



United Nations Entity for Gender Equality
and the Empowerment of Women

Overview of Women's representation & participation in decision- making bodies & processes in Africa and the GLR.



Women's participation in Governance is a Human Right

Universal Declaration of Human Rights(UDHR) 1948: All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights; Everyone is entitled to all rights and freedoms without distinction of any kind including sex

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) 1966

Art. 3 – provides that ratifying governments “undertake to ensure the equal rights of men and women to the enjoyment of all civil and political rights set forth in the Covenant.”

UNSCR 1325 2000: Stipulates women's rights in peace & security. Affirms that women play an important role in prevention and resolution of conflicts and peace building

Has 4 pillars: Participation, Protection, Prevention and Relief and Recovery.

Art 1: Urges Member States to ensure increased representation of women at all decision-making levels in national, regional and international institutions and mechanisms for the prevention, management, and resolution of conflict;

CEDAW 1979: Women's Bill of Rights - Elimination of discrimination against women in the political, social and economic life.

Article 4: State shall adopt temporary special measures to accelerate defacto equality between men and women which is not discrimination- (measure to be discontinued when the objectives of equality are met)

Article 7: Women have equal rights to

- 7a: Vote in all elections and public referenda and to all publicly elected bodies
- 7b: To participate in the formulation of government policy and the implementation thereof and to hold public office and perform all public functions at all levels of government;
- c) To participate in non-governmental organizations and associations concerned with the public and political life of the country.

Maputo Protocol:

Article 9: Right to participate in the political and decision-making process

9 (1): The state shall take specific positive actions to promote participative governance and equal participation of women in the political life of their countries through affirmative action

SDGs: SDG 5 Gender Parity in Governance and decision making by 2030

Target 5.5: Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision making in political, economic political life

What does full participation of women achieve?

Full and complete development of a country and the welfare of the world

Upholding women's rights; enables everyone to contribute to society and strengthens development in every aspect

Women make up more than half of the world's population and all of us lose when this vast wealth and skills of women are underutilized

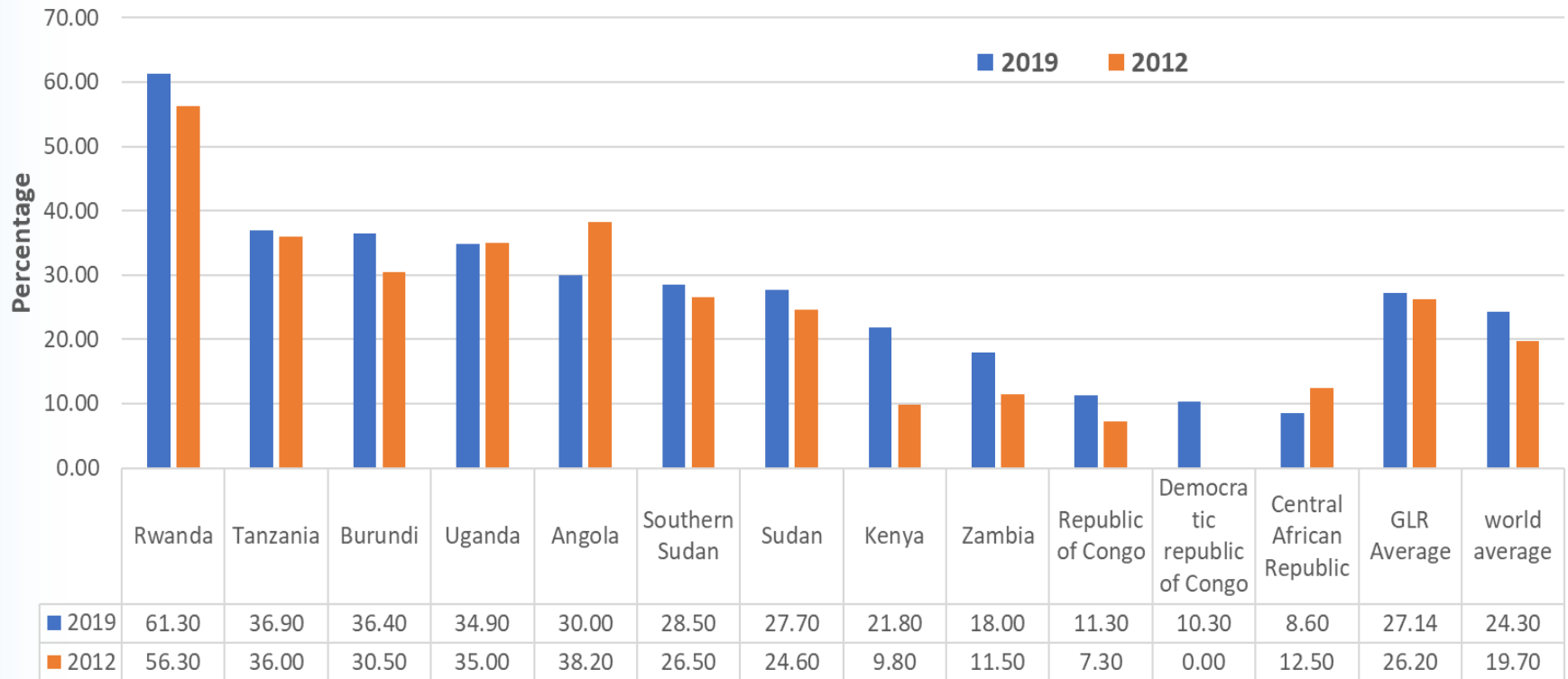
World and regional averages of women in parliament

