





# Synopsis

**Tinuade Adekunbi Ojo** 

*Centre for Race, Gender and Class  
University of Johannesburg   
Johannesburg, South Africa*

**Omosefe Oyekanmi** 

*Institute for Pan-African Thought and Conversation (IPATC)  
University of Johannesburg   
Johannesburg, South Africa*

## Introduction

The participation of women in governance plays a crucial role in fostering democratic, egalitarian, and sustainable societies (Agbalajobi, 2010; Simbine & Oyekanmi, 2025). Despite this, data consistently demonstrates that women's representation in leadership positions across Africa remains below parity (Brookings, 2023; UN Women, 2025). While some countries, such as Rwanda, Kenya, and South Africa, have made notable strides in increasing female political representation, gender disparities persist across various economic and political sectors (IMF, 2023). This disparity exists notwithstanding the implementation of global, regional, and national policies aimed at promoting women's rights and ensuring their equal participation in political and economic spheres). According to the 2021 report, Africa's female political representation stands at just 24%, highlighting the ongoing need for targeted interventions (International IDEA, 2021). Factors such as entrenched patriarchy, lack of political will, and restrictive electoral frameworks continue to hinder progress towards gender parity in governance. Addressing these barriers requires concerted efforts from governments and development organisations to empower women and enhance their access to political leadership (Sadie, 2015).

This book conceptualises women's political participation as an inclusive and transformative process. It brings together key debates on policy approaches to women's political involvement, showcasing research and contributions from scholars and experts across Africa. The volume explores significant themes related to gender policies and African states' efforts to address political and economic challenges that influence budget allocations for women-centred programmes and initiatives. Contributions within the book adopt a gender policy-focused approach, offering insights into the structural and systemic factors affecting women's political empowerment.

Africa is a continent characterised by rich cultural and historical diversity, and in recent years, the political landscape has witnessed a growing presence of women in leadership roles. In Rwanda, for example, women hold the majority of parliamentary seats, a transformation driven by post-genocide policies prioritising gender inclusion. Similarly, Kenya's constitutional reforms have paved the way for greater female representation, exemplified by the election of Martha Karua as the first woman to run for deputy president in 2022. From presidents and prime ministers to cabinet ministers and parliamentarians, African women have increasingly assumed positions of influence, contributing to governance and national development (Sadie, 2015). This shift has introduced new perspectives, fresh ideas, and a more balanced approach to decision-making processes.

Likewise, the increasing presence of African women in governance is a testament to their resilience, determination, and commitment to driving meaningful change. Consider Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Africa's first elected female head of state, who led Liberia through post-war reconstruction, advocating for women's rights and economic stability. Historically marginalised and excluded from political spaces, women in Africa have challenged these societal norms, defied stereotypes, and surmounted various obstacles to establish their presence in leadership. Their participation not only enhances governance structures but also redefines traditional gender roles in politics.

## *Synopsis*

One of the most significant achievements in this regard is the rising representation of women in parliaments and cabinets across the continent. Many African countries have adopted affirmative action measures and gender quotas to guarantee a minimum level of female representation, resulting in steady progress in political inclusion. These reforms have enabled women to play a more active role in legislative and policymaking processes, advocating for issues that directly impact their communities.

African women leaders have been at the forefront of various social, economic, and political initiatives, championing gender equality, education, healthcare, poverty alleviation, and sustainable development. For example, Malawi's former President, Joyce Banda, prioritised maternal health and women's economic empowerment, demonstrating the tangible impacts of female leadership. Their lived experiences uniquely position them to address these pressing issues and implement policies that reflect the needs of women and marginalised communities. Furthermore, their leadership has extended beyond national boundaries, with African women engaging in regional and international negotiations, advancing peacebuilding, conflict resolution, and regional integration. This is also reflective in their collaborative and empathetic approach to governance, which has earned respect and recognition domestically and globally.

