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INTRODUCTION

In 2010, 56 direct parliamentary elections took place in 44 countries. Worldwide turnout averaged 65.34 per cent, down by 3.95 percentage points compared with 2009 based on available data.

The ruling party or coalition was returned to power in 21 of the 28 countries where the composition of the government depended on the results of parliamentary elections. Fewer election-related violent incidents occurred than in previous years. While violence was rife in Afghanistan and the Philippines, the elections in Colombia were the most peaceful in many years according to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

Impact of the global economic crisis

Austerity measures introduced as a result of the global economic crisis were the major election issue in many countries. Elections in several European countries were also marked by the euro crisis, sparked by its fall in value to a four-year low as a result of Greece's severe debt crisis and fears that other euro-zone countries would follow suit. In Hungary (April), the Czech Republic (Chamber of Deputies, May) and Slovakia (June), centre-right parties were victorious after pledging to reduce their country's debt. In the Czech Republic, however, the opposition regained control of the Senate following the elections for one third of its membership in October. It had opposed the government's austerity plan.

Landmark elections

The October 2010 elections in Kyrgyzstan followed the ousting of President Kurmanbek Bakiyev after widespread unrest in April. The new Constitution prepared by the interim government and approved in a June referendum provided for an enlarged 120-member Supreme Council. The newly elected Supreme Council was convened in December and subsequently approved the formation of a new coalition government.

In November, Myanmar held its first parliamentary polls since 1990. The unicameral legislature elected that year was never convened and the military regime officially invalidated the results of those elections in March 2010. Under the 2008 Constitution, which provides for a bicameral Assembly, a quarter of the seats in both chambers are reserved for military officers, and any constitutional amendments require a two-thirds majority. The new Constitution and the 2010 Electoral Laws barred opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi from running in the 2010 polls. Her party, the National League for Democracy, was dissolved in September for failing to register for the elections. The polling itself took place without any major incident. The newly elected parliament was convened in January 2011 for the first time since the previous parliament was unconstitutionally dissolved in 1988.

The April elections in Sri Lanka were the first to be held after the end of the 26-year long armed conflict in May 2009, during which more than 70,000 people had been reportedly killed and thousands more displaced. President Mahinda Rajapakse's United People's Freedom Alliance (UPFA) took nearly

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two thirds of the 225 seats in Parliament. Mr. Chamal Rajapakse (UPFA), the President's eldest brother, was elected as the new Speaker.

The April elections in Sudan were the first to be held under the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), signed by President Omar Al-Bashir's National Congress Party (NCP) and the South Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) in January 2005. The CPA brought to an end the civil war that had started in 1983 between the predominantly Muslim North and the mainly Christian and animist South. Although voting took place without any major incident, international observers concluded that the elections had failed to meet international standards, citing reports of intimidation and harassment. The newly elected bicameral parliament was convened in May.

The November elections in Tonga saw the majority of parliamentarians directly elected for the first time. The new 26-member Legislative Assembly comprises 17 directly elected members (commoners) and nine indirectly elected members (nobles). The outgoing 32-member parliament was composed of nine commoners, nine nobles and 14 ex officio members appointed by the King.

In Haiti, a devastating earthquake in January 2010 delayed parliamentary and presidential elections to November. Disputes over the presidential elections led to a further postponement of the second round of both elections to March 2011. The newly elected parliament was finally convened in April, before the newly elected President was officially sworn in in May.

In Egypt, despite the Supreme Administrative Court's partial invalidation of the November and December elections, the newly elected People's Assembly was convened in December. Street protests in January 2011 forced President Hosni Mubarak to hand over power to the Supreme Council of Armed Forces (ESCAF) in February 2011. The Council subsequently suspended the Constitution and dissolved Parliament. Fresh parliamentary elections were then scheduled for September 2011.

Hung parliaments

In the United Kingdom, the May elections resulted in the first hung parliament since 1974. Following protracted negotiations, the Conservative Party and the Liberal Democratic Party formed a coalition government headed by 43 year-old Conservative Leader Mr. David Cameron. He became the youngest British Prime Minister since Lord Liverpool took office in 1812 at the age of 42.

Following the August elections, Australia found itself with its first hung parliament since 1940. In September, Prime Minister Julia Gillard of the Australian Labor Party finally formed a minority government with the support of the Greens and three independent members.

In the United States of America, a grass-roots conservative movement - the Tea Party - emerged prior to the November elections. The elections to the

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House of Representatives resulted in the largest shift since 1948, giving the Republicans a resounding victory. They took 242 of the 435 seats at stake, up from 178 in 2008. In the Senate elections, the Democrats narrowly retained their majority, holding on to 53 seats in all (including support from two independents). Unofficial sources indicated that about 70 Republican candidates endorsed by the Tea Party movement were elected to Congress.

Post-election political stalemate

In Iraq, the newly elected Council of Representatives was convened in June following the March elections. However, it was soon adjourned due to a stalemate over the election of the new Speaker. It only resumed its work in November. Similarly, the October elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina resulted in lengthy negotiations for the new collegium of Speakers, which was finally elected in May 2011. The September elections in Afghanistan and subsequent disputes over the election results delayed the convening of the new legislature to January 2011. The newly-elected House of Representatives finally elected a new Speaker in February 2011.

Early elections in some countries failed to resolve the pre-existing political stalemate. A stand-off between the President and the Parliament triggered early elections in Nauru in April 2010. However, they returned exactly the same members to Parliament. It proved impossible to elect a new Speaker – a condition to transact any parliamentary business under the Nauruan Constitution – thus prompting another poll in June. After several rows over the speakership, a new Speaker was finally elected in November.

In the same month, the Republic of Moldova held its third elections since April 2009. The two legislatures elected in 2009 had failed to elect a new President of the country. Constitutional amendments proposing direct presidential elections were rejected in September 2010, triggering yet another parliamentary poll in November. At the time of going to print, the parliament was yet to elect a new President.

The June elections in Belgium remain inconclusive. In February 2011, the country marked 250 days without a government. A fresh attempt to form a new coalition government started in mid-May 2011.

Women in Parliament

In 2010, women won 20.8 per cent of the 8,584 directly elected seats at stake. In the Netherlands, 61 women (40.67%) were elected - up from 55 (36.67%) in 2006 - the highest percentage of women ever elected to the Dutch House of Representatives. In Sweden, the percentage of women parliamentarians fell for the first time since 1991, from 162 (46.42%) in 2006 to 157 (44.99%) in 2010. No women were elected in Nauru, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Tuvalu.

Five women assumed the post of Speaker following the 2010 elections. In addition to the Netherlands (House of Representatives), Czech Republic (Chamber of Deputies), Latvia and Suriname which had had a woman

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Speaker previously, the United Republic of Tanzania elected its first-ever woman Speaker.

Slovakia and Trinidad and Tobago also elected their first ever woman Prime Minister.

More information on the parliamentary elections that took place in 2010 is available in the *Panorama of parliamentary elections* and on the PARLINE database (www.ipu.org/parline), from where the data in the *Chronicle* has been extracted.

I express a warm word of thanks to the parliamentary officials, government officers and electoral commissions who provide unfailing support in the preparation of the *Chronicle*. I look forward to working with them on future editions of this unique publication.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anders B. Johnsson', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Anders B. Johnsson
Secretary General

AFGHANISTAN

House of Representatives

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Jirga / National Assembly
Structure of Parliament	Bicameral
Chamber	Wolesi Jirga / House of Representatives
Number of members	249 directly elected* *Directly elected members includes: - 10 seats reserved for Kuchis, including at least three women; - 65 additional seats reserved for women; thus at least 68 women in total.
Term of House	5 years
Date of elections	18 September 2010

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all the seats in the House of Representatives on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

► Constituencies

34 multimember constituencies (two to 33 members from each province) as follows: Kabul: 33, Kapisa: 4, Parwan: 6, Wardak: 5, Logar 4, Ghazni: 11, Paktifa: 4, Paktia: 5, Khost: 5, Nangarhar: 14, Kunar: 4, Laghman: 4, Nuristan: 2, Badakhstan: 9, Takhar: 9, Baghlan: 8, Kunduz: 9, Samangan: 4, Balkh: 11, Jowzjan: 5, Sar-i-Pul: 5, Faryab: 9, Badghis: 4, Herat: 17, Farah: 5, Nimroz: 2, Helmand: 8, Kandahar: 11, Zabul: 3, Uruzgan: 3, Ghor: 6, Bamyan: 4, Panjsher: 2, Daikundi: 4. Ten seats reserved for Kuchis

► Voting system: Proportional

Proportional system with a single non-transferable vote (SNTV).

Under the voting system, the candidates who receive the most votes in each province win seats.

However, if the number of successful female candidates is below a certain threshold, the voting system first fills seats up to that threshold with the female candidates who receive the most votes, and subsequently fills the rest of the seats.

There is no upper limit to the number of female members of parliament.

Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- Citizenship of Afghanistan (by origin or obtained);
- Registration on the electoral role;
- Age: 18 years or over on election day.

Disqualification: persons deprived of any political and civil rights by an authoritative court.

▶ **Eligibility**

- Citizenship of Afghanistan (by origin or obtained at least 10 years before);
- Age: 25 years or over on election day;

Disqualification: government officials, persons deprived of any political or civil rights by an authoritative court.

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- ministers of State;
- holders of judicial offices (judges);
- civil servants (national);
- officers of the Electoral Commission;
- members of the armed forces;
- public prosecutors, mayors, directors at provincial level.

The incompatibilities above are valid during the term of office.

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- Candidatures must be submitted at least 75 days prior to elections;
- Supporting signatures of 1,000 eligible voters in the constituency;
- Candidatures may be submitted by political parties
- A deposit of 30,000 Afghanis, which is reimbursed if the candidate obtains at least 3 per cent of the valid votes in the constituency concerned;
- Nomination by at least 300 electors of the constituency concerned (throughout the country for Kuchi candidates).

Background and Outcome of the Elections

The 2010 elections to the House of Representatives (Wolesi Jirga) were the second to be held after the fall of the Taliban regime in 2001.

In the previous elections held in September 2005, most candidates ran as independents. Candidatures could be submitted by political parties but

party endorsements were not allowed on the ballot paper. Several sources reported that President Hamid Karzai's allies won between 65 and 118 seats while the opposition force, the National Understanding Front, obtained between 60 and 80 seats. Successful candidates included 20 former Communists, tribal and religious leaders, businessmen and 68 women.

In the presidential elections held in August 2009 - marred by widespread allegations of fraud - President Karzai triumphed over Foreign Minister Abdullah Abdullah, when the latter withdrew from the run-off elections scheduled for November. Mr. Abdullah had called in vain for changes to the election commission to ensure "fair and transparent" elections.

The 2010 parliamentary elections were initially called for 22 May, but the Independent Election Commission (IEC) announced in January 2010 that they would be postponed to autumn 2010. The IEC cited budget problems, security concerns and logistical hurdles.

On 17 February 2010, President Karzai issued a presidential decree based on Article 79 of the Constitution, thereby amending the Electoral Law of Afghanistan. Among key changes, the decree grants the President the authority to appoint all five commissioners to the Electoral Complaints Commission. The presidential decree can be nullified only if both chambers agree to do so. While the House of Representatives (Wolesi Jirga) rejected the decree on 31 March, the House of Elders (Meshrano Jirga) overruled the lower chamber's decision. The House of Elders stated that the Constitution prohibits parliament from discussing amendments to the election law in the last year of the legislative term.

Mounting insecurity in the war against Taliban insurgents, cast a shadow over the 2010 elections, with military and civilian deaths reaching record levels. The number of civilians killed in the war rose by 31 per cent in the first half of 2010, reaching 1,271. 500 foreign troops were killed in the same period, compared with 521 for the whole of 2009. The US Government plans to gradually withdraw its troops from July 2011. Holding credible polls was seen as a key step for Afghan forces towards taking control of the country's security by 2014.

On 23 June, the election campaign officially started. In all, 2,447 candidates, including 386 women, were vying for the 249 seats in the House of Representatives. Sixty-eight seats are reserved for women and 10 for Kuchis.

Although party endorsements were allowed in 2010, most candidates still stood as independents: only 9 per cent of the candidates were formally affiliated to a political party. In all, 194 outgoing members (78%) of the House of Representatives sought re-election. Ethnicity continues to be the main factor influencing political alliances. Of a population of 30 million Afghans, about 42 per cent are Pashtun and 27 per cent Tajik; Hazaras and Uzbeks each account for 9 per cent; the remainder being Aimak (4%), Turkmen (3%), Baloch (2%) and other (4%).

Campaigning was lively in secure large cities such as Kabul, Mazar-i-Sharif and Herat. It was more limited in the southern part of the country, where the Taliban influence is strong. Young candidates in urban areas used mobile phone text messages, Facebook and Twitter in their election campaign.

Many candidates called for social justice and respect for human rights. Many women candidates pledged to confront gender bias and cultural obstacles for women, in order to build a better future for the next generations.

The Taliban called for an election boycott, announcing that it would disrupt the 2010 polls. On 5 September, it stated that anyone associated with the poll would be a legitimate target. In the run-up to the poll at least 23 people, including four candidates, were killed in election-related violence.

The Council of Ministers declared polling day a public holiday to facilitate voting. Ballot papers with photos and pictograms were used to facilitate the procedure for illiterate voters, who account for 72 per cent of the overall population. The Taliban claimed responsibility for over 200 attacks on polling day, on which at least 11 people were killed. Nearly 15 per cent of the 6,835 polling stations did not open owing to security concerns. About 45 per cent of the 9.2 million registered voters turned out at the polls.

The National Democratic Institute (NDI) reported that its observers had witnessed a number of serious election-related incidents, including attacks on polling stations and voters. However, its preliminary statement concluded that it was too soon to ascertain the impact of those events on the broader electoral process.

The announcement of the preliminary results initially due on 9 October was successively postponed to 1 December. The results showed a high turnover: only 88 outgoing members were returned to the House of Representatives. In

all, 69 women were elected.

Since most candidates stood as independents, the distribution of seats according to political parties is not available. Pashtuns, the country's traditional rulers, won around 90 seats, compared with 112 obtained in the 2005 elections. Being the main allies of President Karzai (who is Pashtun himself), support for President is believed to have been reduced in the new legislature. The decrease is partially due to the fact that voting did not take place in some Pashtun areas.

Hazaras, a minority Shiite community accounting for 9 per cent of the population, emerged as a major force, winning 59 of the 249 seats (23.7%). Hazaras took all 11 seats in the Province of Ghazni, a flashpoint in the nine-year Taliban insurgency.

The defeated presidential candidate Mr. Abdullah said more than 90 of his supporters had won seats. Mr. Abdullah is associated with the Tajiks in the Panjshir Valley (north of Kabul), the stronghold of the late anti-Taliban commander Ahmad Shah Massoud. Several sources indicate that the Jamiat-e-Islami - a jihadi party led by former President Burhanuddin Rabbani - increased its share in the new House of Representatives.

Before the publication of the final results, the Election Commission discarded over 1.3 million ballots - nearly a quarter of the total - for fraud and irregularities and invalidated the results of 19 winning candidates. Over 100 complaints of fraud were filed with the Election Complaints Commission. Several incumbent parliamentarians contested the results. The President of the House of Elders, Mr. Hazrat Sebghatollah Mojadeddi, said the announcement of the final results of the parliamentary election was illegitimate. On 20 December, President Karzai's spokesman announced that the newly elected House of Representatives would be convened on 20 January 2011.

On 27 December, President Karzai set up a five-member Special Election Court (SEC) to hear complaints of fraud, which was subsequently approved by the Supreme Court. All five members were appointed by the President. On 3 January 2011, SEC Head, Mr. Sediqullah Haqiq, said that his court would issue rulings within two weeks, so as to allow the inaugural session of the House of Representatives to take place as scheduled.

On 11 January, the Constitution Oversight Commission (COC) - established

by President Karzai in May 2010 to oversee the rule of law in government offices, as well as in legislative and judiciary bodies - stated that the creation of the SEC was illegal. Although some winning candidates supported the SEC, others argued that election complaints should be examined by the existing Election Commission and the Election Complaints Commission.

The SEC urged President Karzai to delay the convening of the House of Representatives by one month so as to allow it enough time to resolve election disputes. Newly elected members insisted that the House of Representatives be convened. Following mounting pressure, President Karzai announced that the House of Representatives would be inaugurated on the condition that the SEC would continue its investigations.

On 26 January, President Karzai inaugurated the newly elected House of Representatives. However, the House of Representatives failed on successive occasions to elect its new Speaker.

On 10 February, Acting Speaker, Mr. Sarwar Osmani, announced that the SEC had decided to unseat 83 of the newly elected members. On 12 February, the House of Representatives adopted a resolution asking President Karzai to disband the SEC. However, the Attorney General backed the SEC and issued a warrant authorizing prosecutors to recount the votes at the IEC.

On 27 February, the House of Representatives elected Mr. Abdul Raouf Ibrahim as its new Speaker.

On 23 June, the SEC ruled that 62 sitting members would have to be replaced because of alleged poll fraud. Two days later, the House of Representatives voted to dismiss five senior members of the Supreme Court, accusing them of failing to block the SEC's decision.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	9,200,000	
Voters	4,216,594	45.00 %
Blank or invalid ballot papers	186,367	
Valid votes	4,030,227	

▶ **Distribution of seats according to sex**

Men	180	
Women	69	27.71 %
Total	249	

AUSTRALIA

House of Representatives

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia
Structure of Parliament	Bicameral
Chamber	House of Representatives
Number of members	150 directly elected
Term of House	3 years
Date of elections	21 August 2010

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all the seats in the House of Representatives following an early dissolution of this body on 19 July 2010. Elections to the House of Representatives had previously taken place in November 2007.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

- 148 single-member constituencies spread among the 6 states and 2 territories of Australia according to population

▶ **Voting system: Majority**

Direct preferential majority vote.

Under this system, members of the House - one for each electoral division - are elected by an absolute majority of the votes cast. Voters are required to express a preference among all the candidates contesting the same seat. A candidate is elected if he/she gains an absolute majority or 50% + 1 vote. If none of the candidates in a division obtains an absolute majority of the first preference votes, a second round of counting is held. At this point, the candidate with the least number of votes is eliminated and the votes which he/she obtained in the first round are redistributed among the remaining candidates on the basis of the electors' second choices. This procedure is repeated until such time as one of the candidates obtains an absolute majority. Vacancies arising between general elections are filled through by-elections.

Voting is compulsory, unwarranted abstention punishable by fine.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years

- Australian citizen or British subject registered on the Commonwealth Electoral Roll on 25 January 1984

Disqualification: holders of temporary entry permits, prohibited immigrants, conviction for treason, insanity, persons serving a sentence of three years or more

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified electors
- age: 18 years
- Australian citizenship

Ineligibility: undischarged bankruptcy, conviction for treason, allegiance to a foreign State, conviction for an offence punishable by imprisonment of one year or more, conviction for bribery within preceding two years

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- membership of a state or territory legislature or of the other House of Parliament
- holders of an office of profit or pension payable out of public funds (except Ministers and members of the armed forces)
- officers of the Electoral Commission
- unless excepted, person with any financial interest in an agreement with the Government

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- nomination by six qualified electors of the constituency concerned or a registered political party
- payment of A\$ 350, reimbursed to any candidate obtaining at least 4% of first preference votes

Background and Outcome of the Elections

At stake in the August 2010 elections were all 150 seats in the House of Representatives and 40 of the 70 seats in the Senate (see note). Elections were constitutionally due by November 2010. They were the first to be held under Prime Minister Julia Gillard, who had succeeded Mr. Kevin Rudd two months earlier.

In the previous elections held in November 2007, the Australian Labor Party (ALP) of Mr. Rudd - who had promised to ratify the Kyoto Protocol and cut carbon emissions by 60 per cent by 2050 - took 83 of the 150 seats in the House of Representatives and 18 of the 40 Senate seats up for renewal. The

Liberal Party of the then Prime Minister John Howard took 55 and 15 seats respectively. In December, Mr. Rudd was sworn in as new Prime Minister alongside the Deputy Prime Minister, Ms. Gillard, who became the first woman to hold the post.

Mr. Rudd initially enjoyed high popularity. However, his popularity dwindled in April 2010 after he shelved plans for a carbon emissions trading scheme. In May 2010, he proposed a 40-per-cent tax on mining profits from July 2012. He argued that the tax would bring in AU\$ 12 billion in the first two years, which would be necessary to provide a better welfare system for the country's ageing population. The mining companies criticized the tax plan, insisting that it would make them uncompetitive and result in job cuts.

Mr. Rudd's leadership was challenged within the ALP, and Ms. Gillard became party leader and acceded to the post of Prime Minister on 24 June 2010. She became the first woman Prime Minister of Australia. On 17 July, after only one month in office, she announced that the country would hold elections on 21 August. On 19 July, Governor-General Quentin Bryce dissolved the House of Representatives in view of the polls.

The 2010 elections were the first federal elections to be held under the new leaders of the ALP and the Liberal Party, Ms. Gillard and Mr. Abbott. The latter led the Liberal-National coalition comprising the Liberal Party, the Liberal National Party of Queensland (LNP, officially established in July 2008), the National Party and the County Liberal Party.

During the campaign, Prime Minister Gillard (ALP) pledged to move the country forward "with budget surpluses and a stronger economy" by creating jobs, improving health care, tackling climate change and strengthening border protection. Liberal leader Abbott pledged to "stand up for Australia" and "for real action" so as to "end the waste, repay the debt, stop new taxes and stop the boats".

The ALP promised a stimulus spending package of AU\$ 54 billion, mostly on schools, roads, ports and railways. It promised to achieve budget surpluses of AU\$ 3.5 billion in 2012-13 and AU\$ 4.5 billion in 2013-2014. The Liberal-National coalition promised to cut the government debt by 35 per cent, or AU\$ 30.2 billion, over four years, so as to produce an AU\$ 6.2 billion budget surplus by 2012-13 and AU\$ 7.3 billion the following year.

The ALP promised to introduce a 30-per-cent tax on mining companies

from 2012 to raise AU\$ 10.5 billion whereas the Greens of Mr. Bob Brown advocated for a higher mining tax to raise AU\$ 12.5 billion. The Liberal-National coalition, however, opposed the mining tax, arguing that it would make Australian companies uncompetitive.

The ALP pledged to reduce corporate tax from the current 30 per cent to 29 per cent from 2012 or 2013 for small firms and from 2013 or 2014 for big firms. The Liberal-National coalition proposed a 28.5 per cent tax for all firms starting from July 2013.

Both the ALP and the Liberal-National coalition promised to work on reducing the number of asylum-seekers reaching the country's shores. The ALP proposed to open a temporary regional asylum-processing centre in Timor-Leste, which the Liberal-National coalition qualified as unrealistic.

Due to the high popularity of the new Prime Minister, the ALP initially had a lead over the Liberal-National coalition. However, during the election campaign, several ALP members revealed that Ms. Gillard had opposed a pension rise and a paid parental leave scheme while she was Deputy Prime Minister. Those revelations reportedly triggered a sharp decline in her popularity and in the ALP's ratings in the run-up to the polls.

As voting is compulsory, turnout is traditionally high in Australia. In all, 93 per cent of the 14 million registered voters turned out at the polls.

The 2010 elections resulted in the first "hung parliament" since 1940, whereby no party secured an outright majority in the House of Representatives. The Liberal-National coalition took 73 seats, one more than the ALP. Four independent members were elected while the Greens took one seat. In the Senate race, the Liberal-National coalition took 18 seats, three more than the ALP, while the Greens took six seats. Once the newly elected senators are sworn in in July 2011, the Liberal-National coalition will hold 34 seats, three more than the ALP.

Neither the ALP nor the Liberal-National coalition conceded defeat. On 7 September, Ms. Gillard announced that her ALP would form a minority government with the support of the Greens and three independent members.

On 28 September, the newly elected House of Representatives held its first session and re-elected Mr. Harry Jenkins (ALP) as its Speaker.

Note:

Elections were held for 36 state senators (six each for the country's six states) and four territory senators (two each from the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory), who will serve a six-year term from 1 July 2011. Their term commences on election day and expires the day before the next general elections to the House of Representatives.

Election results and statistics▶ **Voter turnout**

Number of registered electors	14,086,869	
Voters	13,131,667	93.22%

▶ **Distribution of seats according to political group**

	Seats	Number of women
Australian Labor Party (ALP)	72	23
Liberal Party	44	11
Liberal National Party of Queensland	21	3
The Nationals	7	0
Country Liberal Party (CLP)	1	0
Greens	1	0
Independents	4	0
Total	150	37

▶ **Distribution of seats according to sex**

Men	113	
Women	37	24.67 %
Total	150	

AUSTRALIA

Senate

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia
Structure of Parliament	Bicameral
Chamber	Senate
Number of members	76 directly elected
Term of House	6 years, continuous but rotating. One half renewed every 3 years, except for the 4 senators representing the federal territories, who are elected for a maximum of 3 years.
Date of elections	21 August 2010

Timing and scope of renewal

Early elections were held for one-half of the Senators. Elections to the Senate had previously taken place in November 2007.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

- 6 multi-member (12 seats) constituencies corresponding to the states
- 2 multi-member (2 seats) constituencies corresponding to the federal territories

▶ **Voting system: Proportional**

Single-transferable-vote. Under this system, each elector indicates an order of preference among all the candidates of the constituency; he/she may alternatively indicate support for the registered order of preference of a party or group of candidates. Once the number of first preference votes obtained by each candidate has been recorded, an electoral quota for the state or territory is determined by dividing the total number of votes by one more than the number of seats to be filled and increasing by one the result so arrived at. Any candidate who receives the established quota of votes is declared elected. Senate candidates receiving votes in excess of the quota have their surplus votes distributed (at a discount), according to their electors' ranking of preferences. If all the positions are not filled by candidates obtaining quotas by this means, then the next preferences of the voters for the least successful candidates are distributed, until all vacancies are filled by candidates obtaining quotas. The final result is a constituency with

several candidates elected, each representing a proportion or quota of the total vote.

