

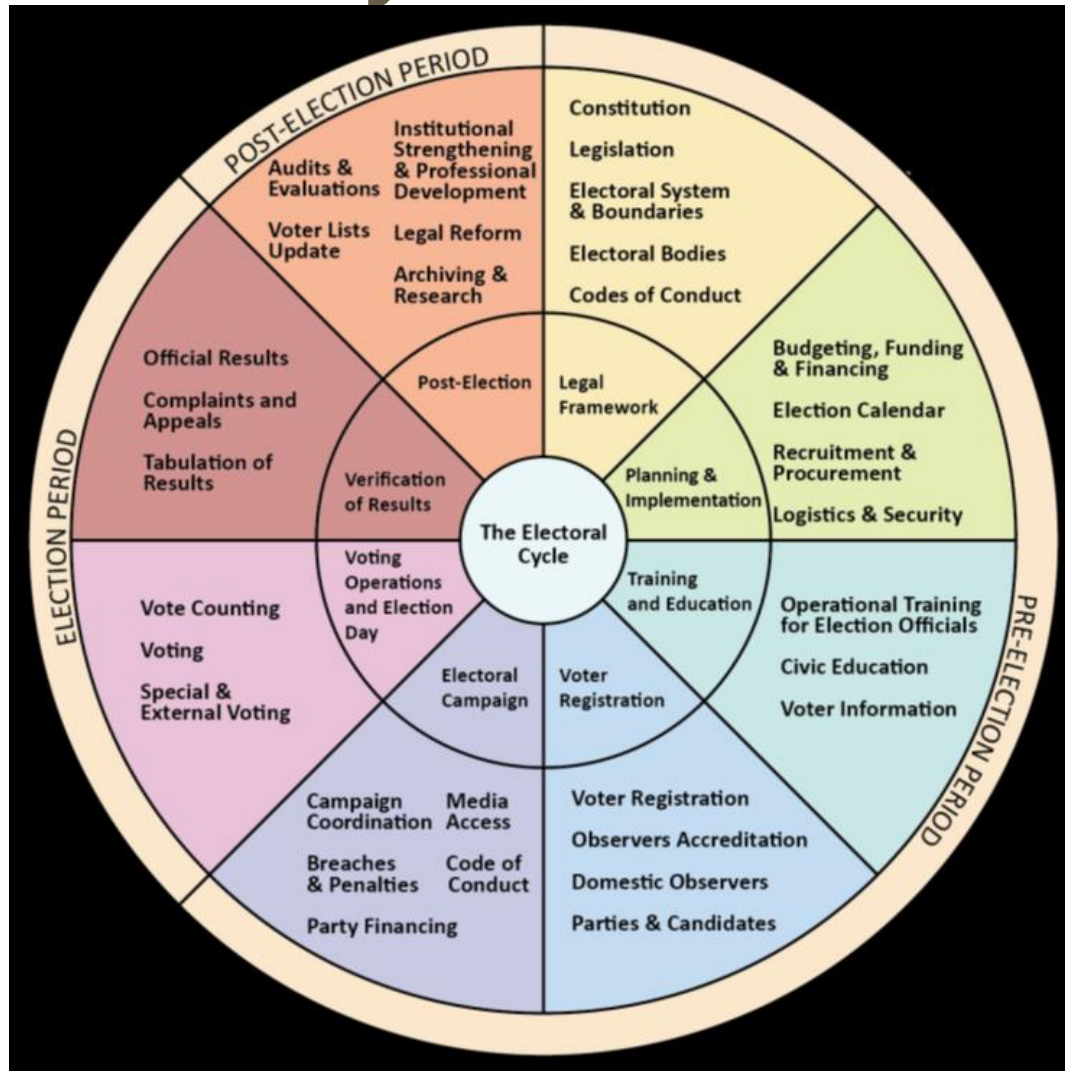
# Women Discourses in Post Conflict elections

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# Conflicts in election Processes

- Elections globally are conflict ridden because they involve struggle to take over state power
- Election conflict arise where the competitors are dissatisfied with election results due to processes embedded in the total election cycle
- Women globally are affected differently due to dominance of men in political spaces
- Men constitute the majority of those who decide who enters political spaces or who is out through their gate keeping role in political parties.
- Lets walk through the election cycle in order to establish what constitute post election conflict discourses from women's point of view

