



2000 Campaign Kit: Declaration, Take Action Kit, and Resource Guide

Declaration **2000 Campaign**

In 1995 at the Fourth World Conference on Women, 189 governments committed to "take measures to ensure women's equal access to and full participation in power structures and decision-making" and to "increase women's capacity to participate in decision-making and leadership." To achieve these objectives, they pledged to "establish the goal of gender balance in governmental bodies and committees, as well as in public administrative entities, and in the judiciary, including, inter alia setting specific targets and implementing measures to substantially increase the number of women with a view to achieving equal representation of women and men, if necessary through positive action, in all governmental and public administration positions."

Five years later, women continue to be grossly underrepresented in all levels of decision-making in government, the private sector, the judiciary, the media, and in academic institutions. In legislative bodies, women were 10 percent of the members in 1995. Today, women are only 13.4 percent of national parliaments, a yearly increase of a mere 0.5 percent, according to data collected by the Inter-Parliamentary Union. Though women have a better chance of getting elected at the local level, where many start their political careers before moving to national politics, only a few local legislative bodies have reached the critical mass of 30 percent. Those that have, include India where one-third of the Panchayat (village) seats are reserved for women by law, and Namibia where women hold 42 percent of elective local positions. Women ministers remain at 14 percent and are largely concentrated in social areas. Those holding legal (9.4%), economic, political and executive positions (less than 5%) remain dismally low.

As a first step towards achieving gender balance in decision-making positions, this campaign demands that governments work for "a provisional minimum target of 30 percent representation of women in cabinet ministries and legislatures as well as local authorities by 2003 and equal representation by 2005." This is best summed up in our rallying slogan of 50/50 by 2005: Get the Balance Right!

In the UN General Assembly Special Session to Review the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, governments agreed to set time-bound targets, including quotas, to promote gender balance, especially in political parties, government ministries and local government bodies. There are many structural and cultural barriers that prevent women's full and equal participation in decision-making and prevailing gender stereotypes and discriminatory attitudes present serious obstacles to women's political participation. Similarly, different electoral systems and campaign finance laws limit political opportunities for women. To address these, the Beijing Platform for Action calls on governments to "review the differential impact of electoral systems on the political representation of women in elected bodies and consider, where appropriate, the adjustment or reform of those



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systems." It also encourages political parties to "integrate women in elective and non-elective public positions in the same proportion and at the same levels as men."

The UN five-year Review and Appraisal of the Platform for Action shows that countries that have applied quota systems in decision-making, including governmental bodies, national parliaments and political parties, saw a significant increase in women's representation. This is true not only in Europe but in Africa, Asia and Latin America as well. In Western Europe, countries with the highest number of seats in Parliament have political parties that introduced quotas: Sweden (42.7%), Denmark (37.4%), and Norway (36.4%). In Africa, South Africa leaped from number 141 in 1994 to 8 in 1999 in the Inter-Parliamentary Union ranking of Parliaments according to the number of women represented. This was after the introduction of proportional representation and the adoption by the African National Congress of a 30 percent quota for women in the party list. In Asia, women's representation at the panchayat (village) level in India soared with the implementation of the 1993 constitutional amendment reserving 33 percent of seats for women.

We recognize that numbers are a necessary but not sufficient condition for women's full, equal, active and informed participation in economic, social and political decision-making. There is evidence however, that when women enter decision-making bodies in significant numbers, issues such as child care, violence against women and unpaid labor are more likely to become priorities for policy-makers. In Norway, women Members of Parliament brought about the "politics of care" which obligates the state to increase publicly sponsored child care services, extend the paid parental leave period, introduce options for more flexible work hours and improve pension rights for unpaid care work. In South Africa, through the efforts of women Parliamentarians the "women's budget process" was introduced to analyze the government's budget from a gender perspective and allocate more resources for women's needs. In India, the women chairpersons in the panchayats of Dehra Dun district in northern Uttar Pradesh obtained funds to build a network of four-foot wide concrete roads and drains.

We join women's groups world-wide in declaring our commitment to 50/50 by 2005: Get the Balance Right! It is only when there is a critical mass of women in all their diversity in every country of the world in both appointed and elected decision-making positions and in all international bodies that gender issues will be addressed in the policy agenda and the goals of equality, development, peace and human rights for all can be realized in the 21st century.



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Take Action!

Five Things You Can Do To Get the Balance Right!

1. Get the Facts

Who's who in your government? How many are women? Which political parties promote gender parity? Who has/has not appointed women to decision-making positions?

2. Spread the Word

Use the facts to sensitize your community. Develop a slogan. Make and distribute flyers. Start a petition. Write letters to your local newspaper. Call a meeting. Develop a website.

