Enhancing Women's Full Participation in Electoral Processes in Post-Conflict Countries:

A Compilation of Resources

- **Articles**
- **Case studies**
- **Guidelines**
- **Manuals**
- **Reports**
- **Training materials**

April 2004

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A. INTRODUCTION

The promotion of women's full participation in electoral processes in post-conflict countries has been an important focus of the international community during the past decades. In this respect, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1979), recalls governments to "take all appropriate measures to grant women the right to vote in all elections and public referenda and to be eligible for election to all publicly elected bodies" (art. 7).

In addition, one of the main strategic objectives of the Beijing Platform for Action, adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995, is to increase the participation of women in conflict resolution at decision-making levels and protect women living in situations of armed and other conflicts or under foreign occupation. In particular, the Platform calls upon governments to "take action to promote equal participation of women and equal opportunities for women to participate in all forums and peace activities at all levels, particularly at the decision-making level" (para 142a).

The Platform also emphasizes the need for Member States to "take measures, including, where appropriate, in electoral systems that encourage political parties to integrate women in elective and non-elective public positions in the same proportion and at the same levels as men (para 190b). Furthermore, it encourages states to "review the differential impact of electoral systems on the political representation of women in elected bodies and consider, where appropriate, the adjustment or reform of those systems" (para 190d). Thus, it can be argued that women in power and decision-making are indeed critical areas of concern. As the Platform for Action further states, women's equal participation in political life plays a pivotal role in the general process of the advancement of women (para 181).

Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security, adopted on 31 October 2000, also reiterates the need on the part of 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" (para 1). It also calls upon all actors to "ensure the protection of and respect for human rights of women and girls, particularly as they relate to the constitution, the electoral system, the police and the judiciary (para 8c).

Finally, most recently, the Commission on the Status of Women, at its forty-eighth session, adopted the following agreed conclusions on women's participation in elections: "The Commission on the Status of Women calls on Governments, as well as all other relevant participants, to ensure equal access of women in all stages of the electoral process including to consider the adoption of measures for increasing women's participation in elections through, inter alia, individual voter registration, temporary gender-specific positive actions and access to information, representation in bodies administering elections and as election monitors and observers, as well as encouraging political parties to involve women fully and equally in all aspects of their operations"; and "ensure equal access for women to voter and civic education, provide women candidates with full support, training and financial resources, and eliminate discriminatory practices hampering women's participation either as voters or candidates".

It is within the specific framework of the above international agreements that this resource guide has been produced.

1. PURPOSE

Much of this compilation of references has been dedicated to the mechanisms put into place by different actors to enhance the participation of women in the political process. Selected resource material – articles, guidelines, training materials, papers, books, case studies – on enhancing the participation of women in electoral processes with a focus on post-conflict settings, were carefully reviewed. The purpose of this resource is to facilitate the dissemination of information on what has been done and documented to support the full participation of women at all stages of the electoral processes – pre, during and post elections.

2. AUDIENCE

This resource guide is targeted to different actors, namely, field-based agents, civil society and non-governmental organizations concerned with the promotion of women's inclusion in the formal political sphere of the post-conflict society.

3. METHOD AND MATERIAL

The material provided is mainly focused on post-conflict experiences and relies on secondary sources, which consist of internet sources and a literature review on the issue. The material is not exhaustive. It is, nevertheless, considered a valuable tool for the information on strategies put into place worldwide.

4. STRUCTURE

For each resource, the reader will find a brief summary of the content and entries identifying the name of the author and/or organization, where to find the resource (URL), country, category, and number of pages.

B. GENERAL REFERENCES ON WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN THE ELECTORAL PROCESS IN POST-CONFLICT COUNTRIES

1. Expert group meeting on "Enhancing women's participation in electoral processes in post-conflict countries"

The expert group meeting was jointly organized by the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and the United Nations Department of Political Affairs (DPA), in close collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), as well as several intergovernmental organizations supporting electoral processes.

The objectives of the meeting were to review what has been done to support women in all aspects of the electoral process in post-conflict countries and to develop an agenda for action on how to strengthen support to the full participation of women in electoral processes in post-conflict countries. Working groups, each one representing different actors – governments, international organizations, civil society, discussed thematic areas of legal framework, political representation and political parties, voter and civic education, electoral administration and electoral observation.

The experts' concerted efforts resulted in a final report that was presented at the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-eighth session.