Beyond their individual roles, African women in governance serve as role models and sources of inspiration for younger generations across the continent. Their achievements send a powerful message about the possibilities available to women in political leadership, breaking barriers and motivating future leaders to challenge gender-based limitations. By occupying positions of power, they continue to reshape narratives, dismantle patriarchal structures, and advocate for a more inclusive and equitable society.

In conclusion, the increased participation of African women in governance marks an important transformation in the continent's political landscape. These dynamic leaders

have shattered barriers, defied conventional gender norms, and demonstrated their capabilities as effective policymakers and changemakers. Their contributions span multiple sectors, addressing critical social and economic issues, fostering collaboration, and paving the way for future generations of women leaders. The journey of African women in governance is a powerful testament to their resilience and commitment to shaping a more inclusive and progressive future for Africa. African women's leadership is central to advancing societies, driving inclusive development, and ensuring sustainable governance. Given its profound impact, the role of women in governance demands urgent intellectual attention, policy action, and scholarly engagement to further accelerate gender equity and political transformation across Africa.

### ***Rationale for African Women in Governance: Policies and Stakeholders' Participation***

The empowerment of African women in governance is essential for achieving inclusive leadership and sustainable development across the continent. Considering that governance refers to the processes, structures, and institutions through which authority is exercised, decisions are made, and policies are implemented to manage public affairs, **African women in governance** is the inclusion, leadership, and influence of women in these governance systems across the continent. It involves their participation in political offices, public administration, policymaking, and decision-making processes at local, national, and regional levels.

Recognising this, policymakers have introduced various legal frameworks and initiatives to promote gender equality and increase women's representation in decision-making spaces. Additionally, the role of stakeholders, including governments, civil society organisations (CSOs), international bodies, and the private sector, is crucial in effectively shaping and implementing these policies. These discussions highlight the significance of policy interventions and stakeholder engagement in advancing African women's leadership in governance while identifying

## Synopsis

key initiatives, persistent challenges, and recommendations for progress.

This is premised on the fact that women bring diverse perspectives, experiences, and leadership styles that contribute to more comprehensive, equitable, and effective policies. By increasing women's participation in governance, African countries can harness their expertise, foster economic growth, and address social challenges more holistically.

The African Union's *Agenda 2063* (AU, 2013), which outlines specific targets for women's leadership, have implemented legal mandates to ensure women's representation in political leadership. For instance, Uganda and South Africa have successfully introduced gender quotas that have significantly increased women's political representation. Such strategies create pathways for women's leadership and help normalise their presence in governance. These measures provide a strong foundation for institutionalising gender parity in governance, guaranteeing a minimum percentage of women in legislative bodies, political parties, and public administration; however, many countries are still below the global average. Despite significant progress, African women in governance continue to face multiple barriers, including deep-seated gender biases, cultural stereotypes, and structural inequalities. Limited access to financial resources, inadequate institutional support, and restrictive societal norms hinder women's ability to compete for leadership positions on an equal footing.

Therefore, sustained progress in women's governance participation requires continuous investment in leadership development and capacity-building initiatives. These programmes help to bridge the knowledge gap and empower women to engage confidently in governance processes. The empowerment of African women in governance is a critical component of sustainable development and inclusive leadership. By implementing gender-responsive policies, engaging key stakeholders, and addressing systemic barriers, Africa can create an enabling environment for women's meaningful participation in decision-making. Achieving gender equality in governance

will not only benefit women but also contribute to the broader social and economic development of the continent.

In sum, this book seeks to highlight the significance of empowering African women in governance by examining existing policies, legal frameworks, and stakeholder involvement while highlighting the critical role that women play in fostering effective and inclusive leadership. It provides a platform to raise awareness about the barriers that women encounter in accessing leadership positions and decision-making roles, addressing systemic challenges and societal biases that persist.

