

Mexico's Feminist Foreign Policy: Beyond Declarations and Good Intentions

*La política exterior feminista de México:
más allá de declaraciones
y buenas intenciones*

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Abstract:

Mexico's feminist foreign policy is an additional and powerful instrument of the institutional statecraft to eradicate the chronic discrimination based on gender, race, age, ethnicity, sexual orientation or social class that prevents our society from accomplishing better living standards and reaching our highest potential as a nation.

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Resumen:

La política exterior feminista de México es un instrumento más dentro de la artillería institucional que tiene el Estado mexicano a su alcance para erradicar la inercia de discriminación que, por motivo de género, edad, raza, etnicidad, preferencia sexual o clase social, nos mantienen, como sociedad, en un estadio retrasado de bienestar.

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Key Words:

Feminist foreign policy, internal and external effects, equality, welfare, empowerment.

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Palabras clave:

Política exterior feminista, alcances internos y externos, igualdad, bienestar, empoderamiento.

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The best way to measure the degree of civilisation of a people is to measure the degree of civilisation of its female population.

NORBERTO BOBBIO

Background

Throughout its history, Mexico has sought to remain at the forefront in the defence of the most just and noble causes of humanity, and has found in diplomacy the ideal vehicle for projecting itself as a modern country. Such is the case of the promotion of an ambitious feminist agenda to which Foreign Minister Marcelo Ebrard committed himself before the community of nations during his speech at the 74th session of the U.N. General Assembly, and which, in the framework of the 31st Meeting of Ambassadors and Consuls in January 2020, he instructed us to implement.

Feminist foreign policy has been defined as a framework that puts the everyday lives of historically marginalised communities at the centre and proposes a broader and deeper analysis of global issues.¹ In the case of the feminist foreign policy adopted by Mexico, it does no more than reclaim the proactive role that the government and society have decided

¹ For a detailed study of the theoretical framework underpinning the feminist approach to foreign policy, see the definition of the concept proposed by the Centre for Feminist Foreign Policy (CFFP) in CFFP, "Feminist Foreign Policy", in <https://centreforfeministforeignpolicy.org/feminist-foreign-policy/> (date of access: September 23, 2020).

to assume in the urgent task of reducing and eliminating structural differences, gaps and gender inequalities. In doing so, Mexico puts itself at the forefront with countries such as Sweden, which announced its feminist foreign policy in 2014; Canada, which did so in 2017; France, who joined in 2018; and Spain, which joined in 2020, as well as Luxembourg and the U.K. Labour Party, which have also announced their intention to adapt similar policies.

The struggle for substantive equality between men and women in Mexico goes back a long way, with antecedents that can be traced back to the end of the 19th century. Although women's demands initially focused on improving access to education for the benefit of their professionalisation—Rita Cetina,² Gertrudis Tenorio Zavala³ and Cristina Farfán stand out in this area⁴—, over time they also demanded equality in productive capacities. It is worth highlighting the efforts which, from the editorial point of view, through magazines such as *Hijas del Anáhuac*, *La Mujer* and *Violetas del Anáhuac*, sought to frame this issue, and of course the movement of the cigarette-makers in Mexico City⁵ in which women protested and organised strikes to denounce labour exploitation in 1884, 1885, 1888 and 1894, has a very important place in our history.

On the political front, the recognition of women as equal to men in society would not have been possible without feats such as those of Juana

² See Piedad Peniche Rivero, *Rita Cetina, La Siempreviva y el Instituto Literario de Niñas: una cuna del feminismo mexicano, 1846-1908. Orígenes de la educación femenina en Yucatán*, México, Instituto Nacional de Estudios Históricos de las Revoluciones de México, 2015.

³ See Denisse Romina Salgado Velázquez, *La Siempreviva (1870-1872). Primera publicación periódica redactada y editada por mujeres en México: un estudio desde la óptica del feminismo relacional* [thesis], Toluca, Universidad Autónoma del Estado de México, 2017.

⁴ See María de los Ángeles Avellar Meyer, *La Siempreviva. Voz pionera del sur (1870-1872)* [thesis], Mexico, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, 2011.

⁵ See Ana María Saloma Gutiérrez, "Forjando la vida: dichas y desdichas de las obreras de las fábricas cigarreras del Porfiriato", in *Dimensión Antropológica*, year 7, vol. 18, January-April 2000, pp. 28-52, in <http://www.dimensionantropologica.inah.gob.mx/?p=1587> (date of access: May 11, 2021).

