



Please note that the original statement was delivered in Portuguese. This is an unofficial translation by DeepL.

## **POLITICAL PLATFORM OF THE WOMEN OF GUINEA - BISSAU**

---

### **Oral Statement**

#### **Pre-session of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Civil Society in Guinea-Bissau**

**Geneva, 18/02/2025 - 21/02/2025**

**PPM-GB 17 years: In the fight for the advancement of women**

**Geneva, February 18, 2025**

Presentation of the organization Dear

Sirs and Madams

My name is Silvina da Silva Tavares, I represent the Women's Political Platform of Guinea-Bissau (PPM-GB), an NGO created 17 years ago to promote gender equality and protect girls and women in defense of their rights and duties. The PPM is grateful for the opportunity to participate in this 44th preparatory session of the Universal Periodic Review and welcomes the Government of Guinea-Bissau, which will present its 4th report of the Evaluation Cycle within the framework of the Universal Periodic Review - UPR.

#### **- Outline of the declaration**

This declaration focuses on women's rights, with particular emphasis on women's participation in political and public life, especially in the decision-making sphere, recognizing governance as a fundamental pillar of women's political participation. The themes addressed in this declaration were identified by a group of women's and young girls' organizations in Guinea-Bissau, which, based on their experiences and analyses, prepared the recommendations presented here.

#### **1. Recommendations on the subject**

In the previous 3rd cycle of the Universal Periodic Review, Guinea-Bissau received a total of 149 recommendations, of which 4 countries referred to the



## POLITICAL PLATFORM OF THE WOMEN OF GUINEA - BISSAU

country in ensuring the fulfillment of rights and equal opportunities for women and men, which shows the importance of this issue.

With regard to the recommendations that specifically addressed the participation of women, the PPM recognizes the efforts made by the Guinean state to respond to the recommendations of the last UPR with regard to the fulfillment of rights and equal opportunities for women and men in the political, civil, economic and social spheres. Of all the recommendations made by different countries (Chile, Indonesia, Canada, Serbia and others) on these issues, since 2010 Guinea-Bissau has adopted several laws to promote equality between men and women in order to improve its legal system with laws that are sensitive to equal opportunities.

Despite the will of the state to create laws that promote and protect women, there are still some challenges:

1. Weak representation of women at all levels of decision-making (political, economic, social and cultural);
2. Insufficient dissemination of the National Gender Equity and Equality Policy (PNIEG) throughout the country;
3. High illiteracy rate, with a higher incidence among women.

These challenges have a huge impact on women's lives and are major obstacles to women's active and effective participation in political, economic, social and cultural life.

In view of the , here are some recommendations:

A) Encourage the revision of the parity law in collaboration with the Network of Women Parliamentarians and the Specialized Commission for Women and Children, considering gender alternation in the lists of parliamentary candidates for the elections until 2026;

B) Guarantee spaces for visibility and discussion of issues that impact women's lives in politics, private life and civil society in general by 2026;

C) Include and involve the community in the design and implementation projects aimed at promoting women's rights by 2029.



## POLITICAL PLATFORM OF THE WOMEN OF GUINEA - BISSAU

---

D) Effectively regulate and implement the 2019 Parity Law so that governance structures are more inclusive and gender-balanced by 2027. Likewise, regulate the Domestic Violence Law (Law No. 6/2014) to enable its effective application.

E) Ensure the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the National Policy to Achieve Gender Equality and Equity (PNIEG), adopting concrete measures for its implementation by 2030.

F) Continue efforts to improve the position of women in society, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

G) Empowering women in different areas for their autonomy, political participation and leadership.

### **2. Partnership and Collaboration**

Collaboration between the state and civil society organizations active in the field of women's rights is fundamental.

The lack of coordination is an element that has already been identified by civil society organizations and partners, who have recommended strengthening the institutional framework of civil society organizations working on women's rights by creating a multisectoral coordination framework between public institutions and non-governmental organizations to maximize resources and results.

Although there are collaboration protocols signed between the government and some local organizations, there is a need to expand this type of partnership with other civil society organizations.

In this context, the group of Guinean women's organizations recommends:

- 1) Draw up and implement an advocacy and awareness-raising plan on the parity law and establish close links with civil society organizations in the implementation of projects and programmes that protect and promote women in both public and private life.



## POLITICAL PLATFORM OF THE WOMEN OF GUINEA - BISSAU

---

2) Train and empower the community and parents and on the importance of basic education, women's schooling and their active participation in political life.

### **2. Women's participation in active politics**

Although the government has made some progress, creating the laws mentioned in the introduction, women's participation in politics remains timid. Goals 5 and 10 of the SDGs aim to empower women and girls so that they can build a fair future for all, reduce inequalities (by participating on an equal footing with men in the electoral process) and reach the top decision-making positions.

On the other hand, the lack of information and awareness among communities, especially rural ones, about the impact and repercussions on women's lives, leaves them in a vulnerable situation. Finally, it is understood that women's organizations in civil society, the Ministry of Women, Family and Social Solidarity, through the Institute for Women and Children, and political party leaders should receive ongoing training and information to deepen their knowledge specifically related to the issue of women's rights and their participation in the country's public and private life.

In view of the above, Guinean women's organizations recommend that the State:

1. In partnership with CSOs, carry out awareness-raising campaigns with the Ministry of Women and Social Solidarity and women's organizations, through television and radio programs, to inform them about the existence of Domestic Violence Laws and other legislation that promotes and protects women's rights, such as the Parity Law;



## POLITICAL PLATFORM OF THE WOMEN OF GUINEA - BISSAU

---

2. Provide ongoing training for judicial and justice system professionals on the application of the Domestic Violence Law, ensuring that it is effectively enforced;
3. Include resources in the state budget for training women in areas of political participation and leadership, in order to strengthen their presence in the decision-making process;
4. It calls on the CNE and parliament to revise the Framework Law on Political Parties in line with the Electoral Law and the requirements of the Parity Law, ensuring the promotion of gender equality in politics.

