

A GENDER PERSPECTIVE AUDIT OF THE 2007 PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS OF TIMOR-LESTE

The gender perspective audit of the 2007 Parliamentary Elections held on 30 June 2007 is conducted under the following themes:

1. Legal text enabling the parliamentary elections
2. Electoral Administration Bodies
3. Voter Registration and Voter and Civic Education
4. Political Parties and Coalitions' Political Platform
5. Electoral Observation Missions
6. Media Monitoring

LEGAL TEXTS

1. The legal texts enabling the parliamentary elections are to be found in the Constitution of Timor-Leste, the Law on the Election of the National Parliament and Law No. 3/2004 on Political Parties.
2. In the Constitution, Part III Organization of Political Power, Title III National Parliament, §§ 92–102 deal with the elections and functions of the National Parliament. The language in Part III is gender neutral.
3. Of interest in terms of gender perspective in the constitution is Part III Organization of Political Power, Title II General Principles, § 63 Participation by Citizens in Political Life, item 2 which states:

“The law shall promote equality in the exercise of civil and political rights and non-discrimination on the basis of gender for access to political positions.”
4. The Law on the Election of the National Parliament, as approved on 18 December 2006, is gender neutral in its language. However, in keeping with the universal trend in the development of modern electoral legislations, it provides concrete incentives to women's political participation through their mandatory inclusion in political parties or coalitions' lists of candidates and their substitution by same gender candidates in the event of vacancy.
5. See Title III Electoral System, Article 12 Organization of the lists, item 3.

“The list of effective and alternate candidates must include at least one woman per every group of four candidates, under pain of rejection.”

6. See also Article 14 Distribution of seats, items 2 and 3. Item 2:

“In the event of death of the candidate or illness that renders such candidate physically or mentally unable to become a Member of Parliament, the seat shall be attributed to the next candidate in the afore-mentioned list.”

7. However, item 3 qualifies item 2 thus:

“Where the candidate to whom any of the circumstances referred to in item 2 above applies to a woman, the seat shall be attributed to the next woman candidate on the respective list, where applicable, even as an alternate candidate.”

8. This principle is reiterated in Article 15 Vacancies in the Parliament, where item 3 states

“Where the candidate that gave rise to the vacancy is a woman, the seat shall be filled with the next woman candidate on the respective list, where applicable, and the same rule shall apply to party coalitions.”

9. Law No. 3/2004 on Political Parties, Section 8 Principles for the Promotion of Women and for the Rejuvenation of Parties states:

1. Political parties shall encourage the participation of women in party politics, particularly in the leading organs of the party by defining, if they so wish, a system of quotas or other similar measures aiming at promoting the participation of women in activities related to party politics.

ELECTORAL ADMINISTRATION BODIES

10. The 2 texts below provide useful guidelines for a gender perspective assessment of the electoral administration bodies in question, i.e., STAE and CNE¹ as well as EAS of UNMIT.²

11. The Report of the Expert Group Meeting³ emphasizes that “[t]he importance of gender balance in election administration recruitment from commissioners to

¹ STAE stands for Technical Secretariat for Electoral Administration and CNE stands for National Electoral Commission.

² EAS of UNMIT is the Electoral Assistance Section. UNMIT is mandated to provide support to the 2007 elections of Timor-Leste.

³ The report is “Enhancing Women’s Participation in Electoral Processes in Post-conflict Countries” by the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, Department of Political Affairs, 20 February 2004, EGM/ELEC/2004/REPORT.

polling station officials, is now being increasingly recognized.”⁴ (Emphasis mine.)

12. Women and Elections: Guide to Promoting the Participation of Women in Elections, (UN 2005) Chapter 7⁵ provides the yardsticks below:

“The *election administration*, taking into account whether women serve on election management bodies in equal numbers as men; whether decisions on election operations – including voter registration, ballot design, voter education and polling procedures – have been taken with the needs of women in mind; and whether the election management has adopted a clear policy on gender; and also taking into account polling procedures and voter turnout on election day.”

13. In Timor-Leste, the law establishing the electoral administration bodies of CNE and STAE (Law No.5/2006) was promulgated on 19 December 2006.

14. CNE. As for embodying gender perspectives in its text for CNE, refer to item 2 of Article 5, Composition, which states:

“The organs referred to in sub-paragraphs a) to c) of item 1 above must designate, at least, one woman per group.” [and] g) iii. One representative of women organizations.”

Hence, the law mandates a minimum of 4 women commissioners in CNE out of a total of 15 commissioners.

