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Feminist Foreign Policy's Prospects in The Context of Global Cooperation

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Abstract

The purpose of this paper is to determine the guidelines that expose the need for the implementation of a feminist foreign policy in the country of Ecuador and to identify the role played by women and feminism within Ecuador's foreign policy. Additionally, the paper will identify the role played by women and feminism within Ecuador's foreign policy. The research has a qualitative approach, and it is an exploratory-descriptive form of research; as a result, the methodologies utilized include observation and interview, as well as the review of documents and a questionnaire that was carried out with two relevant women in Ecuadorian politics. Considering this, the conclusion may be drawn is that Ecuador should not yet implement a feminist foreign policy even though it possesses all the instruments necessary to formulate and implement such a policy. Because of this, Ecuador has made significant progress in gender issues over the past ten years for the implementation of public policies through international cooperation, and the work of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility to end discrimination against women has been readily apparent. Women who are a part of it.

Keywords: *Feminist Foreign Policy, International Cooperation, Feminism, Ecuador.*

Introduction

Feminist Foreign Policy is a poorly developed and implemented topic, with specific case studies, among them, in Sweden, Canada, or Mexico, countries that have decided to adopt this option as public policy and foreign policy.

Foreign policy is understood as the policy of a State that defines its interactions with other States, as well as with movements and other non-state agents, to prioritize peace, gender equality, and environmental integrity; enshrine, promote, and protect the human rights of all; seek to disrupt colonial, racist, patriarchal and male-dominated power structures; and allocate significant resources, including research. The vision of feminist foreign policy is coherent in its approach across all its levers of influence, anchored in the exercise of the values outlined above and co-created with feminist activists, groups, and movements (Thompson et al., 2021).

Feminist foreign policy within a developing country should be the platform that promotes gender equality, and that power helps promote a radical transformation of public policy at the national and international levels. Furthermore, adopting a feminist foreign policy allows countries to erase the arbitrary lines that separate the global from the local and better address

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the challenges of a globalized world (Soares de Aguiar, 2022).

Ecuador and the Latin American and Caribbean region could benefit from feminist foreign policy, which considers gender equality as a factor directly related to the security of the State and the international scenario in general and not as a secondary issue on the agendas. Policies.

The main objective of this research work is to analyze whether the implementation of a Feminist foreign policy in Ecuador is necessary and to formulate conclusions that contribute to the discussion on the implementation of this as a public policy, using international cooperation as a tool, which would have the ability to increase political-social development on gender issues in the country.

In that sense, the document will define what feminist foreign policy is and what its benefits are, as well as determine the national and international elements that would help Ecuador implement this policy and expose how international cooperation is a tool to achieve this objective.

The Aspects of Feminism in International Relations. A Critical Analysis

Over time, feminist theory has divided and created several lines of theorization, the three main ones being liberal feminism, radical feminism, and critical feminism (Locher, 1998), which are the most involved within international relations.

- Liberal feminism: The equality of the sexes, the oldest of the theories of feminism. Locher tells us that this feminism focused on the emancipation of women to achieve equality between men and women. Unthinkingly, liberal feminists adopt the definition of the conventional perception of international relations, which did not remove women from the conventional vision; they only achieved those women reached subordinate jobs (Locher, 1998).
- Radical feminism: The difference between the sexes. It indicates the emphasis between men and women within international relations, which showed cruelty on issues such as war and peace. Similar to liberal feminism, it focused on equality but abandoned social roles for a revival of dualistic concepts, presenting connotatively feminine values and qualities. It criticizes dominant political and social relations, considering that international relations is a “phenomenon and product of the male worldview” (Locher, 1998).
- Critical feminism: Locher describes it as feminism about gender, whose point is neither equality nor inequality. It seeks to find the differences between men and women without giving up the principle of equal rights. International relations require a new understanding of gender, the interpretation of phenomena, recommendations, and conceptualization of theories, as well as research on gender, which is more challenging than research on women (Locher, 1998; Márquez-Carriel et al., 2022).