Belén Gutiérrez de Mendoza,⁶ who headed an association that demanded better working conditions from the government in the midst of the political effervescence provoked by the final re-election of President Porfirio Díaz. Also noteworthy are the two feminist congresses held in Yucatán in 1916,⁷ which served as a forum to discuss women's right to vote and participate in public life. Hermila Galindo,⁸ a Mexican journalist, feminist and suffragist, presented the initiative to the Constituent Congress in 1916, and it was not until many years later when women were granted full citizenship and the right to vote.

Well into the 20th century, in 1935, the *Frente Único Pro Derechos de la Mujer* (United Front for Women's Rights) was founded,⁹ an inescapable precedent for political activism and community organising. During his presidential campaign, General Lázaro Cárdenas promised to put women on an equal political footing with men. Once in office, Cárdenas presented the initiative to reform Article 34 of the Constitution to recognise women's citizenship, which met with resistance from federal deputies and local legislatures. Soon after, Miguel Alemán submitted the initiative to add to Article 115 of the Constitution, recognising women's right to vote and be voted for in municipal elections, but it was not until 1953, during the government of Adolfo Ruiz Cortines, that women were granted the right to vote in federal elections.

⁶ See Ana Lau Jaiven, "Una vida singular: Juana Belén Gutiérrez de Mendoza", in *Sólo Historia*, no. 8, April-June 2000, pp. 9-14.

⁷ See Gloria Luz Alejandre Ramírez & Eduardo Torres Alonso, "El Primer Congreso Feminista de Yucatán 1916. El camino a la legislación del sufragio y reconocimiento de ciudadanía a las mujeres. Construcción y tropiezos", in *Estudios Políticos*, 9th edition, no. 39, September-December 2016, pp. 59-89.

⁸ See Rosa María Valles Ruiz, "Hermila Galindo: ideas de vanguardia; acciones que abrieron brecha", in *Mujeres y Constitución: de Hermila Galindo a Griselda Álvarez*, México/Toluca, Instituto Nacional de Estudios Históricos de las Revoluciones de México/Gobierno del Estado de México (Biblioteca Constitucional), 2017, pp. 51-83.

⁹ See Martha Eva Rocha Islas, *Los rostros de la rebeldía. Veteranas de la Revolución mexicana, 1910-1939*, Mexico, Instituto Nacional de Estudios Históricos de las Revoluciones de México/Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia, 2016.

Full citizenship, achieved on October 17, 1953, marked the beginning of the exercise of political power by Mexican women, who gradually entered decision-making spaces, such as the Mexican Foreign Service (SEM). Since then, the search for equal opportunities has not stopped.

Equality as a fundamental right and guiding principle of Mexico's foreign policy

This paper argues that Mexico's feminist foreign policy has both internal and external implications. Its implementation seeks to integrate the principles of feminism—substantive equality, the elimination of structural inequalities and the eradication of discrimination—as the precepts that guide foreign policy in a cross-cutting and intersectional manner in all areas of public affairs.¹⁰

It is worth pausing at this point to note that Mexico's foreign policy projects the values and principles that have guided the Mexican people in the building of their project as a nation, reflecting dignity, the spirit of struggle for just causes and the concern for establishing real and lasting peace in the global environment.¹¹ Thus, the prestige enjoyed by Mexican diplomacy is due, of course, to the determination and talent with which men and women of state defended, at the time, the republic's fundamental objectives, but, at the same time, the international recognition that Mexico enjoys as a global actor stems from the fact that its foreign policy has defended causes that transcended their time and, over the years, has proved to have been on the right side of history.

In this context, we believe that feminist foreign policy must promote an agenda of equality, equity and justice that honours our diplomatic tradition and ensures its transcendence, without responding to a particular political juncture or subscribing to a specific intellectual movement

¹⁰ See Centro de Investigación Internacional (CII), *Conceptualizando la política exterior feminista: apuntes para México*, Mexico, CII-IMR-SRE (Analysis note, 6), April 2020.

¹¹ See Alfonso de Rosenzweig-Díaz Jr., "La política internacional de México," in *Universidad de México*, vol. XIII, no. 3, November 1958, pp. 1-2, 10-14.

or school of feminist thought.¹² Notwithstanding the advanced and progressive nature of the foreign policies that have positioned themselves as points of reference in this area, we suggest that it is not a matter of transferring manifestations of feminism in the foreign policy of European and North American countries to the Mexican reality, but rather of contextualising the feminist agenda within the particular challenges facing the country.