15. Furthermore, Article 8, Competency, e) and f) decrees that CNE must ensure equality in treatment of citizens in all acts of voter registration and electoral operations and ensure equality of opportunities and freedom of propaganda of the candidacies during the electoral campaign. It is safe to assume that under these equalities, gender equality is included.
16. A gender audit of CNE reveals that the present composition of CNE comprises of 5 women commissioners, instead of the mandated 4 women, because President Xanana Gusmao appointed 2 women out of the three commissioners that he is entitled to appoint. Nevertheless, the president and coordinator of CNE is a man, Faustino Cardoso Gomes. Officially, there are 2 spokespersons, Maria Angelina Lopes Sarmiento and Father Martinho Germano da Silva Gusmao. However, given the media controversy whipped up by Fr. Martinho Gusmao during the 1st round of the presidential elections, it is no surprise that he was increasingly side-stepped during the 2nd round of the presidential elections and the parliamentary elections.

⁴ P.9 of report.

⁵ <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/wps/index.html#pub>

17. Of the 12 CNE alternate members, 7 are women. On the average, there are 2 CNE focal points in each of the 13 districts. Altogether, there is a total of 52 focal points of which 19 are women, i.e., 37%. It is CNE's policy to give priority to women candidates for these positions. At least one of the district focal points must be a woman. Furthermore, CNE has 15 men drivers and 6 administrative staff, of which only 2 are women.
18. From the above, it is noted that a man heads CNE and that women have not achieved parity in composition or position within CNE though there is a conscious policy for gender inclusion. The figures of 30% women commissioners and 37% women focal points do not speak too badly for gender balance.
19. CNE and Sustainability. After the second round of the presidential elections and before the parliamentary elections, CNE held a one day workshop on 15 June 2007 with its partners, UNMIT, UNDP, IFES and the European Commission, among others, to discuss its effectiveness and institutional sustainability as an independent organ in the next 5 years following the 2007 elections in Timor-Leste.
20. The workshop afforded an opportunity to the CNE commissioners to reflect on the problems that CNE had encountered and to analyze what the institution must do in the next 5 years. Budgetary questions seemed paramount. However, any outcome is dependent on CNE providing its medium and long term plans based on "lessons learned" shortly after the Parliamentary Elections, as demanded by its partners.
21. The question is whether gender analysis is integrated into these medium and long term plans with respect to the planning and budgetary processes for CNE sustainability? In other words, how to significantly advance the systemic and sustained integration of gender analysis into the theory, research and practice of an election management / supervisory body such as the CNE with its 15 commissioners and 52 focal points.
22. STAE. As for embodying gender perspective in STAE, the enabling legal text is silent, but its language is gender neutral. See for example below, Article 34 of the Law on the Election of the National Parliament on Electoral officers:

Each polling centre or polling station shall be comprised of 5 (five) electoral officers, with the following elements:

- a) One president;
- b) One identification verification officer;
- c) One ballot paper controller;
- d) One ballot box controller;
- e) One queue controller.

23. At the national level, STAE comprises of 12 permanent staff of which 3 are women i.e., 25%. The director of STAE is a man.

**Timor Leste's Parliamentary Elections of 30 June 2007
Brigada & Polling Staff Gender Audit**

DISTRICT	NUMBER OF BRIGADA	MEN	WOMEN	% of Women	NUMBER OF POLLING STAFF	MEN	WOMEN	% of Women
<i>AILEU</i>	34	33	1	3%	185	134	51	28%
<i>AINARO</i>	23	21	2	9%	182	137	45	25%
<i>BAUCAU</i>	66	57	9	14%	344	276	68	20%
<i>BOBONARO</i>	57	42	15	26%	299	203	96	32%
<i>COVALIMA</i>	42	26	16	38%	194	123	71	37%
<i>DILI</i>	60	33	27	45%	516	317	199	39%
<i>ERMERA</i>	55	50	5	9%	378	297	81	21%
<i>LIQUICA</i>	27	18	9	33 %	185	123	62	34%
<i>LAUTEM</i>	39	35	4	10%	245	167	78	32%
<i>MANUFAHI</i>	33	26	7	21%	190	134	56	29%
<i>MANATUTO</i>	32	28	4	13%	190	125	65	34%
<i>OECUSSE</i>	25	25	0	0%	189	133	56	30%
<i>VIQUEQUE</i>	46	44	2	4%	250	200	50	20%
TOTAL	539	438	101	19 %	3,347	2,369	978	29%

24. There are 520 polling centers and 708 polling stations. Each polling center is headed by a brigada but larger centers may have more than one brigadas. From the table above, it is seen that 19% of the brigadas and 29% of polling staff are women. Oecusse glaringly has no woman brigada!
25. The problem has been raised of the difficulty in recruiting and keeping women brigadas and polling station staff. It is to be followed up with the director of STAE on a long-term solution to this problem in this post-electoral era.
26. As in all planning for post-electoral activities for STAE and CNE training and capacity building undertaken by UNMIT with/without STAE/CNE, it is hoped that gender perspectives and gender responsive budgeting would form an integral part. An initial such meeting was held on 11 July 2007 by the CEO of EAS, UNMIT but it is not confirmed if gender perspectives were raised.

