

PROCESS TO APPOINT A NEW SUPREME COURT JUSTICE IN MEXICO

CALL TO ACTION

In December 2021, Justice José Fernando Franco-González-Salas will conclude his 15-year term on the Mexican Supreme Court of Justice. The importance of the Court as the highest legal body in Mexico makes this a significant event for the rule of law in the country from a legal, political, and economic perspective.

The Justices' appointment is a fundamental matter, as one of the three branches of government. The Supreme Court decides matters of national importance, defining the content and scope of human rights and the balance between powers at the different levels of government.

Although the process to appoint Justices of the Mexican Supreme Court is entrusted under the Constitution of the United Mexican States to the discretion of the Federal Executive and the Senate of the Republic, that doesn't mean the process is arbitrary. Carrying out a process that considers lawyers with the best qualifications for the shortlist and allows the legal community and society in general participation, is fundamental for the rule of law.

The Vance Center's Lawyers Council for Civil and Economic Rights in the Americas calls on the Mexican legal community to **participate actively** in this process:

- The Bar Associations and other networks of legal professionals independent of the government should carry out an analysis and review of the profiles of the candidates proposed and provide substantive evaluations.
- The legal community should encourage the Senate's Justice Committee to obtain additional input for the consideration and evaluation of the proposed candidates and to carry out an open and transparent process that encourages the participation of the legal community.
- The legal community should consider organizing its own forums and conversations with the candidates to add additional elements to the discussion.

The Lawyers Council publishes in Spanish the document "Considerations for the process of appointing Justices of the Supreme Court of Justice in Mexico," with observations and recommendations for this process. It is available at this link: <https://bit.ly/LCSCJNMX>

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