

# Women's role in Mexico's peace process (1994–2001)



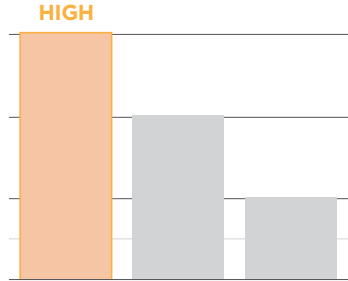
## BACKGROUND ON MEXICO'S PEACE PROCESS (1994–2001)

On 1 January 1994, the Zapatista Army of National Liberation (EZLN) took up arms against the Government of Mexico.

A ceasefire was soon declared, but violence continued. Years of talks resulted in only one of a projected series of accords between the EZLN and the Government, before collapsing in 1997.

In 2001, the agreement was partially implemented in constitutional changes.

## WOMEN'S INFLUENCE



## WOMEN'S INCLUSION IN THE PROCESS

### Mass action

- Women **marched** in San Cristóbal in 1995 and in 2000
- Women **protected** the negotiation site and Zapatista-affiliated communities
- Women **participated** in the Zapatista march to Congress in 2000

### Consultations

- Women from **25 organizations** participated in the EZLN's National Democratic Convention
- Women participated in EZLN's plebiscite
- **700 women** gathered at the National Encounter of Indigenous Women
- Women primarily made up **Coordinating Committees** of the EZLN's mass consultation in 1999

Pushed for an end to violence, for Indigenous rights, and equal rights for women

### San Andrés dialogues (1995–97)

Mandate: a dialogue to lead to a just, dignified, and lasting solution to the armed conflict

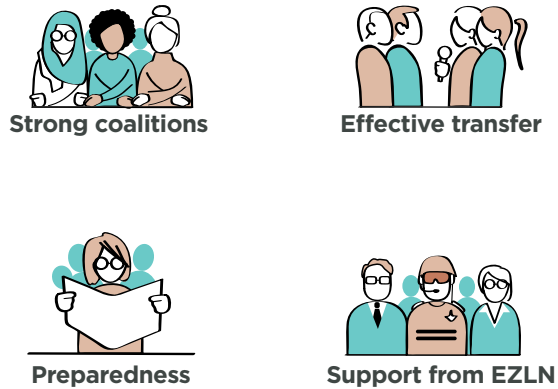
### Direct representation

- A number of women were **guests and advisors** of the EZLN negotiating team
- **1 woman** was an **advisor** to the Government negotiating team

## WOMEN'S ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE PROCESS

- ➔ Women ensured that talks continued by protesting violence and protecting the dialogue site
- ➔ The EZLN plebiscite resulted in 93% agreement on equal political and civil rights for men and women
- ➔ Gender equality and women's rights were central to the negotiation agenda
- ➔ The agreements contain multiple references to equal rights between men and women, and requires that Indigenous communities' rights do not disadvantage women
- ➔ While the ultimate implementation did not reflect these achievements, changes within the EZLN did somewhat improve conditions for women in Zapatista-controlled areas

### + FACTORS ENABLING WOMEN'S INFLUENCE



### - FACTORS CONSTRAINING WOMEN'S INFLUENCE



This infographic is based on a case study published by the Inclusive Peace & Transition Initiative (IPTI) as part of the series "Women in Peace and Transition Processes" that analyzes the conditions under which women participated in and influenced peace, political reform, and constitution-making processes worldwide. To discover other infographics and our case study series, visit our website: [www.inclusivepeace.org](http://www.inclusivepeace.org)

This infographic was commissioned by UN Women through funding from the Federal Republic of Germany.

IPTI is an initiative of:



IPTI, Graduate Institute  
Maison de la Paix  
Chemin Eugène-Rigot 2  
1202 Genève

@InclusivePeace