27. EAS. The UN Security Council Resolution 1704 of August 25, 2006 mandated UNMIT in point 4.(k):

“To mainstream gender perspectives ... throughout the Mission’s policies, programmes and activities, and working together with United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, support the development of a national strategy to promote gender equality and empowerment of women;”

28. Despite the above, it is not guaranteed that gender perspectives are mainstreamed throughout UNMIT and EAS’ policies, programmes and activities. In reality, the activities of the Electoral Gender Unit are not considered as vital as those of other branches of EAS.⁶ For example, EAS is aware that for an election to take place, the ballot papers and boxes have to be installed and polling staff trained as well as the enabling laws passed. However, it is less apparent to EAS that the outcome of an election, that does not embody gender perspectives, weakens the nation building process of a post conflict society which is a preoccupation of Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security.
29. A gender audit of EAS reveals that there are altogether 18 persons in HQ: 9 men and 9 women, i.e., 50% are women. However, both its chief and deputy are men.
30. Three persons form UNMIT’s advisory staff to the Certification Team – 2 men and one woman. The head is a man. Three persons form UNMIT’s advisory staff to the Court of Appeals – 1 man and one woman. The head is a woman.
31. As for UNMIT’s advisory staff to CNE in headquarter, the head is a woman. Altogether in that unit, there are 13 persons: 5 men and 8 women, i.e., 62% are women.
32. In the 13 districts, UNMIT’s advisory staff to CNE comprises of 3 persons per district except for 2 in Aileu and Bobonaro making a total of 37, of which 33 are men and 4 women, i.e., 11 %. Of the 13 districts, 9 are headed by men and 4 by women, i.e., 31 %. Furthermore, UNMIT has 28 national staff, of which 5 are women.
33. UNMIT’s advisory staff to STAE in headquarter is headed by a man and he is supported by 11 men and 8 women. Altogether women form 40%.
34. In the 13 districts, UNMIT’s advisory staff to STAE comprises of 8-14 persons per district making a total of 138, of which 76 are men and 62 women, i.e. 45%. Of the 13 districts, 10 are headed by men and 3 by women, i.e., 23%. As for UNMIT’s national staff, women only form 18%. See table below.

⁶ In fact, the EGA only obtained a vehicle from the person-in-charge of vehicle allocation, two months after she arrived at the mission, after stating that she may have grounds to substantiate an allegation of cronyism in vehicle allocation, and that SCR 1706 to mainstream gender is being flouted.

UNMIT's Support Staff To STAE
Timor Leste's Parliamentary Elections of 30 June 2007

District	Total International Staff	Total Female	Total Male	% of Female	Total National Staff	Total Female	Total Male	% of Female
AILEU	9	4	5	44%	8	2	6	25%
AINARO	10	6	4	60%	9	2	7	22%
BAUCAU	12	4	8	33%	11	1	10	9%
BOBONARO	9	5	4	56%	12	1	11	8%
COVALIMA	11	5	6	45%	12	2	10	17%
Dili	14	7	7	50%	43	5	38	12%
ERMERA	10	4	6	40%	10	3	7	30%
LAUTEM	13	8	5	62%	10	0	10	0%
LIQUICA	9	2	7	22%	8	3	5	38%
MANATUTO	10	4	6	40%	13	2	11	15%
MANUFAHI	11	6	5	55%	9	3	6	33%
OECUSSE	12	4	8	33%	9	2	7	22%
VIQUEQUE	8	3	5	38%	11	4	7	36%
Total	138	62	76	45%	165	30	135	18%

35. In summation, only UNMIT's advisory staff to CNE in headquarter is outstanding in terms of gender perspectives, being headed by a woman and with a majority of its staff being woman. Although women form 50% at the OCEO, it is noted that the two top posts are held by men. On the other end of the gender perspective spectrum, UNMIT's advisory staff to STAE in the 13 districts can do better. It is for the United Nations to set the example in missions in post-conflict countries.

VOTER REGISTRATION AND VOTER AND CIVIC EDUCATION

36. Regulation No. 160/CNE/IV/07, Regulation On Polling And Result Tabulation Procedures For The Second Round Of Presidential Elections, Article 16, g) reads as follows:

“The identification officer shall:

- g) Write down the voter registration card number or the voter’s name and his/her Timorese passport number, as well as the voter’s gender, in the electoral operations minutes.”

