

**Work Session on Gender Statistics
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ROLE OF WOMEN AND MEN IN DECISION MAKING PROCESSES

Paper submitted by Albania¹

Introduction

Albanian Women has had few opportunities for participating in the decision making in the political life of the country during 20th century.

Seeing the statistical data of 1920-1928, the Albanian Parliament has not any woman member of the parliament. It can be explained with the extreme conservatism and patriarchalism of Albanian society. Albanian woman has been mainly considered as a mother and housewife only till 1944. Elements of an open and emancipated society have existed in some social groups of the big towns of that time only. Very few educated women in the neighbor countries were teachers. In these circumstances it is difficult the active participation of women in the policy of the country to be imagined.

- In the period 1945-1990, although in the framework of a dictatorship and centralised economy, women had the equal rights with men according to the law; they have the right to vote, to work and to be member of any organisation. These rights didn't exist before. The Communist Party in power provided them through its forums. The illiteracy (in more than 90% for women) was eliminated and a big number of educated women was created. Women were present mainly as a labour force. They had the equal salary for the same work with men. The half of students of the University were girls. Also, they took an active participation in the political life of the country non imagined before the Second World War.
- The difficult historical and political development of Albania till the second part of the century XX didn't leave any space for the participation of women in the political life. There was not any woman in the first Parliament of Albania after Second World War, in other high

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position, too. 94% of women were illiterate. All her public activities were included in few associations created by some educated women returned from the emigration during years 20-30ties.

- Patriarchalism and extreme backward low cultural level have isolated the woman from the political life. According to the statistical data of that time, except on women dealing with agricultural work, in all the other strata only 668 women worked. In the first decades after the war (1950-1960), the position of women was changed very much, respectively in the employment, the elimination of the illiteracy, her education, the raising of her cultural level, her participation in the social and political life, and the state welfare. The woman won the right to vote and she was equal with the men according to the law.
- The number of women in the Parliament in that period was increased in likeable levels. The highest number of women among members of Parliament was 33% in 1974 and 1/3 of the Parliament in 1989 were women. Although, a concrete progress of women in this period, compared with her position of the before war, the influence of her in the public life was very limited. New political and social conditions established after the overthrow of dictatorship regime created the opportunity for a new political role of woman.
- According to constitution 1998 women enjoy the same political, social, economic and cultural rights like men. An significant index of a consequent development of democratic transformations in Albania toward women is the fact our country has ratified the most of international conventions on women rights in particular and for human rights in general, including them within Albanian legislation.
- But the legal sanction of some women rights doesn't mean the equality a priori between women and men. The Equality «de jure» must be returned in equality «de facto». Albanian reality and statistical data shows a visible non-conformity between legal rights and their implementation. Actually, Political parties, government and decision making, in general, are remained mainly the domain of men. The problem of the low participation of women is complex for many reasons.

The policy is perceived by women as a complicated field

Political life is characterized by the concurrence who will control the power.. This complex nature of politics, including the elements of conflict, makes the woman to be reserved toward political life. All the more the Albanian political life recently is very harsh and creating an unfriendly environment for women. These characteristics offer more opportunities for a better participation of men compared with women in this struggle. The necessity to be engaged in these endeavors, that are not often developed according to democratic rules (the keeping of secret, intimacy, equality) make women to hesitate and to be drawn from the participation in the political life.

Cultural tradition, Education

A simple fact that women represent the half of population and they are the main educators of the young generation, is enough to justify the indispensability of their active participation. The statistical data explain that in the Albanian society an anachronistic opinion exists yet that men are «more able» to participate in the political and public life, in the government and the decision making

and women are considered more as an object than as a subject of the power, except for the fact that their educational level is the same. The restrained inheritance for women, the lack of a democratic tradition, the passivity of civil society and the relatively low emancipation of women, impose the withdrawal of women from the politics.

The building of institutions

The institutions are not set up on the base of gender equality and/or to respect this principle. The formalism of the law for the questions of equality, practical activity of the institutions don't favor that women to really in the decision making.

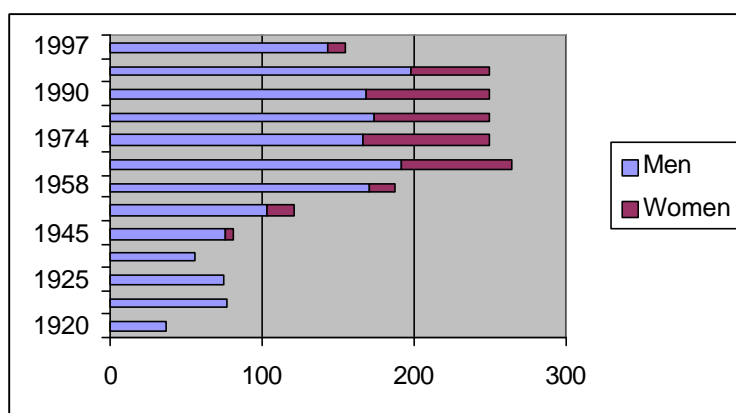
In the following tables there some statistical data in reference to participation of women and men in the decision making processes. These data are referred to these divisions:

