

**CYBER DIALOGUE: GENDER AND GOVERNANCE
FRIDAY 4 MARCH 2005**

Kubi FRIDAY 4 MARCH STARTS HERE	Hello all, welcome to the cyber dialogue on "Gender and governance", our panelists are Gertrude Mongella (President of the African Union), Ruth Kibiti (UNIFEM, Sudan) and Bazma Alkhateb (UNIFEM, Iraq), Julie Ballington (Programme officer, Women in Politics, IDEAS International) and Ana Elena Obando (Human rights lawyer) will be joining us from Costa Rica. My name is Kubi rama and with my colleague Lydia Levin will be facilitating this chat. Some house rules. We will ask the panelists to make their comments on questions and for participants to make contributions. Lets chat.
kubi	Over the last ten years what have been the most important gains for women in government?
Loga	As far as women in politics is concerned Mauritius is in a very bad posture. We are not gaining but losing and yet Mauritius pretends that it can export democracy!
JULIE BALLINGTON	For international IDEA, an important development has been the increase in the numbers of women that now have access to decision-making positions in parliaments. From 11.5% in 1995, the increase to 15.7 in 2005 has been the quickest gain in the past 100 years
Loga	Forgot to say how proud I am to be able to chat with Gertrude. It is indeed an honour having heard the name so often!
oriokot henry	thank you women have really got a lot in terms of big political positions, discrimination is low and we have believed that even women can do at times better than even men
birabwa	In Uganda the most important gains for women has been the affirmative action taken to create structures that involve women at all levels of leadership right from the grass root level to parliament and even having a Lady vice President.
JULIE BALLINGTON	however, the numbers are still well short of the target of at least 30% set in the BFA. Much work needs to be done on the numbers. But numbers alone are not enough! and they need to be complemented by women gaining access to key decision making positions in government. There are now over 14% women in ministerial positions
oriokot henry	in most cases women are now involved in planning, control etc
kubi	Ana Elena tell us about where the women are in Latin and Central America?
gertrude	women have gained confidence to run in elections women numbers in Africa has increased due to changes in mind set leaders through women lobbying have accepted the parity principle in sharing of power. Hi Loga glad to be recognised. Now I'm getting help with keyboarding
gertrude	One of the demonstrations of that spirit is my election to this important post as the president of the Pan African Parliament and I hold this position on behalf of the women of the world and particularly those in Africa
shahidaelbaz	In Egypt women have reached most decision-making posts. My question is : could this be sufficient for guaranteeing that women's interests are considered?
Loga	There are only 5.7% women in Parliament and until recently there was only one woman Minister. With the resignation of a male Minister a Lady got the post of Minister of Arts and Culture. Although it is the first time in the history of Mauritius that this ministry is being given to a woman this is not enough. I somehow get the impression that women are not vocal enough on this subject. One Gertrude is definitely not enough although she stands for African women
kubi	How many women are there in government in your country?
oriokot henry	however in some cases women have never taken it serious and still lack confidence and others have turned it for their own gains and using their fellow ladies then after they are left in suspense its worse in Uganda
gertrude	The question now is not the number of women in positions but what impact does this have

	on the decision making on issues which are of great concern to the women
gertrude	Dear Loga you must even be happy that i am in that important position. It could have been a man
flo	hi to all of you, in my country[cameroon], we have six women in the government
JULIE BALLINGTON	Latin America has seen an increase in terms of the numbers of women over the past year years. The adoption of the law on quotas in Argentina prompted a 'quota' fever in the region with a further 10 countries adopting quotas for women in the 1990s. This has resulted in a 6% increase overall in the numbers of women. And we have two Latin American countries reaching the beijing target - Argentina and Cost Rica
gertrude	But the most important thing again is that we have to work towards the implementation of what we want to recognise women as part of the decision making process and not only have them as a token in different positions.
amed	Laura How are indigijous women in your place involve in the processes of good governance and peace making?
birabwa	I would say we have experinced a fundamental change in Uganda, not only in terms of numbers but also in terms of the nature of political/government offices women hold. For a start women used to hold the traditional offices e.g genderMinistry but we no have them holding key decision making positions in Parliament e.g Deputy speaker is a lady, some are charing Parliamentary sessional committess, we have a lady as Defence Minister, Education,Agriculture, Ministries that I think are very critical for the advancement of the cause of women in Uganda. Regarding the Numbers, i dont have the exact figures with me now but by the end of the day I will avail you the statistical picture.
Loga	Critical mass is important for a diference to be made but nevertheless even we have few women in politics good pieces of legislation have been passed
oriokot henry	in my country we have agood number of them but they only make noise and commenting without giving any solution.
Deepa from India	Women have occupied key positions of power in India and continue to. But the problem is very few encourage other women or give women ministerships. My state has a woman Chief minister but all the ministries are occupied by men. So isn't it important to see how women in power , use that power to promote women's causes?
Isabelle	In Cameroon we have 4women ministers but this is nothing compared to the number of men
gertrude	As we celebrate 10 years of Beijing each of us should ask oursel the quesiton of what she has done at least to push a man out a position and to sit on it. If we all did this, we would have now the percentage we need. But on a serious note women must be engaged in the issues which matter in the lives of people today, which include the globalisation process, the woman part of that process and do they make any important decisions inthe process. WE need women at local, national and international level
Loga	Is the electoral system not preventing women to get there? In Mauritius we have the first the post system as well as best losers but best losers are on an ethnic basis which is discrimination at its worse towards women as even with best losers they are the real losers. If you get my point.
kubi	Going great. In a room with Gertrude Mongella, President of the African parliament.
birabwa	Deepa, it is true that some women once in political offices tend to forget about the women's agenda, but I think it is also because the other women outside power don't do enough advocacy with them or even at times don't provide them with the necessary information, moral and logistical support to sustain the gender and in particular the women's issues on the political agenda.