37. Based on this regulation, the sex of a voter was noted when he or she came to vote during the parliamentary elections of 30 June 2007 and the following table illustrates the outcome:

PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS OF 2007

Total number of registered voters:	529,198 ⁷
Total number of voters:	426,210
Percentage of participation:	80.5%
Total percentage of women voters:	47%
Total percentage of men voters:	53%

38. Civic and voter education was undertaken by STAE with support from EAS of UNMIT and UNDP. For the parliamentary elections, according to the Electoral Contact List, EAS had 16 civic / voter education advisors in the districts and headquarter of which 10 are women, i.e., 63%. The head is a woman.

39. A correction is due here for paragraph 35 of the report on the 1st round of the presidential elections. Paragraph 35 states, in part:

“Voter and civic education was undertaken by STAE with support from EAS of UNMIT and UNDP. Each district disposes of one STAE focal point for voter education and she / he has a counterpart in an UNMIT advisory person. In total, there are 5 women and 8 men as STAE district focal points. *On UNMIT side, the figure was a dismaying 1 woman out of 13 advisory support staff to STAE!*” (Emphasis mine.)

40. The sentence in italics is not correct. It should read, and I quote from Fernanda Lopes, Civic Education Adviser’s email of 5 July 2007:

“as per the number of female UNMIT Voter Education Advisers: ... , there are FOUR female Voter Education Advisers in the districts and two in HQ (excluding myself).”

⁷ 257,527 woman and 271,671 men.

41. For its support to gender equality in the parliamentary elections, UNDP notes that:
- “Women are prominent in all voter education material as one of the aims is to promote and encourage the participation of women. A broad range of voter education material was produced for the Parliamentary election including flipcharts, posters, leaflets, banners, stickers, buttons, wristbands, market bags, a song, radio spots and a television advertisement.
42. In the voter education material women are shown explaining the voting process. They are also shown casting their vote. Women parliamentarians are depicted in the material and the importance of women being represented in Parliament and the requirement for at least one out of four candidates to be a woman is explained.
43. Some material was produced specifically targeting women such as a sticker and banner with the slogan “Women-Let your voice be heard”, a button stating “I support women in Parliament”, a poster encouraging women to speak out and not let others tell them how to vote and a radio spot featuring three women discussing the upcoming election. In the lyrics of the song, women are encouraged to let their voices be heard. In a cartoon leaflet, aspects of the election were explained via the UNICEF created character of “Marta” and her family.”
44. On 30 June 2007 polling day for the parliamentary elections, it was observed at Polling Center SD Fatuahi, Dili number 255, that even though there was a provision⁸ to prioritize pregnant women, this was not successfully carried out at this location due to lack of awareness or acceptance of this practice by the voters waiting in queue.
45. However, UNMIT’s UNVs reported that this regulation was largely followed in the districts. The Program Manager, Paula Corte-Real of Caucus Feto iha Vida Politika, in her press conference on 5 July 2007⁹ thanked the women of Timor Leste for participating in the presidential and parliamentary election festivals. She gave special thanks to STAE’s polling staff for facilitating the priority voting of pregnant women, nursing mothers with babies, old women, and the disabled.
46. Nevertheless, it would not hurt, but enhance future elections, if voters were made sensitive to the provisions of article 31.3 to prioritize certain categories of persons to vote.

⁸ Regulation on Procedures for Polling and Tabulation of Results for the Elections of Members to the National Parliament No. /STAE/VI/07, section III, article 31.3:

“The queue controller shall prioritize voters in charge of the protection and security of the polling center, voters evidently ill or physically disabled, pregnant women, elderly, and medical and paramedical personnel.”

⁹ STL 6 July 2007, p.2

47. It would seem that EAS and UNDP primarily assisted STAE in conducting voter education and not so much civic education per se, and that the difference between voter and civic education may not be apparent to EAS. This is a shortcoming that EAS must correct and ensure that its voter and civic education is not limited to achieving only voting literacy, i.e., the ability to complete the procedure of casting one's vote in a polling station on election day.
48. This may even have to be a recommendation to DPKO in general to ensure that its future electoral assistance staff and recruits (to Nepal, etc.) are trained and equipped with knowledge and a body of research on what is civic education in contrast to voter education. Perhaps ultimately, the real test of the success of a civic education exercise is that it must transform the "educator" (EAS) as well as the targeted local population.

