



WEBINAR

Promoting Women's Political Participation From Quotas to Parity

A Guide to Legal Options for the West and Central Africa Region

10 February 2022
11am-1pm (Dakar Time)

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION LAUNCH

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://unwomen.zoom.us/j/96061592688?pwd=d2g1a3QzdFA2SFRZVU9MWFJCWno1dz09>

Meeting ID: 960 6159 2688

Passcode: 5!b2k=z

Event focal point: soulef.guessoum@unwomen.org
Simultaneous translation: French/English available

Background

UNWOMEN published in December 2021 a legal guide as part of the regional Women's Leadership Programme funded by the government of Canada to increase the understanding of the legal obligations of countries in the West and Central Africa (WCA) region to achieve gender equality in decision-making. It focuses on strengthening efforts to improve the legal framework in this region to ensure that laws are clearly drafted, implementable and effective. It aims to strengthen law-making processes that build and secure the legal rights of women who want to run for elections and who are ready to take over leadership positions in their parliaments and governments. The comparative experiences presented in the guide address both examples of good practices and laws that have failed because their regulations are imprecise, unclear and/or lack effective sanctions. The guide presents also various provisions of laws resulting from different constitutional requirements or electoral systems, assessing their advantages and disadvantages.

Objectives

The official publication launch is planned **on February 10th from 11am to 1pm (Dakar time)** and aims at:

- Brief overview on the publication contents
- Share regional and national challenges associated with the legal reforms
- Discuss how best the publication could be used at the regional and national level

Participants

UN staff, Legislators, representatives of governments, experts in legal drafting, and Civil Society Organizations across the WCA region

Programme

Moderator: Dr. Sabine Freizer, UNWOMEN Chief, Leadership and Governance

11.00 - 11.10 Welcome remarks/mot de bienvenue
Ms. Oulimata Sarr, UNWOMEN Regional Director
Ms. Susan Steffen, Executive Director, Pan Africa and Development Programme (Government of Canada)

11:10-11:15 Group Photo

11:15-11:20 The cover of the guide
Ms. Angèle Etoundi Essamba, Artist

11.20-11.45 **Promoting Women's Political Participation: From Quotas to Parity**
A Guide to Legal Options for the West and Central Africa Region- An overview
Dr Birgit Laubach, Legal Expert & Ms. Soulef Guessoum, UN Women Regional Advisor

11:45-12:15 **Reflections on the use of the legal guide: Regional perspectives**

- M. Francis Gabriel oke, ECOWAS Elections Director
- XX (ECCAS)
- M. Serge Nanourou Electoral Officer, UNOWAS

12.15-12.45 **Reflections on the use of the legal guide: National perspectives**

- Ms. Joy Ezeilo, Legal expert, Nigeria
- Ms. Miatta Darwolor Thomas, Sister Aid, Liberia
- Young female political leader (CAR)

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- Ms. Martine Yabre, Expert and Secretary Executive of de Opinions des Femmes du Faso "O2F" , Burkina Faso
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12.45- 1.00 Interactive session

1.00 Conclusion and closing (Moderator)