JULIE BALLINGTON	I agree with you Loga. Electoral systems matter in an important way. I know that there was an electoral reform commission a couple of years ago. Has there been any more movement toward a reform of the electoral system?
kubi	Do women in government represent the interests of women?
laura	i think women must be educated before we talk about governance
shahidaelbaz	oSorry..con.Gov.is helping in main streaming women in high posts.However, when they try to get in independently they fail. Is it lack of gender awareness or democracy or both?
oriokot henry	LOGA- in our country electoral system has no problem but its women them selves who at times shy away due to lack of confidence ,poverty and they need alot of capacity building.
flo	in Cameroon, the gender and governance still a great problem. WOMEN are not really in the decision process
Deepa from India	Birabwa, good point and I couldn't agree more. But in India's case the women in power except for a couple are all in power by default -- belonging to a political family or as a substitute until their children grow up. They are not really interested in women's issues but more about how they can keep their family in power. Maybe that sounds a little crude and rude, but that is the reality.
gertrude	Governance has been a concept for ages despite the education level. Education is NB, governance is equally important and the women have to be there as a matter of right. If men who never went to school can lead, why not women?
Isabelle	Loga, Happy to hear from you. We have elections in Cameroon and the womem `s population is more than that of men but women cannot vote other women. Does this not confirm that the woman`s greatest enemy is the woman?
Loga	The problem is that men do not want to give their place to women and male lobby is stronger and this is where the money is. If there is a choice of money and women, I do not have to tell you which comes first.
Deepa from India	Isabelle, what a strange system -- why can't a women vote for a women and how do they keep track of it?
JULIE BALLINGTON	I think on the issue of do women represent women, we need to be careful to not have a double standard where women are judged in a different way to their male counterparts. We can also ask what men do for women, but also importantly, what political parties and governments are doing for women. Decision-making processes in party and government pollicy formulation need to be looked at closely at the avenues in which women are able to have a real affect on policy and thereby represent the interests of women
Loga	Isabelle, I cannot reply to your question as women are not given the chance to stand as candidates but would like to add that may be these women have been voting for men all this time and it now for for gender activists to change this mentality
gertrude	What we need is committed women to good governance. You can imagine how many times some countries have violated their own constitutions regardless of the level of educaiton they have. Both are euqllay important and it is not a matter of choice of one or the other. Otherwise we have to wait too long before we finish the idea of educating everywomen. Governance is NB because of the impact it has on deciding on critical issues that affect women. Let us be there and protect women's interests andrights
flo	kubi, to bring an answer to your question, women in government do not represent interest of other women . we have in our country the ministry of familial promotion and women affairs but all the activities is in the advantage of those who are in towns. the rural women are facing a lot of difficulties in the agricultural matters.
oriokot henry	gender and governance still lacks meaning not untill women are educated because they are very few who can talk about it and yet they also do not want to pass on the infomation to rest and in our country most of them are called failiers when you look at their back ground

	its not transparent.
shahidaelbaz	Why most women tend to exclude other women when they reach power? I think that since womens issues became lucrative it stopped being a militant i and competition and exclusion began.
birabwa	Kubi, I think this is a relative question, it depends on each countries, regions experience, in my case I would say yes and no. However, the fundamental question that we may need to address is why don't the women in government adequately represent women's interests and once we get answers to these challenges I am sure we shall be able to realise greater progress towards Beijing Resolutions.
Deepa from India	Good point Julie. But it is not a question of promoting women but promoting equality. Take the Domestic Violence Bill in India for example -- it is yet to be passed despite a considerable number of women in Parliament.
gertrude	One has also to remember that there is no invitation card to the sharing of power and therefore those who are in power will not give their power if we don't get to participate in the process.
oriokot henry	they dont represent the interest of women but of their own.
Nyaradzai	I agree with Gertrude's point on having women there and then building capacities. In conflict and post conflict countries, there are many challenges facing women and many of whom many not have the same opportunity to get education, yet they have knowledge and skills that is critical for the decision making in the reconstruction effort.
Isabelle	Gertrude, The problem of gender in Africa is a problem of basic education. The boy and girl child is educated differently. We the women have to change the way we educate our children because we spend more time with them than the father does.
JULIE BALLINGTON	Absolutely Deepa. Has the bill not passed because of lack of women pushing for it, or because of the greater problem of women not being able to really tap into decision-making power? I suspect perhaps the latter?
Loga	I think we are forgetting that not all males are bad. In Mauritius neither the Domestic violence Act nor the Sex Discrimination Act or the Child Protection Act would have been passed without the men as there was only one woman Minister in cabinet when these Acts were discussed
tcheguem	our women parliamentarians are not able to defend women rights, may be because they are a minority in their assemblies>. I think we should increase the number and the qualities of females M.ps>
gertrude	I am glad to announce that we have a parliamentary gender committee in the Pan African Parliament and I just wish that Gender Link comes down to SA to establish this type of talk so that we can capture your ideas for parliament. That's the way forward and that's how women can become powerful - by linking to each other and being able to exchange ideas in every transparent manner.
halina	The biggest problem is that very few women understand the word and meaning of gender so i dont know how you start talking about gender and governance before knowing gender
Loga	Great idea Gertrude. Hope it is noted by Gender Links
amed	Lydia-hi Please what is the secret of you people out there to make your women get involve in the occupation of importance post like the mins of defence whereas with us here in cameroon we are given only ministries such as mins of social welfare and women affairs
Deepa from India	No it is not the latter which is the unfortunate thing.
Loga	If women cannot still understand the meaning of gender, we have all failed
Nyaradzai	Loga, the issues is not necessarily about women versus men, but about equality of participation, of contribution, of opportunity. It about women as citizens also. Women leaders should not be judged only by the extent to which they represent women's interests,

