

Stakeholders' Roundtable
on

Improving Women's Political Participation and Inclusion in Nigeria



EUROPEAN UNION

PLAC
POLICY AND LEGAL ADVOCACY CENTRE

Stakeholders' Roundtable on Improving Women's Political Participation and Inclusion in Nigeria

Contents



INTRODUCTION	1
WELCOME REMARKS	5
Hon. Taiwo Oluga, Chairman, House Committee on Women Affairs	5
Senator Betty Apiafi, Chairman, Senate Committee on Women Affairs	7
Hon. Wunmi Onanuga, Chairman, House Committee on Women Affairs and Social Development	8
PRESENTATIONS	10
The Concept of Equitable Representation: The Need For Inclusivity In Nigeria, By Hon. Oluwole Oke, <i>Chairman House Committee on Public Accounts</i>	10
Hon. Uzoma Abonta <i>Federal Lawmaker Representing Ukwa East/Ukwa West Federal Constituency Of Abia State</i>	12
Presentation of Senator Ovie Omo-Agege <i>Deputy President of the Senate (represented by Barr. O Agbajo)</i>	12
Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha, <i>Deputy Chief Whip House of Representative.</i>	14
Remarks by Mr. Clement Nwankwo, the <i>Executive Director of Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC).</i>	15
Intervention by Chief Mrs. Kemi Nelson, <i>renowned Legal Practitioner</i>	16

SOME FACTORS HINDERING THE POLITICAL PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN 16

PANEL DISCUSSIONS	18
DISCUSSION ON STRATEGIES TO ADOPT IN IMPROVING WOMEN'S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION AND INCLUSION – What Has Worked and What Has Not Worked. Facilitated By <i>Ms. Claire Adelabu Abdul-Razaq</i>	18
Intervention by <i>Senator Abiodun Olujimi</i>	19
Questions and Answers From Panel Discussions	20
Conclusion	21
Resolutions Following the Roundtable Discussions	22
FACTS ON WOMEN REPRESENTATION	23
GALLERY	26
APPENDIX 1: WOMEN REPRESENTATION IN APPOINTIVE POSITIONS (MINISTERS)	27
APPENDIX 2: WOMEN REPRESENTATION IN ELECTIVE POSITIONS (SENATE)	28
APPENDIX 3: WOMEN REPRESENTATION IN ELECTIVE POSITIONS (HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES)	29
APPENDIX 4: AGENDA	32
APPENDIX 5: ATTENDANCE	34

INTRODUCTION



Current gender statistics indicate that Women account for half of Nigeria's population. However, despite forming a formidable percentage of its populace, women are often excluded from participating fully in its political process. For instance, women account for only 4% of the total elected lawmakers in Nigeria. Women also fare no better in political appointed positions such as the Ministerial cabinet with 7 out of 43 Ministerial positions occupied by women as at February 2020 amounting to just about 16.28 %.

In response to this state of affairs, the House of Representatives' Committee on Women in Parliament, in collaboration with Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC), organized a high-level roundtable discussion on improving women's participation in politics in Nigeria on Monday, 25th November 2019. Themed "**Improving Women's Participation At Local State And National Levels.**", the event which was supported by the **European Union (EU)** in Nigeria aimed to identify gaps and share strategies to increase the number of women in decision-making positions across the governance spectrum to reflect their significance on development and democracy.

The dialogue convened high-profile participants from multi-disciplinary backgrounds who discussed a range of mechanisms and shared country experiences that improve on women participation by raising important issues and sharing best practices. Some of the discussions bordered on strategies to advance women's political participation such as: gender quotas, electoral, legislative and constitutional reforms, the role of political parties, meeting regional and internationally agreed gender targets; retention

of women in political leadership; and preparing the pipeline of aspiring young leaders, among others.

Table I : Top Ten Countries with Highest Female Representation in the World

Rank	Country	Lower or single House	Upper House or Senate
		Percentage of women	Percentage of women
1	Rwanda	61.25%	38.46 %
2	Cuba	53.22 %	N/A
3	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	53.08 %	47.22 %
4	United Arab Emirates	50 %	N/A
5	Mexico	48.2 %	49.22 %
6	Sweden	47.28 %	N/A
7	Finland	47 %	N/A
8	Grenada	46.67 %	30.77 %
9	Andorra	46.43 %	N/A
10	South Africa	46.35 %	37.74 %
11	Costa Rica	45.61 %	N/A
12	Nicaragua	44.57 %	N/A
13	Spain	44 %	39.02 %
14	Namibia	42.71 %	23.81 %
15	Belgium	42 %	46.67 %
16	Senegal	41.82 %	N/A
17	Switzerland	41.5 %	26.09 %
18	Mozambique	41.2 %	N/A
19	New Zealand	40.83 %	N/A
20	Norway	40.83 %	

Source: IPU as at December, 2019¹

¹ <https://data.ipu.org/women-ranking?month=12&year=2019>

1 The State shall ensure the elimination of every discrimination against women and also ensure the protection of the rights of the woman and the child as stipulated in international declarations and conventions - **Article 18(3) African Charter on Human and People's Rights**

2 All peoples shall be equal; they shall enjoy the same respect and shall have the same rights. Nothing shall justify the domination of a people by another - **Article 19 African Charter on Human and People's Rights**

3 States Parties shall take specific positive action to promote participative governance and the equal participation of women in the political life of their countries through affirmative action, enabling national legislation and other measures to ensure that:

