

# **POLITICAL PARTIES ENGAGEMENT ON WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN POLITICS**

## **JOINT COMMUNIQUE**

**Presented after the Inter-Party meeting on women's participation held at Best Western  
Plus Hotel, Lusaka, 6<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

We the twenty-six (26) Political Party delegates convened by the Non-governmental Gender Organisations Coordinating Council (NGOCC) and the Zambia Centre for Interparty Dialogue (ZCID) at the Best Western Plus Hotel Lusaka, on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> May 2025:

**ACKNOWLEDGING** The importance of equity, equality and non- discrimination in the democratic governance of Zambia;

**AFFIRMING** the invaluable role of Political Parties in Zambia's governance system both as ruling parties and opposition political parties.

**APPRECIATING** the diversity among Political Parties in ideology

**OBSERVING** that over the years, women, persons with disabilities and indeed the youth have been disadvantaged against participating as candidates, in the governance of the country

### **CONCERNED WITH THE: -**

- Very low number of women, persons with disabilities and youths at Cabinet, local government and parliamentary levels;
- Electoral violence as one of the major reasons for low participation of women and persons with disabilities
- Unequal political playing field due to financial disparities
- Deep rooted patriarchal and traditional tendencies that discriminate against women, persons with disabilities and the youth
- Very low levels of adoption of women, persons with disabilities and the youth as candidates for elections

**DELIBERATED AND HEREIN COMMIT: -**

- To continue accelerating our efforts to mainstream gender in our respective manifestos
- To effect quota systems to guide the composition of intraparty leadership
- To effect quota systems to guide nomination processes

**NOW HENCEFORTH CALL OURSELVES TO ACTION WITH PARTICULAR FOCUS ON THE FOLLOWING THEMATIC AREAS:**

**Capacity Enhancement**

- Identify and train women, persons with disabilities and youth aspiring candidates in campaign skills and fundraising
- Encourage all women, persons with disabilities and youth aspiring candidates without Grade Twelve Certificates to register for General Certificate of Education

**Political Violence**

- End Political Violence

**Legal and policy environment and justice**

The government should:

- Explore the enactment of a Political Parties Law as an avenue to increase representation of women, persons with disabilities and youth at local government and parliamentary levels.

**We the various stakeholders and actors have been reinvigorated and have been strengthened by each other's experiences and aspirations to continue to address under-representation of women, persons with disabilities and youth with renewed vigor and in a collective manner.**

**Hereunder signed:**

- 1. Christian Democratic Party (CDP)**
- 2. Citizens Democratic Party (CDP)**
- 3. Democratic National Party (DNP)**
- 4. Democratic Union (DU)**
- 5. Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF)**
- 6. Forum for Democracy and Development (FDD)**
- 7. Golden Party Zambia (GPZ)**
- 8. Movement for Democratic Change (MDC)**
- 9. Movement for Multiparty Democracy (MMD)**
- 10. National Restoration Party (NAREP)**

- 11. New Congress Party (NCP)**
- 12. New Era Democratic Party (NED)**
- 13. New Heritage Party (NHP)**
- 14. Party for National Unity and Progress (PNUP)**
- 15. Patriotic Front (PF)**
- 16. Patriots for Economic Progress (PEP)**
- 17. People's Alliance for Change (PAC)**
- 18. Socialist Party (SP)**
- 19. The Zambia We Want (ZWW)**
- 20. United for Better Zambia (UBZ)**
- 21. United Front for a Strong Foundation (UFSF)**
- 22. United Liberal Party (ULP)**
- 23. United Party for a Progressive Zambia (UPPZ)**
- 24. United Party for National Development (UPND)**
- 25. Zambia United for Sustainable Development (ZUSD)**
- 26. Zambia Wake Up Party (ZAWAPA)**