Author: Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women (OSAGI/DESA)
URL: http://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/meetings/2004/EGMelectoral/index.html
Countries: General
Category: Report
Pages: 31

Background papers on enhancing women's participation in electoral processes in post-conflict countries

The following papers were prepared by consultants as background information for the expert group meeting on "Enhancing women's participation in electoral processes in post-conflict countries".

1. Enhancing women's participation in electoral processes in post-conflict countries

The paper addresses the following issues: characteristics of electoral processes in post-conflict countries, sources of international standards for women's participation in electoral processes, challenges and dilemmas faced by international bodies involved with post-conflict electoral processes and mechanisms for strengthening women's participation.

Author: Michael Maley, Director of International Services at the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC)
URL: http://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/meetings/2004/EGMelectoral/papers.html
Countries: General
Category: Paper
Pages: 18

2. Enhancing women's participation in electoral processes in post-conflict countries

The paper highlights specific issues which may affect the participation and representation of women in post-conflict electoral processes.

Author: Andrew Ellis, Head of Participation and Election Processes Team, International IDEA.
URL: http://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/meetings/2004/EGMelectoral/papers.html
Countries: General
Category: Paper
Pages: 9

Papers prepared by experts at the expert group meeting on "Enhancing women's participation in electoral processes in post-conflict countries"

1. Women's participation in electoral processes in selected countries in the Middle East

The paper investigates Arab women's political participation. Three case studies are examined, namely, Yemen, Lebanon and Jordan.

Author: Amal Sabbagh, Secretary-General of the Jordanian National Commission for Women
URL: http://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/meetings/2004/EGMelectoral/papers.html
Countries: Yemen, Lebanon, Jordan
Category: Paper
Pages: 16

2. Enhancing women's participation in electoral processes in post-conflict countries: experiences from Mozambique

The paper examines the case of women's participation in electoral processes in Mozambique. More specifically, the author investigates gender-sensitive legislation, voter registration and education, political parties and training of women candidates.

Author: Alcinda De Abreu, Director, Gender Institute for Democracy, Leadership and Development (GEDLIDE).
URL: http://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/meetings/2004/EGMelectoral/papers.html
Countries: Mozambique
Category: Paper
Pages: 9

3. Enhancing women's participation in electoral processes in post-conflict countries: experiences from East Timor

The author provides an analysis and assessment of the extent to which electoral processes were supportive or not of women's participation in elections as well as gender-sensitive legislation governing electoral assistance. In addition, obstacles, lessons learned, and best practices in promoting and supporting the full participation of women in electoral processes in East Timor are addressed.

Author: Milena Pires, Programme, UNIFEM, Timor Leste
URL: http://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/meetings/2004/EGMelectoral/papers.html
Countries: Timor Leste
Category: Paper
Pages: 11

4. Women's participation in electoral processes: Guatemalan case study

The paper analyzes the participation of Guatemalan women in the two elections which took place during the post-conflict period. Special attention is given to the different types of strategies and activities put into practice by women's organizations during the 2003 elections. Specific recommendations to enhance the role of women in electoral processes are also provided.

Author: Luz Mendez, President, Advisory Council, National Union of Guatemalan Women
URL: http://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/meetings/2004/EGMelectoral/papers.html
Countries: Guatemala
Category: Paper
Pages: 10

5. Strengthening Governance: The Role of Women in Rwanda's Transition

The report examines the significance of gender to governance, explores the new structures created by the Rwanda's transitional government to increase women's participation in the political arena, and highlights women's contributions to promoting peace through good governance. The ballot system used during the 1999 elections is summarized below:

The triple ballot system
In the 2001 sector level elections, each voter used three ballots: a general ballot, a woman's ballot, and a youth ballot. Voters selected one person on each ballot, thus picking a general candidate (frequently, but not necessarily) a man, a woman, and a young person. Through subsequent indirect election, a district council was chosen from among candidates who won at the sector level.
Advantages
- The system was successful in guaranteeing the election of at least 20 per cent of women district-level leadership.   - The system gave the opportunity to many women who felt uncomfortable competing against men, to run for elections and compete instead against women.

Author: Elizabeth Powley, Women Waging Peace Policy Commission, 2003
URL: http://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/meetings/2004/EGMelectoral/papers.html
(summary paper)
URL: http://www.womenwagingpeace.net/content/articles/RwandaFullCaseStudy.pdf
(full text)
Countries: Rwanda
Category: Report
Pages: 50

6. Advancing women's political rights in Bosnia-Herzegovina: Making a difference early in the peace process (A case study)

The author argues that after the 1996 elections, the virtual absence of women in politics led to the lack of attention paid to the status of Bosnian women. After considerable lobbying on the part of Bosnian women activists, the Office of the High Representative in Bosnia-Herzegovina (OHR) and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the Gender Minority Rule, which included a quota rule, was adopted by the Government and incorporated in the election law in 2001. One of the effects of such law was an increase in the numbers of women in the political sphere.

