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ECOSOC 3: Commission on the status of women (CSW)

# Research Report

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Topic 3: Ensuring representation and gender parity amongst women in politics.



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## Introduction

Worldwide and at all levels of decision-making, women in politics are underrepresented. Political decisions shape our daily life and society. It is crucial to have a parliament reflecting the composition of its population. An equal gender participation in political and public life is essential to achieve the sustainable development goals by 2030.

## Definition of Key Terms

**Gender parity** refers to the equal participation and representation of both genders, typically in the context of social, economic, and political activities. It emphasizes achieving a balance between men and women, ensuring that opportunities, resources, and responsibilities are distributed fairly.

**Representation of women in politics** refers to the presence and involvement of women in decision-making roles within political structures, aiming to ensure their perspectives, experiences, and interests are considered and reflected in the formulation of policies and legislation. Achieving gender-balanced representation is crucial for fostering inclusive and diverse governance.

**The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** by 2030 are a set of 17 global objectives established by the United Nations to address various social, economic, and environmental challenges. These goals aim to achieve sustainable development by addressing issues such as poverty, inequality, climate change, and promoting well-being worldwide.<sup>1</sup>

**The gender gap** refers to the difference in the percentage of women and the percentage of men voting for a given candidate or supporting a particular party, officeholder, or issue.

## Background Information

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<sup>1</sup> Sustainable development UN, <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

Ensuring representation and gender parity among women in politics is crucial for fostering inclusive governance. This topic is important because diverse perspectives lead to more comprehensive decision-making, reflecting the needs and experiences of the entire population.

Major breakthroughs in this field include the increasing global recognition of the importance of women's political participation, the implementation of affirmative action measures, and the rise of influential women leaders breaking traditional barriers.

Progress in this issue has been evident through rising numbers of women in political roles globally, though challenges persist.

However, at the current rate, only six countries have 50 % or more women in parliament: Rwanda (61 per cent), Cuba (53 per cent), Nicaragua (52 per cent), Mexico (50 per cent), New Zealand (50 per cent), and the United Arab Emirates (50 per cent).<sup>2</sup>

## Major Countries and Organisations Involved

### Sweden:

Recognized for pioneering gender-inclusive policies, Sweden serves as a benchmark for effective measures to enhance women's political representation.

### United Nations Development Programme (UNDP):

Plays a pivotal role in supporting countries in achieving gender equality, including initiatives to bolster women's political participation.<sup>3</sup>

### Rwanda:

Exemplifies noteworthy progress, with a high percentage of women in parliamentary positions, demonstrating the transformative impact of intentional policies.

### UN Women:

A United Nation entity dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women.

### She Leads Africa:

An African organization pushing women to become leaders in various fields, including politics.

## Relevant UN Resolutions

### Resolution (S/RES/1325)

Resolution 1325 urges all actors to increase the participation of women and incorporate gender perspectives in all United Nations peace and security efforts.<sup>4</sup>

### Resolution 1820

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<sup>2</sup> Global data on national parliaments, [https://data.ipu.org/womenranking?month=1&year=2023`](https://data.ipu.org/womenranking?month=1&year=2023)

<sup>3</sup> UNDP <https://www.undp.org>

<sup>4</sup> UN, Security Council Resolution 1325 “Landmark resolution on Women, Peace and Security”, <https://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/wps/>

Resolution 1820, unanimously adopted and co-sponsored by 36 UN Member States, calls for immediate action for the protection of civilians, inter-alia, women and girls from all forms of sexual violence.<sup>5</sup>

### Resolution 2122 (2013)

Resolution 2122 Creates stronger measures to include women in peace processes and calls for regular briefings and reports on Women, Peace, and Security issues to various organizations and members of the United Nations.<sup>6</sup>

### Previous Attempts to Solve the Issue

Past endeavors to address gender parity in politics have included affirmative action measures, awareness campaigns, and policy reforms. Initiatives like the Convention on the Political Rights of Women and the UN's "Equal Representation in Political Decision-Making" underscore the international commitment to fostering women's political empowerment. A lot of notable steps have been taken by the UN in the past few years. The resolutions adopted since 2000 (Resolution 1325) marks a profound conviction that women in politics should be more represented and should participate more actively globally in political life. Other organisations such as She Leads Africa have also been created to solve this issue.

#### She Leads Africa:

An African organization pushing women to become leaders in various fields, including politics.

### Possible Solutions

**Quota Systems:** Implementing and reinforcing quota systems to ensure a minimum percentage of women in political positions, fostering inclusivity.

**Education and Mentorship Programs:** Creating programs to educate and mentor women interested in politics, addressing systemic barriers to entry.

**Policy Advocacy:** Collaborating with governments to enact policies that promote gender parity, ensuring women's voices are integral in shaping political landscape.

### Bibliography

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<sup>6</sup> UN, Resolution 2122, <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N13/523/44/PDF/N1352344.pdf?OpenElement>

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