



# **Joint Party Support and Strengthening (J-PASS) Project**

## **Awareness and Sensitization Seminar Report**

**Tang Palace Hotel  
Accra, Ghana  
15<sup>TH</sup> October, 2015**

## Table of Contents

<b>I. Background &amp; Introduction</b> .....	2
<b>II. Objectives</b> .....	3
<b>III. Opening Session</b> .....	3
<b>IV. Project Overview</b> .....	5
Interactive Session: I.....	6
<b>V. Second Session: Historical Development of J-PASS, Challenges, Opportunities, Lessons Learnt and Way Forward</b> .....	7
i. Interactive Session: II.....	9
ii. Lessons and Suggestions for Consideration .....	10
<b>VI. Conclusion</b> .....	11
a) UNDP Commitments.....	11
b) Political Parties Commitments .....	11
<b>VII. Attendance</b> .....	12

## **I. Background & Introduction**

The Joint Party Support and Strengthening (J-PASS) project is an offspring of the 2013-2014 Representation and Participation Work Plan (WP). Accordingly, it is aligned with the 2012-2016 The United Nations Development Action Framework (UNDAF) which reflects the priorities of the Ghana Shared Growth and Development Agenda (GSGDA). J-PASS builds on previous UNDP initiatives to increase public confidence and promote participation in Ghana's political and electoral processes. The project aims to build trust between the political parties and the Electoral Commission especially concerning the management of election results; to promote greater participation of women and youth in decision making processes within political parties; and to strengthen political parties' internal democratic systems and structures.

J-PASS recognizes that internal democracy, gender equality and the acceptance of election results are key to improving public and political party confidence in elections. The J-PASS project will work with the five political parties through an Inter-Party Platform (IPaP) and will create space for inter-party electoral dialogue at all levels of the electoral process in close collaboration with the Electoral Commission. UNDP is conscious that Ghana lags behind regionally and continentally concerning the level of elected women representatives. Ghana ranks 114 in the global chart of women representation in parliament with as low as 30 female parliamentarians out of 275 elected representatives. A mere 10.9% of all parliamentarians in Ghana are women. The J-PASS project acknowledges this gap and seeks to address some of the critical challenges of women participation and leadership in parliament and within political parties. The project was designed and will be implemented together with the five parties (CPP, NDC, NPP, PNC, PPP) participating as equals and co-owners of the project through the IPaP. The political parties are not mere recipients of capacity building support, but they will continue to play a role in the design and implementation of that support. As co-owners of J-PASS, political parties have agreed to commit time, personnel, financial and other needed resources to complement UNDP's

technical and financial resources, in support of the project to achieve the project's objectives.

The Awareness and Sensitization Seminar held in Accra on October 15, 2015 at the Tang Palace Hotel was in line with the project work plan and objective to ensure broad based participation of the five political parties in the project. This was also in accordance with the outcome of IPaP Retreat held on 24 to 26 September 2015 at Elmina and subsequent approval by the project board in a meeting held in Accra on October 5, 2015. Over 90 participants from the political parties, Electoral Commission and the Ministry of Finance participated in the one-day seminar. The seminar was structured in a very interactive way. A plenary discussion was organised to allow crosscutting participation and ensure interaction between the leadership of the parties, its members, the Electoral Commission, development partners and UNDP.

## **II. Objectives**

The objectives of the seminar were:

- I. To educate the broad membership of the political parties about the J-PASS project;
- II. To promote inclusive intra- and inter-party participation in the project;
- III. To sensitize the respective party executives, groups and wings about their roles in the implementation of the project.

## **III. Opening Session**

The opening session of the seminar focused on a message of commitment and support. This was led by the UNDP country Director, Mr Dominic Sam, who in his speech reaffirmed UNDP commitment to strengthen the capacity of political parties in Ghana. He also outlined that J-PASS has three components: a) Strengthen Internal democracy, of the political parties; b) gender equality, women and youth empowerment and c) election result monitoring. He reiterated that the project is designed in response to a political governance gap. Accordingly, the project will focus on supporting political parties to function as institutions of governance in order to improve overall quality of political governance in the country. He paid special attention to the gender component and referred participants to the recent Mo Ibrahim report, which called for improvement in the level of women participation

in politics and decision making processes. The Country Director expressed UNDP's commitment to medium and long term interventions towards deepening democracy and political governance in Ghana. He commended the party focal persons for their role in the project activities and called for broad based inter party collaboration to the project.