	although every MP male and female should be measured on the same criteria.
oriokot henry	some of these ladies before getting this big post they are really have knowledge and ideas but as soon as one gets a post things change the other way round that is why in most communities people have lost trust in them.
tchequem	Many laws are passed by the parliaments which are not favorable for women development without any body thinking of.
gertrude	Isabelle I do agree with you. At the same time I would like to remind ourselves that most of the educated people in Africa owe it to their mothers who tilled the land to generate the resources to take them to school. We now have to mobilise those women to pay particular attention to the education of the girls. We all have to do it together. I promise you that now that Africa has taken a step towards parity as the principle, a decision which was taken by heads of states, we have an entry point
flo	women are facing many discriminations. for example, the chief of government, and the president can not be a women . we are still far from that reality
Deepa from India	However, we have at the regional level, women in power who actively take up causes of equality and try to promote it and don't turn a blind eye. But these women come under considerable pressure and cases get filed against them
JULIE BALLINGTON	Deepa, what progress is there on the reservations for women at the national level bill? I understand the the current proposal is to extend the size of the parliament to accommodate a rise in the number of women that would result from the reservations? Entrenched male incumbents not willing to give up their seats?
kubi	Are quota systems a good way to ensure women's representation in government?
Deepa from India	Yes -- 33 % at the national level. But no progress as male and female politicians refuse to pass it.
Nyaradzai	Gertrude, can you share with us some of the challenges you face as PAP?
Deepa from India	With a fixed time period , reservations are always good, I think Kubi as it will first help us to see if the system works
Loga	Gertrude, elections will be held soon in Mauritius. Gender Links and myself facilitated a one week events around the issue. There is more concern about getting women up there. The Mauritian population has been sensitised since this is the talk of Mauritius now. Can't you help by sending a letter to the Prime Minister and tell him of your concern that the most democratic country of the region has only 5.7% women in politics and 8% women in cabinet?
Denise-ZA	no i dont believe in quotas i believe a women is stronger then most men
Deepa from India	Loga, that would be an interesting option.
JULIE BALLINGTON	Quota systems are the most effective way to increase the numbers of women in politics. They safeguard women's presence in parliament. The results in the past ten years have been extremely effective in some countries, but less so in other countries. The devil is in the detail and quotas need to be drafted with enforcement mechanisms.
JULIE BALLINGTON	But quotas are only the first step. Perhaps we now need to look at extending quotas beyond the electoral process to positions in government, as in Colombia.
halina	kubi i think the quota system is good since it will ensure that women get on board
Loga	When the situation is as dramatic as Mauritius, we need both quota and PR
Deepa from India	We have had male politicians do a interesting bypass in some states to fulfil the quotas by nominating their wives or daughters and being the power behind the throne so to speak
JULIE BALLINGTON	Loga, IDEA has been working with Cassam Uteem on the issue of women's representation in Mauritius. I would be interested to chat to you about a proposal at another time?
Mudi	I think quota system undermines some basic rights of men and women. let them face equal

	challenges. Why treat them differently. They only need empowerment and not fair treatment.
Isabelle	un constat amer est fait:il y a tres peu de femmes dans nos gouvernements.Nous devons tout faire pour amener le monde entier a revaloriser la femme, a donner a la femme le place qu'elle merite. La question est maintenant de trouver les voies et moyens pour y arriver.
birabwa	Quoata systems are not the best way to ensure women's representation, but they do help in the initial stages to increase the number of women in power, and no one can ever underestimate the power of numbers. However, it is the way the women who have gained power through these systems work and sieze this opportunity to advance the wome's cause that is most important. In Uganda, majority of women have got into power through the quota system, and some are now advocacting for a change, such that they also join the same way the men do.
Ana Elena Obando	To contribute with some ideas, I will say that some gains are that: The political traditional culture has been challenged by the fact that some women are being considered leaders within and outside political parties or institutional spaces and they are seen as capable of participating in making decisions, even when they are excluded from key decision-making processes and from high power structures; some equality policies and laws have been launched form different governments due to women, even when discriminatory sexist values and practices are still alive, and male code of conducts still shape politics to exclude women; some reforms of electoral systems for women to participate have been challenging the system itself; key gender issues such as violence against women and sexual and reproductive rights appear in some governmental agenda, although they are constanly attacked by fundamentalist forces; the creation of national machineries has centered "a women agenda" in some countries, even when these institutions are marginalized in governmental structures and hampered with lack of sufficient resources, plus they have become spaces for political parties to fill their committments with some people who contributes to their campaigns; and the quota laws which are controversial because are taking women to power who doesn't have a feminist agenda...
gertrude	The quota system is the most ideal way to guarantee women's opportunities in a situation where women have been marginalised for a long time. With the proper use of the quota system women with great potentials can be highlighted and become a role model. As a result the other women are encouraged to even run for example for office or compete for positions. I started in a quota system in Tanzania and I am now a member of parliament representing a constituency. The women find it very difficult to get throuh parliament because of the long term discrimination. The quota system nurtured me before I could go to the constituency. In the administration the quota system will eliminate the invisibility fo women. They are not there because they are invisible and not because they are unqualified. The quota system will force those who make appointments to search for competent women. But we should consider this as a bridging strategy with the focus on one day making gender a non-issue.
tcheguem	We should know that, ther is not issue of quota in government, but the quality of women who are representing us>. in other words what have done for women those who are been in the government or other high national structure.
Romi	what about women landownership rights? is there legal access, is it socially acceptable?
Deepa from India	Mudi, Denise -- we can start with a fixed period. Then you can remove the quota.
Loga	Agree 100% with Gertrude
Mudi	Yes it is a good idea. But then you will need to make another quota for men if women will exceed in power? Or what next?
gertrude	the greatest challenge to me as the President of PAP is to build a strong democratic parliament that really represents the voices of the people of Africa and does not exclude

