

EU-ASEAN

Perspectives Dialogue III

Gender Equality – Progress and
Challenges from an Interregional
EU-ASEAN Perspective

Break-out group 4



IFAIR

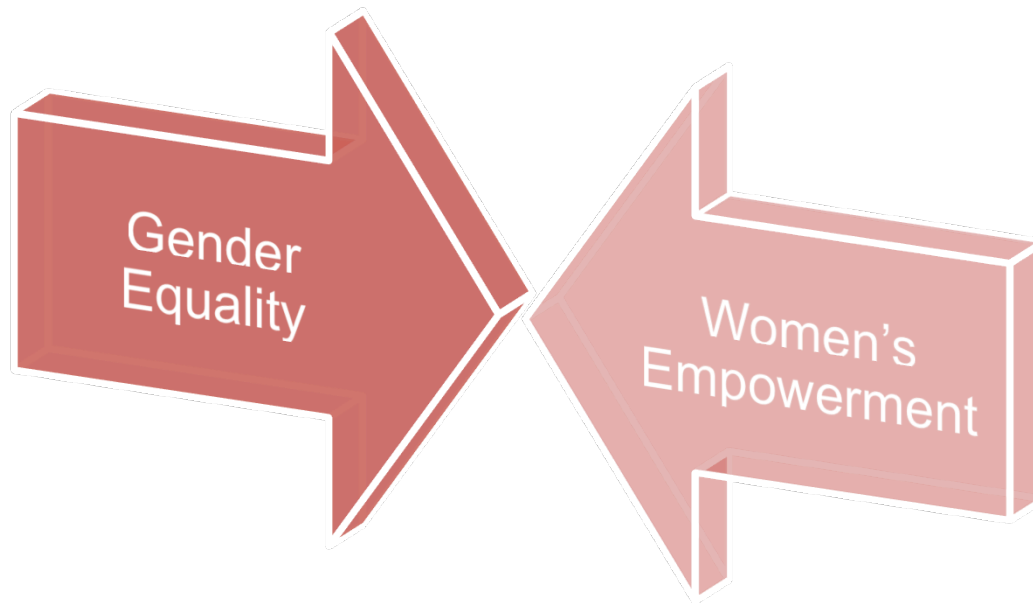
Young Initiative on Foreign Affairs and
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Policy recommendation 1:

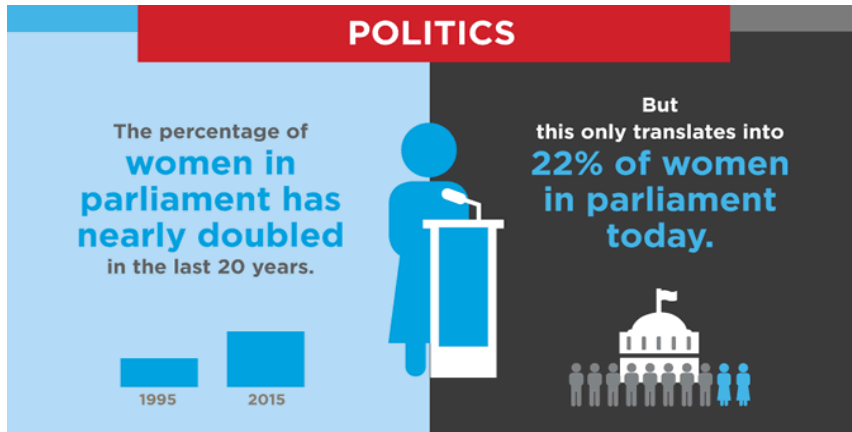
Quota setting to increase women's political participation and representation







Women's Participation in Parliaments



Average percentage of women parliamentarians as per August 2015:

Nordic countries: 41.1%

Americas: 25.5%

Europe excluding Nordic countries: 24.4%

Sub-Saharan Africa: 23%

Asia: 18.4%

Middle East and North Africa: 17.1%

The Pacific: 15.7%
(UN WOMEN)





Other Facts

- As of January 2015, only 17 per cent of government ministers were women, with the majority overseeing social sectors (e.g., education and the family) (UN WOMEN)
- Globally out of 41 countries, 34 had applied some form of quota opening space for women's political participation: 17 use legislative candidate quotas; 6 use reserve seats, and in 11 the parties adopt voluntary quotas (UN WOMEN)
- Countries in Europe have adopted party and legislated quota system while some are without quota. In ASEAN out of 10 Member States, only 3 (Indonesia, The Philippines, Thailand) have quota setting system ("Quota Project", International IDEA et al.)





