

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

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## 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)



# PRINCIPLES AND MECHANISMS



## ❧ 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

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## 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' 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.

# PROMOTING WOMEN LEADERSHIP



## 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

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## 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 WHOM



## ❧ 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

- Actively 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