

# **Preparations for Increasing Women’s Success at the 2022 PNG National Election: Analysis of the Implementation of Recommendations of the 2017 PNG Post Election Women’s Forums.**

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## **1. Introduction**

Papua New Guinea is one of only five countries in the world to have no female members of parliament. While the number of women candidates increased at the 2012 election, the three sitting women MPs lost their seats and no women were elected in 2017 for the first time in 25 years.

The very significant structural and societal barriers to electoral success that women face in PNG have been well documented and include gender norms that define leadership as the male prerogative, violence against women candidates and voters, corruption of election and security officials and vote buying. Women themselves lack the financial resources to campaign effectively and are generally not supported by political parties<sup>1</sup>. The support that is provided to women candidates by government, PNG organisations and donor agencies has generally occurred very late in the electoral cycle and has not been very effective.

The Pacific Women’s Political Empowerment Research Group was established within the Cairns Institute at James Cook University in November 2020<sup>2</sup>. The membership includes both Australian and PNG researchers and its aim is to conduct research and engage in development practice that will support increased political representation of women in the Pacific region, particularly focusing on PNG, Vanuatu and Solomon Islands, in the Melanesian subregion. The current focus of the Group is the preparation for and experience of women candidates in the 2022 PNG election as a basis for additional ongoing research.

This Report is the outcome of a Rapid Assessment Project undertaken by the Research Group. The goal of the project was to document the actions undertaken, underway or planned by a range of PNG stakeholders and international donors to implement the recommendations made by two Women’s Forums held just after the 2017 election to improve the performance of women candidates at the next national election due to start on June 11<sup>th</sup> 2022.

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<sup>1</sup> Election Observation Report, 2017 Papua New Guinea General Elections, Department of Pacific Affairs, Australian National University November 2018; [http://dpa.bellschool.anu.edu.au/sites/default/files/uploads/2019-04/png\\_report\\_hi\\_res.pdf](http://dpa.bellschool.anu.edu.au/sites/default/files/uploads/2019-04/png_report_hi_res.pdf); Experiences of Female Candidates in the 2017 Papua New Guinea General Election, Kerry Baker, Department of Pacific Affairs, Australian National University, Brief 2017/38; Loretta Dilu, Patriarchy and corrupt political practices are hindering female participation in PNG politics. DEVPOLICYBLOG, 8.2.21; Andrew Anton Mako, Women in leadership: reforms to bring about attitudinal change in PNG. DEVPOLICYBLOG, 24.5.21

<sup>2</sup> [Pacific Women's Political Empowerment Research Group | The Cairns Institute Research in Tropical Societies \(jcu.edu.au\)](http://www.pacificwomen.org.au/)

## 2. Post-Election PNG Forums

The first of the two Women's Forums, was the *National Forum on Women Candidates' Participation in the 2017 PNG Election*, which was convened in Port Moresby 17-18 August 2017 by UNDP-PNG to examine the issues which contributed to the performance of women at the 2017 election and it recommended key actions needed to increase women's parliamentary representation<sup>3</sup>. This Forum brought together a small number of 2017 election women candidates with a range of PNG stakeholders, including government officials, civil society, the private sector, academia and the media, as well as other interested men and women who all shared a common commitment to increasing women's political participation. The Forum Outcomes Statement<sup>4</sup> recommended eight broad key actions should be undertaken as a matter of urgency over the coming five years to ensure women's presence in the National Parliament after the 2022 elections.

The second Women's forum, the *Sub-National Forum on Women's Political Participation Across PNG*, was held in Madang 28<sup>th</sup> September 2017. At this Forum, women and men came together from 20 provinces and the National Capital District, with a range of government officials, academics, media representatives and development partners to build on the outcomes of the National Forum and discuss how to increase women's political participation and election at both the national and sub-national levels.

This Forum Outcome Statement made 15 recommendations to improve the performance of women candidates at future national and subnational level elections.<sup>5</sup>

## 3. Methodology

A range of stakeholders were consulted for the Rapid Assessment project in order to determine the extent to which the recommendations of both the National and Sub-Regional Forums have been implemented. Both Forums made similar recommendations on key issues such as temporary special measures and support for women candidates but there were also sufficient differences to warrant consideration of the recommendations of both Forums.

The work of all agencies has been impacted in some way by the COVID pandemic, which has restricted travel and face to face gatherings by both the stakeholders, and the members of the Research team. The COVID pandemic also impacted on the PNG economy which limited government funding available for government departments and institutions to implement the Forum recommendations.

### 3.1 Identification of relevant stakeholders

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<sup>3</sup> Report on Forum on PNG Women Candidates' Participation in the 2017 General Election. Mary Fairio and Charmaine Rodrigues, UNDP. See: <https://www.pacwip.org/resources/publications/page/2/>

<sup>4</sup> OUTCOME STATEMENT, Forum on Women Candidates' Participation in the 2017 PNG Election 18 August 2017. See: <https://www.pacwip.org/resources/publications/page/2/>

<sup>5</sup> 2017 PNG Sub-National Forum on Women's Political Participation: Outcomes Statement, See <https://www.pacwip.org/resources/publications/2017-png-sub-national-forum-on-womens-political-participation-outcomes-statement/>

The following stakeholders were identified as having been involved with the 2017 Forums, or referred to in the Forum recommendations as having a role to play in increasing the parliamentary participation of women and/or the conduct of the 2022 national election.

1. PNG Government Department of Community Development and Religion
2. Integrity of Political Parties and Candidates Commission
3. PNG Electoral Commission
4. PNG Constitutional and Law Reform Commission
5. PNG Police Force
6. UN Women – PNG Office
7. United Nations Development Programme -PNG Office
8. National Council of Women
9. International Women’s Development Agency
10. Australian Labor International
11. Department of Pacific Affairs, Australian National University
12. Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, PNG Pacific Women Program
13. New Zealand Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

### **3.2 Consultation Methodology**

Travel restrictions currently in place between Australia and PNG as a consequence of the COVID 19 pandemic impacted on the nature of the consultation process. As a result, the consultations were undertaken using the following methods:

- Emails to stakeholders listed in section 3.1. with follow up interviews via zoom or other video platforms as necessary.
- Personal contact with stakeholders by PNG members of the Research Group

Consultations focussed on the implementation by stakeholders of the recommendations made at the 2017 Women’s Forums, as they related to increasing the parliamentary participation of women.

Responses were obtained from the following stakeholders:

1. Office for the Development of Women in the PNG Government Department of Community Development and Religion
2. Integrity of Political Parties and Candidates Commission
3. UN Women
4. United Nations Development Programme
5. International Women’s Development Agency
6. Australian Labor International
7. Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

A literature review and internet searches were also undertaken to obtain additional relevant information regarding the preparation of the stakeholder organisations and women candidates and voters for the 2022 National election.

## **1. Recommendations of Post-Election Forums and their Implementation as of June 30<sup>th</sup> 2021.**

This section sets out the actions recommended by each Forum and the extent to which those actions have been implemented, based on the information obtained from all sources.