Delivering a statement on behalf of the Ministry of Finance, Mrs. Gladys Gharthey, urged the political parties to be mindful of their critical role strengthening democracy in Ghana. She emphasised that it is only on the basis of solid democratic foundations that Ghana can make progress economically. She reaffirmed the Ministry's commitment to work with UNDP as a development partner and pleaded for more efforts to realise the Sustainable Development Goals. She lauded the J-PASS project and described it as timely since it would improve institutional capacity and structures of the political parties to function better.

Speaking on behalf of the Electoral Commission (EC), Ms. Georgina Opoku-Amankwaah, Deputy Chairperson in charge of Finance and Administration, acknowledged UNDP's technical assistance and support to the Electoral Commission. She observed that political parties in Ghana are gradually committing to free, fair, credible and peaceful elections. The Deputy Chair presented the Commission's commitment to work with the J-PASS project, in particular to strengthen the regulatory framework governing the behaviour and actions of the political parties through monitoring and reporting. She reminded political parties of their important role as institutions of governance, especially in creating platforms for training of future leaders, but also as agents of social mobilization and as institutions for developing public policies.

Representatives of the five participating political parties also presented their various commitments in the project. The different parties were represented by different executives ranging from the Chairman, National Vice Chairman, 1<sup>st</sup> National Vice Chairman, Deputy General Secretary to the Director of Administration.

The overall statement from the parties hinged on commitment, collaboration and partnership. They unanimously expressed their support to the J-PASS project and recognised the role the project could play in strengthening their internal structures and processes. The parties expressed satisfaction with the activities envisaged under the project,

particularly those aimed at increasing the political space to allow active participation of women and youth, but also those activities to address internal party communication gaps. They expressed appreciation to the UNDP for its role as facilitator and pledged their commitment to their respective obligations under the project.

#### **IV. Project Overview**

A presentation of the Project Overview was given by the Project Manager. The presentation covered the project background, key features, thematic components and the expected results. The project assumptions, management arrangements and the framework for monitoring and evaluation were also dealt with in the presentation.

The first components as presented include strengthening of internal democracy of the parties by supporting the parties to improve their internal communication party membership and improved adherence to political party regulation framework.

On the second component which is gender equality, women and youth empowerment, he noted that the expected outputs include support for parties to develop internal gender policies and strategies; provision of support and mentorship to female candidates; gender equality education; and campaign and material support to female candidates. He pointed out that the project is equally committed to supporting national dialogue processes toward a gender affirmative action policy.

The third component, is expected to build trust between the parties and the Electoral Commission, create greater credibility for election results, reduce litigation and establish inter-party electoral dialogue through election result monitoring. The presentation concluded with an outline of the M&E strategy comprising mid-term and annual reviews, reports and final evaluation.

### **Interactive Session: I**

During an open interactive session, the opportunity was provided for participants to ask questions, raise concerns, express views and make comments on relevant aspects of the project. The questions during this session covered the following:

- ***The sustainability and continuity of J-PASS project beyond 2016 elections?*** J-PASS as a project for building the capacity of political parties as institutions of governance is a long term commitment from the UNDP. There is a separate election project which follows the electoral cycle. J-PASS is not designed as an election project but rather a project that would continue to support political parties in order to improve their capacities as institutions and will evolve overtime.
- ***The scope of J-PASS Support and means of participation?*** J-PASS provides support to the five political parties. Modalities on how ideas are generated and aggregated are contained in the IPaP rules of procedure. Party members can participate by liaising with their focal person and by making contributions to the platform through the focal persons.
- ***What are the key areas of support for women under the gender component?*** In line with the UNDAF Action Plan output 10<sup>1</sup>, J-PASS has a plan that specifically deals with gender equality. Part of the J-PASS plan is to support women candidates; support parties to develop internal gender polices and strategies; provide mentorship for female candidates; develop publicity material in support of women candidature; and support *Internal Education Campaign on Gender Equality?*.

---

<sup>1</sup>Which requires that key national institutions of democracy are effective, accountable, gender responsive peace, inclusive governance, human security with focus on vulnerable groups, by 2016.

## V. Second Session: Historical Development of J-PASS, Challenges, Opportunities, Lessons Learnt and Way Forward

The next round of presentations at the Seminar focused on the historical development of J-PASS and traced the conceptualisation of the idea up to the design of the project. It also considered the progress made since the design of the project to the current stage.