	Single house or lower house	Upper house or Senate	Both houses combined
World average	24.3%	24.1%	24.3%
Regional averages			
Regions* are classified by descending order of the percentage of women in unicameral parliaments or the lower house of parliament.			
Nordic countries	42.5%	—	—
Americas	30.6%	31.3%	30.7%
Europe (Nordic countries included)	28.6%	28.0%	28.5%
Europe (Nordic countries not included)	27.2%	28.0%	27.4%
Sub-Saharan Africa	23.9%	22.2%	23.7%
Asia	19.9%	17.4%	19.6%
Middle East and North Africa	19.0%	12.5%	18.1%
Pacific	16.3%	36.0%	18.4%

* The composition of IPU regional groupings may be consulted at www.ipu.org/wmn-e/world.htm.

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Women MP's in GLR IN 2019 & 2012



Countries

Inadequate implementation of global and regional commitments on women's rights to participate on equal basis as men in governance & decision making such as, Maputo Protocol, CEDAW. Also SDGs.

Gender stereotypes: men assigned productive roles and women reproductive roles

Patriarchal culture has been institutionalized in governance structures such as parliaments, political parties, electoral bodies, peace making structures etc. e.g. in peace processes very few women are signatories to peace agreements

Violence in elections including violence against women- both Physical and psychological impedes women from participating actively in politics

- Implement global, regional & national commitments on women's civil, political & social rights; including temporary special measures as called for by CEDAW to reduce the gender gap in governance and decision making bodies.
- Address social and cultural norms that prevent women's participation in productive activities such as politics and public decision making.
- Create a conducive environment for inclusive politics such as favourable legal, policy and social environment for equal participation of men, women and youths in elections. Gender discriminatory laws and practices to be eliminated and governance institutions made gender responsive.
- **VIOLENCE in politics to be eliminated and violence against women in elections to be given special attention.**
- Support capacity enhancement of women to participate in politics; including leadership training and developing the economic and social means required for running for public office.
- **Monitoring and reporting** on global commitments on women's equal representation in decision making; **e.g SDG 5**



Lets leave no one behind!



There are
No Human Rights,
without
Women's Rights.

UN Women is the women's fund of the United Nations. It provides financial and technical assistance to innovative programmes and strategies that promote women's economic, human rights, political participation and economic security within the UN system. UN Women promotes gender equality and the women's issue and convenes to national, regional and global agendas by fostering collaboration and providing technical expertise in gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment strategies.



THANK YOU
ASANTE SANA
MERCIE