

## THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE PUBLISHES CODE OF CONDUCT

On 6 January 2015, the *Code of Conduct for Public Officials of the Ministry of Defense* was published. The objective of this Code of Conduct is to serve as the guideline for the actions taken by all public servants working within the Ministry of Defense, as well as to prevent and combat corruption and impunity and improve the quality of public service in general.

The Code of Conduct is based on values contained within the Code of Ethics for Public Servants of the Federal Public Administration of 2002. It adds the following directives: knowledge and respect for legal standards; appropriate management and distribution of resources; proper attention to complaints made by the public; respect for human rights and international humanitarian law; promotion of a healthy work environment, free from any sexual harassment; and undertaking all tasks with a gender perspective, taking into account the principles of equality, justice and non-discrimination.

As regards human rights and international human rights law, the Code of Conduct specifies that all public servants working for the Ministry of Defense have the duty to promote, respect, protect and guarantee these rights in accordance with the principles of universality, inter-dependence, indivisibility and progressiveness. In this sense, all members of the armed forces must act in accordance with the law with absolute impartiality, without discrimination based on race, religion, sex, economic or social background, sexual preference or political ideology.

The Code of Conduct also has several provisions regarding gender equality. It establishes that all military personnel must act with a gender perspective, eliminating the differences that may exist between male and female public servants and complying with the principles of equality, justice and non-discrimination.

In this sense, all activities undertaken by public servants must be seen in the framework of giving opportunities to men and women equally, although taking into account their different

physical capacities.

This document was published in order to comply with the federal obligation for all entities of the government to generate their own Code of Conduct based on the “General guidelines for the promotion of permanent actions that ensure the integrity and ethical behavior of public servants in their public undertakings”, issued by the Ministry of Public Office on 6 March 2012.

### References:

Code of Conduct:

[http://www.dof.gob.mx/nota\\_detalle.php?codigo=5378063&fecha=06/01/2015](http://www.dof.gob.mx/nota_detalle.php?codigo=5378063&fecha=06/01/2015)