Infographic
Women’s role in Nepal’s constitution-making process (2008-2012)

BACKGROUND ON NEPAL’S CONSTITUTION-MAKING PROCESS (2008-2012)
The First Constituent Assembly, elected in 2008, was the key mechanism for implementing the Comprehensive Peace Agreement between the Government of Nepal and the Maoist armed group. It was tasked with establishing a new set of principles to govern Nepal, including the drafting of a new constitution. It did not succeed in adopting a new constitution before it expired mandate expired in 2012, but a Second Constituent Assembly eventually adopted a Constitution in 2015.

WOMEN’S INFLUENCE

WOMEN’S ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE PROCESS

- Women contributed to securing a 33% quota for women in the Constituent Assembly, until 2007 women had never comprised more than 6% of parliamentarians (by taking part in the elections as candidates, as members or civil society organizations, and as activists for women’s representation in the Constituent Assembly).
- A March of 10,000 rural women in the Kathmandu Valley influenced some of the political parties to adopt a gender equality agenda.

DURING THE CONSTITUTION-MAKING PROCESS, women’s organizations and networks managed to include a provision that prohibited discrimination based on gender, age, or marital status (even though their activities became fragmented afterward).

WOMEN’S QUOTAS IN THE PROCESS

- Women’s representation was low overall. Women making up 22% of total members of the Constituent Assembly.

- During the drafting committee, the number of women present in all 11 thematic committees comprised less than 30%.

WOMEN’S ACHIEVEMENTS

- 17 out of 523 negotiators as a result of quota system.
- Women present in all 11 thematic committees.

FACTORS ENABLING WOMEN’S INFLUENCE

- Women’s representation in the Constituent Assembly.
- Women’s organizations actively participated in mass protests that brought down the governments of 1990 and 1996 and in demonstrations pushing for women’s inclusion in politics.

FACTORS CONTRAINING WOMEN’S INFLUENCE

- Resistance from the major political parties.
- Lack of participation from women in the selection process for the Constituent Assembly.
- Exclusion of informal decision-making practices.
- Discrimination and violence toward women.

This infographic is based on a case study published by the Inclusive Peace & Transition Initiative (IPTI) as part of the series “Women in Peace and Transition Process” that analyzes the conditions under which women participated in and influenced peace, political reform, and constitution-making processes worldwide. To discover more infographic and our case study series, visit our website: www.inclusivepeace.org