### **4.1 National Forum on Women Candidates' Participation in the 2017 PNG Election**

#### **Recommendation 1**

The Government and Parliament should immediately renew their efforts to implement temporary special measures to support women's political participation, in order to immediately address the deficit of women in the National Parliament, including any or all of the following options:

- a) Passing a parliamentary motion to task a parliamentary committee with implementing 2 nominated seats for women in accordance with s.102 of the Constitution for the 2017-2022 term of Parliament.
- b) Reviving the Bills tabled during the 2012 parliamentary session to give effect to s.101(1)(d) of the Constitution in order to implement 22 seats for women, to come into effect for the 2022 election. This reflects the commitment of Prime Minister Peter O'Neill on 17 August 2017 to progress reserved seats options.

#### **Implementation of Recommendation 1**

The government did not take action to enact TSMs until the review of the Organic Law on the National and Local-Level Government Election undertaken by the Constitutional and Law Reform Commission (CLRC). Following the presentation of the CLRC final report to the Prime Minister on January 30<sup>th</sup> 2020,<sup>6</sup> the National Executive Council (NEC) gave support in August 2020 for two different models for Temporary Special Measures (TSMs)<sup>7</sup> namely:

- a. Creation of five Reserved Regional Seats for women and
- b. A candidate quota of 20%, which is included in the 2019 draft of the Organic Law on the Integrity of Political Parties and Candidates (OLIPPAC).

The CLRC Report is not yet publicly available through the Commission website <https://clrc.gov.pg/>, but it is understood that the majority of people consulted supported the election of women and their increased presence in the National Parliament.

The 2019 revised OLIPPAC Bill was approved by the NEC in August 2020<sup>8</sup> and was ready to be debated that year. However, the Bill to create five regional reserved seats has not yet

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<sup>6</sup> See <https://www.thenational.com.pg/final-report-on-electoral-laws-review-given-to-pm/>

<sup>7</sup> Dr Alphonse Gelu, Registrar IPPCC, personal communication

<sup>8</sup> IPPCC Newsletter 2020

been made publicly available. The vote in April 2021 to postpone the National Parliament until 10<sup>th</sup> August 2021<sup>9</sup> has created additional challenges to passing legislation to enact reserved seats for women before the election in June 2022. However, the OLIPPAC Bill can be passed more readily, if the political will now exists.

In addition, there are many questions regarding the two models of TSM currently under consideration that will need to be addressed by the government to increase the likelihood of effective legislation being passed including the following:

- What is the level of community support for the reforms? How can this be strengthened?
- What are boundaries of the 5 reserves seats?
- What is the role of women MPs in reserved seats and what financial support will be provided by government to enable them carry out that role?
- How will political parties select women candidates to meet the 20% candidate quota and how will they support them?
- What sanctions will be exercised against political parties which do not meet the 20% quota?

Significantly, section 59 (2) of OLLIPPAC specifies that “Political party nominated candidates shall be a registered and be financial members of that political party for not less than 2 years”. Therefore, legislation requires that political party membership of at least two years is required for candidates to be given Party endorsement to contest elections. Section 59 (2) of OLIPPAC would need to be amended before political party candidate nominations close for the 2022 election in order to increase the likelihood that all political parties will be able to meet the candidate quota of 20% in OLIPPAC.

Further progress has been made following the formation in August 2020 of “United for Equality”, a Coalition of 20 Parliamentarians.<sup>10</sup> The Members of the Coalition include 12 Governors and is headed by the Hon Powes Parkop, Governor of the National Capital District. Members of the Coalition committed themselves to “taking all action necessary to reducing GBV {Gender Based Violence}and promoting gender equality, respect and partnership”.<sup>11</sup> The Coalition has established a cross-party Parliamentary Committee of Inquiry into Gender Based Violence, chaired by the Hon Charles Abel. While the Inquiry was focussed on GBV, the terms of reference also included *“inquire into how women’s leadership can be more proactively supported to ensure that women can lead to response to GBV, including by examining options for temporary special measures for Women in Parliament”*. Members of the Committee expressed strong support for the enactment of legislation to create five reserved seats for women. The Committee held public hearings on May 24 and 25<sup>th</sup> 2021 and took evidence from a wide range of people on the issues of GBV and TSM’s. The Committee will provide a summary report of the hearings, and any subsequent

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<sup>9</sup> <http://www.parliament.gov.pg/index.php>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.unitedforequalitypng.com/about>

<sup>11</sup> [PNG United for Equality \(pengu4equality.com\); Promoting women in Parliament \(unitedforequalitypng.com\)](https://www.unitedforequalitypng.com/)

submissions, at the August Parliamentary sitting<sup>12</sup>. UNDP has provided technical support to the Parliamentary Committee, while both UNDP and UN Women have supported the Coalition to make a series of video clips “*Papua New Guinea: Zero Women in Parliament*” in which members advocate for reserved seats for women in Parliament.

In conclusion the Political Parties and Candidates Commission, the Constitutional and Law Reform Commission in the Department of Justice and UN agencies are actively supporting the government to implement the intent of recommendation 1 and legislate to implement both reserved seats and political party candidate quotas to increase women’s parliamentary representation.

## **Recommendation 2**

The Integrity of Political Parties and Candidates Commission (IPPCC) should be given every support necessary to implement its mandate in order to support women’s political participation, including by:

- a) The NEC and Parliament providing immediate political support to enact critical gender-responsive amendments to its legislative framework;
- b) Ensuring sufficient funding for the IPPCC to work with political parties and with women candidates to build their commitment and capacities over the next five years;

### **Implementation of recommendation 2**

- a. The NEC has provided initial political support to enact TSM legislation (See implementation of recommendation 1 above).
- b. Limited additional funding or resources have been provided by the Government to IPPCC<sup>13</sup>. However, considerable work has been carried out by the IPCC following the 2017 election as described below in respect of the implementation of Recommendation 4c. which relates to the capacity building for women candidates.

## **Recommendation 3**

The Government should commission an independent review of the 2017 elections, in order to identify gaps and areas for improvement in supporting women candidates and voters to participate fairly, freely and safely.

### **Implementation of recommendation 3**

No independent review of the 2017 election was undertaken by the Government. However, the reports of independent election observation bodies of the conduct of the 2017 election identified many problems with the conduct of the election, including the incomplete nature of the electoral role, violence, corruption and money politics, all of which impacted disproportionately on women candidates and voters. While none of these issues are new, the consensus of election observations was that the 2017 election was much more flawed than

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<sup>12</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/PNGParlCommGBV/photos/146845934152217>

<sup>13</sup> Dr Gelu, Registrar IPPCC, personal communication.

the previous 2007 and 2012 elections and that many changes need to be made for free and fair elections and to support the election of women in 2022.<sup>14</sup>

#### **Recommendation 4**

The Government should work with local stakeholders and development partners to:

- a) Revisit the findings and recommendations from the 2007 and 2012 Election Diagnostic Assessments of Women Candidates' Participation, as well as this Forum, in order to develop an action plan focused on ensuring women's election to 11<sup>th</sup> National Parliament following the 2022 elections;
- b) Immediately commence the process of formulating a PNG Gender Policy to fill the gap left by the last policy which expired in 2015. The Policy must include provisions for enhancing women's political participation. These priorities should also be integrated into the revised PNG Government's Medium Term Development Plan III (MTDP-3)<sup>15</sup> that is currently under development;
- c) Develop and deliver a 5-year program of capacity building for women candidates. A well-rounded package of skills development should be delivered that builds women's leadership, policy, public speaking and campaigning skills. This should be complementary to other activities already underway;

#### **Implementation of recommendation 4**

- a. No coordinated action plan was developed to support the election of women to 11<sup>th</sup> National Parliament. However individual agencies have undertaken actions and more are underway or planned as set out in section 4.c below.
- b. PNG Gender Policy has not been updated since 2015. UN Women has initiated discussions with the Department for Community Development and Religion regarding providing support for a review of the gender policy and establishment of a government department-wide gender focal point system. UN Women is set to receive additional funding from DFAT, through the Bougainville Partnership, to provide support to the Autonomous Bougainville Government 's (ABG) Community Development Department to review the gender policy and create a new partnerships policy. UN Women has also been undertaking capacity building of the 13 ABG Gender Focal Points.

