



BRIEF



# WOMEN'S INCREASED LEADERSHIP FOR DEMOCRACY IN GEORGIA (WILD)

Women's political empowerment and participation in decision-making is a fundamental prerequisite for gender equality, good governance and inclusive development. Yet women continue to be underrepresented in political and decision-making processes globally—be it as voters, as candidates, in the legislature and in executive government positions. This occurs despite their proven abilities as leaders and agents of change—and despite their right to participate equally in democratic governance.

## FACTS AND FIGURES ABOUT GEORGIA

- In Georgia, women are underrepresented as decision makers in leading positions of power, whether in elected office or public service at both the national and local levels.
- As of 2023, women comprise only 18.8 per cent of the members of Parliament (27 women out of 143), which is the highest percentage of female representation in the legislature in the history of Georgia's independence.
- Women hold only 15.4 per cent of ministerial positions—2 of the 13 ministerial posts (including the Prime Minister).
- Women comprise 30 per cent of public servants and 35 per cent of the first rank managerial positions. The gender gap widens even further when considering the gender balance in top managerial positions: across different public entities, only 13 per cent of heads and deputy heads are female.
- As of 2023, the share of women in local 'sakrebulo' (municipal councils) is 31.4 per cent. Only three women were elected as mayors (5 per cent) as a result of the 2021 local government elections.
- The increase in women's share across national and local legislatures in the latest cycles of respective elections is attributed to the introduction of temporary special measures—legal quotas—to Georgia's Election Code. Yet women's participation in the national legislature remains below the average of 31 per cent for Europe and Central Asia and far from the 50/50 of both sexes which has now been included in the latest Commission on the Status of Women agreed conclusions.

## ABOUT THE PROJECT

The UN Women Georgia Country Office, with the generous support of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), is implementing a four-year action entitled “Women’s Increased Leadership for Democracy in Georgia” (WILD). The project was launched in April 2023 with an aspiration to contribute towards greater gender equality through the increased political empowerment of women, good governance and inclusive development in Georgia. The impact-level goal of the project is to ensure that women and girls in all their diversity fully and equally participate in decision-making and benefit from gender-responsive governance in Georgia. In order to contribute to the achievement of this impact-level goal, the project sets forth two inter-linked outcomes:

**OUTCOME 1:** Women and their organizations in all their diversity are engaged in and influence political life and decision-making at all levels in Georgia.

Under Outcome 1, UN Women strengthens the voice, leadership, capacities and agency of women and their organizations to engage in political life, influence decision-making processes at all levels and advocate for greater gender equality and inclusive development. The project also promotes increased awareness and sensitization of communities (including men), the media and opinion makers about women’s effective roles in leadership and decision-making.

**OUTCOME 2:** Gender equality and women’s meaningful participation and leadership at all levels are promoted through the adoption and implementation of gender-responsive legislative and policy frameworks and practices.

Under Outcome 2, UN Women ensures that national laws, policies and practices are gender-responsive in line with Georgia’s international and national commitments and that they benefit women and men equally

and promote women’s participation and leadership in decision-making in Georgia. The project further ensures that quality data are systematically generated and analysed to promote and track the progress of gender equality and women’s political empowerment

The **key state partners** of the project in Georgia are the Gender Equality Council of the Parliament (GEC), the Inter-Agency Commission for Gender Equality, Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (CGE) under the Administration of the Government of Georgia, the Civil Service Bureau (CSB) and the National Statistics Office of Georgia (GEOSTAT). At the local level, the project will engage with all 64 municipalities across Georgia via partnership with the National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia (NALAG). **Non-state partners** of the project include women’s organizations, in particular civil society organizations (CSOs) and community-based organizations working on gender equality and women’s empowerment, as well as CSOs working on good governance issues in Georgia and political parties.

The **direct beneficiaries** of the project are women and their organizations in all their diversity, gender advocates, experts, activists and aspirants who will deepen their knowledge and capacities to advocate for the increased participation of women in political life and decision-making. Other direct beneficiaries of the project include **public servants** and **members of political parties** (at both the national and local levels), who will enhance their skills and capacities on gender equality and gender mainstreaming as a result of the project. The **ultimate beneficiaries** of the project are all members of society in Georgia who will benefit, in the long run, from gender-equal and inclusive leadership and decision-making and from more transparent, inclusive and gender-responsive institutions and policies at the national and local levels.