The first report presented by the National Democratic Congress (NDC) examined the **History & Background of the Project**. He highlighted specifically, the team's visit to Kenya and how the visit led to collaboration between UNDP and the parties. This visit led to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) of support between UNDP and the five political parties, but also with the West Africa Network for Peace Building (WANEP) and the Catholic University of Ghana for the Joint Party Election Result Monitoring (J-PERM) in the lead to the 2012 elections.

Under the MOU the parties agreed to cooperate in a mutual effort to facilitate the creation of platforms to compare election results and to mediate any disputes arising out of differences in the results. In spite of the MOU and other elaborate protocols that were instituted, disagreements arose among the parties resulting in the interruption of the activities. It is in this light that we hope that J-PASS will be able to learn from the challenges faced in the implementation of J-PERM.

Continuing the historical account, the NPP presented on: **Recent History & Current Developments (J-PERM to J-PASS)**. The presentation narrated the convening of a meeting in April 2014, which resulted in all the partners coming together again under an EU/UNDP sponsored mission to Jordan for a workshop on the theme: "Reinforcing the Credibility and Acceptance of Electoral Processes". Following this, the parties identified key areas that needed to be strengthened within party structures such as: internal democracy, gender equality and youth empowerment and election results monitoring. These needs then became the basis for transitioning from J-PERM to J-PASS and the subsequent signing of an MOU in December 2014. The MOU provided the framework for the parties to increase



cooperation, promote public confidence and trust in political parties, and to increase women and youth participation in the party structures.

The third presentation by the CPP focused specifically on: ***The Jordan Experience & Lessons Learnt***. Some key lessons from Jordan included:

- The need to respect and enforce the electoral laws and regulatory framework;
- A requirement of inter-party dialogue and consensus building; and
- The necessity to establish dispute resolution mechanism that will address and resolve electoral grievances and prevent violence.

The PNC presented a report on: ***The Formation of the Inter-Party Platform (IPaP): Meetings & Key Decisions***. The report outlined the creation of the Project Management Unit (PMU) which is responsible for the day-to-day management of the project in consultation with the five political parties on specific issues that require joint input and collective decision making. Key decisions taken by the platform include:

- a. Meeting Schedule: Holding of monthly meeting of the Platform;
- b. Membership and Representation by two persons from each of the five political parties and one person from the EC;
- c. Gender Equality: one member of the Platform from each of the parties must be female. That is 5 male and five female as members of the Platform from the five parties.
- d. Rules: Formulation and adoption of a comprehensive set of Rules of Procedure to govern the interaction between and amongst members during Platform meetings

The final presentation looked at ***Lessons Learnt & the Way Forward***. The PPP presentation highlighted the functional relationship with IPaP and how debates and interactions are structured to achieve consensus. The point emphasised in the presentation was that the interest of the political parties should underpin the interest of Ghana even when they differ in approaches or methods. Eva Loko who presented for PPP emphasised the need for national dialogue on issues that need consensus. She urged that political parties in Ghana should reach a consensus on gender equality and women representation in politics and decision making both at the party level and national level.

### **i. Interactive Session: II**

Participants' engagement in a second interactive segment revolved on gender equality and women empowerment. Overall the comments and questions concerned the interplay of gender with politics and democracy. The session explored various interlinkages between gender and political participation. The discussions centred on the following questions:

- What is the commitment of political parties to gender equality, women and youth empowerment?
- Are there internal party policies, laws and structures to support gender equality?
- Do party constitutions and policies reflect gender equality provisions as contained in the Constitution of Ghana?
- Do parties enforce gender equality policies (if any exist) and at what level do parties think about gender representation – national, regional and district level?
- Does the political system (such as First Past The Post) actually allow for active women participation in politics and representation in parliament?
- Do men and women enjoy the same access to political participation?
- Do cultural factors undermine efforts at increasing women participation in politics?
- Will quotas and affirmative action work in Ghana?
- What is the responsibility of men in promoting gender equality and women political participation?
- Do women have the financial requisite requirement to compete with men?
- What effort should be made to ensure that SDG 5 is achieved before 2030?
- How should women be trained and equipped to be able to get into political positions? How should issues that keep women out politics (incl. education, skills, material support and child care) be addressed?
- Are mentors and role models appropriate and credible vehicles to encourage women participation in politics?

