

## DECLARATION OF THE NATIONAL PLATFORM FOR WOMEN

9 November 2011

*We, women of Albania, as an equal part of the society, being fully aware of the fact that gender stereotypes are still strong and widespread in our society, and that the gender inequalities are particularly evident in politics, decision-making, and public life, call upon all political parties, State Institutions at local and central levels, media, and international organizations, to:*

1. Provide systematic political, financial, moral support and knowledge for the continuation of the joint and coordinated activities concerning the enhancement of equality between women and men in Albania's political and public life;
2. Guarantee that any political and public reform, including here the eventual electoral reform, is drafted considering the gender criteria, based on the Albanian legislation and the international mandatory one on the promotion and respect of gender equality, with women themselves being part of the drafting or amending process;
3. Play an active role to guarantee the comprehensive inclusion and representation of women at all levels of central and local decision-making, boards of public and private companies, and media;
4. Improve the chances of a balanced gender representation at 50% in the Parliament as well as in the municipality or commune councils, through an improvement legal framework. In particular, there may be need for unification of the gender representation obligatory article in the Electoral Code, so that one out of two candidates is of a different gender, both for general and local elections;
5. Not to certify the lists, drafted by political parties, that do not meet the requirements of the abovementioned provisions;
6. Guarantee, through legal obligation in the Electoral Code, the publication of comprehensive gender specific data in general and local elections;
7. Guarantee, by amending the Law on Political Parties, the inclusion of women in the decision-making structures of political parties, as an added guarantee for the promotion of gender issues in the electoral programs and statutes of political parties.

*For a governance and society where the representation of each of us is a civil duty and not a privilege, we join with all our energies.*