- a) women participate without any discrimination in all elections;
- b) women are represented equally at all levels with men in all electoral processes;
- c) women are equal partners with men at all levels of development and implementation of State policies and development programmes – **Article 9(1) Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa**

4 States Parties shall take in all fields in particular in the political, social, economic and cultural fields, all appropriate measures, including legislation, to ensure the full development and advancement of women for the purpose of guaranteeing them the exercise and enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms on a basis of equality with men - **Article 3 of the Convention against the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women**

5 Adoption by States Parties of special measures, including those measures contained in the present Convention, aimed at protecting maternity shall not be considered discriminatory - **Article 4(b) Convention against the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women**

6 Adoption by States Parties of temporary special measures aimed at accelerating de facto equality between men and women shall not be considered discrimination as defined in the present Convention, but shall in no way entail as a consequence the maintenance of unequal or separate standards; these measures shall be discontinued when the objectives of equality of opportunity and treatment have been achieved - **Article 4(a) Convention against the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women**

7 States Parties shall take all appropriate measures:
To modify the social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women, with a view to achieving the elimination of prejudices and customary and all other practices which are based on the idea of the inferiority or the superiority of either of the sexes or on stereotyped roles for men and women - **Article 5 (a) Convention against the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women**

8 States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the political and public life of the country and, in particular, shall ensure to women, on equal terms with men, the right:(b) To participate in the formulation of government policy and the implementation thereof and to hold public office and perform all public functions at all levels of government - **Article 7(b) Convention against the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women**

Other Provisions which advance the empowerment of women and their full participation in all spheres of society on the basis of equality include:

- African Platform for Action, 1994
- Beijing Platform for Action , 1995

WELCOME REMARKS



Hon. Taiwo Oluga, Chairman, House Committee on Women Affairs

Giving her welcome remarks, Hon. Taiwo Oluga, House Committee on Women Affairs welcomed all the participants to the 9th Assembly Roundtable on Improving Women's Participation and Inclusion with the theme "Improving Women's Participation at Local State and National Levels" while expressing her gratitude to the European union for funding the programme through PLAC. She stated that programmes of its kind were necessary to improve the political participation of women at all levels and ensure that women take their place as important decision makers in Nigeria.

Her welcome remarks highlighted the following:

- The dearth in analysis of the extent to which women have participated in politics and governance since Nigeria gained independence and government's efforts to improve the numbers.
- The need to identify factors limiting the participation of women in Nigerian political space.
- The need to come up with achievable action plans on modalities to improve women participation in politics.
- That despite Nigeria's gender policy, the National average of women participation in politics has never exceeded 7% in both elective and appointive positions which is far below the global average of 22.3%, the West African average of 15% and overall African average of 23.4%.

- That women account for about half of Nigeria's national population and 51% of votes cast in elections.
- That patriarchy and the timing of most of the political party meetings play a key role in limiting the participation of women in politics.
- Sociocultural factors, finances, political violence and religious beliefs contribute to limiting the participation of women in politics.
- Contrary to the general belief that pre-colonial Nigerian cultures frowned at women participation in politics, history shows that women played prominent roles in the politics of pre-colonial Nigeria. Women like Queen Bakwa Turuku, Queen Amina of Zaria, Moremi of Ife and Emotan of Benin to name a few, played key roles in the governance and administration of their territories.
- Globally it has been recognized that the inclusivity of women in political participation and politics remains a fundamental aspect of politics with tremendous benefits in improved and more humane policy changes, economic growth, enhanced peace building and development.
- As at November 2019, the Federal Executive had 7 women who were appointed as Honourable Ministers while there are 8 female Senators out of 109. The number of female members in the House of Representative also dropped from 22 members in the 8th assembly to 11 members in the 9th Assembly.
- In 2013, the Rwanda Parliamentary Elections ushered in a record-breaking 64% of seats for women candidates in Parliament, making Rwanda the top country for women politics globally.



- The increased women participation in governance in Rwanda is largely due to the quota for women set in the Constitution. Nigeria should borrow a leaf from this page.
- A lesson to be learnt from gender progressive Nations like Rwanda and South Africa is that improved women participation in Governance can be more effectively achieved through special measures and quota systems that can reserve a certain percentage of elective and appointive offices for women at the Federal, State and local Government Level.

Welcome Remark by Senator Betty Apiafi, Chairman, Senate Committee on Women Affairs

Expressing appreciation to PLAC for the platform to interact with the women present, Senator Betty Apiafi, Chairman, Senate Committee on Women Affairs expressed her willingness to speak on matters that affect women and participation, which she described as “the bedrock upon which every other development must flow”.

She also noted the following:

- That she was the first female Senator from Rivers State and had to overcome so many obstacles to achieve it.
- There was need to identify men who are gender champions to join the quest of achieving more female representation in governance.
- Women should begin their political aspirations from the grassroots level
- The need for collaboration amongst women who are in political offices to build a formidable coalition.
- That the fight for women participation in politics must be accompanied by a further fight for women to reach formidable positions in the corporate world so that they can have the finances necessary to run elections in Nigeria.
- There was need to pressurize the President of Nigeria to appoint more women in elective offices and consolidate this through a mandatory quota.



- Advocacy should be taken to the grassroots and cultural, societal and religious barriers affecting the participation of women in governance should be tackled at that stage.

Welcome Remark by Hon. Wunmi Onanuga, Chairman, House Committee on Women Affairs and Social Development

Expressing her delight at having the opportunity to share her thoughts with all present Hon. Wunmi Onanuga, *Chairman, House Committee on Women Affairs and Social Development* stated that she always relished the opportunity to talk to vibrant women who play key roles in the development drive of the Nation.