Why Advocate for Women's Political Participation?

- Women make up 49.55 percent of the world's total population (World Bank) which positions them as half the of the world's power and potentials.
- Presence of women in political office can increase the political system's legitimacy and public confidence in the system.
- Women's political participation can bring more attention to issues that affect women, children and other disadvantaged groups.
- Promoting gender equality is "smart-economics" as women have the tendency to spend on their family and community.
- Women are strongly committed to peace building, as they often disproportionately suffer the consequences of armed conflict.
- Countries where women are supported as leaders have correspondingly low level of corruption.

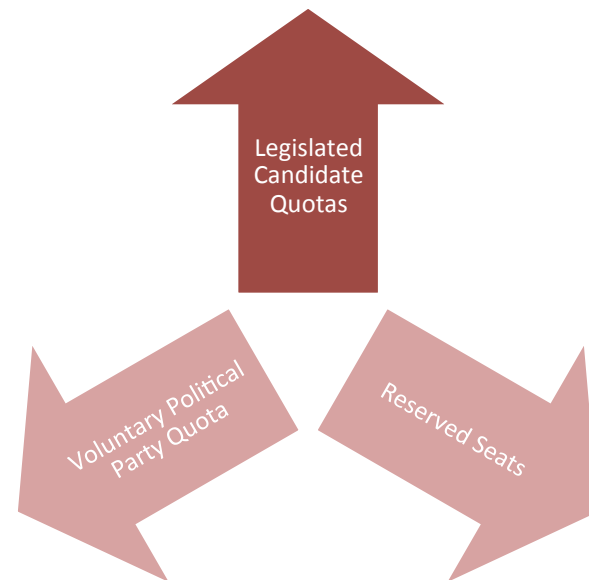




Why Quota Setting?

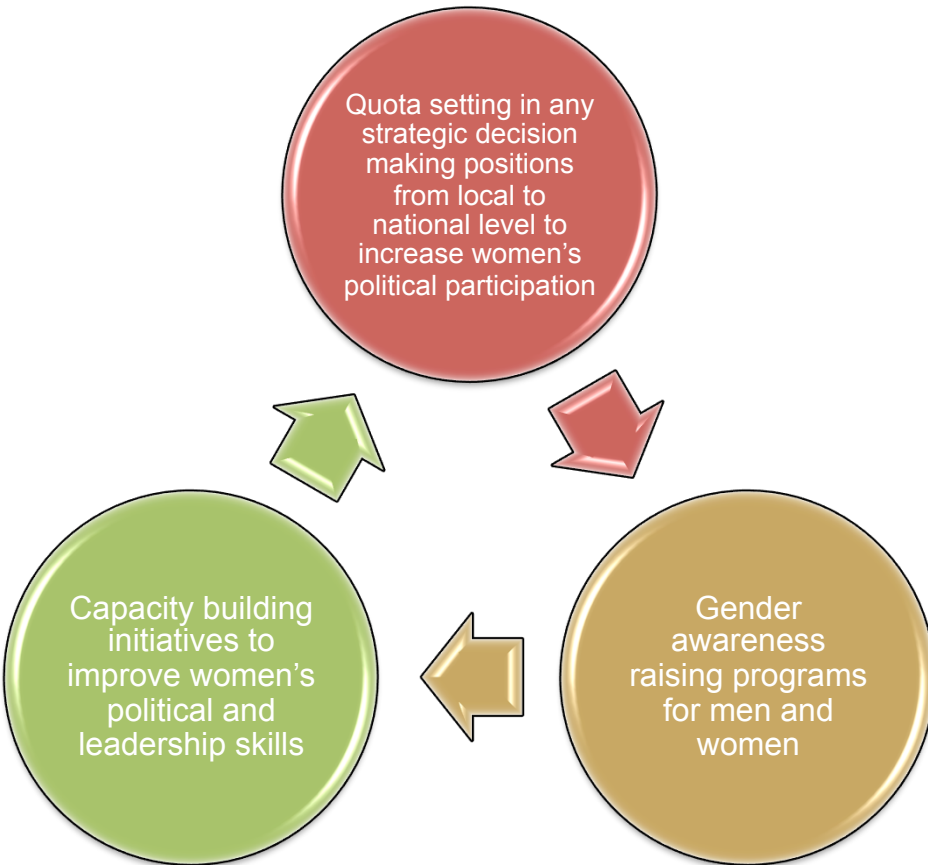
- Affirmative action to safeguard women's political participation and representation is required.
- Quota setting can be an effective affirmative tool if combined with strong sanction system and capacity building initiatives.
- Easy to measure and monitor (quantity-based).

