

## Yemen Baseline Data Collection – Gender Equality Project

- I. The Woman Right to political representation and Empowerment to participate in the public domain
- Number and nature of civil society organizations' campaigns to apply pressure for taking the official measures required to ensure woman representation in decision-making positions

There are various campaigns for ensuring woman participation, which should be effective and continuing.

Those include, for instance, a campaign for quota support through launching an NGO civil coalition lately in 2012. It aimed at ensuring 30% woman representation in the two councils of parliament as well as municipal councils and executive authority. In addition, there is a campaign for the empowerment of woman on all spheres in a Yemen-voice coalition. The Women National Committee also gathered a million signatures and submitted them to the parliament for the introduction constitutional amendments that guarantee political participation of women in accreditation of the quota system. There are further other campaigns such as "I am a woman" and "A nation union"; however they were in a slow, weak progress. There are also non-campaign activities in the form of workshops, seminars, studies and research, all of which are oriented towards woman representation in the coming stage.

- Number and nature of governmental measures in existence for supporting and facilitating woman representation in the electoral slates  
The government has not taken any special measures especially in the quota system . in march 2012 the government approved the strategy proposed from Women National Committee (established as an outcome of the Beijing Conference),the strategy objectives were mainstream and support gender issues in public policies and central and local governmental programs, and issues on the state public and sectoral budgets and promoting women participation in policymaking positions;
- Number and nature of civil society organizations' measures in existence for involving women as voters in the local and national elections in the process of constitutional reform

**First, the number of registered women voters in the register of electors reached 4360382, 48% of the total number.**

No measures are taken by the civil society , however they are focused on training and awareness raising

Laws, legal instruments and policies related to women and gender equality in terms of political representation  
First National Legal Reference

### **In the Yemeni Constitution:**

**Article (6)** The Republic of Yemen confirms its adherence to the UN Charter, the International Declaration of Human Rights, the Charter of the Arab League, and dogma of international law which are generally recognized.

**Article (24)** The state shall guarantee equal opportunities for all citizens in the fields of political, economic, social and cultural activities

**Article (31)** Women are the sisters of men. They have rights and duties, which are guaranteed and assigned by Shari'ah and stipulated by law.

**Article (40)** Citizens are all equal in rights and duties.

**Article (41)** Every citizen has the right to participate in the political, economic, social and cultural life of the country. The state shall guarantee freedom of thought and expression of opinion in speech, writing and photography within the limits of the law.

**Article (42)** The citizen has the right to elect and nominate himself as a candidate in an election, as well as the right to demonstrate his opinion in a referendum.

**Article (57)** In as much as it is not contrary to the Constitution, the citizens may organize themselves along political, professional and union lines. They have the right to form associations in scientific, cultural, social and national organizations in a way that serves the goals of the Constitution. The state shall guarantee these rights, and shall take the necessary measures to enable citizens to exercise them. The state shall guarantee freedom for the political, trade, cultural, scientific and social organizations

### **Second - International Legal Reference**

**The international conventions signed and ratified by the Yemeni government, which include guarantee of women rights are as follows:**

- **The International Declaration of Human Rights**
- **The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)**
- **The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)**
- **The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) 1978 (there are only one reservation on an article)**

- **The Convention on Prohibition and Independence of Prostitution, 1949**
- **The International Labor Organization Equal Remuneration Convention enacting the principle of equal pay for equal work, 1951**
- **The Convention on the Political Rights of Women, 1952**
- **Convention against Discrimination in Education is a convention adopted by UNESCO in 1960**
- **Convention of Beijing Conference, 1995**
- **Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1997**
- **Convention on the Nationality of Married Women, and her right to maintain her original nationality, 1957**
- **Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage**

II. Women participation in political and civil reading roles

- Conducting a survey on the start of the project dealing with the current and past percentage of elected women MPs
  - in 2003 elections (the last parliamentary elections)
    - No of women candidates: 11**
    - No of winners: only one**
    - Total number of MPs: 301**
  - the last election was held in 2006 municipal elections (the last municipal elections) (Governments are divided into directorates. Yemen is divided into governorates)
    - winner on the governorate level: 6**
    - Women winner on the directorate level: 27**
    - Total number of members in the 21 Yemeni governorates: 6000**
    - **The shura council members are appointed not elected:**
      - There are two women members out of 111.**
- Conducting a survey of gender equality in public leadership agencies (government-affiliated, political parties, the parliament, NGOs)
  - **The government: number of lady ministers in the national unity government formed in 2012 following the revolution incidence in Yemen is 3 ministers among 34 minister (minister of human rights, minister of social affairs and labor and minister of state for the affairs of the minister of council – with no portfolio). It is**

**the first time ever in the history of Yemeni government that the number of lady ministers has reached three, while it never exceeded two in the ex-governments.**

- **The high committee for elections: no women**
- **The judiciary: they reach 38 lady judge all over the governorate out of over 1000 judge.**
- **Political parties:**

**Some figures indicate that the number of women in leadership positions of the Yemeni parties reached 259 women out of the total 12975 recorded by the ministry of legal affairs in regards to all parties, i.e. 2%. This percentage does not reflect the actual amount of women inside parties. It is even exaggerated as parties represent women nominally.**

**In fact, the volume of NGOs**

**Woman representation in NGOs' board does not hit 14.7% in a total of over 1000 NGOs.**

### III. Laws

- The number of laws in favor of participation and representation by women as proposed by the parliamentary councils over the last couple of years

There are no draft laws proposed before the people's assembly for supporting political participation of women. However, what was proposed was a number of amendments insuring the rights of women in relation to (raising the minimum age for marriage - penalty law and nationality law.

- The number of women who ran into the votes in the local and national elections over the last couple of years

**No local elections took place since 2006 as the election schedule coincided with the incidence of the revolution in Yemen,**

**The number of women winning seats in the parliament (or other policymaking positions) over the last couple of years**

No parliamentary elections took place since 2003 as parties refused to participate in 2009, and extended their boycott for two years, but then the revolution broke out in Yemen.

### IV. Organizational partnership

- Number, nature and effectiveness of the partnerships founded over the last couple of years concerning activities of human rights and/or women rights organizations

There were established over the last couple of years a number of coalitions:

- A civil coalition in support of the quota (woman-specialized/non-specialized organizations) adopted by the Women's Research and Training Centre
- The Yemen women-voice coalition (35 woman and youth organizations) to empower women in all spheres
- Nation coalition (a number of human rights activists as well as women media professionals)
- Initiatives and coalitions for certain women rights issues including observation of violations, rape etc.

V. A questionnaire about: if there are special criteria relevant to gender equality as to political representation and women's participation in the public sphere:

Regarding women's participation in public service, according to Central Bureau of Statistics, the number of women working at the Administrative and Judicial apparatus in Yemen has reached in 2011 92,594 workers out of 429,944 in both sectors: the public and the mixed.

- Information on the participation in the national dialogue:

The number of women members in the comprehensive national dialogue is 164 out of 565, from a 30% quota.

Three women have acted as heads within the nine committees divided by the dialogue members. Four other women have become seniors and two as vices, along with three women that have become the committee's speakers. That renders a total of 14 women appointed, including the position of presidency.