help build a world survey that will truly help evaluate the scope, prevalence and impact of

¹ SICEDAW was created in 2001.

violence. In 2009, we hosted the Group's working meeting. Therein we reviewed methodologies and developed guidelines to create statistics against violence. Our belief is that the *Youth World Conference* which will be held in Mexico next August is an opportunity to analyze violence during courtship and to promote measurements.

At the Continent's level, and in order to set in motion and support the *Follow up Mechanism in Implementing the Convention of Belém do Pará* of the *Inter-American Commission of Women (OAS)*, the Government of Mexico, since 2004, via the National Institute of Women (Inmujeres) has contributed \$250,408.62 US dollars² and two years of work by one of our Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

We are convinced that when intent and efforts are joined, the outcome in results, in designing and applying good practices towards equality is exponential. We believe that the *New Composite Entity* will also promote, guide and articulate the States' efforts in their fight to eradicate all forms of discrimination and violence against women.

Fifteen years after Beijing, and in keeping with our commitments, Mexico has a National Mechanism for the Advancement of Women –Inmujeres. This institution was created by law, is autonomous and has its own budget and patrimony. Inmujeres looks for institutional synergy through specific mechanisms and guidelines, taking into account the three Branches of the Union, powers of government, organized civil society, and the private sector. Inmujeres promoted setting up gender agencies at the state and municipal level, and to date, all 32 Federal Entities, and 35% of the municipalities have mechanisms in place for the advancement of women.

Five years after the last evaluation (Beijing+10), Mexico now includes gender perspectives and equality, and has eliminated any form of gender-based discrimination in its *National 2007-2012 Development Plan (PND)* as axis used to build public policies. Furthermore, we now have *The General Law of Equality Between Men and Women (LGIMH, 2006)*, and *The General Law for the Access of Women to a Violence-Free Life (LGAMVLV, 2007)*, two acts that set national policy in place and national compliance programs and systems, in addition to positioning and giving Inmujeres the powers to be the guiding agency in this field.

The *2009-2012 National Program for Equality between Men and Women (PROIGUALDAD)* was formed from the international commitments Mexico accepted, such as the Beijing Platform for Action, CEDAW, the Recommendations from the Expert Committee, Belém do Pará Convention, and the Millennium Development Goals. We have ensured that strategies and indexes, directed at achieving gender equality and gender mainstreaming are being possible by applying *The General Law of Equality Between Men and Women (LGIMH)* of *PROIGUALDAD*, the operating factors of the *National System of Equality Between Men and Women (SNIMH)* in 16 out of 19 agency sector programs of the Federal Public Administration (APF). Today, 5³ out of the 19 agencies have specific gender plans and programs and 12 gender units have been created. Worth noting are the Ministry of National Defense and the Ministry of the Navy, as they have included more women in their military schools in higher education, in operating units, in Military Service, and have standardized salaries and built a clinic specializing in Women, in addition to creating child development centers. From Inmujeres, the *Institutional Culture Program (PCI)* was formed, and in 2009, 242 APF

² Equivalent to \$ 3,137,620 Mexican pesos using the Exchange rate published on 17Feb 2010: 1 US dollar - 12.53 Mexican pesos.

³ Ministries: Work and Social Provisioning, Health, Environment and Natural Resources, National Defense, and Navy..

institutions created their Action Plan in the subject. We now promote a gender training policy to certify skills in public officials.

We have promoted and worked on legislative harmonization. Currently, 19 states have approved the *General Law of Equality between Men and Women*, and all 32 Federal Entities have a *General Law for the Access of Women to a Violence-Free Life*, 17 states have published their regulations, and 27 have set state systems in place to prevent, look into, punish, and eradicate violence against women. Violence against women has now been classified as a family violence crime in 31 Federal Entities, and people trafficking has been classified as an offense in 27 Federal Entities. My country also has enacted the *Law to Prevent and Punish People Trafficking* (2007) with its regulations (2009), and the *Federal Law to Prevent and Eliminate Discrimination* (2003).

Our regulatory framework has been a key factor to having a budget earmarked for women and gender equality. Five years after Beijing+10, this earmarked budget was increased by 248.2% (\$US 614,867,428 dollars)⁴. For 2010, \$US 829.56 million dollars⁵ have been approved for programs and activities for women and gender equality. Inmujeres' assigned budget in 2010 is \$US 46.44 million dollars⁶, of which \$US 15.62 million dollars⁷ belong to the *Fund for the Promotion of Gender Perspective Transversality (FFTPEG)*, and \$US 5.46 million dollars⁸ for *Fund for Women Municipal Agency Development (FODEIMM)*.