Hon. Onanuga also stated that:

- The call for government to implement a quota system for women in elective and appointive positions should be sustained.
- That the 1999 Constitution (as amended) provided equal rights to all Nigerians irrespective of their gender.
- That equality means 50 percent so there was need to take the full rights provided for under the Constitution which is 50 percent and not stick to tokenism of 35 percent.
- That to achieve sustainable inclusivity, women need to start from the home by not discriminating between the genders. This will allow male and female children have a sense of inclusivity and grow up as adults who understand the need for an inclusive society.
- The current political setup is male dominated. Thus, there is need to collaborate with men of like minds.

PRESENTATIONS



- Political violence, culture, complex and funding are some of the factors that limit women political participation in the Nigeria of today.
- Concrete government efforts enforced quota system by political parties and the National Assembly and sustained advocacy by civil society organizations and women groups are some of the ways that the goal of increasing political participation of women in Nigeria can be achieved.
- Men won't give power to women based on sentiments. Women have to take it through determination.
- Women are the highest voters in Nigeria and thus have the number to effect the desired change.
- An assessment of the situation and our peculiarities may require the development of our own strategies than what obtains in other climes due to our culture and religion.
- There is need to look at the violence in politics, how it restricts women from participation and how to address it.

The Concept of Equitable Representation: The Need For Inclusivity In Nigeria, By Hon. Oluwole Oke, Chairman House Committee on Public Accounts

Hon. Oluwole Oke began his presentation with examining the concept of equitable representation in Nigeria as one that has been clamored for overtime with citizens advocating that they be represented in an equitable manner not just for the sake of being represented, but to enhance effectiveness and legitimacy. He also mentioned that all key stakeholders must be involved in governance since it was not in doubt that women are key stakeholders in the project called Nigeria.

Hon. Oke then made the following key points in his paper:

- The Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target 5.5 provides for “women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities in all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life.”
- That If Nigeria is to meet the aforementioned SDG goal, there is need to adopt a more holistic approach towards the inclusion of women in politics and other areas of leadership. It is therefore imperative that the Government take the lead by promoting initiatives and implementing policies that advance the cause of women while the private sector should adopt codes of conduct, which strongly acknowledge the need for gender diversity.



Presentation By Hon. Uzoma Abonta Federal Lawmaker Representing Ukwa East/ Ukwa West Federal Constituency Of Abia State

Introduction

Speaking at the event, Hon. Uzoma Abonta expressed his satisfaction at the convening of women to discuss matters affecting their political participation in Nigeria. He further charged the women to act quickly else risk a further decrease in their numbers at the next general elections in 2023.

Hon. Uzoma Abonta then made the following key points:

- If women fear to be seen as being forceful or to offend someone, they are not going to get what they are looking for. South Africans got it, Zambians got it, Nigeria must also look at ways of getting more women involved in governance.
- Radical steps must be taken to achieve women inclusion. A softer approach will be seen as beggarly with the next elections more likely to have a lower percentage of women.
- Starting a political party called “All Women Party of Nigeria” for example could be a good idea to increase the number of women in the political space.
- Women could also protest in form of boycotts to demand inclusivity.
- The current political platform and setting does not favor women. The space must be recreated for political parties and general conduct of elections in a manner where women can compete favorably with men.
- PLAC needs to replicate this National programme of stakeholders in the State and the Local Government levels.
- From personal experience, Committees with female heads or Members tend to be highly effective buttressing the importance of electing more women to hold political offices.
- Although women have the numbers, the economic strength still lies with the men. Thus, the women need to find a way to balance the scale and use their numbers to great advantage.
- There is need to strengthen the political party system and ensure that women participation forms the core of political parties in Nigeria.

Presentation of Senator Ovie Omo-Agege Deputy President of the Senate (represented by Barr. O Agbajo)

Speaking on behalf of Senator Ovie Omo-Agege, Deputy Senate President of the Senate Barr. Agbajo expressed the regret of the Deputy Senate President at being

unable to personally attend the roundtable himself. She however expressed his continued commitment to the plight of women all over the country; which could be easily alleviated if more women are in charge of making policies that affect their gender as she who “wears the shoes knows where it pinches”.

The presentation of the Deputy President of the Senate stated among other things that:

- There was need to investigate why women still remain underrepresented in Nigerian governance space of the 21st century.
- There is need to answer the question of what can be done to improve women participation in politics and governance?
- There is need to improve and create an action plan to achieve greater women participation.
- Women should meet more often to discuss issues affecting them and forge a way forward together.
- There is need for women to start early preparations for the next election as soon as possible.
- Nigerian women account for about 51% registered voters. However, these numbers do not translate into votes for women.
- There is need to start in small positions like ward executives to local government chairmen before vying for National positions.
- There is need to put women in positions where they can show their strengths.
- There is strength in numbers and if women stand by themselves, they can use their superior numerical advantage to wrestle political power from men.
- Marriage is one of the biggest problem women face in Nigerian politics as a lot of women are not allowed to contest in their husband’s community where they must have relocated to after marriage and are sometimes perceived in their own communities as outsiders.
- Political parties need to do better and must go beyond the giving of mere handouts of political positions like women leader.
- There is need to get men who are gender champions to join the fight for women inclusion.
- Parliament should set goals for women inclusion and a put in place plans to achieve the set goals.



Presentation by Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha, Deputy Chief Whip House of Representative.

Speaking at the event, Hon. Onyejeocha expressed her delight at the roundtable discussion while conveying her thanks to the organisers for the initiative.