A thorough analysis of policies and legal frameworks is essential to understanding their influence on women's political participation. By assessing their strengths, limitations, and areas for improvement, this book offers insights and recommendations for enhancing gender-responsive policies that promote women's empowerment and equitable representation in governance. Given the key role of stakeholders such as governments, civil society organisations, international bodies, and the private sector, this book explores their contributions to policy development, implementation, and advocacy efforts. It also emphasises the importance of collaborative approaches in establishing an enabling environment for women's active participation in governance.

Furthermore, the book showcases success stories and best practices that demonstrate the transformative impact of inclusive policies and stakeholder engagement. This book contributes to the existing body of knowledge by providing a comprehensive analysis of governance structures, legal provisions, and participatory mechanisms that support women's leadership. It serves as a valuable resource for researchers, scholars, policymakers, and practitioners, offering evidence-based insights into the experiences, challenges, and achievements of women in governance.

Ultimately, this book aspires to empower future generations of women leaders by encouraging them to pursue careers in politics, public administration, and governance. Recognising the necessity of diverse voices in shaping policy

and decision-making, it emphasises the importance of gender-inclusive leadership. By critically examining current realities, sharing impactful narratives, and proposing practical solutions, this book contributes to the broader goal of achieving gender parity and fostering inclusive governance. Such that, together, we can build a future where women's leadership is not merely an ambition but a tangible reality.

## **Structure of the Book**

*African Women in Governance: Policies and Stakeholders' Participation* presents the assumptions, narratives, and institutions that support the key concepts of women's political participation, policies and stakeholder participation in Africa. In contemporary times, there has been notable emphasis on the involvement of women in governance and the importance of decision-making across Africa. Even so, despite the compelling rationale for women's active participation through processes and several factors, they remain limited in their political engagement. This poses a great challenge to many African countries striving to attain gender parity and ensure that there is meaningful inclusion for women in making political decisions. The several challenges confining women include deep-rooted gender stereotypes, religious influences, and prevailing socio-cultural norms, which perpetuate the patriarchal framework and limit women's empowerment. In addition, at the core of these impediments lies an entrenched patriarchal system which traditionally assumes that men are the main authoritative power in charge of all public decision-making. The themes identified in this book serve as a guide in the compilation of women's role in governance in different parts of Africa and the state-specific profiles on different national approaches to policies for women's governance. The main objective of this volume is to understand different processes that explore the significance of stakeholder participation, including governments, civil society organisations, international bodies, and the private sector, in promoting women's representation and influence in governance. It will also emphasise the need for collaborative efforts to create an inclusive and supportive environment for women's

participation. The book further highlights success stories and best practices in women's participation in governance that can inspire others and demonstrate the positive impact of inclusive policies and stakeholder engagement. By showcasing examples of effective strategies, this book will provide inspiration and practical insights for policymakers, activists, and individuals passionate about promoting gender equality in governance.

The book *African Women in Governance: Policies and Stakeholders' Participation* is an important contribution to the growing body of scholarship that examines the intersection of gender, governance, and development in Africa. Rooted in contemporary socio-political and economic realities, this work interrogates the multifaceted roles, challenges, and opportunities for African women in governance structures across the continent. With a thematic focus spanning political representation, governance and development, political party dynamics, intersectionality, and social policy, the book offers a comprehensive and nuanced perspective on gender and governance.

### **Thematic Focus and Structure**

The book is structured into four thematic areas, each shedding light on critical dimensions of women's engagement in governance. These themes provide a cohesive framework for analysing policies and stakeholder participation, emphasising theoretical insights and practical applications.

#### **1. Women and Political Representation (Chapters 1 to 6)**

The opening thematic area delves into the critical issue of women's political representation. This section interrogates the barriers and facilitators of women's access to political office, analysing the efficacy of gender quotas, electoral reforms, and grassroots mobilisation efforts. Case studies from across the continent illustrate the varying degrees of success in achieving gender parity in political institutions. The chapters emphasise the importance of political representation to ensure that

women's voices influence policy decisions, fostering inclusivity in governance.