Enhancing women's political participation has been integrated into PNG Government's Medium Term Development Plan III (2018-2030). The Sustainable Social Development Targets in the Plan include Goal 3.5 "Equal Opportunities for all Citizens from development". One of the indicators for this Goal is the number of female members in

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<sup>14</sup>Haley, N and Zubrinch, K. 2017 Papua New Guinea General Elections: Election Observation Report. Department of Pacific Affairs, Australian National University 2019. See [2017 Papua New Guinea General Elections: Election Observation Report: Transparency International Papua New Guinea, 2017 National Election Observer Report](http://www.transparencypng.org.pg/2017-national-election-observer-report/). See: <http://www.transparencypng.org.pg/2017-national-election-observer-report/>

<sup>15</sup> The PNG Government's Medium Term Development Plan III (MTDP III) confirms their obligation to meet the Sustainable Development Goals. The MTDP III acknowledges the barriers women face in achieving political equality and calls for more women in decision making positions, including parliament.

the National Parliament. The target set in the MTDP -3 is five women MPs by 2022<sup>16</sup>. The strategies set out to achieve Goal 3.5 include:

- Review and reform current electoral systems to encourage women’s participation in political decision-making.
- Establish targets and measures to increase the number of women in leadership, management and decision-making.
- Work in partnership with other stakeholders through advocacy programmes promoting women’s political and economic empowerment.

c. While no coordinated 5-year program of capacity building for women candidates was developed or delivered, individual agencies have undertaken a range of activities since 2017 supported by donor agencies. The COVID pandemic prevented many activities planned for 2020 to go ahead, but there are now a number of activities currently underway and more are planned in the lead up to the 2022 election as set out below.

#### **4 c (i) Activities undertaken 2017 -2020**

##### **1. Australian National University**

The Department of Public Affairs (DPA) at the Australian National University was funded by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade through its Pacific Women program to undertake a 5-year PNG Women in Leadership Support Program (2016-2021). The goal of the program is “improving women’s leadership and political participation by enhancing the competitiveness of women candidates contesting Papua New Guinea’s 2017 and 2022 national elections and the 2019 local level government (LLG) elections”.

The DPA conducted comprehensive training for women in each region contesting the 2017 election and also conducted four workshops in 2018 for women contesting the PNG 2019 LLG elections in each of the regions. A workshop on media management was conducted, also in 2018, to support potential national level women candidates. The COVID 19 pandemic has impacted on the Department of Public Affairs plans for a comprehensive 5-year program of support. The pandemic prevented travel by DPA staff to PNG to conduct further face to face training in 2020/21, but no training has yet been able to be provided via zoom or other digital means to prepare women candidates for the 2022 election under the DPA Leadership Support Program which concludes December 2021.

##### **2. The Integrity for Political Parties and Candidates Commission (IPPC)**

The IPPCC has conducted a range of awareness, training and mentoring programs since 2017, for political parties, former women candidates and the general community with the aim of increasing the involvement of women in political parties and their election at LLG and national levels.<sup>17</sup>

In November 2017 the IPPCC began a series of Political Party Expos to increase public awareness of political parties, starting in Port Moresby, under the theme of “*Know a Party, Join a Party!*” Expos were subsequently held in Madang and Lae in 2018. The goal of the Expos was increasing

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<sup>16</sup> See PNG Government’s Medium Term Development Plan III (2018-2030), p34 -38

<sup>17</sup> See IPPCC Newsletters 2018-2020

understanding and interest of both women and men in political parties and encouraging them to join a Party whose policies they supported.<sup>18</sup>

In November 2019 the IPPCC hosted a Political Parties and Women in Political Leadership Forum which was opened by the Prime Minister and attended by executives of 14 political parties, former PNG women MPs and women candidates, women political party executives, and women political leaders from other Pacific counties. The primary goal of the Forum was to support women to prepare for the 2022 election through information sharing and engagement with political parties<sup>19</sup>.

The IPPCC initiated the first pilot program of its Women's Mentoring and Awareness on Political Parties program in Milne Bay Province in November 2020<sup>20</sup>. The focus of the program was the skilling and encouragement of women leaders to contest the 2022 national and the LLG elections, and at the same time to inform them about the roles and importance of political parties. The IPPCC delivered workshops in East Sepik, Western Highlands and Jiwaka Provinces over the remainder of 2020 with funding support from UNDP.

The IPPCC commenced an awareness raising initiative in July 2020 with support from UNDP to encourage more women to consider standing for election in 2022,<sup>21</sup> The initiative began with advertisements encouraging intending women candidates to register with the IPPCC so as to enable them to engage with candidates before the 2022 elections.

### 3. Australian Labor International (ALI)

In November 2017 ALI assisted IPPCC and the Party Registry in a post-election "Diagnostic Workshop", to assist parties and candidates in understanding the results and effect of various campaign activities and techniques, with the objective of building party capacity and ensuring women candidates have a better chance of support and election in future campaigns. In 2019 IPPCC staff and five PNG women, including high performing candidates in the 2017 election, were invited to participate in ALI's inaugural Asia Pacific Women Candidates Training Sessions, held alongside the annual Asia Pacific Campaign Forum in Cairns. Campaign training activities for women from PNG, which were planned to be held in Canberra in 2020, had to be postponed due to the COVID pandemic. Although ALI has explored proposals of further online training and support for female candidates with the IPPCC these discussions were hampered by technical and participation hurdles. ALI will explore ways to support IPPCC in the lead up to the 2022 election.

### 4. The International Women's Development Agency (IWDA)

IWDA partners with women's organisations in PNG<sup>22</sup> and their work is partner led. Since 2017 their work has been undertaken *"at the sub-national level in a couple of areas, including campaigning for TSM, shifting attitudes towards women in leadership, providing training for women and young women in leadership skills and advocacy and platforms to demonstrate their leadership in communities, and building networks of women leaders at the local level"*. Since 2017, IWDA's partners have supported a number of women to contest LLG elections as the first women candidates in those areas, and to contest Autonomous Bougainville Government elections. IWDA has also coordinated joint advocacy on TSM and developed advocacy materials for these campaigns.

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<sup>18</sup> See IPPCC 2018 First Quarter Newsletter.

<sup>19</sup> See IPPCC 2019 Last quarter newsletter.

<sup>20</sup> See IPPCC 2020 Newsletter (one issue only for 2020)

<sup>21</sup> <https://pngbuzz.com/png-news/5885>

<sup>22</sup> See [Papua New Guinea & Bougainville | IWDA](#)

IWDA is ready to support their partner agencies with their preparations to for the national elections in 2022. For example, Eastern Highlands Family Voice plans to advocate for women’s political participation in the lead up to the election, and connect women candidates in the Highlands with constituents through public forums.