POLITICAL PARTIES OR COALITIONS' POLITICAL PLATFORM

49. A total of 12 political parties and 2 coalitions contested Timor-Leste's parliamentary elections of 2007. They are:

UNDERTIM – Unidade Nacional Democrática da Resistência Timorense
 CNRT – Congresso Nacional de Reconstrução de Timor-Leste
 PR – Partido Republikanu
 PDRT – Partido Democrática República de Timor
 PDC – Partido Democrata Cristão
 UDT – União Democrática Timorense
 PD – Partido Democrático
 PMD – Partido Milenium Demokratiku
 PST – Partido Socialista de Timor
 Coalition ASDT-PSD – Coligação ASDT/PSD Associação Social Democrata Timorense / Partido Social Democrata
 A.D. – KOTA-PPT – Aliança Democrática
 FRETILIN – Frente Revolucionária do Timor-Leste Independente
 PNT – Partido Nacionalista Timorense
 PUN – Partido Unidade Nacional

50. As mentioned above, the Law on the Election of the National Parliament, approved on 18 December 2006, provides concrete incentives to women's political participation through their mandatory inclusion in political parties or coalitions' lists of candidates and their substitution by same gender candidates in the event of vacancy. See Title III Electoral System, Article 12 Organization of the lists, item 3.

"The list of effective and alternate candidates must include at least one woman per every group of four candidates, under pain of rejection."

51. According to the provision above, each political formation must nominate at least 16 women out of a list of 65 candidates. Fulfilling the minimum mandated by law are PR, UDT, PD and PMD with only 16 women candidates on their lists while PST and CNRT nominated the most women candidates to their lists, 20 and 22 respectively. (Information on A.D. – KOTA-PPT is not available at this time.) The other parties have between 17 to 19 woman candidates.
52. As to gender perspectives in the political platforms of the parties and coalitions contesting the 2007 parliamentary elections, this is obtained through a study of their written published material (if any) and through interviews with party or coalition officials when granted during their busy campaign schedules.
53. FRETILIN. Its policy on gender as set out in its press statements: On 29 May 2007, FRETILIN listed 15 parliamentary campaign issues in which the protection and respect for women's rights is in 3rd rank. On 12 June 2007, FRETILIN announced a scholarship program to promote women's rights. This seems a logical follow up from Lu Olo media release of 4 May 2007 (during the 2nd round of the presidential campaign) to prioritize female literacy. We have not been able to interview any FRETILIN representative to date.
54. CNRT. On 21 June 2007, CNRT issued a statement that focused on combating domestic violence on 5 levels: legislation, education of the police force, education of women to exercise their constitutional rights, needs of battered women and rehabilitation for violent offenders. Other issues of concern are enactment of a betrothal and fornication laws, improved maternal health care, and equal work opportunities for women.
55. A meeting with Mr. Duarte Nunes of CNRT took place on 29 June 2007. Although an OMT congress was apparently held on 30 April 2007, the hurried setting up of CNRT to contest the parliamentary elections had not leave time to systematically build up the structure of the women organization within the party. Women had been organized at the *suku* level since 7 May and needs assessment was being conducted at *aldea* level. After the parliamentary elections of 30 June, the women at sub-district level would be organized.
56. A gender concept paper exists but at that moment, it had not been approved by the party yet. Mr. Nunes emphasized that gender was high on the national agenda and that there was a commitment to advance gender issues. He acknowledged the drawback of the patriarchal culture of Timor-Leste but blamed the FRETILIN government for not supporting gender issues. He viewed economic empowerment and independence of women as very important (as in advanced countries) for women to have equal footing with men in the house.
57. PUN. PUN has a small booklet in which its founder Fernanda Borges, laid out the party's ideology, principles, values, platform and programs. Of gender concern are the following: criminalization of abortion and prostitution to protect