	women.
gertrude	Both the human and financial resources are needed to achieve that goal. let me have your views
tcheguem	Hi Romi, here in our country, (Cameron), women are landowners. laws do not discriminate between men and women who buy a land.
Deepa from India	Gertrude, tell us about the challenges you faced as a woman in PAP
flo	i think that the number of quotas systems can influence the degree of representation in governments. when it is just a few whom have the speech, there are not able to defend the voice of all the women . they must be many to do that
Deepa from India	Same here , Romi, no law forbids a woman from owning land.
Romi	I hear that in india social habits tend to let women sign over their inheritance rights to male family members
Deepa from India	I think with the quota , maybe women parliamentarians will be more empowered to look into issues of inequality
yondacapetown	here in hout bay women are still afraid to join talks like this
shahidaelbaz	Sorry a network error has occurred. I was cut off.I believe that mainstreaming women in governance needs a concerted effort from both governments and a strong women's movement which understands the interaction between structural societal factors producing inequality and specific factors for gender inequality .The struggle should be for changing both .Sorry if my responses are delayed.
cherie-ZA	in our area we do seem to move forward in the 50/50 direction as many women are now serving in decisionmaking positions.i would like to see that it stays that way in our next local election.
Mudi	Women have equal rights like men in land ownership in Tanzania. The Land Act, 1999 and Village Land Acts have removed barriers.
Deepa from India	Not really true Romi. it used to be so in the 1970s but not anymore
zainab	Deepa from India, I agree with you, no law forbids a woman from owning land even properties. In Islam, the woman's property remains her property no matter the circumstances. Here in Cameroon most women own lands and other valuable properties.
Romi	well I spoke to a woman last week who told me about this happening last year in mumbai area
yondacapetown	women do really some times feel that they are soft targets
Deepa from India	Really?? Unless she is from jammu and kashmir, which last year modified the law, it is not possible. Did she tell you why she signed away her property right?
amed	Julie Ballington can you explain to me how the quota system is being operated upon in your place and is there any law existing on parity?
flo	in the traditional habits of the west people in cameroon,, women are limited in their expression. they don't have the right to gain from the heritage of their husband. they can not become chief, they are unable to gain a land as well as they are getting marriage .
tcheguem	Women should be adequately sensitized about all forms of public opportunities at national as well as international level .
Romi	I brought up land rights because it seemed to be the opposite end of politics- from above and below-
cherie-ZA	this is very interesting ,but what is the woman's position in other areas in cameroon
yondacapetown	romi how did you people get it right in mumbai
Denise-ZA	in local govt we must have 50 percent women hopefully that will happen in the next

	election
kubi	How do we ensure that women's rights are on the agenda when constitutions are being drafted in post conflict situations?
Loga	Competent women are there but it all a problem of how to get a foot in Parliament. The issue of finance has come out as a major issue. We do not (or we know!!!) where all these men get money from while women do not have enough to go into electoral campaign. This is a rotten thing and if you do not have the money it is very difficult. There is also the problem of support. Women still have to look after the family and do their campaigning at the same time.
shahidaelbaz	Legally women's position is quite good .however, in practice this does not apply.women has rights to ingerit land ,but in some areas the land is distributed among sons before parents death.
Romi	this woman signed away her rights (she is an educated professor no less) because it was not socially acceptable for her to wn land in her family her male cousin was more important to get her fathers land than she
JULIE BALLINGTON	Thanks Amed. I work and live in Sweden which as we know has 45% women in parliament. This is a result of the sustained struggle of the women's movement and women in political parties in the 1970s which led several political parties to adopt voluntary political party quotas in the 1980s. Now, it is standard for most political parties to have 'every second a woman' on political party lists for election. That is why Sweden has been a world leader in terms of women's representation until Rwanda beat Sweden in 2003
Deepa from India	This is illegal in law and I should know for I write legal columns and my recent one is on property rights. She can however, claim it in the name of her children by filing a minor suit /case. Please tell her if you are in touch with her or contact me if she is really interested in keeping her property.
Loga	Julie, I think we should all fight for this Swedish model
Denise-ZA	i think women should stand together all over the world
oriokot henry	the only way is to involve women in the drafting and they should be consulted on some issues as its every ones role .
Romi	the point is this woman is not interested in HER propoerty because her family pushes it that way
Loga	If Rwanda, a country ravaged by war has been able to make it, it is a shame for the rest of the world especially in peaceful country like Mauritius
zwange	The efforts of Ngos and international relief organisations should be tailored in such a way that they address even the issues of women economic empowerment for political expedience.I MEAN DELIBARATE MONEY SET APART FOR WOMEN POLITICIANS.
flo	well, cherie-za in the centre cultures, the tradition are grow up, betsi people, are giving land to their daughter. no matter if there are all ready in their house wife
Deepa from India	So Julie, how did women do it in Sweden
Humoyun	Regard I from Uzbekistan I pleased that participating in this care thank you
kenza	bonjour, lorsqu on parle de genre, l Islam avait deja defini le concept dans le Coran dans ce sens ou il dit "le Plus noble aupres de moi est le plus pieux" donc la seule difference qu'Il a prescrite c'est au niveau de la piete< Et le prophete Mouhammad PSL a dit dans un hadith " la femme est la soeur de l' homme" la femme etant reconnue comme telle, elle a le même droit que l'homme dans les faveurs de ce monde.Elle est libre de gerer ses affaires sans qu l'homme puisse lui faire des barrieres ou raffler ses biens, c'est la seule religion qui a legiferer les droits succeraux en faveur de la femme. l'idée des hommes sur l'IFD (Integration de la femme au developpement) veut dire qu'elle etait d'abord exclu du