We have established the methodologies and quarterly indicator system with which to follow up on and make transparent women-oriented actions and programs that have received resources. Inmujeres and the Ministry of Finance⁹ report quarterly on the earmarked budget directed to APF agencies reporting to the Chamber of Deputies, publishing their results in the Inmujeres transparency portal. I would like to explain that these achievements are due to the synergies and will between the Legislative and Executive Branches, and specifically between policymakers of the LX Legislature who have proposed a *Gender Irreducible Budget* initiative.

We are living an evolution process towards achieving a gender perspective budget. Some of the challenges we have identified include cultural resistances, and lack of knowledge about regulatory and institutional frameworks in effect. Another challenge is to establish alliances with strategic actors who will ensure the political, technical and financial sustainability of women's mechanisms in all three government levels.

The economic and financial crisis we are living plainly reveals and evidences the degrees of inequality faced by women. They also exacerbate those structural problems that perpetuate gender discrimination. Poverty feminization, their differentiated access to the labor market, and their role in the private arena point towards the effects of this crisis, and the initiatives with which to respond have different implications for men and women. We, in this country have different degrees of achievements, yet we are also aware that much remains to be done in the area of equality and no-discrimination.

⁴ Of \$US 247.7 million dollars in 2005, it jumped to \$US 862.6 million dollars in 2010, a calculation made using the yearly approved budget.

⁵ Equivalent to \$ 10, 613.6 Million Mexican Pesos. Exchange Rate of February 23, 2010. 1US dollar = \$12.81 Mexican Pesos.

⁶ Equivalent to \$ 594.6 Million Mexican Pesos. Exchange Rate of February 2010. 1US dollar = \$12.81 Mexican Pesos.

⁷ Equivalent to \$ 200 Million Mexican Pesos. Exchange Rate of February 2010. 1US dollar = \$12.81 Mexican Pesos.

⁸ Equivalent to \$ 70 Million Mexican Pesos. Exchange Rate of February 2010. 1US dollar = \$12.81 Mexican Pesos.

⁹ The Ministry of Finance is in Mexico the Secretaría de Hacienda y Crédito Público (SHCP).

We agree with the UN Secretary General that gender equality and women empowerment are elemental factors to help reach the MDG. Mexico has already complied with 11 of the 12 MDGs, and continues to have other challenges to face. The Government of Mexico has undertaken different strategies and programs to fight poverty, promote job equality, conciliate work and family life, strengthen women's skills and improve their health conditions and nutritional levels to decrease preventable morbidity and mortality, as well as to increase their permanent inclusion in education with higher levels of quality.

Some of these strategies include the *Strategy to Live Better*, the *Oportunidades Program*, the *100 x 100 Strategy* for the comprehensive development of the 125 poorest municipalities in the country, the *3x1 Migrant Program*, and the *Opportunity Human Development Program* since 2001 which aids educations, health, nutrition and income. We now have the *Mexican Norm for Labor Equality between Men and Women*, the "Family Responsible Company" Award, *Day Care Program in Support of Working Mothers* that has been in place in, until 2009, 8,923 day care centers, and the *Equity and Gender Model* which has turned into a benchmark to develop similar certification schemes in other Latin American countries.

Fifteen years since Beijing, Mexico has reduced school enrolment gender gap at all levels, being practically eradicated in the basic education level¹⁰. The gender gap still remains in mid upper education, although female enrollment has even surpassed male enrollment. The principle strategies in place to help reach these goals include increasing and giving scholarships to girls, to young pregnant women,¹¹ and to young mothers living in poverty conditions or who belong to indigenous groups. We have also held education campaigns, and reviewed textbook contents to eradicate stereotypes and gender-based violence. The key challenges we have picked up have to do with guaranteeing female enrollment in higher education, increasing the number of women studying degrees labeled as for men only, and providing educational quality in all school levels.

We agree with the ECLAC report that states that reducing the digital gap for women is a significant challenge. Such a reduction includes equal access and use between men and women, of information technologies, and communication as instruments of economic development and social inclusion.