#### 5. United Nations agencies

The governments of Australia and New Zealand contributed \$3,634,667USD and \$1,482,222USD respectively to UN Women to enable them to develop and initiate their program “Women Make the Change: Increased voice for women in political processes” which was designed to be conducted over the period 2019-2022<sup>23</sup> and support a range of activities in the lead up to the 2022 national election.

UN Women works in partnership with a range of PNG Government departments and organisations including the IPPCC, the Constitutional Law Reform Commission and the National Research Institute to implement this program. The long-term goal of the “Women Make the Change” program, which is *“supporting women to fully and effectively participate in and have equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision making in political and public life”*. The program and is based on the UN Women Theory of Change and aims to ultimately achieve the following outcomes for women in PNG:

Outcome 1: Legal and Policy frameworks and arrangements promote gender balance in political decision-making bodies

Outcome 2: A cadre of interested, diverse and capable women political leaders is formed at national and sub-national levels

Output 3: Women are perceived as equally legitimate and effective political leaders as men

Output 4: Women are promoted as leaders in gender sensitive political institutions

The PNG Offices of UNDP and UN Women are coordinating their support to PNG stakeholders to achieve these 4 Outcomes. UNDP is taking the lead on Outcomes 1 and 4, while UN Women is primarily focussed on Outcomes 2 and 3. Their work on Outcome 2 has been primarily focused developing and delivering training materials for women at the sub-national level, particularly for the ABG election in 2020 and for women in subnational political positions across the rest of the country. As with other donor agencies some activities planned for 2020 were impacted by the COVID 19 pandemic, but support was still provided to a range of stakeholders as shown in the sections above.

#### **4 c(ii) Activities underway or planned for 2021/2022**

##### 1. IPPCC

IPPCC received additional government funds in 2021 which enabled it to conduct their Women’s Mentoring and Awareness on Political Parties program in the additional Provinces of Morobe, Madang, Manus, West New Britain, East New Britain Oro, Eastern Highlands, Chimbu and Western Provinces. The Registry will roll out this program in the Provinces of Enga, Central, NCD, Gulf, Hela and Southern Highlands later in 2021. It is understood that a manual has been developed by IPPCC to support this training program. The Registry will continue to monitor and support the progress of the women who attend the mentoring workshops<sup>24</sup>.

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<sup>23</sup> Women Make the Change: Increased voice for women in political processes. UN Women PNG Office.

<sup>24</sup> Registrar of IPPCC, Dr Gelu, Personal communication

The funding also enabled IPPCC to continue with its Party Expo program in Mt Hagan in June. An Expo is planned for Kokopo in July with others to follow across PNG. These Expos will have a particular focus on giving political parties the opportunity to raise community awareness of their role, increase membership and identify potential women candidates.

## 2. Department of Community Development and Religion (DfCDR)

UN Women has partnered with the Department of Community Development and Religion on a PNG Women in Leadership series to increase awareness of the value and benefits of women's leadership, from national and subnational levels across a wide range of areas including politics, business, government, the church, community, and civil society using their Facebook Page and the Post Courier newspaper to profile such women leaders and their personal journeys as a regular monthly feature.<sup>25</sup>

UN Women is also partnering with the Pacific Institute for Leadership and Governance to establish a Political Leadership Academy for women. The aim of the academy is to provide comprehensive skills training and support to a select cohort of promising subnational female politicians. The training modules and implementation mode are still being finalised, but they will include leadership and governance, community engagement, communication and running for elections. It is planned that women who participate in the programme will also receive mentorship from experienced politicians and will have opportunities to participate in south-south exchanges. It is intended that over the long-term the Academy will become the means of providing an ongoing and sustainable training institution to increase women's political participation and representation at both subnational and national levels.

A series of three-day Regional Subnational Workshops on Advocacy and Coalition Building are also jointly coordinated by DFCDR and UN Women, and delivered in each of the four Regions from May to July 2021. The aim of the Workshops is to bring together subnational women leaders who are actively engaged in advocating for gender equality to learn more about the principles of Coalition Building so that they can take the lead in advocating for TSMs and increased representation of women at all levels of governance<sup>26</sup>.

## Recommendation 5

The Government should provide specific support to the Electoral Commission, the IPPCC and key government and non-government bodies to support women candidates to run in the upcoming Local Level Government elections;

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<sup>25</sup> See Facebook UN Women Papua New Guinea and Post Courier 7.6.21 p 31 which profiled 6 women leaders from Western Province, Milne Bay and Enga in June.

<sup>26</sup> UN Women, Final Concept Note, Regional Subnational Workshops on Advocacy and Coalition-Building. 2.6.21

## **Implementation of recommendation 5**

The ANU Department of Pacific Affairs provided a series of two-day workshops in April 2018 for women candidates contesting the PNG 2019 Local Level Government elections in each of the four regions, in partnership with IPPCC.<sup>27</sup>

## **Recommendation 6**

The Government, Electoral Commission and IPPCC should work with interested stakeholders to:

- a) Explore options for addressing the critical need for women candidates to access campaign financing. For example, a public fund could be established to collect and distribute money for women candidates;
- b) Develop a comprehensive, multi-sectoral approach to voter and civic education in order to educate our citizens about the value of women in leadership and accountable democratic governance more broadly. Building the commitment of voters to electing women as their leaders is critical to ensuring women's electoral success in the long-term;

## **Implementation of recommendation 6**

- a. The government, PNGEC and IPPCC are aware of the critical need for campaign funding for women candidates, but this is a sensitive and difficult issue. A number of options for addressing the shortage of campaign funds have been explored for many years but a public fund has not yet been created. The recently formed Seven Sisters Foundation comprising PNG professional women based in Brisbane, Queensland is currently in the process of registering as a charity in Australia and is working with the IPPCC and the UN agencies to explore opportunities to support women candidates with finances to address this barrier.<sup>28</sup>
- b. the PNG Electoral Commission has just begun voter education with posts on its Facebook page<sup>29</sup>. The PNGEC website is currently being redesigned and it is expected that more information will be provided there in due course<sup>30</sup>. However, there is as yet no information focussed exclusively on women candidates or voters. Women's rights focused CSOs are well placed and experienced in this work, and could deliver voter education if support and coordination is provided at the national level.

## **Recommendation 7**

The Ministry for Inter-Governmental Relations should work with interested stakeholders to explore options for building the capacity of women in sub-national decision-making bodies,

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<sup>27</sup> See IPPCC 2019 second quarter newsletter p9

<sup>28</sup> See [www.sevensistersfoundation.com](http://www.sevensistersfoundation.com). The website provides access to further information via email and newsletters.

<sup>29</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/pngelectoralcommission/>

<sup>30</sup> [Home \(pngec.gov.pg\)](http://Home.pngec.gov.pg)

including provincial and local level governments, as well as District Development Authorities.

### **Implementation of recommendation 7**

UN Women is continuing to work with relevant agencies and government departments to develop and deliver programs to increase the capacity of women at the subnational level as described in the implementation of Recommendation 4.

### **Recommendation 8**

The Government should strengthen the capacities of the national mechanisms dedicated to promoting women's empowerment and gender equality, including:

- a) Relocating the Office for the Development of Women (ODW) to sit within the Office of Prime Minister and the National Executive Council. It is important to have an official champion for gender equality within Government. The ODW should be adequately resourced to more effectively lead the national effort to promote women's political participation and gender equality, including by regularly and proactively convening stakeholders across government, civil society and the private sector to take concrete action.;
- b) Adequately resourcing and strengthening the capacities of the National Council for Women to perform their role most effectively, including by working with women candidates and voters.

