

Are Politically Engaged Woman Participation Gender-Based, Equally and More Democratic on Policies? A Glimpse From Timor-Leste

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Abstract: *Timor Leste's diverse national literature alongside western literature on women's participation in politics is still in the midst of an equitable and democratic transition. It is assumed that women's participation in politics will create a committed force towards the renewal of democratic values. Sadly, there has been a lot of injustice in the participation system in young democracies with a tradition of contributing interventions outside the government system itself such as the role of NGOs and the UNs for woman development and participation in Timor-Leste. Therefore, this article aims to introduce the extent of women's participation in electoral politics in gaining parliamentary seats. Do the nation's democratic values and public policy tendencies in the national policy realm lend support to the significance of non-conventional political participation and support for democracy internationally. This study digests and reviews the tendency of political interest, the desire to have political knowledge, the understanding of the extent of the equality of women participants in politics (elections), and also the interpersonal belief in the nuances and moralization of democracy from the perspective of gender equality.*

Keywords: *Women participation, politics, support for democracy, Timor-Leste, gender equality.*

Introduction

Women's participation based on gender equality in the international framework is still not evident in the directed global surface analysis and specialized in the Timor Leste analysis of democratic policies. It can be seen together that many scholars have been adopted and included the Western literature on democratic transition as their references to highlight the discussion on gender participation and women (European Parliament, 2024 on Global Democracy Support for Women's Report 2024-2029 page 2-9). Women shall be based on dignified democratic values, which explain the policy-oriented participation, is able to influence citizens to have democratic awareness based on and for democratic values, which is interrelated regarding further studies in the equality of women's presentation in their electability in political seats in one of young countries such as Timor-Leste (Parliamentarians for Global Action, 2023 on the Participation of Women in Politics with a strong campaign "Mobilizing Legislators as Champions for Human Rights, Democracy, and a Sustainable World). The opinions of these previous authors on these two global reports

indicate that the existence of political system are reassumed as dynamics and it tends not to involve civil society and women, especially in an inclusive political environment. Promoting a safe and inclusive political environment for women parliamentarians Recommendations to parliamentarians to promote a safe environment Case Studies UK, USA, Ecuador, El Salvador, Belarus, Zimbabwe, Senegal, Netherlands, and Australia, therefore as examples to support an inclusive political environment for women parliamentarians' recommendations in Timor-Leste (Parliamentarians for Global Action, 2023). This article reviews the extent to which the involvement of Timorese citizens politically is also more democratic to support better change based on democracy. The transitional democracy towards sustainable democracy needs to be explained in this review study to know how citizens understand the importance of women's participation in their electability through democratic support. The strength of women and men's participation still tends to be biased and in favor of men. As gender equality is in the interest of both men and women, and a precondition for genuine democracy (Inter-Parliamentary Union, 2025). This can be revealed in the data presented by the author. It is presented in a brilliant framework that they value democracy as a manifestation of their appreciation of democracy itself in the new regime after the country gains independence in 2022 (UN Women, 2024a). The author examines and considers the gap between the internal support from the state system for women's participation in their electability as realized by the citizens, and the external support for the disparate status of women's participation in their democracy-oriented electability, to change the order of 'transitional democracy' - to the order of 'systematic democracy in the embodiment into the electability system of both women and girls' to 'sustainable democracy'.

This research supports the balanced democratic preferences of women and men in unraveling the dominant relationship between political electability participation in the dominance of male political candidates in a relationship that is not always direct. This study also provides some useful insights from the summary of few Reports' discussion that refer to the recommendations of civic participatory systems through citizen advisory committees, collaborative governance, and the provision of civic participatory-based electability funds that need to be implemented in Timor-Leste. As the 2011 UN General Assembly resolution on women's political participation notes, "Women in every part of the world continue to be largely marginalized from the political sphere, often as a result of discriminatory laws, practices, attitudes and gender stereotypes, low levels of education, lack of access to health care and the disproportionate effect of poverty on women" (UN Women, 2024; da Costa, 2024). Furthermore, research on gender equality in the discussion of the review of women's political electability participation in the direction of local democracy, with awareness and compliance of civilians to systemized and sustainable democracy, provides a new reference space for us to know, understand, and also reflect on the governance of a democratic participation system that does not transition in its implementation, as we all hope. The author organizes this study by reviewing the relationship between women's electable participation in politics and democratic values from the perspective of civil society, by

presenting the research hypothesis; data and research approach, and presenting the author's study conclusions.