The seminar underscored that gender is an important dimension in development. The debate and discussion enthused participants to come to a general consensus that Ghana must take gender equality serious, not only in politics but also in Ghana's overall development. The seminar highlighted the need for UNDP and other development partners to work together with the government of Ghana to address the gender gap in political participation. The political parties that participated in the seminar equally accepted the dual responsibility of working internally but also working across the different political parties and

development partners to change the current level of women participation in politics in Ghana.

## ***ii. Lessons and Suggestions for Consideration***

The session drew together key lessons and also touched on best practices for the future. The seminar participants noted that it is imperative to move away from the current narrative on gender and move toward a new set of actions with political parties in the driver seat. The following lessons and observations were made:

- There must be a national policy framework to address gender gaps in political participation. This must be followed by a practical action plan which must be supported by all political parties;
- Political parties must come up with internal policy frameworks to mainstream gender in their programmes and to support women participation. Such internal policy framework must be aligned with any prospective national policy framework on gender. Alternatively, political parties can take charge of the process by internally developing gender policies which may lead to a national gender policy;
- Education and economic empowerment are important factors in order to improve gender equality in politics and political parties. Therefore, these factors must be considered in project and programme design;
- Early participation of women in politics is an important issue that must be addressed. Women should be encouraged to enter politics as early as men. This will benefit their development and build their confidence to participate in a credible manner;
- Attention must be paid to assess whether the current political system allows for enough space for gender equality and women participation in politics. Perhaps the political system is devoid of adequate room for women to get involved;
- Financing of political parties and unequal access to financial power is a critical turning point. Lack of financial support often deter women from participating even when they are capable, willing and ready;
- Family plays an important role in fostering gender equality and women empowerment. As a social agent, family should promote a culture of gender equality among boys and girls at an early age;
- Gender education and awareness campaigns to produce behavioural change is fundamental in achieving gender equality and to improve democracy overall in Ghana; and
- Women should build alliances beyond party affiliations and ensure cross party women collaboration in gender equality campaigns.
-

## **VI. Conclusion**

In his closing remarks, the Country Director of UNDP commended participants for the participation and welcomed suggestions made by participants for improving the J-PASS project. He acknowledged that the project goal is very ambitious, but he reiterated UNDP's strong commitment to support the project. He expressed delight that the project has finally kick off and encouraged the parties and Project Management Unit to work together to develop the J-PASS project further for longer term impact.

### ***a) UNDP Commitments***

- Support the development of political parties in Ghana as institutions of governance;
- Promote credible initiative to support gender equality, women and youth empowerment in political processes;
- Support inter-party dialogue towards national consensus on issues that will lead to improved political governance including the development of legislation that support increase of women in political representation;
- Support initiative that deals with impact of cultural dimensions of gender marginalisation and exclusion in political processes;
- Develop knowledge based tools and resources to inform the design of appropriate strategies that will support and strengthen political parties in Ghana.

### ***b) Political Parties Commitments***

- Work with UNDP to strengthen internal party systems and structures through the Inter-Party Dialogue;
- Inter-Party collaborations towards improved political systems in Ghana;
- Commit to the implementation of the J-PASS project.

## VII. Attendance

<b>NO.</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>ORGANIZATION</b>
1.	Hon. Johnson Aseidu Nketia	NDC
2.	Hon. Ofosu Ampofo	NDC
3.	Betty Mould Idrisu	NDC
4.	Koku Anyidoho	NDC
5.	Hon. Kofi Attor	NDC
6.	Hon. Dr. William Ahadzie	NDC
7.	Hon. Hajia Fati	NDC
8.	Firdause Saeed	NDC
9.	Danjumah Karim	NDC
10.	Innocent Mawuli Okechuku	NDC
11.	Hajia Zainab Mahama	NDC
12.	Ahmed M. Gedel	NDC
13.	Elham Abubakar	NDC
14.	Awogbadek Simon	NDC
15.	Abdul-Hamid Sherriff	NDC
16.	Ms. Christiana Abbey-Mensah	NPP
17.	Mr. Peter Mac Manu	NPP
18.	Mr. Eddy Tettey	NPP
19.	Mr. Martin Adjei-Mensah	NPP
20.	Ms. Gifty Oware	NPP
21.	Ms. Jennifer Ofori-Appiah	NPP
22.	Evans Nimako	NPP
23.	Ms. Ophelia Aovare	NPP
24.	David Asante	NPP
25.	Ohemaa Solace	NPP
26.	Ms Agnes Ashun	NPP
27.	Alex Tsumasi	NPP
28.	Mr. Kofi Sam	NPP

