

Indicator name
Number of specific actions taken by partner country government (such as quota systems or other similar measures) to address discriminatory practices and improve women's representation in parliament and government institutions and decision-making positions, at regional, national and local level.
GAP III Thematic area of engagement
Promoting equal participation and leadership
Aggregable indicator
Yes
Indicator type (quantitative/qualitative)
Quantitative
Related objective in the Gender Action Plan III
Overall thematic objective: Women, men, girls and boys, in all their diversity, participate equally in decision-making processes, in all spheres and at all levels of political and public life, including online, to take on leadership roles, to enjoy and exercise their human rights and seek redress if these rights are denied. Specific thematic objective 1: Enabling conditions created for equal participation of women, men, girls and boys, in all their diversity, in decision-making.
Technical Definition
This indicator intends to measure how many actions (such as quota systems or other similar measures) have been taken by the partner country government to eliminate discriminatory practices and promote a gender-balanced representation in executive, legislative, judicial and public administrative decision-making bodies at regional, national and local level. The following definitions apply: - <u>Quota systems</u> for women represent an affirmative policy to improve the gender balance in political institutions. Quotas for women (that should be, ideally, 50 percent) entail that women must constitute a certain percentage of the members of a public body, under different modalities.¹ - <u>Discriminatory practices</u> refer to those practices where one person is treated less favourably on grounds, such as sex and gender, age, nationality, race, ethnicity, religion or belief, health, disability, or sexual orientation, than another person is, has been or would be treated in a comparable situation.² Beside direct discrimination, indirect discrimination occurs when a law, policy or programme does not appear to be discriminatory, but has a discriminatory effect when implemented.³

¹ The main quota systems in use today are: reserved seats (established by constitution or by electoral law); legal candidate quotas (established by constitution or by electoral law) and political party quotas (voluntarily decided by political parties). While reserved seats regulate the number of women elected, the other two forms set a minimum for the share of women on the candidate lists, either as a legal requirement (no. 2) or a measure written into the statutes of individual political parties (no. 3). For more information on gender quotas systems see [Gender quotas database](#) (IDEA).

² [EIGE Glossary](#)

³ This can occur, for example, when women are disadvantaged compared to men with respect to the enjoyment of a particular opportunity or benefit due to pre-existing inequalities. Applying a gender-neutral law may leave the existing inequality in place, or exacerbate it. Extracted from [EIGE Glossary](#).

- Gender-balanced participation refers to representation of either women or men in any decision-making body in public and political life not falling below 40 % as a parity threshold.⁴

Rationale

Despite women's increased engagement in public life, equality is far off. Women remain significantly underrepresented in all aspects of decision-making, and violence against women in public life is widespread. Women's higher levels of poverty, more limited access to finance, greater share of care duties, and challenges faced in realising their sexual and reproductive health and rights, combined with exclusionary institutional rules and procedures, limit their full participation in parliament and government institutions and decision-making positions.⁵

Apart from promoting quota systems, partner country governments can facilitate a more inclusive and enabling environment for women's participation in executive, legislative, judicial and public administrative decision-making by taking other actions to address discriminatory practices and improve gender-balanced representation in parliament and government institutions and decision-making positions such as:⁶

- Introduction of electoral laws for ensuring equal representation of women and men with effective enforcement measures.
- Clear and transparent candidate selection as well as career development procedures and working methods within the political parties.
- Gender mainstreaming mechanisms within political assemblies (formal - commission or committee - or informal caucus or working group) by creating networks/platforms and ensuring the involvement of women and men, in all their diversity, in these mechanisms.
- Family-friendly policy measures and transformative measures to reconcile work and family/private life.⁷
- Mentorships for newly-elected women, in particular by fellow members of Parliament (MPs), and gender equality and mainstreaming courses designed for MPs and political parties, taking into account women's diversity.
- Promotion of networks/platforms between elected women, civil society organisations (CSOs) and gender experts as mechanisms for the development of dialogue and the exchange of opinions on equal participation in decision-making.
- Gender analysis of electoral systems.
- Gender data collection on the political participation of women and men, in all their diversity, in decision-making at regional, national and local level.
- Awareness-raising activities, media and public diplomacy regarding the importance of women's political participation, presenting success stories and role models, in particular during the election period.
- In some countries, the political environment may not be conducive to quotas. For example, the legal framework on representation or quotas may be in place, but be unenforceable if political parties are reluctant or hostile. In these cases, and depending on the context, the EU may, e.g.:
 - support relevant government bodies/electoral commissions to advocate for more equitable representation measures;

⁴ [EIGE Glossary](#)

⁵ [Women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls](#) (UN CSW. 2021).