Women participation in the dynamic of politics and democratic values in East Timor (Timor Leste)

East Timor represents half of the Island of Timor and was colonized by several nations. Throughout time, Timorese women have always had a lower social status than men. In traditional East Timorese society, it was the men who acted in political life and made the decisions. It was they who held the power to govern, from the tribe to the administrative post. Discrimination against women took place from childhood, through youth and adulthood and into old age, in all areas: political, economic, social and cultural. The Carnation Revolution of April 25, 1974 brought democracy to Portugal and decolonization to its overseas territories, which awakened Timorese women to participate in political life and in building their new nation (Almeida, 2017). After the Carnation Revolution in Portugal, some Timorese women began to get involved in organizations to promote women's rights. In May 1975, due to the emerging situation in the country, Rosa Bonaparte Soares, a student at the University of Lisbon, also known as "Muki", abandoned her studies and returned to East Timor. Together with some friends, she became involved in the development of the student organization UNETIM (National Union of Timorese Students). These friends included Maria José Boavida (Soimali), Silvina Epifania (Namuk), Alexandrina (Bi Hare), Aicha Bassarewan, Filomena Aniceto (Lybe), Deolinda Bonaparte Soares (Sossek), Josefina Moniz (Bete), Margarida Filomena de Araújo (Bi Nae), Filomena Ramiro (Bilou), etc. In this movement, created by Rosa Bonaparte Soares, the students fought for women's rights, with special attention to the dignity of vulnerable and marginalized women (Aparício, 2017).

The moment of the restoration of independence on May 20, 2002 was a new chapter in the history of the Timorese people's centuries-long struggle to escape the domination of other nations. This independence effort was preceded by a unilateral declaration of independence that took place on November 28, 1975 by the Fretilin party, which was the only political party at the time to consistently fight for East Timor's total independence from colonization. The preamble to the 2002 Constitution of the RDTL highlights this struggle for independence when it states: "The independence of East Timor, proclaimed by the Revolutionary Front of East Timor on November 28, 1975, was internationally recognized on May 20, 2002, once the liberation of the Timorese people from colonization and the illegal occupation of the Maubere Homeland by foreign powers had been achieved" (RDTL, 2002).

According to Costa et al. (2013) Timor-Leste's political institutions are new, having emerged in just over a decade. The transition to democracy is a period of great change and a "critical conjunctural period in terms of defining institutional trajectories" (Waylen, 2011). In this transition, women's rights have been a defining feature of public discourse. In 2000, around 400 women from across the country came together at the first Timorese Women's Congress and adopted a broad policy document - the Platform for Action for the

Advancement of Timorese Women. This document gave impetus and political legitimacy to the demand for a quota of at least 30 percent of women on party lists, with women in positions of power are not eligible. Crucial to the campaign was the establishment of a women's network known as the Feto Network, which brought together a large number of women's organizations and provided important political support.

The campaign for a 30 percent quota, a critical act, set in motion political leadership, incentives for parties to put forward women candidates and, ultimately, in the form of an electoral law. Criticism of National Council members who voted against quotas and belonged to political parties led some parties to adopt informal internal quotas for their candidate lists (Pires, 2004). To maintain this presence of women, leading gender equality NGOs, together with the women's machine and high-status women in government and the UN, worked together ahead of the 2007 elections to the National Parliament. The outline of the 2006 Electoral Law offered a new opportunity to guarantee gender equality. The new law (Law No. 6/2006, the Electoral Law for the National Parliament) required that one woman be included in every four candidates on party lists and also that a departing MP be replaced by another female candidate on the list (Jornal da República, 2006). *Deputada*, a Timor-Portuguese translation of a Female Deputy is the term used in East Timor to designate a woman member of parliament, and it is the term that will be used throughout this study. The struggle over quotas culminated in 2011 with another change to the electoral law ahead of the 2012 parliamentary elections. Law No. 7/2011 (Second Amendment to Law No. 6/2006) now required that one woman be included in every three candidates on party lists (Jornal da República, 2011).

