



The United Nations Development Fund for Women



Women in International Politics: From Numbers to Influence

EP FEMM Public Hearing
22 June 2006

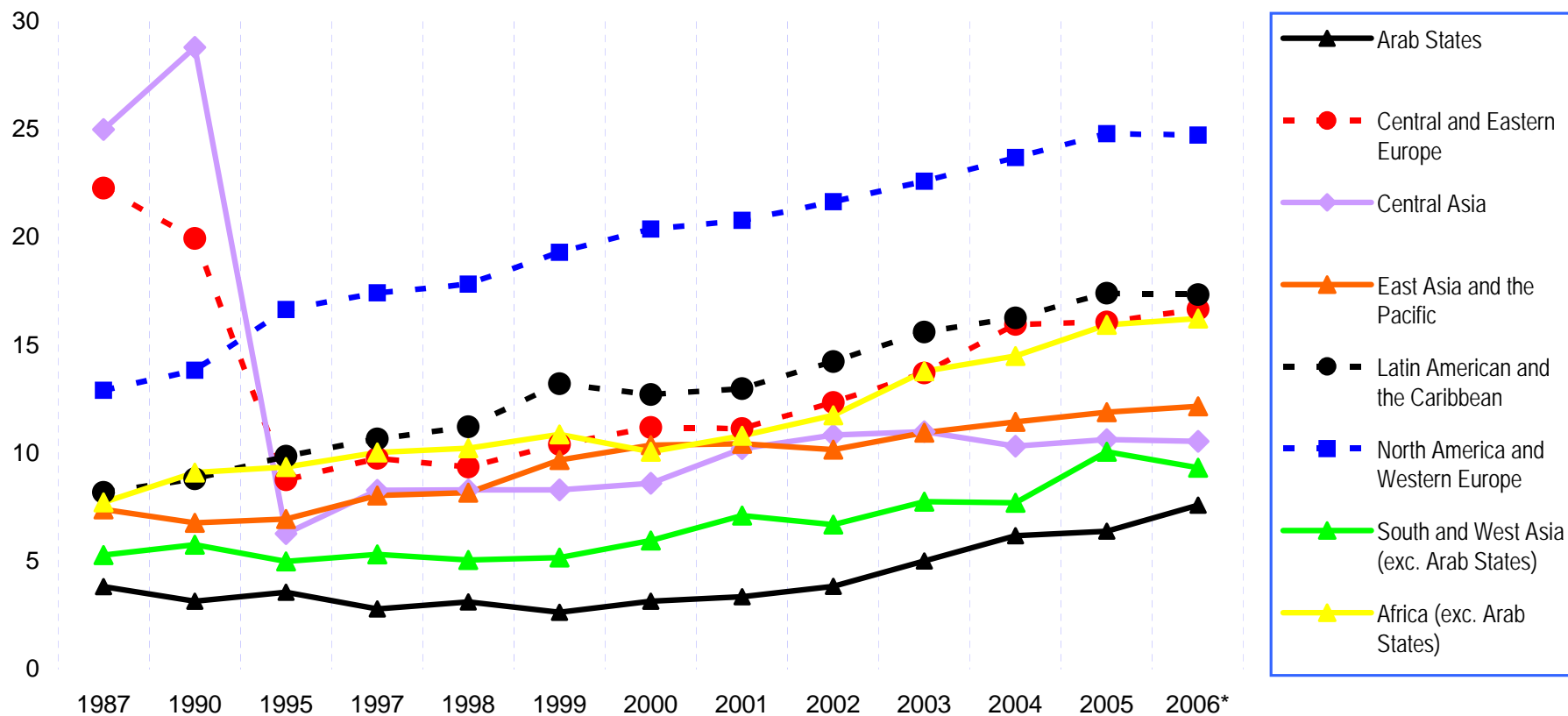
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Progress for women, progress for all

Winning the Numbers Challenge

- International instruments urge women's participation in decision-making (CEDAW, BP4A, SCR 1325) – mainly on the grounds of human rights and democratic justice
- Electoral systems change plus affirmative action to allow for the representation of diversity
- Result: a rising tide. 20 countries (by 2005) with a 'critical mass' of women in office, global averages of women in office up, and more women in local government.