Vacancies are filled by selection of a person of the same political party by a joint sitting of the houses of parliament of the state or territory concerned.

Voting is compulsory. Unwarranted abstention is punishable by fine.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- At least 18 years old
- Australian citizen or British subject registered on the Commonwealth Electoral Roll on 25 January 1984

Disqualification:

People of unsound mind, or with conviction for treason, or prisoners serving a sentence of five years or more, are ineligible to vote.

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified electors
- At least 18 years old
- Australian citizenship

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- A member of the House of Representatives, or a state or territory legislature
- A citizen or subject of a foreign power
- A person convicted of an offence punishable by a sentence of 12 months or more
- An undischarged bankrupt
- A holder of an office of profit or pension payable out of public funds
- A government contractor

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- nomination by 50 qualified electors or a registered officer of the party that is endorsing the candidate
- payment of A\$ 700, reimbursed to any candidate who obtains at least 4% of first preference votes or who is in a group of candidates securing this same percentage

Background and Outcome of the Elections

At stake in the August 2010 elections were all 150 seats in the House of Representatives and 40 of the 70 seats in the Senate (see note). Elections

were constitutionally due by November 2010. They were the first to be held under Prime Minister Julia Gillard, who had succeeded Mr. Kevin Rudd two months earlier.

In the previous elections held in November 2007, the Australian Labor Party (ALP) of Mr. Rudd - who had promised to ratify the Kyoto Protocol and cut carbon emissions by 60 per cent by 2050 - took 83 of the 150 seats in the House of Representatives and 18 of the 40 Senate seats up for renewal. The Liberal Party of the then Prime Minister John Howard took 55 and 15 seats respectively. In December, Mr. Rudd was sworn in as new Prime Minister alongside the Deputy Prime Minister, Ms. Gillard, who became the first woman to hold the post.

Mr. Rudd initially enjoyed high popularity. However, his popularity dwindled in April 2010 after he shelved plans for a carbon emissions trading scheme. In May 2010, he proposed a 40-per-cent tax on mining profits from July 2012. He argued that the tax would bring in AU\$ 12 billion in the first two years, which would be necessary to provide a better welfare system for the country's ageing population. The mining companies criticized the tax plan, insisting that it would make them uncompetitive and result in job cuts.

Mr. Rudd's leadership was challenged within the ALP, and Ms. Gillard became party leader and acceded to the post of Prime Minister on 24 June 2010. She became the first woman Prime Minister of Australia. On 17 July, after only one month in office, she announced that the country would hold elections on 21 August. On 19 July, Governor-General Quentin Bryce dissolved the House of Representatives in view of the polls.

The 2010 elections were the first federal elections to be held under the new leaders of the ALP and the Liberal Party, Ms. Gillard and Mr. Abbott. The latter led the Liberal-National coalition comprising the Liberal Party, the Liberal National Party of Queensland (LNP, officially established in July 2008), the National Party and the Country Liberal Party.

During the campaign, Prime Minister Gillard (ALP) pledged to move the country forward "with budget surpluses and a stronger economy" by creating jobs, improving health care, tackling climate change and strengthening border protection. Liberal leader Abbott pledged to "stand up for Australia" and "for real action" so as to "end the waste, repay the debt, stop new taxes and stop the boats".

The ALP promised a stimulus spending package of AU\$ 54 billion, mostly on schools, roads, ports and railways. It promised to achieve budget surpluses of AU\$ 3.5 billion in 2012-13 and AU\$ 4.5 billion in 2013-2014. The Liberal-National coalition promised to cut the government debt by 35 per cent, or AU\$ 30.2 billion, over four years, so as to produce an AU\$ 6.2 billion budget surplus by 2012-13 and AU\$ 7.3 billion the following year.

The ALP promised to introduce a 30-per-cent tax on mining companies from 2012 to raise AU\$ 10.5 billion whereas the Greens of Mr. Bob Brown advocated for a higher mining tax to raise AU\$ 12.5 billion. The Liberal-National coalition, however, opposed the mining tax, arguing that it would make Australian companies uncompetitive.

The ALP pledged to reduce corporate tax from the current 30 per cent to 29 per cent from 2012 or 2013 for small firms and from 2013 or 2014 for big firms. The Liberal-National coalition proposed a 28.5 per cent tax for all firms starting from July 2013.

Both the ALP and the Liberal-National coalition promised to work on reducing the number of asylum-seekers reaching the country's shores. The ALP proposed to open a temporary regional asylum-processing centre in Timor-Leste, which the Liberal-National coalition qualified as unrealistic.

Due to the high popularity of the new Prime Minister, the ALP initially had a lead over the Liberal-National coalition. However, during the election campaign, several ALP members revealed that Ms. Gillard had opposed a pension rise and a paid parental leave scheme while she was Deputy Prime Minister. Those revelations reportedly triggered a sharp decline in her popularity and in the ALP's ratings in the run-up to the polls.

As voting is compulsory, turnout is traditionally high in Australia. In all, 93 per cent of the 14 million registered voters turned out at the polls.

The 2010 elections resulted in the first "hung parliament" since 1940, whereby no party secured an outright majority in the House of Representatives. The Liberal-National coalition took 73 seats, one more than the ALP. Four independent members were elected while the Greens took one seat. In the Senate race, the Liberal-National coalition took 18 seats, three more than the ALP, while the Greens took six seats. Once the newly elected senators are sworn in in July 2011, the Liberal-National coalition will hold 34 seats, three more than the ALP.

Neither the ALP nor the Liberal-National coalition conceded defeat. On 7 September, Ms. Gillard announced that her ALP would form a minority government with the support of the Greens and three independent members.

On 28 September, the newly elected House of Representatives held its first session and re-elected Mr. Harry Jenkins (ALP) as its Speaker.

Note:

Elections were held for 36 state senators (six each for the country's six states) and four territory senators (two each from the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory), who will serve a six-year term from 1 July 2011. Their term commences on election day and expires the day before the next general elections to the House of Representatives.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	14,086,869	
Voters	13,217,393	93.83%

▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

	Total	Seats Nov. 2010	Seats July 2011
Australian Labor Party (ALP)	15	32	31
Liberal Party	15	32	29
Australian Greens	6	5	9
The Nationals - Country Liberal Party (CLP)	3	5	5
Democrat Labor Party	1	0	1
Family First Party	0	1	0
Independents	0	1	1
Total	40	76	76

Note on the distribution of seats:

- The figures under "Total" refer to the number of members elected when the Senate was partially renewed (40 seats) in August 2010. Those members will be sworn in in July 2011.

- The figures under "Seats Nov. 2010" show the composition of the Senate in November 2010 when the Senate held its first session after the 2010 elections. They include outgoing senators elected in 2004. The figures under "Seats July 2011" include the members elected in August 2010.

▶ **Distribution of seats according to sex**

	Seats 2010		Total	
Men	25		49	
Women	15	37.50%	27	35.53%
Total	40		76	

AZERBAIJAN

National Assembly

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Milli Mejlis / National Assembly
Structure of Parliament	Unicameral
Number of members	125 directly elected
Term of House	5 years
Date of elections	7 November 2010

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all seats in the National Assembly on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

- 125 single-member constituencies

▶ **Voting system: Majority**

Single-member plurality systems ("first past the post")

By-elections are held to fill vacancies between general elections unless there are less than 120 days remaining in the term of the Assembly.

Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years

- Azerbaijani citizenship or persons living in Azerbaijan for at least five years.

Disqualification: Persons recognized as ineligible to participate in elections by a court.

▶ **Eligibility**

- age: 25 years

- Azerbaijani citizenship

Ineligibility :

- Persons serving court-ordered sentences in places of detention or confinement;

- Persons sentenced for serious crimes;

- Azerbaijani citizens with dual citizenship (as long as they retain the dual

citizenship);

- Azerbaijani citizens currently having obligations to foreign countries.

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- professional military personnel

- judges

- government officials

- religious officials

- other paid activity (except scientific, creative or teaching work)

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- Candidates must collect the signatures of 450 voters in their election districts (constituencies).

Background and Outcome of the Elections

On 3 September 2010, President Ilham Aliyev signed a decree setting parliamentary elections for 7 November.

After the previous elections held in November 2005 (and re-run elections for 10 seats in May 2006), the ruling New Azerbaijan Party (NAP) took 61 of the 125 seats in the National Assembly. The Azadliq (Freedom) bloc, comprising three opposition parties - the Democratic Party of Azerbaijan (ADP), the Musavat Party and the Popular Front (PFAP) - took nine seats. The Justice Party and the Civic Solidarity Party took one seat each while the remaining 53 seats went to independent candidates.

Mr. Ilham Aliyev, the then Prime Minister, inherited the presidency after the death of his father, Heydar, in 2003. In October 2008, he was re-elected for a second term in presidential elections that were boycotted by opposition parties. In March 2009, a constitutional referendum removed the two-term limit on the president.

In all, 690 candidates contested the 2010 elections. In addition to President Aliyev's NAP, about ten pro-government parties - including the Motherland Party representing Azerbaijanis of Armenian origin - as well as many independent candidates close to the NAP were vying for seats.

Opposition forces remained divided in 2010, and ran against each other. They included "Democracy" (Demokratiya), "Reform" (Islahat) as well as the bloc formed by Mr. Ali Kerimli's PFAP and Mr. Isa Qambar's Musavat, the country's traditional opposition force (see note).

The NAP ran on the government's record and pledged to continue "the successful policy pursued by President Ilham Aliyev". Deputy Chairman of NAP, Mr. Ali Ahmadov, called on voters' support, underscoring that President Aliyev was laying a "solid foundation of development for Azerbaijan" and would bring "dramatic change to society".

The Civil Solidarity Party (VHP), a component of "Democracy", pledged to become "a political force that can give it the strength to achieve democratic values".

PFAP-Musavat issued a joint platform, "For cardinal changes", arguing that deep reforms in all spheres were required. It promised to amend the Constitution to expand parliament's powers and to accelerate the country's integration into Europe. Musavat, the oldest political party in Azerbaijan, formed in 1911, was reportedly losing ground.

"Reform", led by Mr. Fazil Mustafa, pledged to become a new opposition force and was running against PFAP-Musavat.

In all, 50.14 per cent of the 4.9 million registered voters turned out at the polls.

PFAP-Musavat claimed voting irregularities, including ballot stuffing, multiple voting, and interference in the voting by the executive authorities.

Observers from the European Parliament stated that the election had been technically well-organized and proceeded in a calm atmosphere, but noted irregularities such as massive ballot stuffing. The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) called for greater efforts to achieve "a truly pluralist democracy". They criticized limits to media freedom and freedom of assembly, which, in their view, "further weakened the opposition and made vibrant political discourse almost impossible". Observers from the Commonwealth of Independent States declared the vote "free and fair".

The final results gave 71 seats to the NAP and 41 to independent candidates close to the NAP. The Motherland Party took two seats. The remaining 11 seats went to nine opposition parties. PFAP-Musavat failed to win parliamentary representation. 20 women were elected.

In all, 87 outgoing members were re-elected. Three relatives of President Aliyev (his wife, his uncle and his cousin's husband) won seats.

Musavat leader Isa Qambar rejected the election results and called for fresh polls that were free and fair, a call rejected by the government.

On 29 November, the newly elected National Assembly held its first session and re-elected Mr. Oqtay S. Asadov (NAP) as its Speaker.

Note:

"Democracy" (Demokratiya) comprised the Democratic Reform Party (PDR) and the Civil Solidarity Party (VHP). "Reform" (Islahat) comprised the United People's Front, the Justice Party (Aadalyat), Takamul (Evolution) and the Grand Establishment Party. Other opposition forces were: Karabakh coalition (Qarabag), comprising Umid (Hope) and the Democratic Party of Azerbaijan (ADP); and For the Good of the People (Insan Namine), comprising the Green Party, the Liberal Party (ALP) and the Citizens and Development Party.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	4,946,588
Voters	50.14 %

▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

	Seats
New Aspiration Party (NAP)	71
Motherland party (Ana Vaten)	2
Civic Unity party	1
National Rebirth Movement	1
Social Welfare party	1
Great Creation party	1
Democracy	4
Civic Solidarity Party (VHP)	3
Democratic Reform Party (PDR)	1
Reform	2
United People's Front	1
Justice Party	1
Umid (Hope)	1
Independents	41
Total	125

► Distribution of seats according to sex

Men	105	
Women	20	16.00 %
Total	125	

► Distribution of seats according to age

31 to 40 years		5
41 to 50 years		42
51 to 60 years		48
61 to 70 years		24
Over 70 years		6
Total		125

BAHRAIN

Council of Representatives

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Al-Majlis Al-Watani / National Assembly
Structure of Parliament	Bicameral
Chamber	Majlis Al-Nuwab / Council of Representatives
Number of members	40 directly elected
Term of House	4 years
Date of elections	23 & 30 October 2010

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all the seats in the Council of Representatives on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

40 single-member constituencies

▶ **Voting system: Majority**

Two-round system.

Run-off elections are held if no candidate obtains an absolute majority in the first round. An absolute majority is not required in the second round.

Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: at least 20 years old on election day

- citizenship of Bahrain

- citizens overseas can vote without restriction

Disqualification: persons convicted of a criminal or election-related offence, or an offence involving honesty or moral turpitude and who have not completed their sentences (excluding persons for whom execution of the sentence is suspended).

▶ **Eligibility**

- age: at least 20 years old on election day

- citizenship of Bahrain

- full civil and political rights

- ability to read and write Arabic

Ineligibility:

- persons convicted for a capital crime
- persons sentenced to imprisonment of over six months or a more severe form of punishment. This disqualification is valid for ten years starting from the next day of the penalty execution or forfeiture of the penalty or the date when the sentence becomes final.

▶ Incompatibilities

- government ministers
- holders of judicial office (judges)
- prosecutors

▶ Candidacy requirements

- Candidates' names must be on the list of nominees for the constituency in which they are running.
- Persons nominating themselves for election to Parliament must apply in writing on a special form to the supervisory committee for verification of polls and elections.
- The application must be accompanied by a non-refundable deposit of 200 Bahraini dinars.

Background and Outcome of the Elections

On 8 August 2010, King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa called elections to the Council of Representatives (lower chamber) for 23 October (see note). The country of just over 1.2 million inhabitants has been ruled since 1782 by the Al-Khalifa family. The 40-member Shura Council (upper chamber) is appointed by the King and has the power to override the decisions of the lower chamber. Although political parties are banned, "political societies" were legalized by an amendment in 2005 to the 1989 law prohibiting political parties.

In the previous elections (November 2006), the opposition Islamic National Accord Association (INAA, also known as Al Wefaq), led by the Shi'ite cleric Sheik Ali Salman, became the largest force in the Council of Representatives, taking 17 of the 40 seats. Pro-government groups - the Sunni National Islamic Tribune Association (Al Menbar, representing the Muslim Brotherhood) and its ally the Assala Association - took seven and five seats respectively. The remaining 11 seats went to independent candidates, 10 of whom subsequently aligned with the pro-government camp. One independent candidate, Ms. Latifah Al-Qoud, was elected unopposed, becoming the sole woman in the Council of Representatives.

Shia Muslims account for the majority of the population and have been pushing for a stronger political voice. In August 2010, Shias led street protests against what they termed their "second-class" status, complaining of discrimination in housing, health care and access to government jobs, and calling for reform of the electoral boundaries.

In September, 250 people were detained for planning to overthrow the government. 23 Shia activists who faced trial on security-related charges were subsequently released in February 2011 by order of the King.

In all, 142 candidates, including nine women - down from 17 in 2006 - were vying for seats in the Council of Representatives.

The INAA remained the largest political force in 2010. It promised to work for equality and a genuine multiparty democracy, arguing that parliament, instead of the King, should appoint ministers. Amal - the second-largest and more radical Shia movement - urged voters to boycott the elections, arguing that parliament was a sham.

Pro-government political societies - the Assala Association and Al Menbar - pledged to uphold the monarchy. The former promised to defend Bahraini tradition and oppose women's representation in Parliament. The latter voiced no objection to women members of parliament.

On 23 October, 67 per cent of nearly 320,000 registered voters turned out, down from 72 per cent in 2006.

In all, 31 candidates secured the required majority in the first round of voting, including five who were elected unopposed and one woman. The INAA took 18 of the 31 seats and the Assala Association took two. Eleven independent candidates were also elected.

The INAA claimed that at least 890 voters were turned away from polling stations in Shi'ite-dominated areas because their names were not on the electoral lists. The Minister of Justice and Islamic Affairs, Sheikh Khaled bin Ali Al-Khalifa, stated that the voting had been "transparent and fair" and promised to investigate any irregularities.

About 67 per cent of registered voters turned out at the second round on 30 October. In the nine run-off elections, Al Menbar and the Assala Association took two and one seat respectively and the other six seats were won by

Independents.

Overall, the share of the INAA remained at 18 seats since none of its candidates were present in the second round. As before, only one woman member was elected to the new Council of Representatives.

On 14 December, King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa inaugurated the newly elected Council of Representatives, which re-elected Mr. Khalifa bin Ahmed Al-Dhahrani as its Speaker.

A royal decree issued on 24 November appointed 40 members to the Shura Council, including 11 women. Mr. Ali Bin Saleh Al-Saleh was re-appointed as Speaker.

Note:

Article 58 of the Constitution stipulates that general elections to the Council of Representatives are to be held during the last four months of the Council's term. The 2010 elections are not considered early elections. (Constitution, February 2002: <http://www.bahrain-embassy.or.jp/en/constitution.pdf>)

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

	Round 1 (23 October)	Round 2 (30 October)
Number of registered electors	318,668	About 171,000
Turnout	67.00 %	67.00 %

▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

	1st round	2 nd round	Total
Islamic National Accord Association (INAA, Al Wefaq)	18	0	18
Assala Association	2	1	3
National Islamic Tribune Association (Al Menbar)	0	2	2
Independents	11	6	17
Total	31	9	40

► **Distribution of seats according to sex**

Men	39	
Women	1	2.50 %
Total	40	

► **Distribution of seats according to profession**

	Seats	
Civil service and local authority administration	7	
Finance, management or business	6	
Architect, surveyor, engineer	5	
Education profession	3	
IT/technology	3	
Clerical, secretarial, administration	3	
Journalism, broadcasting, media	2	
Legal profession	1	
Economist	1	
Armed services/Police	1	
Social worker	1	
Research/sciences	1	
Trade union official	1	
Civil society activity	1	
Others	4	
Total	40	

► **Distribution of seats according to age**

31 to 40 years	3	
41 to 50 years	20	
51 to 60 years	14	
61 to 70 years	3	
Total	40	

BELGIUM

House of Representatives

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Parlement fédéral - Federaal Parlement - Föderales Parlament / Federal Parliament
Structure of Parliament Chamber	Bicameral Chambre des Représentants / House of Representatives
Number of members	150 directly elected
Term of House	4 years
Date of elections	13 June 2010

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all the seats in the House of Representatives following the early dissolution of this body on 6 May 2010. Elections to the House of Representatives had previously taken place on 10 June 2007.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

11 multi-member constituencies (corresponding to the country's nine provinces, Bruxelles-Hal-Vilvorde and Louvain)

▶ **Voting system: Proportional**

Party-list system.

Each party submits one list for each constituency.

Seats are distributed according to the d'Hondt method. Vote-splitting is not provided for, but preferential voting with respect to the same list is possible.

Vacancies arising between general elections are filled by substitutes chosen at the same time as titular members.

Voting is compulsory; any unjustified abstention is punishable, with penalties ranging from a possible fine to removal from the register.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years

- Belgian citizenship

Disqualification: criminal conviction (suspension of rights: insanity, imprisonment, as long as the persons concerned remain in an incapacitated state)

▶ Eligibility

- qualified electors
- age: 21 years
- Belgian citizenship
- full possession of civil and political rights
- residence in Belgium

▶ Incompatibilities

- Ministers of Government
- any paid function undertaken pursuant to government decision
- membership of another legislative assembly (Senate, community or regional council)
- civil servant or salaried employee of the State, provincial Clerk, State-paid clergyman, public-service lawyer, Treasury official, Government commissioner for private companies, etc.

▶ Candidacy requirements

- supporting signature of 200 to 500 electors (depending on the size of the constituency), or three outgoing members of Parliament.

Background and Outcome of the Elections

Elections were held on 13 June 2010 after the coalition government collapsed in April following a prolonged political crisis that had ensued in the aftermath of the previous elections held on 10 June 2007. They took place 12 months before the term of the legislature ended. On 6 May, the House of Representatives and the Senate adopted a declaration on the need for constitutional review, a procedure necessary for the dissolution of parliament. The publication of the review in the Belgian Moniteur (official gazette) led to both Houses being dissolved.

At stake were all 150 seats in the House of Representatives and 40 directly elected seats in the Senate.

Belgium is a country of 10.8 million inhabitants divided into three communities: the French, the Flemish and the German-speaking communities. It is composed of three regions: Wallonia (32.5% of the population), the Brussels-Capital region (9.7%) and Flanders (57.8%). The communities and regions have specific responsibilities. Belgium is furthermore composed of four linguistic regions: the French-speaking region, the Dutch-speaking region, the bilingual Brussels-Capital region and the German-speaking region.

In the 10 June 2007 elections, the Christian Democratic and Flemish-New Flemish Alliance (comprising the CD&V, led by Mr. Yves Leterme, and the N-VA, led by Mr. Bart De Wever), became the largest group in both chambers after campaigning notably for institutional reform and greater autonomy for the communities. It took 30 of the 150 seats in the House of Representatives and nine of the 40 directly elected seats in the Senate. The parties in the coalition government of then Prime Minister Guy Verhofstadt saw their share fall. The government, which comprised two Flemish parties - Mr. Verhofstadt's Open Vld and the Flemish Socialist Party-Spirit alliance (sp.a-Spirit, see note 1) - and two French-speaking parties - the Movement for Reform (MR) and the Socialist Party (PS), was forced to resign.

Following 196 days during which several attempts to form a government failed, an emergency interim government comprising five parties (the Open Vld, the MR, the CD&V, the PS and the cdH) was finally formed on 21 December 2007 under the leadership of Mr. Guy Verhofstadt. Its main task was to pass the 2008 budget. It won a vote of confidence on 23 December 2007 and Mr. Leterme was appointed Deputy Prime Minister. Although he was in charge of the budget portfolio, he led talks on institutional reform with other parties with a view to forming a new government. On 20 March 2008, Mr. Leterme was appointed Prime Minister and received a mandate to form a coalition government composed of the same parties as the interim government. On assuming the post, he announced that his government would devolve more federal powers to regional governments by 15 July 2008 (see note 2). After failing to meet the deadline, Mr. Leterme tendered his resignation to the King, which the latter did not accept.

The 2008 global economic crisis that severely affected the world banking system also hit the Belgian financial group Fortis. Mr. Leterme's government tried to resolve the crisis by selling Fortis to the French bank BNP Paribas. Several shareholders opposed the move and took the case to court. On 12 December, the Appeal Court delivered its ruling, following which the President of the Appeal Court informed the House Speaker that attempts had been made to pressure the Appeal Court judges over the case. Prime Minister Leterme dismissed the allegations but admitted that one of his officials had contacted the judges. He nevertheless tendered his resignation to the King on 19 December, which was accepted. The then House Speaker, Mr. Herman Van Rompuy (CD&V), succeeded him as Prime Minister on 30 December 2008. Mr. Leterme was appointed Foreign Minister on 17 July 2009.

In November 2009, Mr. Van Rompuy was elected the first permanent

President of the European Council and subsequently resigned as Prime Minister. Mr. Leterme once again became Prime Minister on 25 November 2009. However, his second government was forced to resign after the Open Vld, led by Mr. Alexander De Croo since October 2009, withdrew from the coalition on 22 April 2010 over a long-standing dispute about voting rights in the Brussels-Halle-Vilvoorde constituency (see note 3).

The major issues in the 2010 elections were economic recovery and improved public finances, in addition to institutional reform in Belgium, and in particular, the federal political system adopted following a number of institutional reforms.

In 2010, the Flemish parties that had formed an alliance for the 2007 elections - the CD&V and the N-VA - contested the elections separately. The Open Vld-sp.a, led by Caroline Gennez, Groen! (the Flemish green party), the Vlaams Belang and the List Dedecker also fielded candidates. All Dutch-speaking parties were in favour of State reform and greater autonomy for the various regions and communities. In the French-speaking part of the country, the PS of Mr. Elio Di Rupo, the MR of Mr. Didier Reynders, the cdH of Ms. Joëlle Milquet, the Ecolo (Greens), led by Jean-Michel Javaux and the PP, led by Mischaël Modrikamen, ran for the elections. They were keen to maintain a strong centralized federal government.

