



Background Paper

Committee: UN Women

Topic B: Supporting the Involvement of Women in Government and Decision Making

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The inclusion of women in governance and decision making is crucial for the advancement of women in public life. Having women in the conversation is useful for decisions to be seen from other perspectives. It is not advisable to only have one gender in high ranking political jobs such as governors, mayors, chancellors, etc. Women's voices must be heard and taken into consideration in order to achieve our aim of the empowerment of women.. The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women is fully aware of this issue, and it invites all countries to participate in discussing this topic, and encourages the seeking of a resolution to this issue.

Rates around the world of women in parliament are the highest in Rwanda (63.8%), Cuba (48.9%), Sweden (43.6%), South Africa (41.9%), Ecuador (41.6%), Finland (41.5%) and Iceland (41.3%). We must achieve equality in political areas. For example, Canada has a gender-balanced cabinet, 15 men and 15 women. Places like Taiwan, the United Kingdom, Norway, and Germany all have a female prime minister, president or chancellor. According to the UN, there are two conditions that will assure the existence of gender equality in government and politics: “a developed system of public accountability in public office” and “a transformative political agenda”. To be able to achieve these conditions, which most developing countries do not have, the UN has come up with eight measures:

Firstly, we have to bring our transformative agenda of equality, sustainable development, peace, democratic governance, and accountable and efficient government, to the whole society for everyone to eventually take ownership of this agenda. Secondly, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women could be the main instrument for promoting gender equality, every boy and man should also understand the need for equal women’s rights, and promote and protect these rights. Special training should be developed

for parents and teachers on how to apply and teach the values of human rights, equality, (especially gender equality), and democratic governance at home and in schools. Third, there has to be equal if not more work done to develop responsible citizenship among women and men relative to the work done to promote women's leadership and participation in decision-making in public office. Fourth, promote and assist the development of a system of public accountability for positions of public trust at all levels of governance especially in the less politically developed countries. Fifth, strengthening of responsible citizenship among women as well as men should motivate citizens to organize themselves into active interest groups or constituencies. Sixth, modeling of creative mentoring of women who are suddenly thrust into positions of power without enough training and preparations should be undertaken. Seventh, all gender training materials and training courses for women's political empowerment should include a substantive component. Finally, promoting the assessment of jobs for men and women or gender mainstreaming. These measures will all support the decrease of gender roles in society as well as power relations, it is not easy but we have to take responsibility.

Although gender equality takes time to achieve, it is necessary and important. Men and women although they are not the same, they should be treated equally. They complement each other. We need women and men to complement each other in political areas because it allows us to have a wider range of perspectives in order to create possible solutions from different perspectives and ensures that issues that some men often tend not to recognize are being addressed in the correct manner.

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