**FORUM:** Special Conference 1

**QUESTION OF:** Strengthening women’s participation in politics

**SUBMITTED BY:** Republic of Rwanda

**CO-SUBMITTED BY**: Croatia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Indonesia, International Monetary Fund, Kenya, Lebanon, Mauritania, Mauritius, Pakistan, Republic of Korea (South), Serbia, United States of America, Zimbabwe

THE FIRST SPECIAL CONFERENCE,

*Defining* political participation inequality as a human being having less opportunity to initiate political change and access to electoral mandates and elective offices,

*Observing* that women are subject to many discriminatory legislation systems, general attitude and vulgar gender stereotyping in some parts of the world,

*Confident* that education is a key factor to achieving women’s participation in politics because without education they would not have a starting point,

*Fully alarmed* by the fact that only 22 percent of all national parliamentarians are female as of August 2015, a slow increase from 11.3 per cent in 1995,

*Viewing with appreciation* the fact that the Rwanda has set a prominent example in the female participation within national politics, with over 60% of their parliamentary seats held by women,

*Taking into account* that in many developing countries women are less literate which impacts their ability to join the workforce especially politics,

*Emphasizes* that the United Nations General Assembly adopted the convention; The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, which has the sole purpose of reducing discriminatory policies and making women more involved with global situations,

*Noting with approval* United Nations (U.N.) Women stating: “more women in politics does not necessarily correlate with lower levels of corruption, as is often assumed. Rather, democratic and transparent politics is correlated with low levels of corruption, and the two create an enabling environment for more women to participate,”

1. Encourages all member states to introduce women’s political training programs funded by the U.N., with focus on the current 25 member states with the lowest amount of women in cabinet:
   1. U.N. political experts can be called upon by member states to aid with the training in certain circumstances such as; lack of knowledge in political training, lack of capital to fund political training;
2. Urges all nations to maintain or create a properly functioning education system accessible to both males and females which will provide equal opportunities for places in schools;
3. Calls upon the schooling systems in all nations to encourage girls to participate in politics in ways such as, but not limited to:
   1. host talks from women activists to convey the importance of womens’ place in political society,
   2. educating women about politics in rural areas which will be supported by:
      1. International organizations such as:
         1. ICT (Information and Communication Technology),
         2. UNDP (United Nations Development Programme),
      2. NGO’s such as but not limited to:
         1. Womankind Worldwide,
         2. FEVI (Fundacion para la Educacion y el Voluntariado Internacional)
4. Further urges countries to reconsider family based taxation (which forces secondary earners in a household (usually a woman) to pay a higher tax) for reasons such as:
   1. it discourages women to seek a job including political positions,
   2. diminishes the possible importance of a working woman in a household;
5. Calls for governments to create regional frameworks comparable to the Convention on The Elimination of All Form of Discrimination Against Women in order to ensure that women:
   1. in need of guidance and have any questions have a platform they can go to,
   2. have an unbiased platform for research and development on women's participation in politics that will produce annual reports such as but not limited to:
      1. examining the progress made by the government and the society,
      2. further examining how local literacy and educational rates have changed for men and women in particular concepts;
6. Proposes a quota of an equal amount of candidates of both genders for every nation’s delegation participating in any United Nations committee or conference to be set;
7. Calls for all member states to ensure that their government oversees that every individual has the ability to access financial support in order but not limited to:
   1. avoid discrimination against gender in access to financial support, which would increase the barriers for women to be able to support themselves and feel financially stable to run for office,
   2. allow women to live autonomously to ensure control over their own future rather than being forced to live under restrictions due to their spouse being the only source of income;
8. Further encourages members that have achieved fair gender representation in politics to set an example on the present issue at hand by means such as, but not limited to:
   1. increasing debates on the issue on national television,
   2. having men and women equally implemented in this issue to show support and accordance;
9. Endorses the United Nations to enable every person in a country (namely women who feel oppressed by their social barriers) by providing:
   1. websites that operate solely on anonymity set up by governments to vote in elections and referendums,
   2. if there are barriers such as, but not limited to, no internet or more social barriers, a system with mobile phone voting designed by Mohib Ullah could be proposed which operates with:
      1. a mobile user,
      2. certificate authority (the authority who gives the certificates to the mobile users for the voter eligibility and authentication in the election process),
      3. administrator (assures the legitimacy of the mobile users which checks the certificates of the mobile users for their authenticity),
      4. counter (counts the mobile users votes and then publishes the results).