The programme of the N-VA, led by Mr. Bart De Wever, proposed to invest the regions and communities with considerable autonomy and limit the power of the federal government to essential areas such as defence and foreign relations. The judiciary and social security would be devolved to the regional and community governments. The party proposed to gradually reduce the powers of the federal government and in parallel, enhance its integration into Europe. It aimed to maintain the competitiveness of companies and supported certain proposals made by employers' organizations.

The CD&V, led since 2008 by Ms. Marianne Thyseen, also advocated reform via a redistribution of power among the federal government, the communities and the regions while maintaining adequate funding to ensure the proper running of the federal government. Its programme sought to foster an economic upturn through concerted social policy and focusing on the family.

The PS pledged to be part of a federal government that was capable of

tackling economic problems and the serious social crisis without being bogged down by institutional handicaps. PS leader Di Rupo promised to initiate a constructive dialogue with the parties in the north in order to find a negotiated solution to the country's institutional problems, thereby improving the lives of citizens and creating a stable federal State. In addition to promoting job creation and making health care accessible to all, the party aimed to implement fairer taxation with a view to achieving a lasting social pact.

The MR called for reform in order to guarantee security, modernize the judicial system and make public administration more efficient and able to better serve citizens and companies. This party considered that institutional reform should not be an end in itself. It could be justified if it added value in terms of good governance and improved the daily life of citizens. The MR's programme aimed to guarantee a job for each citizen, support entrepreneurs and put in place a genuinely European and economically sound government.

The sp.a pledged to combat tax fraud and boost employment, in particular for youth and unskilled persons. It provided for measures to guarantee that the pension system remained in place and to raise the lowest incomes.

The Open Vld called for reforms to the political system that would make it less costly and more democratic. It aimed to improve the State budget and foster a more competitive economy without raising taxes. Moreover, it called for the regions to gradually take on further financial responsibilities and greater fiscal autonomy.

The far-right Vlaams Belang (Flemish Interest) party, led by Mr. Bruno Valkeniers, confirmed its ultimate objective of an independent Flanders, and was opposed to the immigration of persons who refused to integrate and did not respect the fundamental values of Belgian society. It pledged to actively combat the problem of illegal immigrants.

The programmes of the Ecolo and Groen! parties, which belong to the same parliamentary group in the House, focused on promoting sustainable development and environmental protection and combating climate change. They were in favour of greater solidarity at the global level, migrant mobility and better procedures for facilitating migrants' stay in the country. They were willing to help find a new institutional balance with a view to emerging in a lasting manner from the community conflicts and giving

priority to urgent economic, social and environmental matters.

The cdH called for a new pact among Belgians to emerge from their institutional crisis. They also called for an ambitious jobs pact and sustainable economic and human growth to recover from the economic crisis. They appealed for unity to achieve this goal.

In all, 89.22 per cent of the 7.7 million registered voters turned out at the polls. Voting is compulsory in Belgium. The final results for the House of Representatives gave the N-VA 27 seats, up from eight. The CD&V saw its share drop from 23 to 17 seats, and the Vlaams Belang from 16 to 12. The PS increased its share from 20 to 26 seats and the sp.a took 13, the same number as the Open Vld and Ecolo-Groen!. The MR and the cdH took 18 and nine seats respectively and the remainder went to small parties.

In the Senate elections, the N-VA came first, winning nine of the 40 seats at stake. The CD&V and the Open Vld-sp.a took four seats each, with Vlaams Belang copping three and Groen! one seat. The PS came in second with seven seats, followed by the MR with four and the cdH and Ecolo with two seats each.

On 6 July, the members of the House of Representatives were sworn in alongside the 40 directly elected senators. On 20 July, the House of Representatives elected Mr. André Flahaut (PS) as its new Speaker. On 13 July, 21 senators designated by the Community Parliaments (see note 4) took office while 10 co-opted members (see note 5) were sworn in on 20 July. On the same day, the Senate elected Mr. Danny Pieters (N-VA) as its President.

Negotiations for the formation of a new government have remained at a standstill ever since. On 16 May 2011, King Albert II mandated Mr. Di Rupo (PS) to form a government and instructed him to do everything that was necessary to that end. Meanwhile, Mr. Leterme's outgoing government remained in office, invested with the requisite powers to run the country in collaboration with the Federal Parliament.

Note 1:

The Spirit party, which had been in alliance with the Flemish Socialist Party in the 2007 elections, merged with the Flemish Greens (Groen!) in December 2009 and ceased to exist.

Note 2:

Between 1970 and 1993, Belgium evolved into a federal State.

In broad terms, the federal government is responsible for matters concerning finance, the army, the judicial system, social security, foreign affairs, a large share of public health and internal affairs, social protection laws (unemployment, pensions, family allowances, and health and disability insurance), the public debt, monetary policy, pricing and salary policy, savings, nuclear power, State-owned enterprises and federal cultural and scientific organizations. The federal government is also responsible for Belgium's and its federated states' relations with the European Union and NATO.

The regions are responsible for areas that affect them directly. For example, the Flemish region, the Brussels-Capital region and Wallonia are responsible for matters such as the economy, employment, agriculture, water policy, housing, public works, energy, transport (except the SNCB (national railway company)), the environment, planning and urban development, nature conservation, credit, external trade, trusteeship of provinces, communes and intercommunal relations. They are also responsible for scientific research and international relations in the above-mentioned areas.

Belgium is composed of three communities: the French community, the Flemish community and the German-speaking community. The community is based on the notion of "language" and is therefore linked to the persons living there. They are responsible for culture (theatre, libraries, audiovisual works, etc.), teaching, the use of languages and community-specific areas (health policy, public assistance, youth protection, social benefits, family benefits, assistance for newly-arrived immigrants, etc.). They are also responsible for scientific research and international relations in the above-mentioned areas.

For some time now, the communities have been calling for greater autonomy, particularly in the north of the country, where the economy performs better and the per-capita income is higher than in the south. State finances and the public finances of the regions and communities are blamed: Flanders considers that it sends more money out than it keeps for its own use. Proposals have been made to finance the regions and communities based on their own tax revenues while maintaining a system of solidarity. Some call for a change to a confederal system.

Note 3:

The constituency of Brussels-Halle-Vilvoorde (BHV) comprises the capital, Brussels, and the 25 Flemish municipalities surrounding it that are part of Flanders, although some communes close to Brussels have a special language arrangement for their French-speaking inhabitants. This is the only electoral district in Belgium where Flemish and French-speaking political parties compete directly with each other. The Flemish parties attempted to amend the electoral law in order to create a monolingual constituency in Halle-Vilvoorde and a bilingual constituency in Brussels, but the French-speaking parties refused and are calling for an extension of the Brussels region and, above all, retention of the rights of French-speaking inhabitants if the new constituency is created. During negotiations, one possible solution that was raised was a voting right for Brussels.

Note 4:

Ten senators each are designated by the Parliament of the French Community (Communauté française) and the Flemish Parliament (Vlaams Parlement) while the Parliament of the German-speaking Community nominates one member, bringing the total number of senators designated by the Community Parliaments to 21.

Note 5:

Six Flemish-speaking members and four French-speaking members are co-opted.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	7,767,552	
Voters	6,929,855	89.22 %
Blank or invalid ballot papers	402,488	
Valid votes	6,527,367	

► **Distribution of seats according to political group**

	Seats	Gain/Loss
New Flemish Alliance (N-VA)	27	-
Socialist Party - Walloon (PS)	26	6
Movement for Reform (MR)	18	-5
Christian Democratic and Flemish (CD&V)	17	-6
Flemish Socialist Party (sp.a)	13	-1
Open vld	13	-5
Vlaams Belang (Flemish Interest)	12	-4
Humanist Democratic Centre (cdH)	9	-1
Greens - Walloon (Ecolo)	8	0
GROEN! (Flemish green party)	5	1
Dedecker List	1	-4
People's Party	1	-
Total	150	

► **Distribution of seats according to sex**

Men	91	
Women	59	39.33 %
Total	150	

► **Distribution of seats according to profession**

	Seats
Employee	52
Liberal profession	39
Education profession	19
Civil servants	17
Entrepreneur	13
Journalist	3
Worker	1
Other	6
Total	150

▶ **Distribution of seats according to age**

21 to 30 years	12
31 to 40 years	39
41 to 50 years	49
51 to 60 years	45
61 to 70 years	4
Over 70 years	1
Total	150

BELGIUM

Senate

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Parlement fédéral - Federaal Parlement - Föderales Parlament / Federal Parliament
Structure of Parliament	Bicameral
Chamber	Sénat - Senaat - Senat / Senate
Number of members	71 members* - 40 directly elected - 21 members are designated by the Community Parliaments -10 members are co-opted. *In addition, children of the King over 18 years old are ex officio Senators, at present totalling three.
Term of House	4 years
Date of elections	13 June 2010

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all the seats in the Senate following the early dissolution of the Federal Parliament on 6 May 2010. Elections to the Senate had previously taken place on 10 June 2007.

Electoral system▶ **Constituencies**

3 multi-member (Flanders, Wallonia and Brussels-Hal-Vilvorde) and 2 electoral colleges (French and Dutch).

▶ **Voting system: Proportional**

Party-list system.

Each party submits two lists: one for Flanders and the other for Wallonia. Residents in the Brussels region chose from one of the two lists.

Seats are distributed according to the d'Hondt method for directly elected Senators. Vote-splitting is not provided for, but preferential voting with respect to the same list is possible.

Community Senators are designated by their respective parliament from among its members. Co-opted Senators are elected by the other two categories.

Seats are allocated according to the d'Hondt method to Community

and co-opted Senators on the basis of the outcome of polling for those directly elected except for the Senator from the German-speaking community, who is chosen by majority vote by the Parliament of the German-speaking Community.

Vacancies for directly elected senators arising between general elections are filled by substitutes chosen at the same time as titular members in the case of directly elected Senators. Vacant seats for Community or co-opted Senators are filled by new designations.

Voting is compulsory; any unjustified abstention is punishable, with penalties ranging from a fine to removal from the electoral register.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years or over
- Belgian citizenship
- full possession of civil and political rights

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified electors
- age: 21 years
- Belgian citizenship
- full possession of civil and political rights
- residence in Belgium

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- Ministers of the Federal Government or the governments of communities or regions
- Membership of the House of Representatives or of a community or regional parliament (except for Community Senators)

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

For directly-elected Senators: supporting signature of at least 5,000 electors or two outgoing members of Parliament

For other senators: by special procedures.

Background and Outcome of the Elections

Elections were held on 13 June 2010 after the coalition government collapsed in April following a prolonged political crisis that had ensued in the aftermath of the previous elections held on 10 June 2007. They took place 12 months before the term of the legislature ended. On 6 May, the House of Representatives and the Senate adopted a declaration on the need for constitutional review, a procedure necessary for the dissolution of

parliament. The publication of the review in the Belgian *Moniteur* (official gazette) led to both Houses being dissolved.

At stake were all 150 seats in the House of Representatives and 40 directly elected seats in the Senate.

Belgium is a country of 10.8 million inhabitants divided into three communities: the French, the Flemish and the German-speaking communities. It is composed of three regions: Wallonia (32.5% of the population), the Brussels-Capital region (9.7%) and Flanders (57.8%). The communities and regions have specific responsibilities. Belgium is furthermore composed of four linguistic regions: the French-speaking region, the Dutch-speaking region, the bilingual Brussels-Capital region and the German-speaking region.

In the 10 June 2007 elections, the Christian Democratic and Flemish-New Flemish Alliance (comprising the CD&V, led by Mr. Yves Leterme, and the N-VA, led by Mr. Bart De Wever), became the largest group in both chambers after campaigning notably for institutional reform and greater autonomy for the communities. It took 30 of the 150 seats in the House of Representatives and nine of the 40 directly elected seats in the Senate. The parties in the coalition government of then Prime Minister Guy Verhofstadt saw their share fall. The government, which comprised two Flemish parties - Mr. Verhofstadt's Open Vld and the Flemish Socialist Party-Spirit alliance (sp.a-Spirit, see note 1) - and two French-speaking parties - the Movement for Reform (MR) and the Socialist Party (PS), was forced to resign.

Following 196 days during which several attempts to form a government failed, an emergency interim government comprising five parties (the Open Vld, the MR, the CD&V, the PS and the cdH) was finally formed on 21 December 2007 under the leadership of Mr. Guy Verhofstadt. Its main task was to pass the 2008 budget. It won a vote of confidence on 23 December 2007 and Mr. Leterme was appointed Deputy Prime Minister. Although he was in charge of the budget portfolio, he led talks on institutional reform with other parties with a view to forming a new government. On 20 March 2008, Mr. Leterme was appointed Prime Minister and received a mandate to form a coalition government composed of the same parties as the interim government. On assuming the post, he announced that his government would devolve more federal powers to regional governments by 15 July 2008 (see note 2). After failing to meet the deadline, Mr. Leterme tendered his resignation to the King, which the latter did not accept.

The 2008 global economic crisis that severely affected the world banking system also hit the Belgian financial group Fortis. Mr. Leterme's government tried to resolve the crisis by selling Fortis to the French bank BNP Paribas. Several shareholders opposed the move and took the case to court. On 12 December, the Appeal Court delivered its ruling, following which the President of the Appeal Court informed the House Speaker that attempts had been made to pressure the Appeal Court judges over the case. Prime Minister Leterme dismissed the allegations but admitted that one of his officials had contacted the judges. He nevertheless tendered his resignation to the King on 19 December, which was accepted. The then House Speaker, Mr. Herman Van Rompuy (CD&V), succeeded him as Prime Minister on 30 December 2008. Mr. Leterme was appointed Foreign Minister on 17 July 2009.

In November 2009, Mr. Van Rompuy was elected the first permanent President of the European Council and subsequently resigned as Prime Minister. Mr. Leterme once again became Prime Minister on 25 November 2009. However, his second government was forced to resign after the Open Vld, led by Mr. Alexander De Croo since October 2009, withdrew from the coalition on 22 April 2010 over a long-standing dispute about voting rights in the Brussels-Halle-Vilvoorde constituency (see note 3).

The major issues in the 2010 elections were economic recovery and improved public finances, in addition to institutional reform in Belgium, and in particular, the federal political system adopted following a number of institutional reforms.

In 2010, the Flemish parties that had formed an alliance for the 2007 elections - the CD&V and the N-VA - contested the elections separately. The Open Vld-sp.a, led by Caroline Gennez, Groen! (the Flemish green party), the Vlaams Belang and the List Dedecker also fielded candidates. All Dutch-speaking parties were in favour of State reform and greater autonomy for the various regions and communities. In the French-speaking part of the country, the PS of Mr. Elio Di Rupo, the MR of Mr. Didier Reynders, the cdH of Ms. Joëlle Milquet, the Ecolo (Greens), led by Jean-Michel Javaux and the PP, led by Mischaël Modrikamen, ran for the elections. They were keen to maintain a strong centralized federal government.

The programme of the N-VA, led by Mr. Bart De Wever, proposed to invest the regions and communities with considerable autonomy and limit the power of the federal government to essential areas such as defence and foreign relations. The judiciary and social security would be devolved to the

regional and community governments. The party proposed to gradually reduce the powers of the federal government and in parallel, enhance its integration into Europe. It aimed to maintain the competitiveness of companies and supported certain proposals made by employers' organizations.

The CD&V, led since 2008 by Ms. Marianne Thyseen, also advocated reform via a redistribution of power among the federal government, the communities and the regions while maintaining adequate funding to ensure the proper running of the federal government. Its programme sought to foster an economic upturn through concerted social policy and focusing on the family.

The PS pledged to be part of a federal government that was capable of tackling economic problems and the serious social crisis without being bogged down by institutional handicaps. PS leader Di Rupo promised to initiate a constructive dialogue with the parties in the north in order to find a negotiated solution to the country's institutional problems, thereby improving the lives of citizens and creating a stable federal State. In addition to promoting job creation and making health care accessible to all, the party aimed to implement fairer taxation with a view to achieving a lasting social pact.

The MR called for reform in order to guarantee security, modernize the judicial system and make public administration more efficient and able to better serve citizens and companies. This party considered that institutional reform should not be an end in itself. It could be justified if it added value in terms of good governance and improved the daily life of citizens. The MR's programme aimed to guarantee a job for each citizen, support entrepreneurs and put in place a genuinely European and economically sound government.

The sp.a pledged to combat tax fraud and boost employment, in particular for youth and unskilled persons. It provided for measures to guarantee that the pension system remained in place and to raise the lowest incomes.

The Open Vld called for reforms to the political system that would make it less costly and more democratic. It aimed to improve the State budget and foster a more competitive economy without raising taxes. Moreover, it called for the regions to gradually take on further financial responsibilities and greater fiscal autonomy.

The far-right Vlaams Belang (Flemish Interest) party, led by Mr. Bruno Valkeniers, confirmed its ultimate objective of an independent Flanders, and was opposed to the immigration of persons who refused to integrate and did not respect the fundamental values of Belgian society. It pledged to actively combat the problem of illegal immigrants.

The programmes of the Ecolo and Groen! parties, which belong to the same parliamentary group in the House, focused on promoting sustainable development and environmental protection and combating climate change. They were in favour of greater solidarity at the global level, migrant mobility and better procedures for facilitating migrants' stay in the country. They were willing to help find a new institutional balance with a view to emerging in a lasting manner from the community conflicts and giving priority to urgent economic, social and environmental matters.

The cdH called for a new pact among Belgians to emerge from their institutional crisis. They also called for an ambitious jobs pact and sustainable economic and human growth to recover from the economic crisis. They appealed for unity to achieve this goal.

In all, 89.22 per cent of the 7.7 million registered voters turned out at the polls. Voting is compulsory in Belgium. The final results for the House of Representatives gave the N-VA 27 seats, up from eight. The CD&V saw its share drop from 23 to 17 seats, and the Vlaams Belang from 16 to 12. The PS increased its share from 20 to 26 seats and the sp.a took 13, the same number as the Open Vld and Ecolo-Groen! The MR and the cdH took 18 and nine seats respectively and the remainder went to small parties.

In the Senate elections, the N-VA came first, winning nine of the 40 seats at stake. The CD&V and the Open Vld-sp.a took four seats each, with Vlaams Belang copping three and Groen! one seat. The PS came in second with seven seats, followed by the MR with four and the cdH and Ecolo with two seats each.

On 6 July, the members of the House of Representatives were sworn in alongside the 40 directly elected senators. On 20 July, the House of Representatives elected Mr. André Flahaut (PS) as its new Speaker. On 13 July, 21 senators designated by the Community Parliaments (see note 4) took office while 10 co-opted members (see note 5) were sworn in on 20 July. On the same day, the Senate elected Mr. Danny Pieters (N-VA) as its President.

Negotiations for the formation of a new government have remained at a standstill ever since. On 16 May 2011, King Albert II mandated Mr. Di Rupo (PS) to form a government and instructed him to do everything that was necessary to that end. Meanwhile, Mr. Leterme's outgoing government remained in office, invested with the requisite powers to run the country in collaboration with the Federal Parliament.

Note 1:

The Spirit party, which had been in alliance with the Flemish Socialist Party in the 2007 elections, merged with the Flemish Greens (Groen!) in December 2009 and ceased to exist.

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Between 1970 and 1993, Belgium evolved into a federal State.

In broad terms, the federal government is responsible for matters concerning finance, the army, the judicial system, social security, foreign affairs, a large share of public health and internal affairs, social protection laws (unemployment, pensions, family allowances, and health and disability insurance), the public debt, monetary policy, pricing and salary policy, savings, nuclear power, State-owned enterprises and federal cultural and scientific organizations. The federal government is also responsible for Belgium's and its federated states' relations with the European Union and NATO.

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Note 3:

The constituency of Brussels-Halle-Vilvoorde (BHV) comprises the capital, Brussels, and the 25 Flemish municipalities surrounding it that are part of Flanders, although some communes close to Brussels have a special language arrangement for their French-speaking inhabitants. This is the only electoral district in Belgium where Flemish and French-speaking political parties compete directly with each other. The Flemish parties attempted to amend the electoral law in order to create a monolingual constituency in Halle-Vilvoorde and a bilingual constituency in Brussels, but the French-speaking parties refused and are calling for an extension of the Brussels region and, above all, retention of the rights of French-speaking inhabitants if the new constituency is created. During negotiations, one possible solution that was raised was a voting right for Brussels.

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Ten senators each are designated by the Parliament of the French Community (Communauté française) and the Flemish Parliament (Vlaams Parlement) while the Parliament of the German-speaking Community nominates one member, bringing the total number of senators designated by the Community Parliaments to 21.

Note 5:

Six Flemish-speaking members and four French-speaking members are co-opted.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	7,767,552	
Voters	6,929,478	89.21 %
Blank or invalid ballot papers	460,375	
Valid votes	6,469,103	

▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

	Directly elected	Community senators	Co- opted	Total seats
New Flemish Alliance (N-VA)	9	3	2	14
Socialist Party - Walloon (PS)	7	4	2	13
Movement for Reform (MR)	4	3	1	8
Christian Democratic and Flemish (CD&V)	4	2	1	7
Flemish Socialist Party (sp.a)	4	2	1	7
Open Vld	4	1	1	6
Greens - Walloon (Ecolo)	2	2	1	5
Vlaams Belang (Flemish Interest)	3	1	1	5
Humanist Democratic Centre (cdH)	2	2	0	4
GROEN! (Flemish green party)	1	1	0	2
Total	40	21	10	71

▶ Distribution of seats according to sex

Men	44	
Women	27	38.03 %
Total	71	

Note:

- As of July 2010, there was a total of 27 women out of the full 71 senators: 16 directly elected*, 10 community senators and 1 co-opted senator.

*In all, 17 women were directly elected in June 2010 but one did not take up her seat and was replaced by a male substitute.

► **Distribution of seats according to profession**

	Seats
Civil service and local authority administration	25
Legal profession	12
Education profession	10
Physician, dentist	5
Political party official	5
Finance, management or business	2
Research/sciences	2
Architect, surveyor, engineer	1
Entrepreneur	1
Agriculture/farming	1
Civil society activity	1
Others	6
Total	71

► **Distribution of seats according to age**

21 to 30 years	1
31 to 40 years	21
41 to 50 years	15
51 to 60 years	26
61 to 70 years	7
Over 70 years	1
Total	71

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

House of Representatives

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Skupstina / Parliamentary Assembly
Structure of Parliament	Bicameral
Chamber	Predstavnicki dom / House of Representatives
Number of members	42 directly elected: 28 from the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, 14 from the Republika Srpska.
Term of House	4 years
Date of elections	3 October 2010

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all the seats in the House of Representatives on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republika Srpska

▶ **Voting system: Proportional**

Proportional representation system based on party lists or independent candidatures, using the simple quotient and greatest remainders formula for left-over seats. Only parties having won at least one seat in the initial allocation (simple quotient) are entitled for subsequent seat distributions.

Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years
- citizenship of Bosnia and Herzegovina

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified electors
- age: 18 years
- citizenship of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Ineligibility: persons serving a sentence imposed by International Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, under indictment by the Tribunal or having failed to comply with an appearance order by the Tribunal

▶ Incompatibilities

- judges
- prosecutors and their deputies
- solicitors and their deputies
- ombudsmen and their deputies
- members of courts/council for human rights
- members of police and military forces (including financial police, judicial police, State Border Service members, security and intelligence service)
- diplomatic and consular representatives
- members of the Executive

▶ Candidacy requirements

- individual or party (single or coalition) candidatures
- for registration, each political party needs signed backing of at least 10,000 electors
- individual candidates need the support of at least 5,000 electors

Background and Outcome of the Elections

At stake in the 2010 elections were all 42 seats in the House of Representatives. The parliamentary elections were held in parallel with those to the country's tri-partite presidency (one Bosniak, one Serb and one Croat) and the legislative assemblies of the two entities that make up Bosnia and Herzegovina: the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, dominated by Bosniaks and Croats (which covers 51% of the territory and 67% of the population) and the Republika Srpska, dominated by Bosnian Serbs.

In the previous elections held in October 2006, the then Prime Minister Adnan's Terzic Party of Democratic Action (SDA) won nine seats, followed by the Party for Bosnia-Herzegovina (SBIH) with eight. The Party of Independent Social Democrats (SNSD) and the Social Democratic Party of Bosnia and Herzegovina (SDP) took seven and five seats respectively, while the Serb Democratic Party (SDS) and the Croatian Democratic Union-Croatian National Union (HDZ-HNZ) took three seats each. The Croatians Together (HDZ 1990), comprising dissidents of the HDZ, took two seats. The remainder went to five small parties, which took one seat each. Mr. Nikola Spiric (Serb, SNSD) became Prime Minister in January 2007. Mr. Nebojsa Radmanovic of the Party of Independent Social Democrats (Serb SNSD), Mr. Haris Silajdic (Bosniak, SBIH) and Mr. Zeljko Komsic (Croat, SDP) won the tri-partite presidential elections.

As in the previous elections, the 2010 polls were held in accordance with the provisions of the Dayton Agreement of 1995, whereby elections are conducted with ethnicity and residence-based limitations to suffrage. Citizens who do not identify themselves as Bosniak, Croat or Serb are barred from running in any elections. In December 2009, the European Court of Human Rights ruled that such limitations were "incompatible with the general principles of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms". The House of Representatives subsequently set up a working group to amend the Constitution and the electoral law, but failed to reach a consensus prior to the 2010 polls. Parties representing Serbs called for a split of the Republika Srpska from the rest of the country, those representing Croats called for the further division of the country along ethnic lines, while Bosniak parties insisted on greater centralization of the country. These contrasting visions remained the main issues in the 2010 elections. The country was also experiencing economic difficulties: gross domestic product (GDP) shrunk by 3.4 per cent in 2009 and the unemployment rate soared to 42 per cent in 2010.