### **Implementation of recommendation 8**

- a. The Office for the Development of Women (ODW) has not yet moved. UN Women, under the "Women Make the Change" programme, is exploring means of supporting its government partners in taking a leading role in these discussions. The need for the Office of Women to be located within the Office of the Prime Minister was supported in presentations to the Parliamentary Inquiry into Gender Based Violence held in May 2021<sup>31</sup>.
- b. UN Women, under the "Women Make the Change" programme, have initiated discussions with Department of Community Development and Religion to develop a plan of action for strengthening and improving the functioning of the National Council of Women.

## **Section B: 2017 PNG Sub-National Forum on Women's Political Participation:**

### **Outcome Statement**

The Outcome Statement included a set of 15 recommendations, which built on those of the August 2017 National Women Candidates Forum and which were endorsed by the Sub-National Forum. The women from each region also summarised their specific challenges

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<sup>31</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/PNGParlCommGBV/photos/146845934152217>

which confirmed the diverse nature of PNG cultures and the need for tailored responses to increase the election of women.

Both Forums recommended that legislation be enacted to provide for TSMs (both reserved seats and political party candidate quotas), the development of a new Gender Policy, the provision of adequate financial support for the IPPCC from government, the creation of a special fund to assist women with their campaign expenses, and the implementation of a comprehensive multi-sectoral approach to voter and civic education in order to educate citizens about the value of women in leadership to address the societal gender norms which act as barriers to women's leadership.

While progress in each of these areas has been outlined in Section A, the Sub-National Forum also made more detailed recommendations building on those of the National Forum, as well as making a number of additional recommendations and as set out below:

### **Recommendation 1**

A Ministry for Women should be immediately established with a mandate and budget to promote and implement gender equality and women's rights across the country. It is important to have an official champion for gender equality within Government. It should be adequately resourced to more effectively lead the national effort to promote women's political participation and gender equality.

#### **Implementation of Recommendation 1:**

A Ministry for Women has not yet been formed. However, support is growing for the Office of Women to be located with the Prime Minister's Office to give greater priority to women's issues as set out in Section A.

### **Recommendation 2**

The Forum recognised the importance of the National Council of Women (NCW), but also its many internal challenges. The Forum recommended that the government should immediately organise an NCW Convention or Annual General Meeting to bring together the 22 Provincial Council Women Presidents and 4 Regional Vice-Presidents to revisit the election for a new National President and new National Executive. In order to ensure the election is done in accordance with the Act.

It identified the need for NCW to be reactivated it so that it could fulfil its legislated mandate as the voice of the women of PNG. The most significant of the Forum recommendations to achieve this goal were:

- a) Establishing an NCW Secretariat sitting within the ODW (and/or the Ministry of Women, once it is established) with access to sufficient resources to carry out its mandate;
- b) Undertaking awareness, education, advocacy and training on the *National Council of Women Act 2013* to build commitment to the NCW and PCWs across the country;

- c) Breaking down the budget that is provided to the NCW to directly provide a budget to each Provincial Council of Women (PCW) so that they have sufficient certainty about their funding to undertake provincial activities;
- d) Developing activities through the NCW and PCWs that will identify potential women leaders to be mentored and supported through the 2018 LLG elections and 2022 National Election;

### **Implementation of Recommendation 2:**

None of the Forum recommendations have been implemented. However, UN Women, under the “Women Make the Change” programme, have initiated discussions with the Department for Community Development and Religion to develop a plan of action for strengthening and improving the functioning of the National Council of Women as set out in Section A. A functional and strengthened NCW, with a well-resourced Secretariat sitting within the ODW, may be in a position to implement all of the Forum recommendations above, including an election for President in accordance with the NCW Constitution.

### **Recommendation 3**

The Sub National Forum endorsed the National Forum recommendation that ODW should immediately commence the process of formulating a new PNG Gender Policy. In particular the Forum recommended that the Policy should include provisions for enhancing women’s political participation and clarify how support will be coordinated for activities to support women’s leadership, in order to avoid duplication of efforts. Importantly, it recognised the need to ensure that PNG women themselves are driving this agenda and are at the centre of this work.

### **Implementation of Recommendation 3**

The 2015 Gender policy has yet to be updated. UN Women has initiated discussions with the Department for Community Development and Religion regarding providing support for a review and the subsequent updating of the Gender Policy, which could include all of the issues recommended by the Forum.

### **Recommendation 4**

The Forum also endorsed the need for training for women candidates, and recommended that training on government systems, current laws (including the OLIPPAC and OLPLLG), the process and procedures of budget and planning of national policies on key issues (eg. health, education, infrastructure) be included.

### **Implementation of Recommendation 4**

A range of training and mentoring activities have been carried out or are planned by IPPCC for intending national women candidates as set out in the Section A. However, detailed information on the specific issues and topics covered in these activities was not provided.

### **Recommendation 5**

The National Parliament should immediately move a motion to co-opt one woman member onto every parliamentary committee for the 2017-2022 term of Parliament, in order to

ensure a voice for women in our highest decision-making forum. The motion can clarify the selection process, rights and duties of the co-opted person. If required, Parliament's Rules of Procedure should be amended to permit such co-option. This should be done before the APEC Meeting (held in November 2018) so that PNG can show the region that work is being done to address the zero representation of women in parliament.

#### **Implementation of Recommendation 5:**

The National Parliament did not move a motion to co-opt one women member onto every parliamentary committee for the 2017-2022 term of Parliament. However, the 10<sup>th</sup> Parliament did give women the opportunity to give voice to their concerns about GBV and parliamentary representation at the Parliamentary Inquiry into Gender Based Violence as described in Section A.

#### **Recommendation 6**

This Forum also endorsed the need for TSM legislation to be enacted by the government, in particular that they revisit the Bill tabled during the 2012 parliamentary session to give effect to s.101(1)(d) of the Constitution in order to implement 22 seats for women, to come into effect from the 2022 election. The women attending the Forum committed to return to their home provinces and work with their local MPs, Provincial National Council of Women and community networks to build support for the reserved seats legislation and to raise awareness in the general community for this initiative.

#### **Implementation of Recommendation 6**

The progress in the implementation of TSM's by government was outlined in Section A. The government's current model is that five regional seats should be created and reserved for women. No information could be obtained regarding work carried out by women in their communities after the 2017 Forum.

