



AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARY UNION

APU

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**35<sup>th</sup> CONFERENCE**  
*Kigali, 29 & 30 November 2012*

**RCF 06/35/12**

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**RESOLUTION ON**

***“Implementation of strategies aimed at supporting women candidate  
for legislative and local elections”***

The Committee of Women Parliamentarians of the African Parliamentary Union, meeting on 28 November 2012 in Kigali (Rwanda);

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the United Nations Convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women as well as the international Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

Recalling the resolution adopted in 2004 by the 27th Conference of the African Parliamentary Union on the representation of women in decision-making bodies;

Acknowledging the major role played by women in the political, economical and social life of a country;

Considering that the under-representation of women in elected offices hinders the full development of democracy;

Stressing the need for impartial media coverage of women participating in elections, especially in the rural areas;

Underlying the importance of setting up of a gender balanced team of election observers to monitor the effective participation of women in elections;

1. **Recommends** Parliaments to vote a law on affirmative action which calls for the principle of gender balance and to ensure its implementation with a view to increasing the minimum rate of women in Parliaments and other elected institution to 30% between 2015-2020;

2. **Encourages** African States which have adhered to international legislations on Human Rights and to the United Nations Convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women, to implement the provisions on Human Rights that define international standards for women's participation in electoral processes;
3. **Also urges** African States to adopt measures to end domestic and gender-based violence so as to implant and develop ethical and human values in people's mind;
4. **Recommends** the adoption and implementation of the Personal and Family Code in all African states;
5. **Requests** General Secretariat of the APU to publish regular updates on the progress made in the area of women representation in parliaments and elected assemblies;
6. **Urges** African States to support a greater representation of women in Parliaments and other elected Assemblies as well as in decision-making bodies;
7. **Calls on** African states to ensure that women are given genuine opportunities to freely elect the candidate of their choice and to be themselves elected;
8. **Recommends** political parties, on the one hand, to adopt positive measures likely to help implement strategies aimed at increasing the representation of women candidates in Parliaments, and on the other hand, Parliamentary Assemblies to adopt laws governing the financing of political parties and imposing gender parity ;
9. **Recommends** an unbiased media coverage by trained journalists, especially in rural areas where women experiment difficulties to reach voters;
10. **Recommends** the setting up of electoral observation missions where women are adequately represented;
11. **Recommends** the setting up of women advocacy groups, including at grassroots' levels, as well as women mechanisms in government and local institution, for the adoption of laws on women rights;
12. **Recommends** the adoption of a gender-based strategic plan drawn up by the APU, especially on the participation of women who have lost elections with a view to encouraging them to be candidates in future elections and on their participation in other decision-making bodies;
13. **Asks the** APU to allow women parliamentarians to meet a few months before the Conference.