Methodology

This research used a questionnaire survey approach that was distributed to selected informants through social media. This section presents the results of the data collection based on 21 informants' answers to 13 questions. The answers to each question from these informants are used to complement the results obtained from the data sources described above, allowing for data triangulation. The questionnaire was completed by 21 respondents, of which only 15 stated that they had initiated Draft Laws and Draft Resolutions in the National Parliament on the themes of women's fundamental rights, children's fundamental rights, family, and combined women/child/family rights. This means that not all MPs involved in this research have initiated Draft Laws and Draft Resolutions in the National Parliament on the issues that are the focus of this research. Of the twenty-one informants, only one informant (5%) had initiated a bill on women; another informant (5%) had initiated several bills on children, and none had initiated a bill on family. However, 13 informants (62%) said they had initiated draft laws and draft District Court decisions governing basic rights of women/children/family. There are several factors that may have influenced women MPs' actions to initiate the submission of bills and draft PN resolutions. National Parliament during the four legislative bodies in question. To dig deeper into these factors, respondents were asked other relevant questions. It should be noted that these factors are relevant to understanding women's low willingness to initiate draft laws and draft National Parliamentary Resolutions. Analysis of the answers to these questions was considered

relevant as it provided complementary information that allowed for the identification of factors that inhibit women MPs from initiating legal norms for the benefit of women themselves. Content analysis of the answers to the open-ended questions allowed us to identify factors that inhibit greater proactivity in presenting or drafting resolutions to the National Parliament, related to the following reasons such as barriers in Timorese culture; the existence of gender differences; promoting quality participation; policies and practices to encourage women's participation in politics; promoting the value of women in political action; and the role of women in political parties. To present the research results of this study, the research questions were simplified into two parts.

Therefore, the author puts forwards the formation of research question in this 'Methodology Section' into two parts, they are:

Question 1: Do the nation's democratic values and public policy tendencies in the national policy realm lend support to the significance of non-conventional political participation internationally on women and it supports for democracy?

This study digests and reviews the tendency of political interest, where gender equality in Timor-Leste is a concept that is referenced in two fundamental international instruments: 1) the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; 2) the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that all human beings are born free and equal. The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women states that states have an obligation to guarantee men and women equal enjoyment of all economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights. In East Timor, gender equality policy is contained in the RDTL constitution and other laws and regulatory decrees. Article 17 of the Constitution of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste guarantees that women and men have the same rights and obligations in all areas of family, cultural, social, economic and political life.

East Timor's independence was proclaimed by the Revolutionary Front of Independent East Timor (FRETILIN) on November 28, 1975 and was only internationally recognized on May 20, 2002. This marked the liberation of the Timorese people from colonization and the illegal occupation of the Maubere homeland by foreign powers (preamble to the RDTL Constitution). Its existence as a country is still recent, it is a very young country. If we compare it to a human being, then this country has just reached adulthood. Therefore, many things need to be done by state institutions, such as the legislative, executive, judicial and presidential institutions to fulfill the constitutional mandate, given to each state institution. And one of the mandates which must be implemented by each of these state institutions is to implement public policies for national development in various sectors including the gender equality sector. The implementation of equality policy at government level was reflected in the creation by the government of an institution under the prime minister's office specifically to deal with gender equality issues. Similarly, there are many national and international institutions working in the field of

gender equality, on the basis that both women and men have the same rights and duties as members of a country's society.

Question 2: How have been political knowledge and the understanding of the equality of women participants in politics according to national literature in Timor-Leste? Is it also influenced the interpersonal belief of the society sphere in the nuances and moralization of democracy values from their perspective of gender equality?.

Gender equality is a condition that translates into equal participation in various opportunities, including the social, economic, political and cultural fields in the society sphere. Conditions in which men and women can be called "standing at the same height and sitting at the same height" in various matters of national and social life. The achievement of gender equality must be characterized by non-discrimination between women and men, so that they have the opportunity to participate in and benefit from the equity of development. Gender equality issues began with the Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET). After East Timor regained its freedom from occupation by other countries through a credible referendum under UN supervision in 1999, the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (or UNTAET) was established in the country between 1999 and 2002. In the organizational structure of the UNTAET Transitional Government, there was already an institution dealing with gender equality issues, headed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Sérgio Vieira de Mello. As will be explained below, this institution has remained active from the beginning of the definitive government (on May 20, 2002) to the present day. It is currently a Secretariat of State that is organizationally subordinate to the Prime Minister's office. The Gender Equality Policy after East Timor's independence began with the First Constitutional Government in 2002 and was a Secretariat of State that technically dealt with gender equality issues. It came under the Prime Minister's Office.

