

Egypt's Management of Women Representation in Transitional Democracy

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Abstract

Managing women's representation is envisaged as an important building block to promote gender mainstreaming in periods of transition to democracy. Across Egypt, for decades, since women have been granted the right to run for parliament in 1956, they have continued to be underrepresented in the parliament and local councils as well as other decision-making levels. Egypt's international ranking for women in the parliament has been among the lowest compared to other countries. However, post January 25 Revolution and June 30 Revolution, vying towards increasing women's representation at decision-making levels has become indispensable to build a modern civil democratic Egypt through a more inclusive development approach. In the Egyptian parliament 2015, representation of women has hit the highest record in the history of Egyptian parliament, 14.9% a promising starting point to hover around the critical mass. It draws on data to discuss related trends and issues. The study emphasizes the importance of a participatory approach to promote women's representation, highlighting the roles and interactions of government, civil society organizations as well as media as key national actors. In this context, it attempts to overview opportunities and challenges shaping the environment influencing women's political participation. The study investigates the Egyptian Parliament 2015 as a case study analyzing its structural diversity especially of women's representation and whether it could lead to active representation reflected in leadership and decision-making roles. It analyzes mechanisms and critical success factors in promoting women's representation in Egypt and how they form a building block for an effective development methodology which could achieve sustainable advancement of women's status in the political realm.

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