Unlike Locher, Grecco identifies these feminist schools as those that, involved in international relations, would constitute liberal feminism, point of view feminism, constructivist feminism, postmodernist feminism, postcolonial feminism, decolonial feminism, and two more recent approaches such as queer theory and masculinity studies (Grecco, 2020).

- Liberal feminism: Grecco reminds us that he was the first to address a perspective in which women were included in international relations based on an empiricist study on women and leadership in international politics (Grecco, 2020).
- Point of view feminism: Grecco indicates that this branch of feminism fits within the radical feminist current, so it is nothing new. Within international relations, this current

seeks “feminine values,” focusing on the difference between men and women, being a criticism of patriarchy (Grecco, 2020).

- Constructivist feminism: For Grecco, constructivists consider international travel a social phenomenon and that international relations are constructed through language, social practices, representations of the world, and the agency of international actors. Therefore, feminists of This thought indicate that agents construct international politics, as do masculinities and femininities (Grecco, 2020; Vergara-Romero et al., 2023).
- Postmodern feminism: This group of feminists disagrees with the ideals of the feminist point of view. According to Grecco, postmodernist theories are found in identities such as language. Their purpose is to deconstruct the existence of what it is to be a woman and, therefore, what it is to be a man, valuing the diversity of feminist thought (Grecco, 2020).
- Postcolonial feminism: Feminists of this branch denounce that women from former colonies are the most oppressed in the system. Within international studies, followers of this theory point out the need to destabilize Western narratives and stop the North's prominence (Grecco, 2020).
- Decolonial feminism: They challenge the ethnocentric bases of Western feminism; they criticize hegemonic feminisms since, for them, they were deceived by modern enlightened and universalist discourse (Grecco, 2020; Rosén Sundström, 2023).
- Approach to “queer” theory: It is the result of questioning the category of “woman”, advocating for the pluralism of women, and trying to include sexuality, desire, and gender identity in philosophical discussions. In international relations, critical studies of queer theory question political approaches that seek to construct gender identities by criticizing alliances between states in the capitalist world (Grecco, 2020).
- Approach to masculine studies: The man is placed as the center (which is very rare in feminist works that place women as a subject of study), which takes a boost from the types of studies on masculinities and men. Men and seeks to expose the complexity of gender constructions (Grecco, 2020).

It is essential to highlight that it would be necessary to include intersectional feminism in the list, which is the most inclusive, diverse, and modern from the vertices of feminism.

“Intersectionality ” describes how different discrimination factors can meet at intersections and affect someone's life. Adding intersectionality to feminism is essential for the movement because it allows the fight for gender equality to become inclusive. “Using intersectionality allows us all to understand each other a little better.” (Hawk & Sharkey, 2016)

Intersectional feminism concludes that all women are different and, at the same time, oppressed in different ways. Intersectionality suggests that classic models of oppression within society, such as racism, sexism, religious discrimination, xenophobia, homophobia, and classism, do not act independently but rather that these forms of oppression are interrelated. Moreover, this creates a system of oppression, reflecting the “intersection”.

Materials and Methods

Given that the objectives of this research are to determine the elements that would help Ecuador implement a feminist foreign policy and define what the PEF is and what its benefits are for the region, its types of research will be exploratory-descriptive, which will help us help determine and examine the feminist epistemology, which is the basis of the research.

The analysis period of this research begins with the 2008 Constitution and continues until 2021, for which a brief comparison will be made of the last three mandates of the Presidents of the Republic, Rafael Correa, Lenin Moreno, and Guillermo Lasso. Analyze why feminism and gender parity have been essential factors, how they have acted against them, and how they carried out or carried out foreign policy and cooperation. This research has the Republic of Ecuador as its primary object and place of research.

For the processing and analysis of the information obtained for the research, the empirical method of observation will be used, which will allow the author to obtain data and knowledge of the Feminist Foreign Policy to discover the conditions in which the Republic of Ecuador is in order to its implementation, collecting data from different cases from other countries and collecting information on the different topics that are addressed within the investigation.