In all, 39 parties and 11 coalitions participated in the 2010 elections. Most main political parties are set up along ethnic lines: Bosniak, Croats and Serbs. Only one major party, the SDP, led by Mr. Zlatko Lagumdžija (Bosniak), draws multi-ethnic support from moderate Bosniaks, Serbs and Croats living in predominantly Bosniak-populated areas.

Two Bosniak parties - the SDA and SBiH - were vying for seats once again in 2010. They pledged to fight for a united Bosnia and Herzegovina and work towards a stronger central government - a key condition for the country's accession to the European Union. The SDA, led by a moderate, Mr. Sulejman Tihić, endorsed Mr. Bakir Izetbegović - son of the party's founder and wartime President Alija Izetbegović - as its presidential candidate. Mr. Izetbegović pledged to achieve peace and provide more jobs through economic development. He promised to stabilize the country by initiating a dialogue with the Republika Srpska, which was vehemently opposed by the SBiH of President Šilajdžić (Bosniak). The latter described the Republika Srpska as a "genocidal creation" based on ethnic cleansing and called for its abolition. In addition to the two traditional Bosniak parties, the Union for a Better Future of Bosnia-Herzegovina (SBB BiH), led by media tycoon Fahrudin Radončić, joined the 2010 polls. It pledged to provide a new political option.

As for the parties representing Serbs, the main forces included the SNSD, led by the Prime Minister of the Republika Srpska, Mr. Milorad Dodik, and the

"Together for Srpska" coalition, which includes parties linked to Hague indictees Mr. Radovan Karadzic and Mr. Vojislav Seselj. Shortly before polling day, Mr. Dodik, who was a candidate for the President of the Republika Srpska, stated that "Bosnia and Herzegovina was created by force, under pressure from international factors" and thus there was "no basic consensus for a life together". President Radmanovic (SNSD) called for a split of the Republika Srpska.

Among the parties representing Croats, the HDZ of Mr. Dragan Covic and the HDZ 1990 (which draws support from Roman Catholics), led by Mr. Bozo Ljubic, were leading in opinion polls. The HDZ called for an autonomous region for Croats and was in a partnership with the SNSD to support each other's calls for greater independence.

In all, 56.49 per cent of the 3.1 million registered voters turned out at the polls.

Observers from the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) concluded that the elections had been conducted generally in line with OSCE and Council of Europe standards, with the exception of the legal suffrage limitations.

Mr. Lagumdzija's SDP took eight seats, the same number as the SNSD, while another Serb party, the SDS, took four. Among the Bosniak parties, the SDA came in first with seven seats, followed by the SBB BiH with four, while the SBIH took two. As for Croat parties, the HDZ and the HDZ 1990 took three and two seats respectively. In all, seven women were elected.

In the tripartite presidential elections, Mr. Radmanovic (Serb, SNSD) and Mr. Komsic (Croat, SDP) were re-elected while the Bosniaks elected Mr. Izetbegovic (SDA).

Following the elections, the SDP announced that it would propose Mr. Lagumdzija (Bosniak) as the Prime Minister of the central government while the HDZ insisted that the new Prime Minister should be Croat since the two previous premiers had come from the Bosniak and Serb communities. The law does not provide for the rotation of the premierships among the three ethnic groups.

On 30 November, the newly elected House of Representatives held its first session. However, the House of Representatives failed on successive occasions to elect its new Speaker.

On 20 May 2011, Mr. Denis Becirevic of the SDP (Bosniak) was elected as the new Speaker (see note) of the House of Representatives.

Note:

During the legislature, the post of Speaker of the House of Representatives rotates every eight months among the country's three main ethnic groups. Mr. Becirevic (Bosniak) will be succeeded by Mr. Milorad Zivkovic (Serb) and Mr. Bozo Ljubic (Croat).

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	3,132,231	
Voters	1,769,249	56.49 %
Blank or invalid ballot papers	127,655	
Valid votes	1,641,594	

▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

	Federation B. & H.	Republika Srpska	Total seats
Party of Independent Social Democrats (SNSD)	0	8	8
Social Democratic Party of Bosnia and Herzegovina (SDP)	8	0	8
Party of Democratic Action (SDA)	7	0	7
Serb Democratic Party (SDS)	0	4	4
Union for a Better Future of BiH (SBB BiH)	4	0	4
Croatian Democratic Union-Croatian National Union (HDZ-HNZ)	3	0	3
Croatians Together (HDZ 1990)	2	0	2
Party for Bosnia-Herzegovina (SBIH)	2	0	2
Democratic People's Alliance (DNS)	0	1	1
Democratic People's Community (DNZ)	1	0	1
Party of Democratic Progress (PDP)	0	1	1
People's Party Work for Betterment (NSRzB)	1	0	1
Total	28	14	42

► **Distribution of seats according to sex**

Men	35	
Women	7	16.67 %
Total	42	

► **Distribution of seats according to profession**

	Seats
Legal profession	8
Economist	7
Physician, dentist	6
Education profession	6
Architect, surveyor, engineer	6
Journalism, broadcasting, media	1
Finance, management or business	1
Entrepreneur	1
Political officers	1
Agriculture/farming	1
Armed services/Police	1
Social worker	1
IT/technology	1
Trade union official	1
Total	42

► **Distribution of seats according to age**

21 to 30 years	2
31 to 40 years	7
41 to 50 years	7
51 to 60 years	22
61 to 70 years	4
Total	42

BRAZIL

Chamber of Deputies

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Congresso nacional / National Congress
Structure of Parliament	Bicameral
Chamber	Câmara dos Deputados / Chamber of Deputies
Number of members	513 directly elected
Term of House	4 years
Date of elections	2 October 2010

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all the seats in the Chamber of Deputies on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system▶ **Constituencies**

27 multi-member (8 to 70 seats, based on population) constituencies corresponding to the country's 26 states and the Federal District.

▶ **Voting system: Proportional**

Party-list proportional system with seats allotted according to the simple quotient and highest average calculations. The seats won by each list are in turn awarded to the candidates on the basis of preferential votes cast by the electorate.

Vacancies arising between general elections are filled by substitutes elected at the same time as titular members. If no substitute is available and there remain at least 15 months before the end of the term of the member concerned, by-elections are held.

Voting is compulsory, abstention being punishable by a fine.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 16 years (optional); 18 years (mandatory registration)

- Brazilian citizenship

Disqualification: insanity, imprisonment, lack of full political rights, military personnel below the rank of sergeant

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified electors

- age: 21 years

- Brazilian citizenship by birth
 - full possession of political rights
 - membership of recognized political party
 - residence in the constituency where running
- Ineligibility: illiteracy

► **Incompatibilities**

- certain high public and military positions
- certain posts in public or semi-public companies

Background and Outcome of the Elections

The 2010 elections were the first to be held since electoral amendments intended to promote women's political participation. Among other things, parties must allocate at least 30 per cent of their parliamentary candidatures to women (see note 1). At stake were all 513 seats in the Chamber of Deputies and two thirds of the 81 seats in the Senate (54 seats). The parliamentary elections were held in parallel with the presidential elections.

No party secured an outright majority in the previous elections held in October 2006. In the elections to the Chamber of Deputies, the Brazilian Democratic Movement Party (PMDB) became the largest force, taking 89 of the 513 seats, followed by President Luiz Inácio 'Lula' da Silva's Workers' Party (PT) with 83 seats. Three other leftist parties - the Brazilian Socialist Party (PSB), the Democratic Labour Party (PDT) and the Communist Party of Brazil (PC do B) - took 27, 24 and 13 seats respectively. The main opposition Brazilian Social Democratic Party (PSDB) and its electoral ally, the Liberal Front Party (PFL), took 66 and 65 seats respectively. Other main opposition parties - the Popular Socialist Party (PPS) and the Brazilian Labour Party (PTB) - took 22 seats each while the Green Party took 13 seats. The remaining seats went to small parties. Following the one-third renewal of the 81-member Senate, the PFL became the largest force, holding 18 seats. The PSDB and the PMDB held 15 seats each while the PT had 11. In March 2007, the PFL renamed itself The Democrats (DEM).

In 2010, for the first time since the end of military rule in 1985, President Lula was not a presidential candidate. He was constitutionally barred from seeking a third consecutive term. The international media focused on the presidential election, paying only secondary attention to the parliamentary polls.

President Lula endorsed Ms. Dilma Rousseff, his Chief of Staff and Energy

Minister, as the PT's presidential candidate. The PT pledged to continue the "My Home, My Life" (Minha Casa, Minha Vida) programme, which aims to provide up to 3 million new homes to low-income families and single mothers. Ms. Rousseff, who was keen to become the country's first female President, pledged to carry on President Lula's policies in order to continue to provide stability and prosperity to all Brazilians.

The PT was challenged by the PSDB, which endorsed a former mayor of Sao Paulo, Mr. José Serra, as its presidential candidate. Mr. Serra, who served as health minister under President Fernando Henrique Cardoso's government (1995-2002), argued that it was the PSDB that had laid the groundwork for Brazil's current prosperity. The PSDB promised to lead a pro-business government and increase the minimum wage from R\$ 500 (US\$ 300) to R\$ 600 (US\$ 360) starting from 2011. The PSDB's coalition partner, the DEM, endorsed Mr. Indio da Costa (DEM) as Mr. Serra's running mate. Mr. Costa had co-sponsored the "clean record" (ficha limpa) bill, toughening the eligibility requirements for public office. Candidates who are found guilty of committing electoral violations and crimes involving the use of public funds are barred from running for office for eight years. President Lula signed the bill into law on 4 June 2010 after the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate had approved it (see note 2).

The Green Party attracted media attention due to its popular presidential candidate, Ms. Marina Silva. The former environment minister had left the government in May 2008, accusing it of disregarding sustainable development. She promised to invest R\$ 45 billion (US\$ 27 billion) in four years to provide a better sewage disposal and water treatment system.

In all, 81.88 per cent of the 135 million registered voters turned out at the polls.

According to the final results, the left-wing parties, including the PT and the PSB, gained 310 of the 513 seats in the Chamber of Deputies and 50 of the 81 seats in the Senate. The opposition parties, including the PSDB and the DEM, took 138 seats in the Chamber of Deputies and 24 seats in the Senate.

In the presidential election, no candidate secured the required 50 per cent of the votes to be elected in the first round.

On 31 October, in the run-off presidential elections, Ms. Rousseff (PT) triumphed over Mr. Serra (PSDB), thereby becoming the first female President

of Brazil. She was officially sworn in on 1 January 2011.

On 1 February 2011, the newly elected Congress held its first session. The Chamber of Deputies elected Mr. Marco Maia (PT) as its Speaker, while the Senate re-elected Mr. José Sarney (PMDB) as its President.

Note 1:

On 15 and 16 September 2009 respectively, the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies approved a bill modifying the electoral law and the law on election standards. President Luiz Inacio 'Lula' da Silva signed the bill into law on 29 September. Among other things, the law seeks to increase women's political representation. Political parties will be required to allocate at least 30 per cent of their candidatures for parliament to women candidates. They must also use at least 10 per cent of their advertising and 5 per cent of their public campaign funds to promote the participation of women in politics.

Note 2:

Several parliamentarians subsequently requested the Constitutional Court to examine the constitutionality of the clean record law. Since the Court had not ruled before the 2010 polls, the names of candidates barred from running for elections under the law appeared on the ballot. The High Electoral Tribunal (TSE) considered the votes cast for those candidates invalid. On 29 March 2011, the Supreme Court (STF) ruled that the clean record law should not be applied to the 2010 elections.

Election results and statistics

► Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	135,804,433	
Voters	111,193,747	81.88 %
Blank or invalid ballot papers	9,603,594	
Valid votes	101,590,153	

► **Distribution of seats according to political group**

	Seats
Workers' Party (PT)	87
Brazilian Democratic Movement Party (PMDB)	78
Brazilian Social Democratic Party (PSDB)	54
Democrats (DEM)	43
Progressive Party (PP)	42
Party of the Republic (PR)	40
Brazilian Socialist Party (PSB)	34
Democratic Labour Party (PDT)	28
Brazilian Labour Party (PTB)	21
Social Christian Party (PSC)	17
Communist Party of Brazil (PC do B)	15
Green Party (PV)	15
Popular Socialist Party (PPS)	12
Brazilian Republican Party (PRB)	10
Labour Party of Brazil (PT do B)	4
National Mobilization Party (PMN)	4
Socialism and Liberty Party (PSOL)	3
Humanist Party of Solidarity (PHS)	2
Renewed Brazilian Labour Party (PRTB)	2
Christian Labour Party (PTC)	1
Social Liberal Party (PSL)	1
Total	513

► **Distribution of seats according to sex**

Men	469	
Women	44	8.58 %
Total	513	

BRAZIL

Federal Senate

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Congresso nacional / National Congress
Structure of Parliament	Bicameral
Chamber	Senado Federal / Federal Senate
Number of members	81 directly elected
Term of House	8 years, one-third and two-thirds being renewed alternately every 4 years
Date of elections	2 October 2010

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for two-thirds (54) of the 81 seats in the Senate on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system▶ **Constituencies**

27 multi-member (3 seats) constituencies corresponding to the country's 26 states and the Federal District.

▶ **Voting system: Majority**

Block vote. Each elector has as many votes as the number of candidates elected in each constituency. When two-thirds of the seats are to be renewed, each elector votes for two candidates. When one-third is to be renewed, each elector votes for one candidate.

Vacancies arising between general elections are filled by substitutes elected at the same time as titular members. If no substitute is available and there remain at least 15 months before the end of the term of the member concerned, by-elections are held.

Voting is compulsory, abstention being punishable by a fine.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 16 years (optional); 18 years (mandatory registration)
- Brazilian citizenship

Disqualification: insanity, imprisonment, lack of full political rights, military personnel below the rank of sergeant.

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified electors

- age: 35 years
 - Brazilian citizenship by birth
 - full possession of political rights
 - membership of recognized political party
 - residence in the constituency where running
- Ineligibility: illiteracy

► **Incompatibilities**

- certain high public and military positions
- certain posts in public or semi-public companies

Background and Outcome of the Elections

The 2010 elections were the first to be held since electoral amendments intended to promote women's political participation. Among other things, parties must allocate at least 30 per cent of their parliamentary candidatures to women (see note 1). At stake were all 513 seats in the Chamber of Deputies and two thirds of the 81 seats in the Senate (54 seats). The parliamentary elections were held in parallel with the presidential elections.

No party secured a majority in the previous elections held in October 2006. In the elections to the Chamber of Deputies, the Brazilian Democratic Movement Party (PMDB) became the largest force, taking 89 of the 513 seats, followed by President Luiz Inácio 'Lula' da Silva's Workers' Party (PT) with 83 seats. Three other leftist parties - the Brazilian Socialist Party (PSB), the Democratic Labour Party (PDT) and the Communist Party of Brazil (PC do B) - took 27, 24 and 13 seats respectively. The main opposition Brazilian Social Democratic Party (PSDB) and its electoral ally, the Liberal Front Party (PFL), took 66 and 65 seats respectively. Other main opposition parties - the Popular Socialist Party (PPS) and the Brazilian Labour Party (PTB) - took 22 seats each while the Green Party took 13 seats. The remaining seats went to small parties. Following the one-third renewal of the 81-member Senate, the PFL became the largest force, holding 18 seats. The PSDB and the PMDB held 15 seats each while the PT had 11. In March 2007, the PFL renamed itself The Democrats (DEM).

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Election results and statistics

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Number of registered electors	135,804,433	
Voters	111,193,747	81.88 %
Blank or invalid ballot papers	9,603,594	
Valid votes	101,590,153	

► **Distribution of seats according to political group**

	Seats 2010	Seats
Brazilian Democratic Movement Party (PMDB)	15	21
Workers' Party (PT)	11	14
Brazilian Social Democratic Party (PSDB)	5	10
Brazilian Labour Party (PTB)	1	6
Democrats (DEM)	2	6
Progressive Party (PP)	4	5
Democratic Labour Party (PDT)	2	4
Party of the Republic (PR)	4	4
Brazilian Socialist Party (PSB)	3	3
Communist Party of Brazil (PC do B)	1	2
Socialism and Liberty Party (PSOL)	2	2
Brazilian Republican Party (PRB)	1	1
National Mobilization Party (PMN)	1	1
Popular Socialist Party (PPS)	1	1
Social Christian Party (PSC)	1	1
Total	54	81

► **Distribution of seats according to sex**

	Seats 2010		Total	
Men	46		68	
Women	8	14.81 %	13	16.05%
Total	54		81	

BURUNDI

National Assembly

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Parlement / Parliament
Structure of Parliament	Bicameral
Chamber	Inama NshingamateKa / National Assembly
Number of members	106 members - 100 directly elected - 6 co-opted members* *Additional members, including three Twas, can be co-opted to respect 60:40 Hutu-Tutsi split and 30 percent quota for women.
Term of House	5 years
Date of elections	23 July 2010

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all elective seats in the National Assembly on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

17 multi-member constituencies.

▶ **Voting system: Proportional**

Proportional representation system (closed list).

Seats are distributed according to the d'Hondt method in proportion to the number of votes obtained by each list after removing the lists that received less than 2% of the votes nationwide.

Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- Burundian nationality, by birth or naturalization;

- age: 18 years old or over on election day;

- residence in the country on the qualifying date;

Overseas voters may vote at embassies and consulates.

Disqualification for voting:

- any imprisonment (persons serving a prison sentence of 10 years or more or persons sentenced for an electoral offence are disqualified for

life);

- insanity/mental illness;
- guardianship/ward;

▶ **Eligibility**

- Burundian nationality, by birth or naturalization;
- age: 25 years old or over on election day
- candidates must have full civil and political rights;
- candidates must be resident in Burundi when candidacies are put forward;
- candidates must be natives or citizens of the province in question;
- candidates must, in addition, subscribe to the Charter of National Unity and state that they shall uphold the basic principles contained therein.

▶ **Incompatibilities**

Incompatibilities related to occupations:

- remunerated members of the civil service
- persons holding posts for foreign States or for international organizations
- executives and officers of the Electoral Commission
- officers of the Electoral Commission

The incompatibilities above are valid during the term of office.

Other incompatibilities:

- insanity/mental illness
- guardianship/ward
- holders of temporary entry permits
- illegal immigrants

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- Candidatures may be submitted by political parties without restriction.
- Nomination by at least 100 electors is required for independent candidates.
- For political parties and groups of independent candidates: a deposit of 500,000 Burundian francs is required, reimbursable in full if the party obtains at least 2 per cent of valid votes in the whole country.

Background and Outcome of the Elections

The 2010 elections were the second to be held since the official end to the civil strife triggered by the assassination of the country's first Hutu President Melchior Ndadaye in October 1993. The conflict had resulted in the death of

an estimated 300,000 people. Under the 2005 Constitution, 60 per cent of the seats in the National Assembly are reserved for members of the Hutu ethnic group and 40 per cent for Tutsis. They respectively make up 85 and 14 per cent of the population of 9.8 million inhabitants. A further three seats are reserved for the Twa ethnic group. Senate seats are shared equally between Hutus and Tutsis. A quota of 30 per cent of seats is reserved for women in both chambers.

In the previous elections to the National Assembly, held in July 2005, the National Council for the Defence of Democracy - Front for the Defence of Democracy (CNDD-FDD, the former Hutu rebel group which had fought against the Tutsi-led army) took 59 of the 100 directly elected seats in the National Assembly. The Front for Democracy in Burundi (Frodebu, a predominantly Hutu party) of the then President Domitien Ndayizeye, took 25 seats. The Tutsi-dominated Union for National Progress (Uprona) took 15. The remainder went to smaller parties. In order to ensure the 60-40 ethnic distribution of seats and 30 per cent quota for women, a further 18 members, including the three Twa representatives, were co-opted after the elections, bringing the final tally to 69 Hutus, 46 Tutsis and 3 Twas.

Indirect elections for 34 seats in the Senate were also held in July 2005. The CNDD-FDD won 30, and the Frodebu obtained three and the last seat went to the National Council for the Defence of Democracy (CNDD, a former rebel group). In order to respect the required 50-50 ethnic distribution, the 30 per-cent quota for women, and the three seats reserved for Twas, 11 members were co-opted. In addition to the 45 members, four former Presidents - Domitien Ndayizeye, Sylvestre Ntibantunganya, Jean-Baptiste Bagaza and Pierre Buyoya - are members of the Senate, bringing the total number of members to 49.

Mr. Pierre Nkurunziza of the CNDD-FDD was elected as the country's new President. The country subsequently experienced a series of political stalemates.

In February 2007, the CNDD-FDD expelled its former leader Mr. Hussein Radjabu. The Attorney General subsequently accused him of recruiting rebels to destabilize the State. His lawyer argued that the government feared his popularity ahead of the 2010 polls. Some 20 parliamentarians loyal to Mr. Radjabu defected to the opposition, depriving President Nkurunziza of a parliamentary majority. The CNDD-FDD subsequently expelled those members from the party. The parliament was paralyzed until November 2007

when a new consensus government, comprising the CNDD-FDD, Uprona and Frodebu, was installed. In April 2008, Mr. Radjabu was sentenced to a 13-year jail term, a decision upheld by the Supreme Court in May 2009. In June 2008, the Constitutional Court ruled to strip the expelled CNDD-FDD members of their parliamentary mandate.

Shortly after the Constitutional Court decision, former Speaker of the National Assembly, Mr. Jean Minani, defected from Frodebu along with 11 other members. They founded Frodebu-Nyakuri ("genuine", officially known as Sahwanya Frodebu Iragi rya NDADAYE). The splinter party allied with the ruling CNDD-FDD, which regained a parliamentary majority.

In September 2009, the parliament adopted a new electoral law. It stipulates that any senators and deputies elected as party candidates who voluntarily leave their political party will lose their parliamentary mandate. Parliamentarians who are dismissed from a party after exhausting all judicial recourses will also lose their mandate. Several parliamentarians left their parties before the law - which is not retroactive - was promulgated by President Pierre Nkurunziza on 18 September.

The political stalemate continued in 2010. In May 2010, the CNDD-FDD won the local council elections. Most opposition parties claimed election fraud and sought a re-run of the vote. This request was rejected by the election commission. All six opposition presidential candidates subsequently announced that they would be boycotting the presidential elections scheduled for June. The election commission nevertheless maintained the presidential polls. Before the elections, top opposition contender, Mr. Agathon Rwasa - former rebel leader turned head of the Forces for National Liberation (FNL) - went into hiding. He claimed that the government wanted to arrest him on charges of plotting to mount a new insurgency. In June, incumbent President Mr. Nkurunziza, the sole candidate, was re-elected with 91.62 per cent of the votes.

In July, five parties were vying for seats in the National Assembly. Most opposition parties which had boycotted the 2010 presidential elections announced that they would not participate in the parliamentary polls. The major contenders were the ruling CNDD-FDD and its ally, Frodebu-Nyakuri, as well as the opposition Uprona. The Coalition for Free and Transparent Elections (CELAT Coalition, which supports the ruling party), the Independent Labour Party (PTD), as well as two independent candidates, also participated in the elections.

President Nkurunziza called on voters' support for the CNDD-FDD, arguing that they should elect experienced candidates who were true patriots and who would lead the country to sustainable and harmonious development

The Frodebu-Nyakuri party promised to revive the economy while protecting the environment and providing better health care.

Uprona Chairman Bonaventure Niyoyankana underscored that the National Assembly needed to be "multicoloured" so as to allow all Burundians to feel that they were represented by MPs who would defend their rights.

On 23 July, 66.68 per cent of the 3.5 million registered voters turned out at the polls.

The European Union observer mission welcomed the calm in which the polls took place but regretted the boycott that had been staged by most of the opposition parties.

The final results gave 80 seats to the CNDD-FDD. Its ally, Frodebu-Nyakuri, won four seats, while Uprona took 16. In addition, one member from each party that won seats and three Twas were co-opted, bringing the total number of members in the National Assembly to 106.

On 28 July, indirect elections to the Senate were held in local councils. The CNDD-FDD won 32 of the 34 elected seats, while Uprona took two seats. Three Twa members, including two women, were co-opted and four former presidents remain senators, bringing the total number of senators to 41.

On 16 August, the newly elected Parliament held its first session. On 20 August, the Senate elected Mr. Gabriel Ntisezerana (CNDD-FDD) as its new President while the National Assembly re-elected Mr. Pie Ntavyohanyuma (CNDD-FDD) as its Speaker the following day.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	3,551,125	
Voters	2,367,926	66.68 %
Valid votes	2,276,301	

► **Distribution of seats according to political group**

	Votes	% votes	Directly elected	Co-opted	Total sats
National Council for the Defense of Democracy - Front for the Defense of Democracy (CNDD-FDD)	1,848,023	81.19	80	1	81
Union for National Progress (UPRONA)	251,759	11.06	16	1	17
Sahwanya Frodebu-Nyakuri	133,904	5.88	4	1	5
Twas	-	-	0	3	3
Total			100	6	106

► **Distribution of seats according to sex**

Men	72	
Women	34	32.08 %
Total	106	

COLOMBIA

House of Representatives

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Congreso / Congress
Structure of Parliament	Bicameral
Chamber	Cámara de Representantes / House of Representatives
Number of members	166 directly elected
Term of House	4 years
Date of elections	14 March 2010

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all seats in the House of Representatives on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

33 multi-member constituencies corresponding to the country's departments and the nation's capital; each department has at least 2 Representatives.

