Abbreviations and acronyms

| AIDS | Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome |
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| AL | Awami League (Bangladesh political party) |
| ANC | African National Congress |
| BJP | Bangladesh Jatiya Party |
| BJP | Bharatiya Janata Party (India political party) |
| BNP | Bangladesh Nationalist Party |
| BPfA | Beijing Platform for Action |
| CEDAW | Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination Against Women |
| CGE | Commission on Gender Equality (South Africa) |
| DA | Democratic Alliance (South Africa) |
| FPTP | First-Past-the-Post (electoral system) |
| GDI | Gender Development Index |
| HDI | Human Development Index |
| HIV | Human Immunodeficiency Virus |
| IULA | International Union of Local Authorities (South Africa) |
| MDGs | Millennium Development Goals |
| MMP | Mixed Member Proportionality (electoral system) |
| MP | Member of Parliament |
| NGO | non-governmental organisation |
| NZ | New Zealand |
| NZLP | New Zealand Labour Party |
| NZNP | New Zealand National Party |
| OECD | Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development |
| PoA | Commonwealth Plan of Action for Gender Equality 2005-2015 |
| PR | Proportional Representation (electoral system) |
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| PWG | Parliamentary Women's Group (South Africa) |
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| SA | South Africa |
| SADC | Southern African Development Community |
| UP | Union Parishad (Bangladesh) |
| WAMM | Women's Affairs Ministerial Meeting |
| WLC | Women's Legal Centre (South Africa) |