The first step in finding the answer to the research question is to define feminism in the different fields of international relations and how the different strands of feminism influence them, and then define and expose feminist foreign policy and how it has been adapted in the different countries that have changed their foreign policy.

The second step is to raise the idea of a feminist foreign policy in Ecuador and analyze the national and international instruments that would help identify shortcomings within the country's political and social system to understand the situation of gender equality and feminism in Ecuador. Furthermore, international cooperation is implemented to aid feminist foreign policy and as a source to accelerate the development of Ecuador and, in general, the region (Vergara-Romero et al., 2022).

As a third step, an analysis of the topics investigated will be carried out, and a criterion will be created about the reality that Ecuador experiences in terms of feminism and parity of opportunities. Next, the analysis of the answers given in the questionnaire by the experts on feminism, sociopolitical development, and feminist foreign policy.

Results

There are inadvertent ideas of what a feminist foreign policy is. For example, it has been pointed out that it only seeks the well-being of some women, seeks to harm men, and is a personal or group gender agenda, among others. However, this foreign policy model is identified as being intersectional, which also seeks to ensure that men can educate themselves, get involved, and participate in conversations about gender issues.

Table 1: Feminist Foreign Policy Sweden – Canada – France.

Sweden	Canada	France
Frame		
The 3 Rs (rights, representation, resources). Human rights intersectionality. Multilateral frameworks and agreements.	Transforming social norms and power relations. Human rights, intersectionality, research, evidence, and responsibility. 5 SDGs.	Multilateral frameworks and agreements and SDGs. Human rights, intersectionality, gender transversality.

Sweden	Canada	France
Purpose Contribute to gender equality and the full enjoyment of human rights by all women and girls.	Eradicate poverty and build a more peaceful, inclusive, and prosperous world through gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.	Gender equality, empowerment, and equal rights of women and girls.
Goals Seven objectives: Full enjoyment of women's human rights. Protection against violence for all women and girls. Participation of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and the consolidation of peace. Political participation and influence of women. The full enjoyment of economic rights and empowerment of all women. Sexual and reproductive health and rights of women and girls. Internal activities of the Swedish foreign service to promote policy.	Six areas of action: Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. Human dignity is a general term that includes access to health care, education, and the timely provision of humanitarian assistance. Economic empowerment of women, including access to and control of resources and services. Climate action. Stake women's politics. Women, peace, and security.	Five pillars: Health care for women and girls, including comprehensive family planning, access to sexual and reproductive health, and reducing maternal mortality rates. Access to education, including access to and improvement of comprehensive sexuality education. Increase the legal age of marriage to 18 years. Vocational training and employment opportunities. Infrastructure improvements that allow access to remote rural areas.
Application Internal and external in all foreign policy. Links to domestic politics.	External in all foreign policy. Links to national policy (e.g., National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security)	Internal and external applications of the International development policy. Connection to broader foreign policy commitments and approaches.
Reports Multi-year commitments with annual action plans, ongoing three-year cycle (2019-2022).	Commitment to partnering with local women's rights organizations. Objective: 95% of ODA is directed towards or integrates gender equality. Submission of annual reports to Parliament through the ODA Accountability Law.	Five-year strategy outlining baselines and targets and an accountability framework with results, indicators, relevant stakeholders, and time-bound commitments.

Source: IWDA (2020); Clement & Thompson (2019); Thompson et al. (2021).

As we have already said, feminist foreign policy is defined as a progressive foreign policy. It is understood that the commitment of States is the promotion of gender equality in all possible aspects, inside and outside their territories, considering that States seek to improve the conditions of women through a commitment to the development of an inclusive model design in which women who make up the foreign service are not discriminated against, that there is an equal division and gender equality is ensured.

As Manuela Mesa (2021) indicates, implementing a feminist foreign policy opens new

opportunities, but it is not exempt from essential limitations that must be addressed, and a deconstruction of the critical concepts of international relations is required. (power, security, defense, among others) from a critical perspective.

Table 2: Feminist Foreign Policy Mexico – Spain.