Author: Tanya L. Domi, The Harriman Review, Vol. 14, 2002
URL:
Countries: Bosnia-Herzegovina
Category: Paper
Pages: 11

7. Enhancing the role of women in electoral processes in post-conflict countries: post-election support

The paper gives an overview of the situation of women in parliaments in post-conflict countries as well as the challenges faced by women in the political arena. Lessons learned and recommendations are also provided.

Author: Kareen Jabre, Manager, Program for the Promotion of Partnership between Men and Women, Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)
URL: http://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/meetings/2004/EGMelectoral/papers.html
Countries: General
Category: Paper
Pages: 26

8. Constitutional provisions and enhancing participation of women in elections

This paper discusses the participation of women in post-conflict societies from a perspective of the legislative measures that can be taken to enhance the participation of women.

Author: Muna Ndulo, Director, Cornell University's Institute for African Development
URL: http://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/meetings/2004/EGMelectoral/papers.html
Countries: General
Category: Paper
Pages: 19

9. Political parties and special measures: enhancing women's participation in electoral processes

The paper specifically focuses on the role of political parties in recruiting candidates for election, the specific challenges that confront women, and the use of special measures as a means to facilitating women's entry into politics.

Authors: Julie Ballington, Manager, Gender and Political Participation Project, International IDEA, and Richard Matland, Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Houston.
URL: http://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/meetings/2004/EGMelectoral/papers.html
Countries: General
Category: Paper
Pages: 16

C. REFERENCES ON WOMEN AND THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK

1. Changes ushered in by the new constitutional provisions

The statement emphasizes the constitutional provisions adopted by the Rwandan Constitution concerned with equal opportunity and social justice. In addition, it describes the constitution as being fully engendered and conceived in accordance with the existing international legal instruments.

Author: Hon. Julianna Kantengwa, member of the Rwandan Parliament
URL:http://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/meetings/2004/CSW48Panel/csw48panel-kantengwa.pdf
Countries: Rwanda
Category: Statement
Pages: 7

2. The inclusion of principles of gender equality and women's human rights for a gender-sensitive constitution in the national seminar on "The Process of Engendering a New Constitution for Rwanda—A Summary"

The article describes the processes for engendering a constitution and gives examples of institutionalization of national mechanisms for gender equality. It also points out that despite the lack of explicit mentioning of affirmative action or quotas in the Rwandan Constitution and the fact that the Parliament has not made laws relevant to the principle of affirmative action, the government, has nevertheless made special efforts to include women in the political and public sectors.

Author: Diana Opar, Regional Gender Advisor, United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), 2002
URL:
Countries: Rwanda
Category: Report
Pages: 3

3. The Gender and Law Working Group

The article highlights the recommendations on the draft constitution of Afghanistan made by the Gender and Law Working Group. The Gender and Law Working Group was established in 2002 with the goal of providing a forum for government and non-government actors concerned with women's human rights and ensuring that these issues are addressed in Afghanistan's constitutional, legal and electoral law. With regard to women's political participation, the Working Group recommended the following: "The law shall ensure gender balance through all phases of the electoral process including women's representation in the provincial assembly" and "the law will provide for the participation of women in the local councils".

Author/s: The Gender and Law Working Group
URL: http://www.nodo50.org/ddhhmujeres/afganistan_genderandlaw.htm
Countries: Afghanistan
Category: Article
Pages: 12

4. Gender and Development: The Case of South Africa and the Southern African Development Community

As the author argues, the article traces the ways in which gender and development are used both nationally (South Africa) and regionally (Southern African Development Community's - SADC's).

In 1997, the SADAC Council of Ministers adopted a policy and institutional framework for gender mainstreaming in the SADAC program of action. The programme envisages the achievement of at least 30 per cent of women in political and decision-making structures by 2005.

Author: Rozenda Hendrickse, University of Western Cape, South Africa
URL: http://www.gs.howard.edu/Sasak-Forum_UWC-Gender-and-Development.htm
Countries: South Africa and SADAC
Category: Article
Pages: 6

5. Women Empowered. Women in Parliament in South Africa
The article describes the measures adopted by the South African government to mainstream women's issues and improve the status of South African women. According to the author, South African women played a remarkable role in the drafting of the constitution. In doing so, they had to overcome resistance coming from their parties and the constitutional assembly.