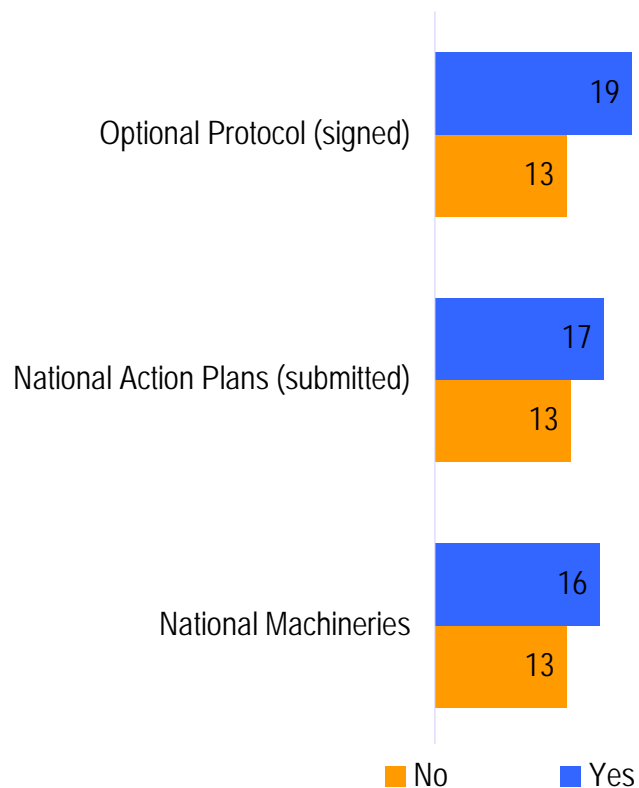
Women's presence in National Parliaments, evolution of regional averages: 1987-2006*



Gender and Good Governance

- Why do we promote women's access to decision-making positions?
- Human rights and democratic justice issue: women's absence from politics is a democratic deficit
- A **governance issue** – a means of promoting gender equality in what states **do**: the **services** they deliver, the **justice** they meet out, the **security** they provide, the **economic** opportunities they create.

Women's presence in national parliaments, CEDAW and the Beijing Platform for Action



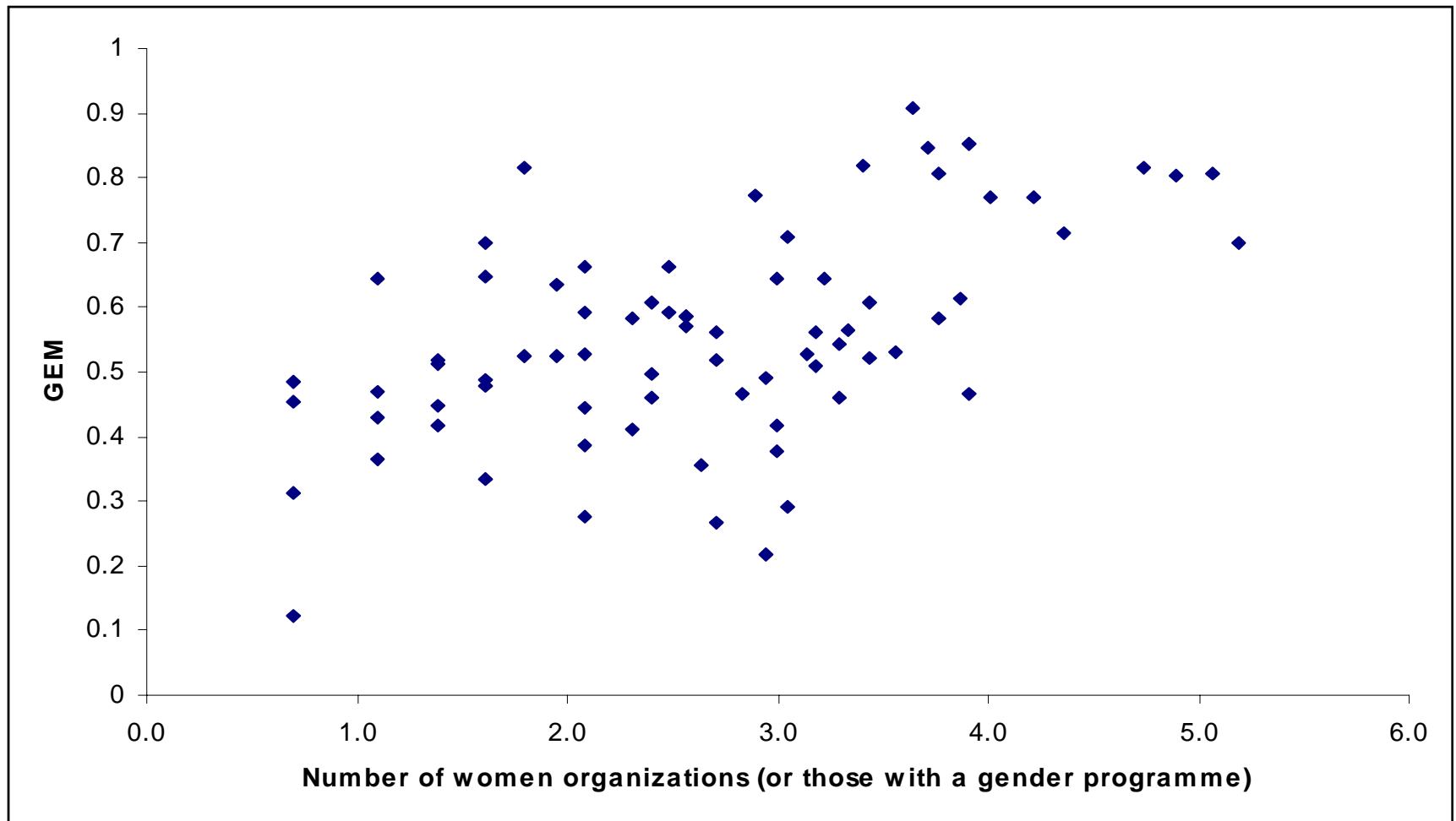
Sources: IPU (website) and DAW (website)

Time to go beyond the numbers

Gender-sensitive good governance depends upon:

- The strength of the gender-equality lobby in **civil society**: do CSOs, the media, business associations etc promote women's rights? Do they scrutinise public authorities and expose violations of women's rights?
- The space for gender equality in **political competition**: Do parties compete for women's votes, for women members? Do they support gender equality policies?
- The **nature of the state**: Welfarist? Developmental? Privatised? Is the state the protector of the public interest or is it captured by private interests?

