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## Gender and governance



Gearing up for elections in 2013: Women candidates being trained in the rural council of Tsiarah, Madagascar.

Photo: Claudia Rakotonirina

### KEY POINTS

- At 24%, SADC slid from second to third place (after the Nordic countries and the Americas) in a global regional comparison of women in parliament.
- Overall representation of women in parliament has remained at 24% in the year under review, and is one percentage point lower than in 2011. In 2012, representation of women in parliament in Seychelles increased from 29% to 45%, but in Angola decreased from 38% to 34%.
- With 49% women in local government, Lesotho has the highest proportion of women in any area of political decision-making in SADC.
- Mauritius scored a goal for gender equality with the fourfold increase of women in local government to 26% in the December 2012 elections. But Swaziland slid backwards from 18% to 14% in local urban elections. National and rural elections will be held in the second half of 2013.
- With ten national and eight local elections before 2015 the 50/50

campaign has its work cut out. However, best estimates suggest that by the end of 2015 SADC countries will just fall short of the original 30% target and not reach 50%.

- Calculations in the 2013 Barometer reflect the critical importance of electoral systems and quotas in increasing women's representation. Overall, women constitute over double (38%) the women in parliament in Proportional Representation (PR) countries compared to countries with the First Past the Post (FPTP) system (15%). Women constitute 16% of parliamentarians and 9% of councillors in countries without quotas, compared to 38% of parliamentarians and 37% of councillors in countries with quotas.

- The key to change is political will. The fact that women are still under-represented in cabinet (with some exceptions, like South Africa) calls into question the political commitment of leaders. This is one area where leaders can and must walk the talk in the countdown to 2015.



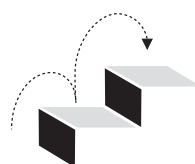
## TRENDS TABLE – GOVERNANCE

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	TARGET 2015
<b>WOMEN IN PARLIAMENT</b>						
Average % women – region	25%	24%	25%	24%	24%	50%
No of countries that have achieved over 30% women in Parliament	5	3	4	5	5	15
Country with highest percentage of women in parliament	South Africa (42%)	South Africa (42%)	South Africa (43%)	Seychelles (45%)	Seychelles (44%)	50%
Country with lowest percentage of women in parliament	DRC (8%)	DRC (8%)	Botswana (8%)	Botswana (8%)	Botswana (8%)	50%
<b>WOMEN IN CABINET</b>						
Average % women – region	21%	22%	22%	24%	22%	50%
No of countries that have achieved over 30% women in Cabinet	2	3	3	2	3	15
Country with highest percentage of women in cabinet	South Africa (41%)	South Africa (41%)	South Africa (41%)	South Africa (42%)	South Africa (41%)	50%
Country with lowest percentage of women in cabinet	Zimbabwe (8%)	Mauritius (12%)	Mauritius (12%)	Mauritius (12%)	Mauritius (8%)	50%
<b>WOMEN IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT</b>						
Average % women – region	24%	24%	24%	23%	24%	50%
No of countries that have achieved over 30% women in Local Government	6	5	5	5	5	15
Country with highest percentage of women in local government	Lesotho (58%)	Lesotho (58%)	Lesotho (58%)	Lesotho (49%)	Lesotho (49%)	50%
Country with lowest percentage of women in local government	Mauritius (6%)	Mauritius Madagascar (6%)	Mauritius (6%)	Mauritius Madagascar Zambia (6%)	Zambia Madagascar (6%)	50%
<b>SCORES</b>						
SGDI			48%	47%	47%	100%
CSC	50%	50%	50%	56%	66%	100%

The Southern Africa Gender and Development Index (SGDI) is a composite index comprising (for governance) women's representation in parliament, cabinet and local government relative to where women need to be by 2015, with the ultimate target of 50% raised to 100% in each case as all SGDI scores are out of 100. As the region is only at about half way or less where it needs to be in all three of these areas, the SGDI for governance has hovered between 47% and 48% over the five years.

Unlike the SGDI, the Citizen Score Card (CSC) measures citizen perceptions, which extend beyond numbers to include participation and delivery. While the SGDI has remained stagnant, the CSC has increased by 16 percentage points over the five years (from 50% to 66%). The higher perception score is probably a result of the visible 50/50 campaigns in Malawi, Zimbabwe and Swaziland as well as other constitutional review measures taken by Mauritius and Zimbabwe to increase women's

political representation through legislated quotas for women.



### Next steps

- Reinvigorate the 50/50 campaign.
- Hold government accountable.
- Women's access to political decision-making requires special measures.
- Quotas are necessary and a beneficial short-term measure.
- New approaches to empowerment should be encouraged.
- Research, monitoring and evaluation are key.
- Making decision-making accessible to women.
- The media is a key partner.
- Broadening the definition of decision-making.

### Key contacts

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