29.	Daniel Boakye -Yiadom	NPP
30.	Mr. Omare Wadie	NPP
31.	Susan Adu Amankwah	CPP
32.	Emmanuel K.K. Ogbodjor	CPP
33.	James Ehiawey	CPP
34.	Haruna Hamdatu Ibrahim	CPP
35.	Kadri Abdul Rauf	CPP
36.	Yababa Mohammed	CPP
37.	Evans Tawiah	CPP
38.	Opoku Amaneng	CPP
39.	Amina Amadu	CPP
40.	Adoley Addo	CPP
41.	Felicia Osei	CPP
42.	Sadaty Sulley	CPP
43.	Anita Ababio	CPP
44.	Sadatu Sulley	CPP
45.	Aisha Sulley	CPP
46.	Dede Ayitey	CPP
47.	James T. Ehawey	CPP
48.	Nana Ofori Owusu	PPP
49.	Nii Allotey Blue Hammond	PPP
50.	Kofi Asamoah Siaw	PPP
51.	Mrs. Eva Lokko	PPP
52.	William Dowokpor	PPP
53.	Faruk Azaah	PPP
54.	George Nana Boadi	PPP
55.	Berlinda Bulley	PPP
56.	Daniel Gyebi	PPP
57.	Koiwah Koi Larbi	PPP
58.	Partick Armah	PPP
59.	Seth Amofa	PPP
60.	Bridget Boarfo	PPP
61.	Richmond Keelson	PPP
62.	Ibrahim B. Karim	PNC
63.	Janet Nabila	PNC
64.	David Apasera	PNC
65.	Emmanuel Wilson	PNC
66.	Hajia Hajara M. Ali Boya	PNC
67.	Desmond Twumasi Ntow	PNC
68.	Awudu Issahaque	PNC
69.	Mark Ackon	PNC
70.	Prosper Kwao	PNC

71.	Daniel Kumy	PNC
72.	Salifu Yakubu	PNC
73.	Laurence Akpaglo	PNC
74.	Patience Adams	PNC
75.	Emmanuel Kenedy	PNC
76.	Beatriz Martinez	Embassy of Spain
77.	Bertha Desmennu	High Commission of Canada
78.	Antonita Tesiah	EC
79.	Fisa Hamid Kodie	EC
80.	Ms. Georgina Opoku A.	EC
81.	Collins Kabaga	Ministry of Finance
82.	Mrs. Gladys Gartey	Ministry of Finance
83.	Andy Madjietey	GTV OB-Media
84.	Welbeck Aboagye	GTV OB - Media
85.	Joseph Patey	GTV - Media
86.	Walter Garisson	GTV - Media
87.	Samuel Oduro Amofa	GBC - Media
88.	Beatrice Acheampong	GTB OB – Media
89.	Muriratu Issah	Viasat 1 – Media
90.	Edmund Ntim	GTV- Media
91.	Mark Nii Ablorh	GTV – Media
92.	Maxwell Ocloo	Daily Graphic – Media
93.	Harrison Korsigah	GTV – Media
94.	Eric Antwi-Boasiako	GTV OB – Media
95.	Bernard Martey	GTV OB – Media
96.	Ebo Gorman	Ghanaian Times – Media
97.	Castro Zangina-Tong	Ghanaian Times – Media
98.	Theo Densu-Tetteh	GTV OB – Media
99.	Emma Bafoli	GBC – Media
100.	Joseph Awartey	TV3 – Media
101.	Bernice Torto	TV3 – Media
102.	Joseph Armstrong	TV3 – Media
103.	Ninepence John	TV3 – media
104.	Emefa Adjei	The Finder – Media
105.	Dominic Sam	UNDP
106.	Nana Chinbuah	UNDP
107.	David Appiah	UNDP
108.	Chika Charles Aniekwe	UNDP
109.	Charlotte Bernklau	UNDP
110.	Jennifer Esme Tetteh	UNDP
111.	Justice Agbezuge	UNDP
112.	Bernice Gyawu	UNDP

113.	Matilda Dennis Quaicoe	UNDP
114.	Joshua Dogbey	UNDP