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DRC ELECTIONS 2006 – Women in Politics

Today, 12 percent (60 out of 500) of the parliamentary members in the Democratic Republic of the Congo are women (source: Inter-Parliamentary Union).

For the upcoming elections, focus has been put on the inclusion of women in politics. During the first half of this year, women have been preparing for the elections through workshops, training and discussions with central actors such as the DRC Independent Electoral Commission and the United Nations Development Fund for Women.

Both the electoral law from March 2006 and the Constitution from February 2006 have articles where the equal representation of women and men are being emphasized.

Article 13 in the Electoral Law recommends that the candidate lists are established under consideration for women's representation. The recommendation is that it should be an equal representation for women and men. But the article ends with the statement that if this equality between men and women is not reached, the list is not to be annulled.

International IDEA material:

The implementation of Quotas: The African experience Quota Report Series

Ch. 6, pp 120-123 – Doris Mpournou: **“Women's Participation in Peace Negotiations: Discourse in the Democratic Republic of the Congo”**

www.idea.int/loader.cfm?url=/commonspot/security/getfile.cfm&pageid=7841

Links to the DRC Independent Electoral Commission (in French):

www.cei-rdc.org/

Links to the two articles (in French) on the electoral commission's Web site concerning women's preparation for the upcoming elections.

www.cei-rdc.org/article.php3?id_article=71&var_recherche=femmes

www.cei-rdc.org/imprimer.php3?id_article=85

www.cei-rdc.org/article.php3?id_article=75&var_recherche=femmes