Quota Setting in Parliaments





Policy Recommendation



- ASEAN and EU can collaborate through regular forums to share best practices and challenges in adopting electoral quota system.
- ASEAN and EU can also establish joint initiatives to provide capacity building platforms for women local and national leaders and training/workshops on gender issues in politics for men and women MPs.
- Any joint initiatives can be channelled through ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) and European Parliament.





Policy recommendation 2:

Implement the concept of gender sensitivity as a transnational norm into school curricula





What is the problem & background?

- The structure and content of schooling – textbooks, curricular choices, sex distribution of teachers and administrators, teacher attitudes and behaviors, classroom and discipline practices, and the presence of violence – reflect discriminatory and harmful social norms about the appropriate roles and opportunities for boys and girls. >Traditional stereotypes are the biggest challenge for gender equality in education.
- **Gender sensitization (def.):** modification of behavior by raising awareness of gender equality concerns. > **gender empowerment**

Sources:

- UNESCO (2015). *A guide for gender equality in teacher education policy and practices*. Available at: <http://goo.gl/3hktRS>
- UNESCO (2004). *Gender-sensitivity: a training manual for sensitizing education managers, curriculum and material developers and media professionals to gender concerns*. Available at: <http://goo.gl/3hktRS>





How do we solve it?

- EU:
 - Equinet = European network of equality bodies; recommendations: *Capacity-building seminar about gender equality in education*. 20 May, 2016. Available at: <http://www.equineteurope.org/Seminar-Gender-Equality-in-Education-836>
 - Best practice:
 - Sweden, Government of Sweden (2016). (<https://sweden.se/society/gender-equality-in-sweden/>)
- ASEAN:
 - Best practice:
 - Thailand, World Bank & Ministry of Education in Thailand (2014). (<http://www.worldbank.org/content/dam/Worldbank/document/Gender/Levtov%202014.%20Addressing%20gender%20inequalities%20in%20education.pdf>)





Why does it need to be solved?

- reduction of barriers to personal & economic development created by sexism.
- promotion of respect for the equally valid roles that men and women play in their families, their communities and their nations.
- generation of respect for the individual regardless of sex.