Hon. Onyejeocha among other things stated that:

- There was need for women who hold leadership positions to act as role models to others coming after them.
- There was need for women to hold firm the values that they have grown up with as humans and retain their femininity even when they venture into politics as this is part of what draw people to them.
- The immediate goal should be to double the number of women in the House of Representatives by next election.
- Men should also pick up the fight for women inclusion, as this would lessen the burden on them.
- Once men are leaving the political scene, they should mentor women to take over after them.
- Rwanda has over 60% of women in Parliament and they achieved it by taking active steps. Nigerian women should be ready to fight for inclusion if they want to be included.

- There is need to be proactive and start from the grassroots level as that is what leads to National leadership.

Remarks by Mr. Clement Nwankwo, the Executive Director of Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC).

Speaking at the event, Clement Nwankwo, Executive Director, PLAC thanked all present for taking out the time to attend the roundtable discussion on improving women’s political participation in Nigeria stating that the women make about 50% of Nigeria’s population and to ignore their needs would be to shortchange ourselves as a Nation.

He also thanked the European union for its support to Nigeria’s democracy and the Chairman of the House Committee on Women Affairs for agreeing to partner with PLAC in convening the roundtable discussion.

He made the following points:

- Nigerian women must take their space by being tenacious and strategic.
- In Rwanda, there was a deliberate action by the government to ensure that the number of women in governance increased. Nigeria should follow the footsteps of Rwanda.
- There is need to implement immediate temporary measures to increase the number of women in governance in Nigeria which figures at the moment is low.
- PLAC has done some analysis on how to amend the law to give women the space to participate in politics. These recommendations will be passed to the appropriate channel in the nearest future.
- There is need to know that politics is inherently selfish, and everybody must be on ground to fight for what they want.
- Discussions surrounding increasing women participation in politics must be made in conjunction with Honourable members of the State Houses of Assembly all over Nigeria, as there is need to amend the Constitution to capture amendments that would mandate quota for women. However, State Houses of Assembly must be on board for the amendment to the Constitution to pass the requisite requirement and come into effect.
- The political space for women is shrinking and the violence further worsens the situation.

Intervention by Chief Mrs. Kemi Nelson, renowned Legal Practitioner

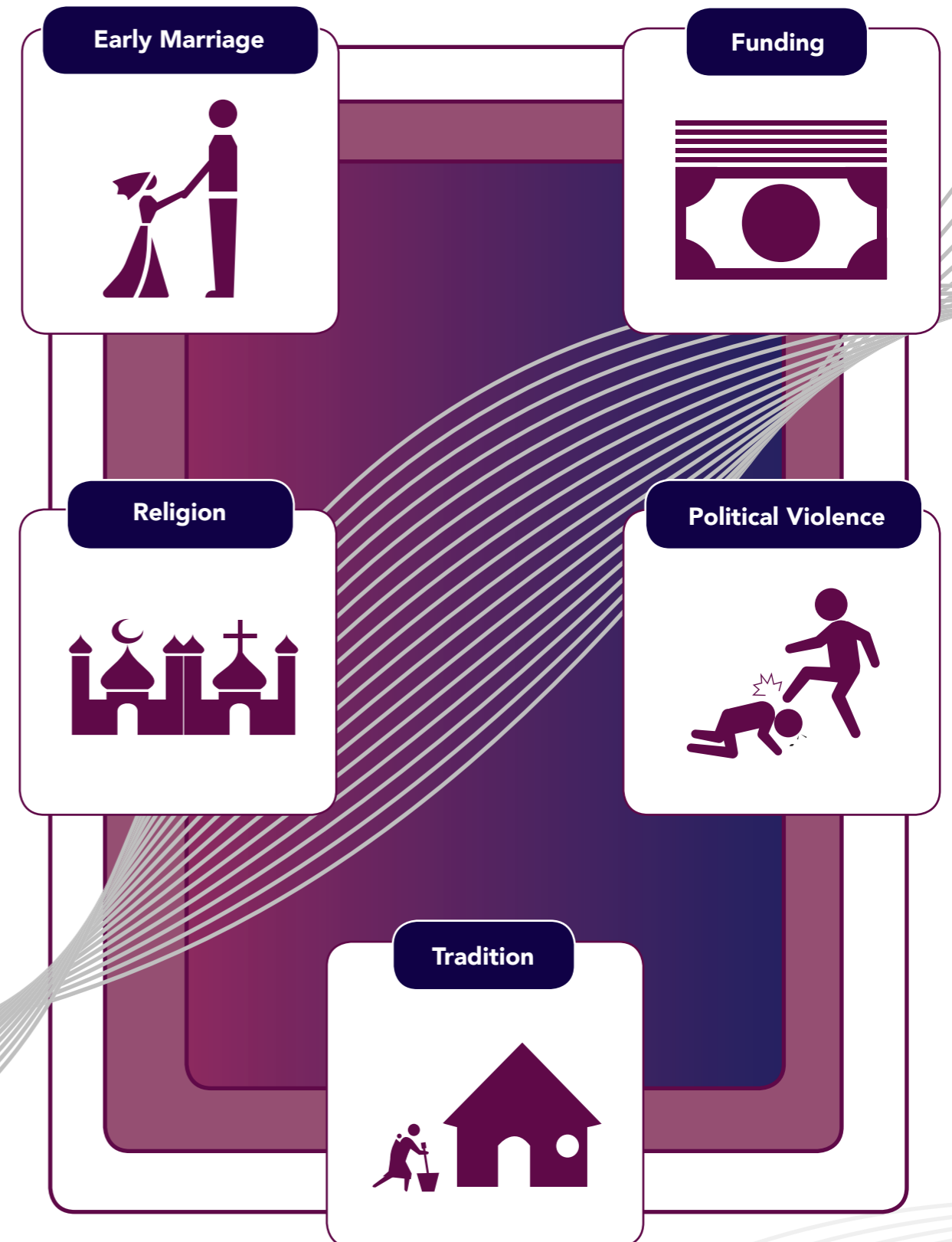
In her intervention, Chief Mrs. Nelson made the following points:

- There is need for women to start from the grassroots and begin to build their networks from bottom up.
- Most parties that do not have money are more likely to field women and let the women spend their money. Women should look at making themselves relevant in the major parties.
- This kind of discussions should be brought to the geopolitical zones, as there is need to capture power from the grassroots.
- There is need for women to spend their money in the big parties where they have better chances of winning elections.
- There is need for women who have attained leadership position to groom other women to take over after them.

SOME FACTORS HINDERING THE POLITICAL PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN

- Tradition
- Religion
- Early Marriage
- Funding
- Political Violence

SOME FACTORS HINDERING THE POLITICAL PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN



PANEL DISCUSSIONS



DISCUSSION ON STRATEGIES TO ADOPT IN IMPROVING WOMEN’S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION AND INCLUSION – What Has Worked and What Has Not Worked. Facilitated By Ms. Claire Adelabu Abdul-Razaq Broadcast Journalist, Co-Host, “Good Morning Nigeria”, NTA.

There were panel discussions at the event on how to increase the number of women in leadership positions and recommendations on how women can compete financially. The session was moderated by Ms. Claire Adelabu Abdul-Razaq, Broadcast Journalist and Co-Host of the “Good Morning Show” of Nigeria Television Authority (NTA)

Speaking on how women in the past broke political barriers for instance, Hon. Aisha Dukku acknowledged that despite politics being a male dominated affair; women in the past were able to make headway because they connected with the communities in the grassroots. She also suggested that women go beyond card-carrying members of political parties or supporters to full-fledged members with aspirations.

Hon. Jumoke Okoya Thomas also spoke on the fact that women had men who were willing to give them the platform to express themselves. Hon. Tolulope Shadipe: however, brought a different perspective to it in her suggestion that women achieve financial independence and marry partners who support their passion and dream for political offices in leadership positions.

However, speaking on the subject of what women do to improve the number of women in leadership positions, Barr. Agbajo called for Women to make themselves relevant wherever they are and build their capacities. She also suggested a conscious networking with the men and women in positions of power as politics is usually a game of who one knows. Hon Taiwo Oluga’s contribution encouraged women to develop a high sense of self-belief because politics can be highly challenging and without believing in oneself, there is a possibility of losing faith. She recommended that women think outside the box and look for new ways of doing things.



Intervention by Senator Abiodun Olujimi

Giving her recommendations, the Senator made the following remarks:

- There is need for women to work on themselves first before seeking the help of others. Women must first see and accept the vision for an inclusive society before enlisting the support of men.
- The biggest problem faced by the Gender and Equal Opportunities Bill in the 8th Assembly was that majority of women involved in the push for the passage of the Bill were not as committed to the cause as expected.
- Some men are scared of the possibility of their position being taken over by women.
- Political parties have to come together and support women.
- There is need for women to populate a particular political party and use their

strength in numbers to bring about the change they desire.

- Changing political parties might be necessary if the women do not see their aspirations as being achievable in their current parties.
- The position of women leader which is usually reserved for women in political parties must be guided jealously as it serves as having a foot in door and women can build on the influence that comes with the position to garner more influence.

Hon. Aisha Dukku also supported the position of Senator Olujimi by stating that the position of woman leader is of great importance to increasing the participation of women in political party's politics. She emphasized this position by pointing to an Electoral Act Amendment Bill that had been sent to the President with the aim of ensuring that the position of woman leader be reserved solely for the feminine gender.

Senator Olujimi also shared perspective on how women could improve their ability to compete in the financial aspect of the electioneering process by suggesting that women have multiple streams of income to finance their campaigns as elections in Nigeria are still very expensive. She recommended that women do a lot of fund raising as when women have visions, people can key into it and support their vision with funds. She concluded by saying that women should look out for sponsors/patrons who believe in their vision and are willing to support them with funds necessary to run a successful campaign.

Questions and Answers From Panel Discussions

Question: In her intervention Senator Olujimi advised women to support other women for elective and appointive positions. However, if those women are not in the same party how does one go about it without receiving the wrath of the party for anti-party activities?

Answer: If it is impossible to support a woman in another party because of party affiliations women should at least not bring down other women by actively campaigning against them.

Comment: To be role models worthy of the followership of younger women, women in appointive and elective positions must hold themselves in the highest regard and conduct themselves in a manner worthy of emulation.

Comment: PLAC should look at the possibility of stepping down the programme at the

local level in different geopolitical zones so it is not just at the Federal level.

Question: Is any of the female members of the National Assembly running mentorship programmes for the younger generations looking up to them as role models.

Answer: In answering the question, Senator Olujimi stated that she runs a form of empowerment and mentorship for younger ones and would continue to do so in the foreseeable future.

Comment from Hon. Mabel Williams: It is important to never forget people who support you when you finally get into appointive or elective positions.

Comment from Hon. Mojisola Alli Macaulay: From my personal experience, my biggest antagonists in politics have been women and there is need for women to love each other and support one another.