**2. Women's Participation in Governance and Development (Chapters 7 to 11)**

Building upon the foundation of political representation, this thematic area explores the broader participation of women in governance and its implications for sustainable development. It highlights the transformative potential of women's leadership in addressing critical issues such as poverty alleviation, education, healthcare, and climate change. This section draws on empirical data to showcase how women leaders have redefined governance paradigms and prioritised development agendas that align with the lived realities of marginalised populations.

**3. Political Party Dynamics (Chapter 12)**

Chapter 12 shifts the focus to the internal dynamics of political parties and their impact on women's participation in governance. Political parties are analysed as gatekeepers of power, with their structures and ideologies either enabling or hindering women's inclusion. The chapter explores strategies adopted by women to navigate and influence party politics, such as the formation of women's wings and alliances, and the role of political party policies in promoting gender equity.

**4. Gender and Social Policy (Chapter 13)**

The final thematic area examines the intersection of gender and social policy, analysing how governance structures influence and are influenced by healthcare, education, labour rights, and social protection policies. This chapter emphasises the role of female policymakers in crafting and implementing gender-responsive policies that address systemic disparities. It also explores the role of civil society and international stakeholders in advocating for and supporting social policy reforms. Chapter 14, the conclusion of this book, *African Women in Governance: Policies and Stakeholders' Participation*, is a reflective synthesis of the key insights and themes explored throughout the chapters.

## **5. Contribution to Scholarship and Practice**

This book makes a significant academic and practical contribution to the field of gender and governance studies in Africa. First, it fills a critical gap by offering a comprehensive, multidisciplinary analysis of African women's roles in governance and policymaking. Second, it provides actionable insights for policymakers, civil society actors, and international organisations seeking to enhance women's participation in governance structures. The book bridges the gap between academia and practice by combining theoretical rigour with empirical case studies.

Moreover, the book's intersectional approach ensures that it captures the diversity of African women's experiences, making it a valuable global resource for researchers and practitioners. It challenges dominant narratives that homogenise African women's experiences and instead highlights their agency, resilience, and contributions to governance and development.

*African Women in Governance: Policies and Stakeholders' Participation* is essential for understanding the interplay between gender, governance, and development in Africa. By addressing critical themes such as political representation, governance participation, party dynamics, intersectionality, and social policy, the book advances academic discourse. It provides a road map for enhancing gender equity in governance. This work is poised to inspire further research, advocacy, and action towards inclusive governance systems that reflect the aspirations and rights of African women.

## **Breakdown of Chapters**

### **Theme 1: Women and Political Representation**

The first chapter, written by Tinuade A Ojo, *An Overview of African Women in Governance: Policies and Stakeholders' Participation*, provides a foundational framework for understanding the complexities of African women's involvement in governance. It explores the overarching theme of African women in governance, focusing on policies and stakeholder

participation as critical tools for empowerment and inclusion. Drawing on interdisciplinary perspectives, the chapter examines the historical context and how policies and multi-stakeholder approaches have influenced women's political representation and their broader role in governance and development.

Chapter 2, on the other hand, explores the view of Olajide Oladeji et al.'s notion of "You Belong to the Other Room": Women and Gendering Democratisation in Africa". According to them, democracy is not only conceivable in terms of democratic institutions but also by citizenship rights, participation and inclusion. Thus, democratic processes must engender equal power distribution and influence between various social groups, especially men and women. Consequently, the empowerment of women and the establishment of gender equality are crucial to democracy.

Chapter 3 focuses on Parliamentary Female Representation and Party Candidate Selection Methods in Zambia by Biggie Ndambwa and Aaron Siwale, debating the chapter that explores the extent to which centralised and decentralised party selection methods contribute to this continued trend and suggests ways of averting the problem in Zambia.

