Subject: "The participation of women in electoral process and public life".

The role of women in a political life of the country, and also their participation in electoral process of the Kyrgyz Republic.

The statistical researches showed that women in our country make more than a half of the population, therefore all spheres of activity of the country bear in themselves the "female nature". We clearly understand that equality and full participation of women in the political, social and economic life of the country is a necessary condition of successful economic development of the country, democratic character of the power, it’s openness and stability and world strengthening.

Today, woman reached the actual equality with men on level of the general and vocational education, however historically the political and economic space in the world in most cases belongs to men. Women hold only 10% of seats in parliaments of the world and 6% in the national governments.

Kyrgyzstan is an oriental country with a special traditional way of life, where a woman has always been a little behind the men, being his loyal friend and companion. Stereotypes created during centuries about women's place in society and its way of life, unfortunately, do not give us the opportunity to completely get rid of them. For example one fact confirmed by sociological poll – women at the solution of household problems generally rely on men, that is initially women believe that men have more mental and physical abilities than them.

Nowadays, the promotion of women in power is perceived as a sign of a humane and sustainable development of society. Real equality between men and women, parity representation in the government, parliament and other state institutions actually change public policy priorities and the life of the country generally. At the same time, readiness of women for participation in management, certainly, first of all depends on their level of education, professional and, especially important, psychological readiness. It is important to note that one of main components from a set of the qualities necessary for the politician woman is a resistance to stress and conviction that she knows for what she goes to this especially man's sphere until recently and by what rules will play.

Gender politics in our country based on international criteria and standards determined by the international community: the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Political Rights of Women, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, ILO Conventions, the European Social Charter, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the
Resolution of the UN Security Council № 1325, the Constitution of Kyrgyz Republic and other laws and regulations.

The Kyrgyz Republic is one of the first among ten countries which successfully fulfill the obligations for the Beijing Platform for Action which represents one of the most important international documents on further development of gender equality.

Kyrgyzstan has ratified more than 30 international conventions and protocols on human rights, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and signed the Program of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD).

The Kyrgyz Republic took legislative measures to ensure equal rights and freedoms for men and women. Primarily, this is reflected in the Constitution of the Kyrgyz Republic. In paragraph 4 of Article 16 of the Constitution of the Kyrgyz Republic written that in our country men and women have equal rights and freedoms, as well as equal opportunities for their realization.

Gender equality in the Kyrgyz Republic is regulated by a lot of legal acts, such as:

- the Constitution of the Kyrgyz Republic adopted by a referendum in June 27, 2010;
- the Law "On State Guarantees of Equal Rights and Equal Opportunities for Men and Women" from 08.04.2008 № 184;
- the Decree of President of the KR "On the establishment of Mother's Day of the Kyrgyz Republic, from 23.04.2012 , № 93;
- the Resolution of the Government of the KR "On the support of family and motherhood", from 01.10.2012 , № 666;

Also, electoral rights of our citizens and their guarantees, the relations connected with preparation, participation and elections to government bodies and local governments, and also measures of stimulation and supports of political parties in observance of gender representation are established by electoral legislation of the Kyrgyz Republic.
Women's participation in parliamentary activities regulated by the Constitutional Law of the Kyrgyz Republic "On the Election of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic and deputies of the Jogorku Kenesh (Parliament) of the Kyrgyz Republic", where established that (paragraph 3 of Article 60): "determining the list of candidates the political party is obliged to consider representation no more than 70 percent of same-gender persons, thus a sequence difference in lists of candidates of women and the men nominated from political parties, shouldn't exceed three positions".

Today the number of politicians among women increased. So, now by the results of elections of deputies to the Jogorku Kenesh (parliament) of the Kyrgyz Republic passed in 2010 women hold 26 (21.6%) deputy seats of total 120.