	Mexico	Spain
Frame	Incorporation of the gender perspective.	SDG. They incorporate gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.
Purpose	Reduce and eliminate structural differences, gender gaps, and inequalities to build a more just and prosperous society.	Maintaining the same level of commitment to equality in all public policies, including those with an external and global dimension, is a matter of coherence and, therefore, of the country's credibility.
Goals	Five principles: incorporation of a feminist approach in all foreign policy; gender parity at all levels of the Chancellery; fight against gender violence, including within the ministry; visibility of equality; and intersectionality.	Five objectives: The gender perspective is transversal to all foreign policy instruments and actions. Promote gender equality through regional initiatives. Spain will continue to promote and improve its position as a defender of gender equality in the European Union. Multilateral diplomacy: Spain will aspire to deepen the commitments made by supporting initiatives and agendas on gender equality
Application	In all internal and external areas of foreign policy.	Everywhere in politics, both inside and outside of the country.
Reports	The Undersecretary for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights Engagement is responsible for implementation, but policies have not yet been updated.	The actions will be monitored through annual reports that reflect how Spain's feminist foreign policy is being executed. The report will be presented in parliament and discussed with stakeholders and civil society. A high-level Advisory Group will be created to identify future priorities and paths of action.

Source: IWDA (2020); Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores (2021).

Comparison of Feminist Foreign Policies

Table 1 shows how Sweden's feminist foreign policy seeks to act as a model and actively promote aspects of the PEF in multilateral and bilateral relations. Likewise, the Feminist International Assistance Policy implemented by Canada and France is detailed and incorporates an accountability framework to monitor progress concerning the strategy (Clement and Thompson, 2019; Zhukova, 2023).

Table 2 shows Spain with a cooperation model component, varying objectives, and gender perspectives transversal to all foreign policy instruments and actions. In addition, Mexico's foreign policy is detailed in its five principles that seek to guide government actions to reduce and eliminate structural differences, gaps, and gender inequalities.

Is there a Feminist Foreign Policy in Ecuador?

The incorporation of feminism into the international system has been shaping its path according to the feminist theoretical waves and currents. Therefore, where liberal feminism has gained strength within the international system and in the Ecuadorian national environment, intersectional feminism is giving way to continue with the change and political and social development of the countries.

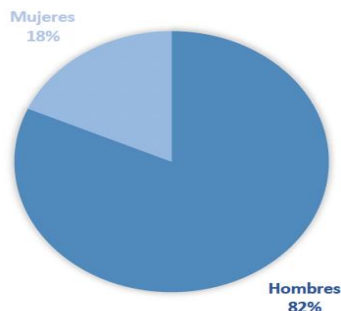
Currently, Ecuador does not have or know of a plan to implement a feminist foreign policy, which does not mean that there are no policies to guarantee gender parity and non-discrimination against women. For Ambassador Ivonne Baki, "Ecuador has a policy for the defense of women that can be seen in its concrete application" from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility. There is the Policy for Gender Equality of 2018, or the Strategic Plan Institutional 2021 – 2025, on the part of the National Council for Gender Equality, there is the National Agenda for Gender Equality 2021-2025 for Women and LGBTIQ+ People, and even the 2008 constitution of the Republic of Ecuador, each of these national instruments They are a clear sign that progress is being made on gender issues and the intentions to move forward with the development of these priority issues are demonstrated.

In art. 65 of the Constitution of the Republic of Ecuador indicates that,

“The State will promote the equal representation of women and men in nomination or appointment positions in the public service, its management and decision-making bodies, and in political parties and movements. Their alternate and sequential participation will be respected in the candidacies for multi-person elections.” However, this has not been enough to consider gender parity in the foreign service, for which there is very little data on the positions held by women.

For 2017, the figures shown by the Government and the Foreign Ministry were not flattering; they indicated that 15% of ambassadors were women, of 60, only 9 were ambassadors, and that, for the following year, 2018, there were 11. Therefore, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility presented the Policy for Gender Equality as a tool that seeks to change the reality of women in terms of equality in the Ecuadorian foreign service and ensure equality. At the same time, they fulfill and advance in their career with strategies aimed at materializing gender equality in all areas of competence. This policy aims to develop and consolidate institutional capacities to combat violence and discrimination against Ecuadorian women, immigrants, and refugees and to help improve the capacities of missions abroad to prevent, protect, and educate Ecuadorian people in situations of human mobility, integrating them with the gender perspective (See Figure 1).

