



Advocacy Toolkit for Women in Politics

① Using the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development as an Advocacy Tool

“The SADC Protocol on Gender and Development can provide a useful springboard for advocacy.”

SADC Heads of State and Government, with the exception of Botswana and Mauritius, signed the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development in August 2008. The Protocol, which includes several progressive clauses and 23 set targets, including the target that women will hold 50 percent of decision-making positions in the public and private sectors by 2015, was lauded by women and men in the region as a significant step forward for gender equality in Southern Africa.

Other key targets include ensuring that provisions for gender equality are to be reflected in all constitutions and to affirmative action clauses.

The SADC Protocol on Gender and Development is a useful tool in planning for and implementing advocacy campaigns. Because it has been signed by most Heads of State and Government and ratified by several, it provides a springboard for advocacy to ensure that the clauses are legislated, that existing legislation is implemented or as a pressure point, tracking tool or basis for comparison with other countries where relevant in your campaign.

The abridged articles of the protocol below have been drawn from the Southern Africa Gender Protocol Alliance Gender Protocol Baseline Barometer. Full versions of the Protocol can be obtained online in English, French or Portuguese from the Gender Links website (<http://www.genderlinks.org.za>) or from the Southern African Development Community (<http://www.sadc.int>).

ARTICLES 4 – 11 Constitutional and Legal Rights

These provide for all Constitutions in the region to enshrine gender equality and to give such provisions primacy over customary law. All laws that are discriminatory to women are to be repealed. It also provides for equality in accessing justice, marriage and family rights and the rights of widows, elderly women, the girl child, women with disabilities and other socially excluded groups.

ARTICLES 12 – 13 Governance (Representation and Participation)

Provides for the equal representation of women in all areas of decision-making, both public and private and suggests that this target be achieved through Constitutional and other legislative provisions, including affirmative action. It further stipulates that Member States should adopt specific legislative measures and other strategies, policies and programmes to ensure that women participate effectively in electoral processes and decision-making by, amongst others, building capacity, providing support and establishing and strengthening structures to enhance gender mainstreaming.

ARTICLE 14 Education and Training

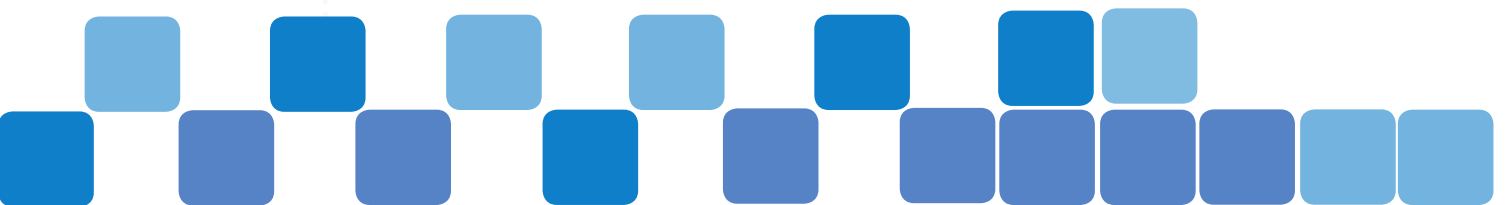
This article provides for equal access to quality education and training for women and men, as well as their retention at all levels of education. It further provides for challenging stereotypes in education and eradicating gender based violence in educational institutions.

ARTICLES 15 – 19 Productive Resources and Employment, Economic Empowerment

This article provides for the equal participation of women in economic policy formulation and implementation. The article has provisions and targets on entrepreneurship, access to credit and public procurement contracts, as well as stipulations on trade policies, equal access to property, resources and employment.

ARTICLES 20 – 25 Gender Based Violence

This article makes provision for the implementation of a variety of strategies, including enacting, reviewing, reforming and enforcing laws, aimed at eliminating all forms of gender based violence



- and trafficking. There are specific stipulations for the provision of a comprehensive package of treatment and care services for survivors of gender based violence, including access to Post Exposure Prophylaxis and the establishment of special courts to address these cases. The article also calls for the enactment of legislative provisions and adoption and implementation of policies, strategies and programmes which define and prohibit sexual harassment in all spheres and provide deterrent sanctions for perpetrators of sexual harassment. There are specific provisions on human trafficking and a section which provides for monitoring and evaluation which sets targets and indicators for reducing gender based violence levels by half by 2015.

- **ARTICLE 26**
• **Health**

- This article provides for the adoption and implementation of policies and programmes that address the physical, mental, emotional and social well being of women with specific targets for reducing the maternal mortality ratio by 75 percent by 2015; ensuring access to quality sexual and reproductive health services; and the provision of hygiene and sanitary facilities and nutritional needs of women, including women in prison.

- **ARTICLE 27**
• **HIV and AIDS**

- This article covers prevention, treatment, care and support in relation to HIV and AIDS. It sets specific targets

to ensure universal access to HIV and AIDS treatment for infected women, men, boys and girls. It further sets a target for the development and implementation of policies and programmes to ensure the appropriate recognition of work carried out by care givers, the majority of whom are women; the allocation of resources and psychological support for caregivers; as well as the promotion and involvement of men in the care and support of People Living with AIDS.

- **ARTICLE 28**
• **Peace Building and Conflict Resolution**

This article provides for the equal representation of women in conflict resolution and peace building processes as well as the integration of a gender perspective in the resolution of conflict in the region with special reference to UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 on Women, Peace and Security.

- **ARTICLE 29**
• **Media, Information and Communication**

This article provides for gender mainstreaming in all information, communication and media policies and laws. It calls for women's equal representation in all areas and at all levels of media work and for women and men to be given equal voice through the media. The Protocol calls for increasing programmes for, by and about women and the challenging of gender stereotypes in the media.

Status of Signing and Ratification by SADC Member States		
Country	Signed	Ratified
Angola	YES	YES
Botswana	NO	NO
DRC	YES	NO
Lesotho	YES	YES
Malawi	YES	NO
Mauritius	NO	NO
Mozambique	YES	YES
Namibia	YES	YES
Seychelles	YES	YES
South Africa	YES	YES
Swaziland	YES	NO
Tanzania	YES	YES
Zambia	YES	NO
Zimbabwe	YES	YES

*as of August 2011

The "Women in Politics" Advocacy Series is the product of a partnership between IPS Africa and UN Women as part of a wide programme to strengthen the capacity for advocacy and transformative leadership of women in politics, support institutions and political parties. For more information, resources and training opportunities, go to:
http://www.ipsnews.net/new_focus/polls/index.asp