Author: Mavivi Myakayaka-Manzini, Member of the South African Parliament
URL: http://www.idea.int/women/parl/studies5a.htm
Countries: South Africa
Category: Article
Pages: 5

6. Gender Equality Promotion

The paper provides a summary of the strategies employed to enhance the participation of women in the political process in Timor Leste. In this regard:

❑ Constitutional commissions were established to consult with the East Timorese people and at least 40 per cent of the Commissioners were women.
❑ The Independent Electoral Commission formed a gender equity working group and took concrete actions to ensure that women fully participate in the process, not only as candidates and voters, but also as electoral administrators.
❑ A working group on women and the constitution, composed of several civil society organizations was formed and, in consultation with the Gender Affairs Unit of UNTAET, organized meetings with women's groups all over the country discussing basic issues affecting women in East Timor. A Women's Charter of Rights in East Timor was also agreed upon.
❑ The Constitution of East Timor has among the fundamental objectives of the State "to promote and guarantee the effective equality of opportunities between women and men" and the principle of non-discrimination on grounds of gender is another fundamental principle.

Author: UNTAET, Office of Communication and Public Information, 2002
URL: http://www.un.org/peace/etimor/fact/fs11.PDF
Countries: East Timor
Category: Paper
Pages: 3

7. Gender justice and accountability in peace support operations: Closing the gaps

This policy paper provides an analysis of gender justice and accountability in the context of international peace support operations (PSO's) and gives recommendations for UN and regional peacekeeping bodies. More specifically, the paper takes into account the case of the East Timorese Constitution, where women's advocacy led to the inclusion of gender-sensitive provisions.

Author: Pam Spees, International Alert, 2004
URL: http://www.international-alert.org/pdf/pubgen/gender_justice_accountability_peace_operations.pdf
Countries: General
Category: Paper
Pages: 32

8. Burundian women's peace conference opened in Arusha

The Burundian Women's Peace Conference organized by UNIFEM in cooperation with the Mwalimu Nyerere Foundation (17 - 20 July 2000) took place in Arusha and lobbied for the participation of women in the peace process as well as advocated with parties to the conflict to ensure that the peace agreement included gender provisions.

Sponsors: United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), and the Mwalimu Nyerere Foundation, 2000
URL: http://www.afrol.com/News/bur001_womens_conference.htm
Countries: Burundi
Category: Article
Pages: 1

D. REFERENCES ON WOMEN AND POLITICAL REPRESENTATION

1. Gender checklist for free and fair elections in Southern Africa

This guide provides useful checklists for ensuring gender equality in free and fair elections. The checklists address different thematic areas of the electoral process, namely, international, regional, sub-regional and national frameworks for gender equality in elections; national constitutions; legal framework; political parties; electoral commission and the role of civil society actors.

This is a gender-responsive model that seeks to incorporate gender mainstreaming at every stage of an election that can be applied to post-conflict countries. In addition, the guide contains recommendations on registration of voters, voter education programmes, campaign processes, procedure for voting, and institutionalized monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.

Author: SADC-ESN Electoral Support Network, 2002
URL:
Countries: Southern Africa
Category: Guide
Pages: 18

2. Women's political participation and leadership development programme. Women's campaign manual

With the specific purpose of assisting women candidates in Kenya before and during a campaign, this manual gives guidelines on the following topics: fundraising, budgeting, campaign planning, message development, projecting a positive image, techniques of public speaking, the media, volunteers, voter contact, scheduling, and calendar of events/activities.

Author: National Democratic Institute for International Affairs/NDI, Nairobi, Kenya, 1997
URL: http://www.accessdemocracy.org/library/1291_wp_campaign_manual_123197.pdf
Countries: General
Category: Manual
Pages: 30

3. Training of trainers manual, nominating for change: strengthening women's position in political parties

This manual was specifically designed for a 4-day workshop held in Jakarta, Indonesia in 2003. However, according to the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI), the manual can be adapted and used as a guide for other programmes whose aim is to promote women's political participation. It contains 20 sections, which include strategies for confidence-building, prepare women as legislative candidates, steps in self-promotion, as well as psychological/mental preparation.

Author/s: National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI), 2003
URL: http://www.accessdemocracy.org/library/1632_id_parties_053103.pdf
Countries: General
Category: Manual
Pages: 127

4. Women candidates training programme: Trainer's manual

This manual was specifically designed for political party trainers for the training of women candidates in local government. The manual is divided into eight sections, each addressing different issues, namely, local government, the party ticketing process, building the party identity, election codes of conduct, campaign planning, message development, campaigning and project monitoring.

