

# Beijing Platform For Action and It's Impact on Women in Politics

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# 1995 : The 4th World Conference on Women : Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA)



# Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA)

- The most significant points of BPFA are :
  - the agreement on the importance of Women in the Government Decision Making Process.
  - The participation of women in decision making in government is critical for transparency, **accountability**, and **sustainability of good governance and sustainable development**
    - To use women quota or gender quota in parliament as affirmative action policy to strengthen the women position in politics

# Paper / Presentation Aim

- Aim : to describe about the impact of BPFA on the implementation of women quota in parliament, especially in China and Indonesia
  - To compare China and Indonesia is interesting since both are big countries in Asia, both have similar culture (male dominant culture), but have different political background.
- Argument : BPFA fasten the process of women quota spread globally. Eventhough the implementation got many barrier.

# China – Indonesia Comparison

## China

- Women in Parliament 2013 : 709 from 2924 ( 24,2 %)
- Women quota is implemented by one party system (Communist)

## Indonesia

- Women in Parliament 2014 : 97 from 560 (17,3 %)
- Women quota is implemented by multi party system

# Gender Quota in China

- China is actually one of the earliest nations in the world to adopt gender quotas.
- Already in the Republican period in the 1910s and 1920s, waves of feminist suffrage movements surged, demanding the right for women “to vote and stand for election”
- As a result “women were elected to provincial legislatures”

# History of Women Quota in China

- Equality is the basic norm for communism.
- For the Chinese Communist Party, women's liberation can be achieved only when women "left home and participated in production" because they would then "no longer need to rely on husbands and male family members for survival"
- It was of strategic importance to mobilize women into production area, since the men were drafted to the Red Army

# Mao Zedong :“Women Holding Up Half The Sky.”

- Under Mao Zedong, China’s gender policy was to achieve Mao’s ambitious goal of “women holding up half the sky.”
- in the 1954 Constitution, gender equality is protected constitutionally in China. The Constitution states that :
  - “all citizens of the People’s Republic of China have the right to vote and stand for election.”
  - “women in the People’s Republic of China have equal rights with men in all spheres of life including the political, economic, cultural, social and family spheres”.
- The top-down appointment system, especially its quota measures, guaranteed women’s political inclusion

# Strong Resistance and Opposition toward Gender Quota in China

- Article 9 of the Organic Law of China Village Election in 1998 defines that “there should be an appropriate number of women in each village committee.”
- In practice, “an appropriate number” has become the operating concept in China’s gender policy on women’s political inclusion since the 1990s.
- Such policy discourse has failed to substantially advance women’s share in decision making bodies in China
- The concept of “at least one woman” has gradually been transformed into “only one woman” during the policy implementation process over time

# Women in China Politics

- Women's political inclusion has greatly benefited from various gender-related institutions and policies such as
- The Law of the People's Republic of China on the Protection of Women's Rights and Interests (1992, 2005)
- The Programme for Women Development in China (1995-2000, 2001-2010)

# Women Quota Policy in Indonesia

- In article 55 Law No 8 Year 2012 on legislative election :” The list of prospective candidates as referred to in Article 53 contain at least 30% (thirty percent) representation women”.
- Article 55 state that “In the list of prospective candidates, every 3 (three) candidates, there are at least one (1) women candidate.