	developpement, et ce concept IFD est faiblement apperçu dans sa realite> Dans les circuit des affaires legislatives et administrative par ex: on trouve environ 10 femmes sur 70 hommes. je propose que les N.U etablisse un programme avec les stratigies d,application qu'elles mettront a la disposition des Etats au niveau des regions pour que la femme s'intégre veritablement dans le processus du developpement et que leurs initiatives soient appuyees par les gouvernements, les bailleurs de fonds, les organismes internationaux, les ONG et les Associations et ceci en synergies.
Deepa from India	Romi, most of the times, even educated women do not know their legal rights in India -- it is sad but true which is why I write the column
Isabelle	un constat amer est fait:au Cameroun, il n`y a pas de femme gouverneur, ni prefet.Est-ce qu`il y a des pays ou il y a des femmes qui occupent ces postes? Et comment les femmes ont fait pour arriver a ce niveau?
Mudi	I think the idea by oOriokot is a brilliant one. Let's fight for women invlvement in drafting for places where no such thing.
birabwa	One of the things we have to do to ensure that women's rights are on the agenda when constitutions are being drafted, is to make the women aware of the process-know all the processes involved and what stages of the constitution making process are very critical. Women have to be mobilised to participate in the consultative processes that is if there any, to do advocacy at all stages of the processs, to lobby and ensure that some of the drafts people are women, inotherwords have people who can retain women's rights on the agenda throught the entire process. In most cases after consultation, there is a tendency to relax and think that since your views were tendered in they will be considered, but there is need to follow up every stage and have strong advocates
Ana Elena Obando	I also eant to add that is not tha I disagree with the quota system, is that in latin america, many women who are in political post due to the quota law doesn`t have a feminista genda... and yes, very few committed women have gained from it... at least here...
Mudi	Isabelle, C'est possible. Il faut que vous parle aux mosieurs qu'occupaient le pays
halina	i think the way tohave women have their rights on the agenda is to have a bylaw that every district should have a male and female representative in parliament.This is the case in Uganda.In this way our rights will be on the agenda .
Deepa from India	Bazma Alkhateb can you tell us what is going on in Iraq regarding this.
Romi	whew, we really need to work for this equal opportunity
Loga	Kenza, Il faut combattre le feu par le feu. Il s'en servir du Coran pour dire au hommes que les femmes sont egales a eux. A Maurice nous avons le problem de "Muslim Personal Law" qui retourne sur le tapis. Les femmes sont inquietes mais ont peur d'en parler ou de faire quelque chose.
zainab	Cherie-Za I think women's position in politics is Cameroon is getting better. Today we can boost of about 7 women holding ministerial position whereas at first you could only find at most 2. Also women are taking part in political situations and hold other ranking positions. I believe things will soon become as in Sweden. We all have to push hard to make this a success.
gertrude	I'm sorry I have to leave to go and speak at Beijing plus 10. I hope to keep connected. As I see it we need to have more discussions so women in all spheres of life are heard, if we don't speak for ourselves, who will do it? I wish you all the best for the advancement of women 10 years after Beijing
Nyaradzai	To ensure that women's rights issues are in the constitutions in post conflict situations, it is important that a) women be represented effectively as delegates and obersevors in the negotiations; b) women's rights agenda must be specifically defined including draft texts for negotiating into the draft constitutions and these should be butressed within the international instruments like CEDAW, c) the peace facilitator must have a positive

	commitment to women's issues so that they carry the spirit of 1325 within their work, and d) a strong women's and human rights lobby or coalition is critical to sustain the advocacy. monitoring the details in the various drafts is also essential because one can lose on the basis of detail. The experience of Somalia and Sudan is quite informative on these issues
flo	many innovations as to be done if the government want to encourage much women to occupy responsibility post. we need to be minister of economic and finances for example, not only to be minister of social affairs because experience shows that women are more impliment on the managerial matters that men
oriokot henry	Deepa -you are right this is just because women mix aright and privillage but if some one comes up to diffiritiete this two terms ithink their future will be bright
Goergette	Hi Kubi. I'm Goergette. How is it that each time women ask to give their opinion concerning a problem, men always pretend that they know better than the woman? Do you have any tips to let them know that the woman with a problem knows exactly what she wants because she wears the "SHOES" knows where they pinch?
JULIE BALLINGTON	In Sweden, there was concerted lobbying efforts and a strong women's movement that collaborated with poltiical women. The women within the poltiical parties 'learnt' the rules of nomination processes for selecting candidates and pusehd for a quota within the party to include women. Initially this was a 30% quota target adopted by the Liberal party in the 1980s, but soon most of the other parties followed suit. In the 1990s, political women further pushed for a 'parity' quota on lists, or the zebra or zipper lists
Mudi	Halina. Are you sure this will work to have the best leaders. I think the issue is, together with having many women in power, having thye best leaders who can promote fair and democratic environment for women
shahidaelbaz	It is important that women all over the world should have a support network. But before that, educated and gender aware women should support and activate poorer women in urban and rural areasin thei societies, without patronizing them.
zwange	I want to adree with Birabwa that women should be involved in a cosultative manner and further recomend that this should be from the grassroot levels of political structures to enable thenm gain experience and strengthen their voices iua comparison with that of men.
yondacapetown	you know what at this moment i am allso having a huge thing on in hout bay about my rights at the moment every one on all organisations is males and as soon as i stand up in meeting and starts talking about the right things then the males would always say here comes troubles
Loga	I think it is a real shame that women's leagues of political parties have not done their job properly. They work so hard campaigning of these men. Get them elected and yet do not ask an electoral ticket for themselves. They wait for their leaders to propose instead of fighting for it
Humoyun	I in Uzbekistan here is but beside you as life
oriokot henry	Goergette- women may wearing that shoe without knowing that its awrong one.its nothing bad other than you having aproblem without knowing how to solve it.
marge-CapeTown	smith tomorrow is the launch of the ward committee iam one off them in my ward iam busness
Denise-ZA	i feel a women should be treated fairly at home and everywhere she goes respect goes a long way
Deepa from India	Try humour Yonda, this not only happens in govt. but also in corporation board meetings and in college class rooms
JULIE BALLINGTON	Loga I agree with you. The women's wings of poltiical parties are very important, and depending on the party, they can have little or a lot of power in decision-making in the party

