

# Foreword

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Foreign policy is an instrument of the State to interact with the international community and promote national interests based on a series of principles. It is also a tool of Mexican society to shape the world and share its values and perceptions. Mexico's feminist foreign policy is a reflection of the current demands of society, of women in Mexico who demand respect for the rights that have historically been denied to them, and of all those of us who advocate for an egalitarian population, free of discrimination of any kind.

The colossal step forward demonstrated by the decision of the Minister of Foreign Affairs Marcelo Ebrard Casaubon to adopt a feminist foreign policy, announced during the XXXI Annual Meeting of Ambassadors and Consuls in January 2020, inaugurated a new era in Mexican diplomacy. The Mexican Foreign Minister stated that Mexico and its foreign policy are feminist in order to forge a more just and prosperous society. Following the historical efforts of diplomats such as Palma Guillén, Amalia González Caballero, Paula Alegría, María Emilia Téllez, María Lavalle Urbina, Olga Pellicer, Carmen Moreno Toscano, Aída González, Rosario Green and Patricia Espinosa, amongst many others, the Mexican State is committed to promoting the ideals of Mexican women around the world.

The 120th issue of the *Revista Mexicana de Política Exterior* (RMPE), presented by the Matías Romero Institute (IMR), is dedicated to reflecting on what it means to implement a feminist foreign policy and on feminisms

and their role in the contemporary world. In this edition, experts share their analysis on fundamental issues, such as feminist theories and international relations, the security demands of Mexican women, the importance of going beyond discursive exercises, the possibilities created out of this change in the Mexican diplomatic paradigm and the complexity of maintaining coherence between government ideology and practice towards vulnerable groups.

In addition, on this occasion, the RMPE is pleased to recognise the ideas of Nahuiquetzalli Pérez Mañón, a political scientist from the University of Guanajuato, who won first place in the “University Essay on Feminist Foreign Policy” contest, organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; her text “Towards a Feminist Democracy” is published in this issue and stands out as a sign of hope for all, both inside and outside Mexico.

With this edition of the RMPE, we continue to encourage reflection on the importance of consolidating an egalitarian society as a condition for achieving the level of development Mexico requires. It is, in essence, the continuation of the task of strengthening the culture of human rights throughout the country.

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