Comment from Ayoola Badejo: Women vying for political offices should give it their all and not be apologetic about it.

Comments from Hon. Esther Simi Dusu, Member Plateau State Assembly: Women should build a team of loyalists and foot soldiers that would help them tackle different issues at different times.

Comments from Hajia Salamat Ibrahim: There is need for women to form associations aimed at supporting their goals. These associations can serve as a source of moral and financial support to women candidates in elections.

Comments from Ambassador Ketil Karlsen, Head of European Union Delegation to Nigeria and ECOWAS: Simply having more women in politics could solve most of the problems facing Nigerian women. The European Union is committed to improving the lives of women in Nigeria.

Conclusion

Bringing the event to a close, Hon. Taiwo Onuga thanked all those that attended the roundtable discussion, their contributions and their time. She further thanked PLAC for organizing the deliberations for the participants stating that women must be seen to be at the forefront of the fight and not take the backseat if their fight for inclusion was to be taken seriously. She enjoined all the women politicians and stakeholders from different

States present to take the lessons learnt from the different sessions of the programme.

Resolutions Following the Roundtable Discussions

1. There is need to pursue legislation to enforce quota system in all appointive and elective positions.
2. Women in positions of power should put in place mentorship programmes to nurture future generation of women to take over from them.
3. There is need to collaborate with men who have been identified as gender champions to help in the fight for women inclusion in all spheres of governance.

FACTS ON WOMEN REPRESENTATION



- Only 24.3 per cent of all national parliamentarians were women as of February 2019, a slow increase from 11.3 per cent in 1995.
- As of June 2019, 11 women are serving as Head of State and 12 are serving as Head of Government.
- Rwanda has the highest number of women parliamentarians worldwide, where, women have won 61.3 per cent of seats in the lower house.
- Globally, there are 27 States in which women account for less than 10 per cent of parliamentarians in single or lower houses, as of February 2019. This includes 3 chambers with no women at all.
- As of February 2019, only 3 countries have 50 per cent or more women in parliament in single or lower houses: Rwanda with 61.3 per cent, Cuba with 53.2 per cent and Bolivia with 53.1 per cent; but a greater number of countries have reached 30 per cent or more.
- 5 out of 73 candidates who ran for President in the Nigeria's 2019 General Elections were women.
- 1668 men and 232 women competed for the 109 senatorial seats in the 2019 General Elections in Nigeria.
- 4,139 men and 560 women competed for 360 seats in the House of Representatives in the 2019 General Elections in Nigeria.

Source: <https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/leadership-and-political-participation/facts-and-figures>

Table III: Some Important Legislation Affecting Women in Nigeria at National & State level

National & State	Name of Law
National	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Violence Against Persons Prohibition Act 2015 ● Child Rights Act 2003 ● Trafficking in persons (Prohibition) Law Enforcement and Administration Act 2003
State	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Rivers State Abolition of Female Circumcision Law No. 2, 2001 ● Edo State Female Circumcision and Genital Mutilation (Prohibition) Law NO. 4 of 1999 ● Oyo State Widows Empowerment Law, 2002 ● Anambra State Malpractices against Widows and Widowers (Prohibition) Law 2004 ● Bauchi State Prohibition of Withdrawal of Girls from School for Marriage Law. ● Ogun State Female Circumcision and Genital Mutilation (Prohibition) Law 2000 ● Womens Reproductive Rights Law of Anambra State 2005 ● Edo State Law on Safe Motherhood, ● Rivers State Law on Reproductive Health 2003 Delta State Law on Female Genital Mutilation ● Ekiti State Malpractices against Widows & Widowers Law. ● Harmful Traditional Practices Law of 2003, Rivers State. ● Schools Rights (Parents, Children and Teachers) Law, No 2, 2005, Rivers State. ● Street Trading Restriction Law, 2004, Anambra State ● Gender and Equal Opportunities Law (Imo State) 2007 ● Gender and Equal Opportunities Law (Kogi State) 2013 ● Imo State Violence against the Persons Law No. 2 2012 ● Enugu State HIV/AIDS Anti-Discrimination, Stigma & Protection Law 2007. ● Cross River State HIV/AIDS Anti-Discrimination, Stigma & Protection Law 2007.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Legislations prohibiting early marriage (Kebbi and Niger States); ● Retention in schools and Against withdrawal of Girls from Schools (Kano, Borno, Gombe and Bauchi States); ● Edo State Law against Trafficking ● Ekiti State Violence against Women Law ● Admin of Estate (Small Payments) Law Lagos State 2004 ● Child Rights Laws passed in Anambra, Imo, Ebonyi, Nasarawa, Plateau, Ogun, Ekiti, Abia, Sokoto, Benue, Edo, Cross River (May 2009), Rivers (Not signed), Kogi, and Taraba States between 2004 and 2009. ● A Law to Prohibit Girl-Child Marriages and Female Circumcision No.2 of 2000 by the Cross Rivers State Government ● A Law to Prohibit Domestic Violence against Women and Maltreatment of Widows. No.10 of 2004 by the Cross-River State Government ● Ebonyi State Protection against Domestic Violence Law No. 003 of 2005 ● Edo State Inhuman Treatment of Widows (Prohibition) Law 2004 ● Ebonyi State Abolition of Harmful Traditional Practices Against Women and Children Law No. 10 of 2001 ● Ekiti State Equal Opportunities Act
--	---








GALLERY











GALLERY



APPENDIX 1: WOMEN REPRESENTATION IN APPOINTIVE POSITIONS (MINISTERS)