oriokot henry	with women its again funny you give her all the fair treatment but later she will turn and seat on you who has given her all the rights and its what is happening
kenza	hello kubi i agree with you about the system of quota . it can realy help the women to be representative women are superior to the men in number
Denise-ZA	well the party i belong to has a lady and i am proud to be a part of her party
tcheguem	In Cameroon there existr well educated women, but out of r sixty five ministers and secretaries of state, we have only six women. And thet is even new, because this number has just been reached on last appointment (december 8 th)> during the 30 years, ther were only 3 womenwho occupied non postfolio ministerian positions.
halina	Well mundi,the point is that we need to have a beginning,we need to find a hole where we can enter through if you like to say it that way,solet us take the district system and once we are in there and we put are rights on the agenda,then they will know that we are of sustance and the next time we shall be voted on the same rating as the men,into parliament to articlate issues on our rights
mwiikama	I agree with shahidealbaz and want to add that to enable women to participate in the development of their community, which is what governance is all about, their nation and the world implies a critical awaerness of local, national and international situations based on an understanding of social, economic and political process. Hello DEEPA are you saying bye already
Goergette	Dear Oriokot Henry, that off point. the woman talking about a problem knows she has a problem. that's why she is talking about it. So give her room to express herself and don't cut her short, and give us a tip for men to mind their business
yondacapetown	sorry i have to end my conversation now cause i need to travel such a long way and i am honord to had the people at gap in town for allowing me to use their computer
oriokot henry	no quata systems works only for short run but for strateging planning it can not help women all
JORDON-CT	denise i think women must stop being jealous of one anather but support each other because we are the workers in our comunity
kubi	Almost time to end, lets look at key strategies to move forward.
Mudi	Kenza you are in a different direction.It is better to remember that we should promote status of women without ignoring men. The issue of superiority in number would cause another fight between men and women. After all, not all discussants here are women. Let's re-think about Millennium Dvelopment Goals."gender equality"
Ana Elena Obando	II think it is important to asses the quota law and ask ourselves how do ensure that this law helps the women that are committed to women... and advance the feminist agenda... instead of helping right wing women for instance who damage the gains we have done...
mwiikama	Jordon-CT, i too think women can do so much more if the agreed, that doesnt mean that they do not, but like men need only to xcooperate on many issues for the way forward. I believe so much in womens greater achievemnt once cooperating, just like it is happening here in ZAMBIA.
JULIE BALLINGTON	Just to let you know that IDEA has been working on a global assessment of eleecotral quotas in practice sicne 2003. We have convened 5 workshops on electoral quotas in Asia, Africa, Europe, Latin America and the Arab states. All our information is availalbe at www.quotaproject.org and would recommend to visit if interested in the effects of quotas and how they work in practice
Romi	we have to support each other and slowly get more women educated, these changes will taek some time time- but if we keep on for what we believe thing will change-
flo	yes julie, you are wright. in cameroon, politicals women are facing the same problems. in the years 1990, women was filgurants at the political level. the was just clapping during the

	meetings and support men in their actions. but in the year 2000s, things have changes. during the last presidential election, they were one woman who put his documents as presidential candidate. finally, the court decided not to admit her documents. otherwise she asks for the reconduction of her documents, nopyhings have been done to consider her statement. this analys bring us to say that, they still much to do in the political issues.
oriokot henry	mudi-you have avery good poit however much we talk without mens support it will not be easy but the way forward is to talk to men ,educate/bring them on board then we shall be able to achieve alot
JULIE BALLINGTON	The next steps are to assess how women are able to move to qualitiative equality and really have an affect on and influence policy making.
adeline	the strategies is to be educated and and it is important for people to return to God
Bruce	Hi People iam chatting from Zambia.The Process of fighting for gender responsive governance structures shuold start with Electoral law reforms to ensure that countries adopt quota systems that will do more than mere justice but accord the much needed opportunity and affirm political will in the fight for Gender parity in governance.
oriokot henry	its very hard for one to achieve abig goal alone unless two or three people come together.
kubi	How can we increase the number of women in government and ensure that they represent the interests of other women?
Ana Elena Obando	Julie: how does that qualitiative equality looks like for you ?
Isabelle	JORDON-CT, I agreed with you that women must suport each other in order to ameliorate their situation.
Romi	assess how to get qualitative equality- sounds pretty scientific almost like economics
birabwa	Key Strategies to move forward include, sensitising women about the political and key governance issues, encouraging and supporting more women particulary at the grassroot levels to participate in governing of their communities, supporting the women in big political offices to retain the women's rights, issues on the political agenda by providing them with current information on what is happening to women in the lower levels, persuing issues that are of paramount local and national significance other than bandwagoning on the international issues which might not be the most pressing locally
halina	key strategies'Let women be sensitized on gender and governance, and let them not think they should always take the vice /deputy place everytime.It is from here that they will be able to come to the top and be able to put acrosss issues of their rights at different fora.
JULIE BALLINGTON	it would mean that there is equality between women and men in detemining the policies of the government that affect the lives of women and men, their families and the nation in which they live
Romi	yeah , thanks julie- I understand, it just is the science that bothers me
Bruce	To respond to Kubi i believe women should be sensitised on the need to support one another as women to ensure they hold their colleagues in policy making decisions to be more responsive to the issues that they themselves are constantly faced with.
JULIE BALLINGTON	Qualtative equality is a term which has emerged in the Swedish context of governemtn. Sweden has made great progress in ensuring that government priorities and policies are determined by both women and men.
oriokot henry	Adeline-some churches are just poisoning because if you can vist your bible awoman can never be equll to aman, the way women view it don't you thing if we are to turn to God we first have to stop about womens rights and others
mwiikama	Kubi like in SADC we must move forward and adopt the 30% women in power represeantation and also towards the 50/50 arrangent, you must know that our Zambian parliament has ealready adopted that, ofcourse a lot of NGO advocated. the challenge remains to educate more women to face up to the challenge

