

STATEMENT FROM UNITED NATIONS COUNTRY TEAM IN GHANA

'NO MANEL' CAMPAIGN

Despite the progress made on national gender policy and ratifying all relevant international instruments on gender equality, results on gender equality in Ghana show a mixed pattern.

In the traditional governance structures, queen mothers have a presence, as part of the National House of Chiefs, and they play a role in the decision-making process at the traditional council's level. However, in other governance structures, particularly, political structures, women are still underrepresented.

According to UNWOMEN (2020), women in Ghana held only 14.6% of the seat in the national parliament and 3.8 per cent of the proportion of the elected seat in deliberative bodies of local government. Whereas women constitute an important part of the Cabinet, women are still either not represented or underrepresented on panels constituted to discuss relevant national issues. At events such as workshops, seminars, or symposiums, the situation is not different. In other domains and areas of work, the presence of women, especially in key leadership and strategic conversation continues to remain less-than-desired - a challenge that ought to be addressed. Our belief is that, by acting on this with intentionality and commitment to ensure women are represented on any panel of discussion and on decision-making bodies, this will be a key contributor to realizing this important equality target.

In response to the continued routine absence of women at relevant national deliberative meetings and in a raft of processes where women's voices matter, the United Nation System in Ghana, under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator and supported by the United Nations Gender Team (UNGT), is boldly stepping up to initiate a 'No manel' Campaign – Say No To All-Male Panels.

THE PLEDGE

I do hereby pledge that I will ensure the representation of qualified women in all UN-organised events and processes (Including, but not limited to workshops, procurement and recruitment panels and other decision-making panels). I will also work actively to influence external stakeholders to intentionally include women in all their panels and processes as we continue to strive to leave no one behind.

Mr. Charles Abani
UN Resident Coordinator for
Ghana



All male panels (MANELS) in strategic conversations, public events, in selection, procurement and other decision-making processes across our operations needs to stop. We are therefore instituting the 'No Manel' campaign. The #NoManel campaign supports women's representation as part of a move to ensure women representation in conferences, meetings, and decision-making processes in the UN in Ghana.

On September 8, 2021, as part of the Annual Retreat for United Nations Country Team in Ghana, leaders (heads of Agencies, Programme leaders and Operations Heads) took a 'No Manel' pledge to say NO to all forms of male-only panels constituted by the United Nations.

Our #NoManelPledge is a diversity pledge to encourage and influence the inclusion of women and girls in speaking engagements in all public discussions where women have not traditionally been part of the panel. Taking this pledge means officials of the UN in Ghana will actively promote and only participate in panels where women and girls are appropriately included – as experts, not just facilitators and moderators. This will be expanded to ensure other marginalized groups – especially persons with disability and young people are also active participants.

This is a pledge to reaffirm our support for the participation of women in decision-making processes to ensure we reap the benefit of collective decision-making. To this end, we call on all United Nations Staff in Ghana to ensure that qualified women are represented at meetings and processes organized and convened by the UN – moving forward. This will ensure that we are 'walking the talk' and helping towards the achievement of the SDGs, especially SDG 5.

In the coming weeks, the UN will work to engage external stakeholders - including the government - to drive the 'No-Manel' Campaign more broadly at the national and local levels.

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