

TABLE ONE: MECHANISMS FOR SUPPORTING GENDER EQUALITY IN POLITICAL SYSTEMS: SHIREEN HASSIM (shireen.hassim@wits.ac.za)

	NORMATIVE FRAMEWORK	POLITICAL SYSTEM	AFFIRMATIVE ACTION MECHANISMS	POLICY SYSTEM
STRONG	Constitutional protection for gender equality and non-sexism Egalitarian norms in public sphere deliberations Solidaristic ethos	Competitive multiparty system Well-institutionalised parties Strong presence of social democratic and labour parties Stable alternation of governments Proportional Representation with closed list Strongly democratic civil society with organized feminist presence	Constitutional quotas	Gender mainstreaming through use of strong policy directives
	Strong norms against unfair discrimination	Accountable constituency-based system Diverse civil society including women's organisations	Legal quotas	Dedicated budgets for addressing gender inequalities
	Individual civil and political rights recognized		Reserved seats for women	Ministry of Women's Affairs
			Quotas in party constitutions	Special units for women/ women's bureaus and gender commissions
		Single party dominance	Quotas by party choice	Special projects and programmes
WEAK	Emphasis on group cultural rights	Poorly institutionalized political parties Competing centres of political mobilization and legitimacy outside democratic system based on traditional values	Funding and training programmes for women candidates	