

CANDIDATURE OF MEXICO FOR REELECTION TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL 2021-2023

Commitments and Pledges of Mexico on the promotion and protection of human rights

I. Mexico and multilateralism in the context of the Universal Human Rights System

Mexico has been and will continue to be a defender of multilateralism to address global challenges, notably the respect, promotion, protection and guarantee of human rights for all. In that regard, Mexico recognizes that multilateralism and the Human Rights Council are the ideal way and forum to find solutions to common challenges among States in the field of human rights.

In achieving these objectives, Mexico will execute a transformative multilateral policy, committed to the compliance with international obligations and standards that will translate into concrete actions at a national level for the benefit of all people. Likewise, Mexico reaffirms its openness to international scrutiny from both the Universal and Inter-American systems on human rights.

In April 2019, Mexico received the visit of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Madame Michelle Bachelet. During this visit, Mexico signed an agreement with the Office of the High Commissioner to receive advice and technical assistance on the protection of human rights for the Mexican Commission for the Truth and Access to Justice on the Ayotzinapa case. A second agreement was also signed to receive advice and technical assistance to train elements of the National Guard under international standards.

In 2020, Mexico expects the visit of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, and the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons.

In compliance with its obligations under international human rights treaties, Mexico keeps abreast of and has submitted every scheduled report under international human rights treaties concerning its actions to protect human rights, while recognizing new and remaining challenges in the field. After being elected to the Human Rights Council for the term 2018-2020, Mexico submitted the following reports:

- Follow-up report to the Committee against Enforced Disappearance (February 2018).
- Report on compliance with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (March 2018).
- Follow-up report to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (October 2019).
- IX Report on compliance with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (December 2016 and considered in July 2018).
- Follow-up dialogue to the second implementation report of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (November 2018).
- VII implementation report of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (presented in October 2017 and considered in April 2019).
- XVIII - XXI Periodic Report on the implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (presented in June 2017 and supported in August 2019).
- VI Report of Mexico on the Implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (presented in February 2018 and supported in October 2019).

As a result of these reports, Mexico has initiated a constructive and permanent dialogue with the treaty bodies, as well as with the Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council. Mexico has also conducted specialized and direct dialogues with the civil society in this process as an essential component of its openness and collaboration to promote and protect human rights.

Mexico presents its candidature for re-election to the United Nations Human Rights Council for the term 2021-2023, based on a collaborative and dialogistic approach, with the objective of advancing the agenda of international human rights, while strengthening the standards and institutions of the universal system in this field.

As a member of the Council Mexico undertakes to promote international cooperation under the UN Charter principles, the shared responsibility among the States, at the Council and other bodies and mechanisms of the Universal system of human rights. This, as a means to generate synergies for the implementation of international best practices and standards for the effective fulfillment of international human rights obligations; with gender perspective and looking forward to eliminating all the multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination.

II. Commitments and pledges within the framework of the Human Rights Council for the 2021-2023 term

The actions described below account for Mexico's work as a member of the HRC. It also includes Mexico's key promises and commitments from which it will work during the 2021-2023 term to promote and protect human rights.

For Mexico, collaboration and dialogue within the Council and with the special procedures of human rights are tools that can be translated into concrete actions to address human rights violations and ensure that all persons fully exercise their rights and freedoms.

Mexico has helped to strengthen the Council in order to guarantee the effective exercise of its mandate across the world. Mexico has gained international recognition for such leadership, which led to its election as a member of the Council for the terms 2006-2009, 2009-2012, 2014-2016 and 2018-2020.

Since 2018, Mexico has promoted 19 resolutions and co-sponsored another 50 within the Council. Mexico's priority issues were: indigenous peoples; protection of human rights of migrants; moratorium on the death penalty; rights of persons with disabilities; human rights in the fight against terrorism; privacy in the digital era; elimination of all multiple forms of discrimination, intersectional discrimination and violence against women and girls; children's rights; elimination of violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity; rights of persons belonging to national, ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities; freedom of peaceful assembly and association; and right to work, among others. Mexico also co-sponsored 6 parallel events, participated in 3 panel discussions, and promoted 14 joint interventions on various issues of the human rights agenda.

A. Universal Periodic Review Mechanism

Mexico undertakes to actively participate in the review exercises within the framework of the Universal Periodic Review, seeking to preserve such framework as a platform where States can hold a direct dialogue to improve the situation of human rights in all countries, through a performance-based evaluation and, when necessary, identifying challenges in a constructive and cooperative spirit.

In November 2018, Mexico entered its third Universal Periodic Review, where it received 264 recommendations regarding the protection of human rights, especially of vulnerable groups, accepting 262 of them. Similarly, Mexico

attended all the dialogues of the States under review and made recommendations intended to address the prevailing challenges in this area.

Under this approach, Mexico will continue to participate in this important exercise, making precise, objective and action-oriented recommendations based on the most pressing human rights concerns. Likewise, Mexico will promote that the Council and its mechanisms remain favorable platforms for States to build bridges for collaboration and understanding.

Mexico will continue to work on the implementation of the accepted recommendations. Just like it has done to this day, Mexico will continue to support every effort to enhance the strengthening of the institutions of the universal human rights system, preventing the tools created within the Council from being distorted or politicized.

B. Migration

Mexico exercised an active leadership in the adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, inspired in our immigration policy, which is based on two pillars: the protection of the human rights of migrants and the promotion of development in the communities of origin to reduce the structural causes of migration.

In this regard, our country will continue to promote the protection of human rights as an essential part of global governance of international migration. People must be at the center of all policies to address this phenomenon, emphasizing the assistance to people in vulnerable situations and incorporating a gender perspective.