Author: National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI) Nepal, 2002
URL: http://www.accessdemocracy.org/library/1623_np_womentrainermanualPDF.pdf
Countries: Nepal
Category: Manual
Pages: 64

5. Women's participation

This website provides concrete worldwide examples on programmes aimed at training women candidates, political party assistance, and training women's officials and leaders.

Author: National Democratic Institute
URL: http://www.ndi.org/globalp/women/progrmasw/women_traincan_52001.asp
Countries: General
Category: Website
Page: 6

6. Conclusion: lessons learned from the Asian experience with quotas in "The implementation of quotas: Asian experiences. Quota workshops report series"

The article lists important lessons learned from the implementation of quotas in Asia. A brief summary is provided below:

- ❑ When properly implemented, quotas are an effective means to fast-tracking women's access to decision-making bodies.
- ❑ East Timor is an example of the arguments often used by those opposing quotas (unqualified women will be elected; candidate selection is a party prerogative that is best based on merit; there is a shortage of "willing" women to contest the poll).
- ❑ By and large, women in Bangladesh have not served as advocates of women's rights.
- ❑ While quotas ensure women's presence in parliament, there is no guarantee that women will be able to use their power effectively.
- ❑ Quotas and skills training can be used as simultaneous strategies for the empowerment of women (the case of Pakistan).
- ❑ The case of Bangladesh illustrates that timing is extremely important and that quotas should not be abolished until the political playing field is truly even.
- ❑ A strong women's network and civil society support are key to a successful introduction of quotas. If quotas are being implemented in countries with a limited history of women's mobilization and women's integration in political life, the type of quota intervention needs to be chosen carefully and determined by the social and cultural context and political climate in the country.

Authors: Julie Ballington and Cecilia Bylesjo, International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA), 2002
URL: http://www.idea.int/publications/quotas/Asia_Report.pdf
Countries: India, East Timor, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Indonesia
Category: Report
Pages: 37

7. Lessons for expanding women's representation in "Enhancing women's political participation: legislative recruitment and electoral systems"

The author examines strategies that can be utilized to overcome obstacles to the political participation of women and, as a result, increase their participation in the public sphere.

Author/s: Richard E. Matland, International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA)
URL: http://www.idea.int/women/parl/ch3d.htm
Countries: General
Category: Website
Page: 2

8. In search of political power: women in parliament in Egypt, Jordan, and Lebanon

This study analyzes the restrictions to political participation Arab women face, and some of the tactics utilized by women to obtain access to the political sphere. Among the measures put into place to promote women's participation in elections were: the provision of women-only transportation to polling stations, cooperation with women's organizations to raise women's legal awareness regarding their voting rights and cooperation with male leaders in local communities.

Among the strategies utilized to strengthen women's participation in politics were: the increased access to information and skills, lobbying other women members of parliament or sympathetic men members of parliament in order to gain support for their bills and becoming familiar with the rules and guidelines of the political game.

Author/s: Gehan Abu-Zayd, International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA)
URL: http://www.idea.int/women/parl/studies1a.htm
Countries: Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon
Category: Website
Pages: 7

9. Quotas in Pakistan: A case study in "The implementation of quotas: Asian experiences. Quota workshops report series"

The "Devolution of Power Plan", which was approved in March 2000 by the Pakistani government, contains a provision of 33 per cent quota for women. The author proposes a framework to promote equal participation of women in decision-making structures, which includes awareness-raising, capacity-building, research and documentation, and policy analysis and advocacy.

Author/s: Socorro L. Reyes, International Democratic Electoral Assistance (IDEA), 2002
URL: http://www.idea.int/publications/quotas/Asia_Report.pdf
Countries: Pakistan
Category: Report
Pages: 37

10. Promoting gender equality in the democratic process: women's paths to political participation and decision-making. Synthesis paper

This paper explores the concept of "good governance", which, according to the author, entails women's full and active participation in politics and decision-making. One of the main arguments made is that as women enter the realm of politics, they acquire a greater sense of ownership of the political process, which in turn leads to a greater organized participation of women in the public sphere.

