



# OUR VOICE

**KEY LEGAL OBLIGATIONS:  
WOMEN'S POLITICAL REPRESENTATION AND  
FULL PARTICIPATION**



## INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS

The full participation of women in decision making processes is recognised in international human rights conventions and global policy frameworks as critical for the achievement of gender equality.

The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) (Article 7)

The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) (Article 25)

The Beijing Platform for Action (Strategic Objectives G.1 and G.2)

The UN Economic and Social Council Resolution (E/RES/1009/5) setting a global target of 30%

UN General Assembly Resolution 66/130 (2011) on Women and Political Participation

General Recommendation No. 5 and No. 25 of the CEDAW Committee recommending the use of temporary special measures

United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) and subsequent resolutions on Women, Peace and Security



## REGIONAL COMMITMENTS

The Regional Roadmap for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific undertakes to prioritise gender equality in the regional policy agenda to enhance women's leadership and decision-making.

Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration (2012) commits to accelerate women's full and equal political participation and their involvement in decision making at all levels, including the adoption of special measures.

Declaration of the Advancement of Women in the ASEAN Region (1988) includes a directive to promote and implement equitable and effective participation of women.

Ha Noi Declaration on the Enhancement of Welfare and Development of ASEAN Women and Children (2010) promotes women's participation in decision-making.

**Your country is a signatory to these agreements which means, as a duty bearer, you have an obligation to take measures to include more women in decision making.**

## THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS)

The SDGs contain a specific target in relation to women's participation in decision making under SDG 5 on gender equality and women's empowerment. Under this target (Target 5.5), Governments have committed to ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life.

This target is supported by two indicators including: the proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments and local governments (5.5.1) SDG16 also contains a target to ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels (Target 16.7).





## NATIONAL OBLIGATIONS

### Solomon Islands

The **Solomon Islands Constitution** stipulates that fundamental rights and freedoms are guaranteed to citizens regardless of gender (Chapter 2, Article 3).

The **National Policy on Gender Equality and Women's Development Policy** focuses on the equal participation of women and men at all levels of decision-making (outcome 3). The 2014 **Political Parties Integrity Act** requires a 10% quota for women candidate endorsements.

### Papua New Guinea

Women's equal participation in decision making is provided for in **PNG's Constitution** (See National Goal 2 on Equality and Participation, Clause 50 and 55). **PNG's Vision 2050** also calls for reserved seats for women at all levels of government.

### Cambodia

**Cambodia's Constitution** states that Khmer citizens of both sexes have the right to stand as candidates in elections and to participate in the political life of the nation (See articles 34, 35 and 45). **Neary Rattanak**, the national plan for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women (2014-2018), identifies promoting the participation of women in decision-making at all levels, as a strategic priority.

### Timor Leste

The **Constitution of Timor Leste** formalises equality between women and men in law (Section 17). **The Law on the Election of the National Parliament** requires political parties to nominate one woman for every three candidates on their party list. At the local level, **The Law of Sucos** requires a female candidate to stand in every election for village chief and hamlet chief.

### Myanmar

**Myanmar's Constitution** guarantees all persons' equal rights before the law and equal legal protection (Section 347) and does not discriminate against any Myanmar citizen on the basis of sex (Section 348). **Myanmar's National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women** (2013–2022) includes measures to increase women's participation in decision making at all levels.

### Bougainville

The **Constitution of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville** provides for fair representation of women on all constitutional and other bodies (Article 19) as well as three reserved seats for women in the House of Representatives (Article 55(2)). **The Bougainville Community Government Act** (2016) requires that each Community Government ward must elect one male and one female representative, and rotate the leadership roles for each Community Government between male and female representatives.

WAVE is a ground-breaking women's leadership program that brings together and supports individual women, organisations, and movements in Asia and the Pacific region to increase the representation of women in diverse leadership positions.

WAVE is funded by the Government of the Netherlands and supports 18 women's rights organisations in five countries with the resources, skills and networks they need to amplify their collective voice and create a more enabling environment for women's leadership.

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