

International Alliance of Women
Action Program 2017-2020

DEMOCRACY
Women in Power Structures and Decision Making

Strategic Objectives:

Ensuring women's equal access to and full and effective participation in power structures and decision making in all fields of society, at all levels.

Ensuring implementation of agreed policies, treaties and commitments. (see explanation 1 and 3)

Increased awareness and recognition that Gender Equality is not only a fundamental Human Right, but also indispensable for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world. (see explanation 2)

An increase of the present worldwide numbers of 22 per cent women in national parliaments, 18 per cent women ministers, 7 per cent women presidents and prime ministers, 8 per cent in Business Boards, less than 50 per cent in the labour market; less than 30 percent in judiciary etc. (see explanation 2)

Actions:

- Reminding authorities and raising awareness among people and the media, that the importance and value of women's contribution as equal partners has been acknowledged as indispensable in numerous International Conventions and Treaties leading to legal commitments. (see explanation 2)

- Advocating the implementation of those legal and other agreed commitments, including those of SDG5, by UN, Intergovernmental Organisations, governments and other responsible authorities and holding them accountable. (see explanation 1, 3)

- Monitoring women's equal access to and full and effective participation in power structures and decision making at all levels in political, judiciary, economic, social, cultural and media life. (see explanation 1)

- Working to ensure the equal participation of women and men in political parties at all levels in order to ensure inclusive and effective democratic governance – 'a women-friendly democracy'.

- Working for a change in electoral systems to promote gender parity / parity democracy in elected bodies p.e. replacing simple plurality with proportional representation and adopting effective quotas for women.

- Working for women's equal participation in conflict prevention, conflict resolution and state building and holding UN and governments accountable to do so in accordance with the binding UN SC Res.1325. (see explanation 4)

- Updating IAW publication "Wishes, Demands and Priorities of Women's National Organisations in the MENA region" (see explanation 4)

EXPLANATION OBJECTIVES - ACTIONS.

1. The inclusion of the Implementation of agreed Policies, Treaties and Commitments, is important and a follow up of the IAW Political Declaration “Call for a new Accountability Paradigm” proposed by Joanna Manganara, approved by the IAW Board in 2015 and the IAW Statement “Implementation and Accountability” approved by the IAW Board in 2014.
2. The recognition of the Positive effect of women’s participation for the whole of society is important and has been acknowledged in several International Conventions and Treaties; This should be emphasized next to the fact that it is still insufficient.
3. Implementation of the agreed commitments of SDG5 is important but legal commitments to Conventions and Treaties are stronger.
4. IAW’s 50-page booklet has been one of the actions of the IAW Co on Democracy and is used to make politicians aware of the Wishes, Demands and Priorities of Women’s National Organisations in the MENA region.

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