According to Government Decree-Law no. 3/2002, which regulates the Organic Structure of the First Constitutional Government (article 4, paragraph 4.e), the following services and bodies are under the direct responsibility of the Prime Minister, as well as all those that are not expressly integrated into a ministry or secretariat of state:

- a. National State Security Service;
- b. Inspector General;
- c. Human Rights Advisory Office;
- d. Image and Social Communication Advisory Office;
- e. Advisory Office for the Promotion of Equality; and
- f. Capacity Development Unit. (Jornal da República, 2002).

In addition, according to article 2 of Government Decree-Law no. 16/2008 on the Organic Structure of the Secretary of State for Promotion and Equality, the following are the duties and powers attributed to this government institution:

- a. Supporting the development of global and sectoral policy with a focus on promoting gender equality and strengthening, recognizing and valuing the role of Timorese women in society;
- b. Drawing up normative proposals, issuing opinions and intervening, under the terms of the law, in cross-cutting areas in all areas relevant to the promotion of equality, establishing mechanisms for reviewing laws, policies, budgets and government programs in the areas under its tutelage;
- c. Coordinating concerted actions with the various ministries to promote equality and strengthen the role of Timorese women in society;
- d. Promoting multisectoral coordination within the government, through the mechanism of Gender Focal Points in order to ensure an integrated gender approach in all policy-making processes, including planning, implementation and monitoring;
- e. Developing partnerships and providing support to women's organizations involved in promoting and defending gender equality, ensuring consultation mechanisms with civil society and national and international organizations;
- f. Promoting actions to raise awareness and informing public opinion and adopt good practices regarding gender equality, equal participation in economic, social, cultural, political and family life in collaboration with the competent bodies and combating situations of discrimination and violence against women, using the media and publishing publications or other means deemed appropriate;
- g. Ensuring institutional and non-governmental organization participation in the implementation of gender equality policies;
- h. Cooperating with community, national and international organizations and foreign counterparts, with a view to participating in the major international guidelines on gender equality and promoting their implementation at national level, in coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. (Jornal da República, 2008).

Result and Discussion

Elections and the participation of women in Timor-Leste based on International Review

It is important to note in this analysis that the first election held in East Timor, after the referendum on August 30, 1999, was the election in 2002 for the members of the Constituent Assembly to draft the RDTL Constitution. This is established in UNTAET Regulation No. 2001/2, in the first article: "For the purpose of implementing the decision taken by the people of East Timor in the popular consultation of August 30, 1999 and to

ensure the protection of the inalienable human rights of the people of East Timor, namely freedom of conscience, freedom of expression, freedom of association and protection against all forms of discrimination, a Constituent Assembly shall be elected to prepare a Constitution for an independent and democratic East Timor" (UNTAET, 2001), supported by UN Woman (2025a) in their main highlight discussion on the "Elections of Women in Political Positions" that *"National and local elections can support women's political participation in multiple ways, but specific measures may be required to overcome the barriers of gender discrimination"*. Furthermore, from international evidence has also faced the same issue as Timor-Leste had experienced the low quantity of elected women in political positions in parliaments year after year since they gained their independence in 2002, where *"Women's representation in political leadership remained critically low in 2024. Only five women were elected as Heads of State out of 31 direct presidential elections held worldwide. These women leaders represent Iceland, Mexico, Namibia, North Macedonia, and the Republic of Moldova"* (UN Women, 2024b). In 2024, UN Women is supporting women's political participation in over 40 countries, including nine countries holding elections. This support includes advocacy to implement electoral gender quotas; technical assistance related to inclusive electoral processes; candidate training and networking for women aspirants and candidates; data collection, social norms change and awareness raising and support to civil society actors (UN Women Report, 2024). This condition of women elector ability is shown in some international data recorded by the UN Women (2025b) who mentions that *"A further 21 countries have reached or surpassed 40 per cent, including nine countries in Europe, six in Latin America and the Caribbean, five in Africa, and one in Asia-Pacific, but not included Timor-Leste"*. Women's political participation is critical for a well-functioning democracy. Their inclusion is a matter of justice and a key factor in creating more effective governance. Having more women in policymaking has shown to help advance legislation on crucial issues, such as health, education, childcare, infrastructure and ending violence against women and serve as an inspiration for girls to pursue higher education and career opportunities (UN Women 2024c), which this inclusion aligns with the global data one year before, 2023, where the women make up 26.5 per cent of Members of Parliament. Globally, less than one in four Cabinet Ministers is a woman (22.8 per cent). New data show that women lead important human rights, gender equality, and social protection policy portfolios, while men dominate policy areas like defence and economy (UN Women, 2023). The domination policy areas in defence and economy two years ago highlighted again in this recent Declaration in Beijing, China in January 2025 about the issue of lacking women domination in parliaments seats. New data from the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and UN Women reveal limited progress in achieving gender equality in political leadership at the start of 2025, the year which marks the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the landmark UN framework which set out the roadmap for gender equality and women's rights. According to the 2025 edition of the IPU–UN Women "Women in politics" map, men outnumber women by more than three times in executive and legislative positions. The map presents the latest rankings of women in executive positions and national parliaments as of

