



Senegal (Republic of Senegal)

By Markus Pobl

POSITION OF SENEGAL REGARDING RIGHTS OF WOMEN IN THE DRC



General information

Senegal knows a strong discrepancy between women's rights on paper and in practice. The government has committed to advancing gender equality, which has led to significant results in political representation (44% women in parliament), but the situation is much worse in other areas. Religion continues to shape women's role in society. Despite being illegal, female genital mutilation (FGM) is very prevalent (ca. 1/4), with strong regional variance. Women face high unemployment rates compared to men, and are comparatively more represented in low-income areas (e. g. agriculture). Senegal criminalized rape and pedophilia in 2020 only.

Position on the matter

Senegal faces significant challenges in advancing gender equality in its own country. Senegal places a strong emphasis on its national sovereignty, also in this context. UN funding for projects aiming to eliminate gender inequality in Senegal are welcome, but the government prefers retaining authority on how these funds are spent.

Proposed solutions

Senegal would most likely support a resolution that ensures control and execution of UN projects (e. g. facilitating education access) by the DRC government. The country would look favourably upon strong collaboration with the African Union, calling upon UN states to provide flexible funding and technical assistance rather than dictate how Senegal or other African states how to allocate resources. The country will possibly focus on pragmatic measures for gender equality that take into account and adapt to local cultural norms and refrain from "moralizing", since that could be seen as hypocritical or as an invitation to take a closer look at Senegal's own rather mediocre situation.

Potential blocks

France, USA, UK typically have opposing policies that favour more direct intervention, while Senegal may side with other African countries in similar situations.

[Women in Senegal - Wikipedia](#)





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[Feminism in Senegal: Legislative achievements - Wikipedia](#)
[Senegal | UN Women – Africa](#)
[Senegal Permanent Mission to the United Nations](#)
[Senegal | 65th session - General Debate](#)
[How masculinity norms shape women's economic empowerment in Senegal: Masculinity and Gender Equality | OECD](#)