In Chapter 4, Refilwe Motseta and TA Ojo debate the notion of "the Nexus between Women's Gender Quotas and Political Representation: A Comparative Analysis of South Africa and Rwanda". The chapter examines the relationship between gender quotas and women's political representation in South Africa and Rwanda, two African countries that have adopted different approaches to increasing female political participation. The chapter analyses how gender quotas have influenced the number of women in political office, the effectiveness of these quotas in achieving gender parity, and the broader socio-political factors that contribute to women's political empowerment. By comparing the experiences of South Africa and Rwanda, the chapter identifies key lessons for other countries seeking to enhance women's representation in political spheres. The results yield significant insights into the trajectories of South African and Rwandan economies regarding

women's effective political representation and the importance of further research into gender economic policies affecting these economies.

In Chapter 5, Tafadwa Maruma et al. debate “Women’s Political Representation and Participation in the Eastern Cape Provincial Legislature: Prospects, Consequences, and Implications”. According to them, women’s participation in political and decision-making processes has come under the spotlight because of the under-representation of women locally, nationally, and globally in the political arena. Men continue to dominate the political playing field to the detriment and disadvantage of other marginalised groups such as women and young people. Their findings highlight the gender parity in South Africa. While South Africa has, over the years, made substantial strides in the implementation of quotas to encourage women’s involvement in politics nationally, there is still a gap and inequalities in the field of local government in which women are marginalised and excluded from politics.

Chapter 6 narrates Omosefe Oyekanmi, Kafilah Gold and Antonia Taiye Simbine’s debates on “The Gender Equality Bill (GEB), Political Chauvinism and the Quality of Women’s Representation in Nigerian Politics”. The chapter examines the GEB in Nigeria, focusing on its implications for women’s quality representation and the challenges posed by political chauvinism. It highlights the resistance faced by the Bill, rooted in cultural and religious arguments, which reflect entrenched patriarchal norms shaping societal attitudes towards gender roles. The discussion also situates the GEB within the broader context of African women’s struggles for meaningful representation in governance, emphasising the shared challenges and opportunities across the continent.

### **Theme 2: Women’s Participation in Governance and Development**

Chapter 7 presents Alison Zuva and Paul Mushonga’s notion of achieving SDG 5 in the Fourth Industrial Revolution through women’s participation in politics and economic change in

Africa. Both argue that the Fourth Industrial Revolution allows Africa to redefine and expand the landscape of women's inclusion, empowerment, and participation in politics and the economic sphere.

Chapter 8 explores Zainab Olaitan's submission to the African Union and the Development of a Continental Gender Quota in Africa. She states that gender quotas have proven to be useful in correcting the unequal gender participation in politics while ensuring the increased presence of women in politics. And even though most African countries have gender quotas in whatever form, some countries do not see a need for such commitment, which calls for an intervention. Hence, the chapter presents facts on how the African Union can weaponise gender quotas to ensure increased participation of women in African politics. She argues that it is not enough for countries to pledge that they will ensure increased participation of women in politics; the AU needs to take the front line in implementing practical instruments to achieve this aspiration.

Chapter 9 presents Lesego Louisah Mosweu and Tinuade Adekunbi Ojo's opinion on "African women's land rights struggle in traditional societies". The chapter explores how traditions have directly and indirectly excluded women from acquiring, owning, and transferring land. The findings stipulate that tradition impedes women's access to land. An example of a harmful traditional practice is the male primogeniture rule, which exacerbates women's exclusion in society by marginalising women during land transfers.

Chapter 10 highlights Lauren Lifongo's "Enhancing Women's Participation in Democratic Governance in Sierra Leone" and examines the state of women's participation in democratic governance in Sierra Leone. To do so, the article explores explicitly the Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Act of 2022, which seeks to integrate women in decision-making, an important element in line with the UN SDG No. 5, aimed at achieving gender equality by 2030. For this reason, it ponders whether the procedural implications of the 2022 Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Act will have a concrete impact on women's participation in democratic governance and future elections in the country. Using an explanatory, qualitative method and secondary data revealed that Sierra Leonean women's political participation in democratic governance continues to be affected by deep systemic socio-economic and political factors, despite their involvement in electoral processes.

