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Réseau DDC égalité hommes-femmes

# Tunisia: women's participation in national elections

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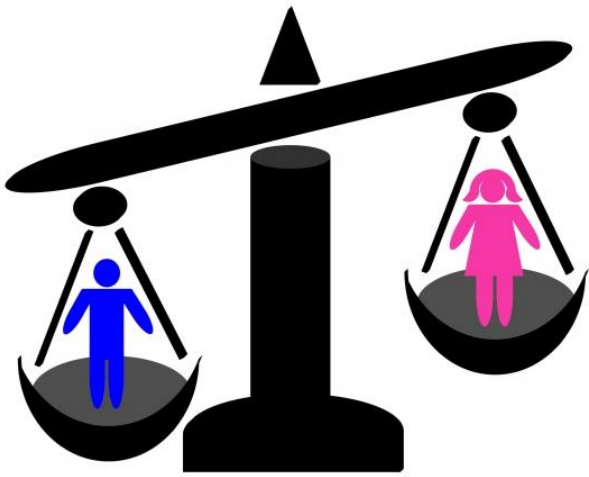
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# introduction

- **Constitution** : “The **state commits** to protecting women’s achieved **rights** and seeks to **support** and develop them. The state seeks **to achieve equal representation** in elected councils (parity). The state takes ...measures to eliminate violence against women.”
- A social and economic and political environment: a **big gender inequality**.
- **An important role** in the results achieved relating to electoral process is attributed to women.
- To have to deal with **many challenges** in order to boost women participation in political transition.
- **Swiss program to support electoral process in tunisia** and to ensure women participation taking into consideration different social and political characteristics.



## section1: learning form tunisian gender key data

Persistent gender inequality which are worsening  
by going to the interior regions

# Social and economic key data

- **Population:** 10.9 millions, **50.2%** are women.
- **14.5% of families are headed by a woman** (13.2% for rural zones).
- The general illiteracy rate is **19.3%** divided into **12.9%** for men and **25.7%** for women. These rate become **23.1%** and **41.7%** for the rural area.
- **12.1 % of women are in university or hold a university degree** against 12% for men.

- 46.5 % of **tunisians have an economic activity**. But only 28.2 % of women (65.5% for men) participate in the economic activity.
- 19.6% of **tunisian in activity are managing their own enterprises**. This rate is splitted into **11.5% for women** and 22.6% for men.
- In 2015, the rate of **unemployment women** is 22.5% against 12.4 % for men. The national rate is upper than 15%. In the interior regions this rate reach 35% for women.
- **Women earn -35% as a salary** compared to men. Acces au financement.
- Woman have **less chances to have a banking loans** than men.
- Number of **hours devoted for domestic or non-paid activity is more important for women** than men (5:16 compared to 00:39).

# Political key data

- Women are weakly represented in executive, legislative and judicial powers:
  - 3 women among 30 minister and State secretaries,
  - 7 women among 88 ambassadors and consuls,
  - 13.4% of general directors and 22% of directors in the PA are women (2007),
  - 569 women among 1860 judges(2007),
  - 68 women among 217 members of parliament.

## Section 2: Women participation in the tunisian elections



- The 3 past electoral events was marked by an important female commitment,
- Women participation is always less than men participation,
- Inequalities are more important in the rural zones and interior regions

# Elections key data

	2011	2014
<b>Population able to vote</b>	8 millions	8 millions
<b>Registered voter</b>	4.4 millions – 62%	5.2 millions
<b>Really Voters</b>	52%	3.5 millions – 67%
<b>% of women among Reg V</b>	45 %	46%
<b>Number of all candidates</b>	11'686 / 1519 lists	15'652 / 1500 lists
<b>Number of women candidates</b>	50%	50%
<b>% of women head of a list</b>	7% - 107	11% - 148
<b>Number of women elected</b>	59 / 217	68/217

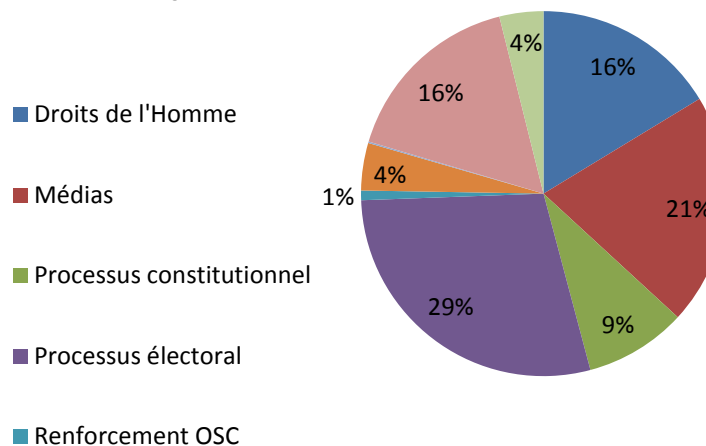


- Candidates for **presidency -2014**: 5 women but only one of them was been accepted. She got a very low score: 18'287 votes/4 million, finishing 11<sup>th</sup>/27.
- **vertical parity** in a single candidate list, associated to proportional representation, weakened women's representation, because **almost all parties offered the top position to male candidates**.
- the **main political parties give no sufficient weight to women's participation** at top level. En-nahdha's internal rules do not mention the representation of women in its various levels (national, regional and local).
- In 2014, **107'798 citizens** took part in the electoral process (members of the electoral staff (ISIE), or party observers, or candidates to elections, or NGO observers, journalists, and various assistants). Among them, there were nearly **41,402 women (38,.4%)**.
- In 2011, Media Monitoring conducted by the TADW, shows that women politicians **have occupied 5% on media spaces** (TV and radio) devoted to the electoral campaign, against 51% for men. 10% in 2014.

# Election program implemented by the swiss embassy in Tunisia

Sous Domaine	Engagement du programme suisse en Tunisie
Droits de l'Homme	3'036'313 CHF
Médias	3'820'822 CHF
Processus constitutionnel	1'679'195 CHF
Processus électoral	5'316'324 CHF
Renforcement OSC	159'089 CHF
Renforcement institutionnel et dialogue	782'630 CHF
Restitution des avoirs	24'045 CHF
RSS	3'071'139 CHF
Traitement du passé	724'541 CHF
<b>Total</b>	<b>18'614'098 CHF</b>

**Engagement du programme suisse en Tunisie par sous-domaine (2011 - 2018, état mars 2016)**



## Principals goals/ results

- Logistical support in order to enhance citizens trust in elections,
- Support awareness campaign, and particularly for illitracy citizens
- Support women candidacy by providing them technical support and training,
- Institutional support and capacity building for national authorities involved in organizing elections,
- Support drafting laws and facilitate CSO feedback toward the legislative power,
- Publishing, translation and dissemination of training materials and / or information on the electoral process

# Section 3: Future challenges

- **parity must be improved** in elections by inserting parity in the results.
- The '**positive discrimination**' might be reinforced in law either by providing an advantage or by penalising non-compliance.
- the **municipal and regional electoral** code have to be drafted for this occasion.
- NGOs can promote women's representation by **training and awareness** activities.
- To improve:
  - **women's representation in higher offices** (public administration/ NGO/ political parties / constitutional and independent instance...),
  - **Education for illiterate women**, particularly in **rural areas**, who are often manipulated by parties, and relatives,
- to **achieve full equality in economic, social and labour issues** in order to advance women participation in political affairs.
- **Include man in all projects in order to change attitudes and mentality** (in general 28% of tunisian are against women participation – 42% when it concerned a woman of their family).



Gouvernorates having priority to be targeted in order to increase women participation in elections

**Thank you**

**Merci**