In other words, feminist foreign policy should not be an isolated effort with a specific enemy in its sights—be it capitalism, heteropatriarchy or colonialism—but should be one more instrument within the institutional artillery that the Mexican state has at its disposal, perhaps a transversal axis that determines the perspective from which public policies are implemented, deliberately designed to counteract and, in the end, eradicate the inertia of discrimination that, because of gender, age, race, ethnicity, sexual preference or social class, keep us, as a society, in a backward stage of wellbeing.

The ultimate aim of feminist foreign policy is to become an instrumental asset in deconstructing the system and altering the structure in which men and women coexist, to create the conditions in which the domination and power of one over the other is absent and the expectations of society are free of predisposed roles, norms or behaviours. It is not about imposing an alternative ethnocentrism whose hegemony gravitates towards the opposite pole, but a genuine balance of power without predominance or subordination. In short, a level playing field that is conducive to both men and women, with their unique characteristics, being able to fulfil themselves in all areas of life: professional, personal, family, intellectual, spiritual, and so forth.

In this sense, it is worth using feminist foreign policy to recognise us, men and women, as peers capable of sharing responsibilities, reconciling differences and moving towards a common goal: to complete the unfinished and always perfectible national project of building a functional and inclusive democracy. This constructivist approach recognises the long road still

¹² See Adriana Granados Barco, “En la variedad está el gusto. El feminismo, entre la pluralidad y la reafirmación de los compromisos comunes”, in *Revista CS*, no. 18, January-April, 2016, pp. 85-106.

to be travelled to change the way women are perceived and interact with each other, but it is committed to a reformism that, despite its gradual progress, shows the steady pace with which substantive and narrative changes in crucial areas of our coexistence have come to consolidate, judging by the contrast with the peripheral, even accessorial, role played by women in the generations that preceded us.

That said, feminist foreign policy must be part of an ambitious process of women's empowerment that it is in everyone's interest to promote, but it should not overlook the fact that, above all other considerations, it is motivated by a principle of legality: equality between men and women is a human right in itself and an indispensable condition for fully exercising the set of other fundamental rights that make us equal participants in the social and economic development of the country.

Although since 2011, with the human rights reforms, the State has been obliged to progressively incorporate its perspective in all government programmes, feminist foreign policy is a pending issue that is justified by the concurrent interpretation of the first and fourth articles of the Constitution, which prohibit all types of discrimination and establish the equality of men and women before the law, respectively, in addition to section X of article 89, which lists, among the normative principles that should govern Mexico's foreign policy, that of respecting, protecting and promoting human rights.

Perspicacity starts in the homestead: domestic scopes of feminist foreign policy

The precepts of feminist foreign policy must inevitably be reflected in the functioning of the Mexican Foreign Service (SEM). This implies a special emphasis on the importance of equal entry opportunities for men and women, as subsequent steps will depend on this initial step, such as promotion to the rank of ambassador, the holding of embassies and consulates, and the holding of positions of high responsibility within the Mexican Foreign Ministry. In other words, the materialisation of the feminist idea of equality must be translated into a foreign ministry that is equal and safe for all.

Here it is worth highlighting the reforms to the Mexican Foreign Service Law approved in 2018, resulting from a thorough analysis by legislators, who, together with the Foreign Ministry, added, modified and repealed provisions to strengthen the rights and obligations of SEM members, focusing on five central axes: resizing benefits, strengthening the SEM, promoting equality, administrative responsibilities and transparency, and accountability.

With these reforms, new foundations have been laid to level the playing field for men and women in the foreign service with measures that, presumably, as they are implemented, will have a favourable impact on reducing, mitigating and eliminating structural differences and gender disparities. Measures, for example, such as granting paternity leave to men, simply point to the shared responsibility that both parents have for the upbringing of their children, thus eradicating the stereotype that it is the woman's job to care for the children and the man's job to go out to work to provide for the household.

In the same direction, they recognise how expensive this service is abroad, and without it, colleagues without a partner or family member to take responsibility for the care of their minor dependents would not be able to combine their role as parents with their public service, at least during the first years of life and until they are able to enrol them in the public education system, which could be pre-school or primary school, depending on the country they are in.