Figure 1: Gender Ambassadors of 2018.



Source: Ekosnegocios (2018).

For Dr. Rosalía Arteaga (2022), former president of the Republic of Ecuador, women still do

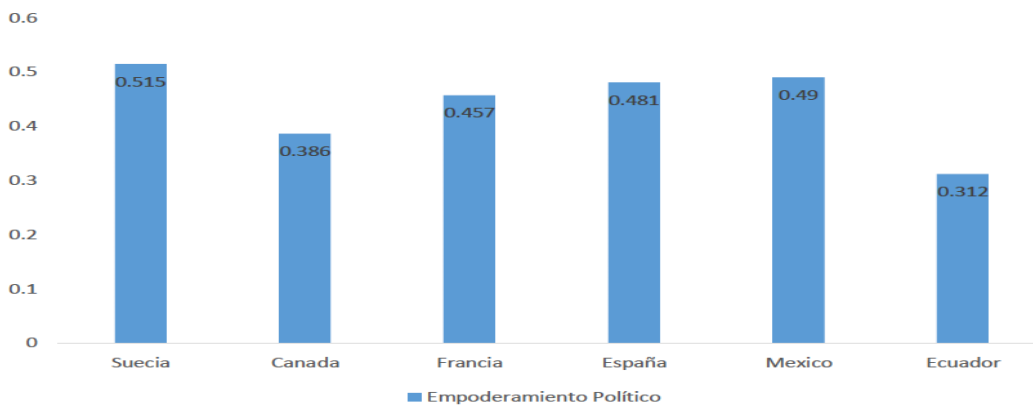
not have the same opportunities for work, academic and professional development within the foreign service in Ecuador; she indicates, “although I believe that increasingly women are reaching more positions, obviously I have heard from ambassadors that it has taken them much work to reach that position, there are fewer female ambassadors than ambassadors in the foreign service in general of the countries, not only in the Ecuadorian case, and of course many of the Women also worry what happens to their children, because normally the burden of caring for children has been more on women and this implies that women's work in the foreign service has that overload of work given the fact that "They manage their homes, have their children, and often men are not enthusiastic about accompanying women or sacrificing their careers to privilege the careers of their partners."

Just as Dr. Arteaga indicates, many women have to put aside their careers to be able to take care of their children and support their husbands' professional careers. In the case of Ecuadorian diplomats before 2017, if a couple was formed within the career diplomatically, one of them had to resign, and by custom, it was the woman who did it; but, on the other hand, they continued to be part of the foreign service of Ecuador if their husbands had positions as ambassador or consul.

Diplomatic practice is based on trust between diplomats, who have mostly been men, so where or how do they usually build that trust? Typically, they invite people into their homes and create an atmosphere where people can establish mutual trust, organize a dinner or a party, and open their home to other diplomats, but who is organizing all that? Diplomats and their governments have entrusted the wives of diplomats to carry out this task, hoping that those diplomatic wives serve the country by organizing these social events, doing volunteer work, and accompanying their husbands to social events, doing so without any remuneration and leaving years of study behind.

If you compare the ratings from the World Economic Forum (2022) in its World Gender Gap Report of July 2022, you can see the difference in women's political empowerment in different countries with a feminist foreign policy. Compared to Ecuador. For this qualification, the percentage of women in parliament, assembly, or congress is considered the percentage of women in ministerial positions and the years with female or male heads of state in the last 50 years (See Figure 2).

Figure 2: Political Empowerment of Women.



Source: World Economic Forum (2022).

Few women are managing international organizations or intergovernmental organizations.

According to Dr. Arteaga, the problems are derived from the same thing that happens in national politics:

- Lack of trust.
- Lack of the possibility of establishing networks (networking) that are fundamental.
- They do not value women enough and provide more significant support to men in similar situations; this has happened in several circumstances.