<p>GBEMISOLA SARAKI</p>  <p>Kwara</p> <p>MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRANSPORTATION</p>	<p>MARYAM YALWAJI KATAGUM</p>  <p>Bauchi</p> <p>MINISTER OF STATE FOR INDUSTRY, TRADE AND INVESTMENT</p>	<p>SHARON IKEAZOR</p>  <p>Anambra</p> <p>MINISTER OF STATE FOR ENVIRONMENT</p>
<p>RAMATU TIJANI</p>  <p>Kogi</p> <p>MINISTER OF STATE FOR FCT</p>	<p>SADIYA UMAR FAROUQ</p>  <p>Zamfara</p> <p>MINISTER OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT</p>	<p>ZAINAB AHMED</p>  <p>Kaduna</p> <p>MINISTER OF FINANCE, BUDGET AND NATIONAL PLANNING</p>
<p>PAULINE TALLEN</p>  <p>Plateau</p> <p>MINISTER OF WOMEN AFFAIRS AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT</p>		

APPENDIX 2: WOMEN REPRESENTATION IN ELECTIVE POSITIONS (SENATE)

<p>SENATOR UCHE EKWUNIFE</p>  <p>Anambra</p>	<p>SENATOR STELLA ODUAH</p>  <p>Anambra</p>	<p>SENATOR ABIODUN OLUJIMI</p>  <p>Ekiti</p>
<p>SENATOR BETTY APIAFI</p>  <p>Rivers</p>	<p>SENATOR OLUREMI TINUBU</p>  <p>Lagos</p>	<p>SENATOR AKON EYANKEYI</p>  <p>Akwa Ibom</p>
<p>SENATOR ROSE OKO</p>  <p>Cross Rivers</p>	<p>SENATOR AISHATU DAHIRU</p>  <p>Adamawa</p>	

APPENDIX 3: WOMEN REPRESENTATION IN ELECTIVE POSITIONS (HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES)

HON. ONUH ONYECHÉ
BLESSING



Benue

HON. ZAINAB
GIMBA



Borno

HON. OGUNLOLA
OMOWUMI OLUBUNMI



Ekiti

HON. AISHATU
DUKKU



Gombe

HON. ONANUGA ADEWUNMI
ORIYOMI OGUN



Ogun

HON. TAIWO OLUKEMI
OLUGA



Osun

HON. TOLULOPE
TIWALOLA SADIPE



Oyo

HON. BENI
LAR



Plateau

HON. KHADIJA
BUKAR IBRAHIM



Yobe

APPENDIX 3: WOMEN REPRESENTATION IN ELECTIVE POSITIONS (HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES)

HON. NKEIRUKA
ONYEJEOCHA



Abia

HON. BOMA
GOODHEAD



Rivers

HON. MIRIAM
ONUOHA



Imo

HON. LYNDA
CHUBA IKPEAZU



Anambra

APPENDIX 4: AGENDA

Monday, November 25, 2019	
9.30am – 10.00am	Arrival and Registration of Participants
10.00am – 10.45am	<p>OPENING SESSION</p> <p>Welcome Remarks Hon Taiwo Oluga <i>Chairman, House Committee on Women in Parliament</i></p> <p>Senator Betty Apiafi <i>Chairman, Senate Committee on Women Affairs</i></p> <p>Clement Nwankwo <i>Executive Director, Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC)</i></p> <p>Goodwill Messages Ms Sharon Ikeazor <i>Honourable Minister of State for Environment</i></p> <p>Senator Gbemisola Saraki <i>Honourable Minister of State for Transport</i></p> <p>Dame Pauline Tallen <i>Honourable Minister of Women Affairs</i></p> <p>H.E. Amb. Ketil Karlsen <i>Head of the Delegation, European Union in Nigeria</i></p> <p>Keynote Address Rt. Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila <i>Speaker, House of Representatives</i></p>
10.45am – 11.30am	<p>Session 1 Analysis of Women’s Under-Representation in Nigeria <i>By Hon. Usman Abdullahi</i> <i>Dep. Chairman, Women in Parliament Committee, House of Representatives</i></p>
11.30am – 11.50am	Tea/Coffee Break
11.50am – 12.30pm	<p>Session 2 The Concept of Equitable Representation: Need for Inclusivity in Nigeria <i>By Hon. Oluwole Oke</i> <i>Chairman, Public Accounts Committee, House of Representatives</i></p>
12.30pm – 1.30pm	<p>Session 3 How Women in Elective and Appointive Leadership positions Can Impact the Increase in the number of Women in the Political Space <i>By Senator Abiodun Olujimi</i></p>

1.30pm – 2.30pm	<p>Plenary Session Discussion on strategies to adopt in improving women’s political participation and inclusion – What has worked & what has not <i>Facilitated by Ms. Claire Adelabu Abdul-razaq</i> <i>Broadcast Journalist, Co-host, “Good Morning Nigeria”, NTA,</i></p>
2.30pm – 3:00pm	Wrap-up and Closing
3pm	Lunch/Departure

