

Oral Statement: Advisory Committee 30th Session. Friday Aug 11, public meeting: Review of methods of work.

Good morning. My name is Maria Noel Leoni, I am the Director of the GQUAL Campaign, a global initiative aimed at achieving gender parity in international justice. It is an honor to address the members of the Advisory Committee during this session.

The purpose of our intervention is to commend the work of the Committee in promoting gender balance in UN bodies – particularly through the [excellent report presented on this issue to the Human Rights Council on May 2021](#)– which has already proven to be an excellent roadmap to advance on gender balance in international justice. We would like to encourage the Committee members to consider specific actions to follow up on the implementation of the recommendations included there.

Since this report was presented, several developments show a significant impact and relevance, creating opportunities to delve more into its potential to promote further progress.

In June 2022, the Human Rights Council adopted a [new Resolution \(A/HRC/50/L.22\)](#) that highlighted the importance of this report. It invited States to adopt measures to implement the recommendations and it requested the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to inform the HRC “periodically of the progress made to implement the recommendations addressed to the office”.

Additionally, throughout 2022, GQUAL worked closely with former HRC President, Ambassador Federico Villegas, and briefed him on the report. [This inspired the former president](#) to appoint women in 16 (69,56%) of the 23 available positions that year in Special Procedures Mandates, often prioritizing a female candidate over the first choice in the shortlist presented by the Consultative Group, as suggested and recommended by the Advisory Committee in this report. As a result, today the Special Procedures have gender parity for the first time in history.



Furthermore, the report has impacted the discussion on gender parity outside the UN. In October 2022 the General Assembly of the Organization of American States adopted a [Resolution](#) which for the first time establishes gender parity as a key criteria for the composition of the human right regional bodies. The resolution directly refers to the Advisory Committee report in its preamble and proposes a similar approach, since it requested the Inter American Commission on Women to present a report with good practices and recommendations for the Americas region. [This report](#), presented in the General Assembly in June this year, describes the Advisory Committee report in detail as a good practice and mimics many of the recommendations made by this body.

We believe it is important for the Advisory Committee to be mindful of the impact the report has had, and to highlight the potential it has of triggering long-lasting change if effective follow up remains a priority. We thus encourage the Committee to consider proposing a follow up instance on this report to the Human Rights Council so as to document the measures taken to implement the recommendations and map opportunities for further follow up.

The GQUAL Campaign looks forward to engaging with the Committee in this work and we remain at your disposal.

We thank you for your attention.

More information: www.gqualcampaign.org / @gqualcampaign