10TH MEETING OF THE ADVISORY BOARD OF THE WOMEN’S PLATFORM

NAIROBI- 13TH FEBRUARY 2019
STRATEGY TO REACH PARITY BY ENSURING WOMEN’S PARTICIPATION AND LEADERSHIP IN POLITICAL DECISION MAKING PROCESSES IN THE GREAT LAKES REGION
THE STRATEGY

WHAT?

HOW?

WHEN?

BY WHOM?

What role for the Advisory Board members?
WHAT?
SETTING OBJECTIVES

Establishing *temporary* intermediary quota to ensure at least 30% *representation* of women in political decision making and peace processes.

BEYOND NUMBERS

Ensuring women’s influence, legitimacy and credibility in decision making and peace processes.
SETTING OBJECTIVES

BUT...

ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE IS PARITY

Equal representation of men and women in ALL political decision making processes at ALL levels and in ALL sectors
HOW?

- Setting up *principles* and *mechanisms* at institutional levels (political and legal reforms)

- Promoting women *leadership*, build women *legitimacy, credibility, influence* (mobilizing, building political mediation capacity, training, preparing women to exercise political responsibilities - *mouvement building*)

- *Building strategic alliances* with social actors (civil society, media, religious leaders, opinion leaders and influential people, development partners)
PRINCIPLES AND MECHANISMS

WHAT HAS WORKED

- Developing political and legal arguments
  - Recalling commitments made by states by signing up to international and regional agreement (CEDAW, Beijing Platform for Action, Maputo Protocol)
  - Calling for accountability and the setting up of mechanisms to establish state responsibility - work with parliamentarians-facilitators)

- Analysing existing legal frameworks
  - Calling for legal reforms (in political sectors-elections)
Study and analysis of:
- Existing electoral code
  - Electoral system
  - Political parties structures, procedures

- Enacting legislations that provides specific percentage quotas for women’s representation
- Allocation of specific number of seats to women
PRINCIPLES AND MECHANISMS

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE

- Institutionalising gender equality within political parties’ structures, processes and practices. (BEFORE, DURING and AFTER elections)

- Levelling the field of access to finance by women

- Setting up accountability systems to ensure political parties’s compliance
PRINCIPLES AND MECHANISMS

In conflict resolution and peace processes

Facilitators to define modalities of women’s inclusion in different phases of peace processes

Set the selection criteria for women’s participation

Set the principles of women’s participation and representation at the onset of peace negotiation processes.
PRINCIPLES AND MECHANISMS

WHAT HAS WORKED

- Applying women's quota, as part of the delegations selection criteria.

- Encouraging and supporting women to have their own independent women-only delegation to increase their chance to exercise their influence.

- Facilitating women's delegation to strategically coordinate among women across delegation and advance common interest, formulating joint position on key issues. (BURUNDI, DRC).

- Setting up formal (i.e. officially endorsed by the mediation team and the negotiating parties) or informal consultative process before, during and after peace negotiations.
WHAT HAS WORKED

- Women organising with other women, networking, coalition building to build capabilities for voice and influence.

- Creating group cohesion and solidarity for self-affirmation, legitimacy, credibility at the individual and collective level.

- Contesting and redefining political context leading to shift in gender perception.
PROMOTING WOMEN LEADERSHIP

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE?

- Developing women’s influence, i.e., their ability:
  - To push for their preferences before, during, and after negotiation process;
  - To bring issues on to the negotiation and implementation agenda;
  - To put issues into the substance of peace agreement;
  - To take part in the implementation of an agreement;
  - To demand for negotiations to begin, to resume, or for an agreement to be signed.
WHEN?
SUPPORT TO WOMEN SYSTEMATIC AND CONTINUOUS ENGAGEMENT

When drafting the terms of reference of every mediator, envoy and leader of peace mission;

When committees are negotiating (in commissions, committees, informal talks);

Between elections;

After signature of peace agreement (monitoring and prevention).
BY WHOM?
WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE?

BY NATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Demonstrate strong political will;

Put in place the required mechanisms to facilitate women’s participation and representation;

Ensure existence of compliance and monitoring mechanisms.

BY LEADERSHIP OF REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS INCLUDING DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

☞ Support women organising;

☞ Provide technical and financial support to women organising.
BY WHO?

BY SPECIAL ENVOY/MEDIATOR

Assume specific responsibility to advise all parties to dialogue/peace talks/constitutional reform about the value of temporary special measures to increase the numbers of women on negotiating parties;

Advise national women’s organizations of the range of temporary special measures available and their effectiveness in other contexts.
WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE

BY THE ADVISORY BOARD

Active engage and advocate with countries who are preparing for elections on the need to achieve the 30% target by 2020,

Engage with policy makers, various institutions and power house in the Great Lakes member states to explain that 30% is a minimum requirement and not a cap on women’s participation

Engage with other government sectors, beyond the usual gender machineries, such as finance and justice ministries, CSOS and grassroots organisations for the operationalization of UNSC RES 1325;

Set up an internal mechanisms for monitoring and reporting on progress.
Any Questions?

THANK YOU