

# CHRISTIANSBORG SEMINAR 2012

## ***Women in politics***

*Diversity and Equality for a Democratic Culture*

*Copenhagen, September 11-12*



**DIPD**

DANISH INSTITUTE FOR  
PARTIES AND DEMOCRACY

# CHRISTIANSBORG SEMINAR 2012

## ***Women in politics***

*Diversity and equality for a democratic culture*

Managing diversity and practicing equality are important dimensions of a democratic culture. The focus of the seminar will be on the various ways the principles of diversity and equality are managed and practiced in different cultural, social and political settings. Speakers and participants from all continents will share their stories and experiences, making the seminar a meeting and learning place in the following areas:

*Women in Local Level Politics*

*Young Women in Politics*

*Women in Transition Processes*

The 1st day will take place at Christiansborg - with high level speakers offering their visions. The 2nd day will be a workshop day with sessions on the three themes finalized with an action plan for how political party assistance can support women in the three areas.

The seminar is organized on the basis of 'invitation only', with a major focus on political parties and party institutes in the Nordic countries, Danish civil society organizations, and partners from the countries around the world where the Nordic organizations are active.

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

The DIPD Strategy 2011-2013 "Political Parties in a Democratic Culture" states that the Institute will host an annual 'flagship' **Christiansborg DIPD Seminar**, with a focus on the Nordic cooperation partners and their partners around the world, as well as the Danish community working on governance and democracy in different ways. At the Board meeting on 7th of December 2011 it was decided that the first seminar should take place in September 2012, considering that Denmark is responsible for the EU Chairmanship during the first part of 2012 and the Parliament and the political parties therefore are very busy.

## **2. PURPOSE**

The seminar should create a space for knowledge and experience sharing among the different actors within democracy assistance broadly speaking, and assistance for political parties more specifically. The seminar should facilitate and strengthen the political environment around democracy assistance in the Nordic countries and support Nordic cooperation on political party assistance. The seminar should also create an added value for DIPD's work with both the institute's own projects and the projects of the political parties, possibly in the form of a catalogue of ideas and best practices for including women in politics.

## **3. DATES**

The Christiansborg Seminar will take place on Tuesday 11 and Wednesday 12 of September 2012, leading up to the International Day of Democracy on Saturday 15 September. This will make it possible for participants from the Nordic countries to participate in the seminar and also return to their countries for Democracy Day celebrations, as well as to use the presence of partners from developing countries in the Democracy Day activities as well.

## **4. PARTICIPANTS**

The target group of the seminar is first and foremost people who are professionally involved in democracy assistance in the Nordic countries. This includes DIPD's sister institutions and politicians involved in political party assistance projects; high level politicians who we would like to engage in the work of democracy assistance; and the Danish resource base of the institute, including researchers and NGOs working with democracy assistance.

The Nordic sister institutes from Sweden (party foundations), Finland (Demo) and Norway (Norad) will be invited to participate, hopefully both with politicians, secretariat staff and partners they work with.

Although not Nordic as such, International IDEA is participating on the basis of its role and knowledge in the political party support arena. Other highly relevant actors participating are the UNDP, Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy and other institutions who have close links that have been established between DIPD and these institutions.

From the Danish NGO community and resource base representatives from organizations like the Danish Youth Council, Kvinno, MS/ActionAid, IMS, IMR, Kvinderådet, IBIS, Folkekirkens Nødhjælp, and KULU will be invited.

## 5. VENUE AND LOGISTICS

The official part [1st day] of the seminar will be held at Fællessalen, Christiansborg. The workshop part [2nd day] will be held in Kosmopol at the centre of Copenhagen.

After online registration the participants will be contacted in order to plan travel, accommodation, visa etc. We have pre booked really nice rooms at the Hotel Palace, located in central Copenhagen in the close vicinity of the seminar venue. Participants who cover their own expenses can also use this organising service for free and receive an invoice for their travel and accommodation.

DIPD will cover all costs for the seminar facilities; lunches and dinners during the seminar; keynote speakers; the participation of DIPD partners from developing countries; facilitators and moderators during workshop sessions; as well as the preparation of background documents.

