

## F2FGender 2019: Thematic workshops on **Women's Political Participation**

Does women's political participation automatically lead to gender equality? No. Gender equality is not only a question of women's representation/participation in terms of numbers. It is about women's voice, leadership and influence, and gender-responsive policies.

Our hypothesis is: More women implicated in politics and leadership positions will also lead to more gender-responsive policies that promote gender equality. But important to note that men can also make gender-responsive policies. The key questions of our two workshops can be articulated as follows: **How to strengthen the influence and impact of women's political participation?**

To discuss this topic there are two thematic workshops on women's political participation being organized at the first day of the F2F (Monday 29 April):

- 1) One on women's representation and influence in local governance structures called "**From women's political representation to women's political empowerment**" (morning). This workshop will address the following question: How can we strengthen women's participation, influence and impact in local politics and governance?
- 2) The second workshop will focus on gender responsive and socially inclusive budgeting (afternoon): "**Gender-mainstreaming in Public Finance Management to promote gender-responsive policies**". It will be dedicated to the following question: How can we ensure that public policies and expenditures trigger positive change towards more gender equality and social inclusion?

### **2 Gender-mainstreaming in public finance management to promote gender-responsive policies**

This workshop will be dedicated to the following question:

**How public expenditure can trigger social and economic change towards gender equality and social inclusion?**

- What are the relevant issues and key factors? (what is the analysis)
- What are the main obstacles identified?
- What are the strategic actions needed?

We will look at the following issues:

- What are good practices to empower women (and socially excluded groups) to participate in budgetary decision-making processes in local level governance?
- What are the linkages between local level processes and national reforms and legal frameworks, and what are enabling, what are inhibitive factors?
- What are good examples of improved public policies and services implemented due to gender-responsive budgeting (and socially inclusive budgeting)?

This exercise will be done in two stages or parallel (tbd) with the following pre-identified speakers (tbd)

- 1) First speaker: Kyrgyzstan (Elena Zakirova)  
Discussant: Mongolia (Erdenesai Khan Nyamjav)
- 1) First Speaker: Tanzania (Jacqueline Ngoma)  
Discussant: Burkina Faso (Jean-Pierre Salambere) /

### **Link to the field visits**

These two workshops are closely linked to the field visits (option "political participation") that will take place on the second day of the F2F and will allow us to discover the Swiss realities and experiences on women's political participation with various actors in this field. A first part of the visit will take us to the municipality of Köniz to discuss with representatives of the municipal, cantonal and federal levels the implementation of the gender equality law, the challenges and priorities, the resources available and the application (or not) of gender responsive budgeting at the three levels of the Swiss political system. The second visit will take us to Alliance F to exchange with Swiss female politicians from different parties on their situation (what does it mean to be a woman involved in politics in Switzerland?), the challenges they face, the factors facilitating their activity, etc. They will present their campaign "Helvetia calls", which aims to increase the number of female parliamentarians in the federal (and cantonal) elections of 2019 and thus mobilizes, supports and accompanies the female candidates.