Chapter 11, presents Beauty Shiviti's research on the underexplored role of women leaders in promoting accountability and combatting corruption within local governance, focusing on the Ekurhuleni Municipality - one of Gauteng's most corruption-affected areas. Despite progress in women's political representation, their impact on governance remains unclear. Drawing on qualitative interviews with 20 stakeholders, the study evaluates how women's leadership has influenced transparency and ethical practices since 2021. It offers critical insights and policy recommendations to strengthen accountability mechanisms, contributing to broader debates on gender and governance in South Africa.

### **Theme 3: Political Party Dynamics**

Chapter 12 addresses Vusi Gumbi's theme on "Gender and Age Demographics: The Qualitative Decline of the ANC." According to him, women in the ANC have not been viewed as intellectuals, theorists or nationalists despite having shaped the movement's history. They have continuously been reduced to figureheads such as 'Mother of the Nation' or 'Mother of the Liberation Struggle'. The chapter argues that while the decline of the party can be attributed to two things, the atrophied state of the party, and specifically its patriarchy and ageism, has been a contributing factor. Patriarchy and ageism have made it impossible for the ANC to be a vibrant institution through which there is an emergence of a leadership that is intellectually astute, morally above reproach and professionally grounded, with a thorough grasp of governance.

#### **Theme 4: Political Leadership Response on Gender and Social Policy**

Chapter 13 analyses Cecy Balogun and Omosefe Oyekanmi's view on the "Gender Dimensions of COVID-19 and Social Policy in sub-Saharan Africa". Their chapter examines the gender dimensions of the COVID-19 pandemic and the social policy measures put in place to mitigate the impact of the disease in selected countries (Burkina Faso, Malawi, Uganda and Ethiopia) in sub-Saharan Africa. The chapter reveals that as a governance strategy, women's access to social policy interventions to mitigate the shocks of the pandemic was minimal compared to men. Given that women are more exposed to the vagaries of the disease, they recommend that governments in the SSA should upscale women's access to social benefits to ensure their lives and livelihoods are protected from the impact of the pandemic.

Chapter 14 by TA Ojo and Omosefe Oyekanmi focuses on further academic interest in African women in governance and the overall conclusions of the book. It is a reflective synthesis of the key insights and themes explored throughout the chapters. It highlights the progress, challenges, and future directions for women's participation in governance across Africa, emphasising the transformative impact of their leadership and the policies that have facilitated or hindered their rise to power.

#### **Methodology**

The methodology for the book *African Women in Governance: Policies and Stakeholders' Participation* employs a qualitative and quantitative research approach integrating primary and secondary data sources. This dual-method strategy is essential for exploring the complex and nuanced themes of women's roles in governance across Africa, capturing empirical evidence and theoretical perspectives. The research is structured around four thematic focuses: Women and Political Representation (Chapters 1-6); Women's Participation in Governance and Development (Chapters 7-10); Political Party Dynamics (Chapter 11); and Gender and Social Policy (Chapters 12 and 13). Each

thematic focus is investigated using methods tailored to its specific objectives while maintaining coherence across the book.

### **Primary Data Collection**

Primary data was collected through semi-structured interviews and focus group discussions with key stakeholders, including female political leaders, policymakers, civil society actors, and grassroots community representatives. These methods allow an in-depth understanding of participants' lived experiences, challenges, and perspectives. For instance, interviews with women legislators and activists are central to Chapter 4, providing firsthand insights into barriers to political representation. Similarly, focus group discussions with women's organisations enrich the chapter by elucidating the dynamics of governance and development from diverse viewpoints.