Nordic and other international partner institutions will be asked to cover their own travel and accommodation. In addition some of them will be encouraged to invite partners from developing countries, and in those cases DIPD offers to cover accommodation while in Copenhagen.

## 6. CHOICE OF THEME

A number of themes have been discussed by the board of DIPD, considering aspects like relevance for politicians and political parties, existence of cutting edge knowledge among partners, how they could feed into the further development of knowledge within DIPD and sister institutions, relevance for partners in developing countries, etc.

Finally, the board decided to focus on **Women in Politics** – with the understanding that this will address the challenges of **women in political parties** in particular, and that the discussion will be set in the context of **diversity and equality for a democratic culture**.

While recognizing that this theme has been the focus of many seminars and conferences in recent years, it was also the understanding that this theme continues to be an area where more needs to be done. In addition this is also in line with the strategy for Danish development cooperation.

## 7. STRUCTURE OF SEMINAR AND WORKSHOP

**Day 1** will be the **High level** segment taking place in Parliament: This part will focus on the thematic discussions with both academic and practitioner keynote speakers. Panels of political leaders will discuss the themes on a political level. This day is intended to inspire politicians to be engaged in political party assistance.

**Day 2** will be the **Workshop segment** taking place at Kosmopol in the city center. The day will present practical experiences and focus on methodological and operational questions and challenges, with those directly involved in the practical work being the major audience. Partners from developing countries will present their experiences in the three thematic areas.

# SEPTEMBER 11, DAY 1

## High Level

### 10:00-11:00 OFFICIAL OPENING

*Mr. Henrik Bach Mortensen, Chairman of DIPD*

*Mr. Villy Søvndal, Minister of Foreign Affairs*

*Mr. Lars Løkke Rasmussen, Chairman of Venstre (tbc)*

### 11:00-11:30 SCREENING OF THE FILM "YES, MADAM MINISTER"

Mr Manu Sareen, Minister for Gender Equality,  
Member of Parliament from Bhutan

### 11:30-12:30 KEYNOTES

Ms Priscilla Misihairabwi-Mushonga

Minister for International Cooperation in Zimbabwe

Ms Winnie Byanyima

Director of UNDP's unit for Gender & Development

### 12:30-13:30 LUNCH

### 13:30-14:30 PANEL 1: WOMEN IN LOCAL LEVEL POLITICS

Moderated by: Ms Joy Mogensen, Mayor of Roskilde  
Presentations by partners from developing countries

### 14:30-15:30 PANEL 2: YOUNG WOMEN IN POLITICS

Moderated by: Ms Lone Loklindt, MP

Presentations by partners from developing countries

### 15:30-16:30 PANEL 3: WOMEN IN TRANSITION POLITICS

Moderated by: Ms Gitte Lillelund Bech, MP

Presentations by partners from developing countries

### 16:30-17:00 CONCLUSIONS

By Ulla Tørnæs, MP and former Minister for Development

# SEPTEMBER 12, DAY 2

## Workshop segment

### 09:00-09:15 INTRODUCTION

Mr. Bjørn Førde, Director of DIPD

### 09:15-10:15 WOMEN IN POLITICS – METHODS AND APPROACHES

Introduction by Randi Davis, UNDP

*Presentation A: UNDP*

*Presentation B: KVINFO*

*Presentation C: Nordic Representative*

### 10:15-11:00 THEME 1: WOMEN IN LOCAL POLITICS

Introduction by Sumona Dasgupta, Consultant, India.

*Presentation A: Mozambique*

*Presentation B: Bhutan*

*Presentation C: Tanzania*

### 11:00-11:45 THEME 2: YOUNG WOMEN IN POLITICS

Introduction by: Maryse Helbert, Consultant, Australia.