Ana Elena Obando	Great Julie, I want to know more about it, maybe you can send me docs. afterwards...
Romi	sweeden is in northern europe and EU member
adeline	i think we should know our place and physically women don t need to be president to express themselves, the can try to put men in the reality this means they must be implied in everysector of activities
halina	Julie I think that is a swedish or european approach. In Africa given our partrichial society we are a long way from that
Hendrica	Dear colleaguesI think the quota system is important for providing space for women, we should not worry about the quality until we have the quantity to be able to influence the rules, In Somalia where the clan system is strong and only women who are deemed not powerful were selected by the clan leaders, we need to work with these women to ensure they take on board key issues of concern for women and even if they are not sensitive , they are more reachable than men , so I would recommend we continue to lobby for the quota system
tcheguem	we should let her know, a woman who is appointed at any level of responsibility should be be representative of the masses.
Ana Elena Obando	I think that the point Julie makes is important to tackle Rubi's question, and maybe we can get some ideas from that experience even when it is from Europe...
Bruce	I wish Juliet would to expound more on the Qualitative Equality concept as this could help emerging democracies as those in Africa to appreciate better the vitalness of Gender parity in Governance.
Nyaradzai	The issue of reosurces especially funding for women's effective mobilisation and participation in electoral process is critical.
oriokot henry	the most important thing is for women to learn to astand on their two feet and carry their own cross without blaming the opposit side.but if they continue dancing to other people's tunes then it will be just adreem
adeline	the quota in the governement can not help women when we know that it is men who still have the last world what can help women is the right to express themselves without be pushing by men
JULIE BALLINGTON	I think the concept is new, and one that we can consider for any country. This is not about north or south, it is about equality in decision-making and ensuring that decisions made include the perspectives of both women and men - equality in decision-making.
birabwa	Julliet please explain more on the concept of Qualitative Equality
kenza	kubi we can do what we call lobying or cease the women day and organise debates on the item you have just propose for the first time
flo	i think that the governments policies must take the engagement to gives mores responsible post to women . if many women are general manager of important structures, the are able to manage ministerial departement. states should take in to cinsideration this suggestion and increase the numbers.
JULIE BALLINGTON	I would be happy to continue these discussions over email as I unfortunately have to leave now. My email address is j.ballington@idea.int
flo	please julie i need to learn more on the concept equality in decision-making
oriokot henry	you can do the lobbing but how is the local woman going to benefit from it
JULIE BALLINGTON	Um, not sure that there is literature yet! I think we need to jointly develop it!
Deepa from India	Bye Julie
Deepa from India	I feel govts, are more responsive to criticism from other countries. So maybe we should try this -- get others to criticise if a govt, is not being attentive to gender issues?

Nyaradzai	The whole area of political party financing needs to be analysed for women to access the existing resources. This is at time a challenge because in most cases women are not in decision making structures of their political parties to influence the issue of resources
Bruce	I think this equality to be fully realised much more should be done at grassroot levels to encourage both women and men 's voices are heard with the same emphasis as opposed to the top bottom approsch and embrace the bottom to top approach.
adeline	henry is the first time you said something good
Romi	Deepa, I think the milleniim goals push for this 'criticism' form outside
JULIE BALLINGTON	I am still here because now I am interested in hearing your interpretations on qualitative equality?
lydia-hi	I'm going to sign off on behalf of Kubi and myself. Please visit the site www.cyberdialogues.org to give us your views on the Opinion Poll question (which we feed through to the print version of GEM News). We look forward to your participation in the next chat on Monday at 8:00 on HIV and AIDS. Please alert your friends and colleagues who may want to join us.
JULIE BALLINGTON	Nyaradzai, IDEA has done some work on the effects of financing on women's political participation. You will find it on the website at www.idea.int
mwiikama	Kubi this is Mwiika from ZAMCOM are you in SA. Deepa i added ma to my name
kenza	oriokot henry. les femmes rurales peuvent beneficier des retombees des lors qu'elles vont emboiter les pas en matieres de lobyng ou s'organiser en reseaux
Romi	AH, good question- I have lived half my life in the USA and half my Life in Europe- and have travelled in the middle east and India , sri lanka for 6 month periods- currently studying at the university of illinois
flo	all wright we must develop it in the case if all the women in the world decides to put themselves together and makes and opinin on that issues. my question is how we must do that plaidoiriy in our favour to makes ourselves understanding by governments????????????????
Hendrica	I still think that we need to work on two prong strategy that includes quota, so long as we live in a world that is male biased and also to lobby for reform of laws and we have seen the effect of quotas work in countries such as Uganda , I believe the having women in the political space is one way of changing perceptions and is an opportunity we should build on and agree with Bruce that the mobilisation is crucial as that will galvanise change at the top, Prof Maathai in Kenya has done that quite well , and we a lot of male politicians that start off as local govt councillors and go on to be MPs, some us sports, women need to capitalise to some of these groups
Nyaradzai	This is great Jullie, we must explore the possibilities of building this capacity for a gender repnsive poltical financing policies especially for countries emerging for countries like Somalia and Sudan where the clan/former "rebel groups" may have have to evolve into some political organisations
flo	kenza, je suis tout a fait d'accord pour l'organisation en reseau . mais comment allions nous faire pour s'organiser en reseau et menr l'action?
Romi	weel, i didn't think of this as study- this is networking and supporting women to help make changes in their environments including me too
Deepa from India	Not now, Romi, when you lived in all the different countries, it would have helped you compare the different systems, yes??
Deepa from India	I've lived for a couple of years in the US while doing my masters and used to work for Affirmative Actions.
Bruce	In addition to the issues raised already i feel African politics has been commercialised and bordering excessively in some instances to mudslinging opponents. Women can be