- the people from exploitation and strengthening the family as the base of society; equal treatment of women in the labor and service market as well as in daily lives; promotion of a family policy with the family as the base of society; a pre- and post-natal program for mother and child; and prevention of infant mortality.
58. PD. Its official website has a column on its woman wing called the OMD where it lists all the office bearers and their biographies. But it does not contain any gender policy statement. Through informal discussion with 2 OMD activists, it is garnered that an intensive struggle was taking place within PD between its men and women activists to combat the entrenched patriarchal culture of Timor-Leste and for women to be accepted as equal in the political arena, i.e., to take the podium and speak during political rallies and not be relegated to preparing food and other supportive roles. However, to be taken seriously, women must prove that they are capable. There were also some differences among the women as to the best way to organize themselves. Nevertheless, the impression conveyed was one of dynamism and challenge within the party.
59. ASDT. It did not give out any written policy on gender. There was a meeting with Mr. Gil Alves, its secretary-general on 2 July 2007 in which he outlined ASDT's support for women equality and the family as the core of society since a child's first contact is with the mother. ASDT is aware of the traditional and patriarchal nature of Timor-Leste society and the low level of education among its women, especially in the districts.
60. Mr. Gil Alves informed that ASDT tried to raise women's profile during its 2007 parliamentary campaign. Its policy was to always present at least one woman speaker in each rally and it had been consistent in implementing that policy. For the new government, Mr. Alves was in favor of a special ministry to take care of women's affairs and was of the opinion that the Minister of Social Affairs should be a woman.
61. PST. We met with Mr. Nelson Correia, the president of the party, who informed that the party's policy was to tackle women or gender issues within the broad framework of uplifting the entire Timorese society from poverty and its attendant ill health and low education level. A sustainable portion of the petroleum fund would be used to implement this policy which would give 3 months of maternity leave to women at \$100 US per month. This would benefit both the mother and child's health and contribute to building the human capacity of Timor-Leste. As for women's unpaid labor in the home, it was suggested to subsidize one female per household who was not gainfully employed outside the house. Old persons above 40 or 45 years old (since life expectancy is rather short in Timor Leste) would receive a reasonable pension too. Education and training were recognized as paramount for women and girls to improve their productive capacity and status in society and combat domestic violence and polygamy. In its political campaigns during the parliamentary elections, women were given priority as seen

from the list of candidates and alternate candidates – 20/65 for candidates and 14/25 for alternates.

62. PR. In PR's political program, gender does not denote women and children, rather it is equated with minority, a subtle but significant point. Its president, Joao Saldanha, openly supports women's involvement in politics. Towards this end, the party collaborated closely with UNIFEM, Caucus, NGO Forum and other women groups to train its young aspiring women politicians. Nevertheless, a woman activist from UNTL (the National University of Timor-Leste), also secretary of the party's First National Congress noted that PR is still a very male dominated party and that despite PR's statement of strong support for gender equality in its manual, this was not so in practice. Out of 12 office bearers of the party, only 1 is a woman. The Electoral Gender Advisor and Media Monitor were invited to address one training session.
63. UDT. There were two meetings with UDT representatives on gender perspectives. UDT has no written gender policy, though according to Francisco Cruz, since Portuguese era, the party had subscribed to gender equality and had always promoted women. Mr. Cruz is of the opinion that gender is very important in national affairs and viewed the rejuvenation and engendering of the party to be indispensable if UDT were to survive and compete in the 2012 elections. According to him, the party's candidate list contained at least one woman from each district.
64. The other UDT representative was Angela Carrascalao, 9th on the party's list. She strongly believes in education for women to better themselves and supports the quota for women in parliament. HIV / AIDS and drugs prevention have a special place in her heart. She advocated for the petroleum fund to subsidize the child's right to play, youth's right to dress properly and to have a boyfriend or girlfriend as the case may be and for the old to die with dignity.
65. PNT. Mrs. Alianca Da Conseicao Araujo believes in positive discrimination and in the quota for women in parliament. We have been unable to obtain PNT's written policy on gender though Mrs. Araujo assured us that there were copies in her office. PNT is sadly lacking in funds such that it has no women structure at aldeia or suku level. The party would consolidate its women organization in the districts after the elections. PNT did not participate in the Second National Women's Congress where a Plan of Action for 2004-2008 was elaborated. However, PNT supports the Structure of Group of Women Parliamentarians in Timor Leste (GMPT), an inter-parliamentary group cutting across party lines.
66. It may be interesting to note that, in the 7 interviews conducted with the above political parties, CNRT, ASDT, PST, PR and UDT had sent a man to discuss the gender policies in their political programs. The two interviews with women party members were with PNT and UDT.

67. Women's Political Platform

However, on 28 May 2007, thanks to the hard work of women groups¹⁰ in Timor-Leste, a Women's Political Platform of Women's Organizations in Political Parties for the Parliamentary Elections 2007 was signed by 12 political parties – PST, UNDERTIM, FRETILIN, CNRT, PD, PSD/ASDT Koligasaun, PR, PMD, PDC, PUN, PDRT and PNT.

68. This is an amazing and unprecedented development that brings commitment to gender issues by political parties to an entirely new and heightened horizon.

Small parties like UNDERTIM, PDRT, PDC, UDT, PMD, and PNT, which seem to have no published policy on gender, now subscribe to the 7 areas of action in the Women's Political Platform, namely on education, economy, health, politics, justice and security, culture and media.

