



## **CURRENT LEVELS OF REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN IN HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANS AND MECHANISMS**

### ***Public Statement of the GQUAL Campaign during the 25<sup>th</sup> Session of the Advisory Committee***

**Excellencies, Members of the Advisory Committee, civil society colleagues,**

The GQUAL Campaign commends the work undertaken by the Advisory Committee in preparing a report on current levels of representation of women in human rights organs, as requested by the Human Rights Council through its resolution 41/6 of 11 July 2019.

The available research conducted by the GQUAL Campaign shows that the underrepresentation of women continues to exist across almost all international bodies in charge of imparting international justice and human rights.

### **2. Recommendations**

To overcome this imbalance, the GQUAL Campaign wishes to make the following recommendations:

#### **a) Recommendations for States**

- a. To develop and implement transparent and participatory mechanisms and practices for the nomination and selection of candidates to international bodies that ensure gender equality.
- b. To take decisive actions to nominate in parity.
- c. To vote in parity.
- d. To keep track of their nomination and voting record and consider making these statistics public.

#### **b) Recommendations for UN bodies, including the Human Rights Council, the OHCHR and human rights bodies**

- a. To foster transparency.
- b. To promote the adoption of rules to ensure gender parity in the composition of international treaty bodies, Special Mandates and other international positions.
- c. To collect relevant data on gender composition, monitor progress, and publish the results periodically.
- d. To publicize available positions and incentivize female candidates.
- e. To call on States to nominate and vote taking gender parity into account.
- f. To develop human rights legal standards and recommendations based on the rights of women to equality and non-discrimination.
- g. To ensure that new treaties and other guiding instruments for the selection of members, include language and processes that ensure gender balance.
- h. To invalidate election procedures whenever the pool of candidates lacks appropriate female representation.

We note positively that many of these recommendations are included in the draft report made public by the Advisory Committee.

We are certain, that the recommendations would assist States in ensuring the equal participation of women in the work of human rights organs, as envisaged in Article 8 of the CEDAW Convention, and in other international treaties that contain provisions on the

principle of non-discrimination, the rights of equal access to decision-making, equal opportunity in employment, and access to justice.

The GQUAL Campaign reiterates its gratitude for the efforts of the Advisory Committee in developing the report, and remains available to provide additional information and references, as those may be needed.

Your sincerely,

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