It is important to note that there is a lot of government bodies headed by women in Kyrgyz Republic, for example:

- Chairman of the Supreme Court (Feruza Dzhamasheva);
- General Prosecutor of the Kyrgyz Republic (Aida Salyanova);
- Deputy Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic (Elvira Sarieva);
- Minister of Finance of the Kyrgyz Republic (Olga Lavrova);
- Minister of Health of the Kyrgyz Republic (Dinara Saginbaeva);
- Chairman of the National Bank of the Kyrgyz Republic (Zina Asankozhoeva);
- Chairman of the Accounts Chamber of the Kyrgyz Republic (Elmira Ibraimova);
- Governor of Talas oblast of the KR (Koisun Kurmanalieva).

Also, there are a lot of women among deputy heads of government bodies.

The representation of women in a local government bodies is guaranteed by our the legislation too.

The Law of the Kyrgyz Republic "On elections of deputies of the local kenesh" (local government bodies) considers representation no more than 70 percent of same-gender persons, thus a sequence difference in lists of candidates of women and the men nominated from political party, group of voters, shouldn't exceed two positions (paragraph 7 of Article 49).

The qualitative structure of the elected deputies by the results of the elections of deputies to the local parliaments, passed in 2012, shows that 1008 of total 7500 elected deputies are women (13.4%).
The number of women in a city parliaments is much higher, than in a rural parliaments. So, if the representation of women in a city parliaments makes more than 25%, in a rural parliaments – only 12%.

This is due to the fact that rural women are more loaded with housework, which greatly affects their political activity, and hence on their representation in a local government bodies.

Our state’s electoral legislation provides not only a representation of women and men in lists of political parties, but also regulates participation of persons with physical disabilities of health (not less than two candidates in the list) and participation of the citizens of different national identity (not less than 15%) at the parliamentary elections.

The question of representation of women in election commissions of the Kyrgyz Republic is an actual issue.

- There are 4 women-members among 12 members of the Central Election Commission of the Kyrgyz Republic, and two of them are vice-chairmen of the Central Election Commission;

- 283 woman-members (43.6%) among 648 members of territorial election commissions of the Kyrgyz Republic;

- 12457 woman-members (53.3%) among 23350 members of district election commissions.

The role of non-governmental organizations in a development of gender policy and participation of women in a political life of the country is very important.

The social activity of women in the Kyrgyzstan is largely due to their unlimited access to education. Today non-governmental organizations (NGOs), which specialize in women's rights, have a big experience of working with the public, the government and local authorities. Also they are actively realizing their potential in the field of social mobilization population, poverty reduction, etc.

Due to women’s social activity, it was possible to include the questions of a gender in the main program document of our country "Complex bases of development of the Kyrgyz Republic".

Today more than 80% of all NGO’s in our country are headed by women.

The statistics demonstrates that a participation of women in a political life of the Kyrgyz Republic increases every year.
Distinctive feature of development of the Kyrgyzstan in comparison with other Asian republics regarding gender equality and emancipation of women is that a kyrgyz-women never wore a burqa and kyrgyz-women always took part in fight against enemies on an equal basis during wars.

In 2010, during very difficult period for our republic, Roza Otunbayeva became the first woman - head of state in the Central Asia, which was always traditionally patriarchal region. In this regard it is important to note that it wasn’t first and single case in the history of the Kyrgyz people. The Kyrgyz people already had woman-governors during its long history. They are Kurmanjandatka and Zhanylmyrza.

Moreover the way of nomadic life of the Kyrgyz people living in hard environmental conditions assumed equal participation of women in overcoming of vital difficulties. Therefore nobody was surprised that woman having extensive political experience headed the country in very difficult time.

In our opinion, first of all the beginning of all crisis (political, social, economic) is connected with spiritual and moral crisis. Unfortunately in 21 centuries the whole world is captured by this negative tendency. Therefore today a paramount question is not "who heads?" but "how they do it?". The gender of leader is not important absolutely, if a leader is true professional.