

Mexico City, 11 October 2016

CALL TO ACTION FOR PARITY DEMOCRACY IN MEXICO

As representatives of the electoral autonomous bodies, the judiciary, the federal public administration, the legislative area, the mechanisms for the advancement of women, political parties, state governments, women's organizations and civil society, academia; together with UN Women, we declare that it is crucial to strengthen and accelerate at a steady pace and with robust actions the route towards parity democracy and substantive equality in Mexico.

This year as we commemorate the LXIII Anniversary of Women's Suffrage in Mexico, we are initiating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with 17 goals to transform our world, with gender equality and empowerment of women and girls as a central commitment to be achieved. This year also coincides with the launch of the Legal Framework to consolidate Parity Democracy approved by the Latin American and the Caribbean Parliament in 2015.

No country has achieved gender equality in all public and private life spheres, making this a universal goal that remains to be achieved. At present, the evidence is overwhelming: full participation of women in political decisions is a clear accelerator for achieving substantive equality. Mexico stands out as one of the five countries in America that have approved by law the parity principle in candidacies for popular election positions, which has resulted in unprecedented electoral results in the history of women's political participation, mainly in the Chamber of Women and Men Deputies and in the local Congresses.

Mexico has the abilities, talent, political will and the constitutional principle to make parity a reality. It is time to make women's full participation effective in the different decision making bodies that determine public policies, allocate resources and approve the regulatory frameworks for their fulfillment.

Women's right to participate in politics should not be limited to the right to vote and be elected, but to intervene, free of discrimination and violence, in all those spaces where public issues are discussed and decisions are made, from the local, state and federal governments, as well as in the Judicial Branch, in the autonomous bodies, in political parties, in citizen and union organizations, in academia and enterprises. We reiterate the vital importance of parity leadership and the participation of women and men for the achievement of good governance, inclusive democracy and sustainable development.

Change is happening, but it needs to be quicker. Under the slogan **"For a 50-50 Mexico: Step it up for parity democracy"**, we promote a great alliance for the full realization of women's political rights and their participation in politics, the economy, culture, science, justice and in all spheres of public life. A shared leadership in a world with more equality for future generations is the most decisive and urgent challenge of this decade. It pledges us as a generation to play the leading role in a deep cultural and structural change in order to achieve substantive equality.

Under the equality and non-discrimination principles as a constitutional and conventional obligation, and in order to strengthen the parity democracy in Mexico, we pledge and make a call to action for:

1. **Adopting** the required legislative and public policy reforms in order that the substantive equality principle is put into practice with a mandate for parity participation in the three branches and levels of Government where inequalities between women and men persist, such as in popular election, public administration, administration of justice, and electoral administrative and jurisdictional autonomous bodies positions.
2. **Strengthening** the constitutional and legislative harmonization processes in federal entities, in order to include the horizontal and vertical parity dimensions as a judicial principle so that it constitutes a legal obligation for the political parties.
3. **Implementing** affirmative actions in favor of women's entry,, permanence and development in the exercising of duties in decision making spheres that also ensure the participation of indigenous, afrodescendant, young, and disabled women amongst others
4. **Criminalizing** the political violence exercised against women including their clear provisions for authorities, protection orders, preventative actions, sanctions and full reparations for harm suffered as well as ensuring that campaigns to promote people's electoral political rights do not reproduce gender stereotypes. Institutionally, adopt models of care and sanctions for labor and sexual harassment.
5. **Reforming** the basic documents of political parties to ensure that the principles of parity and substantive equality are embedded in their organic, electoral and programmatic structure, promoting electoral platforms that ensure the achievement of substantive equality.
6. **Ensuring** that political parties assign and respect an equitable distribution of resources to women and men during electoral campaigns, and ensure equal treatment in media and other communication channels.
7. **Increasing** resources and public investments to ensure gender equality, support for strengthening women advancement, training and leadership; monitoring and accountability, as well as the timely application of the resources assigned for these actions.
8. **Monitoring** the judicial branch and particularly, electoral justice, to ensure that judgements are gender sensitive and include an intercultural perspective and that they guarantee the effective compliance of substantive equality, parity and special temporary measures as provided by law, both in their jurisprudence and internal organization.
9. **Standardizing** jurisprudence approved by the Supreme Court of Justice of the Nation (SCJN), the Electoral Court of the Federal Judicial Branch (TEPJF) and judgements issued by the jurisdictional electoral bodies on gender equality matters, women electoral-political rights, internal normative systems and gender political violence.
10. **Increasing** the number of observatories for women's political participation in the federal entities and strengthening the existing ones, as well as supporting civil society networks which defend women's rights and monitor the application of law on parity matters.

We hereby call for substantive equality and parity that imply a State commitment at inter-sector and inter-party levels, that demands a sound political policy and appropriate financial resources for said integral goal, that permeate and benefit the society in full, and that call the institutions, enterprises, media and civil society organizations to be agents of change.

The signatory institutions shall boost the adhesion to this call to action and its diffusion in local, national and international fora. Equality for women means development for Mexico. We have outlined the path towards sustainable development and parity democracy, and we must ensure that the accomplishment be irreversible. The time for substantive equality and parity democracy is here.