

Securing Funding for Women's Political Participation and Socio-Economic Empowerment

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Objectives of the presentation

To understand: -

- Progress on Women's representation in the Great Lakes
- Challenges
- Opportunities for regional interventions
- Resource mobilisation



Progress

- Influential regional institutions have strong & consistent commitments to promote WPP (AU, IGAD, EAC & ICGLR)
- Most countries have legal instruments for affirmative action for women's representation in parliament ranging from 25%-35%
- Average rep. of women in parliament is 27%; 50% of countries have exceeded 30% with Rwanda leading globally with 61%



Challenges

- Increased women's representation has not corresponded with increase in promotion & protection of women's rights, including gender sensitive laws;
- Electoral laws, institutions(including political parties) & processes need to be reformed to support women's participation;
- Elections are characterized by violence, including VAW & high financial expenditure which do not favour women
- Increasing women's representation requires more holistic interventions rather than ad hoc support at election time.



Opportunities

1. All countries of the Great Lakes have adopted the SDGs. 2 indicators call for gender parity in political representation;
2. Implementation of existing commitments on WPP to exceed affirmative action quotas.



Resource mobilisation

- Allocated/earmarked resources by donors to support women's participation from funding to elections;
- Multi year funding to address the underlying factors to women's effective participation;
- Support implementation of regional commitments on elections through effective programming;
- Joint regional mobilization by ICGLR, EAC, IGAD etc. for women's political participation.

THANK YOU