3. Network, Build Coalitions

Bring together elected women and feminist activists across party lines. Seek support from individuals, groups, unions and political parties.

4. Lobby

Target elected officials and influential community leaders - ask questions, demand answers, insist on action.

5. Prepare for Leadership

Encourage women in public office to share their experiences - identify the main issues. Organize workshops. Establish support systems. Seek financial and media backing. Identify potential candidates. It could be you!



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Resource Guide

1. Networks and Organizations
2. [Information Sites](#)
3. [Gender and Governance sites](#)
4. [Books](#)
5. [Reports](#)

1. Networks and Organizations

ANC Women's League

Women's arm of the Africa National Congress, works in coalition with women's organizations on women's equality in decision making.

Contact:

ANC Headquarters

51 Plein Street

Johannesburg 2001, South Africa

Center for Legislative Development

Seeks to promote linkages between the legislature and civil society. Targets women through a gender and governance program.

Contact:

CLD

Suite 1703, MPO Bldg.

San Miguel Ave., Ortigas Center

Pasig City 1600, Philippines

Fax: 63-2-687-2082

E-mail: cld@info.com.ph

Website: www.cld.org

International Parliamentary Union

This focal point for worldwide parliamentary dialogue has up-to-date data on women in national parliaments in 176 countries.

Website: www.ipu.org

Network of NGOs In Trinidad and Tobago

For information and resources on the network's Engendering Local Government project.

Contact: Hazel Brown, Project Coordinator

P.O. Box 410, Port of Spain

Trinidad and Tobago

Fax: 868-686-9655/ E-mail: network@wow.net



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SIBOL (Joint Initiatives of Women for transforming Law and Society)
Brings together feminist NGOs in the Philippines to advocate for the passage of congressional bills on women's issues.

Contact:

SIBOL Secretariat
c/o Women's Legal Bureau
11 Matimtiman Street
Teachers Village, Diliman
Quezon City, Philippines
Fax: 63-2-921-4387

South Africa Women's National Coalition

Works with women of all political affiliations and across party lines to develop a platform for women's political participation.

Contact:

P.O. Box 63319
Marshalltown, Johannesburg 2107
South Africa

Women's Candidacy Initiative

Promotes women's participation in political processes through programs to increase public awareness about the need for equitable attitudes, policies and laws. Created history in Malaysia by running that country's first female candidate.

Contact:

Fax: 60-3-837-8380
E-mail: women_candidate@yahoo.com
Website: www.candidate.freeservers.com

2. Information sites

[Center for Voting and Democracy](#)
[Center for American Women and Politics](#)
[Unifem Engendering Governance and Leadership](#)
[League of Women Voters](#)
[American Women Presidents](#)
[Women's Learning Partnership](#)
[Women's Action for New Directions](#)

3. Books



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Redefining Politics: South African Women and Democracy

Experiences and reflections of women in the first democratic parliament of South Africa. (Johannesburg: Commission on Gender Equality, 1999)

Women in Parliament: Beyond Numbers

by Azza Karam

Examines structural and cultural barriers to gender balance in national parliaments and shares strategies to overcome them.

(Sweden: IDEA, 1998). Available at www.idea.int

4. Reports

Philippines

Transforming Women's Lives: The Philippine Experience

Country Report, June 2000

Contact:

National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women

1145 J. P. Laurel Street

Manila, Philippines

Fax: 63-2-735-1655

The Philippine NGO Report on Women Five Years After the United Nations Beijing Conference on Women

Prepared by the Philippine NGO Beijing Scoreboard

Download at website: www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/followup/beijing+5.htm

South Africa

Reports published by the Commission on Gender Equality.

Entrenching Democracy and Good Governance Through the Empowerment of Women

Newly-elected women reflect on their experiences and highlight the challenges facing women in the new democracy. November 13-15, 1998.

Women, Politics and the Elections

What political parties in South Africa are/are not doing, or would like to do to support women's political participation. June 29, 1998.

Review of the 1999 General Elections—A Gender Perspective



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Focus on participation, access and visibility and recommendations for promoting gender equality in future elections.

For copies, contact:

CGE

10th Floor, Braamfontein Centre

Braamfontein 2017

South Africa

Tel: 1-27-11-403-7182

E-mail: cgeinfo@cge.org.za

Website: www.cge.org.za

United Nations

Women's Political Participation and Good Governance: 21st Century Challenges (UNDP, 2000)

Contact:

Management Development and Governance Division(MDGD)

United Nations, Development Programme

One United Nations Plaza

New York, NY 10017

Website: www.undp.org