This support is particularly important for men and women who have decided to accompany their spouses in their careers in the service of Mexico and without which they would be obliged to devote themselves 100% to the care of their children; this translates into the sacrifice of any possibility of professional fulfilment—especially in postings where they are allowed to work, as is the case in the United States—and the reaffirmation of the gender roles characteristic of the patriarchal culture that feminist foreign policy is determined to eradicate. Special mention should be made of the fact that, without this support, colleagues and their spouses would encounter material obstacles to the full exercise of their reproductive rights, which, incidentally, is one of the five priority areas contained in the Feminist Foreign Policy Action Plan promoted by Scandinavian countries.

The same reform package included support for special education and technical assistance for those who have an economic dependent with a disability that prevents him/her from fending for him/herself, thus recognising the particular challenge of caring for dependents with special needs to reconcile the personal, family and professional responsibilities of those in the SEM.

At the regulatory level, and given that women's professional development is not linear, but that traditional gender roles pose a particular challenge for them in reconciling their responsibilities, the possibility of offering flexible working hours was envisaged, so that their productive activity and continuous development is compatible with other equally or more important tasks, which is expected to have an impact on the evaluation of their records during a promotion battle, so that they would be able to participate on an equal footing.

With some of these measures still in the process of materialising, a new initiative was recently presented to reform various provisions of the SEM Law on equality and non-discrimination, which reiterates the correct diagnosis that social and cultural obstacles prevail preventing full equality between women and men in our society. In this context, it recognises the need to promote, with greater vigour, institutional measures to eliminate (or at least substantially reduce) the documented gap that persists within the SEM, and is committed to the SEM reflecting Mexico's demographic reality in its members and, therefore, favouring the incorporation of members of indigenous and Afro-descendant communities into its ranks.

Implicit in the drafting of the reform proposal is the fact that men and women have the same capacities to carry out all kinds of functions and that their consideration for entry, promotion or appointment to a post as head of a Mexican representation abroad, or with the dignity of eminent or emeritus, should be on equal terms and without any discrimination whatsoever.

In this regard, it is worth noting that the management of the crisis caused by the pandemic in various countries has served to document the effectiveness with which women's leadership managed to reduce the rates of infection and mortality. At the same time, the reaction of the heads of Mexico's largest consular representations, including Los Angeles, was characterised by their sensitivity to the understandable anxiety and concern expressed by their collaborators, but also to the urgent need of our users to continue

accessing our services. Without wishing to claim victory just yet, at Los Angeles we feel very satisfied to have been able to reconcile the health and safety of our work team with the provision of all essential services throughout the pandemic, plus humanitarian work, such as the delivery of food supplies and the installation of a COVID-19 testing and vaccination centre in our facilities, which we felt obliged to provide in the midst of such special circumstances.

Special mention should be made of the change proposed by the bill in the organisational culture of the Foreign Ministry, and in this area, it highlights the value of inclusive language in the achievement of substantive equality, the elimination of structural inequalities and the eradication of discrimination within an institution. Although the richness of the Spanish language and its wide availability of grammatical and rhetorical resources make it possible to reconcile these objectives with the principle of linguistic economy, it is worth noting that the use of non-sexist and stereotype-free language in the administrative sphere, including the tools of social communication and its promotion in all social relations, both inside and outside the workplace, has a preponderant place on the equality agenda.

There are notable changes within the Foreign Ministry, but there is still much room for manoeuvre with measures that do not require legislative or regulatory changes, but with a genuine will to create a respectful, gender-sensitive and violence-free work environment that is also conducive to productivity. Initiatives such as the incorporation of practices and training that adhere to the global solidarity movement for gender equality HeforShe, the NMX-R-025-SCFI-2015 certification on labour equality and non-discrimination, the perimeter of safe quadrants in the vicinity of the Ministry, and the guidelines for inclusive communication and good treatment during the COVID-19 pandemic, are only examples of the measures that promote conditions of equality among all staff of the Foreign Ministry, regardless of whether they are stationed within national territory or abroad.

We cannot overlook the fact that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, faithful to its vocation of being at the forefront of the federal public administration, became the first agency to implement the Protocol for the Prevention, Attention and Punishment of Sexual Harassment and Sexual Abuse. In this way, it reaffirmed its commitment to combatting all forms of discrimination

and violence against women, and assured that harassment or bullying is a reason for loss of trust, in the understanding that both behaviours are contrary to the essence of freedom and human dignity, demonstrating an intolerance for this type of attitudes.