	defamed more easily hence the need to build political fund trusts and strong Gender responsive systems and mechanisms entrenched in the mainstream political structures to build a shield around women candidates like in the case of elections to parliament.
mwiikama	Deepa i am i tune with affirmative action for women issues, this would bring them to a reasonable level of participation as their male counterparts. Even in governance and bye
Romi	Bruce, why can women be defamed more easy? -
mwiikama	Bruce why dont you shed more light on the gender issues you've raised
flo	well, we shall meet on monday with the terms, hiv-aids. i hope we will discuss more on that theme . all of you must prepare what have been done since in each country to eradicated hiv and access of anti retro virus for hiv persons,the maternal prevention of mother to chid transmision
zainab	I you all and I wish you all a nice and restfull weekend. Bye for now and see you all on Monday, incha'Allah. Please Kenza, Adeline & Mariam wait for me I'll be there in awhile, incha'Allah.
Bruce	Romi it wouldnt cause much rout if a man had 3 girlfriends if heard in a political spheres but if a woman is found out to have a number of affairs she would instantly lose credibility
Isabelle	Est-ce que la non representativite des femmes dans les postes de decision n`est pas liee a leur nature qui les maintien dans les roles de maternite, le controle de la famille plutot qua la chose politique et administrative?
Hendrica	Yes Bruce we need to discuss the context of politics and how to support women candidates, work done by CHANGE has shown that women do get dented by negative and violent contexts of politicals especially where a lot of money is used , we need to lobby for election laws that ask candidates to declare their funding sources and also to limit that punish candidates that indulge in illegal behavoiurs, I know that challenge is implemenattion but this where civil society and particularly women's movement should develop a way to sanction these types of politicians mainly male
kenza	Romi: parce qu'on a toujours l'impression que la femme est un etre inferieur et aussi c'est elle qui avait detruit le monde dansl'imagination des hommes
mwiikama	Isabelle bonjour, jai parle francaises un peu mai maintenant je utilise anglaise, meme vous avais une grand question que voudrais une grand response, pour moi cet difficile enfrancaise, Merci
Claire Quenum	a woman is more than a domestic chores manager.
Claire Quenum	she is companion, the second part of the world
Bruce	I think Mwiika would understand that here in Zambia an NGO called THE WOMEN'S LOBBY GROUP had formed a campaign trust fund for women contestants in the 2001 presidential elections. The fund did well but suffered due to fragmantation and divided support among the women folk themselves who fielded 3 candidates insteead of running behind one. This xplains why i say we need more stronger value systems inculcated to ensure stronger solidarity.
Isabelle	For me, equality of gender concerning governance is a mythe. What is your point of view?
Claire Quenum	she can be a leader if she is given the oppottunity, if she gives herself the oppottunity.
Claire Quenum	because of the the discrimination society imposed on her she has to fight to keep her place . we need to sustain encourage actions to support women leadership.
mwiikama	Claire, its more the reason we should envolve them in decision making at governance(economic and social) levels because they sem to be better organisers and even better performers for development. and lessons can be learnt from just how well women that are acting even as breadwinners are managing both the house chores and careers nowadays
kenza	Isabelle: Bien sure, c'est ce que les homme on prefere a la femme alors qu Dieu a dit dans

	le coran que la femme est la soeur de l'homme. la femme, dynamique qu'elle doit montrer qu'elle peut s'assumer dans toutes les rouages de la societe qui lui sont licites ce n'est que par la qu'elle va reussir a eradiuer ces prejuges que lui collent les hommes.
Claire Quenum	mwiikama, I agree with you
Claire Quenum	women must be trained for decision making. they know what is good for them , their families and their communities. they are good at every level of the community
Bruce	Hendrica, you re absolutely right in calling for candidates to declare their sources of funding and infact these laws should be extended even to the time they are in office to prevent them from ammassing excessive wealth which women could put to better use if accorded the opportunity
mwiikama	But Bruce this declartion should be for both sexes, if it was dicriminatory, it wouldnt find much way with the resistance that this issue already faces. So let women and men operate at par for gender parity but let no sex be demeaned but only push for affirmative action
Claire Quenum	Next Tuesday is the Women International Day. We must sensitize, inform the public to be aware of women righths specially for education. there is money in the world that can be used to educate girls and boys instead of using it to buy weapons to kill people and afterwards, women will hve to care for war victims and hard living conditions.
Bruce	Claire has a point in calling for training of women to become policy and decision makers , this will not only raise appreciation but will facilitate for more constructive and longterm benefits acruing .
Claire Quenum	women being among ploicy and decision makers will bring benefits for the whole society, all the communities and the world will feel better . developement actions will be more constructive and sustainable
Bruce	I think Mwika u will apreciate that women are weaker and more vulnerable yet they are even better placed to understand the most basic human needs which makes their econmics preferable and make them better deciders if such facilities can be put for them so its both sexes but eith particular emphasis on the othersex.
mwiikama	Claire that is is a good point, money should be used wisely and ways like training and not for killing like what is happening in most parts of the world right now. War is one thing that people can always find resources to do if you look at it, even the poorest of nations. If this can happen why can we convert that energy and engenuity to find resources that can lift us from this poverty around. We need people with brains and hearts that feel for others like mothers feel for their children. the world is our baby and we can plan in governance well to take care of its inhabitants and therfore the world itself. I suggest that more women that naturally posses this feeling be put in decision making seats, and let them participate. btu let them also agree amongst themselves to move forward and avoioid in fighting
Claire Quenum	peacebuilding must start from our homes. equity , equal rights, social justice are values we must educate the youth in so that they grow to consider and respect the others and like peace and work for development..
mwiikama	Bruce let use affirmative action where we can yes, but this should be on merit, i agree know also that all forms of intolerance and discrimination are born in the human mind, and it is there that change is needed if tolerance is to be built and discrimination eliminated. so there should be knowledge building around these issues for both women and men, do not take one and leave out the other or risk loosing every effort made, you know resistance
Claire Quenum	let's build solidarity among women and have men understand that our fight will bring victory tothe whole mankind.
Bruce	Claire you have a point the home is the most basic structure where this change should start from especially here in Africa the father should take the leading role in uniting the family and creating an enviroment where free dialogue can flow even when making the simplest decisions.

JBZWH	Do you know that 10 years after democracy, the Department of Land Affairs and the Commission on Restitution of land rights are still discriminating women to inherit their husband's share of the restitution claims. They prefer to deal with their sons instead. The Department has a gender desk in it is simply helpless, and submerged into the authoritative officials who simply choose to deal with it the way they please. Their policies especially the restitution of land right act no. 22 of 1994 is silent about this issue, however, they were supposed to be guided by the constitution of the country, act no, 108 of 1996.
JBZWH	If we want to evaluate the impact of Beijing platform of action, we need to start talking to ordinary women in the Land Access Movement of South Africa as well as the Rural Women's Movement. It is totally pathetic.