1. Parliament
2. Government
3. Local Government
4. Court of different levels
5. Political parties
6. Universities
7. Business

1. Parliament

Composition of Parliament since 1920

<i>Years</i>	<i>Number</i>		<i>Percentage</i>	
	<i>Women</i>	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Men</i>
1920	0	37	0	100
1921	0	78	0	100
1925	0	75	0	100
1928	0	57	0	100
1945	6	76	7	93
1950	17	104	14	86
1958	17	171	9	93
1970	72	192	27	73
1974	83	167	33	67
1982	76	174	30	70
1990	81	169	32	68
1991	51	199	20.4	79.6
1997	11	144	7	93



<i>Position</i>	<i>Number</i>		<i>Sex distribution (%)</i>	
	<i>Women</i>	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Men</i>
Head of Parliament	0	1	0	100
Spokesperson of Parliament	1	1	50	50
Chairs of parliamentary Commissions	1	13	7	93
Chairs of parliamentary Sub/Commissions	1	1	50	50
Chairs of parliamentary Groups	0	6	0	100

Elected to Parliament by Party, June 1997

Number and sex distribution (%)

<i>Party</i>	<i>Number</i>		<i>Proportion (%)</i>	
	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>
Socialist Party	97	9	92	8
Democratic Party	22	1	96	4
Social Democratic Party	9	1	90	10
Other Party	16	0	100	0

Parliamentary Commissions , June 1997

*Number and sex distribution
(%)*

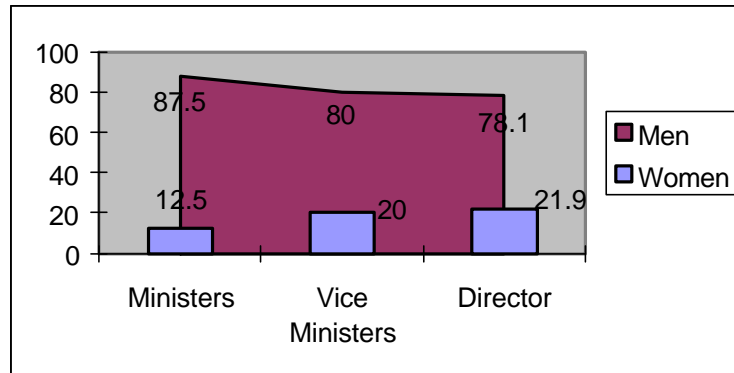
<i>Commissions</i>	<i>Number</i>		<i>Proportion (%)</i>	
	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>
Justice	12	1	92.4	7.6
Foreign Affairs	11	0	100	0
Economy, Finance and Privatisation	13	2	87	13
Agriculture and Food	10	0	100	0
Industry, Transport, Public Works and Trade	11	0	100	0
Education, Culture, Science and Sport	9	1	90	10
Public Information	10	0	100	0
Human Rights and Minority	6	1	85.8	14.2
Health and Environment	8	1	89	11
Labour and Social Affairs	11	2	84.7	15.3
Defence	9	0	100	0
Public Order	9	0	100	0
Immunity, Mandate	11	0	100	0

2. Government

Composition of Government , January 2000

*Number and sex distribution
(%)*

<i>Position</i>	<i>Number</i>		<i>Proporti.</i>	
	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>
Prime Minister	1	0		
Deputy prime Minister	0	1		
Ministers	14	2	87.5	12.5
Vice Ministers	16	4	80	20
Director	82	23	78.1	21.9



3. Local Administration

Elected Local Administration, October 1996

*Number and sex distribution
(%)*

Position	Number		Proporti.	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
Prefects	12	0	100	0
Mayors	62	3	95.4	4.6
Head of District Council	34	2	94.5	5.5
Head of Commune	308	1	99.68	0.32
Members of Municipal Councils	886	61	93.6	6.4
Member of District Councils	866	64	93.2	6.8
Members of Commune Councils	3443	105	97.1	2.9
Secretary of District Councils	33	3	91.7	8.3
Secretary of Municipal Councils	56	9	86.2	13.8
Secretary of Commune Councils	295	14	95.5	4.5