APPENDIX 5: ATTENDANCE

SPECIAL GUESTS			
S/N	NAME	ORGANIZATION	
1	Johnson Bareyei	Ministry of Budget and National Planning	
2	Mufiliat Fijabi	Nigerian Women Trust Fund	
3	Princess Hamman-Obeh	TAG	
4	Nihinlola Mabogunje	MC	
5	Genevieve Anthony	GAAF	
6	Ebere Ifendu	WIPF	
7	Tolu O. Sonaya	Women Radio 91.7	
8	Clement Nwankwo	PLAC	
9	Navronaria Teresa	ECES	
10	Austin Aigbe	CDD	
11	Mma Odi	ACE-Nigeria	
12	Uju Okagbue	Rep. Hon. Minister of State for Transportation	
13	Princess Folasade Ogunbajo	SLA Women Affairs DSP.	
14	Ubong Tommy	Action Aid	
15	Nneka Odenigbo	PWAN	
PARTICIPANTS			
S/N	NAME	STATE	GENDER
1	Princess Nana Modupe Onwoda	Delta	F
2	Idara Udofia	Akwa Ibom	F
3	Elsie Lawrence	Kaduna	F
4	Gladys Ovie	Abuja	F
5	Hon. Moji Alli-Macaulay	Lagos	F
6	Hon. Taiye Aderemi	Osun	F

7	Hon. Taiwo Onuga	Osun	F
8	Falaju Olusola	Osun	F
9	Taiwo Aja Lycett OON	Lagos	F
10	Adebayo Taiwo	Osun	F
11	Hon. Tijani Hassanat	Osun	F
12	Salami Khadijat	Osun	F
13	Hon. Regina Auyogo	Cross River	F
14	Hon. Adeniran Marian Joy	Kwara	F
15	Adeleke Toyin	Osun	F
16	Hon. Mrs. Esther Ani	Anambra	F
17	Hon. Bene Obinie	Anambra	F
18	Zainab Hamisu Musa	Kano	F
19	Hon. Mulikat Abiola Jimoh	Osun	F
20	Hon. Binta Mamman	Niger	F
21	Babalola Rachael	Osun	F
22	Fadeke Otitonaiye	Lagos	F
23	Bolanle Jimoh	Osun	F
24	Adekoya Foluso	Osun	F
25	Badejo Ayoola	Osun	F
26	Adesola Ayangbile	Osun	F
27	Jamilat Adedeji	Osun	F
28	Olaniyi Sadiat	Osun	F
29	Kofo Omole	Osun	F
30	Hon. Adeaga Adedayo	Osun	F
31	Hon. Oladipupo Jumoke	Osun	F
32	Uju Okagbue	Anambra	F

33	Hon. Kate Raymond Mamuno	Adamawa	F
34	Hon. Okunola Olajumoke	Osun	F
35	Hon. Agbeluyo	Osun	F
36	Hon. Adelabu	Osun	F
37	Hon. Okuyiga Teju	Ekiti	F
38	Hon. Adenike	Osun	F
39	Hon. Olubunmi Adelugba	Ekiti	F
40	Hon. Esther Dusu	Plateau	F
41	Sadiat Ibrahim	Kano	F
42	Hon. Jumoke Okoya-Thomas	Lagos	F
43	Hon. Ugwu Mary Oyinye	Enugu	F
44	Hon. Esther Ani	Anambra	F
45	Agaigbe Ngohemba Utsahn	Benue	F
46	Mrs. Olayinka Babalola	Lagos	F
47	Hon. Kenny Babalola	Lagos	F
48	Hon. Toyin Alarape	Lagos	F
49	Hon. Beverley Nkemdira	Anambra	F
50	Hon. Agnes Uloko	Benue	F
51	Hon. Atinuke Bello	Ogun	F
52	Chioma Patrick	Cross River	F
53	Omidele Bolayewo	Oyo	F
54	Hon. Amiola Ahmid	Osun	F
55	Gift Etugi	Cross River	F
56	Fakokunde Kudirat Bolanle	Osun	F
57	Adegbile Funmilayo	Osun	F
58	Williams Mabel	Oyo	F

59	Olaoye Risika	Osun	F
SENATORS			
S/N	NAME	STATE	GENDER
1	Senator Betty Apiafi	Rivers State	F
2	Senator Abiodun Olujimi	Ekiti State	F
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON WOMEN IN PARLIAMENT			
S/N	NAME	STATE	GENDER
1	Olutoye Ibitoye Esq.	Kogi	M
2	Martins Etugi	-	M
3	Sylvanus Deborah	Osun	F
4	Okoh Sunday	Benue	M
5	Odunjo Opeyemi	Osun	M
6	Salimat Bashir	Kogi	F
7	Yakubu Jibril	Kogi	M
8	Ndiwe Valerie	-	F
9	Kalista Nweze	-	F
10	Grace Edu (Committee Clerk)	-	F
11	Emmanuel Chukwu	-	M
12	Godwill Imoke	-	M
13	Ayofe Mutiat	-	F
14	Patrick Atim	-	M
RESOURCE PERSONS			
S/N	NAME	ORGANIZATION	GENDER
1	Hon. Oluwole Oke	National Assembly	M
2	Claire Adelabu Abdulrazak	National Television Authority	F



Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC)
Plot 451 Gambo Jimeta Crescent,
Guzape District,
Abuja, Nigeria.

Website: www.placng.org *Email: info@placng.org *Phone: 08091899999

About PLAC

Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC) is a non-governmental organization committed to strengthening democratic governance and citizens' participation in Nigeria. PLAC works to enhance citizens' engagement with state institutions, and to promote transparency and accountability in policy and decision-making processes.

The main focus of PLAC's intervention in the democratic governance process is on building the capacity of the legislature and reforming the electoral process. Since its establishment, PLAC has grown into a leading institution with capacity to deliver cutting-edge research, policy analysis and advocacy. PLAC receives funding support from donors and other philanthropic sources.