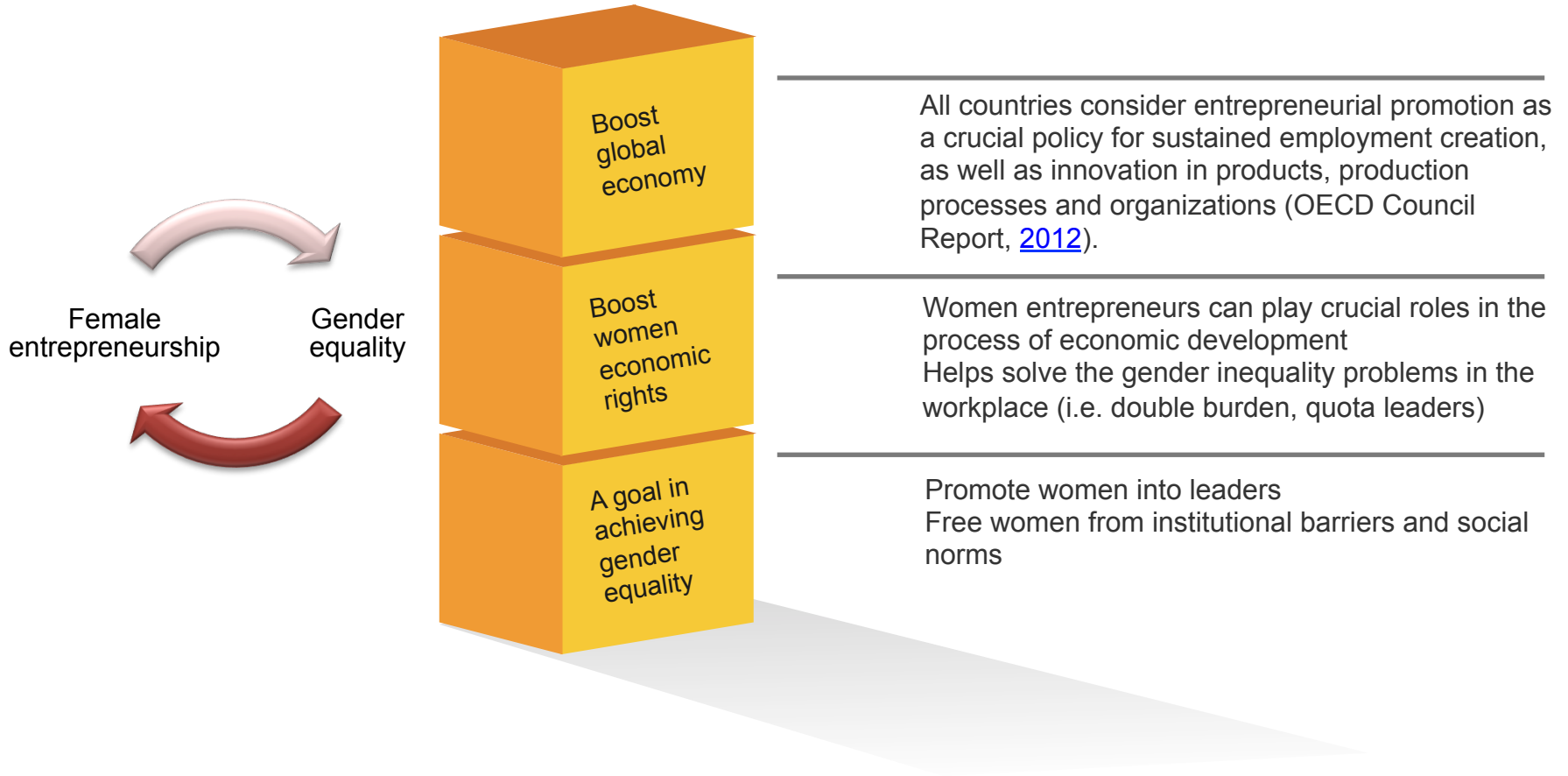
Policy recommendation 3:

**Understanding female entrepreneurship as a mean
and an end in achieving gender equality**



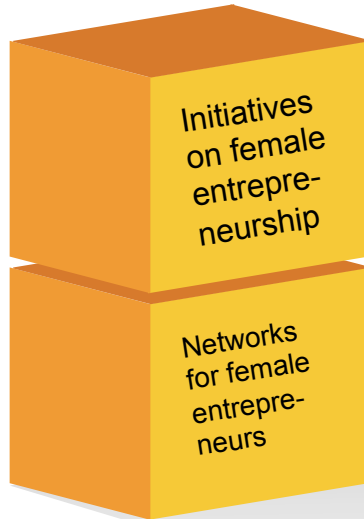


Why is female entrepreneurship important in achieving gender equality?





What has been done?



Strategy Europe 2020, Entrepreneurship 2020 Action Plan, Small business act, Strategy for equality between women and men 2010-2015, ASEAN Gender Responsive Economic Actions for the Transformation of women

European Network of Female Entrepreneurship Ambassadors, European Network of Mentors for Women Entrepreneurs, ASEAN Women Entrepreneurship Network





What hasn't been done well?

Some laws are unclear and there are no or little instruction as to how to practice them.

