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The only available figures demonstrate that in 1999, Haitian women represented only 3.5 % of elected women as Members of Parliament, 0% as Senators, and 4.5% as mayors¹. In addition, women only occupied 14% of Governmental posts. It must be noted that none of these positions were prominent. Haitian women represent 52% of the population but since they have been excluded from electoral processes in the past, we needed to bridge the gender gap and provide them with the same opportunities as men. By highlighting women as a primary target group based on an understanding of gender roles and social relationships within Haiti, we illustrated the meaning of a gender perspective and demonstrated the importance of focusing on the needs of women. Very few women have been elected in the past. Consequently, women who are currently seeking office, lack experience, expertise, required skills and competencies in the political arena.

As a result, our emphea 10%

With the creation of the PBC, we have a new hope that women's perspectives will be included in peace building strategies, in general and in context-specific situations. I understand that the PBC will provide a forum in which major stakeholders can share information about comprehensive post-conflict recovery efforts that take into account political, security, development and economic spheres.... it is imperative that women, whether they are at the international, regional or national levels, are considered as major stakeholders.

It is therefore suggested that a full-time gender advisor be assigned to the PBC to advise on the integration of a gender perspective into its work.

Once again, worldwide experiences and practices demonstrate that there can not be a sustainable peace without the full involvement of women as major actors in peace building processes.

Thank you for your attention.