There is an additional Representative for every 250,000 inhabitants or for each fraction of more than 125,000 inhabitants that the department has above the first 250,000.

▶ **Voting system: Proportional**

Party-list proportional representation system, with remaining seats allocated on the basis of greatest remainders.

Vacancies arising between general elections are filled by the "next-in-line" candidates of the same party that held the seat in question.

Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years

- Colombian citizenship

- full possession of civil and political rights

Disqualification: members of the armed forces on active duty, police officers

▶ Eligibility

- qualified electors
 - age: 25 years
 - Colombian citizenship
 - citizens of "good standing"
- Ineligibility: imprisonment (except for political or similar crimes)

▶ Incompatibilities

- public officials and their relatives
- certain public employees (in preceding 12 months)
- government contractors

Background and Outcome of the Elections

As in previous years, the 2010 parliamentary elections were held in March, two months ahead of the presidential elections.

In the March 2006 elections, the parties supporting President Álvaro Uribe won 96 of the 166 seats in the House of Representatives and 61 of the 102 seats in the Senate. They comprised the Social Party of National Unity (Partido de la U), the Conservative Party (CP), the Radical Change (RC), Team Colombia and the Democratic Party. The opposition Liberal Party (PL), led by former President Cesar Gaviria, won 36 and 17 seats respectively. Other seats went to independent candidates and small parties. Following a 2005 constitutional amendment, President Uribe was allowed to run for a second term in the May 2006 presidential elections, in which he was re-elected with over 62 per cent of the vote.

The President enjoyed high popularity ratings in his second term, during which his government took several measures to crack down on drug trafficking by the rebel group, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). In July 2008, the army liberated several hostages held by the FARC, including former presidential candidate Ingrid Betancourt.

The President's second term was nevertheless marred by a series of scandals. In early 2007, the media revealed links between the national intelligence service and paramilitary death squads in what came to be known as the "para-political" affair. The subsequent investigation alleged the involvement of members of Congress close to the President, including his cousin, Senator Mario Uribe.

In September 2009, the House of Representatives and the Senate passed a

bill that would have authorized President Uribe to call a referendum on amendments to the constitutional provisions on presidential term limits. The bill was rejected on 26 February 2010 by the Constitutional Court, on the grounds that it represented "substantial violations of democratic principles". The Partido de la U consequently endorsed its leader, Mr. Juan Manuel Santos, as its presidential candidate. He is a former defence minister and a close ally of Mr. Uribe.

In 2010, 1,634 candidates representing 361 parties were vying for seats in the House of Representatives, while 842 candidates from 19 parties ran for the Senate.

Despite the scandals, the Partido de la U reportedly remained popular. Its leader pledged to continue President Uribe's policies, saying that they had brought "unprecedented success" to the country. He promised to consolidate security and provide better education and more services to all Colombians. The Partido de la U's ally, the CP, campaigned on a similar platform, and also promised to create more jobs.

The CP's potential presidential candidates - Ms. Noemí Sanín and Mr. Andrés Felipe Arias - were close allies of President Uribe, while the RC's candidate, Mr. German Vargas Lleras, labelled himself an "anti-re-election Uribista". Mr. Santos said the Partido de la U would seek a coalition with the CP and the RC should Mr. Vargas withdraw from the presidential elections.

The PL, which had firmly opposed a third term for Mr. Uribe, endorsed Mr. Rafael Pardo as its presidential candidate. He criticized Mr. Uribe during the 2010 elections, arguing that he was using the media and his position as president to promote his allies in the parliamentary polls.

The opposition Alternative Democratic Pole (ADP) backed Mr. Gustavo Petro, an outspoken critic of Mr. Uribe, as its presidential candidate. The ADP argued that the elections presented a choice between dictatorship and democracy. In October 2009, Mr. Petro urged the opposition parties to unite and endorse a single presidential candidate, but the opposition remained fragmented.

The Green Party, formed in October 2009, pledged to become a moderate force in what it termed a polarized political situation.

The National Integration Party (PIN), a new pro-Uribe party formed in

November 2009, supported the friends and families of those involved in the "para-political" affair. It pledged to work for human dignity. Its participation in the 2010 elections raised a storm of controversy.

About 44 per cent of the 29 million registered voters turned out at the polls. Voting took place without major incidents.

The Colombia Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) congratulated Colombia on its efforts to ensure freedom, security and transparency in the elections, adding they had been the most peaceful in many years. It nevertheless expressed concern at fraud and vote-buying as well as the fact that there were too few female candidates.

The final results saw the Partido de la U returned to power. It won 47 seats in the House of Representatives and 28 seats in the Senate. The CP took 38 and 22 seats respectively. The PL came in third with 37 and 17 seats. The RC took 15 and eight seats while the PIN took twelve and eight seats. The Green Party also won three and five seats.

In the presidential elections held on 30 May, no candidate secured the required majority to be elected. In the run-off elections held on 20 June, Mr. Santos of the Partido de la U was elected with 69 per cent of the vote, defeating Mr. Antanas Mockus of the Green Party.

On 20 July, the newly elected Congress held its first session. Mr. Carlos Alberto Zuluaga of the Conservative Party was elected as Speaker of the House of Representatives, while the Senate elected Mr. Armando Benedetti of the Partido de la U as its new President.

Mr. Santos was sworn in as the country's President on 7 August.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	29,853,299	
Voters	13,061,798	43.75 %

► **Distribution of seats according to political group**

	Seats
Social Party of National Unity (Partido de la U)	47
Conservative Party (CP)	38
Liberal Party (PL)	37
Radical Change (RC)	15
National Integration Party (PIN)	12
Alternative Democratic Pole (ADP)	4
Green Party	3
Independent Absolute Renovation Movement (MIRA)	3
Liberal Opening (Apertura Liberal)	2
Indigenous Social Alliance	1
Liberal Alternative	1
Regional Integration	1
Others	2
Total	166

► **Distribution of seats according to sex**

Men	145	
Women	21	12.65 %
Total	166	

COLOMBIA

Senate

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Congreso / Congress
Structure of Parliament	Bicameral
Chamber	Senado de la República / Senate
Number of members	102 directly elected
Term of House	4 years
Date of elections	14 March 2010

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all seats in the Senate on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

- 1 multi-member (100 seats) national constituency
- 1 multi-member (2 seats) special national constituency for indigenous (Indian) communities

▶ **Voting system: Proportional**

Party-list proportional representation system, with remaining seats allocated on the basis of greatest remainders.

Vacancies arising between general elections are filled by the "next-in-line" candidates of the same party which held the seat in question.

Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years
 - Colombian citizenship
 - full possession of civil and political rights
- Disqualification: members of the armed forces on active duty, police officers

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified electors
- age: 30 years
- Colombian citizenship at birth

Ineligibility: imprisonment (except for political or similar crimes)

► **Incompatibilities**

- public officials and their relatives
- certain public employees (in preceding 12 months of elections)
- government contractors

Background and Outcome of the Elections

As in previous years, the 2010 parliamentary elections were held in March, two months ahead of the presidential elections.

In the March 2006 elections, the parties supporting President Álvaro Uribe won 96 of the 166 seats in the House of Representatives and 61 of the 102 seats in the Senate. They comprised the Social Party of National Unity (Partido de la U), the Conservative Party (CP), the Radical Change (RC), Team Colombia and the Democratic Party. The opposition Liberal Party (PL), led by former President Cesar Gaviria, won 36 and 17 seats respectively. Other seats went to independent candidates and small parties. Following a 2005 constitutional amendment, President Uribe was allowed to run for a second term in the May 2006 presidential elections, in which he was re-elected with over 62 per cent of the vote.

The President enjoyed high popularity ratings in his second term, during which his government took several measures to crack down on drug trafficking by the rebel group, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). In July 2008, the army liberated several hostages held by the FARC, including former presidential candidate Ingrid Betancourt.

The President's second term was nevertheless marred by a series of scandals. In early 2007, the media revealed links between the national intelligence service and paramilitary death squads in what came to be known as the "para-political" affair. The subsequent investigation alleged the involvement of members of Congress close to the President, including his cousin, Senator Mario Uribe.

In September 2009, the House of Representatives and the Senate passed a bill that would have authorized President Uribe to call a referendum on amendments to the constitutional provisions on presidential term limits. The bill was rejected on 26 February 2010 by the Constitutional Court, on the grounds that it represented "substantial violations of democratic principles". The Partido de la U consequently endorsed its leader, Mr. Juan Manuel

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Mr. Santos was sworn in as the country's President on 7 August.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	29,853,299	
Voters	13,203,762	44.23 %
Blank or invalid ballot papers	1,877,264	
Valid votes	11,326,498	

► **Distribution of seats according to political group**

	Votes	% votes	Seats
Social Party of National Unity (Partido de la U)	2,804,123	24.76	28
Conservative Party (CP)	2,298,748	20.30	22
Liberal Party (PL)	1,763,908	15.57	17
National Integration Party (PIN)	907,468	8.01	9
Alternative Democratic Pole (ADP)	848,905	7.49	8
Radical Change (RC)	888,851	7.85	8
Green Party	531,293	4.69	5
Independent Absolute Renovation Movement (MIRA)	298,862	2.64	3
Indigenous Authorities of Colombia			1
Indigenous Social Alliance			1
Total			102

► **Distribution of seats according to sex**

Men	85	
Women	17	16.67 %
Total	102	

COSTA RICA

Legislative Assembly

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Asamblea Legislativa / Legislative Assembly
Structure of Parliament	Unicameral
Number of members	57 directly elected* *Incumbent members cannot be immediately re-elected.
Term of House	4 years
Date of elections	7 February 2010

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all seats in the Legislative Assembly on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

7 multi-member constituencies (4 to 21 seats, according to population), one for each of the country's provinces

▶ **Voting system: Proportional**

Closed party-list system.

Parties which have attained the required quotient are entitled for seat distribution. Seats remaining unfilled on the basis of the quotient system are distributed among parties in the order of their residual votes; parties which did not attain the sub-quotient are also taken into account, their votes being treated as residual votes.

The quotient is the number obtained by dividing the total of valid votes cast in a particular province by the number of seats to be filled in the same province; the sub-quotient is the total of valid votes cast for a party which, while not attaining the quotient, obtains or exceeds 50% of it.

Vacancies arising between general elections are filled by the "next-in-line" candidate on the party list to which the former member belonged, as declared by the Supreme Electoral Tribunal.

Voting is compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18

- Costa Rican citizenship (naturalized citizens can only vote 12 months after acquiring that status)
 - residence in the country
- Disqualification: judicial interdiction, suspension of political rights, persons serving a prison term, dementia, undocumented immigrants

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified electors
- age: 21
- Costa Rican citizenship by birth or residence in the country for at least 10 years after naturalization
- full possession of civil rights

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- President of the Republic (or his/her close relatives)
- government ministers
- certain high judges
- members of the armed forces on active duty
- senior officials of provincial governments or autonomous institutions
- public contractors

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- Submission by political parties; at least 40 per cent of candidates endorsed by political parties must be women.
- no monetary deposit required

Background and Outcome of the Elections

The 2010 elections were the first to be held under the new Electoral Code, passed by the Legislative Assembly on 29 July 2009. It notably reduced the amount of State funding for elections. By the next general election (due in 2014), Costa Rica will introduce absentee voting and a 50 per cent quota for women in the Legislative Assembly, up from the current 40 per cent.

In the previous elections held in February 2006, the National Liberation Party (PLN) of President Oscar Arias won 25 of the 57 seats in the Legislative Assembly. The Citizens' Action Party (PAC), which had endorsed Mr. Ottón Solís as its presidential candidate, took 17 seats. The Liberty Movement (PML) and the Social Christian Unity Party (PUSC) won six and five seats respectively while four small parties took one seat each. President Arias narrowly won over Mr. Solís in the presidential elections.

In a referendum held in October 2007, voters narrowly approved the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) with the United States. President Arias' PLN had advocated approval of the pact, while the PAC had opposed it. In November 2008, Costa Rica and China launched talks on a possible free trade agreement. In 2009, the country experienced its first recession in 27 years due to the global economic crisis. However, the economy is expected to recover in 2010.

Prior to the 2010 elections, President Arias, who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1987, announced that he would retire from politics when his term ended in May 2010. In June 2009, the PLN elected the then Vice President, Ms. Laura Chinchilla, as its presidential candidate. The PLN pledged to continue President Arias' pro-business policies by expanding free trade pacts. Ms. Chinchilla promised more public spending to guarantee security.

The PAC's presidential candidate, Mr. Solís, pledged to review the terms of the CAFTA to protect the country's small farmers. The PAC claimed that the PLN government was incompetent, arguing that it had failed to reduce poverty despite having sufficient resources. Mr. Solís argued that Mr. Arias would continue to manage the country via Ms. Chinchilla.

The PML, which endorsed Mr. Otto Guevara as its presidential candidate, pledged to combat crime by introducing stiffer jail terms. Mr. Guevara promised to clamp down on wasteful spending in public health care and slash bureaucracy.

69.08 per cent of the 2.6 million registered voters turned out at the polls.

The final results gave 24 seats to the PLN and 11 to the PAC. The PML and the PUSC took nine and six seats respectively. The Accessibility Without Exclusion (PASE) party, which had won one seat in the 2006 elections, increased its share to four seats. Three small parties took one seat each.

Ms. Chinchilla won the presidential elections with over 46 per cent of the votes, becoming the first woman in Costa Rica to assume the post. She called on the PAC and the PML to join her government to solve the nation's problems.

On 1 May, the newly elected Legislative Assembly held its first session and elected Mr. Luis Gerardo Villanueva Monge (PLN) as its new Speaker.

Election results and statistics**▶ Voter turnout**

Number of registered electors	2,580,780	
Voters	1,782,878	69.08 %
Blank or invalid ballot papers	44,267	
Valid votes	1,738,611	

▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

	Seats
National Liberation Party (PLN)	24
Citizens' Action Party (PAC)	11
Liberty Movement (PML)	9
Social Christian Unity Party (PUSC)	6
Accessibility Without Exclusion (PASE)	4
Broad Front (Frente Ampollo)	1
Costa Rican Renovation Party (PRC)	1
National Restoration Party	1
Total	57

▶ Distribution of seats according to sex

Men	35	
Women	22	38.60 %
Total	57	

► **Distribution of seats according to profession**

	Seats
Finance, management or business	16
Legal profession	16
Education profession	9
IT/technology	4
Political party official	4
Physician, dentist	3
Economist	2
Journalism, broadcasting, media	2
Agriculture/farming	1
Social worker	1
Home-maker, care-taker	1
Others	10
Total	69

Note:

Some members have listed more than one primary occupation.

► **Distribution of seats according to age**

31 to 40 years	6
41 to 50 years	19
51 to 60 years	23
61 to 70 years	9
Total	57

CZECH REPUBLIC

Chamber of Deputies

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Parliament / Parliament
Structure of Parliament	Bicameral
Chamber	Poslanecka Snemovna / Chamber of Deputies
Number of members	200 directly elected
Term of House	4 years
Date of elections	28 - 29 May 2010

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all the seats in the Chamber of Deputies on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

14 multi-member constituencies (electoral regions)

▶ **Voting system: Proportional**

Proportional representation system

Each elector votes for the party list of his/her choice and can also give four preferential votes to individual candidates on the list.

To gain parliamentary representation, each party needs to receive at least the 5 per cent of the votes nationwide. The threshold will be raised to 10 per cent for two-party coalitions, 15 per cent for three-party coalitions and 20 per cent for coalitions of four or more parties. Seats are distributed to parties and coalitions according to the D'Hondt system.

A candidate who receives over 5 per cent of the preferential votes at the regional level will be placed at the top of the party list. In cases where several candidates receive over 5 per cent of preferential votes, they will be placed on the list in descending order based on the total number of preferential votes they receive.

Vacancies arising between general elections are filled by substitutes elected at the same time as titular members.

Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years

- Czech citizenship (including naturalized citizens)
 - residence in the country at the time of the election
- Disqualification: restricted freedom of movement for public health reasons or legal incapacity to vote

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified voters
 - age: 21 years
 - Czech citizenship (including naturalized citizens)
- Ineligibility: insanity or mental illness, holders of temporary entry permits, undocumented immigrants, members of the Electoral Commission, restricted freedom of movement for public health reasons or legal incapacity to stand for election.

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- President of the Republic
- senator, judge, attorney or State Arbiter

▶ **Candidature requirements**

- candidates run as political party/coalition members, or as independents on the party/coalition candidate list
- candidatures must be submitted at least 66 days prior to polling day;
- each party/coalition has to pay to the regional authorities a contribution for electoral expenses totalling Kc 15,000 for each regional candidate list it submits

Background and Outcome of the Elections

On 5 February 2010, President Václav Klaus set elections to the Chamber of Deputies for 28 and 29 May 2010.

The previous election to the Chamber of Deputies (June 2006) ended in political deadlock: two blocs won exactly 100 seats each in the 200 member Chamber. The then Prime Minister Jiri Paroubek's Czech Social Democratic Party (CSSD) and its possible ally, the Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia (KSCM), won 74 and 26 seats respectively. The Civic Democratic Party (ODS) of Mr. Mirek Topolánek, which led the opposition bloc, became the largest party with 81 seats. Its allies – the Christian Democratic Union Czechoslovak People's Party (KDU CSL) and the Greens (SZ) – took 13 and six seats respectively.

In August 2006, President Klaus (the ODS Honorary Chairman) appointed Mr. Topolánek as the new Prime Minister. However, in October Mr. Topolánek's minority Government of the ODS failed to win a parliamentary vote of confidence. Following the ODS victory in the Senate elections in October, Mr. Topolánek was named Prime Minister for a second time in November. After lengthy negotiations, his coalition government comprising the ODS, the KDU CSL and the SZ was finally approved in January 2007, thanks to the abstention of two CSSD parliamentarians.

In February 2008, parliament re-elected Mr. Klaus as the country's president following four rounds of voting. However, the Prime Minister and the President fell out in the run-up to the October 2008 Senate elections over the country's European Union (EU) policies. Mr. Klaus publicly opposed further transfer of power to the EU, the Lisbon Treaty (aimed at reforming EU institutions) and the introduction of the euro. The CSSD fared well in the Senate elections, depriving the ODS of its Senate majority.

In January 2009, the Czech Republic took over the EU Presidency. However, in the middle of its term, on 24 March 2009, the government lost a no-confidence vote. It was the first time in the Czech Republic's history that the opposition succeeded in passing a no confidence motion against the government. The ODS, the CSSD and the SZ agreed to form a non partisan caretaker government. In May, the then Head of the Czech Statistical Office, Mr. Jan Fisher, was sworn in as Acting Prime Minister. In late May, the Senate passed a bill shortening the term of the Chamber of Deputies in view of early elections to be called for 9 and 10 October at the latest.

Early elections required a constitutional amendment, which President Klaus signed into law in September after its adoption by the Senate. However, several members of the Chamber of Deputies opposed the amendment, arguing that they had the right to serve the full four-year term. Later in the same month, the CSSD, the KSCM and the SZ voted against the Chamber's dissolution. Consequently, the elections were held on 28 and 29 May 2010, a few days before the term of outgoing members expired (on 2 June). The mandate of the caretaker government was extended until the new elections.

Shortly before the 2010 elections, on 30 April, Mr. Miloš Věček (CSSD) resigned both as Speaker and parliamentarian over scandals related to alleged improper loan arrangements. Mr. Věček had lobbied for a 25 million crown State grant (about 973,000 euros) for a sports centre that his former

assistant had promised to build. However, the latter is reported to have used the grant to build a large hotel instead. Ms. Miroslava Nemcová (ODS) became Acting Speaker.

A total of 25 parties and movements, including all parties in the outgoing legislature, ran in the 2010 elections. The major contenders were the ODS, led by Mr. Petr Necas, the CSSD, led by Mr. Paroubek, and the KSCM of Mr. Vojtech Filip. In addition, two non parliamentary parties were vying for seats: the Tradition Responsibility Prosperity 09 (TOP 09), a conservative party led by a former Foreign Minister, Mr. Karel Schwarzenberg, and the Public Affairs party (VV). The former was launched in September 2009 by dissidents from the KDU CSL, including former KDU CSL head Miroslav Kalousek. The VV, founded in 2001, attracted media attention when former TV moderator Radek John became its leader in June 2009.

No formal electoral coalitions were formed, though the rightist parties - the ODS, the TOP 09 - and the centrist VV pledged to implement austerity programmes, while the leftist parties - the CSSD and the KSCM - as well as the KDU CSL promised more social benefits.

The ODS election programme, Vision 2020, focussed on fiscal restraint. ODS leader Necas insisted the country needed to reduce its debt and prevent abuse of the welfare system. The ODS promised to adopt a law to ensure inter alia budgetary responsibility and reduced ministerial spending. It also promised pension reform by introducing voluntary contributions.

Mr. Schwarzenberg's TOP 09 proposed more radical austerity measures. It pledged to reduce State wages and to cut State contributions to political parties by 50 per cent, while maintaining healthcare and pensions.

The VV presented a ten-point plan in which it promised better healthcare services and a 10 per cent cut in the number of civil servants. It also pledged pension reform and stricter conditions for unemployment benefits.

Former Prime Minister Paroubek's CSSD ran under the slogan "Change and Hope". The CSSD pledged to give top priority to economic recovery and to abolishing the current flat tax system in favour of a return to a progressive tax system. It also promised to use EU subsidies more efficiently.

The KSCM promised to introduce interest-free home loans for newlyweds and a minimum monthly wage of 14,000 CZK (540 euros), and gradually to

increase the minimum pension from CZK 2,080 (80 euros) to 10,000 CZK (390 euros) per month. It promised to lower the VAT on basic goods to 5 per cent, to eliminate the VAT on food and medicines, and to increase corporate and dividend taxes.

The 2010 elections were held against the backdrop of the Greek and euro zone crises. In May, euro zone members and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) agreed a 110 billion euro three-year bail out package for Greece, whose debt had reached 300 billion euros, or 125% of its GDP (gross domestic product) by March 2010. Amid fears that other countries in the euro zone might face a similar economic crisis, the euro fell to a four year low against the dollar in mid May.

The dominant theme during the campaign in the Czech Republic was how to deal with the country's public deficit. In 2009, the Czech public finance deficit reached 5.9 per cent of GDP - almost double the maximum 3 per cent limit set by the EU Maastricht criteria. Finance Minister Eduard Janota said the government's austerity plan could bring the deficit below 3 per cent of GDP by 2013. All major parties endorsed the plan. The TOP 09 and the ODS further pledged to balance the budget in 2015 and 2017 respectively. Major parties, including the CSSD and the ODS, said the country would be ready to enter the euro zone by no later than 2016. The TOP 09 did not set a date to adopt the euro.

In all, 62.60 per cent of 8.4 million registered voters turned out at the polls.

The final result was another stalemate with no party securing the majority in the Chamber of Deputies. Both major parties ended up with fewer seats than in the outgoing legislature. The CSSD came in first with 56 seats (down from 74), narrowly followed by the ODS, which took 53 seats (down from 81). The KSCM took 26 seats. In all, 44 women were elected.

The KDU CSL failed to win seats in the Chamber of Deputies for the first time since the Czech Republic was founded in 1993, prompting its leader, Mr. Cyril Svoboda, to resign. The SZ also failed to retain its representation in the Chamber of Deputies. CSSD leader Paroubek took responsibility for his party's defeat and announced his resignation as well.

On 22 June, the newly elected Chamber of Deputies held its first session. On 24 June, it elected former Acting Speaker, Ms. Miroslava Nemcová (ODS), as its Speaker.

After lengthy negotiations, a new coalition government comprising the ODS, the TOP 09 and the VV was formed on 13 July. The new government headed by Mr. Necas (ODS) won a vote of confidence on 10 August.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	8,415,892	
Voters	5,268,098	62.60 %
Blank or invalid ballot papers	32,963	
Valid votes	5,230,859	

▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

	Votes	% votes	Seats
Czech Social Democratic Party (CSSD)	1,155,267	22.09	56
Civic Democratic Party (ODS)	1,057,792	20.22	53
Tradition Responsibility Prosperity 09 (TOP 09)	873,833	16.71	41
Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia (KSCM)	589,765	11.27	26
Public Affairs party (VV)	569,127	10.88	24
Total			200

▶ Distribution of seats according to sex

Men	156	
Women	44	22.00 %
Total	200	

► **Distribution of seats according to profession**

	Seats
Civil service and local authority administration	69
Entrepreneur	30
Education profession	19
Physician, dentist	17
Finance, management or business	15
Legal profession	11
Political party official	7
Civil society activity	7
Architect, surveyor, engineer	5
Economist	3
Agriculture/farming	3
Armed services/Police	2
Clerical, secretarial, administration	2
Journalism, broadcasting, media	2
Research/sciences	1
Trade union official	1
Nursing	1
IT/technology	1
Home-maker, care-taker	1
Others	3
Total	200

► **Distribution of seats according to age**

21 to 30 years	10
31 to 40 years	35
41 to 50 years	62
51 to 60 years	66
61 to 70 years	24
Over 70 years	3
Total	200

CZECH REPUBLIC

Senate

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Parliament / Parliament
Structure of Parliament	Bicameral
Chamber	Senat / Senate
Number of members	81 directly elected
Term of House	6 years; one-third of the membership is renewed every two years.
Date of elections	15 - 16 & 22 - 23 October 2010

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for one-third (27) of the Senate seats upon the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

81 single-member constituencies.