Currently, the *Healthy Pregnancy Strategy* has been applied through the *Populace Insurance* for women who cannot receive medical attention. The *Medical Insurance for the New Generation (SMNG)* makes sure that girls and boys that were born since December 2006 and their families, can also access medical services. We also have a *National Gender Equity and Reproductive Health Center (CNEGSR)*, the *Social Protection System in Health (SPSS)*; the *Health Self-care Strategy with Gender Perspective in the Work Arena*, and apply vaccines against the human papiloma virus, in addition holding to cervix-uterine cancer prevention campaigns. We have reduced maternal mortality rates between 2001 and 2009 from 70.8 to 56 deaths per 100,000 live born babies. We formed a *Multidisciplinary Group and designed a Comprehensive Strategy to Accelerate the Reduction in Maternal Death*. We also designed a *Maternal Mortality Observatory* and have coordinated works between Inmujeres, academic

¹⁰ School levels: pre-kinder, primary and secondary.

¹¹ Programa such as Scholarships for Young Mothers and Young Pregnant Women; Preschool Education and Primary Schooling for children of Migrant Farming Labor Families*, Scholarship License Program and National Higher Education Program among others.

institutions, and civil society organizations through the *United Nations Working Groups* in this area.

For Mexico, women's participation in the public sphere and in decision making, as well as fully enjoying their citizenry are crucial issues to help fight against inequality. Women hold 19.5% of the seats in the Senate, and 25.8% in the Chamber of Deputies. When the LXI Legislature began (2009-2011), the percentage of women representatives was 27.6%, however, after receiving request for license, we are seeing that seats are being "transferred" to men, which in itself is a challenge to face, and we have to since we have to create a political culture with a gender perspective.

Fifteen years after Beijing, we defined, in the *New Federal Code for Institutions and Electoral Procedures (COFIPE)*, 60% as the maximum percentage of same gender plurinominal candidacies, which forces including equal opportunities and equity in party principles, as 2% of the yearly public financing is directed to train and develop leadership in women, and to procure gender parity in party leadership. We have a *Strategic Platform for Political Equity* and mechanisms focused on thrusting and monitoring the furtherance of women in political participation in all levels of governments. Through a basic gender agenda, we are working with political parties to include the principles of equality and no-discrimination in their political platforms and campaigns.

We consider the need to adapt regulations as strategic and pressing to ensure the permanence of the spaces we have gained, in addition to reinforcing the current legal and institutional framework to favor creating conditions to build and develop full citizenry in women.

For my Government, fighting violence against women is a State priority. We have not lowered our guard against this calamity which has hindered accomplishment Beijing Platform for Action. Fifteen years after Beijing, the government's main programs include specific action lines to fight gender violence. In order to comply with *The General Law for the Access of Women to a Violence-Free* we are working in creating a *Comprehensive Program to Prevent, Attend, Sanction and Eradicate Violence against Women*. We have an earmarked budget to prevent, attend, punish and eradicate violence against women; This year \$74, 966, 905 dollars were assigned. Mexico has a *Violence-Free Telephone Line*, which received over 21,000 calls in 2009. We have 69 shelters for women who have suffered violence, and 60% are managed by civil society, and 40% by local governments.

In order to fulfill several recommendations made by human rights organizations, the *National Commission to Prevent and Eradicate Violence against Women (CONAVIM)* was created last year (CONAVIM). As part of the strategy to help fight violence and insecurity lived in Ciudad Juarez, the *Mexico Platform* has been set in place. This is an agency and institution system of network connections linked directly to public security. It will help promote the exchange of information among different data bases to create efficient strategies and operations against crime. Furthermore, an *Economic Aid Fund for Family Members of Women Victims in Ciudad Juarez* has also been created, falling directly under the Technical Secretariat of the Fund's Application Advisory Council with federal economic funds. Another strategy includes the *Protocol of Attention, Reaction and Coordination between Federal, State and Municipal Authorities in case of Lost Women and Girls in Ciudad Juarez*, also known as the *Alba Protocol*, whose objective is to have extraordinary surveillance in high-risk areas for women.

On February 11, the President of Mexico presented a *new strategy* of the Federal Government to help fight crime in Ciudad Juarez. The strategy will include four fundamental issues: look into rebuilding the legal framework; to clean police corps using reliable control testing; fight poverty by creating jobs and public spaces, and strengthening the health sector, in addition to promoting citizen participation.

