

## **KAS AND KEWOPA PARTNERSHIP IN INDUCTION WORKSHOP FOR FEMALE LEGISLATORS**

KAS in partnership with Kenya Women Parliamentary Association (KEWOPA) facilitated an induction workshop of Kenyan women Members of Parliament and women representatives held in Naivasha on 11<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> January 2018. Other partners included UN Women, USAID Kenya, Kenya Human Rights Commission and Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA). The induction workshop centered on effective women legislation including the opportunities and challenges encountered therein. Election of new officials for KEWOPA and 11<sup>th</sup> Parliament lessons for women representation were among the agenda items discussed.

The induction workshop was attended by 87 women MPs including women representatives and 3 female governors. The group was recognized as the biggest group of women leaders in the history of Kenya's legislature.

The opening session highlighted the status of KEWOPA including its formation, mission and vision, members, funding, objectives, strategic plan, challenges and the organizational agenda for the 12th Parliament. An introspective look on the road travelled by KEWOPA was done by Naomi Shabaan, former minister for Gender and Special Programs.

Facilitators of the workshop praised the efforts of women in leadership particularly their contributions in both houses and spearheading the push for the realization of the two thirds gender principle as proposed by the Constitution. The lack of implementation of the two thirds gender rule was singled out as a key obstacle in achieving gender equality representation in the parliament. Participants were urged to work with men for gender inclusivity as the success of gender parity is dependent on the genders working together. The nominated leaders were also encouraged to embrace their power and play the full role of their positions.

In a session facilitated by KAS, Dr. Jan Cernicky made a presentation of the work being done by KAS in Kenya. KAS sought to engage and leverage new partnerships for KEWOPA for the advancement of parliamentary democracy and democratic governance. The session's insightful call was to collaborate and reinforce existing networking groups, institutions and policy frameworks to enforce women rights and articulating their key issues.