▶ **Voting system: Majority**

Two-round system.

If necessary, a second round is held six days after the first round. No threshold is required to win a seat in the second round.

Vacancies arising between general elections are filled through by-elections held within 90 days, except in the last year of the term of the Senator concerned.

Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years

- Czech citizenship (including naturalized citizens)

- residence in the country at the time of the election

Disqualification: restricted freedom of movement for public health reasons, legal incapacity to vote.

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified electors

- age: 40 years

- Czech citizenship (including naturalized citizens)

Ineligibility: insanity/mental illness, holders of temporary entry permits, undocumented immigrants, members of the Electoral Commission, restricted freedom of movement for public health reasons, legal incapacity to stand for election

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- President of the Republic
- judge, attorney or State arbiter
- member of the Chamber of Deputies
- head of a local authority

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- by political parties, coalitions, or independents
- candidatures must be submitted at least 60 days prior to polling, accompanied by monetary deposit of Kcs 20,000, reimbursed if the candidate has obtained at least 6% of the vote in the constituency concerned.
- any contending party must have at least 10,000 members or supporters
- list of candidates in each district must be submitted at least 60 days prior to polling

Background and Outcome of the Elections

The 2010 elections to the Senate were the first to be held under Prime Minister Petr Necas of the Civic Democratic Party (ODS), who had taken office in August 2010. At stake were a third of the 81 seats in the Senate. The Senate elections were held against the backdrop of the new government's austerity plans.

When the Senate was last renewed, in October 2008, the Czech Social Democratic Party (CSSD) won the elections for the first time, taking 23 of the 27 seats at stake and bolstering its strength in the Senate to 29 seats in all. The ODS, led by the then Prime Minister, Mr. Mirek Topolánek, recorded its worst result, taking only three seats. With 35 seats in all, the ODS lost its absolute majority in the Senate. The Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia (KSCM) took the remaining seat in play, for a total of three.

The country subsequently experienced a series of political stalemates. In March 2009, Prime Minister Topolánek lost a vote of confidence. The CSSD leader, Mr. Jiri Paroubek, had criticized the government on several issues, including its response to the economic crisis. It was the first time in the Czech

Republic's history that the opposition succeeded in passing a no-confidence motion against the government. The ODS, the CSSD and the Greens (SZ) agreed to form a non-partisan caretaker government. In May, the then Head of the Czech Statistical Office, Mr. Jan Fisher, was sworn in as Acting Prime Minister. Early elections to the Chamber of Deputies, set for October 2009, did not take place because the Chamber of Deputies failed to pass the required constitutional amendment. The mandate of the caretaker government was consequently extended until elections to the Chamber of Deputies took place in May 2010 on the normal expiry of the legislature.

Those elections resulted in yet another stalemate, with no party securing a majority in the Chamber of Deputies. The CSSD came in first, taking 56 of the 200 seats at stake; it was closely followed by the ODS, which took 53 seats. Tradition Responsibility Prosperity 09 (TOP 09, a conservative party led by a former Foreign Minister, Mr. Karel Schwarzenberg), and the Public Affairs party (VV, led by former TV moderator Radek John) took 41 and 24 seats respectively. The remaining 26 seats went to the KSCM. The Christian Democratic Union-Czechoslovak People's Party (KDU-CSL) failed to win any seats in the Chamber of Deputies for the first time since the Czech Republic was founded in 1993.

After lengthy negotiations, a new coalition government comprising the ODS, TOP 09 and the VV was formed on 13 July. The new government, headed by Mr. Necas (ODS), won a vote of confidence on 10 August.

A record 227 candidates from 36 parties, groups and coalitions contested the 2010 Senate elections, which once again saw a duel between the ODS and the CSSD.

Although a Senate veto can be overturned by the Chamber of Deputies, where the governing coalition holds 118 of the 200 seats, the 2010 Senate elections were viewed as significant. A joint session of both chambers will elect the new president in 2013 when President Vaclav Klaus' term expires.

The country's fiscal deficit reached 5.8 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) in 2009, almost twice the 3-per-cent limit set by the European Union. On assuming office in August, Mr. Necas' government proposed a series of reforms to reduce the deficit to 5.3 per cent of GDP in 2010. They included pension reform, a 10-per-cent reduction in public sector wages, retroactive taxing of home-buyer savings accounts, the abolition of welfare benefits, a VAT increase and the introduction of tuition fees at universities. The Senate

elections were held amid heated debate over those plans.

Prime Minister Necas underscored that, just like any other government in Europe, his government needed to implement unpopular reforms "simply because they are necessary". He called on voters to support the governing coalition, arguing that a Senate dominated by the opposition would complicate the reform process and might push the Czech Republic to the margins of Europe, a view echoed by Finance Minister Miroslav Kalousek (TOP 09) and VV Chairman John. TOP 09, which formed an electoral coalition with Mayors and Independents (STAN), pledged to maintain the governing coalition regardless of the outcome of the Senate elections.

Acting CSSD leader Bohuslav Sobotka urged voters to support his party so as to prevent what he termed "the government's illegal plan". He argued that the proposed retroactive taxing of home-buyer savings accounts was unconstitutional. The CSSD pledged to amend the reform plans so that the 130,000 poorest families would be able to continue to receive welfare benefits. It criticized the government for refusing dialogue on the reform plans and underscored that the reforms must be discussed first. The KSCM of Mr. Vojtech Filip echoed the CSSD, accusing the ODS-led government of trying to pass 16 of the 32 reform bills in a shortened procedure in first reading without a discussion. Prime Minister Necas rebutted that since his government was only formed in August, it did not have enough time to prepare bills and allow the requisite time for debate. The CSSD tried to convince voters that a different opinion in the Senate election would allow the CSSD to start a public debate on the government's reform plans.

A record 44.59 per cent of 2.7 million registered voters turned out at the first round, the highest in the Senate's history, up from 39.52 per cent in 2008.

No candidate secured the required majority in the first round. The CSSD fared well, with its 22 candidates advancing to the second round, three more than its main rival, the ODS. Five candidates each from the STAN-TOP 09 coalition and the KDU-CSL also made it to the second round. In addition, two candidates from the Northern Bohemians (Severocesl.cz, a regional group) and another candidate from the non-partisan Nestranici in eastern Bohemia were vying for their first representation in the Senate.

In all, 24.64 per cent of 2.7 million registered voters turned out at the second round held on 22 and 23 October.

According to the final results, the CSSD came in first, taking 12 of the 27 seats at stake. This brought its total seats in the Senate to 41, allowing it to regain the majority. The ODS took eight seats, for 25 in all. The KDU-CSL and the STAN-TOP 09 coalition took two seats each, holding five seats each in all. The Northern Bohemians and Nestránci entered the Senate for the first time, winning two and one seat respectively. The KSCM-CSL failed to win any seats in 2010, and was left with two seats in all. Four women were elected in 2010, bringing the total number of women senators to 15.

On 24 November, the newly elected Senate held its first session and elected Mr. Milan Stech of the CSSD as its new President. He became the first CSSD member to head the Senate since the Senate's inception in 1996.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

	Round 1 (16 October)		Round 2 (23 October)	
Number of registered electors	2,774,178		2,774,982	
Voters	1,237,072	44.59 %	683,705	24.64 %
Blank or invalid ballot papers	89,682		3,268	
Valid votes	1,147,390		680,437	

▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

	Seats 2010	Total
Czech Social Democratic Party (CSSD)	12	41
Civic Democratic Party (ODS)	8	25
Christian Democratic Union - Czechoslovak People's Party (KDU - CSL)	2	5
Coalition of Mayors and Independents (STAN) - Tradition Responsibility Prosperity 09 (TOP 09)	2	5
Northern Bohemians (Severocesl.cz)	2	2
Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia (KSCM)	0	2
Non-partisan (Nestránci)	1	1
Total	27	81

Note: No candidates were elected in the first round.

► **Distribution of seats according to sex**

	Seats 2010		Total	
Men	23		66	
Women	4	14.81 %	15	18.52%
Total	27		81	

► **Distribution of seats according to profession**

	Seats
Civil service and local authority administration	39
Physician, dentist	13
Architect, surveyor, engineer	6
Education profession	5
Research/sciences	5
Finance, management or business	4
Trade union official	2
Entrepreneur	1
Journalism, broadcasting, media	1
Legal profession	1
Agriculture/farming	1
Writer, literary, artist	1
Others	2
Total	81

► **Distribution of seats according to age**

41 to 50 years	13
51 to 60 years	43
61 to 70 years	22
Over 70 years	2
Unknown	1
Total	81

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Chamber of Deputies

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Congreso de la República / Congress of the Republic
Structure of Parliament	Bicameral
Chamber	Cámara de Diputados / Chamber of Deputies
Number of members	183 directly elected
Term of House	4 years
Date of elections	16 May 2010

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all the seats in the Chamber of Deputies on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

31 provinces and the National District. Allocation of seats according to population. Each Deputy represents 50,000 inhabitants or fraction over 25,000.

▶ **Voting system: Proportional**

Closed party-list system, with proportional distribution of seats according to the d'Hondt method.

Vacancies arising between general elections are filled by substitutes chosen at the same time as titular members.

Voting is compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years or married

- Dominican Republic citizenship

Disqualification: members of the armed forces and police, irrevocable conviction for treason, espionage or conspiracy against the Republic, conviction for taking up arms or lending aid or participating in any attack against the country; right suspended in cases of irrevocable sentence to criminal punishment (until rehabilitation), legally declared judicial interdiction (while in effect) and acceptance, while in the country, of an office or employment from a foreign government without prior authorization from the executive branch

▶ Eligibility

- qualified electors
- age: 25 years
- Dominican Republic citizenship
- full enjoyment of civil and political rights
- native of the territorial district where elected or residence therein for at least five consecutive years

▶ Incompatibilities

- any other public office or position

▶ Candidacy requirements

- nomination by a political party recognized by the Central Electoral Board; candidates are chosen by a convention of their party, which then submits these names to the competent electoral board
- support by a political group which has an organization and a programme similar to that of a political party for independent candidates

Background and Outcome of the Elections

At stake in the May 2010 elections were 183 seats in the Chamber of Deputies (up from 178) and 32 seats in the Senate. They were the first to be held under the new Constitution, promulgated by the joint session of both chambers of the Congress of the Republic in January 2010. The statutory term of the Congress remained at four years, but those members elected in 2010 will serve a six-year term in order to synchronize presidential, parliamentary and local elections in 2016.

In the previous elections held in May 2006, President Leonel Fernández' Dominican Liberation Party (PLD) won 96 seats in the Chamber of Deputies and 22 in the Senate. The opposition Dominican Revolutionary Party (PRD) took 82 and 10 seats.

Mr. Fernandez was first elected President in 1996, then again in 2004 and 2008. He pledged to construct an underground transport system in the capital, Santo Domingo, to ease traffic congestion. It became operational in January 2009. Mr Fernandez also enjoyed high popularity thanks to a stable economy.

The new Constitution - drafted by President Fernandez and PRD leader Miguel Vargas Maldonado - was overwhelmingly adopted by both

chambers of the Congress, with only 14 votes against. It provides for an indefinite re-election of the president, but stipulates that the president cannot serve consecutive terms.

In all, 26 parties contested the 2010 elections. The PLD and its ally, the Social Christian Reformist Party (PRSC) of Mr. Carlos Morales, were challenged by Mr. Vargas' PRD.

The PLD ran on the government's record, arguing that voting for PLD candidates meant voting for progress and development. President Fernandez pledged to amend the country's legislation to bring it in line with the new Constitution that prohibits human trafficking. This was in response to the problems posed by the country's construction and agriculture industries, which depend on labour that is "imported", often illegally, from neighbouring Haiti.

The PRD criticized the government for wasting money and failing to stem crime. It accused the PLD of misuse of State funds and massive vote-buying in the municipality of Samaná.

The government declared public holidays from 15 May to midday on 17 May to facilitate voting, which took place on 16 May. In all, 56.44 per cent of the 6.1 million registered voters turned out at the polls.

The elections were marred by violence, with five persons reportedly killed and 13 injured. President Fernandez condemned the violence.

The Organization of American States (OAS) monitored the polls. It recommended more effective control over the use of State funds during elections. It added that ballot papers should be redesigned to facilitate vote counting.

The ruling PLD and its allies swept 31 of the 32 Senate seats and the PRSC took the remaining seat. The PRD failed to win a Senate seat. The PLD and its allies took 105 seats in the Chamber of Deputies, while the PRD and its allies took 75. In all, 38 women were elected to the Chamber of Deputies and three to the Senate.

The newly-elected Congress held its first session on 16 August and elected Mr. Abel Martínez (PLD) as Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies while the Senate re-elected Mr. Reinaldo Pared Pérez of the same party as its

President.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	6,116,397	
Voters	3,451,872	56.44 %
Blank or invalid ballot papers	139,895	
Valid votes	3,311,977	

▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

	Seats
Dominican Liberation Party (PLD) and its allies	105
Dominican Revolutionary Party (PRD) and its allies	75
Social Christian Reformist Party (PRSC)	3
Total	183

▶ Distribution of seats according to sex

Men	145	
Women	38	20.77 %
Total	183	

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Senate

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Congreso de la República / Congress of the Republic
Structure of Parliament	Bicameral
Chamber	Senado / Senate
Number of members	32 directly elected
Term of House	4 years
Date of elections	16 May 2010

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all the seats in the Senate on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

32 single-member constituencies corresponding to the country's 31 provinces and the National District.

▶ **Voting system: Majority**

Simple majority vote.

Vacancies arising between general elections are filled by substitutes chosen at the same time as titular members.

Voting is compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years or married

- Dominican Republic citizenship

Disqualification: members of the armed forces and police, irrevocable conviction for treason, espionage or conspiracy against the Republic, conviction for taking up arms or lending aid or participating in any attack against the country; right suspended in cases of irrevocable sentence to criminal punishment (until rehabilitation), legally declared judicial interdiction (while in effect) and acceptance, while in the country, of an office or employment from a foreign government without prior authorization from the executive branch

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified electors

- age: 25 years
- Dominican Republic citizenship
- full enjoyment of civil and political rights
- native of the territorial district where elected or residence therein for at least five consecutive years

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- any other public office or position

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- nomination by a political party recognized by the Central Electoral Board; candidates are chosen by a convention of their party, which then submits these names to the competent electoral board
- support by a political group which has an organization and a programme similar to that of a political party for independent candidates

Background and Outcome of the Elections

At stake in the May 2010 elections were 183 seats in the Chamber of Deputies (up from 178) and 32 seats in the Senate. They were the first to be held under the new Constitution, promulgated by the joint session of both chambers of the Congress of the Republic in January 2010. The statutory term of the Congress remained at four years, but those members elected in 2010 will serve a six-year term in order to synchronize presidential, parliamentary and local elections in 2016.

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cannot serve consecutive terms.

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The Organization of American States (OAS) monitored the polls. It recommended more effective control over the use of State funds during elections. It added that ballot papers should be redesigned to facilitate vote counting.

The ruling PLD and its allies swept 31 of the 32 Senate seats and the PRSC took the remaining seat. The PRD failed to win a Senate seat. The PLD and its allies took 105 seats in the Chamber of Deputies, while the PRD and its allies took 75. In all, 38 women were elected to the Chamber of Deputies and three to the Senate.

The newly-elected Congress held its first session on 16 August and elected Mr. Abel Martínez (PLD) as Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies while the Senate re-elected Mr. Reinaldo Pared Pérez of the same party as its President.

Election results and statistics**▶ Voter turnout**

Number of registered electors	6,116,397	
Voters	3,451,872	56.44 %
Blank or invalid ballot papers	139,895	
Valid votes	3,311,977	

▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

	Seats
Dominican Liberation Party (PLD) and its allies	31
Social Christian Reformist Party (PRSC)	1
Total	32

▶ Distribution of seats according to sex

Men	29	
Women	3	9.38 %
Total	32	

EGYPT

People's Assembly

Structure of Parliament	Bicameral
Chamber	Majlis Al-Chaab / People's Assembly
Number of members	518 members - 508 directly elected (including 64 seats reserved for women) - 10 members appointed by the President.
Term of House	5 years
Date of elections	28 November & 5 December 2010

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all the directly elected seats in the People's Assembly on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

For the 444 general seats: 222 multi-member (2-seat) constituencies;

For the 64 seats reserved for women:

- 26 governorates with two seats each
- Three governorates with four seats each.

▶ **Voting system: Majority**

Two-round system.

Voters cast two ballots: one for the general seat and the other for the women's seats.

Based on the article 87 of the Constitution, at least one half of the members elected under the general seats must be workers and farmers. If the two successful candidates in a constituency are not workers or farmers, the one with the largest number of votes is declared elected and a run-off elections is held a week later among the highest-standing workers and farmers.

Similarly, if no candidate obtains an absolute majority in a constituency in the first round, a runoff poll is held a week later among the four best-placed contestants, provided that at least half of them are workers or farmers. The two with the highest number of votes are declared elected provided that at least one is either a worker or a farmer.

Vacancies between general elections are filled through by-elections or appointment, as the case may be.

Voting is compulsory for men, failure to do so can result in a fine of £E 20.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years
- Egyptian citizenship (or naturalized for at least five years)
- Disqualification: unrehabilitated persons convicted of a felony, those whose property is under sequestration, imprisonment for certain crimes, civil servants or employees of the public sector dismissed for dishonourable reasons (in five years preceding election), persons placed under guardianship within five years of election
- suspension of rights: the insane, undischarged bankrupts

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified electors
- age: 30 years
- Egyptian citizenship (or naturalized for at least 10 years)
- descendant of an Egyptian father
- proficiency in reading and writing
- completion of/exemption from military service

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- unless excepted:
- government and public sector posts/employees
 - posts in foreign companies
 - membership of other assemblies or councils
 - mayors

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- monetary deposit of E£ 200

Background and Outcome of the Elections

On 20 October 2010, President Hosni Mubarak called elections to the People’s Assembly for 28 November. They were the first to be held since legislative amendments in June 2009 raised the statutory number of members of the People’s Assembly from 454 to 518. The amendments created 64 seats for women, while 10 others (up from eight) are appointed by the President.

In the previous elections held in November and December 2005, President Mubarak’s National Democratic Party (NDP) won 320 of the 442 directly elected seats. The National Front for Change (NFC) - an opposition coalition

comprising 12 opposition parties and the Muslim Brotherhood (MB) - took a total of 96 seats: 88 independent candidates backed by the MB, six representing the New Wafd Party (NWP) and two from the National Progressive Unionist Grouping (Tagammu) were also elected. The remaining seats went to 26 independent candidates close to the NDP.

In the June 2010 elections to fill half of the 176 directly elected seats (88) in the Shoura Assembly (the upper chamber), the NDP took 80 seats and four independent candidates close to the NDP were elected. Four opposition parties took one seat each. The MB-backed candidates failed to win seats in that chamber.

Since its inception in 1978, the NDP has been the dominant political party in Egypt, controlling over two thirds of the seats in the People's Assembly. The MB, Egypt's largest Islamist organization founded in 1928, has been officially banned since 1954 following an assassination attempt on the then President Gamel Abdel Nasser. However, under the current Constitution, its members are allowed to run for election as independent candidates.

In February 2010, Nobel Peace Prize laureate and former Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Mr. Mohamed ElBaradei, launched a campaign calling for change. Proposed reforms included an end to emergency rule (in place since 1981, see note 1), judicial oversight of elections and repeal of constitutional provisions on the conditions for presidential candidates (see note 2). Prior to the 2010 elections to the People's Assembly, his activists collected over 100,000 signatures for the electoral reforms and the MB, which joined the campaign, collected 65,000.

In September, Mr. ElBaradei urged all opposition forces to boycott the elections to the People's Assembly, alleging that election fraud was highly likely to occur. Former presidential candidate, Mr. Ayman Nour (see note 3), announced that his Tomorrow Party (Al-Ghad) would boycott the elections, although some of its factions did field candidates. The NWP, for its part, announced that it would participate in the polls. MB leader, Mr. Mohammed Badie, also announced that his party would take part in the elections, and encouraged people to "oppose injustice through votes".

In 2010, 5,181 candidates were vying for the 508 seats at stake. The NDP alone endorsed 763 candidates. The major opposition parties included the NWP, which fielded 168 candidates; the National Progressive Unionist Grouping (Tagammu, 66 candidates) and the Nasserist Party (also known as

Nasirite Arab Democratic Party, 31 candidates). In addition, 135 MB-backed independent candidates declared they would be running. A dozen others were disqualified. Furthermore, 380 women stood for the 64 seats reserved for women.

82 year-old President Mubarak - re-elected for a fifth term in 2005 - pledged to ensure free and fair elections. The government did not agree to the presence of any international observers.

The NDP pledged to promote economic development through a free market economy, enhance the transparency and accountability of governing institutions and encourage political participation by creating opportunities for political parties.

The NWP - led by business tycoon Mr. El-Sayed El-Badawi since May 2010 - also advocated a free market economy. It pledged to abolish restrictions on the formation of political parties and impose a limit on the number of presidential terms.

The National Progressive Unionist Grouping (Tagammu), led by Mr. Rifaat al-Saeed, vowed to end emergency rule and amend the Constitution to guarantee judicial supervision of elections. The Nasserist Party, led by Mr. Diaeddin Daoud, pledged to reverse the free market reforms implemented by President Mubarak and to restore an economic system based on socialist principles.

In Egypt, the use of religious slogans in election campaigns is banned. Shortly before the polling, 11 MB members were sentenced to two years in prison for handing out MB leaflets with the slogan "Islam is the solution". In all, over 1,200 MB supporters were arrested while campaigning or in clashes with police in the run-up to the first round.

In October, the country's telecommunications regulator set new rules for companies sending text messages (SMS) to multiple mobile phones, obliging them to obtain licences. Egypt's main satellite operator shut down 12 private television channels on grounds of violating the terms of their broadcasting licences. The NWP criticized the media clamp-down.

According to the Higher Election Commission, 34.95 per cent of the 40.1 million registered voters turned out at the polls, while opposition parties argued that only 10 per cent turned out.

In all, 221 candidates secured the required majority to be elected in the first round. The NDP took 209 seats. Seven independents and five opposition candidates - including two NWP candidates - were elected. No MB-backed candidates were elected although 27 advanced to the run-off elections.

Several protests and clashes were reported on polling day. Many opposition parties claimed vote rigging, citing multiple voting and the use of intimidation tactics against their supporters. The MB and the NWP urged the government to cancel the polls. The Higher Election Commission recognized that some violations had taken place during the first round of the elections, but reiterated that those incidents did not undermine the electoral process as a whole.

Both the MB and the NWP subsequently announced that they would withdraw their candidates from the run-off elections. The Higher Elections Commission held that withdrawing candidates beyond the deadline was illegal and the withdrawing candidates would be considered as having been defeated. Several NWP candidates contested the run-off elections as independents.

Several MB-backed candidates filed appeals with the Administrative Judicial Court (lower court, the AJC), asking it to declare the results of the elections null and void on grounds of vote rigging. Multiple circuits of the AJC ordered the announcement of the election results be halted. On 5 December, the Supreme Administrative Court (SAC), the highest administrative judicial body in Egypt, issued seven rulings, including the halt of run-offs in Matareyya, Cairo.

The Higher Elections Commission put the turnout for the run-off at 27.47 per cent.

The NDP took 427 of the 512 seats at stake. The opposition parties took a total of 16 seats. The remaining 69 seats went to independent candidates, many of whom are reportedly close to the NDP. In all, 64 women were elected under the reserved seats and one was appointed by the President.

The execution of all the SAC rulings would have affected 184 seats of the 508 directly elected seats (thus leaving 324 elected members), whereas article 87 of the Constitution stipulates that the number of elected members of the People's Assembly must be at least 350. Considering that the elections had failed to elect the minimum number of members, the SAC invalidated both

rounds of the elections and ordered that new elections be held. The Higher Election Commission dismissed the SAC decision and declared that the elections had been transparent and had reflected the will of citizens.

On 13 December, the newly elected People's Assembly held its first session and re-elected Mr. Ahmed Fathy Sorour (NDP) as its Speaker.

On 14 January 2011, street protests forced Tunisian President Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali to flee the country. The wave of protests against the Government spread to several countries in the region, including Egypt. On 25 January, street protests demanding the resignation of President Mubarak started in several cities in Egypt. On 28 January, President Mubarak dismissed several ministers including the interior minister. He appointed intelligence chief Omar Suleiman as Vice President, and former air force commander Ahmed Shafiq as new Prime Minister. However, the protestors continued to demand the President's immediate resignation, mobilizing over one million people in Cairo. Speaker Sorour said the parliamentary election results would be "corrected" according to court decisions expected shortly.

On 1 February, President Mubarak announced that he would not seek a new mandate in the presidential elections due in September 2011. Speaker Sorour promised constitutional amendments to revise articles 76 (allowing the re-election of the president for further successive terms) and 77 (stipulating the presidential candidacy requirements). Anti-Mubarak demonstrations nevertheless continued, clashing with pro-Mubarak supporters.

After 18 days of mass protest, on 11 February, Vice President Suleiman announced that President Mubarak had handed over power to the Egypt Supreme Council of Armed Forces (ESCAF), chaired by Commander-in-Chief and Defense Minister, Field Marshal Hussein Tantawi. On 13 February, the ESCAF suspended the Constitution and dissolved Parliament, promising to call elections within six months. The ESCAF also announced that it would set up a committee to draft a new Constitution.