Consular protection as an instrument of empowerment

Externally, Mexican consulates in the United States have carried out training to concretely define the behaviours and attitudes that constitute sexual harassment or workplace harassment, so that all employees, men and women, are aware that they will not be tolerated, and senior managers have the tools to prevent and sanction them. On the other hand, they have developed institutional capacities to assist all those who have been victims of gender-based violence. The Ventanillas Integrales de Atención a la Mujer (VAIM) (Integrated Women's Helpdesks) have been installed throughout the Mexican consular network in the United States, and some of them have been operating for several years with great success. In the case of Los Angeles, we have taken on the task of expanding their scope of action from protection to the empowerment of any victim of gender-based violence, whether male or female.

Traditionally, VAIM works to refer victims to attorneys to apply for a U, VAWA or T visa, and, where appropriate, to receive legal guidance on child custody and restraining orders. At the same time, victims are referred to shelters and organisations to help them transition to a life independent from their abuser. Sometimes, the offer of group or individual psychological therapy helps them to overcome the trauma suffered and to regain the emotional strength to move forward. Following the implementation of the feminist foreign policy, VAIM has collaborated with the departments of community and economic affairs to offer the network of survivors the opportunity to undergo training for professional licensing and training to start their own business, making it a true incubator of well-being.

Programmes such as the Small Business Administration (SBA) and the Office of Women Business Owners (OWBW) have also been identified, which provide administrative and technical assistance to economically or socially disadvantaged women-owned businesses in the incubation

or acceleration phase. The Federal Department of Commerce has a specialised minority business development agency (MBDA) with offices located in regions with significant minority populations, such as Los Angeles County. From these business centres, they are assisted in penetrating new markets, whether local or global, scaling up their businesses, accessing capital, competing for public procurement contracts or identifying strategic partners.

It is extremely gratifying to observe that in just a few years, men and women who arrived in vulnerable situations at the Mexican Consulate in Los Angeles to escape the cycle of violence in which they found themselves, are now testimonies to overcoming their vulnerability and enjoying self-esteem and financial freedom. It is only a matter of time before some of our success stories begin to exercise the political rights that naturalised U.S. citizenship will give them and, through their political activism, put the urgency of addressing all forms of gender-based violence on the public agenda in their communities.

Beyond the rhetoric

In the multilateral diplomatic arena, Mexico delivered two anti-discrimination instruments to the Organisation of American States (OAS) to be incorporated into the legal system of the Inter-American system. For their part, Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Peru, in the framework of the 15th Summit of the Pacific Alliance held in December 2020, signed a presidential declaration in which they recognised that gender equality is an essential condition for achieving equitable, prosperous, peaceful and sustainable societies, and in which they committed themselves to placing women at the centre of economic recovery and reactivation strategies to overcome the effects of the pandemic.

The presidents agreed on a roadmap for the autonomy and economic empowerment of women in the Pacific Alliance with priority actions such as boosting women's labour participation and entrepreneurship; promoting their access to leadership and decision-making positions in the economic, political and social spheres; advancing towards the reduction of the gender digital divide; and promoting the production, analysis and dissemination

of data with a gender perspective. In addition, very specific goals were set for the year 2030, including increasing the regional balance of women graduates in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). With strategic state interventions to expand women's access to credit and financial education from an early stage, they aimed to eradicate the disproportionate impact of poverty on women.

Some of these objectives are included in the National Programme for Equality between Women and Men (Proigualdad), published in December 2020. What is remarkable about this programme is its programmatic content, with specific actions classified by their type, the agency responsible for implementing them and the entity coordinating their follow-up. It also contains technical parameters to measure the level of progress in achieving each of the priority objectives for women, namely: economic empowerment; redistribution of the burden of domestic work; indiscriminate access to health and welfare services; combating all types of violence against women; promoting women's equal participation in decision-making; and building safe environments for women.