Authors: Patricia Ahern, Paul Nuti, Julia M. Masterson, Promoting Women in Development (PROWID), 2000
URL: http://www.icrw.org/docs/GCSLsynthesispaper.pdf
Countries: General
Category: Paper
Pages: 44

11. Coalition-building, election rules, and party politics: South African women's path to parliament

The article's main argument is that the creation of a strong women's movement served as a catalyst to the post-transition success in constitutional reforms, party politics and election of women to public office in South Africa. More specifically:

- ❑ The Women's National Coalition (WNC) developed a national platform for action, collaborated on policy issues and raised awareness on the status and role of women nationally.
- ❑ Once the Women's National Coalition (WNC) was founded, women formed cross-party bargaining teams to pressure their way into the constitutional negotiations. As a result, women were able to incorporate their needs in the constitution.
- ❑ Because of the national impact of the women's movement, women were able to pressure their parties for internal affirmative action measures and demand quotas and/or the recruitment and training of women candidates.

Author: Hannah E. Britton, Africa Today, Vol. 49, 2002
URL:
Countries: South Africa
Category: Article
Pages: 24

12. Gender equality and electoral politics on the left: A comparison of El Salvador and Nicaragua

This comparative study analyzes the representation of women in party structures, candidate lists for public office, legislative assemblies as well as strategies employed by women to increase female representation in El Salvador and Nicaragua. More specifically, the paper examines the 1996 Nicaraguan and 1997 Salvadoran parliamentary elections from a gender perspective.

The article emphasizes that much work had to be done in order to convince women to run for elections at the local level. In both countries, with only a few exceptions, the number of women elected was minimal. However, as it was in the case of El Salvador, women's perseverance in securing top positions on the party list combined with the strategy of nominating fewer women to concentrate the vote, was an effective mechanism that increased the chances of women candidates being elected.

Author: Llja A. Luciack, Journal of Interamerican Studies and World Affairs, 1998, Vol. 40 Issue 1.
URL:
Countries: El Salvador and Nicaragua
Category: Article
Pages: 28

13. The 30 per cent quota law: A turning point for women's political participation in Argentina in "A raising public voice. Women in politics worldwide"

The chapter discusses the introduction, challenges and effects of the quota system in Argentina. The law was implemented in 1991 and was enforced during the national elections in 1993. Effective strategies employed by women in public office to have the quota law passed are summarized below:

- ❑ Inter-party alliance was essential for approval of the law.
- ❑ The Peronist Party women organized several meetings to present and discuss the law, inviting male politicians as speakers. Using this strategy, they tried to induce men to make a public commitment before the mass assembly.
- ❑ The women took advantage of all existing political links, such as having worked together in the same committees, personal affinities, shared political and professional experience.

Authors: Gloria Bonder and Marcela Nari, edited by Alida Brill, 1995. The Feminist Press at the City University of New York, New York.
URL:
Countries: Argentina
Category: Chapter
Pages: 10

14. Economic and political change in Poland in "Women and democracy. Latin America and Central Eastern Europe"

This chapter describes the experience of Polish women after the downfall of the communist regime in the late 1980's and early 1990's. Evidence shows that in both the 1991 and 1993 elections, women made up only a meager group of candidates. Not only did political parties place women on their list unenthusiastically, but they also avoided placing women candidates on top of their lists. Nevertheless, as it turned out, women received on average more votes than men. As a result, the author concludes that "the problem for women candidates lies more in the actions of party leaders than in voter resistance" (p.137).

Author: Renata Siemienska, 1998, edited by Jane S. Jaquette and Sharon L.Wolchik, The Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore and London
URL:
Countries: Poland
Category: Chapter
Pages: 25

15. Stability pact gender task force report

The report describes different projects undertaken to mainstream gender equality in party politics namely "Women can do it II", "Women voters can do it", and "Women can do it in Trade Unions".

Author: Stability Pact Gender Task Force, 2003
URL: http://www.stabilitypact.org/gender/actrep-may2003.pdf
Countries: South-Eastern Europe
Category: Report
Pages: 6

16. Kosovo: independent voting

The non-governmental organization "Women without Borders" is launching a lobbying project directed at the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the election organizers of the Kosovo election in 2004. The main objective of the project is the reform of the current voting procedures so that women are able to vote more independently. Women without Borders will campaign for a pilot scheme initially in a few municipalities, which, if successful, could be used as a blue print for future elections and in other countries.

Author: Women without Borders
URL: http://www.women-without-borders.org/frauen-ohne-grenzen.asp?loc=projekte&pg=projekte&id=307
Countries: Kosovo
Category: Article
Pages: 1

17. Kosovo action plan for the achievement of gender equality

The National Action Plan (NAP) for the Achievement of Gender Equality presents recommendations to overcome gender disparity in different areas in Kosovo. The report suggests specific measures that should be taken by key actors, namely government, political parties and civil society, in particular women's non-governmental organizations, to increase the number of women in politics and government, especially in key decision-making structures.

