



## **AFRICITIES SUMMIT**

### **NAIROBI - KENYA, 18 – 22 September 2006**

**« Building local coalitions for effective implementation of the Millennium Goals in African Local Governments »**

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#### **Elected Women and Gender Equality**

#### **Special Session at the Fourth Conference of Africities, Nairobi, Kenya**

This special event for elected women representatives is intended to provide a forum for elected women to meet and share experiences and good practices, exchange information and to dialogue with NGOs and other interested parties working to promote gender equality and to make a difference to the lives and work of women at the local government level in Africa. Together they could develop an agenda to strengthen existing positive efforts, with actions to overcome some of the individual and institutional constraints affecting the numerical and substantive representation of women in decision-making at the local and regional levels.

#### **The specific objectives are as follows:**

To share best practices on actions that, have influenced policies, programmes and activities with clear benefits to women in the social, economic and political spheres.

To share what works and what doesn't work for elected women representatives in an effort to influence decisions on the delivery of basic services and the allocation of resources to critical areas of women's concern.

To explore the need for establishing a network of elected women representatives in municipalities and regional assemblies in Africa.

To examine the need for assessing elected women's contribution to improving the lives of countless women living in poverty in Africa.

#### **Key questions to consider:**

1. What has been achieved for women at the local level in terms of secure tenure, ownership of land, safety and security, access to adequate housing, credit, health and education, transport, water, sanitation and infrastructure?
2. To what extent are men and women able to vote on issues of particular concern to women in local and regional councils? Is conscience voting across party lines achievable for elected women?
3. What kind of alliances exist between elected women representatives, women NGOs and grassroots organisations? What are the mechanisms in place to facilitate continuous dialogue between elected women and men and NGOs and CBOs?
4. What networks and partnerships exist between elected women representatives at the local government level and relevant organisations at the national, regional and international levels?
5. Is there a data base on women in local governance in Africa – an advocacy tool which also captures how women politicians have managed to make a difference through their legislature? Which

local authorities or national governments regularly produce statistics which highlight the disparity between men and women in local governance?

6. Which local authorities have ever carried out gender audits as a way of establishing how gender responsive and women friendly they are?

7. Should a meeting of elected women representatives become a permanent feature of future Africities Conferences in order to assess progress on women in decision-making at the local government level?