In the area of climate change, during the last COP25, Mexico was one of the driving forces behind the programme to include substantive gender equality in policies to combat climate change. On the other hand, on the occasion of the commemoration of the 25th Anniversary of the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women and the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which is the most comprehensive plan to achieve gender equality, Mexico has taken the lead in renewing the commitment of the international community to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

To this end, Mexico and France are co-chairing the Generation Equality Forum, convened by UN Women with the alliance of civil society organisations and feminist groups, whose agenda includes issues such as gender-based violence; justice and economic rights; bodily autonomy, sexual and reproductive health and rights; feminist action for climate justice; technology and innovation for gender equality; and feminist movements and leadership. During the Forum, held in Mexico City from March 29-31, 2021, the Action Coalitions' roadmaps were presented on four strategic objectives: driving collective action, enabling the global intergenerational conversation, promoting greater public and private investment,

and achieving concrete and transformative intergenerational outcomes for girls and women.¹³

The second segment of the Forum will take place in Paris at the end of June 2021, with more specific commitments expected to catalyse the mobilisation of the resources needed to realise each coalition's agenda of concrete and immediately implementable actions. Among the initiatives that have come out of this forum is the Care Work Alliance, a bold effort agreed by Mexico's National Institute for Women (Inmujeres) in collaboration with UN Women to address the burden of care that hinders women's economic opportunities, and which has been well documented over the course of the pandemic.¹⁴

Regarding this last aspect, it is worth recalling that Mexico's position has been to incorporate specific commitments in favour of gender equality in the bilateral or multilateral international treaties negotiated. This is the case of the T-MEC, which incorporated a commitment in the labour chapter to eliminate wage discrimination in all types of employment and to promote women's equality in any occupation or workplace. Despite being a trade agreement, it contains provisions related to harassment, sexual orientation and gender identity, the granting of maternity leave for the birth or adoption of children, and the balance of responsibilities for the care of family members. The chapter on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), meanwhile, refers to the promotion of enterprises belonging to under-represented groups, including women, indigenous peoples, youth and minorities. Without undermining the value in itself of their incorporation, we must ensure that states that fail to meet these commitments are held internationally accountable.

Mexico must become a spokesperson for the feminist cause and ensure that similar commitments to gender equality are also adopted in official development assistance and cooperation mechanisms. For example,

¹³ See Generation Equality Forum, "Action Coalitions," in <https://forum.generationequality.org/action-coalitions> (date of access: May 4, 2021).

¹⁴ See Generation Equality Forum, "El activismo y los compromisos para acelerar la igualdad de género marcan la clausura del Foro Generación Igualdad en la Ciudad de México," April 5, 2021, in <https://forogeneracionigualdad.mx/activismo-y-compromisos-para-acelerar-la-igualdad-de-genero-marcan-clausura-del-foro/> (date of access: May 4, 2021).

migration is an issue that will become increasingly important on Mexico's, the United States' and Canada's agenda, and we believe that it is in the best interest of the three North American countries that human mobility is managed with a gender perspective. Combating domestic, sexual and gender-based violence, as well as women's economic empowerment, must be central to a comprehensive approach that tackles the root causes of mass displacement.

Final conclusions

With these actions, it can be seen that Mexico's feminist foreign policy is ambitious and aimed at empowering historically disadvantaged segments of the population, addressing structural causes and transforming power relations, while recognising and protecting the rights of women and girls already enshrined in national and international instruments. At its core, it is about changing the paradigm of human relations and transforming the culture of our societies and our institutions.

Proof of this transformation was the natural development of events in the days leading up to the celebration of International Women's Day on March 9, 2019. The position taken by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (SRE), in relation to the protests that were called for on that day, is very symptomatic of this paradigm shift: from the central offices it was interpreted that the call for the national women's strike was aimed at protesting against the increase in the number of feminicides registered recently, but also to vindicate the role of women in our society. In recent years, Women's Day has taken on the appearance of a celebration; however, its genesis calls for a return to its original meaning, as a day of reflection and analysis of achievements and challenges ahead.

The Mexican Foreign Minister, with his entire management team, took a stand in favour of women's voices, organisation and active political presence in the spaces where women feel they need to be placed. He personally considered that the diversity of points of view and the exercise of our political rights nourish our public work, so he offered his full support to the women officials who decided to exercise their right to participate in the women's strike, both in the capital and in Mexico's representations abroad.

In the case of the Mexican Consul General in Los Angeles, we decided to open this possibility to men who wanted to show solidarity with the strike, on the understanding that to interpret this event—or the women’s cause—as one of “us against them” would be to miss the opportunity for them to be part of the solution and not part of the problem.

With all the above, the launch of feminist foreign policy sends a clear message: Mexico wants to be at the forefront of action in the face of the contemporary challenges facing humanity. We have a firm conviction in the equality agenda and we are confident in its proven capacity to achieve far-reaching changes towards fairer societies. Feminist foreign policy inscribes all those who form part of the Foreign Ministry as agents of change and vanguard actors in the realisation of the noble aspirations we have as a nation.