#### **Recommendation 7**

This Forum also recommended that additional government funding be provided for the IPPCC as well as a number of other detailed recommendations with respect to IPPCC activities that could support women's political participation, namely:

- (a) The Parliament immediately moving to enact proposed amendments to the *Organic Law on Political Parties and Candidates* to entrench a political party quota for women and to increase financial incentives to nominate women candidates. We recommend that Parliament consider amending the current OLIPPAC Bill to (i) increase the proposed political party quota from 20% to 40% and (ii) increase the fine for not endorsing enough women from K5,000 to K100,000;
- (b) The IPPCC is given sufficient powers and resources to compel political parties to comply with the law, for example, by implementing party constitutions that

- require establishment of a women's wing and by deregistering political parties that do not meet the minimum requirements to operate as a political party;
- (c) The IPPCC should develop an awareness-raising programme on the profiles of political parties to enable women to choose on the basis of more information;
  - (d) IPPCC should hold a "post-mortem" of how political parties operated during the 2017 National Elections and all subsequent elections, to learn lessons and identify areas requiring ongoing reform or capacity-development;
  - (e) The Government should provide specific funding to the IPPCC to work with political parties and with women candidates to build their commitment and capacities over the next five years. In particular that the IPPCC should explore practical ways to support the women with logistics and campaign costs during campaigning, including for example, by managing a fund to support printing of posters and other such campaign materials;

### **Implementation of Recommendation 7**

- a. The current draft OLIPPAC law has incorporated a lower 20% candidate quota and this legislation is expected to be debated when Parliament resumes in August 2021.
- b. The 2019 draft OLIPPAC includes provisions for increased accountability of political parties
- c. Despite budget cuts the IPPCC did deliver or contribute to a number of activities including three Political Party Expo's in 2018 and the 2019 Political Parties and Women in Political Forum which provided information to women on political parties. Other similar activities are proposed in the lead up to the 2022 election, as described in Section A.
- d. IPPCC launched its 2017 Election Observation Report on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2018
- e. The government provided additional funding to IPPCC in March 2021 enabling it to conduct additional Political Party Expo's and Women's Mentoring and Awareness on Political Parties workshops as described in Section A. However, no means have yet been established to support women candidates financially, such as a special women's fund, to assist with campaign expenses.

### **Recommendation 8**

The Electoral Commission should immediately take action to address the numerous electoral problems that were apparent during the 2017 elections and should immediately work to build a stronger PNGEC capable of conducting clean, fair and transparent elections in future by the time of the 2018 LLG elections. The Forum provided 12 specific recommendations on how that goal could be achieved. All male and female candidates and voters would benefit from the implementation of these recommendations. However, only one recommendation specifically addressed the issue of how the PNGEC could better support women voters and candidates in particular, namely that:

- a) The PNGEC should work with the ODW, NCW, IPPCC and other partners to conduct regular training for women on electoral processes, including nominating for election, campaigning rules, the voting system and LPV, right down to the ward level.

### **Implementation of Recommendation 8**

The PNGEC has not yet conducted any training for women on electoral processes for the 2022 national election. The official website of the Electoral Commission is currently being redesigned.<sup>32</sup> The Commission currently has only a Facebook<sup>33</sup> page, but electoral information is being posted. The Moresby North West byelection revealed many problems that need to be addressed before the 2022 election, particularly important is the updating of the electoral roll used in 2017.<sup>34</sup> However, the main concern expressed by the Acting Electoral Commissioner Simon Sinai is receiving the estimated K463M required to conduct the 2022 election, including the K70M to undertake the roll update. In addition, the acting Electoral Commissioner has indicated that the Commission was ready to conduct biometric registration and voting for the 2022 national election if K230K is provided to the Commission.<sup>35</sup>

### **Recommendation 9**

The PNG Police Force should develop proper implement a specific Election Security Plan well in advance of the campaigning and voting periods, including specific activities to deal with gun control issues. The PNG Police Force must also be given powers during the campaigning and voting period to arrest offenders on the spot for election-related offences;

### **Implementation of Recommendation 9**

The PNG Police Commissioner has been reported in May 2021 as beginning preparations to ensure that peace and order will be established in the provinces before the 2022 National elections, which are intended to respond to community concerns about their safety. A detailed report will be released setting out manpower funding allocation and the cost of other election security related operations. However, the Police Commissioners has acknowledged that not all of PNG's security problems can be solved before the 2022 election and that his biggest concern is the provision of adequate funding from the government in a timely manner.<sup>36</sup>

### **Recommendation 10**

The National Boundaries Commission should be tasked to immediately begin a review of electoral and ward boundaries across the country to ensure that they are fairly designed to ensure "one person, one vote", Specifically, the electoral boundaries of West New Britain should be reviewed to split the current 3 electorates into 6 electorates to increase the space for women to participate in the general election;

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<sup>32</sup> see [www.pngec.gov.pg/](http://www.pngec.gov.pg/)

<sup>33</sup> See <https://www.facebook.com/pngelectoralcommission/>

<sup>34</sup> <https://postcourier.com.pg/iron-out-issues-before-2022/> ; <https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/png-what-expect-2022-elections>

<sup>35</sup> 2022 Election Plans Revealed. The National 21.6.2021. See <https://www.thenational.com.pg/2022-election-plans-revealed/>

<sup>36</sup> Police Prepare for 2022 Polls, Post Courier May 21<sup>st</sup> 2021. See <https://postcourier.com.pg/police-prepare-for-2022-polls/>; Funding Needed to Plan for the 2022 Polls Post Courier, June 18<sup>th</sup> 2021. See <https://postcourier.com.pg/funding-needed-to-plan-for-2022-polls/>

### **Implementation of Recommendation 10**

The Acting Electoral Commissioner has revealed that of the K14M budget requested from the Government, only K5M has been allocated for the review of electoral boundaries.<sup>37</sup> The National Boundaries Commission will also need to develop new regional boundaries if and when the legislation to create 5 regional seats is gazetted so as to enable the PNGEC to conduct elections for these reserved seats.

### **Recommendation 11**

The Government and supportive stakeholders should develop a comprehensive, multi-sectoral approach to voter and civic education in order to educate our citizens about the value of women's leadership, taking into account the complex cultural challenges women must address. Building the commitment of voters to electing women as their leaders is critical to ensuring women's electoral success in the long-term. Specifically:

- a) Explore options for undertaking training in schools through a curriculum on gender equality, as well as in our villages;
- b) Harness the media (radio and TV) who can reach out to all parts of our country to build people's awareness of how women can be good leaders. The National Broadcasting Commission (NBC East Sepik and Morobe) have committed at this meeting to put forward a recommendation to have permanent time slot on the radio to share information about activities/issues centred around civic, law and order and electoral matters;

### **Implementation of Recommendation 11**

Training in schools on gender equality has yet to be delivered.

UN Women supported DfCDR to begin rolling out a public awareness campaign in 2021 using social and print media to highlight the depth and breadth of women's leadership from a range of different sectors across the country. UN Women also plan to launch a national campaign in 2021 featuring women leaders from across the country.

The activities of the IPPCC are also contributing to building the commitment of voters to electing women as their leaders. (See Section A).

### **Recommendations 12-15**

The recommendations 12-15 related specifically to regional and provincial policies and institutions which are outside of the scope of the Rapid Assessment project. These are important recommendations which may impact on how women may be supported to move from provincial and regional to national level representation. However, the current project is focussed on preparations to support women at the national 2022 election

### **Summary and Conclusion**

Of the 13 combined relevant recommendations made by both Forums, none of them have been fully implemented, and only parts of two of them have been implemented. However, considerable work has been undertaken or is underway to progress initiatives related to all or part of the remaining recommendations, except for four. The exceptions are the

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<sup>37</sup> <https://postcourier.com.pg/sinai-presents-timeline-for-boundaries-review/>

formation of a Women's Ministry, options for women candidates to access campaign financing, co-opting one women member onto every parliamentary committee for the 2017-2022 term of Parliament and exploring options for undertaking training in schools through a curriculum on gender equality, as well as in villages. A table summarising the status of the 2017 Forums recommendation is provided in Annex 1.

Work that commenced before the COVID 19 pandemic was generally paused during 2020. Several new work programs began in 2021, some with the support of donor agencies. However, the impact this work, or additional new initiatives, to increase the parliamentary representation of women following the 2022 national election remains to be determined.