In order to comply with the *Law to Prevent and Punish People Trafficking*, during 2009 the *Interministerial Commission to Prevent and Punish People Trafficking* was created. The *Special Inspector's Office for Crimes of Violence against Women and People Trafficking (FEVIMTRA)* set up its first four specialized units of the Attorney General's Office and Victim Attention in the country. It also began analyzing 39 preliminary inquiries in relationship to this crime between 2008 and 2009. Today we have the *Comprehensive Protocol to Attend People Trafficking Victims*, in trying to protect and dignify people who have suffered this crime. Last month, the Chamber of Deputies established the *Special Commission to Fight People Trafficking* to promote initiatives, review the legal framework, and follow actions by public officials'.

Mexico has created, opened and strengthened interlocution spaces and mechanisms between civil society's organizations, and the academic and research sector. This has contributed to democratic governance, and to fighting gender discrimination and violence. According to the Social Development Institute (INDESOL), we have 8,600 organizations registered, out of which 2,441 work to promote gender equality, and 2,554 work to support human rights. These, in addition to the cooperatives and social solidarity societies that are not registered in the roster, total approximately are 12,000. We have increased financing to support those organizations that work to benefit women and their rights, through the *Inmujeres PROEQUIDAD Fund* and the Social Development Ministry's *Social Co-investment Program (PCS)*. Civil society's role and interlocution with the three Branches of the Union in the three spheres of government has been fundamental to formulate the current regulatory framework.

Fifteen years since Beijing, we in Mexico have promoted designing, construction and application of statistical tools, as well as devices to help measure through gender perspective, including sex- desegregated indicators, directed to follow up and evaluation. We have new systems and mechanisms that allow us to receive timely information on government actions implemented to achieve equality. We understand how deep our challenge is in analyzing and measuring the impacts of actions placed in motion by various spheres, in the quality of women's lives. This is being possible by incorporating gender-specific indicators.

Today, Mexico has a *Gender Indicator System* that includes sex-desegregated, information, data and indicators, demographic components, and issues related to following up and furthering international instruments in the area of human rights in women. The systematic follow-up of several variables, including equal opportunities and discrimination is carried out by the National Council for the Evaluation of a Social Development Policy (CONEVAL) and we built and applied a series of national surveys about different topics such as time usage, household income and expenses, educational and work paths in middle higher education, micro businesses, the dynamic of relations at home and violence during courtship.

A worrying issue is the impact of climatic change has in women's lives. Mexico operates a *National Strategy in Climatic Changes (ENACC)* and designed the *2009-2012 Special Program in Climatic Changes*. Mexico will host the *16th Conference of the United Nations on Climate Changes (COP+16)* next December. We should use this forum to promote and insert gender dimension in the subject's analysis, methodology design, strategies and measures. Given the phenomenon's effects, the issue cannot be postponed, as we begin to coordinate efforts to mainstream gender perspective in sustainable environmental and inclusive policies.

Institutional synergy in Mexico, as well as willpower and commitments from the highest echelons of the three Branches and levels of government, alongside Civil Society's Organizations have been a key factor to help advance in protecting and defending women's human rights. Mexico expects that the *New Composite Entity* forming in the UN to promote the advancement of women may play an strategic and fundamental role to provide technical support, both with governments as well as within the System, in order to promote the compliance of the goals and objectives that have been incorporated in international commitments on women human rights. We trust that the *New Composite Entity* will empower existing human and financial resources, as well as strengthen the inclusion of gender to contribute to the efficiency of the United Nation's System.

The *11th Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean* will be held in Brazil this year; this forum will provide the much needed space to analyze the outcome of this Session in such a way that our governments agree on specific actions that will strengthen compliance with gender agenda of our countries.

Thirty years after CEDAW was adopted, and 15 years after the Beijing Platform for Action was approved, we still recognize the significant challenges that Mexico must solve: structural social inequality, aggravated by the world financial and economic crisis; discrimination; access to justice and the fight against impunity; gender violence in all its manifestations; strengthening national mechanisms to make them sustainable to help guarantee gender transversality; women's access to digital technology and to information technology; women's vulnerability against mitigating and adapting to climatic changes; fighting women trafficking, being these some of the most important challenges we face.

Not one step back!. We must reinforce our resolve, and join efforts to achieve full equality between men and women in all spheres of our lives.

Thank you.