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Code of Ethics for Public Servants of the Federal Public Administration

The Code of Ethics for Public Servants of the Federal Public Administration (Code of Ethics) was published in Mexico's Official Gazette of the Federation on July 31, 2002, and contains general rules of conduct based on clear principles that must rule the public service. This Code of Ethics provides guidelines which must be observed by the individuals who, in the exercise their duties, should meet the demands of society under the direction and coordination of government institutions.

The Code of Ethics describes the following values:

A) THE COMMON GOOD. All decisions and actions of a public servant must be directed towards meeting the needs and interests of society, above private interests that may be opposed to the collective welfare. Public servants should not allow their judgment and conduct to be influenced by interests that could be prejudicial or would benefit persons or groups to the detriment of the welfare of society as a whole. The commitment to the common good implies that the public servant is aware that public service is a resource that belongs to all Mexicans, representing a mission which is only legitimate when it seeks to meet social demands, and not when individual advantage is pursued.

B) INTEGRITY. The public servant must act in an honest manner and must always be truthful. When behaving this way, the public servant will encourage society's trust in public institutions, thus contributing to the creation of a culture of trust and truthfulness.

C) TRUSTWORTHINESS. Public servants should not use their public office to obtain any type of personal benefit or advantage for their own or for third parties. Neither should public servants seek or accept compensation, gifts or benefits from any person or organization that could compromise their performance as public servants.

D) IMPARTIALITY. Public servants will act without granting improper preference or privileges to any organization or individual. Their commitment is to make decisions and perform their duties in an objective manner, without personal prejudice and without permitting undue influence from other persons.

E) JUSTICE. Public servants must always conduct themselves in accordance with the legal standards applicable to the duties they perform. Respect for the Rule of Law is a responsibility which public servants, more than anyone else, should assume and comply with. In that regard, their obligation is to understand, observe, and enforce compliance with the legal standards that govern the exercise of their duties.

F) TRANSPARENCY. Public servants must allow and guarantee access to government information, with no restrictions other than those imposed by public interest and the privacy rights of individuals guaranteed by law. Transparency in public service also implies that the public servant will responsibly use public resources in a clear and transparent manner, eliminating any undue discretionality in their use.

G) ACCOUNTABILITY. Accountability by public servants means fully assuming the responsibility before society to properly perform their duties and to be subject to evaluation by the society itself. This obligates public servants to perform their duties efficiently and with quality, while always being willing to continually improve, modernize and optimize public resources.

H) CULTURAL AND ECOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT. While performing their activities, public servants will avoid any negative impact to our cultural heritage and the ecosystem where we live, with a firm commitment to respect, defend and preserve the culture and environment of our country, this shall be reflected in their decisions and acts. Our culture and the environment are our primary legacy for future generations to come; therefore public servants are also responsible for promoting their protection and conservation in our society.

I) GENEROSITY. Public servants should conduct themselves with an attitude of sensitivity and solidarity, respect and support for society and other public servants with whom they interact. This conduct and attitude should particularly govern interactions with individuals or social groups who lack sufficient resources to achieve integral development, such as senior citizens, children, individuals with special needs, the members of our ethnic groups and the disadvantaged.

J) EQUALITY. Public servants should provide the services they have been entrusted and shall provide them to all members of society who have the right to receive them, regardless of sex, age, race, creed, religion or political preference. Their actions should not be influenced by outside situations which would result in breach of their responsibilities to provide such services to the citizens who are entitled to receive them.

J) RESPECT. Public servants should treat others with dignity, courtesy, cordiality and tolerance. They are obliged to do so at all times and shall acknowledge and consider the rights, liberties and qualities inherent to the human condition.

K) LEADERSHIP. Public servants should become strong promoters of values and principles in society, beginning with their personal example in properly applying the principles of this Code of Ethics and the Code of Conduct of the public institution to which they are assigned, in the performance of their public duties. Leadership should also be assumed by the public servants within the public institution where they work, encouraging conduct that promotes an ethical culture and quality in the provision of public services. Public servants have a particular responsibility, since the confidence of the citizenry in those institutions is reinforced through their attitudes, actions and performance.

