

Interview with CEO of Global Thought Daira Arana Aguilar on the Sidelines of the Ministerial on Feminist Foreign Policy in Mexico City

Daira Arana Aguilar is the CEO of Global Thought, a Mexican organization focused on international relations that has been working on Feminist Foreign Policy. IPI's WPS team spoke with Daira on July 3rd, 2024 in Mexico City, following the conclusion of the Third Annual Ministerial Conference on FFP. Daira spoke on a panel earlier that day at the Ministerial that was centered on civil society dialogue on FFP. In 2023, Global Thought released a [report](#) on recommendations for strengthening the continuity and implementation of Mexico's FFP.

Global Thought drafted its own definition of feminist foreign policy based on conversations with other civil society organizations. Can you summarize the key parts of your definition?

Our definition emphasizes that every feminist foreign policy must promote agendas that reduce all forms of oppression and discrimination beyond adding a gender perspective. In particular, our definition considers that feminist foreign policy must address agendas like demilitarization, redistribution of resources, armed conflict reduction, and dismantling the oppression of colonialism.

What are some of the key considerations for advancing the implementation of Mexico's FFP over the next few years?

In our report we emphasized the importance of treating a feminist foreign policy as a public policy that needs to be formalized with human and financial resources. Also, we recommend that other public policies, such as public security, must be consistent with the principles of the feminist foreign policy. To implement its feminist foreign policy more effectively, the Mexican government needs to back this policy with the necessary resources and to also apply feminist principles to its domestic policies.

What would make the Ministerial Conference on Feminist Foreign Policies "Solutions for a better tomorrow" a success in your eyes?

This conference would be a success if it inspires the future government of Claudia Sheinbaum, the first female president of Mexico, to commit to implementing a feminist foreign policy. Also, if the Mexican government, through the Secretary of Foreign Affairs, is inspired to create a concrete mechanism to shape and implement its feminist foreign policy in collaboration with civil society organizations.

How are the conversations at the ministerial proceedings similar to or different from the conversations occurring at the civil society level led by the Mexican Network on Feminist Foreign Policy?

The Ministerial Conference is different because it is focused on listening. It is



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comprised of governments with feminist foreign policies looking to improve these policies by listening to civil society. That means that Mexico has a huge responsibility after this event to back its feminist foreign policy with all the tools it needs to be implemented and to ensure it reflects the views of Mexican civil society.

In what ways are civil society networks like the Mexican Network on Feminist Foreign Policy key to drafting and implementing a feminist foreign policy?

The role of civil society, academia, and other nonstate actors is key to having a foreign policy that could be called feminist. The Mexican Network on Feminist Foreign Policy includes not only civil society organizations with research and advocacy agendas but also specialist nongovernmental organizations and people with expertise to help the Mexican government to improve its feminist foreign policy. In addition, some of the members of the network have already worked on implementing feminist foreign policy in other contexts even before the Mexican government announced the implementation of its own. So, all these actors must work together.

What are some of the key issues facing Mexican women, and how can Mexico's FFP be a tool to both address these concerns and advance policymaking in the multilateral space?

Violence against women is one of the biggest issues in Mexico, and many women feel that the government has done too little to address this. From Global Thought's perspective, we are convinced that a well-shaped feminist foreign policy can guide the Mexican government to address the root causes of violence by paying special attention to masculinities that are behind the violence that women and other vulnerable populations experience.

What can other countries learn from Mexico's experience implementing its feminist foreign policy?

It is crucial that a feminist foreign policy is not a slogan; it is a true commitment to vulnerable populations affected by patriarchy, militarization, colonialism, racism, and other forms of violence and discrimination to improve their quality of life and provide mechanisms through which they can exercise their human rights. Mexico has learned lessons in implementing its feminist foreign policy in terms of how it must align with these values both internally and externally, and is an example of how a feminist foreign policy is built and rebuilt to meet its society's needs. The first and most important lesson is the importance that feminist civil society has in the design and implementation of every foreign policy that is called feminist.

CEO of Global Thought Daira Arana Aguilar on the sidelines of the Third Annual Ministerial Conference on Feminist Foreign Policy in Mexico City in July.

