



# Gender Sensitive Elections

## Funding, Laws and Policy

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# UN ELECTORAL ASSISTANCE FRAMEWORK

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- In 1991 the Secretary-General (A/46/609) designated the USG for Political Affairs as Focal Point for electoral assistance
- In 1992 the General Assembly (A/RES/47/138) endorsed the SG's decision
- USG/DPPA plays a leadership role as the UN system-wide Focal Point for electoral assistance ensuring coordination and coherence among UN actors
- The UN provides electoral assistance based on a Security Council or General Assembly mandate or upon request from Member States



# CONTEXT

- Currently 55 countries receive electoral support, mainly in the form of technical assistance
- The UN has provided electoral assistance since its early days
- The nature of MS requests has varied significantly





# AREAS OF ASSESSMENT

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- Political environment and electoral framework
- Capacity and needs of election stakeholders
- UN capacity for electoral assistance and coordination mechanisms
- Assistance by other organizations
- Gender analysis and recommendations
- Sustainability and cost-effectiveness of requested or proposed electoral assistance
- Potential risks and benefits in the UN providing electoral assistance
- Potential for election-related violence, including violence against women



# PROMOTING WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION AT VARIOUS LEVELS

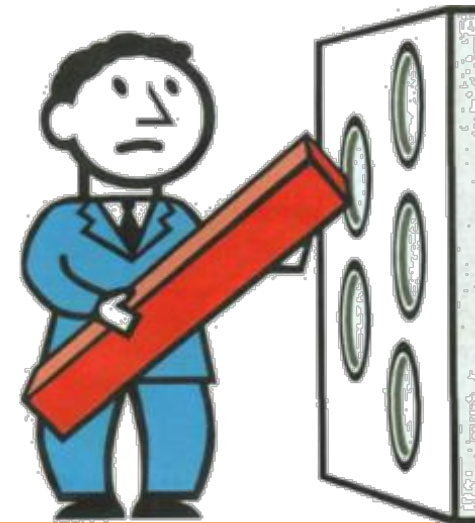
- Development of electoral policy including a focus on gender issues
- Needs assessment missions - gender checklist, issues of women's participation and representation
- Technical advice to Member States in designing or reforming electoral laws and systems
- Mainstreaming gender in civic and voter education programs and electoral operations such as voter registration and polling
- Gender-related support and technical expertise to EMBs
- Advocacy, sensitization and training on gender issues, capacity building
- Encourage collection of sex disaggregated data
- Advice on measures to prevent and mitigate the risks of violence against women in elections





# TEMPORARY SPECIAL MEASURES WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF UN ELECTORAL ASSISTANCE

- **CEDAW General Recommendation No. 25 (2004) provides the following clarifications on TSMs:**
  - i. Broad scope,
  - ii. Temporary character,
  - iii. Diversity of measures, and
  - iv. Context-specific
- **TSMs other than gender quotas, include:**
  - i. Outreach and awareness raising programs
  - ii. Allocation and/or reallocation of resources
  - iii. Political Party Funding
  - iv. Fund raising initiatives
  - v. Preferential/Special Treatment
  - vi. Targeted recruitment and promotion
  - vii. Extra security for women



SOMEONE HAS TO WORK  
HARDER.  
Same rights, same  
opportunities.



# FUNDING FOR ELECTIONS

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- UN dedicated funding for electoral assistance – DPPA extra-budgetary funding
- UN Women and UNDP country level programming
- Significant budgetary allocations for electoral assistance over the years (UNDP over US\$ 3 billion from 2004 – 2018 to support 96 MS)
- Drop in funding. What are some of the reasons for the drop?
  - UN Secretary-General highlighted the funding challenge and called for concrete measures to address the issue
- Sustainability and cost-effectiveness requires Member States to fund their electoral processes
- Reduced funding for electoral assistance requires creativity in programming to maximise impact



# FUNDING FOR ELECTIONS

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- UN EAD/UNDP strategic assessment of the funding situation and how to address these challenges
- Less interest in funding traditional electoral assistance programs
- The need to re-program electoral assistance within the governance framework
  - Electoral assistance as part of conflict prevention or sustaining peace
- UN electoral assistance combines technical electoral assistance with political engagements, including good offices functions





# CONCLUSION

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- While progress has been made over the past decades, more still needs to be done
- Promoting gender issues should be a priority for all, including both developed and developing countries
- The UN continues to mainstream gender through its policies and programs
- UN EAD engages with regional and inter-governmental organisations to raise awareness on the issue
  - Examples include – ICGLR – 2019, ECOWAS – 2018 & 2019, SADC – 2018

THANK YOU FOR LISTENING

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