**Questionnaire on Women’s Representation and Political Participation for Civil Society**

**UNDP Reference Guide for the Arab Region**

**Introduction and Purpose**

The UNDP Amman Regional Hub is currently collecting data for a reference guide to address the under-representation of women and to strengthen their meaningful participation in political institutions in the Arab region. The purpose of the study is to highlight good practices, strategies and mechanisms as well as success stories and lessons learned that have contributed to overcoming the barriers to women’s political participation in the Arab region.

The aim of this questionnaire is to gather information from civil society actors in the Arab region about **barriers to and** **strategies to increase women’s representation and qualitative participation in their specific country context**, with a focus on success factors, success stories and continuing challenges.

**Target Audience and Content**

Ideally, the questionnaire will be completed by:

* Heads of Civil Society associations/NGOs working on or advocating for gender equality and women’s representation issues
* Civil society programmatic staff directly responsible for developing and/or implementing women’s political participation projects at the local or national level
* Civil society staff responsible for monitoring and evaluating women’s political participation at local or national level

Please return this questionnaire **by 31 May 2018** to the **UNDP Amman Regional Hub (Kawtar.Zerouali@undp.org)** and UNDP’s commissioned consultant **Nathalie Ebead (Nathalie.Ebead@outlook.com)** to draft the Reference Guide.

**Follow-Up**

A Skype interviewto obtain more information on the barriers and good practices, success stories and strategies to promote meaningful women’s political participation in your country may be conducted by the consultant Nathalie Ebead (Nathalie.ebead@outlook.com), commissioned by UNDP at your convenience.

**Name of Civil Society Association/NGO:**

**Name(s):**

**Position(s):**

**E-mail:**

**Telephone:**

**Skype ID:**

**PART I: OVERCOMING BARRIERS TO WOMEN’S REPRESENTATION AND MEANINGFUL POLITICAL PARTICIPATION**

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| **1. To what extent do the following pose challenges or obstacles for policy makers and practitioners to increase women’s representation and qualitative participation in your country? *(Please tick the most applicable response for each challenge)*** |
|  | **Significant** | **Fair** | **Not a great deal** | **Not at all** |
| **Social-Cultural Barriers** |
| Cultural norms and stereotypes about women in society |  |  |  |  |
| Religious beliefs/interpretation about women in society  |  |  |  |  |
| Discriminatory or sexist working culture in Government/Parliament/Sub-national legislature |  |  |  |  |
| Women’s perception of the lack of safety and respect for women in the political sphere. |  |  |  |  |
| **Institutional Barriers** |
| Absence of gender equality policies/legal regulatory framework (constitution/election law) promoting women’s participation  |  |  |  |  |
| Legal discrimination of women |  |  |  |  |
| Lack of an enabling environment for civil society |  |  |  |  |
| Gender blind institutions (governments, parliaments, political parties) and processes (elections, judicial appointments) |  |  |  |  |
| Unwillingness of political parties to promote women in their ranks |  |  |  |  |
| Biased media coverage of women |  |  |  |  |
| **Barriers related to Tools, Capacities and Resources** |
| Lack of solidarity among women |  |  |  |  |
| Lack of financial resources and skills among women |  |  |  |  |
| Lack of education and literacy among women |  |  |  |  |
| Lack of tools (manuals and guidelines) on gender equality and women’s political participation |  |  |  |  |
| Lack of reliable information/research on gender equality issues, including a lack of sex-disaggregated data |  |  |  |  |
|  ***Please list any additional challenges or obstacles to women’s representation and meaningful political participation in your country:*** |

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| **2. In your opinion, how can these challenges be overcome?** |
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| **3. In your opinion what are the benefits for promoting meaningful political participation of women in your country?*****(Please tick all that apply)***  | [ ] Increases public trust in the political system[ ] Impacts the policy agenda[ ] Expands the pool of women willing to run for office[ ] Contributes to socio-economic development[ ] Promotes better understanding of gender equality issues in society[ ] Improves the image and credibility of institutions (governments, political parties, parliaments)[ ] Other (*please specify*): |