69. Two public debates were organized by OPE, REDE Feto, UNIFEM and UNTL to augment this development in which representatives of the signatories of the Women Political Platform were invited to debate gender based violence, women's participation in politics, patriarchal culture, gender based budget and polygamy. These debates provided, in the words of UNIFEM press release,¹¹

“a public opportunity for party representatives to present party platforms on [these] issues in a nation as yet unaccustomed to a heightened sense of gender equality and its democratic value.”

ELECTORAL OBSERVATION

70. The Electoral Gender Unit places considerable emphasis on electoral observation by national and international teams because their reports accord credibility or lack of it to the elections. Furthermore, the high visible presence of observers at polling stations do impact on the voters. Hence the pressure from this Unit upon observers to be aware of gender perspectives in all aspects of their operations since the first round of the presidential elections of 9 April 2007.

71. Building upon the dissemination of Chapter 7 of Women and Elections: Guide to Promoting the Participation of Women in Elections (UN, 2005) to observation teams through the kind offices of the national and international observer coordinators of the UNDP project, “Support the Timorese Cycle,” after the 1st presidential elections, this Unit had engaged in pro-active interaction with the observation teams. The following questions were posed to them:

¹⁰ Office for the Promotion of Equality (OPE) in the office of the Prime Minister, the women umbrella network REDE Feto, with the support of UNIFEM's Integrated Program for Women in Politics and Decision Making, organized workshops on 22 and 24 May 2007 to raise awareness of gender issues in the legislative elections of Timor-Leste. Ten political parties attended these workshops.

¹¹ UNIFEM press release of 26 May 2007, “Timor Leste's Women Political Party Representatives Unite to Foster Change.”

- Number of men and women in the observation team?
 - Is head of the team a man or a woman?
 - Does the team include a gender expert?
 - Did the team receive gender training before coming to Timor Leste?
 - Did the report contain gender perspectives observations or recommendations?
72. It is recommended that in subsequent elections, such information be incorporated into the data collection by the national and international observer coordinators of the UNDP project, “Support the Timorese Cycle,” or its successor. And by STAE as well.
73. As ably documented by the national and international observer coordinators of the UNDP project, “Support the Timorese Cycle,” international observers came from 49 groups and totaled 500 persons, of which women numbered 196, i.e., 39%.
74. However, the following 10 teams do not have any women members: Brazilian Observer Delegation, Chinese Embassy, Indonesian Embassy, Malaysian Embassy, Malaysian Election Commission, Northern Territories Government, Australian Labor Party International, Bakhita Centre, Leeuwin Care, and Gertil.
75. At the other end of the spectrum, these teams do not have any men: APHEDA Union Aid Abroad (2 women), Caritas Australia (1 woman), FOKUPERS (1 woman) and Victoria University (7 women).
76. There are several teams that achieved gender parity in composition: New Zealand Embassy, Advogados do Brasil, CAPES/MEC, EAST Timor Crisis Reflection Network, Friends of Lliomar, and National Civic Council of Australia.
77. The teams where woman were the majority are EU Parliament Delegation, Concern Worldwide, NDI and VLGA.
78. An examination of the international observation teams’ press statements and reports that were available, show that no gender perspectives were present in the reports of the Japanese Observer Delegation, Victorian Local Governance Association, Australian Labor Party International Observer Team, South Africa Observer Mission, Malaysian Embassy and Malaysian Election Commission.
79. The Indonesian Embassy and Indonesian Observation Team’s assessment issued on 3 July 2007, noted in point 5:
- “The queue controller excised their duty well. In some polling stations observed, women voters, especially the elderly ones and those with small children had been given priority to give their votes before men and young voters.”