Author: United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)
URL: http://www.womensnetwork.org/english/pdf/Kosovo%20action%20plan%20(english).pdf
Countries: Kosovo
Category: Article
Pages: 76

18. Getting it right? A Gender approach to UNMIK administration in Kosovo

The study outlines successes and challenges faced by UNMIK and provides an analysis and recommendations on how to improve the access of women to the political arena.

Author: The Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation, 2001.
URL: http://www.womensnetwork.org/english/pdf/Kosovorapport.pdf
Countries: Kosovo
Category: Report
Pages: 42

19. Plan of action to correct present imbalances in the participation of men and women in political life

This Plan of Action, which was developed by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), is divided into five main sections. In particular, section C deals with the participation in politics at the national level and covers issues such as the promotion of women's political awareness, respect for the principle of equality in political parties, measures for affirmative action, participation of women in elections, and the sharing of political responsibilities by men and women.

Measures suggested to ensure the participation in the activities of political life include: arranging times of meetings so that they do not coincide with the time when priority is usually given to children and the family, setting up day-care centres or kindergartens for children that are available free of charge, and fixing and respecting the time for beginning and ending a meeting.

Author: Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), Geneva, 1994
URL:
Countries: General
Category: Report
Pages: 34

20. Gender checklist for free and fair elections: A handbook

This guide takes into account the conditions necessary for the achievement of free and fair elections in South Africa which includes a gendered understanding of the concept of citizenship.

Author: Electoral Institute of Southern Africa (EISA), 1999
URL: http://www.eisa.org.za/EISA/publications/pubgender.htm
Countries: South Africa
Category: Checklist
Pages: 10

21. Gender checklist for free and fair elections – Tanzania

This guide describes international and national mechanisms for securing the involvement of women in the electoral process in Tanzania.

Author: Electoral Institute of Southern Africa (EISA), 2000
URL: http://www.eisa.org.za/EISA/publications/pubgender.htm
Countries: Tanzania
Category: Checklist
Pages: 14

22. Gender checklist for free and fair elections – Zimbabwe

This guide describes international and national mechanisms for securing the involvement of women in the electoral process in Zimbabwe.

Author: Electoral Institute of Southern Africa (EISA), 2000
URL: http://www.eisa.org.za/EISA/publications/pubgender.htm
Countries: Zimbabwe
Category: Checklist
Pages: 14

E. REFERENCES ON WOMEN AND VOTER EDUCATION

1. Encouraging women's participation through voter education in "One woman one vote: the gender politics of South African elections"

In the South African Elections of 1994, voter education programmes, conducted by both NGO's and political parties, proved to be necessary mechanisms for the outreach of women voters, especially in rural areas. A summary of the article is provided below:

Goals of voter education programmes
▪ Educate voters about democracy.
▪ Explain the secrecy of the ballot.
▪ Teach citizens how to vote and motivate them to participate in elections.
Measures taken to promote women's participation in the voter education programmes
▪ Recruitment of women trainers.
▪ Organization of separate workshops with only women participants, so that women could voice their opinions and concerns without interruption by men.
Some of the techniques used in the workshops
▪ Staging voting exercises and rehearsal of the voting process to reduce intimidation.
▪ Use of documentary films disseminated by means of mobile video units in rural areas.
▪ Hiring theatre groups performing voter education plays.
Main critique
▪ Very few programmes explored in depths the correlation between women's votes and their empowerment. In other words, few programmes focused on the concept of women's empowerment in the long-term.

Authors: Julie Ballington, Glenda Fick, Sheila Meintjes and Mary Simons (eds.), EISA, Johannesburgh, 2002.
URL:
Countries: South Africa
Category: Article
Pages: 24

2. Women's participation: civic education and advocacy

The website provides concrete worldwide examples on civic education and advocacy programmes.

Authors: National Democratic Institute
URL: http://www.ndi.org/globalp/women/progrmasw/women_civiced_52001.asp
Countries: General
Category: Website
Pages: 4

3. The role of women's organizations as pressure/lobby groups in "Enhancing women's involvement in national processes leading up to elections"

Hon. Julianna Kantengwa describes the concerted efforts and achievements of women's organizations and networks in Rwanda, which organized in the *Collectifs Pro-femmes Twese Hamwe* (41 different associations), The Rwandan Women Leaders Caucus, The Forum for Rwanda Women Parliamentarians (FFRP), The National Council of Women, as well the Ministry of Gender and Women Promotion.

