



Organised by the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA)
Institutionalising Gender Equality in Electoral Management Bodies and Political Parties
&
IKNOW Politics' 10th Anniversary Commemoration
Closing the gaps on Women's Political Participation & Representation

Date and Time: 21st March 2017, 10:00-13:00
VENUE: Uganda House-New York, 336 East 45 Street (between 1st and 2nd Ave)

Session One: 10:00-11:30

Institutionalising Gender Equality in Electoral Management Bodies & Political Parties

Gender equality is a fundamental human-rights issue that cuts across all spheres of life and is intrinsic in all aspects of sustainable development and democracy by ensuring the fullest participation and representation of women in all aspects of decision-making from the national to the local level. To achieve higher levels of participation and representation for women, one must focus on two areas: the top-down legal and institutional frameworks related to elections and the bottom-up process of enhancing women's roles in political parties as candidates, critical constituencies, and core components of the party management structure. At the legal, institutional level, it is crucial that those who oversee the conduct of elections place the empowerment of women and gender equality at the centre of their efforts to ensure the effective functioning of some or all of the elements that are essential for the conduct of elections and direct democracy instruments. This is especially important given that gender policies as well as gender parity in election management bodies is an important issue that has not yet been sufficiently addressed. On the other side, it is crucial for political parties to ensure genuine representation of the views, interests and needs of all citizens, both women and men alike, in order to effectively function in a legitimate and representative way. In both cases, as is widely acknowledged, the failure to include women and their perspectives in political decision making weakens the legitimacy of democratically elected institutions and deprives women, half of the population of any given country, of their right to participate effectively in the governance of their societies.

With this in mind, the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA) has designed Frameworks for Developing Internal Gender Policies for Electoral Management Bodies (EMBs) and for Political Parties. The event intends to discuss the key findings and recommendations of the Framework for EMBs which supports EMBs in their aspirations and efforts to create their own internal gender policies in recognition of their mandates and political status in different countries around the world. In addition, panellists will discuss the Framework for Political Parties as a strategic instrument for assisting political parties and gender equality advocates/practitioners in their efforts to develop comprehensive policies to advance gender equality within political parties.

Introductory Remarks: Mr Massimo Tommasoli Permanent Observer for International IDEA to the United Nations

Gender Policy Frameworks for Electoral Management Bodies (EMBs) and Political Parties:

Ms Rumbidzai Kandawasvika-Nhundu, Senior Programme Manager (Democracy and Gender), Democracy Assessments, Analysis and Advisory Unit, International IDEA

Institutionalising Gender Equality in an Electoral Management Body: Lessons & Good Practices:

Advocate Notemba Tjipueja, Chairperson of the Electoral Commission of the Republic of Namibia

Gender Equality in Political Parties: Experiences and Lessons in Malawi:

Hon Dr Jessie Kabwila, MP, Chairperson of the Women's Parliamentary Caucus, Parliament of Malawi

Discussant:

Mr Charles Chauvel, Team Leader, Inclusive Political Processes Governance and Peacebuilding, BPPS, UNDP

Plenary Discussions

Refreshments



International Knowledge Network of Women in Politics



Session Two: 11:45 - 13:00

IKNOW Politics' 10th Anniversary Commemoration: *Closing the gaps on Women's Political Participation and Representation*

The International Knowledge Network of Women in Politics (IKNOW Politics iknowpolitics.org) is a joint project between the Inter-parliamentary Union (IPU), International IDEA, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women). The platform, available since March 2007, seeks to facilitate women's access to resources and capacity building materials and provide them with an online space to share experiences, network and collaborate on issues of interest. The online network also provides an opportunity to users to stay abreast of global events and news related to women's political participation globally and regionally.

As the platform and network celebrates its 10th Anniversary, the founding partners are organizing a side-event which will discuss the achievements and best practices that it has experienced in the areas of its expertise: advocacy & lobbying, elections, parliaments & representatives, political parties and women's leadership.

Moderator: Mr Alessandro Motter, Senior Adviser (Economic and Social Affairs), Inter-Parliamentary Union

iKNOW Politics Video

Presentation by iKNOW Politics Partners' Representative: Ms Randi Davis, Director of the Gender Team, UNDP

Experiences from Women MPs

Wrap up

CONFIRMATION FORM

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Names of Attendees:	Titles:

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Names of Attendees:	Titles:

Affiliation:	Contact Information:

Kindly return RSVP to Contact:
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