

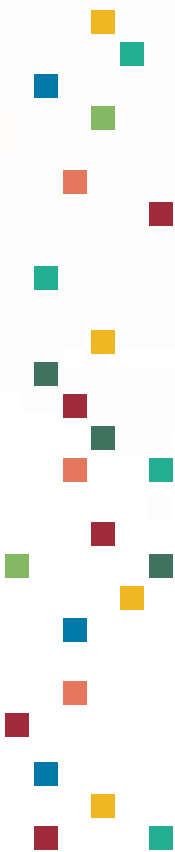


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Inclusive Electoral Processes:

A Guide for Electoral Management Bodies on Promoting
Gender Equality and Women's Participation

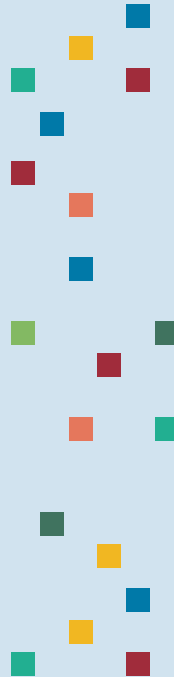




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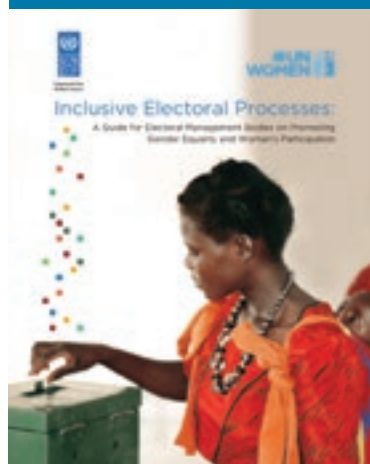


United Nations Entity for Gender Equality
and the Empowerment of Women



Inclusive Electoral Processes:

A Guide for Electoral
Management Bodies on
Promoting Gender Equality
and Women's Participation



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Acronyms

ACE	Administration and Cost of Elections (Electoral Knowledge Network)	IPU	Inter-Parliamentary Union
BRIDGE	Building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Elections	JMI	Jordan Media Institute
CEB	Chief Executives Board	JSCEM	Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters, Australia
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women	NADRA	National Data Registration Authority, Pakistan
CGE	Commission on Gender Equality, South Africa	NCMC	National Conflict Management Committee
CNIC	Computerized National Identity Cards	NGO	Non-governmental organization
CPRW	Convention on the Political Rights of Women	OAS	Organization of American States
CSO	Civil society organization	ODIHR	(OSCE) Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
DPA	Department of Political Affairs of the United Nations	OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council of the United Nations	TSM	Temporary special measure
EEIC	Electoral Education and Information Centre, Nepal	UDHR	Universal Declaration of Human Rights
EMB	Electoral management body	UN	United Nations
GEO	Global Electoral Organization	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
GPECS	Global Programme on Electoral Cycle Support	UNEST	UNDP Support to the Timorese Electoral Cycle
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
ICT	Information communication technology	UNMIS	United Nations Mission in Sudan
ID	Identity document	VAWE	Violence against women in elections
		VM	Vulnerability mapping
		WSR	Women's situation room

Foreword

UNDP and UN Women

Women's full and equal participation in political and electoral processes can be considered to be one of the litmus tests for women's empowerment and gender equality. When women participate in elections – as voters, candidates, electoral administrators, or party supporters – they can express their own needs and interests. Decisions better reflect the electorate. Political processes are more inclusive. Democracy is strengthened.

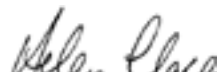
While significant attention has been paid to women's political participation in the electoral process, less focus has been placed on the bodies which administer elections – commonly known as electoral management bodies (EMBs) – and the role they play in encouraging women's participation. The entry points for doing so across the electoral cycle are numerous and include voter registration, voter education, candidate registration, and ensuring women's access to polling places on election day.

As this Guide outlines, it is important for EMBs to ensure that their internal processes and practices are gender-sensitive. This includes making a clear commitment to gender equality through a gender policy, or by including gender-sensitive elements in the EMB's strategic plan; ensuring that women are represented throughout the entire organization, including in lead-

For UNDP and UN Women, the achievement of gender equality and empowerment of women in political and electoral processes is a top priority. Many Country Offices across all regions are engaged in programmes to build the capacity of EMBs to advance women's political participation. This Guide highlights the important work being carried out by the UN and by EMBs, offering concrete examples of steps which can be taken to remove remaining barriers.

This Guide showcases innovative and effective programming interventions, through which our organizations will continue to support women's political empowerment. It reflects the highly collaborative relationship between UNDP and UN Women on political and electoral participation, and provides good practice examples of where our relationship with EMBs can be strengthened. Forging these strategic partnerships is essential in delivering quality outcomes for women.

We thank all those who generously gave their time to provide insights into the workings of EMBs around the world. We hope this publication serves as a useful resource for practitioners in this field.



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