1 January 2025. While the proportion of women in parliament has increased fractionally by 0.3 percentage points to 27.2 per cent compared to a year ago, in government positions it has declined by 0.4 percentage points (UN Women, 2025c).

The presentation of global data and statistical descriptions presented by UN Women with from year to year until the latest year, 2025 shows the issue of democracy and equality in the level of women and men dominating political electoral seats is crucial to discuss to provide enlightenment efforts for new, young, and emerging countries such as Timor-Leste. Inter-Parliamentary Union and UN Women (2023) state that “The importance of technology for advancing gender equality has been long recognized in the international normative framework. The 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action urge governments to improve women’s access to technology from an educational and employment perspective and strengthen their role in designing and monitoring technological advances¹. The 2020 review of Beijing further recommends “harnessing technology for gender equality,” calling upon Member States to, inter alia, implement laws and policies addressing technological risks that may hamper gender equality, including online violence, and enable women’s equal participation in the design of technology². Parliaments have a crucial role to play in addressing these challenges, such as by promoting the development of effective policies to create a safe and non-discriminatory online environment, tackling all forms of online security risk, harassment and bullying, including gender-based abuses, as well as legal frameworks for zero-tolerance against such offenses³. These three crucial statements conform the previous discussion and roadmap for gender equality that was bringing up on the major topic in Beijing China in 2025. Likewise, in Timor-Leste, elections and participation of women in Finland, Europe has shown a similar glimpse on democracy. *In Finland, the Parliamentary Office hired an external research group to carry out a gender equality assessment in the Parliament of Finland. The assessment consisted of written surveys and qualitative interviews that collected data on the state of gender equality in their institution. The work was overseen by a steering group which consisted of MPs from all parliamentary groups, an academic gender expert and representatives from the Parliamentary Office. The results of the assessment were publicly disseminated prior to the beginning of the 2019–2023 parliamentary term* (European Institute of Gender Equity, EIGE, 2024). The assessment is incorporated into a study investigated by Council of European Municipalities and Regions, CEMR (2025) who put an emphasis on the progress and persistent as well as the challenges are faced by the women which are categorized as underrepresentation group in political leaderships. CEMR (2025) shines a light on both the progress and the persistent, systemic challenges, from underrepresentation in leadership to the rising issue of violence against women in politics. However, reassurance statement with a strong strategy in creating a political space for women are always limited in accessibility in terms of gaining equal experiences and/or knowledges of politics as men. For this recommended political space on obtaining a horizons of gender equality for women equal to men, a progressive strategy has been taken by International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, IDEA (2025). IDEA (2025) mentioned the strategy by *creating a space for the Réseau des Femmes Parlementaires du Niger* (Women’s Parliamentary Network of Niger) to share knowledge, experiences, and ideas with women’s