Within the Human Rights Council, Mexico will continue to present the resolution on the protection of the human rights of migrants to give visibility to the most urgent aspects on this matter, and to promote multilateral actions for their due attention.

C. Gender

The Government of Mexico, from a multilateral sphere, will continue to work to promote and protect the highest human rights standards for women and girls in order to guarantee their empowerment and eradicate all forms of discrimination and violence against them. Despite the improvement, there are regressive tendencies that threaten gender equality achievement, and had left aside the needs and concerns of women and girls, particularly of those in vulnerable situations. Mexico is committed with the promotion of the gender

equality agenda as a priority, both to strengthen international standards on the matter, and to promote gender equality within the Human Rights Council, its mechanisms and treaty bodies.

Mexico has recently adopted its Feminist Foreign Policy (FFP), a set of principles that orient actions to reduce and eliminate structural differences, gaps and gender inequalities in order to build more prosperous and fair societies. These actions include incorporating gender mainstreaming and intersectional perspectives into positions, resolutions, agreements, decisions, and other actions in multilateral fora. Mexico seeks to enhance visibility and recognition of women's contributions to the multilateral sphere and tackle stereotypes, in complement to other global efforts.

In this context, the 25th Anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action in 2020, represents a great opportunity to renew the commitment of the international community to achieve gender equality, as well as the eradication of all forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls. In line with Mexico's new FFP, the Generation Equality Forum is proof of Mexico's commitment with gender equality agenda and with the human rights of women and girls. Mexico will therefore continue to position itself as a global leader in this field.

D. Death penalty

For Mexico, death penalty constitutes a cruel and inhuman sanction that causes irreparable violations to human rights. It will thus continue to promote actions within the United Nations Human Rights Council aimed at the generalization of the moratorium on executions and, eventually, the abolition of the death penalty worldwide.

Mexico, as part of the core group that presents the resolution "the question of the death penalty", reaffirms its commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights, notably the right to life. As such, it urges States that, until abolition occurs, it should not be applied to people under 18, pregnant women and people with disabilities.

E. Groups in vulnerable situations

Mexico has become an active promoter of the recognition and protection of the human rights of people in vulnerable situations or historically discriminated, and strongly supports the 2030 Agenda goal of leaving no one behind.

In the Council's framework, Mexico will continue to endorse initiatives to promote respect, protect and guarantee the human rights of specific groups,

such as indigenous and afro-descendent peoples, people with disabilities, ethnic and religious minorities, migrants, LGBTI people, among others.

F. Elimination of discrimination and hate speech

Mexico deems necessary the eradication of racism, hate speech and all forms of discrimination and intolerance. It will continue to advance this indispensable agenda, in a context where xenophobic manifestations, stigmatization and hate crimes have been exacerbated.

In that regard, on 21 January 2020 Mexico ratified the Inter-American Convention Against All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance, and adhered to the Inter-American Convention against Racism, Racial Discrimination and Related Forms of Intolerance.

Mexico is aware of, and is deeply concerned over the fact that all types of discrimination, whether it be because of age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, language, religion, cultural identity, opinions, social origin, socioeconomic position, level of education, immigration status, disability, health condition or for any other reason, as well as racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance, undermine human dignity and aggravate the condition of poverty, marginalization and social exclusion.

As part of the Council, our country will continue to develop and support initiatives that promote the principles of equality and non-discrimination.

G. Reflection and dialogue processes on the Human Rights Council Reform

Having in mind the discussions scheduled for the 2021-2026 term concerning potential reforms to the Human Rights Council, Mexico considers essential to promote that the United Nations human rights pillar operates in coordination with the peace and security and sustainable development pillars. It is also necessary to support the strengthening of the technical capacities of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

Mexico deems it necessary to strengthen the capacities of the Council to effectively fulfill its preventive mandate of human rights violations and technical assistance to, in turn, strengthen the capacities of the States.

Mexico will seek to provide a more vigorous approach to prevention and action in the light of early warning signs to prevent serious human rights violations. A less reactive stance and a stronger approach to prevention to warn the outbreak

or exacerbation of crises, would allow assessing the conditions that could otherwise evolve into serious human rights violations.

H. Actions in favor of international Human Rights cooperation

Mexico makes efforts to incorporate the human rights perspective in several UN events, summits, and conferences. A case in point is its support to the inclusion of the gender perspective and the contributions of indigenous peoples in the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, as well as in the United Nations Conference on Climate Change, both in 2019.

I. Objectives of Mexico for the promotion and protection of human rights in 2021-2023

The Human Rights Council membership entails compliance with the commitments entered into and demands to contribute proactively and constructively in its entire works.

As a member of the Council for 2021-2023, Mexico will continue to collaborate and contribute to strengthening the international Human Rights System based on the following objectives:

- Promote that special procedures, in addition to making human rights violations and challenges visible, contribute to overcome such challenges through their recommendations, joint action and technical assistance.
- Objectively and impartially, handle human rights national situations under the Council's review, while avoiding politicization.
- Promote that all the Universal Periodic Review recommendations are action-oriented to contribute to the creation of prosperous societies respectful of human rights.
- Promote the interdependence of the work of the Council with other UN and regional bodies in matters related to human rights.
- Strengthen the Council's preventive nature of work to advance in those issues that favor the well-being and development of our societies.
- Strengthen the spaces for dialogue and participation with civil society in the work of the Council and its mechanisms, having in mind the important role they play on the advancement of human rights in our countries.

Mexico will appreciate your valuable support for its candidature to promote and strengthen the respect for human rights in the world.