



Burkina Faso

Electoral Commission Website
<http://www.ceni.bf>

Parliamentary Structure
Bicameral

Election System
Presidential: Majority
National Assembly: List PR
Local: FPTP

Female Political Participation in Sub-Saharan Africa

Metafile

Administrative Divisions

Burkina Faso is divided into 13 administrative regions which are further divided into provinces and communes. The communes constitute local government areas. There are 3 types of communes: 302 rural communes, 47 ordinary urban communes and 2 special status urban communes.

Election System

Members of Parliament are directly elected using a list proportional representation system. The President is elected by the members of National Assembly through a majority vote. In the first round an absolute majority is required and in the second round a simple majority is required (IPU, 2016). Every commune has a municipal council which is elected directly through universal suffrage and a mayor who is indirectly elected by the municipal council (World Bank, 2013).

The last national elections took place in November 2015 and the last local elections took place in May 2016.

Women's Representation & Quota Information

Burkina Faso legislated gender quotas in 2009 on a national and sub-national level. The quotas were first implemented in the 2012 legislative and municipal elections and are written into electoral law (Quota Project, 2014). There are no voluntary political party gender quotas. The national and sub-national quotas stipulate that parties are required to include a minimum of 30% women on their candidate lists for national assembly and municipal elections. Failure to comply result in legal sanctions which state that party funding will be cut by 50%. If the party reaches the quota or exceeds it, additional funding will be received.

Seats & Trends in Seat Numbers

Following the national elections, women held 20 of the 127 (15.75%) seats in the National Assembly. This number decreased to 12 of 127 seats (9.45%) after the November 2015 national elections. At the local level, women held 13.10% of the available positions following the June 2016 elections.

References

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The Political Economy of Decentralization in Sub-Saharan Africa. 2013. [Online]. Available: <http://www.unifr.ch/finpub/assets/files/RecherchesPublications/Ouvrages/PolEcoDecAubSahAfr.pdf#page=39>. [2017, January 22].