

# MÉXICO



**STATEMENT BY  
MARÍA DEL ROCÍO GARCÍA GAYTÁN,  
PRESIDENT OF THE  
NATIONAL WOMEN'S INSTITUTE,  
DURING THE  
52<sup>nd</sup> SESSION OF THE COMMISSION  
ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN**

**25 February, 2008**

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Mr. Chairperson, distinguished delegates,

I want to express our great appreciation for the important work this Commission is carrying out in following up on the commitments made for equality between men and women in all areas. By the same token, I congratulate the members of the Council on their work and extend my thanks for their consideration of the requests put forward in previous sessions regarding changing when this session was scheduled in order to enhance the ability of women who head women's ministries to participate.

Mexico affirms its commitment to promote and defend women's human rights. This occasion provides an opportunity to reiterate my country's open-door policy when it comes to international scrutiny on human rights matters. We recognize that the battle against gender violence and impunity are our greatest challenges. The comments and recommendations we have received have been incorporated into the National Program for Equality Between Men and Women 2008-2012.

A few days ago, we were pleased to receive the visit of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Louise Arbour. During this visit, we signed an agreement so that the High Commissioner's office in Mexico can continue the activities begun in 2002, through which we seek to begin a new chapter and strengthen cooperation on this subject.

In addition, the Mexican Government played an active role in updating Chapter 5 of the Report on the Status of Human Rights in Mexico, which this organization (UNHCHR) conducted.

Mexico has continued the project we have promoted with UNIFEM regarding the Interactive System for Monitoring the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (SICEDAW) as a regional contribution toward making progress and best practices known. The System currently has 132 digitized reports from 26 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Furthermore, I would like to stress the importance of the Quito Consensus adopted by governments at the Tenth Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean. Through this instrument, we made a commitment to create the conditions necessary for women to achieve equality in the public arena until they reach parity. Today the Consensus constitutes our regional agenda.

Since the beginning of President Felipe Calderon's Administration, incorporating a gender perspective, equality between men and women, and ending any kind of discrimination based on gender were stressed as considerations for gender mainstreaming in the National Development Plan 2007-2012.

One year into this administration, our action has been focused primarily on strengthening institutional aspects of gender perspective in order to implement and fulfill the aims of the *General Law for Equality between Men and Women* and the *General Law on Access to a Violence-Free Life*.

These laws establish the *National Policies for Equality between Men and Women* and for the *Elimination of Violence against Women*. They are supported by mechanisms for inter-institutional linkage and coordination, as well as by an external monitoring system.

That is why Mexico is pleased that in this session, we are giving priority to addressing the subject of financing to benefit gender equality and women's empowerment. Furthermore, I am certain that the CSW will make major contributions to the process of preparing for the Doha Conference, where the progress made in implementing the Monterrey Consensus will be examined.

This is a topic of strategic importance to us. In fulfilling international mandates, today Mexico has an obligatory set of standards for drawing up, implementing and monitoring budgets dedicated to the National Policies for Equality and for Elimination of Violence against Women.

Establishing the Budget Earmarked for Women and Gender Equality in the 2008 Federal Expenditures Budget entailed using a variety of strategies for achieving legal and administrative changes, with a view to introducing gender perspective into all processes, as well as for monitoring programs using funds earmarked for women.

For the first time and unanimously, members of Congress from the various political parties authorized a budget that has risen to more than 638<sup>1</sup> million dollars, which, in addition, is allocated to specific programs by sector.

Similarly, the Federal Expenditures Budget Decree for this fiscal year included an Article (25) that stresses the importance of creating methodologies and indicators, as well as agency accountability, through an information system that makes it possible to identify results that specifically benefit women.

As regards the budget allocated to the National Women's Institute for this year, it was also more than doubled, in order to enable us to devote resources to implementing the new legislation. It now amounts to 49 million dollars<sup>2</sup>.

I would like to emphasize that of this amount, more than 15 million dollars is dedicated to a fund designed to ensure gender mainstreaming, to strengthen women's agencies in the 32 federal states, and to support their creation at the municipal level. The Ministry of Social Development (*SEDESOL*) has dedicated 18 million<sup>3</sup> dollars for this same purpose.

In another arena, the role and contribution of civil society organizations has been fundamental to the Mexican Government achieving democratic governability and combating gender discrimination and violence against women. We have opened up spaces and increased financing for them through the *PROEQUIDAD* Fund and the Joint Social Investment Fund.

I would like to point out that two representatives of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) are part of the Mexican Delegation.

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<sup>1</sup> Equivalent to 7,024.8 million Mexican pesos.

<sup>2</sup> Equivalent to 543.2 million Mexican pesos.

<sup>3</sup> Equivalent to 200 million Mexican pesos.

We also are grateful for the technical and financial contributions of international, bilateral and multilateral cooperation agencies active in Mexico. These contributions have enabled us to develop initiatives to support the fulfillment of internationally agreed commitments and goals.

As to reforming the United Nations' gender architecture, Mexico reiterates its confidence in the reform seeking, though a single-gender entity, a means for bringing about its effectiveness, efficiency and functionality. We hope that it will take on and incorporate the functions and efforts that have been promoted over time, so that the activities under way to achieve gender equality and to eliminate discrimination against women may be strengthened and brought into harmony.

An emerging subject that we cannot neglect is the linkage between climate change and gender equality and equity.

Mexico's geographic, environmental and socioeconomic characteristics make us a nation that is highly vulnerable to climate change. Therefore, on behalf of my government, I want to congratulate the Commission on its initiative to include a panel of experts in this Session.

It is important that we consider the repercussions and impact that this phenomenon has on women in particular, especially on those suffering from poverty and marginalization. In addition, we must reflect on the role that women can play to mitigate its effects and identify and adopt strategies for adaptation.

We must not, therefore, delay in working in collaboration with NGOs to ensure that the National Mechanisms for the Advancement of Women incorporate gender perspectives in the formulation and implementation of national policies, plans and actions aimed at reducing vulnerability in confronting climate change.

I also want to take advantage of this opportunity to reiterate my country's ongoing commitment to meeting the challenges involved in the global response to HIV/AIDS. On this subject, allow me to mention that next August the 17<sup>th</sup> International Conference on HIV/AIDS will be held in Mexico City. One of the Conference's key subjects will be respect for and promotion of human rights and gender equality. It is vital that we join forces to confront this pandemic, which is continuing to spread, particularly among women.

In Mexico we are aware that we still have many challenges to overcome, such as the fight against impunity and the trafficking of women and children, in order to achieve prompt and streamlined law enforcement and to eliminate all aspects of violence against women.

We have made progress in creating institutions, a legal and regulatory framework and a federal budget reflecting a gender perspective. We are sure that we are creating the conditions and irreversible changes we need to build a genuine culture of equality.