



## Brief – APRM & Gender

Gender inequality is a permanent fixture in Africa's colonial and post-colonial story. Cyclical and unavoidable exclusion, marginalisation and commodification in all aspects of public and private life. Patriarchy reigns supreme, a continent that renders women subordinates in gender roles (Ala, 2015). Multinational institutions and national businesses alike, gender inequality is replicated, reinforced and entrenched as in the public sector. Referred to as a "moral shame" in the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Declaration on Democracy, Political, Economic And Corporate Governance. ( African Union, 2018).

Women in Africa constitute a significant demographic, being majority in many countries. The role of women has always been understated and undervalued in social, cultural and development spaces. Their contributions to Africa's labour force and productivity is not adequately recognised and compensated. Limited education and employment opportunities for women in Africa reduce annual growth per capita by 0.8 per cent ( Grimm & Gyimah-Boadi, 2008). This excludes the high burden of care work at home, in sustenance agriculture and the informal sector. Poverty is gendered, a demographic further excluded from governance and development processes ( Economic Commission for Africa, 2016).

APRM works in voluntary partnership between government, civil society, and the private sector. With the aim is to collectively and collaboratively address socio-economic problems, improve governance practices and strengthen laws and policies ( African Union, 2009); this provides a key platform for advancing gender equality. The collaborative design of APRM processes allows for improved transparency, greater accountability and good governance (Turianskyi, 2019). This will be critical for achieving Africa's Agenda 2063 and the SDGs (Leepile, 2020).

Gendering democracy, good governance and economic management (Martin, 2013) will strengthen women's participation in political processes. This will ensure improved policy and legal frameworks for all women in their diversity and more importantly, tangible avenues for reporting progress made ( United Nations Development Programme, 2018). The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) estimates an average 19.4 % of parliamentary seats are held by women across Sub Saharan Africa, in line with the world average of 19.3%. This reflects how deeply rooted and global gender disparities are (Madamombe, 2012).

## References

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