



International Knowledge Network of Women in Politics



E-Discussion on “Women's political participation: a fundamental prerequisite for gender equality, democracy and achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”

Concept Note

In September 2015, 193 Member States of the United Nations unanimously adopted a new global agenda to end poverty by 2030 and pursue a sustainable future for all. The [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) (SDGs) includes a specific [goal](#) to achieve gender equality, which aims to end discrimination and violence against women and girls and ensure equal participation and opportunities in all spheres of life. It marks a shift in global thinking and action and is a tremendous opportunity to deliver once and for all on gender equality.

In conjunction with the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, more than 90 Heads of State and Governments have answered UN Women’s call for action to “[Step It Up for Gender Equality](#),” pledging to take concrete and measurable actions to address barriers to gender equality in their countries, including to increase the numbers of women in political institutions and decision-making bodies to assure true democracy. The IPU has been mobilizing parliaments through awareness-raising workshops, a campaign for the adoption of parliamentary motions on the SDGs, a [toolkit](#) to help parliaments assess their own institutional capacities to mainstream the SDGs, and by engaging parliaments in voluntary national reviews.

Advancing women’s political participation is crucial for delivering on the SDGs. That is why one of the Targets for Goal 5 is to “**Ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life**” (SDG Target 5.5).

To monitor progress towards SDG Target 5.5., Member States will continue to report on the proportion of women in national parliaments (SDG Indicator 5.5.1a) and a new SDG Indicator was adopted to measure the proportion of seats held by women in local governments (SDG Indicator 5.5.1b). The measurement of women’s representation and documentation of women’s experiences in both national and local-level politics is vital to obtain a more complete perspective on women’s political participation.

This online discussion aims to consult various stakeholders about their experiences of using the Agenda as roadmap and instrument to ensure that women's political participation is maximized, at global, national and local levels. It will run from **09 January to 12 February 2017** and will be moderated on the [iKNOW Politics platform](#). International organisations, civil society organisations, government representatives and academia are invited to contribute with their expertise and experiences, and answer to one or more of the below outlined questions. Contributions highlighting innovative partnerships and accountability mechanisms established to deliver on Target 5.5. are encouraged. The iKNOW Politics team and partners are looking forward to an informative knowledge-sharing exercise on this topic.

QUESTIONS

1. Who are the key actors involved in delivering on the Agenda in your country?
2. What is the role of national and local governments in localizing Target 5.5.?
3. What are some of the key challenges for countries to deliver on implementation and monitoring of Target 5.5.?
4. What measures are being taken to align national laws and development plans with Target 5.5.? What accountability and implementation measures are in place? By whom are these measures taken?
5. What is the role of civil society organizations in the implementation and monitoring of Target 5.5, specifically? Are there consultation mechanism to foster dialogue with governments and international bodies?
6. Are you aware of any country-specific / regional projects or trainings to advance Target 5.5.?