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| **4. In your opinion which strategies should the government and/or parliaments and local councils apply to effectively promote meaningful political participation of women and increase representation in your country?*****(Please tick the three strategies most useful in your country context)***  | [ ] Develop and adopt temporary special measures[ ] Establish and ensure the effective functioning of gender equality mechanisms (Committees on Gender Equality, Research bodies, Gender Equality data collection tools)[ ] Ensure a gender sensitive working environment and work towards Gender sensitive institutions/policies[ ] Work to develop and implement gender equality in processes (elections)[ ] Take initiatives to promote better understanding of gender equality issues in society (discrimination, domestic violence, socio-cultural attitudes)[ ]  Take initiatives to combat gender stereotypes [ ] Ensure gender equal access to resources and infrastructure[ ] Other (*please specify*): |

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| **5. In your opinion which strategies should civil society apply to effectively promote meaningful political participation of women and increase representation in your country?*****(Please tick the three strategies most useful in your country context)***  | [ ] Encourage women to enter politics and advance their careers[ ] Work with political parties to support women candidates[ ] Shape positive public attitudes towards women in politics[ ] Work with the media to combat gender-based stereotypes[ ] Work with academia to educate and inform the public about the benefits of women’s political participation[ ]  Engaging with executive and legislative powers to support the institutionalisation of gender equality in structural and policy frameworks[ ] Other (*please specify*): |

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| **6. In your opinion which strategies should women leaders apply to effectively promote meaningful political participation of women and increase representation in your country?*****(Please tick the three strategies most useful in your country context)*** | [ ]  Plan their own political careers and learn to promote themselves through political party ranks [ ] Build partnerships with other women to act collectively on issues of concern[ ] Engage men as partners and gender advocates to act collectively on issues of concern[ ] Recruit other women into politics[ ] Learn to identify gender-based political manipulation[ ]  Engage with executive and legislative powers to support the institutionalisation of gender equality in structural and policy frameworks[ ] Other (*please specify*): |

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| **7. In your opinion which strategies should be implemented by key actors to combat social-cultural barriers to meaningful political participation of women and increase representation in your country?*****(Please tick the three strategies most useful in your country context)*** | [ ]  Adopt policies to promote work-life balance to address women’s multiple roles[ ] Reform education curricula to include gender sensitive elements[ ] Conduct public awareness campaigns on the benefits of women’s representation and meaningful political participation[ ] Work with media to combat gender-based stereotypes[ ] Create dialogue platforms focused on a religious discourse on women’s rights[ ]  Design and implement national accountability mechanisms for women’s participation[ ] Other (*please specify*): |

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| **8. Can you provide examples of different strategies or initiatives you know of that key actors have taken in your country that have positively impacted on promoting women’s representation and meaningful participation?*****Please cite any laws initiated/passed/amended; mechanisms established, any other activity/initiative***  |
| [ ] By the government |  |
| [ ] By Parliament |  |
| [ ] By civil society |  |
| [ ] By political parties |  |
| [ ] By political leaders (Women and Men) |  |
| [ ] Other (please specify): |  |

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| **9. In your opinion which tools and resources would be helpful to support your work and efforts to promote women’s meaningful political participation and representation in your country?*****(Please tick all that apply)*** | [ ]  Compilation of existing resources and tools on women’s political participation in the Region and beyond[ ] Examples of good practices and success stories from other countries in the Region and beyond focused on overcoming institutional barriers[ ] Examples of good practices and success stories from other countries in the Region and beyond focused on overcoming socio-cultural barriers[ ] Step by step guides for key actors on how to conduct gender audits or gender mainstreaming analysis in their institutions[ ] Step by step guides for key actors on how to establish or advocate for national accountability mechanisms[ ] Guidelines and tools on how to create political and economic incentives for actors to increase women’s political participation (data collection, awareness campaigns) [ ] Other (*please specify*): |

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| **10. Do you have any examples of success stories that demonstrate how your organisation or projects contributed to increasing meaningful political participation of women and representation at national and local levels? (E.g. influencing policy or legislation; establishment of a women’s caucus, adoption of gender-sensitive policy or rules of procedure; adoption of special measures, etc)**  |
| [ ] With the government (Ministries, Committee, Council member) |  |
| [ ] With the Parliament (Women Leaders/MPs) |  |
| [ ] With civil society |  |
| [ ] With political parties (Women Candidates/Party Leaders) |  |
| [ ] Other (please specify): |  |

**Thank you for your time and considered responses!**