

The role of Civil Society in Gender Equality

1. Mobilising and creating alliances: The role of civil society UNDP REGIONAL FORUM ON “EQUAL PARTICIPATION IN DECISION-MAKING” Istanbul, November 15-17, 2011 Cécile Greboval EWL Secretary General
2. The voice of European Women } The largest umbrella organisation of women’s associations in the EU, with more than 2500 member organisations: } 30 National Coordinations } 21 European-level member organisations
3. } The EU has been an important actor in promoting equality between women and men, especially concerning employment } 5 EU Member States have legal quotas /parity system (Belgium, France, Spain, Portugal and Slovenia) } In about 16 EU countries some political parties have voluntary quotas Continued...
4. } EU level: no binding measures to ensure the equal representation of women and men within the EU institutions } Quotas for economic decision-making in Norway, Iceland, Spain France and Belgium
5. Activities within the EWL 50/50 Campaign (2008-2009) } More than 60 Campaign events in 22 countries! } Petition, Facebook group, website, media work } Gender audit of political parties in view of the European elections
6. Activities within the EWL 50/50 Campaign } More than 300 prominent women and men from all over Europe and all political affiliations support the Campaign: 14 EU commissioners, heads of state, ministers, members of parliaments, leaders of trade unions, writers, a Nobel Prize winner etc .
7. 2009 European Elections results (1) } Now 35% women in the EP } progress compared to about 30% at the start of 2004-2009 legislative period } In all Member States except 2, more women in the EP than in national parliament
8. Demonstration for EU Top Jobs
9. Conclusions A lot of work to be done to reach democracy! } Use different strategies to reach out to different actors – find allies } Important role of political parties } Make sure parity system fits with political system } Use momentum } Adapt discourse