



GENDER AND GOVERNANCE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

Key targets in the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development

Representation

- By 2015, at least 50 percent of decision-making positions in the public and private sectors should be held by women.
- Any measures taken (to increase representation), legislative or otherwise, should be accompanied by public awareness campaigns which show the importance of the equal representation and participation of women and men in decision-making and that this is integral to, democracy, good governance and citizen participation.

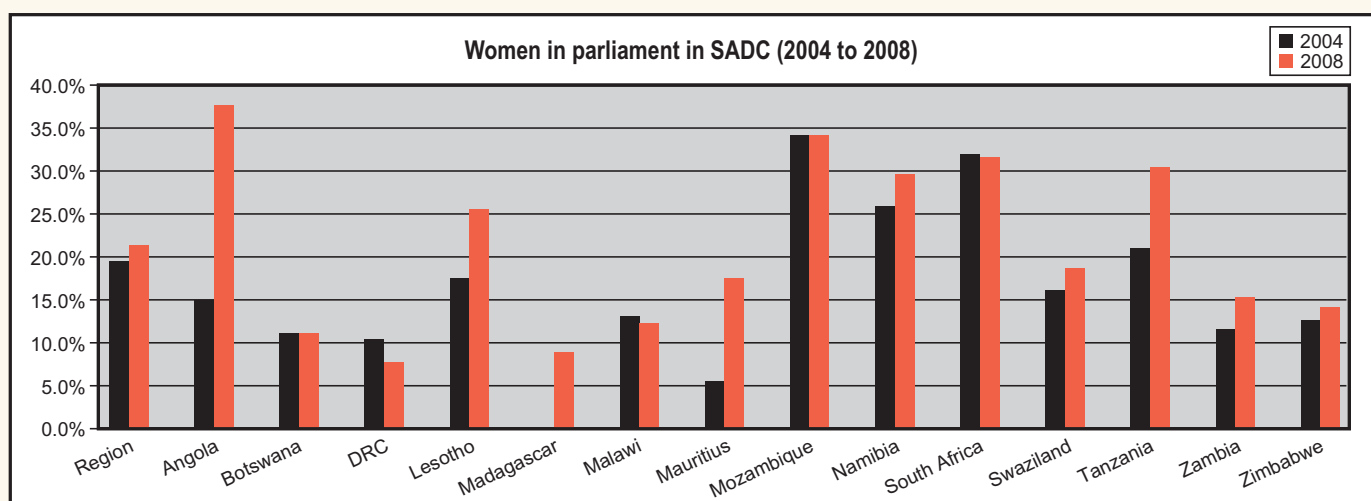
Affirmative action

- State parties should put in place affirmative action measures in order to eliminate all barriers that prevent women from participating meaningfully in all spheres of life and create a conducive environment for such participation.

Participation

- State parties should put in place policies, strategies and programmes to ensure equal participation of women and men in decision-making.

Key facts



Women in parliament and local government in SADC

Country	2004	2008	Difference	SADC Ranking (15)	Global Ranking (134)	Local government
Average	19.2%	21.9%	2.7%			29.7%
ANGOLA	15.0%	37.3%	22.3%	1	8	
BOTSWANA	11.1%	11.1%	0.0%	13	97	19.5%
DRC	10.2%	7.7%	-2.4%	15	109	
LESOTHO	17.0%	25.8%	8.8%	6	35	58%
MADAGASCAR		8.8%	8.8%	14	110	8.5%
MALAWI	13.6%	13.0%	-0.7%	12	87	8.3%
MAURITIUS	5.7%	17.1%	11.4%	8	67	6.4%
MOZAMBIQUE	34.8%	34.8%	0.0%	2	13	29%
NAMIBIA	26.9%	30.0%	2.9%	5	28	41.8%
SOUTH AFRICA	32.8%	32.6%	-0.2%	3	17	40.1%
SWAZILAND	16.8%	18.9%	2.1%	9		24.1%
TANZANIA	21.4%	30.4%	9.1%	4	22	34.2%
ZAMBIA	12.7%	15.3%	2.6%	11	76	6.6%
ZIMBABWE	13.3%	18.5%	5.2%	10	76	9.5%

Source: The figures are lower and upper houses combined. Gender Links and IPU website, October 2008