*Presentation A: Kenya*

*Presentation B: Ghana*

*Presentation C: Nepal*

### 11:45-12:30 THEME 3: WOMEN IN TRANSITION POLITICS

Introduction by : Rumbidzai Kandawasvika, IDEA, Sweden

*Presentation A: Egypt*

*Presentation B: Nepal*

*Presentation C: Zimbabwe*

### 12:30-13:30 LUNCH

### 13:30-15:30

#### WORKSHOP 1

*Women in  
Local Politics*

#### WORKSHOP 2

*Young Women in  
Politics*

#### WORKSHOP 3

*Women in Transition  
Processes*

### 15:30-16:30

#### REPORTS FROM WORKSHOPS

*Theme 1: Recommendations on Women in local politics*

*Theme 2: Recommendations on Young women in politics*

*Theme 3: Recommendations on Women in transition politics*

### 16:30-17:00

#### CONCLUSIONS AND WAY FORWARD

## 8. DEFINING THE THEME

Managing diversity and practicing equality are important dimensions of a democratic culture. The focus will be on the various ways the principles of diversity and equality are managed and practiced in different cultural, social and political settings. Speakers and participants from all continents will share their stories and experiences.

The demand for ensuring equal representation in politics is growing with particular emphasis on promoting representation of women. The agenda on women in political life is accompanied by the broader diversity agenda within the corporate sector, the educational system etc. Often affirmative action on gender is introduced by way of codes of conducts and diversity charters.

But often the exclusion of women is based on patriarchal cultures, where women are expected to take care of their families. The political and social structures excluding women will be discussed and action plans for political party assistance will be created in the three below mentioned areas in workshops on the second day of the conference.

To ensure a certain focus within a rather broad theme, it has been decided to focus on three aspects. DIPD is joining forces with the global web based platform **iKNOWPolitics** (an initiative of UN Women, UNDP, International IDEA, NDI and IPU) and the Danish gender institution, **Kvinfo**, to develop high quality background information in these three areas.

The following should therefore only be seen as a first brief and preliminary indication of the nature and scope of the three thematic areas suggested on the following three pages.

## Women in local politics

Local politics may not be a theme that clears the front pages every day, but it is of essential importance for people all over the world that their local politicians are able to understand and meet their needs. In most countries local level politics is about dividing the resources in the local society and as such of great importance for the daily lives of people all over the world.

The lack of women in local politics is a global issue that has been debated for many years. Women's involvement in decision and policy-making processes is absolutely essential for changes in women's political, social and economic status. As such women are seen as actors of change.

Supporting the participation of women in local politics therefore has great potential for improving the lives of women in general.

The workshop session on women in local politics will be focusing on how diversity is managed in different political, social and cultural settings especially within DIPD's project countries. What are the challenges that women politicians are facing in the different settings?

How can political party assistance actors strengthen their efforts in supporting women at the local level?



## Young women in politics

Engaging youth and especially young women in politics is a challenge for all democracies. The importance of engaging youth is self-evident considering their majority status in many populations and the fact that the future belongs to the youth.

But will the involvement of young women in itself lead to reforms in political culture and political party practices? Often young women in politics are supported on the assumption that they will be agents of change. But will youth, and in particular young women, act differently if the basic incentive structures of the political system remain the same?

A case in point could be the Danish 'Folketing', which is the youngest parliament in the world: has the youth changed the modus operandi? And does the traditional party organization match the demands and wishes of current transient and mobile trends of youth movements in such a way that it is seen as an attractive and useful channel?

The workshop session on young women in politics will be focusing on how the incentive structures in different political, social and cultural settings are including or excluding young women from politics. What are the challenges that young women politicians are facing in the different settings? What measures have been useful in order to strengthen young women participating in politics?

How can political party assistance actors strengthen their efforts in supporting young women to engage in politics?

## **Women in transition politics**

Women have been playing a central role in the upheavals in the Middle East, in many cases on equal footing with men. But women seem to be marginalized in the formal transformation processes, and they have not done as well as hoped for and expected in the first parliamentary elections after the upheavals.

Women tend to be left out of political space where future governance structures are negotiated. How is diversity managed in transitional faces when for example new constitutions are negotiated? What are the experiences from earlier transition processes in Latin America, Indonesia and Turkey?

There is a need to develop a special post-conflict or post-revolutionary framework for the inclusion of women in countries that can be considered as being in transition (which is different from the traditional concepts of 'failed' or 'fragile' states).

How can women be supported to participate in politics in transition phases? How do you select which women to support in an often very tense atmosphere of transition? Should there be special or targeted criteria for political party assistance to women in transition phases?