For Dr. Arteaga, one of the determining factors to achieve equality for women is through training, indicating that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has a lot to do with issues such as access to education, health, employment, decent housing, among others, which are or should be aimed at satisfying the needs of both women and men. However, although the laws in Ecuador and several countries enable women's participation, many issues concern culture and education. He explains that, in the Ecuadorian case, for example, if the situation of domestic violence is considered, the cases of femicide, the little access that women are given to a series of spaces depend more on the laws, which in themselves of the way of acting of the community itself.

On the contrary, Ambassador Baki believes that there is no problem for women to occupy management positions; she believes that women fulfill management functions within foreign policy in the world and that she partly sees a growth in the presence of women in these positions, and adds “when I came to Washington DC for the first time as ambassador 24 years ago, I was the only ambassador, then two more embassies joined. “There is now a strong representation of women in this city, whose highest authority is, in fact, a mayor.”

Additionally, Ambassador Baki points out that the Ecuadorian Foreign Ministry currently has an ambassador, a career diplomat, a Vice Minister of Human Mobility, and other career officials as Undersecretaries in charge of Ecuador's foreign policy's geographic and thematic areas. Likewise, it points out that it is increasingly evident that the entry of third secretaries to the Foreign Service of Ecuador is equal between men and women. In the last promotion, there were equal numbers of men and women. The Foreign Ministry has been concerned about this. Likewise, in the academic program of studies of the Diplomatic Academy, you can find areas of study and analysis related to the “political participation of women in Ecuador”, “the violet economy”, and “the rights of women in the framework of human rights”, among other related topics.

If Ecuador decided to implement a feminist foreign policy, it would have to reevaluate the entire system on which the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility is founded since this policy is not a complement as is the case with the Policy for Gender Equality. Gender, in the words of Feminist Foreign Policy Center co-founder and co-director Kristina Lunz, feminist foreign policy is not simply adding women to the table; it is smashing the entire table and building a whole new one.

For foreign policy, international cooperation is one of the essential communication channels since, for cooperation between States and international non-governmental actors, “feminist foreign policy and international cooperation are concepts linked to the commitment of public policies to the gender egalitarian generation, this case towards women” (Mesa, 2021; Olivia & Garduño, 2022).

International cooperation can function as a mechanism for feminist foreign policy. In the case of the PEF of Mexico, international cooperation represents a channel for agreement between feminist foreign policy and domestic policy on issues of gender equality for women.

A clear and coherent international cooperation program strengthens international presence. It

has also been noted that through dialogue, it is possible to increase knowledge and raise the self-esteem of the professionals who oversee implementing and maintaining the country's development and cooperation agenda.

Ambassador Baki mentions that through international cooperation and strengthening bilateral relations, efforts by the National Government can be intensified for the creation or modification of internal policies to protect the rights of Ecuadorian women, adding that The United States is in the final phase of the process of approving the Association Law with Ecuador “through which we will be able to access important funds, more benefits and cooperation for the country. This legal body has four components: the strengthening of democratic institutions; support for the environmental conservation initiative; expanding capabilities to address corruption, crime, and negative foreign influence; and the promotion of inclusive economic growth, which means support for MSMEs, especially those driven by women since women are a multiplying factor of well-being, security, and stability in society.”

There has been evidence of how international cooperation contributes to generating public policies and decision-making on gender issues, supported by international instruments such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women or the Belém Convention. Do Para is the basis and support for national laws that seek the eradication of violence and discrimination against women and girls.

All the international instruments mentioned in this work, in addition to the Santiago Commitment or the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, are an example of how international cooperation is a tool to carry out the development objectives of countries, which facilitates economic, social, and political dynamics and would help contribute to and complement the fundamental objectives of a feminist foreign policy if they were implemented in Ecuador.

Proposal

Ecuador is a country that works to eradicate violence against women; proof of this is reflected in the 2008 Constitution, the ratifications of all international instruments related to human rights, including those on gender issues, and international cooperation. Received for this purpose, as well as participation in the dialogue tables and, recently, the Ministry of Women and Human Rights creation.