⁶ [Opinion on "Gender Balance in Decision-making in Politics"](#) (EU Advisory Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men, 2017)

⁷ For example: party meetings and sessions of representative bodies at times that are compatible with family life, care services during parliamentary sittings and party meetings and/or models of parental leaves for elected politicians.

- dialogue with political parties and government on the role quotas can play;
- support and monitor progress on the application of existing laws on representation.

Data source and calculation

Reporting covers cooperation and development initiatives, humanitarian (if applicable) and investment frameworks funded by the EC (INTPA, NEAR, FPI, ECHO) and EEAS.

EUMS may provide information related to their interventions through their contributions to GAP III reports or through the EUDs, e.g., in cases of joint dialogue (i.e., as part of joint programming or TEI).

Data sources:

Mapping and assessment of the country's legal and policy frameworks using primary sources such as laws, policies, plans and strategies from official documents at regional, national and local level.

The intervention's monitoring and reporting systems, e.g., inception, interim and final reports from implementing organisations (including governments, international organisations, national and international civil society organisations, etc.), ROM reviews and evaluations.

Surveys/interviews conducted and budgeted by the intervention can also be relevant data sources.

Baseline and endline studies conducted and budgeted within the EU intervention using the same data collection methodology. The baseline and endline studies can be conducted as part of the gender country profile and/ or gender sector analysis, or be based on existing official reports and published data.

Calculation:

Number of specific actions taken at regional, national and local level addressed to:

- Eliminate discriminatory practices.
- Improve women's representation in parliament, government institutions and decision-making positions at all levels.

Any of the above-mentioned specific actions supported by the EU intervention is counted only once.

To avoid double counting, where support is provided continuously, i.e., individuals are supported across years, a peak year result should be taken, i.e., by reporting the highest number of people who benefited from the EU intervention on a yearly basis. Where results are not provided on a continuous basis, they should be calculated by adding the number of new unique individuals reached in years 2, 3, etc. to the total reached in year 1.

Worked example

During year 1 of the period of the EU intervention, country A launches a regional platform for elected women and politicians as a forum to exchange views with women's organisations and gender experts on how to better address gender discrimination in the public sphere.

At national level, in year 1, the government passed a law on electoral quotas, and in year 2 the national electoral body implemented a two-year programme on gender data collection together with the Office for National Statistics.

In addition, at local level during year 3, a mentorship programme for newly-elected women in local councils and an awareness-raising campaign on violence against women in politics were launched.

The total number of specific actions taken by Country A to address discriminatory practices and improve women's representation in parliament and government institutions and decision-making positions would be 4.

Intervention 1	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
Specific actions	1	1	2	4

Total number of new or revised laws and policies thanks to EU support	Intervention 1+2
	2

Baseline

Data from official counterparts (i.e., national women's machinery, gender observatories, government institutions, electoral bodies, regional organisations, statistics institutes, etc.). Data from CSO and international organisations working on women's political participation as well as from other independent non-state actors.

If baseline data are lacking, a mapping can be done at the start of the intervention using surveys/ interviews.

The baseline can be 0 when the indicator is achieved with the EU funded intervention.

Disaggregation

N/A

Availability and Timeliness

Information should become available annually, depending on the duration of the action.

Related DAC Code/CRS

151 - Government & Civil Society-general / 15150 Democratic participation and civil society/ 15170 – Women's rights organisations and movements, and government institutions / 15180 - Ending violence against women and girls

Associated SDGs

SDG 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

Target 5.5: Indicator 5.5.1 (see Metadata [\(a\)](#) and [\(b\)](#) and indicator 5.5.2 (see [Metadata](#))

SDG 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

Target 16.7: Indicator 16.7.1 (see Metadata [a\)](#), [b\)](#) and [c\)](#) and indicator 16.7.2 (see [Metadata](#))

Other issues

The gender country profile and/ or gender sector analysis can be relevant sources of information for establishing baselines.

If there is no gender analysis available at the EUD, it is recommended to look at the analysis undertaken by EU Member States or other trusted partners (UN, World Bank, human rights national and regional mechanisms, etc.) as well as the [national-level reviews](#) carried out in 2019 by UN Women and the partner countries to assess progress made and challenges encountered in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

Special attention should be paid to following up on partner country institutions reached with EU support.