

DISCUSSION PAPER

# FEMINIST PERSPECTIVES ON THE 2030 AGENDA IN ECUADOR: SELECTIVE ENGAGEMENT, INCLUSIONS AND OMISSIONS



No. 34, March 2020

**ANA MARÍA LARREA, GIOCONDA HERRERA**

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# ACRONYMS

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|------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>AECID</b>     | Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation                                    |
| <b>CEDAW</b>     | Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women                  |
| <b>CNIG</b>      | National Council for Gender Equality                                                        |
| <b>COIP</b>      | Comprehensive Organic Criminal Code                                                         |
| <b>CONAMU</b>    | National Women's Council                                                                    |
| <b>CSO</b>       | civil society organization                                                                  |
| <b>DINAPEN</b>   | National Special Police Unit for Children and Youth                                         |
| <b>ECLAC</b>     | Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean                                     |
| <b>ENIPLA</b>    | National Intersectoral Strategy for the Prevention of Teenage Pregnancy and Family Planning |
| <b>GDP</b>       | gross domestic product                                                                      |
| <b>ICPD</b>      | International Conference on Population and Development                                      |
| <b>INEC</b>      | National Institute for Statistics and Censuses                                              |
| <b>LGBTQI</b>    | lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual, queer and intersex                                     |
| <b>MCDS</b>      | Ministry for Coordination of Social Development                                             |
| <b>MDG</b>       | Millennium Development Goal                                                                 |
| <b>MSP</b>       | Ministry of Public Health                                                                   |
| <b>NGO</b>       | non-governmental organization                                                               |
| <b>PEVCM</b>     | Plan to Eradicate Violence against Women                                                    |
| <b>PND</b>       | National Development Plan 2017-2021                                                         |
| <b>SDG</b>       | Sustainable Development Goal                                                                |
| <b>SENPLADES</b> | National Secretariat for Planning and Development                                           |
| <b>SETECI</b>    | International Cooperation Secretariat                                                       |
| <b>STI</b>       | sexually transmitted infection                                                              |
| <b>UNDP</b>      | United Nations Development Programme                                                        |
| <b>UNFPA</b>     | United Nations Population Fund                                                              |
| <b>UN WOMEN</b>  | United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women                      |
| <b>VNR</b>       | Voluntary National Review                                                                   |

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# SUMMARY

This report examines how the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has been integrated into the national debate on gender equality in Ecuador. It identifies which policies from that agenda have been taken into account and which have been rejected, as well as how the actors involved in clarifying the scope of these policies have coordinated their activities with the 2030 Agenda. We look at the actions of the women's movements, sexual diversity organizations, public officials and United Nations agencies working on gender equality. The report attempts to answer the following questions: How does the 2030 Agenda interact with the national gender equality agenda

in Ecuador? Where do they intersect and what are their points of contention? And how has the global agenda influenced national policies and actions on gender equality and women's rights in Ecuador? The report also assesses whether women's and sexual diversity organizations are aware of and incorporate the 2030 Agenda and, conversely, whether the Agenda addresses the debates and demands made by women's and LGBTQI movements in Ecuador in recent years. Lastly, the report provides some recommendations on how to better translate issues of gender equality coming from the UN 2030 Agenda into national gender policies in Ecuador.

# RÉSUMÉ

Ce rapport examine dans quelle mesure le Programme de développement durable à l'horizon 2030 a été intégré dans le débat national sur l'égalité des sexes en Equateur. Il recense les politiques émanant de ce Programme qui ont été prises en compte et celles qui ont été rejetées, et comment les acteurs chargés d'évaluer l'étendue de ces politiques ont coordonné leurs activités avec le Programme 2030. Nous tenons compte des actions des mouvements de femmes, des organisations chargées de défendre la diversité sexuelle, des agences de l'ONU et des fonctionnaires qui travaillent sur la question de l'égalité des sexes. Ce rapport s'emploie à répondre aux questions suivantes : Comment le Programme 2030 interagit-il avec le programme chargé de l'égalité des sexes en Equateur ?