- No SADC country has achieved gender parity in parliament (the target set by the SADC Protocol for 2015) and only five (Angola, Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania and Namibia) have achieved the 30% target set for 2005 by the SADC Declaration on Gender and Development. Following elections in September 2008, Angola is now in the lead with 19.2 percent women in parliament.
- One SADC country, Lesotho, has exceeded the SADC target of 50% in local government. 58% of local councillors in Lesotho are women. Four SADC countries (Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa and Tanzania) have achieved or exceeded the 30% mark.
- The average proportion of women in SADC parliaments has increased by 2.7 percent from 19.2 percent in 2004 to 21.9 in 2008. The regional average is 3.6 percent higher than the global average of 18.3 percent.
- This figure ranges from 37.3% in the case of Angola to 7.7% in the case of DRC; the lowest such proportion in the SADC region.
- The average proportion of women in local government stands at 29.7%. The range - from 58% in Malawi to 6.6% in Zambia - is higher than in the case of women in parliament.
- Some countries have registered very significant gains in recent elections. These include the 22% increase of women in parliament in Angola; (11.4% increase from 5.7% women in parliament in Mauritius in 2004 to 17.1% in 2008 and 8.8% increase of women in parliament in Lesotho to the present level of 25.8%.

Electoral systems and quotas in the SADC region								
Country	% women in parliament			% women in local govt	Electoral system		Quota	
	Lower	Upper	Combined		Const/ FPTP	PR	Legal	Party
Angola	37		37			YES	None	Ruling MPLA 30% NA
Mozambique	34.8		34.8	29		YES	None	Ruling FRELIMO, 40% at all levels
South Africa	32.3	35.2	32.6	40.1		YES*	None	Ruling ANC, 50% in all elected structures
Tanzania	30.4		30.4	34.2	YES		30% NA, 30%HR(Zanzibar) 33% local govt	None
Namibia	30.8	26.9	29.8	41.8	YES (regional)	YES (NA, LG)	50% local govt	Ruling SWAPO 50% Opposition COD 50%, NUDO 50% candidates at all levels
Lesotho	25	29	25.8	58	MMP (National), YES (LG)		30% local government	None
Seychelles	23.5		23.5	57.7 (not elected)	YES		None	None
Mauritius	17.1		17.1	6.4	YES		None	MMM 20% candidates at all levels
Swaziland	10.8	36.7	18.9	24.1	YES		If women less than 30% in parliament then 4 women elected to House of Assembly by House 50% Senate	Political parties are banned
Zimbabwe	14.3	33.3	18.5	9.5	YES		None	ZANU-PF 25% of candidates House of Assembly
Zambia	15.2		15.2	6.6	YES		None	None
Malawi	13.0		13.0	8.3	YES		None	UDF 25% NA
Botswana	11.1		11.1	19.5	YES		None	Opposition BNF and BCP 30% candidates (not applied)
Madagascar	7.9	12.1	8.8		YES		None	None
DRC	8.4	4.6	7.7			Open party list	None	Ruling PPRD and oppositions MLC and RCD 30% candidates
Regional average	21.9	21.9	21.9	29.7				

Sources: Ringing up the changes (2004) GL, www.ipu.org, www.eisa.org.za
 * At national level it is a straight PR system but at local government it is a mixed system

Key considerations

- The proportional representation (PR) or list electoral system is more conducive to increasing women's representation because the electorate vote for political parties which are then allocated seats in parliament according to the percentage of vote they received. Four of the six countries (Mozambique, Angola, South Africa and Namibia) that have achieved or exceeded 30 percent representation of women in local and national politics follow the PR electoral system. Tanzania and Lesotho are the only two countries in this category that have a First Past the Post System.
- All of the countries that have achieved and exceeded the 30 percent target have some form of quota.
- Angola, Mozambique, South Africa and Namibia all have voluntary party quotas. These are measures taken by political parties (all ruling parties in these cases) to guarantee the inclusion of women on their party lists. But, there are no sanctions for non-compliance with a voluntary quota.
- Constitutional and legislated quotas are mandatory measures. The advantage of such quotas is that they apply to all political parties and there are sanctions for non-compliance. Tanzania has a constituency electoral system and constitutional quota at national and local level while Lesotho has a constituency system and legislated quota at the local level.

Key questions for discussion

- What steps should be taken to achieve the SADC target of 50% women in all areas of decision-making by 2015?
- What are the arguments for and against electoral reform and or quotas in your country? How effective is women's political participation? How can this be enhanced?

More information

Go to www.genderlinks.org.za; or contact Pamela Mhlanga on alliance@genderlinks.org.za; or Susan Tolmay on governance@genderlinks.org.za