The Rapid Assessment has highlighted a number of significant issues that may impact on the performance of women candidates at the national election.

- The late preparation of the Electoral Commission and Police force to conduct a free and fair election.
- Limited number of agencies focussing exclusively on support for intending women candidates at the national level.
- Lack of any legislation to introduce temporary special measures of reserved seats and candidate political party quotas.
- The lack of a coordinated and effective women's movement to advocate for and support women candidates.

There is also recognition that the barriers that all women face when campaigning, namely violence, corruption and money politics are still almost insurmountable.

As a result, the introduction of temporary special measures as recommended by both Forums, and now being progressed by Government, will be of critical importance if women are to be elected in 2022. The current model includes five regional reserved seats and a 20% political party candidate quota. The significant difference between the 2012 and current campaign for TSMs is that it is being supported by 20 powerful and influential male Parliamentarians who have formed the United for Equality Coalition and who are advocating strongly for more women to be elected using TSMs. The formation of women's coalitions across PNG to advocate for TSMs also has the potential to increase community and government support for their introduction.

But once again there is very little time left for stakeholders to act and pass the TSM legislation and provide other much needed support to women candidates before the next national election as envisaged by the 2017 Post Election Forums.

The lack of a coordinated and effective women's movement to advocate for and support women candidates.

## **Recommendations**

### **1. Convene a Forum: "Electing Women to Parliament in 2022"**

The IPPCC and the Department of Community Development and Religion with support from development agencies should convene a Pre-Election Forum "Electing Women to

Parliament in 2022” as soon as possible. The Forum should bring together intending women candidates from each region and relevant national and regional stakeholders. The format and content of the Forum should ensure that intending women candidates and women leaders drive the process and that their voices are heard and acted on.

The Forum should review this Rapid Assessment Report and identify those recommendations of the 2017 Forums that should be fully implemented and assess the value of new additional planned activities, including those described in the Report.

The Forum participants should then develop National and Regional Election Action Plans to increase the likelihood that women are elected. The Plans can include the current or planned activities described in the Assessment Report, and any other initiatives, that will address the particular challenges and barriers that women candidates face in each region.

## **2. Funding to be provided to implement Election Action Plans**

The government and international donors should provide additional funds as soon as possible to all relevant stakeholder organisations and government Departments to support the implementation of the National and Regional Election Action Plans developed at the Forum recommended above.

## **3. Funding to be provided to the PNG Electoral Commission and Electoral Boundaries Commission**

The government should provide the K463M requested by the Acting Electoral Commissioner to conduct the 2022 election as soon as possible, beginning with the K70M required to update the common roll. In addition, the full amount of K15M should be provided to the Electoral Boundaries Commission as requested to complete the review boundaries review before the 2022 election.

## **4. Parliament to pass legislation to provide for Temporary Special Measures**

The PNG Parliament should pass the OLIPPAC Bill and legislation to create reserved seats for women as soon as possible, so that temporary special measures can be implemented for the 2022 election and ensure that women will once again take their rightful place in the PNG Parliament.

## **5. Development and implementation of long-term strategies to change societal gender norms that preference male political leadership.**

This last recommendation is acknowledged as the most-long term and difficult to implement, but is critical if women are to become equal partners in political leadership in PNG. The priority been given by the UN Women to supporting programs that will empower women leaders at the local ward, district and provincial level should be continued and strengthened. Such programs can, over time, contribute to a change in

societal norms so that women become accepted as equally legitimate and effective leaders of their communities and achieve success at subnational and national elections.

Support should also be provided to work currently underway by the DFAT Pacific Women program to identify strategies for gender transformational change in PNG. The Gender Transformative Change Brief was released in September 2020<sup>38</sup> with the final report anticipated to be released in July 2022.<sup>39</sup>

The Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade has just initiated work on the design of a new five-year program *Pacific Women Lead*.<sup>40</sup> This \$170 million 5- year program will build on the Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development program which concludes in December 2021 and will also learn from the DFAT funded “Balance of Power” (2018-2024) program being implemented in Tonga and Vanuatu.<sup>41</sup> One of the key themes of the new program is Women’s Leadership. Local stakeholders should ensure that this program supports PNG women leaders, as it has the potential to prepare women for success at the 2027 election.

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<sup>38</sup> <https://pacificwomen.org/resources/pacific-women-gender-transformative-change-brief-in-papua-new-guinea/>

<sup>39</sup> Information provided by Pacific Women. Release date will be posted on Pacific Women Facebook.

<sup>40</sup> <https://pacificwomen.org/design-of-a-new-gender-equality-program/>

<sup>41</sup> [Balance of Power brochure - Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development](#)

## Annex 1 Summary Status of 2017 Post Election Stakeholder Forums Recommendations as of 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021

The table below lists the status the recommendations of the 2017 National and Sub-National Women’s Forums. Of the 13 combined relevant recommendations made by both Forums, none of them have been fully implemented, and only parts of two of them have been implemented. However, considerable work has been undertaken, or is underway to progress initiatives related to all or part of the remaining recommendations, except for four. The exceptions are the formation of a Women’s Ministry, options for women candidates to access campaign financing, co-opting one women member onto every parliamentary committee for the 2017-2022 term of Parliament and exploring options for undertaking training in schools through a curriculum on gender equality, as well as in villages.

The work that commenced before the COVID 19 pandemic was generally paused during 2020. Several new work programs began in 2021, with the support of donor agencies. However, the impact this work, or any additional new initiatives to increase the parliamentary representation of women following the 2022 national election, remains to be determined.

<b>Current Status of Recommendations</b>			
	<b>Recommendations not fully Implemented</b>	<b>Work undertaken, underway or planned related to the recommendations.</b>	<b>Recommendation implemented</b>
1*	The Government and Parliament should immediately renew their efforts to implement temporary special measures to support women’s political participation, by revisiting the Bill tabled during the 2012 parliamentary session to give effect to s.101(1)(d) of the Constitution in order to implement 22 seats for women, to come into effect from the 2022 election;	In August 2020 the National Government Executive Council indicated support for 5 reserved seats and a 20% candidate quota for women, but no legislation has been passed to give effect to these TSMs. The 4-year UN Women’s program “Women Make the Change: Increased voice for women in political processes” began in 2019 and involves both UN Women and UNDP. UNDP is leading the work to support the government and IPPCC to progress TSMs. This program has enabled UN Women and UNDP to work with PNG partners on progressing a number of other recommendations as set out below.	
2*	The Integrity of Political Parties and Candidates	IPPCC was provided with limited Government from 2017 to 2020.	IPPCC held a “post-mortem” of how

