



# CALL TO ACTION

## ON YOUNG WOMEN'S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION AND LEADERSHIP

### PRIORITY 1

### NURTURE YOUNG WOMEN'S POLITICAL ASPIRATIONS

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

- Invest in the empowerment of girls: fund and implement quality education (including in the field of STEM and civic education) and training opportunities that reflect the needs of young women, and ensure the transparency, accessibility, fairness and inclusiveness of this process.
- Ensure financial accessibility to quality education by means of grant schemes, scholarships and financial services, such as youth empowerment banks and micro financing initiatives.
- Strengthen gender-responsive youth policies and programs through legislation, budget allocation and parliamentary oversight.
- Create an enabling environment for young women's public engagement, via civic education and supporting youth initiatives.
- Create an environment conducive to ensuring political leadership's buy-in to providing robust support to young women politicians.
- Support the establishment of gender-balanced youth parliaments to develop an insight into the democratic process and the work of parliament.
- Support and value social movements and civil society organizations as stepping stones for young women's engagement in formal politics, including by providing flexible and accessible funding to young women's movements and organizations.
- Implement strategies to facilitate young women's equal representation in social movements and to link their participation in social movements with participation in formal political debates.



# PRIORITY 2

## SUPPORT YOUNG WOMEN CANDIDATES FOR POLITICAL OFFICE

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- Advocate for and oversee the implementation of support systems during election campaigns that would assist young women during turbulent political processes.
- Cap spending in electoral campaigns to level the playing field.
- Oversee the allocation of robust financial resources in support of young women politicians, as well as fair access to and use of campaign resources.
- Provide resource mobilization training to young women political aspirants to support their campaigning
- Encourage political parties to establish measures to support young women's participation in party leadership bodies and the recruitment of more young women candidates.
- Promote parity as one of the key measures guaranteeing women safe, fair, inclusive and supportive access to political office.
- Ensure that youth quotas and gender quotas can work together and succeed to influence positively the representation of different age and gender groups.
- Adopt and implement protective measures to eliminate sexism and gender-based harassment and violence in politics, including online.
- Review and adopt comprehensive legislation and policies on eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls.
- Hold perpetrators of gender discrimination, harassment and violence against young women activists and politicians to account
- Provide training for young women candidates in engaging with the media, in particular in relation to elections.
- Push the media to unveil objective stories featuring and profiling young women in politics.
- Align the minimum age of eligibility for political office with the voting age.

# PRIORITY 3

## EMPOWER YOUNG WOMEN IN OFFICE, INVEST IN THEIR LEADERSHIP

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- Legislate for gender equality and eliminate discrimination in the law
- Oversee the implementation of youth policies from a gender perspective
- Implement the Plan of Action for Gender-sensitive Parliaments
- Ensure that all political institutions are gender-sensitive and gender-responsive, providing family-friendly facilities to all their members, allowing work-life balance, using gender-sensitive language and behaviours.
- Encourage structured inter-generational mentorship within political institutions.
- Provide space for the meaningful participation of young women by ensuring their access to leadership positions and decision-making processes.
- Create networks of young parliamentarians (parliamentary caucuses and forums).
- Open up political institutions to reach out to young women, in particular women and girls from remote areas, with different social and economic backgrounds, and with different experiences.
- Launch structured dialogue with civil society as inclusive, transparent and effective channels for ensuring that political institutions and their mandates are responsive to social needs and for promoting reforms that are sensitive to the aspirations and abilities of young women to effect change.
- Ensure the meaningful inclusion of young women in politics for the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda as a result of joint action by relevant stakeholders addressed by this Call to Action.

