Strengthening Gender Balance in Electoral Process and Political Decision-making

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Global Commitments on Gender Equality

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)
- Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), 1979
- Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA), 1995
- Commonwealth Harare Declaration, 1991
- UN ECOSOC Resolution 15, 1990
- Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA), 2004
- OSCE 2004 Action Plan on Gender Equality
- Millennium Development Goals on Gender Equality (MDG3), 2000
- Women’s participation in decision-making is a human right and prerequisite for a democratic society where needs and concerns of both men and women are taken into account in the political decision-making.
- Women are underrepresented at all levels.

Gender equality should be a part of political agenda.
Understanding Gender

Sex vs. Gender

Gender Stereotypes

Gender Analysis

Gender Mainstreaming

Gender Roles

Gender Relations
Men and Women

- Have different needs and priorities
- Play different roles
- Encounter different constraints
- Have different obligations and responsibilities
Linking Gender and Electoral Process and Decision-Making
Gender Roles in Electoral Process and Political Decision - Making

- Voters
- Members of political parties
- Aspirants
- Candidates
- EMBs members
- Civil servants
- Civil society activists
- Media representatives
- Decision-makers …
Gender Roles in EP and DM
Gender Roles in EP and DM
Gender Analysis and Electoral Process

the process of assessing the implications for men & women of any planned action in the framework of the election cycle, including legislation, policies, programmes or projects, in all areas and at all levels.
Electoral Process through "Gender Glasses"
Pre-Electoral Period

- **Planning**
  Gender budgeting, staff recruitment, logistic & security, procurement, developing vision

- **Training**
  Awareness raising on gender of electoral officials, gender quota, family voting

- **Information**
  Voter & civic education – awareness raising on rights of free and independent vote among women, quota

- **Registration**
  Party financing and gender-based representation, party registration and regulatory measures for non-discrimination
Gender Quotas

- Legal candidate quotas
- Voluntary political parties quotas
- Reserved seats
Strengthening Gender Balance

- Legal measures and its enforcement
- Sensitization of all stakeholders including EMBs, parliaments, CS, NGOs, political parties, etc.
- Capacity building of all stakeholders
- Gender sensitive reforms
Electoral Period

- **Nominations**
  Candidates, staff recruitment, logistic & security, procurement, developing vision

- **Campaign**
  promoting women candidates, political culture that responds better to gender equality, role of media in creating stereotypes

- **Voting**
  other & civic education – awareness raising on rights of free and independent vote among women, quota

- **Results**
  GDD results tabulation
Post - Electoral Period

- **Review**
  
  Gender analysis (number of candidates, % of elected women), implementation effect of quota, pressure on elected women staff recruitment, logistic & security, procurement, developing vision

- **Reform**
  
  legal proposals - gender quota, electoral system,

- **Strategy**
  
  Institutional strengthening & professional development
Holistic and two-tier approach to increasing women’s participation and representation

Thank you