	<p>Commission (IPPCC) should be given every support necessary to implement its mandate in order to support women’s political participation, including by: Ensuring sufficient funding for the IPPCC to work with political parties and with women candidates to build their commitment and capacities over the next five years; The Subnational Forum made a total of 5 other recommendations in relation to the powers and programs of the IPPCC to support women candidates some of which have been implemented.</p>	<p>Additional funds were provided in 2021 to enable it to continue to implement its mandate to support women’s political participation e.g through its training and mentoring programs. UNDP has also supported some of this work in 2019/20. The additional powers recommended for IPPCC will not be known until the Parliament passes the new Organic Law on the Integrity of Political Parties and Candidates.</p>	<p>political parties operated during the 2017 National Elections and all subsequent elections, to learn lessons and identify areas requiring ongoing reform or capacity-development;</p> <p>The IPPCC has also developed awareness-raising programmes e.g Political Party Expos, on the profiles of political parties to enable women to choose parties to support or join on the basis of more information.</p>
3	<p>The Government should commission an independent review of the 2017 elections, in order to identify gaps and areas for improvement in supporting women candidates and voters to participate fairly, freely and safely.</p>	<p>Not relevant to implement now</p>	
4a	<p>Revisit the findings and recommendations from the 2007 and 2012 Election Diagnostic Assessments of Women Candidates’ Participation, as well as this {National} Forum, in order to develop an action plan focused on ensuring women’s election to 11<sup>th</sup> National Parliament following the 2022 elections</p>	<p>While no 5- year Action plan was developed and implemented, a range of programs have been delivered, or are underway by several agencies, but the challenges of coordination and continuity remain.</p>	
4b*	<p>Immediately commence the process of formulating a PNG</p>	<p>Work is underway by the Department of Community</p>	<p>Enhancing women’s political participation</p>

	<p>Gender Policy to fill the gap left by the last policy which expired in 2015. The Policy must include provisions for enhancing women’s political participation. These priorities should also be integrated into the revised PNG Government’s Medium Term Development Plan III (MTDP-3)<sup>42</sup> that is currently under development;</p>	<p>Development and Religion to update the PNG 2015 Gender Policy with support from UN Women.</p>	<p>has been integrated into PNG Government’s Medium Term Development Plan III (2018-2030). The Sustainable Social Development Targets in the Plan include Goal 3.5 “Equal Opportunities for all Citizens from development”. One of the indicators for this Goal is the number of female members in the National Parliament. The target set in the MTDP -3 is five women MPs by 2022</p>
4c*	<p>Develop and deliver a 5-year program of capacity building for women candidates. A well-rounded package of skills development should be delivered that builds women’s leadership, policy, public speaking and campaigning skills.</p>	<p>Some training has been carried out with donor support by ANU and IPPCC to build the political leadership capacity of women to contest national elections. Following the commencement of UN “Women Make the Change” program in 2019. Further such work is underway by IPPCC to prepare women for the 2022 election.</p>	
5	<p>The Government should provide specific support to the Electoral Commission, the IPPCC and key government and non-government bodies to support women candidates to run in the upcoming Local Level Government elections;</p>	<p>Donor funding was provided to ANU and IPPCC to support women candidates contesting the delayed LLG elections held in 2019.</p>	

6a*	The Government, Electoral Commission and IPPCC should work with interested stakeholders to: Explore options for addressing the critical need for women candidates to access campaign financing.		
6b*	The Government, Electoral Commission and IPPCC should work with interested stakeholders to: Develop a comprehensive, multi-sectoral approach to voter and civic education in order to educate our citizens about the value of women in leadership	UN Women in partnership with government partners rolling out a public awareness campaign in 2021 using social and print media to highlight the depth and breadth of women’s leadership from different sectors across the country. UN Women also plan to launch a national campaign in 2021 featuring women leaders from across the country. The activities of the IPPCC are also contributing to building the commitment of voters to electing women as their leaders through their various training programs and Political Party Expos.	
7	The Ministry for Inter-Governmental Relations should work with interested stakeholders to explore options for building the capacity of women in sub-national decision-making bodies, including provincial and local level governments, as well as District Development Authorities.	UN Women began work in 2020 in partnership with DfCDR to build the capacity of women in sub-national decision-making bodies through a range of training initiatives. UN Women is also supporting the establishment of a Political Leadership Academy in partnership with the Pacific Institute of Leadership and Governance. The initial focus of the Academy will be building the capacity of women elected and appointed at subnational level.	
8a	The Government should strengthen the capacities of the national mechanisms dedicated to promoting women’s empowerment and	UN Women is exploring means of supporting its government partners to take	

	gender equality by relocating the Office for the Development of Women (ODW) to sit within the Office of Prime Minister and the National Executive Council.	a leading role in these discussions.	
8b*	The Government should strengthen the capacities of the national mechanisms dedicated to promoting women's empowerment and gender equality by adequately resourcing and strengthening the capacities of the National Council for Women to perform their role most effectively, including by working with women candidates and voters.	Discussions are currently underway between the DfCDR and UN Women to develop a plan of action for strengthening and improving the functioning of the National Council of Women.	
9+	A Ministry for Women should be immediately established with a mandate and budget to promote and implement gender equality and women's rights across the country.		
10+	The National Parliament should immediately move a motion to co-opt one women member onto every parliamentary committee for the 2017-2022 term of Parliament, in order to ensure a voice for women in our highest decision-making forum.		
11+	The Electoral Commission should immediately take action to address the numerous electoral problems that were apparent during the 2017 elections and should immediately work to build a stronger PNGEC capable of conducting clean, fair	The official website of the Electoral Commission is currently being redesigned. The Commission now has only a Facebook page where electoral information is being posted. The PNGEC has not yet conducted any training for women on electoral	

	<p>and transparent elections. The PNGEC should work with the ODW, NCW, IPPCC and other partners to conduct regular training for women on electoral processes, including nominating for election, campaigning rules, the voting system and LPV, right down to the ward level.</p>	<p>processes. The PNGEC has yet to receive any of the K463M requested by the Acting Electoral Commissioner to conduct the 2022, including the K70M required to update the common roll. In addition, only K5M was provided to the Electoral Boundaries Commission of the K15M requested to complete the review boundaries review before the 2022 election</p>	
12+	<p>The PNG Police Force should develop proper implement a specific Election Security Plan well in advance of the campaigning and voting periods, including specific activities to deal with gun control issues. The PNG Police Force must also be given powers during the campaigning and voting period to arrest offenders on the spot for election-related offences;</p>	<p>The PNG Police Force has preparations to ensure that peace and order will be established in the provinces before the 2022 National elections, which are intended to respond to community concerns about their safety. A detailed report will be released in the coming months setting out manpower funding allocation and the cost of other election security related operations.</p>	
13a+	<p>The Government and supportive stakeholders should develop a comprehensive, multi-sectoral approach to voter and civic education in order to educate our citizens about the value of women's leadership, taking into account the complex cultural challenges women must address. Specifically; Explore options for undertaking training in schools through a curriculum on gender equality, as well as in our villages;</p>		

13b+	<p>The Government and supportive stakeholders should develop a comprehensive, multi-sectoral approach to voter and civic education in order to educate our citizens about the value of women’s leadership, taking into account the complex cultural challenges women must address. Specifically; Harness the media (radio and TV) who can reach out to all parts of our country to build people’s awareness of how women can be good leaders. The National Broadcasting Commission (NBC East Sepik and Morobe) have committed at this meeting to put forward a recommendation to have permanent time slot on the radio to share information about activities/issues centred around civic, law and order and electoral matters;</p>	<p>UN Women in partnership with DfCDR began rolling out a public awareness campaign in 2021 using social and print media to highlight the depth and breadth of women’s leadership from a range of different sectors across the country. UN Women also plan to launch a national campaign in 2021 featuring women leaders from across the country. The activities of the IPPCC are also contributing to building the commitment of voters to electing women as their leaders through their various training programs and Political Party Expos.</p>	
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\* Recommendations supported by both the National and Subnational Women’s Forums.

+ Additional recommendations made by the Subnational Women’s Forum