caucuses and parliamentary gender equality bodies from Ireland, Malawi, Wales, Côte d'Ivoire, Sweden, and Belgium - participants discussed how women MPs can work together to advance gender equality, the common challenges they face, and strategies for success. We need an equality in democracy by advancing our shared-ideas among women and leaders in electoral healthy environments. The Inter-Parliamentary Union, IPU who always highlighted the slogan, "Parliaments should be safe spaces for all men and women", had also established two main strategies among seven which opening and closing strategies do support the IDEA's progressive strategy. Increasing the number of women in parliament and achieve equal participation (opening), and enhancing the gender sensitivity of, and gender equality among, parliamentary staff (closing) are mentioned by IPU in this year, 2025 in one comprehensive and connectedness consensus strategy created by these following authors and institutions such as (Administration and Cost of Elections, ACE, 2025; IDEA, 2024; Johnson, 2025; The European Consortium for Political Research, ECPR, 2025; Rousseau, S., Lopreite, D., & Dargent Bocanegra, E., 2025; Lingham, J. T., Rai, S. M., & Akhter, S. 2025; Off, G., Alexander, A., & Charron, N., 2025; Slaughter, C. M., Coronado, K. L., Burge-Hicks, C., & Brown, N. E., 2025; Abou-Chadi, T., 2024; Morgan-Collins, M., 2024; and Banwart, C, M., and Bystorm, G, D., 2025).

Elections and the participation of women based on the research study in Timor-Leste

To clarify the direction of our critical perspective on the results of this study, the author presents a concise data for the members of the Constituent Assembly in Timor-Leste as presented in Table 1.

Table 1: The 2002 Election Results for the Members of the Constituent Assembly

No	Party	Elected		Men		Women	
		Percentage (%)	%	%	%	%	%
1	FRETILIN	55	62,50	39	71,91	16	29,09
2	PD	7	7,95	7	100,00	0	0,00
3	PSD	6	6,82	4	66,67	2	33,33
4	ASDT	6	6,82	5	83,33	1	16,67
5	UDT	2	2,27	1	50,00	1	50,00
6	PNT	2	2,27	1	50,00	1	50,00
7	KOTA	2	2,27	2	100,00	0	0,00
8	PPT	2	2,27	2	100,00	0	0,00
9	PDC	2	2,27	2	100,00	0	0,00
10	PST	1	1,14	1	100,00	0	0,00
11	PL	1	1,14	1	100,00	0	0,00
12	PDCT	1	1,14	1	100,00	0	0,00
13	No Party	1	1,14	1	100,00	0	0,00
Total		88	100,00	67	76,14	21	23,86

To make it easier to see and understand the percentage of those elected by each party for the 2002-2007 parliamentary term, the author has also elaborated and analyzed this data into a graph which is presented in this following **Figure 1**. Percentage of elected members of the National Parliament 2002-2007.

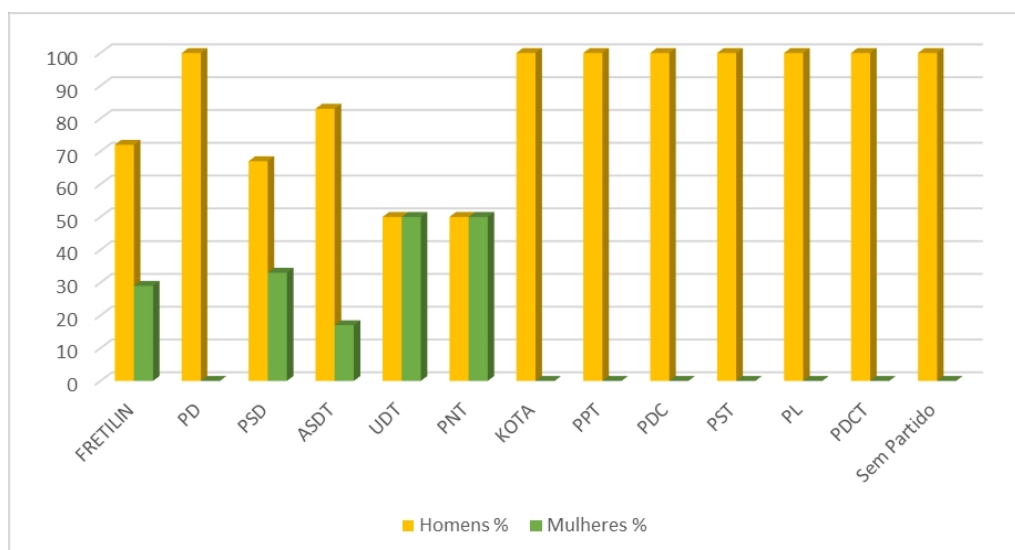


Figure 1. Percentage of elected members of the National Parliament 2002-2007

Note: Homens, a Tetum-Portuguese Language (in English, Men)