On 19 March, 41.19 per cent of some 18.5 million registered voters turned out at a constitutional referendum and 77.2 per cent of them approved the new Constitution. Parliamentary elections are now expected to take place in September 2011, prior to presidential polls in November.

Note 1:

The Emergency Law was introduced following the assassination of President

Anwar el-Sadat in 1981. It allows the authorities to make arrests without charge, detain prisoners indefinitely, limit freedom of expression and assembly, and maintain a special security court. In May 2010, the People's Assembly approved the government's request to extend the Emergency Law by two years. The government explained that the Law would be used only in cases of terrorism and drug trafficking.

Note 2:

Under the constitutional amendments approved by a referendum in March 2007, political parties wishing to field presidential candidates must account for at least 3 per cent of the elected members of both the People's Assembly and the Shoura Assembly. However, the 2007 amendments contained an exceptional provision allowing political parties that obtained at least one seat in either the People's Assembly or the Shoura Assembly in the most recent elections to field a candidate in any presidential elections to be held within 10 years as of 1 May 2007. Independent presidential candidates have to be endorsed by at least 250 members of parliament and local councils.

Note 3:

Mr. Nour, then a member of the People's Assembly, was stripped of his parliamentary immunity and arrested in January 2005. In December 2005, he was charged with forging signatures to register his party and was sentenced to a five-year prison term. He was released in February 2009 on health grounds.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

	Round 1 (28 November)	Round 2 (5 December)
Number of registered electors	40,160,799	29,109,107
Voters	14,036,937 34.95 %	7,995,022 27.47 %
Valid votes	12,278,139	7,774,199

► **Distribution of seats according to political group**

	Seats
National Democratic Party (NDP)	427
New Wafd Party (NWP)	7
National Progressive Unionist Grouping (Tagammu)	5
Jil (Generation)	1
Social Justice Party	1
Democratic Peace party	1
Tomorrow Party (Al-Ghad)	1
Independents	69
Total	512

► **Distribution of seats according to sex**

	Elected	Appointed	Total	
Men	438	9	447	
Women	64	1	65	12.70 %
Total	502	10	512	

EGYPT

Shoura Assembly

Structure of Parliament	Bicameral
Chamber	Majlis Ash-Shura / Shoura Assembly
Number of members	264 members - 176 directly elected - 88 appointed by the Head of State
Term of House	6 years; one-half of the membership is renewed every 3 years
Date of elections	1 & 8 June 2010

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for one half of the Shoura Assembly (88) on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system▶ **Constituencies**

55 multi-member constituencies

▶ **Voting system: Majority**

Majority vote in two rounds

If no candidate obtains an absolute majority in a constituency in the first round, a simple majority runoff poll is held a week later.

Vacancies between general elections are filled through by-elections or appointment, as the case may be.

Voting is compulsory for men, failure to do so resulting in a fine of £E20.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years

- Egyptian citizenship (or naturalized for at least five years)

Disqualification: unrehabilitated persons convicted of a felony, those whose property is under sequestration, imprisonment for certain crimes, civil servants or employees of the public sector dismissed for dishonourable reasons (in five years preceding election), persons placed under guardianship within five years of election

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified electors

- age: 30 years

- Egyptian citizenship (or naturalized for at least 10 years)
- descendant of an Egyptian father
- proficiency in reading and writing
- completion of/exemption from military service

▶ **Incompatibilities**

Unless excepted:

- government and public sector posts/employees
- posts in foreign companies
- membership of other assemblies or councils
- mayors

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- monetary deposit of E£ 200

Background and Outcome of the Elections

On 27 April 2010, President Hosni Mubarak issued a decree calling elections for half of the 176 directly elected members (88) in the Shoura Assembly. The 264-member Shoura Assembly also comprises 88 appointed members, half of whom are renewed every three years at the same time as the elections.

In the previous elections (June 2007), the ruling National Democratic Party (NDP) swept 87 of the 88 seats at stake. The Tagammu Party (National Progressive Unionist Grouping) took the remaining seat. Following the 2007 elections, the NDP controlled a total of 245 seats in the Shoura Assembly. The remaining seats were held by small parties and independents.

President Mubarak (NDP), who has been in power since 1981, has not announced whether he will stand for a sixth term in 2011. The Emergency Law in force since 1981 (which gives the State broad powers to detain suspects without charge) was not lifted before the 2010 elections.

A total of 452 candidates were vying for seats in 2010. They included 115 candidates representing the NDP and 12 other political parties, the rest being independent candidates. 11 women were candidates. More opposition parties fielded candidates in 2010, apparently with a view to meeting the requirement to field a presidential candidate (see note). The opposition remained fragmented as the country's three main opposition parties - the Wafd, the Tagammu party and the Arab Democratic Nasserist Party - failed to form an electoral coalition. The three backed a total of 20 candidates. Eight other opposition parties backed an additional 25

candidates.

The Muslim Brotherhood (MB), a fundamentalist movement founded in 1928, officially backed 14 independent candidates. They included three members of the People's Assembly, the other House of Parliament, who were considered to be strong rivals to NDP candidates. The MB has been officially banned since 1954 following an assassination attempt on the then President, Gamel Abdel Nasser. None of the 19 candidates backed by the MB was elected to the Shoura Assembly in 2007. However, MB-backed candidates had won 88 seats in the 454-member People's Assembly in 2005, becoming the largest opposition force. The media focused on whether the MB would fare well in the Shoura Assembly elections as a foretaste of the elections to the People's Assembly due in late 2010.

President Mubarak pledged to organize free and fair elections. The NDP campaigned under the slogan "For You". It pledged to introduce unemployment insurance, raise salaries by 30 per cent, expand social insurance programmes for the poorest families, improve public services and support democratization. The NDP list included three Coptic candidates and one woman. Mr. Saftwat el Sherif, the President of the Shoura Assembly and NDP Secretary General, promised voters the NDP would work to promote the interests of the State and the rights of citizens.

The MB called for constitutional amendments with a view to more democratic parliamentary and presidential elections. Posters with its slogan, "Islam is the solution", were reportedly removed by the police. The High Elections Commission said that the campaign posters were removed because they mixed religion with politics. The MB said that its candidates faced growing hostility in the run-up to the elections and that some 40 of its members were detained during the campaign.

The Tagammu Party of Mr. Sayed Abdel Al pledged to introduce democratic reforms and abrogate the Emergency Law. Another opposition party, the Tomorrow Party (Al-Ghad, founded in 2004 by dissidents from the Wafd party), called for voter support so that it would be able to field a presidential candidate in 2011.

The MB and the Wafd Party accused the NDP of vote rigging, an allegation which the NDP dismissed.

In the first round of the elections, on 1 June, 30.8 percent of some 8 million

eligible voters turned out at the polls. The NDP won 74 seats, including 14 uncontested seats. Four opposition parties - Al-Ghad, the Tagammu party, the Arab Democratic Nasserite Party and Jil (Generation) - won one seat each.

The run-off elections for the remaining ten seats were held a week later. The final results gave 80 seats to the NDP. The remaining seats went to four independent candidates close to the NDP and four opposition parties which took one seat each. The MB-backed candidates failed to win parliamentary representation.

On 23 June President Mubarak appointed 44 members, including eight Copts and 11 women.

On 24 June the newly elected members were sworn in alongside the members appointed by President Mubarak. Mr. Saftwat el Sherif, the sole candidate for the post, was re-elected as President of the Shoura Assembly.

On 14 January 2011, street protests forced Tunisian President Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali to flee the country. The wave of protests against the Government spread to several countries in the region, including Egypt. On 25 January, street protests demanding the resignation of President Mubarak started in several cities in Egypt. On 28 January, President Mubarak dismissed several ministers including the interior minister. He appointed intelligence chief Omar Suleiman as Vice President, and former air force commander Ahmed Shafiq as new Prime Minister. However, the protestors continued to demand the President's immediate resignation, mobilizing over one million people in Cairo. Speaker Sorour said the parliamentary election results would be "corrected" accordingly to court decisions expected shortly.

On 1 February, President Mubarak announced that he would not seek a new mandate in the presidential elections due in September 2011. Speaker Sorour promised constitutional amendments to revise articles 76 (allowing the re-election of the president for further successive terms) and 77 (stipulating the presidential candidacy requirements). Anti-Mubarak demonstrations nevertheless continued, clashing with pro-Mubarak supporters.

After 18 days of mass protest, on 11 February, Vice President Suleiman announced that President Mubarak had handed over power to the Egypt Supreme Council of Armed Forces (ESCAF), chaired by Commander-in-Chief and Defense Minister, Field Marshal Hussein Tantawi. On 13 February, the

ESCAF suspended the Constitution and dissolved Parliament, promising to call elections within six months. The ESCAF also announced that it would set up a committee to draft a new Constitution.

On 19 March, 41.19 per cent of some 18.5 million registered voters turned out at a constitutional referendum and 77.2 per cent of them approved the new Constitution. Parliamentary elections are now expected to take place in September 2011, prior to presidential polls in November.

Note:

Under the constitutional amendments approved by a referendum in March 2007, political parties wishing to field presidential candidates must account for at least 3 per cent of the elected members of both the People's Assembly and the Shoura Assembly. However, the 2007 amendments contained an exceptional measure allowing political parties that obtained at least one seat in either the People's Assembly or the Shoura Assembly in the most recent elections to field a candidate in any presidential elections to be held within ten years as of 1 May 2007. Independent presidential candidates have to be endorsed by at least 250 members of parliament and local councils.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

	Round 1 (1 June)	Round 2 (8 June)
Number of registered electors	About 8,000,000	About 2,800,000
Voters	30.80 %	14.00 %

▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

	1st round	2 nd round	Total
National Democratic Party (NDP)	74	6	80
Democratic Generation Party (El-Geel)	1	0	1
Nasserist Party	1	0	1
Tagammu party	1	0	1
Tomorrow Party (Al-Ghad)	1	0	1
Independents	0	4	4
Total	78	10	88

ETHIOPIA

House of Peoples' Representatives

Structure of Parliament	Bicameral
Chamber	Yehizb Tewokayoch Mekir Bete / House of Peoples' Representatives
Number of members	547 directly elected
Term of House	5 years
Date of elections	23 May 2010

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all seats in the House of Peoples' Representatives on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

547 single-member constituencies.

▶ **Voting system: Majority**

Single member plurality systems ("first past the post").

Vacancies which arise between general elections are filled through by-elections held within three months.

Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- Age: at least 18 years old

- Ethiopian nationality

- Residence of at least six months in constituency

Disqualifications: insanity, imprisonment

▶ **Eligibility**

- Qualified electors

- Age: at least 21 years

- Ethiopian nationality

- Regular residence in constituency where candidate is running for at least 2 years immediately preceding polling date. However, there is no requirement of residence if candidate is running for the constituency of the candidate's place of birth or the place where the candidate has been regularly working for at least two years preceding polling date.

▶ Incompatibilities

- Members of the House of Federation
- Judges and prosecutors who have not resigned
- Military and paramilitary personnel

▶ Candidacy requirements

- Nominated by individual citizens or political organizations.
- No support or signature is needed for candidates running under banner of political parties.
- When running as independent candidates, candidacy must be supported by at least 1,000 qualified electors from the constituency.

Background and Outcome of the Elections

The May 2010 elections were the fourth to be held since the end of the military regime of Mr. Mengistu Haile Mariam in 1991. The first three were all won by the ruling coalition, the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF).

In the previous elections (May 2005), the EPRDF, led by Prime Minister Meles Zenawi, won 327 of the 547 seats in the House of Peoples' Representatives. Its ally, the Somali People's Democratic Party (SPDP), took 24 seats. The opposition won a total of 173 seats, as follows: the Coalition for Unity and Democracy (CUD), 109 seats; the United Ethiopian Democratic Forces (UEDF), 52; the Oromo Federalist Democratic Movement (OFDM), 11; the Argoba National Democratic Organization (ANDO), one.

The EPRDF comprises several ethnic-based parties. They include Mr. Meles's Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), which took 38 seats in 2005, the Amhara National Democratic Movement (ANDM, 87), the Oromo People's Democratic Organization (OPDO, 110) and the South Ethiopia People's Democratic Movement (92).

Following the 2005 elections, the opposition parties accused the EPRDF government of election fraud and organised street protests. More than 200 people, including seven police officers, died. Over 70 opposition members and journalists - including CUD leader Hailu Shawul and another prominent CUD member, Ms. Birtukan Mideksa - were arrested. In July 2007, the High Court sentenced 30 of the 38 CUD leaders on trial to life in prison.

In July 2007, President Girma Woldegiorgis pardoned all 38 CUD members. In January 2008, Mr. Shawul went into self-imposed exile in the United States.

There was a resulting internal split in the CUD. In June 2008, Ms. Mideksa helped found Unity for Democracy and Justice (UDJ) and was subsequently elected as its leader. In December 2008, she was re-arrested for challenging the official version of the circumstances that led to her release. Her pardon was revoked, her life sentence re-instated. Despite mounting local and international pressure, Ms. Mideksa had not been released from prison prior to the 2010 elections.

In the meantime, in October 2009, Prime Minister Meles was re-elected as leader of the EPRDF for another five years. In November 2009, 26 people were convicted on charges of planning a coup against the Government, which claimed that Mr. Shawul had masterminded the operation.

In 2010, 2,188 candidates - including 272 women - representing 63 political parties were vying for seats in the House of Peoples' Representatives.

The EPRDF campaigned on its record in office. It pledged to maintain its agricultural policy and health and education services. Prime Minister Meles pledged to organize a peaceful election in 2010. The opposition accused the government of keeping tight control over the media and independent organizations.

The biggest opposition force in 2010 was a UDJ-led eight-party alliance, the Ethiopian Federal Democratic Forum (FORUM), known as "Medrek" (meaning "forum" in Amharic). The FORUM was headed by a senior UDJ leader, Mr. Merera Gudina, and backed by former President Negaso Gidada. The FORUM called for greater development of industry and services, opposing the Government's focus on agriculture. It also promised to grant farmers the right to own land, which is currently all held by the State. On 16 May, an opposition member of the outgoing legislature, Ms. Asnaketch Balcha, was arrested and sentenced two days later to six months in prison for contempt of court.

The All Ethiopian Unity Organization (AEUO), which had been a part of the CUD in 2005, ran in the 2010 elections on its own platform under the leadership of Mr. Shawul. The AEUO called for the release of other CUD prisoners who had been imprisoned on charges other than the 2005 election riot.

According to the Election Commission, 93.44 per cent of nearly 32 million registered voters turned out at the polls.

European Union (EU) observers said the elections were peaceful and well organized but failed to meet international standards. They added that the EU had received numerous reports of harassment and intimidation. The African Union (AU) observer mission said the elections had been largely consistent with AU guidelines and standards for the conduct of democratic elections.

The preliminary results gave a resounding victory to the EPRDF and its allies, which together took 545 of the 547 seats at stake. The EPRDF alone swept 499 seats. The FORUM won only one seat, and one independent was elected. In all, 152 women were elected.

The FORUM and the AEUO claimed election fraud, especially in remote areas where observation was difficult. FORUM leader Merera called for fresh elections. The Government denied the allegation and accused the opposition of trying to find excuses for its overwhelming defeat.

On 31 May, 14 Ethiopian opposition parties announced that they accepted the election results, stating that the general elections had been held in a peaceful and democratic manner. They included the CUD, the Oromo National Congress (ONC), the All Ethiopia Democratic Party (AEDP), the All Ethiopia National Movement (AENM), the Ethiopian Vision Party (EVP) and the Ethiopian Democratic Unity Movement (EDUM).

On 21 June, the Election Commission announced the final results, confirming the preliminary results.

On 4 October, the newly elected House of People's Representatives held its first session and elected Mr. Abadula Gemedo Dego (OPDO) as its new Speaker.

On 6 October, President Woldegiorgis granted a pardon to Ms. Mideksa.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	31,926,520	
Voters	29,832,190	93.44 %

► **Distribution of seats according to political group**

	Seats
Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) and its allies	545
Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF)	499
Somali People's Democratic Party (SPDP)	24
Benishengul Gumuz Peoples Democratic party (BGPDP)	9
Afar National Democratic Party	8
Gambella Peoples Unity Democratic Movement (GPUDM)	3
Argoba People's Democratic Organization (APDO)	1
Harrari National League (HNL)	1
Opposition	2
Ethiopian Federal Democratic Unity Forum (FORUM)	1
Independents	1
Total	547

► **Distribution of seats according to sex**

Men	395	
Women	152	27.79 %
Total	547	

HAITI

Chamber of Deputies

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Assemblée nationale / National Assembly
Structure of Parliament	Bicameral
Chamber	Chambre des Députés / Chamber of Deputies
Number of members	99 directly elected
Term of House	4 years
Date of elections	28 November 2010 & 20 March 2011

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all seats in the Chamber of Deputies.

Electoral system▶ **Constituencies**

99 single-member constituencies.

▶ **Voting system: Majority**

Two-round system.

To win a seat in the first round, candidates must obtain 50 per cent of the valid votes. An absolute majority is no longer required in the second round.

Vacancies arising between general elections are filled through by-elections, unless they occur during or following the last ordinary session of the legislature.

Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 at the time of registration

- Haitian citizenship

- full political and civil rights

- residence in the country

Disqualification: imprisonment, insanity/mental illness, conviction for a criminal offence, persons under guardianship/wards, holders of temporary entry permits, undocumented immigrants

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified electors

- age: 25 at the time of registration

- Haitian citizenship by birth
 - full possession of civil and political rights
 - residence in the constituency concerned for at least two consecutive years
 - ownership of real property or employment/trade in the constituency
- Ineligibility: imprisonment, insanity/mental illness, conviction of a criminal offence, persons under guardianship/wards, holders of temporary entry permits, undocumented immigrants, executives and members of the Electoral Commission

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- managers of public funds, who may stand for election but are relieved of their duties if elected
- government contractors
- representatives or agents of individuals, companies or corporations that are government contractors
- delegates, deputy-delegates, judges and ministry officials who did not resign at least six months before the elections
- members of the executive branch and directors general of public administration bodies who did not resign at least one year before the elections

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- monetary deposit of 5,000 gourdes
- one half of the deposit is reimbursed for political parties winning at least 2 per cent of the valid votes nationwide

Background and Outcome of the Elections

Parliamentary elections, initially scheduled for February and March 2010, were postponed to 28 November due to a huge earthquake that hit the country on 12 January. At stake were all 99 seats in the Chamber of Deputies and 11 seats in the Senate. The parliamentary elections were held in parallel with the presidential polls.

The previous elections to the Chamber of Deputies (February and December 2006) were the first to be held after former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide had been ousted in February 2004. The Front for Hope (Lespwa) - established by former members of Mr. Aristide' Lavalas Family Party - took 22 of the 99 seats at stake. The Haitian Social-Democratic Fusion Party took 16 seats, followed by the Democratic Alliance Party (ALYANS) and the People's Struggle Party (OPL), which took 11 and 10 seats respectively. The Lavalas

Family Party and the Union took six seats each. The remaining 27 seats went to 13 small parties while the result of one seat was invalidated.

Lespwa also became the largest force in the Senate, winning 11 of the 30 seats at stake. The Haitian Social-Democratic Fusion, the OPL and the Lavalas Family Party took five, four and three seats respectively. The remaining seats went to four small parties. Lespwa's leader, Mr. René Prével, won the presidential elections. He was a former President (1996-2001) and long-time ally of Mr. Aristide. In May 2006, Mr. Prével was sworn in as the country's new President, officially ending Haiti's two-year political transition.

Upon assuming office, Mr. Prével nominated Mr. Jacques Édouard Alexis as Prime Minister. His nomination was unanimously approved by both chambers. However, many Lespwa members and President Prével's allies subsequently formed the Coalition of Parliamentarians for Progress (CPP) as they gradually became disenchanted with the government's economic policies.

In April 2008, the Senate voted to dismiss the Prime Minister. Two candidates for the premiership - Mr. Éric Pierre and Mr. Robert Manuel - were rejected by the CPP in the Chamber of Deputies. Although the renewal of ten Senate seats - elected in February 2006 for a two-year term - was constitutionally due by April 2008, it could not take place due to the political stalemate. In August and September 2008, both chambers endorsed Ms. Michèle Duvivier Pierre-Louis as Prime Minister. During those months, the Caribbean island of 9.8 million inhabitants was hit by a series of hurricanes that killed nearly 800 persons and caused damage amounting to 15 per cent of its gross national product (GNP). The post-hurricane confusion further delayed the Senate elections.

The election for one-third of the Senate finally took place in April and June 2009 along with by-elections to two other vacant seats. The final results announced in July gave six seats to Lespwa. Four other parties took one seat each and one independent candidate was elected. The results in the Central Department were invalidated leaving one vacant seat.

Some sitting senators rejected the final results, arguing that massive fraud had been committed during the second round of voting in the departments of Artibonite and South. The validation of the newly-elected senators was consequently postponed. In September, the Senate validated the newly-elected members, paving the way for the Bureau of the outgoing

legislature to resign. Mr. Kelly C. Bastien (Lespwa) was re-elected as Senate President. In October, the Senate voted to dismiss Prime Minister Pierre-Louis, blaming her for the slow economic recovery. The President subsequently appointed Mr. Jean Max Bellerive, the then Planning and Cooperation Minister, as the new Prime Minister.

The renewal of one third of the Senate members (elected in 2006 for a four-year term) and elections to fill the undecided seat in the Central Department were due to take place along with the elections to the Chamber of Deputies on 28 February and 3 March 2010. Prior to the 2010 elections, Mr. Préval, who was constitutionally barred from seeking another term as President, established the *Inité* (Unity) party. It comprised several senior members of Lespwa, the OPL and the National Christian Union for the Reconstruction of Haiti (UNCRH). They included the Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, Mr. Levaillant Louis-Jeune (CPP), Senate President Bastien, former Senate President Joseph Lambert (Lespwa) and most CPP members.

On 12 January 2010, an earthquake measuring 7 on the Richter Scale hit the country, killing over 250,000 persons and leaving 1.5 million homeless. It destroyed the premises of most government institutions, including the parliament building. Two senators lost their lives in the earthquake. On 2 February, the Electoral Council announced the indefinite postponement of parliamentary elections. Due to the earthquake, the country's gross domestic product (GDP) was expected to shrink by 8.5 per cent in 2010 and unemployment was predicted to reach 30 per cent.

In May, President Préval announced that he would extend his term by three months in case elections did not take place in November 2010, triggering street protests. Although he subsequently declared that he would leave office by the end of his term, i.e., on 7 February 2011, both chambers of parliament voted to amend the electoral law, effectively extending his term until 14 May 2011 (see note). On 30 June, President Préval signed a decree, calling both parliamentary and presidential elections for 28 November. The 2010 elections recorded 850 candidates to the Chamber of Deputies, 95 to the 11 seats in the Senate and 19 for the presidency. Many outgoing members - most of whom belong to the *Inité* party - were seeking re-election in 2010.

The media focused on the presidential elections, pushing the parliamentary polls to the background.

Major presidential candidates included Mr. Jude Célestin - Director General of the National Equipment Centre and the fiancé of President Préval's daughter - backed by the Inité party; Ms. Mirlande Manigat, a prominent opposition figure and an outspoken critic of the President; as well as Mr. Michel Martelly, a popular singer. Another popular hip-hop star, Mr. Wyclef Jean, saw his candidacy rejected on grounds that he had not lived in the country for five years prior to the elections, as required by the Constitution. Ms. Manigat's husband, Mr. Leslie Manigat, had served as President for four months in 1988 before being deposed by a military coup. She was backed by the Rally of Progressive National Democrats (RDNP, which had won four seats in the Chamber of Deputies in 2006) and the Collective Movement for Haitian Renewal (COREH), a group of influential parliamentarians. COREH was formed by a group of some 100 current and former parliamentarians and is co-led by two senators: Mr. Youri Latortue (Latibonit Ann Aksyon) and Mr. Steven Benoit (formerly Lespwa and currently in "Alternativ").

The Mobilization for Haiti's Development (MPH, which had taken four seats in the Chamber in 2006), led by Mr. Samir Mourra (a Haitian-American who had been barred from the 2006 presidential elections), endorsed former Prime Minister Jacques Édouard Alexis as its presidential candidate. Many outgoing parliamentarians who belong to the Inité party reportedly backed Mr. Alexis rather than Mr. Célestin. Former President Aristide's Lavalas party was excluded from the elections, as well as the Renmen Ayiti party. According to the Election Commission, these parties had failed to submit proper documentation for the elections. Lavalas backed Mr. Jean-Henry Ceant, a well-known lawyer and another fierce critic of President Préval.

In October, Hurricane Thomas hit the island-nation that was still reeling from the damage and loss caused by the January earthquake. Later the same month, several cases of cholera - an epidemic the country had not seen for more than a century - were reported in the rural Artibonite region. The epidemic rapidly reached the capital Port-au-Prince - where the refugee camp for 1.3 million earthquake victims is located. Over 1,600 persons died from cholera before the November polls. Four of the 19 presidential candidates demanded the postponement of the elections but the first round was maintained for 28 November.

Many candidates - both parliamentary and presidential - led individually-driven election campaigns without any specific platform. Both ruling and opposition candidates pledged to strengthen national consensus,

end corruption, improve justice and revive agriculture. Some candidates, in particular the younger ones, also promised to create jobs, work on educational reform, and rebuild the economy. Mr. Célestin (Inité), pledged to restore the nation. Ms. Manigat (COREH/RNDP) underscored that economic progress could not be achieved overnight. She promised a progressive withdrawal of MINUSTAH (United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti).

