



ThinkOut

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Ensuring equal enjoyment of rights and equal participation in political and public life

Thank you Mr./Mme. Moderator.

Dear distinguished delegates,

There are more women represented in proportional systems than in majoritarian systems. Political parties are nominating more candidates in list systems and striving for balance. While in majoritarian systems parties are less willing to nominate women.

The electoral formula is important but neither a necessary nor a sufficient factor.

District magnitude is an important factor because the more seats are allocated in a district, the more political parties nominate candidates from different groups.

Also the party magnitude is of great importance, party magnitude is the number of seats that a political party wins in a district. And an election threshold increases the 'party magnitude' and will have more benefit for women, persons with disability and minority groups.

A threshold of 5% is fairly well.

The selection processes of candidates are also very important.

There is one paradox here: the less democratic the selection of candidates runs in a party, the greater the chances for women to be first selected and later elected.

Legal quota can be used. For example a list must contain a minimum number of women, persons with disability and persons from minority groups. But strict rules about their places on the lists are more determinative of course.

There is one last important factor for equal participation in political life, that's the term limits of MEPs. Limiting the terms of parliamentarians means more opportunities for newcomers, also for women, and other groups.

Thanks you.