Mulher, a Tetum-Portuguese Language (in English, Women)

Discussion

According to Table 1, it is noted that there is a total of 88 MPs were elected, of whom 21 were women, which corresponds to around 24%, and 67 men (76%) from 12 electoral parties, with one person standing without a party. It should be noted that not all the political parties that took part in the election had women representing them in parliament. After drafting the Constitution, these 88 deputies became part of the National Parliament for the 2002-2007 term. We can consider that this UNTAET Regulation does not specifically regulate the participation of women and men in political parties in the election of members of the Constituent Assembly but grants freedom to all citizens of Timor-Leste who have fulfilled the requirements to elect and be elected. The UNTAET Regulations do not specify the composition between women and men to represent each district to which each party is granted freedom in its nomination procedures. This is seen in section 33 of UNTAET Document's Regulation 2001/2, which regulates all candidate members of a political party to represent each district or nominee at national level, as set out in the following paragraphs:

1. Each registered political party wishing to take part in the elections shall submit a list to the Independent Electoral Commission, in the order determined by the party, with a maximum of seventy-five (75) candidates for the Constituent Assembly elections as national representatives.

2. Each registered political party intending to participate in the elections will submit a list to the Independent Electoral Commission with the name(s) of the political party's candidate(s) for the Constituent Assembly elections as district representatives, indicating the district for which each candidate is proposed.
3. Under paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article, the designation of candidates of a registered political party as district or national representatives shall:
4. Main Analysis's Section. (a) be made by the competent authority within the political party concerned in the terms prescribed by the Independent Electoral Commission; (b) be submitted to the Independent Electoral Commission before the expiry of the deadline set for the submission of ; (c) be accompanied a declaration, in the terms prescribed by the Independent Electoral Commission, from each candidate, providing evidence of eligibility and confirming that the candidate is qualified and willing to be nominated by the political party concerned A political party may only nominate a candidate for election to the Constituent Assembly if that candidate is a member of that party.
5. No one may stand for election for more than one political party" (UNTAET, 2001).

Meanwhile, based on this Figure 1 above, it is concluded that the political parties with women in the constituent assembly include the FRETILIN party with 16 of the 55 seats elected (30% of those elected by the party), the PSD with 2 of the 6 seats elected (33%), the ASDT party with 1 woman in 5 seats (17%), and the UDT and PNT parties with 1 woman in 2 seats (50%). The political parties that won seats but were not represented by women were the PD with 7 seats, the KOTA, PPT and PDC parties with 2 seats each and the PST, PL and PDCT parties with 1 seat each. This shows that the study of women's participation in political parties in the constituent assembly is quite significant even though it is still dominated by men. This situation and trend shows a glimpse of the democratization transition at the national level to gain public sympathy and scholars of politics and gender policies in the international arena.

Conclusion

Thus, in this conclusion, the author answers the question from this research article, is the participation of women involved in politics - gender-based, equal and more democratic in policy? The answer is yes it is, based on the empirical data that the author obtained about a glimpse of Timor Leste from the transition situation, from the impression that it is interesting to look at together, namely from after gaining independence as a new country, in terms of the Fretilin political party. Because the historic Fretilin Party had a considerable level of women's representation in the first general election, using UN standards in democratic elections in Timor Leste after the 1999 referendum. In terms of numbers, the Fretilin party had 16 women, which constituted around 19% of the 88 deputies. While in the other political parties, the percentage of women in relation to the total number of seats was small. The women elected by the PSD were 2% of the 88 seats and those elected

by the ASDT, UDT and PNT parties represented just 1% of the 88 seats. Overall, we can conclude that in the election for the members of the 2002 Constituent Assembly, although under the supervision of the United Nations and using the UNTAET regulations governing the election, the representation of women in the party structure was not relevant. Only 24% of all those elected were women and many of the political parties elected were not represented by any women. Political accountability to women begins with increasing the number of women in decision-making positions, but it cannot stop there. What is required are gender-sensitive governance reforms that will make all elected officials more effective at promoting gender equality in public policy and ensuring their implementation (UN Women Asia and the Pacific, 2023).

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