Author/s: Julianna Kantengwa, Member of the Rwandan Parliament
URL:http://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/meetings/2004/CSW48Panel/csw48panel-kantengwa.pdf
Countries: Rwanda
Category: Statement prepared for the Commission on the Status of Women at its 48th Session
Pages: 7

4. Voter education. Zenica, Bosnia-Herzegovina

With 15 local trainers and three programme assistants, the International Foundation for Election Systems (IFES)-Zenica directly reached 3,500 voters in six weeks through in-depth, voter education group discussions. A special effort was made to develop educational materials including flash cards, poster, introduction brochure, and a voter guide. By the last week of the campaign, three television spots and three radio spots were also produced and aired on most media outlets in central Bosnia. In addition to more than 300 voter sessions, this project also supported 24 refugee reading centres via limited purchase of local newspapers and the distribution of election materials.

Author/s: The International Foundation for Election Systems (IFES), 1996
URL: http://www.ifes.org/reg_activities/reports/execsum/zenve96.htm
Countries: Bosnia-Herzegovina
Category: Article
Pages: 1

F. REFERENCES ON WOMEN AND ELECTORAL ADMINISTRATION

1. The participatory elections project

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) has undertaken an extensive study of the challenges associated with the enfranchisement of refugees and internally displaced persons.

Author/s: The International Organization for Migration
URL: http://www.iom.int/pep/
Countries: General
Category: Website

2. Voting for peace, survival and self-reliance. Internally displaced women go to the polls in Sierra Leone

The report examines the 2002 presidential and parliamentary elections in Sierra Leone, which experienced a massive turnout of women voters to the polls. It is based upon the fundamental assumption that internally displaced and women returnees' informed vote will improve their lives and ensure their participation in the reconstruction of their country. The paper makes specific recommendations to the National Electoral Commission in order to make this institution more efficient.

Author/s: Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children, 2002
URL: http://www.womenscommission.org/pdf/sl.pdf
Countries: Sierra Leone
Category: Report
Pages: 24

G. REFERENCES ON WOMEN AND ELECTORAL OBSERVATION

1. Handbook for monitoring women's participation in elections

The Office for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) has produced a handbook for monitoring women's participation in elections which provides valuable checklists.

Author/s: The Office for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)
URL: http://www.osce.org/odihr/
Countries: General
Category: Checklist
Pages: 32

H. References on elections and the media

1. Media programmes - IMPACS

The Institute for Media, Policy and Civil Society (IMPACS) is currently implementing international projects in Afghanistan, Guyana, and Sri Lanka. More specifically, the Afghan project has been designed to provide support to Afghani women in the reconstruction of their society and institutions.

Author/s: The Institute for Media, Policy and Civil Society (IMPACS)
URL: http://www.impacs.org/
Countries: Afghanistan, Guyana, Sri Lanka, South Asia
Category: Website

2. Guidelines for elections broadcasting in international democracies

This report provides an analysis of election broadcasting, giving particular emphasis on practices that neglect and enhance political communications.

Author/s: Sandra Coliver, Patrick Merloe, United Kingdom, 1994
URL: http://www.impacs.org/pdfs/guideelectionbroadcast.pdf
Countries: General
Category: Guidelines
Pages: 116

I. WEBSITE RESOURCES ON ELECTORAL PROCESSES

1. United Nations Department of Political Affairs
   http://www.un.org/Depts/dpa/normal.htm

2. Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women (OSAGI)
   http://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/

3. United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW)
   http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/
   http://www.un.org/womenwatch/

4. United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)
   http://www.unifem.org
   http://womenwarpeace.org

5. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
   http://undp.org

6. Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)
   http://www.ipu.org/english/home.htm

7. Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)
   http://www.osce.org/
   http://www.osce.org/odihr/

8. International Institute for Democratic and Electoral Assistance (IDEA)
   http://www.idea.int/

9. Global Database of Quotas for Women. A joint project of International IDEA and Stockholm University
   http://www.quotaproject.org.

10. National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI)
    http://www.ndi.org/

11. The Carter Center
    http://www.cartercenter.org/default.asp?bFlash=True

12. The Electoral Institute of Southern Africa
    http://www.eisa.org.za/

13. Women Waging Peace
    http://www.womenwagingpeace.net/

14. Women without Borders
    http://www.women-without-borders.org/frauen-ohne-grenzen.asp

15. The Institute for Media, Policy and Civil Society (IMPACS)
    http://www.impacs.org/

14. The ACE project
    http://www.aceproject.org/main/english/

16. The International Foundation for Elections Systems (IFES)
    http://www.ifes.org/