No specific and comprehensive policy for promoting female innovators/inventors entrepreneurs and women entrepreneurship in STEM

The possibility of creating a political ghetto, or in other words, marginalizing women





Problems faced by female entrepreneurs

Low number of female entrepreneurs compared to men

Women own lower value companies

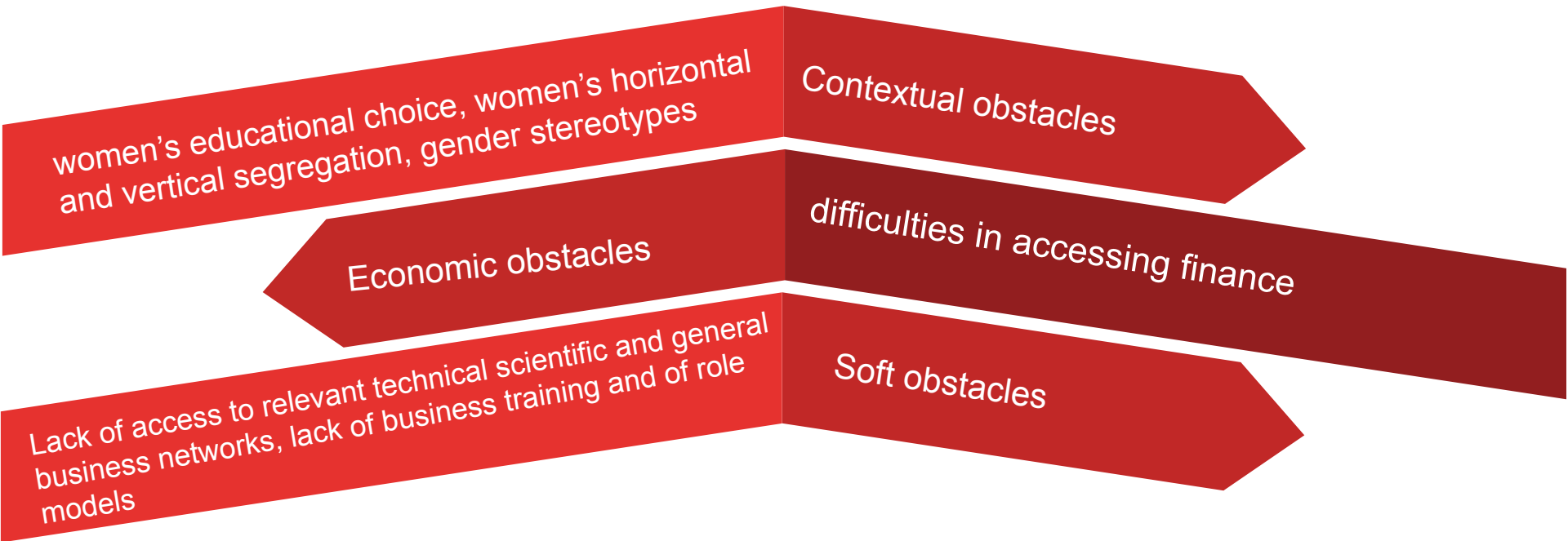
More necessity entrepreneurs rather than opportunity entrepreneurs, especially in ASEAN nations.

Women are forced into entrepreneurship rather than out of free will due to a lack of government intervention in work-life balance





Problems faced by female entrepreneurs





How to reinforce female entrepreneurship?

Gender mainstreaming

- Data accumulation & evaluation
- Revision of EU policies
- Develop systematic policies that are gender-sensitive and consider entrepreneurship in terms of differences, not from a phallogocentric perspective

Increase access

- Information,
- Education (especially in STEM & increase awareness of entrepreneurship from young age)
- Capital
- Networks





How to reinforce female entrepreneurship?

Promote
innovative, high
value startups

- Accentuate and support the role of female entrepreneurs, especially young women, as opportunity businesswomen capable of growing innovative and high value startups, through facilitating access to funds, business consulting, incubators & competitions

Horizontal
desegregation

- Support Cross-overs of necessity entrepreneurs into Male-Dominated Sectors



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Thank you for your attention!

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