These actions help advance and strengthen public policies on gender issues, but there is still much to do in Ecuador, especially in education about feminism and everything that this movement represents. Therefore, Ecuador should continue to guarantee growth in knowledge and training on gender issues to create a foreign policy with a gender perspective. A feminist perspective on foreign policy would allow us to visualize the ability of the State to act in conjunction with other nations.

A foreign policy with a gender perspective could be categorized as a feminist foreign policy, focusing more on including women within the foreign service, eliminating men as the paradigm or model of the gender perspective in all areas and levels of the Chancellery.

Creating a Foreign Policy with a gender perspective would help satisfy the need for initiatives at the institutional level that aim to solve problems within the national, regional, and international systems. By creating a division of Gender and Diversity Affairs, with the help of

the Ministry of Women and Human Rights, within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility, the following could be achieved:

- Design rights-based policies that work toward gender equality, including the intersectional inclusion of women and other minority and historically oppressed populations in multilateral decision-making spaces.
- Implement a gender debt or quota within the Ministry of International Relations and Human Mobility, promoting the presence of women and diversities in hierarchical positions.
- Promote individual security and human dignity through conflict reduction and peacebuilding efforts that center the experiences of women and marginalized people.
- Adopt a feminist nuance in matters of Human Rights.
- Balance domestic policy with foreign policy.
- Training on feminism, LGBTIQ+ theory, and the study of minorities, not only in the chancellery but at the national level in institutions and the population.

Conclusions

Feminism and its theories have positively influenced international relations, while at the same time, they have made its field of study and action more complex and expanded. That is, the praxis and theory of the discipline of international relations have been enriched. Over the years, the number of women within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility has grown, and they have even been in leadership positions. The problem is that the perception of women within the country does not motivate the same women to reach those positions, which becomes a vicious circle since the only way to break stereotypes is to break those barriers. The Republic of Ecuador should develop and implement an actual feminist foreign policy, which satisfies the needs of all sectors, but in a coordinated manner, thus avoiding the criticism made to Mexico due to problems of inconsistencies in the application by the organizations. government, and promotion.

Sweden and Mexico are the only countries with an accurate Feminist Foreign Policy; Canada has a feminist international assistance policy focused explicitly on directing foreign aid in a way that promotes gender equality and protects the human rights of women and girls. France adopted a feminist foreign aid policy or Feminist Diplomacy, but neither Canada nor France has created a comprehensive feminist foreign policy to guide international relations beyond foreign aid. Similarly, Spain has updated its foreign policy strategy to include a feminist foreign policy lens, and, therefore, there is no fixed definition, as everyone interprets it in their way. A feminist foreign policy seeks more than just including women; it seeks to break the system in which modern foreign policy has been managed to redesign that same international system according to current times.

The most essential element that comes from international cooperation would be international instruments and public policies on issues of eradication of discrimination against women and minorities, as well as SDG 5 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Resolution 66/130 of the General Assembly of the United Nations, the Women, Peace and Security agenda, the Belem Do Para Convention, the Regional Gender Agenda, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women o CEDAW, participation in the International Cooperation Gender Roundtable, among other spaces for cooperation through international agencies such as UN

Women and, at the national level, laws and regulations such as the 2008 Constitution of Ecuador, the Institutional Strategic Plan 2021 -2025 of the Ministry of Women and Human Rights, the Policy for Gender Equality of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility and the National Agenda for Gender Equality 2021-2025.

Through international bilateral or multilateral cooperation and its derivatives, whether with countries or international organizations, the creation of public policies with the exchange of knowledge and experiences is the best way to implement a PEF in Ecuador, taking cases such as that of Spain or Mexico, countries whose cultures are like ours and understand gender and diversity issues. The creation of public gender policies, whose axes are intersectionality and feminism, that aim at the transformation of society and politics for the reconfiguration of the perspective of women and minorities, which are what establish the bases for an external action that promotes an inclusive, diverse external agenda with a gender perspective.

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