Advancing Gender Equality Agenda in Georgia

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5 September, 2014
According to the UN’s Gender Inequality Index: Georgia is placed 71 of the 137 countries surveyed.

The Government of Georgia has taken some isolated steps to promote the issue.

The need remains for a vigorous and comprehensive dialogue among all the stakeholders in order to seek solutions.
The ACTIONS TAKEN

LEGAL Framework:
✓ The Law on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination (May 2014);
✓ The Law on Gender Equality (March 2010);

INSTITUTIONAL mechanisms:
✓ The Gender Equality Council of Parliament becomes a standing body (March 2010).
✓ The Central Election Commission establishes a Gender Equality Commission (2011)
FACTs:

• Over 40% of Georgians believe that the gender of a candidate makes no difference in the electability, while 16% said they would prefer to vote for a woman [NDI public opinion survey 2013]

• 67% of Georgians support a quota-based system [NDI public opinion survey 2013]
WE directly engage with three groups of women

• Women politicians
• Women administrators
• Women voters
Women Politicians

• Number of Members of Parliament (national level):
  – 11% 17 out of 150 (2012 elections)

• Number of women in local self-government bodies
  – 11% 246 out of 2154 (2014 elections)

• Women in the executive branch
  – 15 % 3 out of 20
What do we offer to women politicians?

The CEC’s training center developed a training module specifically tailored to women candidates for the 2014 local elections.

85 potential women candidates participated in the trainings organized by the CEC Training Center. 14 women out of the 85 were elected to local municipalities.
Women Administrators

Central Election Commission (CEC)
- 23 % 3 out of 13

District Election Commissions (DECs)*
- 55% 530 out of 963

* However, women on the managerial positions (chairs and deputy chairs of DECs) make up only 22 % 33 out of 152.
What do we offer to women administrators?

• The CEC in collaboration with the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) developed a specialized training module for women election administration members in the lead up to the local 2014 elections;

• The CEC will continue to offer gender specific trainings to all members of the election administration to raise awareness on gender equality.
Women Voters

• For the 2014 local elections, the CEC issued voter turnout data segregated by gender.

• This is the first time the election administration was able to produce such data.

• According to the turnout data, women voters were less active compared to men in the local elections. From the total number of registered women only 40% of women voted, while from the total number of registered men 47% voted.
What do we offer to women voters?

• The CEC produced a comprehensive statistical data for the 2014 local elections;

• The CEC’s Training Center issued small grants to local non-governmental organizations to work with women voters and raise their awareness on gender issues in the lead up to the 2014 local elections.
CEC has three obligations as defined by the Plan:

- Implement educational programs targeting women voters, women candidates and women administrators;
- Cooperate with political parties to seek additional incentives to increase women’s participation in elections;
- Produce gender statistics related to elections.
The CEC new initiatives going forward

- Gender mainstreaming of the CEC’s HR Policy;
- Incorporate gender studies in the curricula of the Election Administration’s summer schools to be launched throughout Georgia;
- Make Gender Equality a primary theme for the upcoming 5th annual meeting of Election Management Bodies to be held in Georgia;
- Create “women and elections” electronic library to promote gender equality.
Potential partners

- Civil society
- Political parties
- Legislative bodies (national, local)
- Executive government
- Active citizens (bloggers)
- Media
On the regional level:

• Share experience
  – Educational programs
  – Legislative changes
  – Informational campaigns
  – Exchange programs

• Quality Research to inform discussions

• Media campaigns
THANK YOU!