Où se recoupent-ils et quels sont leurs points de friction ? Et comment le programme mondial a-t-il influencé les actions et politiques nationales sur l'égalité des sexes et les droits des femmes en Equateur ? Le rapport examine aussi dans quelle mesure les organisations de femmes et celles qui sont chargées de lutter en faveur de la diversité sexuelle connaissent et intègrent le Programme 2030 et comment le Programme aborde les débats et les questions posées par les mouvements des femmes et LGBTQI en Equateur ces dernières années. Enfin, ce rapport formule certaines recommandations quant à la manière de mieux traduire les questions liées à l'égalité des sexes émanant du Programme de l'ONU 2030 en politiques nationales en faveur de l'égalité des sexes en Equateur.

# RESUMEN

En este informe se examina de qué manera se incorporó la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible al debate nacional sobre igualdad de género en el Ecuador. En él se identifican qué políticas de la Agenda 2030 han sido consideradas y cuáles rechazadas, así como el modo en que los actores involucrados en determinar el alcance de estas políticas coordinaron sus actividades con la Agenda 2030. Se analizan las acciones de los movimientos de mujeres, las organizaciones por la diversidad sexual, funcionarias y funcionarios públicos y los organismos de las Naciones Unidas que trabajan en pos de la igualdad de género. En el informe se busca dar respuesta a las siguientes preguntas: ¿de qué manera la Agenda 2030 interactúa con la agenda nacional por la igualdad de género en el

Ecuador?, ¿cuáles son sus puntos de coincidencia y de desacuerdo?, y ¿cuál ha sido la influencia de la agenda global en las políticas y las medidas nacionales para la igualdad de género y los derechos de las mujeres en el Ecuador? En el informe también se examina si las organizaciones de mujeres y por la diversidad sexual conocen e incorporan la Agenda 2030 y, a la inversa, si en la Agenda 2030 se abordan los debates y las demandas de los movimientos de mujeres y LGBTQI del Ecuador en los últimos años. Finalmente, se ofrecen algunas recomendaciones acerca de cómo alcanzar en las políticas nacionales de igualdad de género del Ecuador una mejor traducción de las cuestiones de igualdad de género tratadas en la Agenda 2030 de las Naciones Unidas.

1.

# INTRODUCTION

This report examines how the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has been integrated into the national debate on gender equality in Ecuador. The relationship between global and national agendas is particularly relevant in the debate on gender policies. Various studies have shown the strategic importance of the Beijing Platform for Action from the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995 (UN General Assembly 1995) for the emergence of institutional mechanisms for gender equality in Latin America during the following decade. Also, given its binding character, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) has been a useful instrument for both civil society and feminist movements to demand and negotiate gender policies with the state (Guzmán 2001; Lind 2005).

In Ecuador, the relationship between global and national gender equality agendas has been discussed by academics and women's movements since the 2000s. Some works pointed out that although global agendas such as the Beijing Platform for Action - as well as the Programme of Action from the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) held in Cairo (UN General Assembly 1994) — helped to legitimize some of the demands already being made by women's movements at the local and national level, the integration of these demands into public policies was more complex. The instrumentalization of gender equality agendas and the loss of their transformative aspiration was also noted. Other works showed that some policy areas—such as social policies—were more receptive than others to the integration of a gender perspective. The role played by women's organizations in this relationship and the way in which their demands were or were not

but the fact that gender equality is just one of many issues at stake adds complexity to the process of integrating it into national policies.

This report examines the ways in which the 2030 Agenda is currently being interpreted and integrated into national policies and processes. It seeks to identify the aspects that are being accepted and those that have been rejected, as well as how the actors involved—women's and sexual diversity organizations, feminists within the state, public officials and UN agencies working on gender equality—have coordinated their activities with the 2030 Agenda. It attempts to answer the following questions: How does the 2030 Agenda interact with the national gender equality agenda? Where do these agendas intersect and what are their points of contention? How has the global agenda influenced national policies and actions on gender equality and women's

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