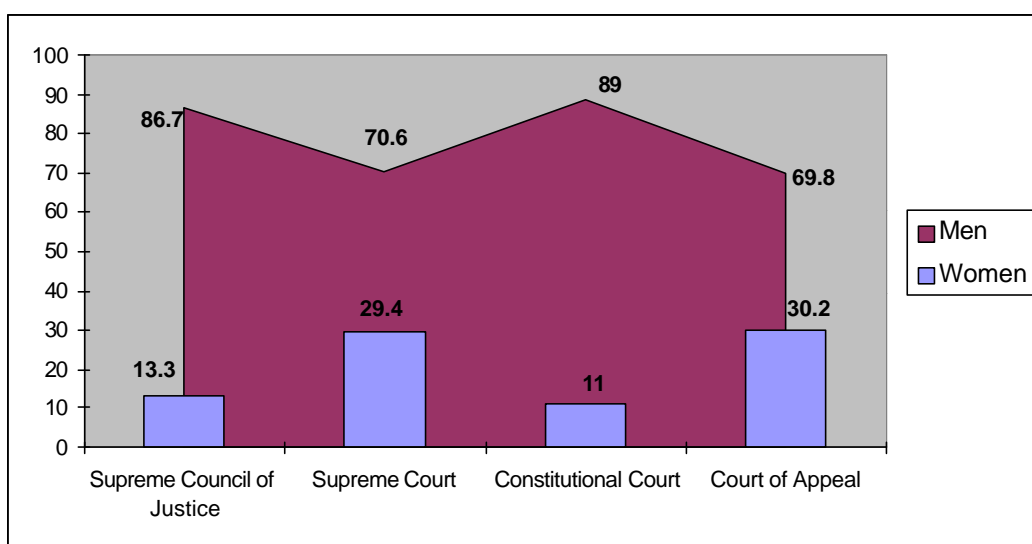
4. Justice

January 2000

<i>Position</i>	<i>Number</i>	
	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>
Head of Supreme Court	1	0
Head of Constitutional Court	1	0
Head of Court of Appeal	4	2

*Number and sex distribution
(%)*

<i>Position</i>	<i>Number</i>		<i>Proportion (%)</i>	
	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>
Member of Supreme Council of Justice	13	2	86.7	13.3
Member of Supreme Court	12	5	70.6	29.4
Member of Constitutional Court	8	1	89	11
Member of Court of Appeal	30	13	69.8	30.2



5. Party

Chairpersons by party, January 2000

Number

<i>Party</i>	<i>Number</i>	
	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>
	1	
Socialist Party	1	
Democratic Party	1	
Social Democrat Party	1	
National Front	1	
Legality Party	1	
Republican Party	1	
Demo-Christian Party	1	
Agrarian Party	1	
Democratic Alliance	1	

University

At present there are in Albania 11 Universities and higher education establishment whereas until 1991 there was only one university and seven Higher Education Institutes (Teaching, Agriculture, Arts, Physical Education). The increase in the number of Universities is due to the fact that some previously higher education institutes were granted the status of university. In December 1999, elected the Universities' managers.

Elected to Universities by post and by sex (December 1999)

Number and sex distribution

(%)

<i>Position</i>	<i>Number</i>		<i>Proportion (%)</i>	
	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>
Rector	8	1	89	11
Deputy Rector	7	2	78	22
Dean	29	7	80.6	19.4
Deputy Dean	10	3	77	23
Members of Senate	151	38	80	20
Member of Faculty Councils	345	150	69.7	30.3
Chief of Department	102	32	76.2	23.8
Elected members of Department Councils	299	149	66.8	33.2

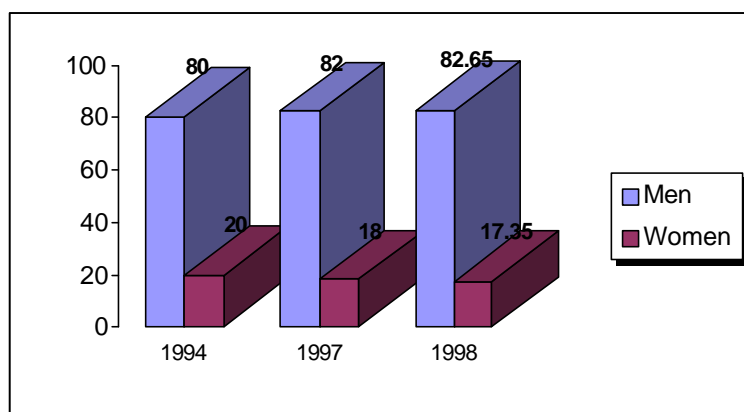
Business

Regarding the development of women undertakings, the participation of women in the economic life of the country is low. In private business, women managers are few (18%). The main economic activity in which women are involved is trade and services. This low participation of women has brought a low unemployment rate, mainly of the age group over 35 years old. The average salary of a women, in all sectors and in all levels, is about 80-85% of a male salary.

Number of Managers by years

*Number and sex distribution
(%)*

<i>Years</i>	<i>Number</i>		<i>Proportion (%)</i>	
	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>
1994	26100	6868	80	20
1997	47854	10772	82	18
1998	46653	9800	82.65	17.35



Number of managers by sex and economic sector (1998)

*Number and sex distribution
(%)*

<i>Sector</i>	<i>Number</i>		<i>Proportion (%)</i>	
	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>
Trade	22651	6485	78	22
Transport	8239	159	98.1	1.9
Services	7344	2511	74.6	25.4

Number of managers by sex and size of company (1998)

*Number and sex distribution
(%)*

<i>Company</i>	<i>Number</i>		<i>Proportion (%)</i>	
	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>
Small Companies	35339	8181	81.21	18.79
Medium Companies	9743	1633	85.65	14.35
Large Companies	773	54	93.5	6.5