# The Election Cycle and Conflict

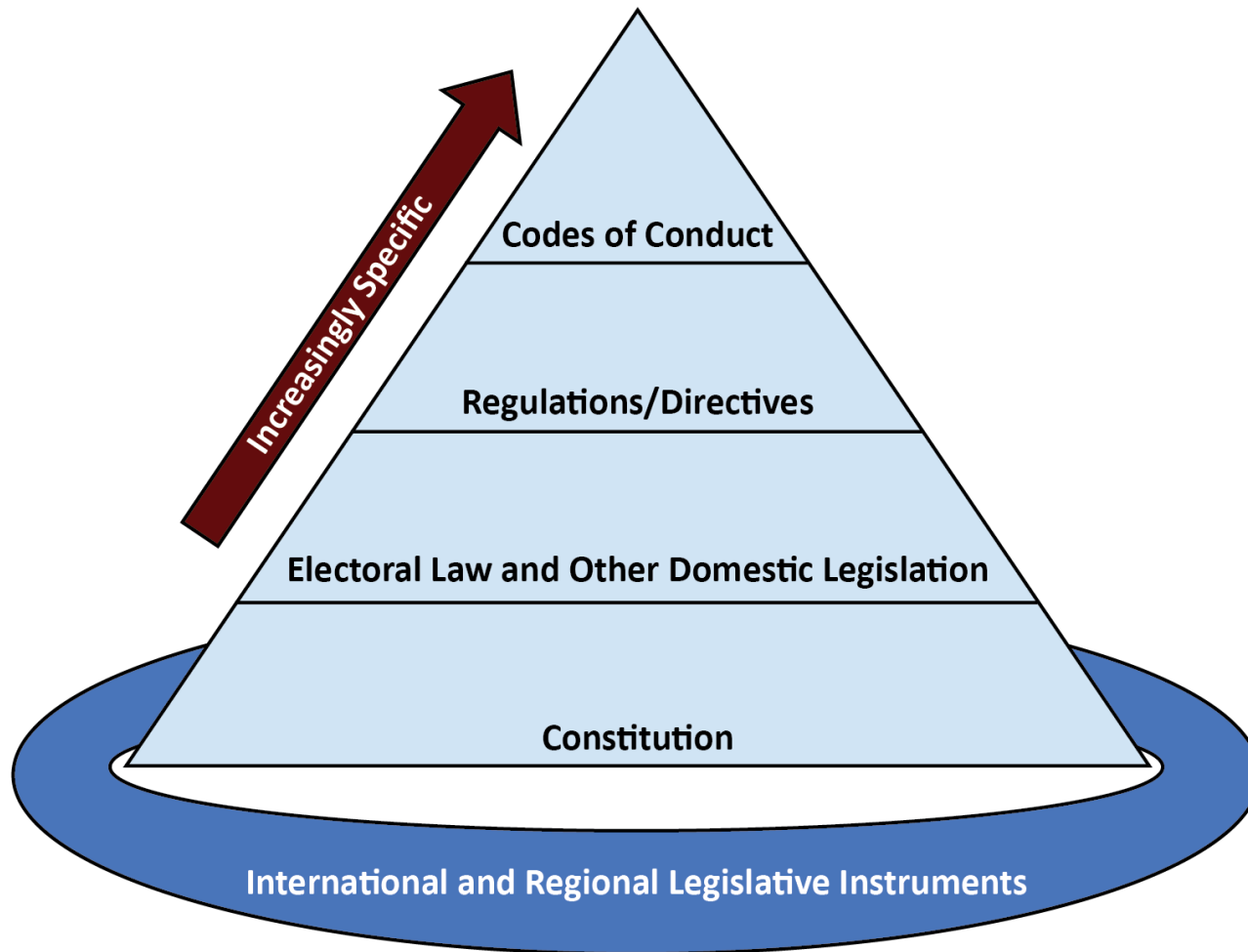


# Preparatory stage

## Legal framework

- The term refers to all relevant legislation and regulatory documents related to elections. Specifically, the “legal framework for elections includes the applicable Constitutional provisions, the electoral law as passed by the legislature and all other laws that impact on the elections.”<sup>4</sup> The legal framework governs all stages of the electoral cycle and can therefore have far reaching implications on the degree to which women are treated on a non-discriminatory basis and are fully able to participate in the electoral process

# Legal frameworks



# Conflict Issues emerging from legal framework

- Constitutional provisions which outlaw politics of discrimination ( there could be claw back clauses)
- Legal provisions for affirmative clauses and how they are implemented ( some have discriminative provisions e.g.. Tz)
- Election finance law which does or does not provide clauses necessitating use of election funds to supporting women and other politically excluded groups
- Election codes of conduct which are silent on matters related to GBV as well as sextortion
- Election management bodies which are not guided by gender responsiveness in managing elections e.g.
  - Recruitment of election personnel ( application of gender equality principles)
  - Registration of voters ( issues of timing)
  - Civic education ( covering issues of GBV, etc. )
- Demarcation of constituencies ( sensitivity to accessibility)

# Management of elections

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# Election Campaign

- The financing campaigns rules, laws which are insensitive to financial gender gaps in accessing campaign resources including government subsidies
- Time table ( allocation of spaces and time which does not take into account the care roles and women's time poverty)
- Allocation of air time in public owned media outlets which are not responsive to gender specific constrains which women face in accessing media
- Media related GBV, negative portray of women candidates
- Access to Media ( biases, social media bullying)
- Civic education (gender responsive)



# Monitoring and Observing Electoral Process

- What is being monitored? And observed, what is the composition of these bodies to whom are they accountable to?
- How much are gender related conflicts get reported and observed
- How do these reports influence conflict management systems in planning for next elections

# Election Day

- Availability of electoral materials
- Violence during election day
- Counting (election rigging)
- Announcing results

What is the gendered nature of the results : fairness, and free election declaration for who?

- Violence and its gendered nature
- Counting and rigging and its gendered nature
- Announcing results and disputes
- Gender related Lessons drawn from the process

# Conflicts During election day

- Violence and its gendered nature
- Counting and rigging and its gendered nature
- Announcing results and disputes
- Gender related Lessons drawn from the process

# Key Issues in post conflict discourse for women

- Gaps in legal frameworks which open room for politics of exclusion :
  - Constitution provision of protective clauses against politics of exclusion
  - election laws,
  - political parties law ,
  - election finance law
  - Codes of conduct
- Issues emerging from election management
  - biases in handling gender specific

# Post election discourses

- What issues are covered by who?
- Whose voice matter ?
- What spaces do women politicians have to engage with the gendered nature of election conflicts during post election period?
- Do women have a collective space to tease out the gendered nature of electoral conflict
- What measures or plans across parties which women can address in mitigating gendered nature of the conflict

# What is to be done ?

- Women politicians and activist to engage and disrupt politics of exclusion by challenging existing legal systems and practices that excludes them from effective participation in political spaces.
- Our numbers are our strength.

- End Of Presentation
- THANK YOU