

INCLUSIVE ELECTORAL PROCESSES

ACEEEO'S EXPERIENCE

25 - 26 february, 2015

Batumi, Georgia



Sarajevo Declaration

**on Electoral Access for Persons with Disabilities and
Persons belonging to Minorities**

Conclusions of ACEEEO's 21st Annual Conference

Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 13-15 September 2012



Sarajevo Declaration - Article 1.

- All democratic states must guarantee full electoral and political rights for persons with disabilities in keeping with the universal and regional documents on the rights of the persons with disabilities.
- Governments and electoral management bodies must work together to ensure that persons with disabilities have full access to the electoral and political process including the right to vote, as well as to seek and serve in public office.
- To develop fully accessible and inclusive polling stations, materials and information and voter friendly voting systems, electoral management bodies and disabled persons organizations are urged to work together to facilitate the right to vote by secret ballot for citizens with disabilities.



Sarajevo Declaration - Article 2.

- The rights of persons belonging to minorities to full electoral and political rights shall be guaranteed in keeping with the universal and regional documents on the rights of persons belonging to minorities.
- Electoral management bodies are urged to cooperate with minority communities in their countries to promote full electoral and political participation by persons belonging to minorities including the right to vote by secret ballot and to seek and serve in public office.
- To develop accessible polling stations and voter friendly voting systems, electoral management bodies are urged to work in coordination with minority communities.



Sarajevo follow-up

- International conference 'Human Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the Balkans and Turkey' (October 2013, Istanbul)
- Informal Peer Review Meeting of the EU Fundamental Rights Agency's project 'Indicators on the political participation of persons with disabilities' (February 2014, Vienna)



Bucharest Declaration

On the Participation of Women in the Electoral Process and Public Life and Planning of a General Election

Statement of ACEEEO's 23rd Annual Conference

Bucharest, Romania, 4-6 September 2014



Bucharest Declaration

1. Countries are wise to include constitutional provisions which guarantee gender equality, equal political rights and civil liberties for women and furthermore that women be guaranteed the right to vote, to hold public office, and to participate in democratic governance at all levels. Countries may promote positive measures to increase the participation of women in government including reserved seats or legal quotas.
2. Governments and electoral management bodies should work together to provide constitutional, legal guarantees and institutional mechanisms to permit women to be able to exercise their full electoral and political rights.



Bucharest Declaration

3. Electoral system design is an important element in guaranteeing the full representation of women, but it is not the only factor to consider. In theory, the most favourable electoral systems for female candidates are proportional representation systems with large constituencies. If gender balance is considered as an essential objective of the electoral law, then legal gender quotas may offer a means to achieve it.
4. Political parties are encouraged to actively promote women by stimulating participation of women candidates and including women in party leadership positions. Effective strategies by parties for the increased recruitment of women include the adoption and implementation of party-specific gender quotas, and other positive action mechanisms for all levels of the leadership of political parties.

Bucharest Declaration

5. Electoral management bodies should have a leading role to involve women at all levels of the electoral process and in educating women regarding their electoral rights and responsibilities. Election authorities should work to insure participation of women at all levels of EMBs from senior management to poll workers, and promote creative voter education programs on gender issues.



ACEEEO's 24th Annual Conference
Chisinau, Moldova - September 2015

- **Continuous training**
- **Equality of voters, equality of votes**



Thank you very much!

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