

11 July 2021

CONFERENCE

on Women in Politics: How to progress towards equality?

Organised by

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE)

in the framework of the project "Support to the development of the role of the Parliament in consolidating democracy in Morocco" funded by the European Union and implemented by the Council of Europe.

at the invitation of the Parliament of Morocco

RABAT

13 July 2021

PROGRAMME

Venue:
Parliament of Morocco
Hall 11
Avenue Mohamed V
Rabat

Financé
par l'Union européenne



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par le Conseil de l'Europe

BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

The full participation of women in public life and their representation in politics are among the many aspects, all closely interconnected, of equality between women and men. Parity democracy is necessary not only to defend social justice and women's rights when public policies are developed but also to ensure the existence of effective democracy and good governance that are beneficial to all citizens, both women and men.

The factors that influence women's rate of participation in public life include the electoral system, the operation of political parties and their statutes, the selection criteria for candidates, positive measures such as quotas, gender stereotypes, the roles and values conveyed by some family models and the social and private distribution of work, which leaves little room for women's involvement in the public arena.

Being a member of a foreign community and everything that this entails in terms of voting rights and the right to dual nationality is also a factor that influences women's level of participation in political life in their countries of origin and host countries. The latter's policies should ensure respect for the political, social, economic and cultural rights of diaspora members and help them to become active and productive members of their communities. They should enable diaspora communities to exercise their right to democratic participation. In 2020, it was estimated that more than 5 million Moroccans were living abroad. Over four fifths of them were in Europe. Moreover, women have accounted for a larger share of Moroccan emigrants in recent decades, as a result of family reunification and also of women migrating on their own.

In terms of gender equality, efforts at making improvements are underway, taking various forms, both in member countries of the Council of Europe and in those of its Mediterranean neighbourhood. A quota system was introduced in Morocco in 2002. Nevertheless, the representation of women among the elected members of the Chamber of Representatives does not exceed 21% and stands at 13 parliamentarians out of 120 in the Chamber of Councillors. A recent legislative reform is intended to increase the number of women parliamentarians. However, much remains in the hands of political parties, which have a role to play in encouraging women's participation in political life.

In this area, the exchange of experiences and policies applied in different countries is particularly fruitful, given the multiplicity of possible measures and the need to evaluate their effectiveness in different contexts.

To foster discussion on the subject, the Parliamentary Assembly is holding an international conference in Rabat, open to members of the Parliament of Morocco, members of the PACE, in particular members of the Sub-Committee on Gender Equality and the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons, representatives of Moroccan institutions active in this area, representatives of the European Union delegation to the Kingdom of Morocco, international organisations and embassies that support the Parliament of Morocco.

The conference is being held under the joint programme funded by the European Union and the Council of Europe and implemented by the Council of Europe. The working languages will be English, French and Arabic. Relevant documents will be available in French and English.

REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

PACE documents

Resolution 2388 (2021) "For a European policy on diasporas";
Resolution 2222 (2018) "Promoting diversity and equality in politics";
Resolution 2111 (2016) "Assessing the impact of measures to improve women's political representation";
Resolution 1898 (2012) "Political parties and women's political representation".

DRAFT PROGRAMME

Tuesday 13 July 2021

9.00 am – 9.30 am Registration of participants

OPENING SESSION

9.30 am – 11.00 am **The issue of equality and the political representation of women: an objective to be attained**

Opening speeches:

Mr Habib El Malki, President of the Chamber of Representatives of the Parliament of Morocco

Mr Hakim Benchamach, President of the Chamber of Councillors of the Parliament of Morocco

Mr Rik Daems, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Ms Claudia Wiedey, Ambassador of the European Union to the Kingdom of Morocco

Ms Amina Bouayach, President of the National Council for Human Rights

SESSION 1

11:00 am – 12.30 pm **Mechanisms to promote the representation of women**

Moderator: **Ms Khadija Ezzoumi**, Member of the Chamber of Councillors, Member of the Moroccan parliamentary delegation, Partner for democracy to PACE.

Introductory remarks:

Ms Fatima Ezzhara Nazih, President of the thematic working group on equality and parity, Chamber of Representatives of the Parliament of Morocco

Ms Eglantina Gjermeni, Member of the Albanian Parliament, President of the Sub-Committee on Gender Equality of the PACE, Member of the Committee on Equality and Non-discrimination

Debate: **With the participation of Ms. Nicole Duranton**, member of the French Senate, Vice President of the French delegation to PACE **and Ms. Beatrice Fresko-Rolfo**, member of the Parliament of Monaco, member of the Monaco PACE delegation and of representatives of the Moroccan Parliament and of Moroccan political parties

Conclusions by the Moderator

12.30 pm – 13.00 pm *Coffee break*

SESSION 2

13.00 pm – 14.30 pm **Diaspora women's voice in the election process**

Moderator: **Mr Paulo Pisco**, Member of the Portuguese Parliament, Vice-Chairperson of the Sub Committee on Diasporas and Integration of the PACE

Introductory remarks:

M. Driss El Yazami, President of the Council of the Moroccan Community Abroad

Mr Oleg Dunda, Member of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine,

Debate: **With the participation of Mr Domagoj Hajdukovic**, member of the Croatian Parliament and of the Croatian delegation to PACE, and **Ms Suzanne Monkasa**, President of the Platform of the Diaspora Congolese Women, and of representatives of the Parliament of Morocco and of the diaspora

Conclusions by the Moderator

CLOSING SESSION

14.30 pm – 14:45 pm **Conclusions**

Ms Eglantina Gjermeni, Member of the Albanian Parliament, President of the Sub-Committee on Gender Equality of the PACE Committee on Equality and Non-discrimination

Ms Aicha Lablack, Member of the Chamber of Representatives of the Moroccan Parliament, member of the Moroccan delegation, Partner for democracy to PACE

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