### **Secondary Data Collection**

Secondary data was gathered through a comprehensive review of existing literature, including academic articles, policy documents, and reports from international organisations, NGOs, and African Union institutions. This approach ensures a robust theoretical and contextual foundation for the research. For Chapters 1 to 6, and 13, secondary data was utilised to analyse trends in women's political representation across African countries. In Chapters 7 to 10, policy documents and development reports provided context for understanding women's contributions to governance and development initiatives.

In Chapter 11, the analysis of party manifestos and historical records complemented primary data, offering insights into the evolution of political party dynamics. Chapter 12 incorporated secondary sources to evaluate the effectiveness of existing gender and social policies, linking them to broader development goals using charts and tables.

## Justification of Methodology

The qualitative approach was particularly suited to the book's objectives because it emphasises depth and contextual understanding, aligning with the need to explore complex socio-political phenomena. The use of primary data ensured the inclusion of marginalised voices often absent in secondary sources, thereby addressing gaps in existing literature. Conversely, secondary data provided the necessary historical and comparative perspectives, allowing the chapter to situate contemporary issues within broader socio-political and policy frameworks.

This integrated methodology is consistent with established research practices in governance and gender studies (Creswell, 2014;), ensuring credibility and richness of data. By triangulating primary and secondary sources, the research achieves methodological rigour, fostering a comprehensive analysis of African women's roles in governance.

The methodology adopted was qualitative research, and primary and secondary data was presented. to narrate the book to further present the several significant themes and African states' efforts to address the political and economic factors influencing budget allocation to women-oriented programmes and projects in African communities. Contributions to the book adopt a gender policy-centric approach to each contributed theme.

## References

- African Union. (2013). *Agenda 2063: The Africa we want – Overview*. African Union. [Online]. Available at: <https://au.int/en/agenda2063/overview> [Accessed: 12 September 2025].
- Agbalajobi, D. T. (2010). Women's participation and the political process in Nigeria: Problems and prospects. *African Journal of Political Science and International Relations*, 4(2), 75–82

## African Women in Governance

- Brookings. (2023). *African women and girls leading a continent*. Brookings Institution, 8 March 2022. [Online]. Available at: <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/african-women-and-girls-leading-a-continent/>
- Creswell, J. W. (2014). *Research design: Qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods approaches*. (4<sup>th</sup> ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
- International IDEA. (2021). *Women's Political Participation: Africa Barometer 2021*. Stockholm: International IDEA. <https://doi.org/10.31752/idea.2021.21>
- International Monetary Fund. (2023). *Digitalization and gender equality in political leadership in Sub-Saharan Africa* (IMF Working Paper No. 2023/122). IMF. [Online]. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.5089/9798400245039.001>
- Morojele, N. (2024). Women's representation in African parliaments: Progress and persistent gaps. *Societies*, 14(1), 23. MDPI. Available at: <https://www.mdpi.com/2075-4698/12/1/23>
- Sadie, Y. (2015). African women in political decision-making – “A voice that still remains a whisper”. In: Echle, C. & Sarmah, M. (eds.) *Women, policy and political leadership*, pp: 65–75. Singapore: Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Ltd.
- Simbine, A. T. & Oyekanmi, O. (2025). Contemporary trends in African elections (2013–2023). *African Journal of Inter/Multidisciplinary Studies*, 7(1), 1–15. <https://doi.org/10.51415/ajims.v7i1.1635>
- UN Women. (2025). *South Africa B-30 Report*. UN Women. January 2025. [Online]. Available at: [https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2025-01/south\\_africa\\_b30\\_report\\_en.pdf?utm\\_source](https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2025-01/south_africa_b30_report_en.pdf?utm_source)
- UN Women. (n.d.). *Women's leadership and political participation in Africa*. UN Women Africa. [Online]. Available at: <https://africa.unwomen.org/en/womens-leadership>