Number of women organizations and the GEM



Variations in degrees of women's engagement

	Access (consultation)	Formal Presence (NWMs, quotas etc)	Influence/ accountability
Civil Society			
Parties			
The state			

Accountability failures from a gender perspective

- **Capture:** are there gender-specific forms of capture of resources and rights?
- **Bias:** - ‘no remit’ – some public institutions do not acknowledge responsibility to address violations of women’s rights.
- - **unintended:** gender and poverty-specific access barriers that prevent poor women from using accountability systems



Gender-sensitive accountability reforms I: Vertical systems

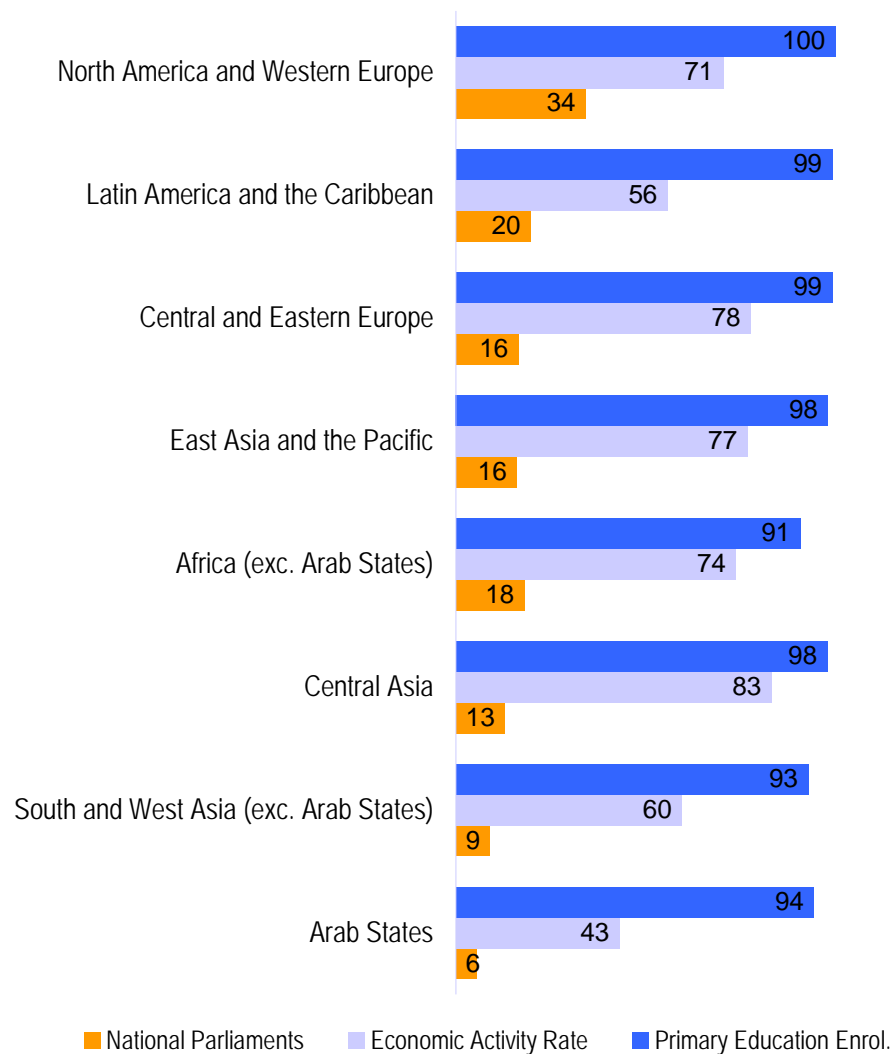
- Where citizens hold the state to account (demand-side):
- **Voting** – electoral systems to enable more women to be elected, and to enable women to use votes more effectively
- **Interest aggregation:** reform of political parties, trade unions, business associations to enable recruitment of women members, cultivation of women leaders, gender-equality on political agendas
- **Public opinion:** media and civil society lobbying

Gender-sensitive accountability reforms II: Horizontal systems

Where state institutions perform mutual watchdog functions (supply-side)

- **Legislatures:** adequate scrutiny of govt. performance from a gender perspective?
- **Public audit:** how have spending patterns affected women and girls?
- **Public sector performance:** do incentive systems, performance measures, results-based management reward service to women?
- **Judiciary:** adequate prosecution of abuses of women's rights?

Gender equality in Education, Economic Activity and Political Participation, 2003





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