80. A meeting with the CPLP Observer Team's representative revealed that the team noted the equal number of men and women going to vote and that the sex of the voter is registered by the polling officer.
81. The European Union Election Observation Mission, faithful to its previous format for the 2 rounds of the presidential elections, carried a section entitled. "Participation of Women," where it observed that the woman quota of 25% in the parliament is guaranteed in the electoral law, that the Court of Appeals over-ruled CNE's decision and affirmed AD's compliance with the spirit of the law of 25% women quota in a party's candidate list, and that women participation in the electoral administration was significant. The report also noted the voter registration breakdown between men and women for the parliamentary election.
82. It would seem that SOMET's observation report for the parliamentary election is expected two months from the date of the election. We have been given to understand that SOMET had intensified its monitoring of gender perspectives for the parliamentary election. Those interested are advised to access www.etan.org for this report.
83. However, we may comment on SOMET's summary report issued on 22 May 2007 on the earlier presidential elections. In page 12, it commented on the "Gender balance of polling staff," noting that in 32 polling centers reported, 23 *brigadas* were men and nine were women and that a staff at a polling station said that more women may be recruited if there was training at the district level rather than in Dili, so that it is easier for them to meet their family obligations.
84. In its recommendation on polling center staff and the voting process, in point 8, page 18, SOMET said that, "STAE should continue their efforts to improve gender balance among polling staff and consider training at the district level to enable more women to attend." On the counting process, SOMET recommended in point 5, page 18 that "Gender data should be posted with the election results at the polling station." Last but not least, on the district tabulation process, it recommended that "Gender data should be reported at the district level," point 4, page 19.
85. FOKUPERS which formed part of SOMET's observer mission will be issuing a gender audit of the parliamentary election. Again, those interested are advised to access their website for that report. However, on 27 June 2007, FOKUPERS issued a press statement where it gave a brief outline of its gender perspective observations to date.
86. FOKUPERS noted that most political parties only treat women issues in general though some parties have clear women programs, especially on domestic violence, subsidies for women and integration of women's issues into health, education, the economy and justice. Some parties considered that special treatment to women would divide men and women. Instead they advocated for

- education within the family. Some parties attacked the quota for women while others defended it. However, FOKUPERS does see a trend whereby gender issues are increasingly becoming men's preoccupations too.
87. FOKUPERS further noted that there were women campaign managers for only 8 parties and very few of them spoke at the political rallies. Of those who did, some demonstrated that they had the capacity to implement the party's program and to get votes. When asked why they chose to be campaign managers, they replied that: they have the capacity, enjoy the party's confidence, identify with the party's program, are members of the party, and desire to contribute to gender equality in the nation. They found support from their own conscience, families, women organizations, other women and international organizations.
 88. FOKUPERS noted that only PUN, Fretilin and CNRT carried material on gender.
 89. As for women's participation in political campaigns which was about 10-45% of total participation, FOKUPERS observed that it was not maximal, but nevertheless a good sign indicating that women were beginning to understand that they must listen and know the parties' programs so as to be able to decide whom to elect to solve their problems. Some women went to listen, others accompanied their small children who were attracted by the crowds, some to sell stuff as well as listen to the programs, and some other women found the rallies to be a break from their daily household chores.
 90. FOKUPERS noted that the media had yet to give optimal promotion to gender issues. It preferred to interview the political parties' president and secretary-general, invariably men, even when it was covering a speech by a woman candidate or a woman campaign manager.
 91. FOKUPERS recommended to political parties to not forget that women formed 50% of the voters and could effect changes. It urges the women in political parties to be professional and have self confidence, and if elected to Parliament, to ably fight for women's issues. FOKUPERS called on the media to promote gender equality, women representation and participation in political life.
 92. The only electoral media monitoring team was from New Zealand. It has a woman as its mission leader. Altogether there are 3 women out of a total of 7 observers. Gender issues are covered under chapter 8.6 of The New Zealand Media Observation Mission Report of the 2007 Timor Leste Elections. On page 8, it cited from our gender perspective audit of the second round of the Presidential elections as follows:
 93. "An UNMIT gender perspective audit of the second round of the Presidential elections showed that women were less conspicuous than men at political rallies, and were passively listening. They were also not prominent in organising these events. Women in Bobonaro, one of the districts surveyed, presented an

interesting list of their expectations from the next president. The list included: to resolve refugee/IDP problems and to rebuild damaged homes, to stop fighting among various groups, to solve food shortages, to establish universities in districts, and to have adequate staff, equipment and medicines in hospitals and clinics.”

94. As for the national observers, the UNDP project, “Support the Timorese Cycle,” documented 2,249 national observers of which 40% are women. KOMEQ, the largest group had 1268 observers of which 44% were women, failing to fulfil its commitment to full gender parity. One group (OPMT) had no men while the Comissão de Verdade & Amizade had only one member – a man. Women were majority in 5 organizations but by a difference of only 13 in total.
95. The Joint Asian Solidarity and Observation Mission in its preliminary statement dated 2 July 2007 observed that:

“We especially want to commend the national observer organizations, who, with very limited resources, were able to deploy observers around the country for a total of 3 elections. Their capacity and confidence appears to have increased with each stage, and we believe they have laid a solid foundation for a tradition of neutral, civil society monitoring of the political process, which can only stand the nation in good stead as its young democracy continues to mature.” (Observation Mission’s emphasis.)

96. The 3 reports received so far from KOMEQ, BELUN and GOITIL contain no gender perspectives.

MEDIA MONITORING AND GENDER PERSPECTIVES

97. Due to file size, the section on Media Monitoring and Gender Perspectives is attached separately as an independent file.

END OF THIS PART

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