

Terms of Reference

DEVELOPING GUIDELINES FOR ELECTION WITH GENDER PERSPECTIVE

1. Rationale

Vietnam is going to organize nation-wide election for deputies of National Assembly (NA) and deputies of People Councils (PCs) at all levels in 2016 under the newly amended Electoral Law which has passed by National Assembly for several months ago. There are some new articles in the Law related to the establishment of National Election Council and its role in election NA deputies and People's Council deputies, the ratio of female candidates is a minimum of 35% official candidates for NA, the date for NA to define and declare the election-day is not later than 115 days before the election-day.

From the analysis of election for the term 2011 - 2016, only 03 out of 21 members of the Central- Election Council are women, accounting for 14.28%; the ratio of women winner is low, not yet reaching the minimum of 30% to qualify the presence in decision-making process nor the government's target of a minimum of 30%. Specifically, women delegates of the 13th National Assembly make up 24.4% and reduce regularly by 03 tenures (27.3% in the 11th and 25.6% in the 12th National Assembly), ratio of women delegates of the People's Councils of all levels in tenure of 2011 – 2016 shows unnoticeable increase in 03 levels (about 2%), not yet reaching 30%.¹

The findings of PAPI and researches done by UNDP, OXFAM and CEPEW show that one third of interviewed voters did "family voting" or "proxy voting" in the last elections. This situation is confirmed by a research done by OXFAM, CEPEW in Thai Nguyen, Binh Dinh and Vinh Long as we as interviewed leaders at different levels.

So that, developing guidelines to mainstream gender in election process, especially in the steps of establishing election-in-charge organizations at all levels, negotiation, arrangement of list of candidates, election campaigns and voter education is very essential for election in the coming year.

2. Objective

¹ National Assembly, Ministry of Home Affairs and Vietnam Women's Union, 2011

Ensure compliance with the 2015 Election Law; increase the percentage of women elected to NA and PCs in 2016 compared to previous sessions; increase the percentage of women voting directly in person, rather than via proxies

Target audiences

The guidelines are for NA and PCs' standing committees, members of election in-charge organizations, media, social - political organizations and civil society organizations working for election to mainstream gender in the steps of establishment of election in-charge organizations, negotiation and arrangement of list of candidates, election campaigns and voter education.

3. The tentative contents of guidelines

A set of guidelines will be developed with main contents as matrix below:

	Legal framework and principles	Fact/Evidence from the previous election (s) with gender perspective	Guidelines with gender perspective
The establishment of election-in-charge-organizations			
Negotiation			
Arrangement of list of candidates			
Election campaign (candidate meetings and information sessions)			
Voter education			

4. Tentative timetable

#	Activities	Timing
1	Collecting data	
2	Data analysis	

3	Developing outline of guidelines	30 Dec. 2015
4	Drafting guidelines	
5	Consultation with stakeholders	
6	Finalise guidelines	

5. Qualification of consultant

- Holding backgrounds of social science, law or public administration
- Understanding the election process and state organs of Vietnam
- Being experienced with elections in Vietnam and other countries
- Holding 10-year experiences in gender mainstreaming and community development