The 2010 elections saw a spate of logistical problems. Many citizens had lost their ID cards (required both for voter registration and voting) in the earthquake. Several cases of fraud, including the circulation of fake ballot papers, were reported. The low literacy rate among adults (35 per cent according to World Bank figures) further complicated the voting process.

Around 22 per cent of the 4.7 million registered voters turned out at the polls. Turnout in some areas was as low as 6 per cent. Although voting itself took place in relative peace, allegations of fraud and voting irregularities, such as stuffed ballot boxes, were reported.

Twelve presidential candidates demanded that the election be invalidated, urging President Préval to resign and hand over to a provisional government when his five-year mandate officially ended on 7 February 2011. Mr. Martelly demanded fresh presidential elections. The Joint Election Observation Mission of the Organization of American States (OAS) and of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) that had monitored the elections noted "serious irregularities" but stated that they were not sufficient to invalidate the elections.

In the elections to the Chamber of Deputies, 22 candidates secured the required majority to be elected in the first round. Inité took 13 seats while the remainder went to five small parties. Four candidates - three from Inité and one from Alternativ - were elected to the Senate.

Preliminary results for the first round of the presidential elections placed Ms. Manigat in the lead with 31.37 per cent of the vote. Mr. Célestin came in second with 22.48 per cent of the vote, narrowly followed by Mr. Martelly with 21.84 per cent. Supporters of Mr. Martelly led violent street protests, killing five people. President Préval requested the OAS to help verify the preliminary tally. The Election Commission subsequently postponed the publication of the final results, which had been due by 20 December.

On 3 January 2011, the Election Commission announced that it would postpone the presidential and parliamentary run-off elections, scheduled for 16 January 2011, to an undetermined date.

On 13 January, the OAS submitted a report concluding that Mr. Martelly had won the second highest number of votes in the presidential elections after Ms. Manigat. However, Mr. Célestin refused to withdraw. Mr. Alain Le Roy, Chief of the MINUSTAH subsequently urged the Election Commission to respect the OAS' conclusion, warning that Haiti could face a constitutional crisis with the possibility of "considerable unrest and insecurity". Inité as well as President Préval urged Mr. Célestin to withdraw his candidacy. On 3 February, the Election Commission announced that it had removed Mr. Célestin's candidacy in favour of Mr. Martelly.

In the meantime, on 16 January Mr. Jean-Claude Duvalier - the former dictator known as 'Baby Doc' - made a sudden return to Haiti after 25 years of exile, further increasing the political tensions in the country. He was subsequently arrested and faces corruption and human rights charges relating to his rule from 1971 to 1986.

The second round of parliamentary and presidential elections was held on 20 March. The final results of the Chamber of Deputies gave 46 seats to Inité. LAVNI and A.A.A. took eight seats each while Alternativ took seven. The remainder went to small parties. In the Senate, Inité took six of the 11 seats at stake while Alternativ took four. In the run-off presidential elections, Mr. Martelly triumphed over Ms. Manigat.

On 26 April, the newly elected Chamber of Deputies held its first session and elected Mr. Sorel Jacinthe (Inité) as its new Speaker. On 28 April, the 11 newly elected senators joined the Senate, which elected Mr. Rodolphe Joazille (Inité) as its new President.

Mr. Martelly was sworn in as the new President on 14 May 2011.

Note:

The five-year presidential term started on the date of the first round of the elections (7 February 2006) and was due to end on 7 February 2011. President Préval argued that the five-year term should include only the term effectively served and thus commence on the date when the President had been sworn in (i.e. from 14 May 2006 to 14 May 2011) based on the Constitution which sets the presidential term at five years.

Election results and statistics**▶ Voter turnout**

Number of registered electors	4,712,693
Voters	22.00 %

▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

	1 st round	2 nd round	Total seats
Inité	13	33	46
A.A.A	4	4	8
LAVNI	1	7	8
Alternativ	0	7	7
Ansanm Nou Fò	1	3	4
RASAMBLE	2	1	3
KONBIT	0	3	3
Liberation platform	0	3	3
REPONS PEYIZAN	0	3	3
PONT	1	1	2
MOCHRENHA	0	2	2
Platform of the Haitian Patriots (PLAPH)	0	1	1
RESPE	0	1	1
Socialist Action Movement (MAS)	0	1	1
Solidarity	0	1	1
VEYE YO	0	1	1
Independents	0	2	2
Total	22	74	96

Note: There are three vacant seats.

▶ Distribution of seats according to sex (as at 15 July 2011)

Men	91
Women	4
Total	95

HAITI

Senate

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Assemblée nationale / National Assembly
Structure of Parliament	Bicameral
Chamber	Sénat / Senate
Number of members	30 directly elected
Term of House	6 years; one-third of the membership is renewed every 2 years
Date of elections	28 November 2010 & 20 March 2011

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for 11 of the Senate seats.

Electoral system

► **Constituencies**

10 multi-member constituencies (each with three seats) corresponding to the country's departments.

► **Voting system: Majority**

Absolute majority vote in two rounds, if necessary.

An absolute majority is no longer required for the second round. Each elector votes for three Senators in the constituency. For partial renewal of the Senate (one-third every two years), each elector votes for one Senator in the constituency.

Vacancies arising between general elections are filled through by-elections, unless these vacancies occur during or following the last ordinary session of the legislature.

Voting is not compulsory.

► **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 at the time of registration

- Haitian citizenship

- full political and civil rights

- citizens overseas cannot vote

Disqualification: imprisonment, insanity/mental illness, conviction of a criminal offence, persons under guardianship/wards, holders of temporary entry permits, undocumented immigrants

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified electors
 - age: 30 at the time of registration
 - Haitian citizenship by birth
 - full possession of civil and political rights
 - residence in the constituency concerned for at least two consecutive years
 - ownership of real property or employment/trade in the constituency
- Ineligibility: imprisonment, insanity/mental illness, conviction of a criminal offence, persons under guardianship/wards, holders of temporary entry permits, undocumented immigrants, executives and members of the Electoral Commission

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- managers of public funds, who may stand for election but are relieved of their duties if elected
- government contractors
- representatives or agents of individuals, companies or corporations that are government contractors
- delegates, deputy-delegates, judges and ministry officials who did not resign at least six months before the elections
- members of the executive branch and directors general of public administration bodies who did not resign at least one year before the elections

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- monetary deposit of 5,000 gourdes
- one half of the deposit is reimbursed for political parties winning at least 2 per cent of the valid votes nationwide

Background and Outcome of the Elections

Parliamentary elections, initially scheduled for February and March 2010, were postponed to 28 November due to a huge earthquake that hit the country on 12 January. At stake were all 99 seats in the Chamber of Deputies and 11 seats in the Senate. The parliamentary elections were held in parallel with the presidential polls.

The previous elections to the Chamber of Deputies (February and December 2006) were the first to be held after former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide had been ousted in February 2004. The Front for Hope (Lespwa) - established by former members of Mr. Aristide's Lavalas Family Party - took 22 of the 99

seats at stake. The Haitian Social-Democratic Fusion Party took 16 seats, followed by the Democratic Alliance Party (ALYANS) and the People's Struggle Party (OPL), which took 11 and 10 seats respectively. The Lavalas Family Party and the Union took six seats each. The remaining 27 seats went to 13 small parties while the result of one seat was invalidated.

Lespwa also became the largest force in the Senate, winning 11 of the 30 seats at stake. The Haitian Social-Democratic Fusion, the OPL and the Lavalas Family Party took five, four and three seats respectively. The remaining seats went to four small parties. Lespwa's leader, Mr. René Prével, won the presidential elections. He was a former President (1996-2001) and long-time ally of Mr. Aristide. In May 2006, Mr. Prével was sworn in as the country's new President, officially ending Haiti's two-year political transition.

Upon assuming office, Mr. Prével nominated Mr. Jacques Édouard Alexis as Prime Minister. His nomination was unanimously approved by both chambers. However, many Lespwa members and President Prével's allies subsequently formed the Coalition of Parliamentarians for Progress (CPP) as they gradually became disenchanted with the government's economic policies.

In April 2008, the Senate voted to dismiss the Prime Minister. Two candidates for the premiership - Mr. Éric Pierre and Mr. Robert Manuel - were rejected by the CPP in the Chamber of Deputies. Although the renewal of ten Senate seats - elected in February 2006 for a two-year term - was constitutionally due by April 2008, it could not take place due to the political stalemate. In August and September 2008, both chambers endorsed Ms. Michèle Duvivier Pierre-Louis as Prime Minister. During those months, the Caribbean island of 9.8 million inhabitants was hit by a series of hurricanes that killed nearly 800 persons and caused damage amounting to 15 per cent of its gross national product (GNP). The post-hurricane confusion further delayed the Senate elections.

The election for one-third of the Senate finally took place in April and June 2009 along with by-elections to two other vacant seats. The final results announced in July gave six seats to Lespwa. Four other parties took one seat each and one independent candidate was elected. The results in the Central Department were invalidated leaving one vacant seat.

Some sitting senators rejected the final results, arguing that massive fraud had been committed during the second round of voting in the departments

of Artibonite and South. The validation of the newly-elected senators was consequently postponed. In September, the Senate validated the newly-elected members, paving the way for the Bureau of the outgoing legislature to resign. Mr. Kelly C. Bastien (Lespwa) was re-elected as Senate President. In October, the Senate voted to dismiss Prime Minister Pierre-Louis, blaming her for the slow economic recovery. The President subsequently appointed Mr. Jean Max Bellerive, the then Planning and Cooperation Minister, as the new Prime Minister.

The renewal of one third of the Senate members (elected in 2006 for a four-year term) and elections to fill the undecided seat in the Central Department were due to take place along with the elections to the Chamber of Deputies on 28 February and 3 March 2010. Prior to the 2010 elections, Mr. Préval, who was constitutionally barred from seeking another term as President, established the *Inité* (Unity) party. It comprised several senior members of Lespwa, the OPL and the National Christian Union for the Reconstruction of Haiti (UNCRH). They included the Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, Mr. Levaillant Louis-Jeune (CPP), Senate President Bastien, former Senate President Joseph Lambert (Lespwa) and most CPP members.

On 12 January 2010, an earthquake measuring 7 on the Richter Scale hit the country, killing over 250,000 persons and leaving 1.5 million homeless. It destroyed the premises of most government institutions, including the parliament building. Two senators lost their lives in the earthquake. On 2 February, the Electoral Council announced the indefinite postponement of parliamentary elections. Due to the earthquake, the country's gross domestic product (GDP) was expected to shrink by 8.5 per cent in 2010 and unemployment was predicted to reach 30 per cent.

In May, President Préval announced that he would extend his term by three months in case elections did not take place in November 2010, triggering street protests. Although he subsequently declared that he would leave office by the end of his term, i.e., on 7 February 2011, both chambers of parliament voted to amend the electoral law, effectively extending his term until 14 May 2011 (see note). On 30 June, President Préval signed a decree, calling both parliamentary and presidential elections for 28 November. The 2010 elections recorded 850 candidates to the Chamber of Deputies, 95 to the 11 seats in the Senate and 19 for the presidency. Many outgoing members - most of whom belong to the *Inité* party - were seeking re-election in 2010.

The media focused on the presidential elections, pushing the parliamentary polls to the background.

Major presidential candidates included Mr. Jude Célestin - Director General of the National Equipment Centre and the fiancé of President Préval's daughter - backed by the *Inité* party; Ms. Mirlande Manigat, a prominent opposition figure and an outspoken critic of the President; as well as Mr. Michel Martelly, a popular singer. Another popular hip-hop star, Mr. Wyclef Jean, saw his candidacy rejected on grounds that he had not lived in the country for five years prior to the elections, as required by the Constitution. Ms. Manigat's husband, Mr. Leslie Manigat, had served as President for four months in 1988 before being deposed by a military coup. She was backed by the Rally of Progressive National Democrats (RDNP, which had won four seats in the Chamber of Deputies in 2006) and the Collective Movement for Haitian Renewal (COREH), a group of influential parliamentarians. COREH was formed by a group of some 100 current and former parliamentarians and is co-led by two senators: Mr. Youri Latortue (Latibonit Ann Aksyon) and Mr. Steven Benoit (formerly *Lespwa* and currently in "*Alternativ*").

The Mobilization for Haiti's Development (MPH, which had taken four seats in the Chamber in 2006), led by Mr. Samir Mourra (a Haitian-American who had been barred from the 2006 presidential elections), endorsed former Prime Minister Jacques Édouard Alexis as its presidential candidate. Many outgoing parliamentarians who belong to the *Inité* party reportedly backed Mr. Alexis rather than Mr. Célestin. Former President Aristide's Lavalas party was excluded from the elections, as well as the *Renmen Ayiti* party. According to the Election Commission, these parties had failed to submit proper documentation for the elections. Lavalas backed Mr. Jean-Henry Ceant, a well-known lawyer and another fierce critic of President Préval.

In October, Hurricane Thomas hit the island-nation that was still reeling from the damage and loss caused by the January earthquake. Later the same month, several cases of cholera - an epidemic the country had not seen for more than a century - were reported in the rural Artibonite region. The epidemic rapidly reached the capital Port-au-Prince - where the refugee camp for 1.3 million earthquake victims is located. Over 1,600 persons died from cholera before the November polls. Four of the 19 presidential candidates demanded the postponement of the elections but the first round was maintained for 28 November.

Many candidates - both parliamentary and presidential - led individually-driven election campaigns without any specific platform. Both ruling and opposition candidates pledged to strengthen national consensus, end corruption, improve justice and revive agriculture. Some candidates, in particular the younger ones, also promised to create jobs, work on educational reform, and rebuild the economy. Mr. Célestin (Inité), pledged to restore the nation. Ms. Manigat (COREH/RNDP) underscored that economic progress could not be achieved overnight. She promised a progressive withdrawal of MINUSTAH (United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti).

The 2010 elections saw a spate of logistical problems. Many citizens had lost their ID cards (required both for voter registration and voting) in the earthquake. Several cases of fraud, including the circulation of fake ballot papers, were reported. The low literacy rate among adults (35 per cent according to World Bank figures) further complicated the voting process.

Around 22 per cent of the 4.7 million registered voters turned out at the polls. Turnout in some areas was as low as 6 per cent. Although voting itself took place in relative peace, allegations of fraud and voting irregularities, such as stuffed ballot boxes, were reported.

Twelve presidential candidates demanded that the election be invalidated, urging President Préval to resign and hand over to a provisional government when his five-year mandate officially ended on 7 February 2011. Mr. Martelly demanded fresh presidential elections. The Joint Election Observation Mission of the Organization of American States (OAS) and of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) that had monitored the elections noted "serious irregularities" but stated that they were not sufficient to invalidate the elections.

In the elections to the Chamber of Deputies, 22 candidates secured the required majority to be elected in the first round. Inité took 13 seats while the remainder went to five small parties. Four candidates - three from Inité and one from Alternativ - were elected to the Senate.

Preliminary results for the first round of the presidential elections placed Ms. Manigat in the lead with 31.37 per cent of the vote. Mr. Célestin came in second with 22.48 per cent of the vote, narrowly followed by Mr. Martelly with 21.84 per cent. Supporters of Mr. Martelly led violent street protests, killing five people. President Préval requested the OAS to help verify the

preliminary tally. The Election Commission subsequently postponed the publication of the final results, which had been due by 20 December.

On 3 January 2011, the Election Commission announced that it would postpone the presidential and parliamentary run-off elections, scheduled for 16 January 2011, to an undetermined date.

On 13 January, the OAS submitted a report concluding that Mr. Martelly had won the second highest number of votes in the presidential elections after Ms. Manigat. However, Mr. Célestin refused to withdraw. Mr. Alain Le Roy, Chief of the MINUSTAH subsequently urged the Election Commission to respect the OAS' conclusion, warning that Haiti could face a constitutional crisis with the possibility of "considerable unrest and insecurity". Inité as well as President Préval urged Mr. Célestin to withdraw his candidacy. On 3 February, the Election Commission announced that it had removed Mr. Célestin's candidacy in favour of Mr. Martelly.

In the meantime, on 16 January Mr. Jean-Claude Duvalier - the former dictator known as 'Baby Doc' - made a sudden return to Haiti after 25 years of exile, further increasing the political tensions in the country. He was subsequently arrested and faces corruption and human rights charges relating to his rule from 1971 to 1986.

The second round of parliamentary and presidential elections was held on 20 March. The final results of the Chamber of Deputies gave 46 seats to Inité. LAVNI and A.A.A. took eight seats each while Alternativ took seven. The remainder went to small parties. In the Senate, Inité took six of the 11 seats at stake while Alternativ took four. In the run-off presidential elections, Mr. Martelly triumphed over Ms. Manigat.

On 26 April, the newly elected Chamber of Deputies held its first session and elected Mr. Sorel Jacinthe (Inité) as its new Speaker. On 28 April, the 11 newly elected senators joined the Senate, which elected Mr. Rodolphe Joazille (Inité) as its new President.

Mr. Martelly was sworn in as the new President on 14 May 2011.

Note:

The five-year presidential term started on the date of the first round of the elections (7 February 2006) and was due to end on 7 February 2011. President Préval argued that the five-year term should include only the term

effectively served and thus commence on the date when the President had been sworn in (i.e. from 14 May 2006 to 14 May 2011) based on the Constitution which sets the presidential term at five years.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	4,712,693
Voters	22.00 %

▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

	1 st round	2 nd round	Total seats
Inité	3	3	6
Alternativ	1	3	4
LAVNI	0	1	1
Total	4	7	11

▶ Distribution of seats according to sex

	Seats 2010 - 2011		Total	
Men	11		29	
Women	0	0.00 %	1	3.33 %
Total	11		30	

HUNGARY

National Assembly

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Országgyűlés / National Assembly
Structure of Parliament	Unicameral
Number of members	386 directly elected
Term of House	4 years
Date of elections	11 & 25 April 2010

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all the seats in the National Assembly on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

- 176 single-member constituencies
- 20 territorial multi-member constituencies (returning 146 Deputies)
(the remaining 64 Deputies are chosen from "national lists" of candidates)

▶ **Voting system: Mixed**

Two-round system in single-member constituencies:

Each elector casts two votes, one for an individual candidate and one for a party list. If, within the constituency, no candidate obtains an absolute majority of the votes in the first round, or if less than half of the registered electors have voted, a second round is held. In the latter case (fewer than half of the voters), all candidates may run again; the one then obtaining the most votes is declared elected, provided that at least 25% of the constituency's electorate has voted. In the former case (no absolute majority for any individual), all candidates having gained at least 15% of the valid votes may run again; if this number is only one or two, the three having obtained the most first-ballot votes are entitled to continue. In either event, the candidate with the most votes is then declared elected, provided that at least 25% of the constituency's electorate has voted.

Proportional representation in territorial constituencies:

Proportional representation (simple electoral quotient) in a single ballot, unless voter participation falls below 50%. Parties polling less than 5% of

the popular vote do not gain a parliamentary seat through this system.

National constituency:

64 seats are allotted to political parties on a full proportional basis according to "scrap votes", i.e. those cast for previously unsuccessful constituency candidates or lists, added together to form a national total.

Vacancies arising between general elections are filled through by-elections (in single-member constituencies), while vacancies of territorial or national list seats are filled by the party concerned from among the candidates figuring on its original list.

Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years
- Hungarian citizenship including naturalized citizens
- residence in Hungary at the time of election

Disqualification: insanity/mental illness, guardianship, holders of temporary entry permits, undocumented immigrants, persons barred from public affairs by court decision, imprisonment, institutional medical care pursuant to criminal procedure

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified electors
- age: 18 years
- Hungarian citizenship including naturalized citizens

Ineligibility: insanity/mental illness, guardianship, holders of temporary entry permits, undocumented immigrants, persons barred from public affairs by court decision, imprisonment, institutional medical care pursuant to criminal procedure

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- President of the Republic
- members of the Constitutional Court
- certain other public or state offices
- judges
- membership of the armed, police or security forces

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- party or independent candidatures

- support of at least 750 electors is required per candidature (for single-member constituencies)
- candidates' names appear on party lists (in territorial constituencies)
- territorial lists are reserved for parties having nominated candidates in a defined number of the single-member constituencies of a specific territory
- national lists are reserved for parties contesting seats in at least seven territorial constituencies
- each party's territorial or national list may contain triple the number of candidates as seats to be filled; multiple-level individual candidatures are possible.

Background and Outcome of the Elections

On 22 January 2010, President László Sólyom announced that parliamentary elections would be held on 11 and 25 April. The 2010 elections were the first to be held following the global economic crisis, which severely hit the country of 10 million inhabitants.

In the previous elections held in April 2006, the ruling coalition, the Hungarian Socialist Party- Alliance of Free Democrats (MSZP-SZDSZ), led by the then Prime Minister Ferenc Gyurcsany (MSZP), won 210 of the 386 seats at stake, becoming the first government to be returned to office since the collapse of the communist regime in 1990. Its main rival, the Hungarian Civic Union-Christian Democratic People's Party (FIDESZ-KDNP), won 164 seats. The Hungarian Democratic Forum (MDF) and the Association for Somogy County (Somogyért) took 11 seats and one seat respectively.

Shortly after the 2006 elections, the government's popularity was severely damaged due to a leaked tape recording in which Prime Minister Gyurcsany admitted that his party had lied about the state of the economy to win the 2006 elections. That triggered two-week of rioting and demands for his government to resign.

The country enjoyed high economic growth until the global economic crisis hit in late 2008. The country avoided bankruptcy thanks to a 20-billion-euro international bail-out from the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the European Union. However, the government failed to push through measures to revive the economy, and Prime Minister Gyurcsany resigned in March 2009. The then Minister of the Economy, Mr. Gordon Bajnai (MSZP), agreed to take over the post until the 2010 elections provided the National Assembly passed the stringent economic measures required under the

bail-out. His government's austerity programme included tax rises and salary and pension cuts.

The unemployment rate remained high - nearly 11 per cent in March 2010. The MSZP was further damaged by a series of corruption scandals involving its members and officials. Consequently, the FIDESZ-KDNP - led by former Prime Minister Viktor Orbán - was leading in the opinion polls. Other major contenders included the Movement for a Better Hungary (Jobbik), a right wing party, and Politics Can Be Different (LMP), a green-liberal party founded in February 2009.

The FIDESZ-KDNP campaigned under the slogan "The time has come!" ("Itt az idő!). It promised to create 1 million jobs over 10 years, boost lending, support small business and cut taxes.

The Jobbik, founded in 2003, is known for its anti-Roma and anti-Semitic rhetoric. It won nearly 15 per cent of the votes in the European Parliament elections in June 2009. The Jobbik leader Gabor Vona argued that "Hungary belongs to the Hungarians". In 2007, the Jobbik established the Hungarian Guard, whose members don uniforms similar to those worn by the country's pre-World War II fascist Arrow Cross Party. Mr. Vona pledged to wear the uniform of the Hungarian Guard on his first day in parliament.

The Jobbik's participation in the 2010 elections caused much controversy. The FIDESZ-KDNP said it would never enter into a coalition with the Jobbik. Prime Minister Bajnai (MSZP), who was not running, urged moderate parties to unite against extremists. He argued that the Jobbik would demolish Hungarian democracy, publicly labelling it "the monster". The media focused on a possible power shift and the emergence of the extremist force in the National Assembly. The MSZP endorsed Mr. Attila Mesterházy, a 36-year-old economist, as its candidate for Prime Minister.

One of the LMP leaders, Mr. Andras Schiffer, pledged to deliver a "green revolution" comprising not only environmental protection goals, but also solutions to employment problems. The LMP also promised to restore hope in public affairs, focusing on transparent, anti-corruption policies in order to renew Hungarian democracy. Despite being a newcomer, the LMP was reportedly gaining ground thanks to its motivated activists.

In the first round of the elections held on 11 April, 64.38 per cent of the 8 million registered voters turned out at the polls.

A total of 265 out of 386 members were elected in the first round. The FIDESZ-KDNP won a resounding victory, winning 206 of the 265 seats confirmed in the first round. It swept all 119 seats elected from the single-member constituencies. The MSZP came in a distant second, winning only 28 seats. The Jobbik came in third with 26 seats, entering parliament for the first time. The LMP won five seats. The MDF failed to surpass the five-per-cent threshold. Its leader, Ms. Ibolya David, announced that she would resign.

In the second round held on 25 April, the FIDESZ-KDNP won an additional 57 seats, thus controlling 263 in the 386-member National Assembly. The MSZP and the Jobbik won a total of 59 and 47 seats respectively. The LMP followed with 16 seats while one independent candidate took the remainder. In all, 35 women were elected.

On 14 May, the newly elected National Assembly held its first session and elected Mr. Pál Schmitt (FIDESZ), a former vice-president of the European Parliament, as its new Speaker. On the same day, President László Sólyom proposed to the National Assembly Mr. Viktor Orbán as new Prime Minister.

On 29 May, Mr. Viktor Orbán (FIDESZ) was sworn in as the new Prime Minister. His FIDESZ-KNDP led the first non-coalition government since the return to multi-party rule in 1990.

On 29 June, the National Assembly elected Speaker Schmitt (FIDESZ) as the country's President. He was sworn in on 6 August and was replaced as Speaker by Mr. László Kövér of the same party.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

	Round 1 (11 April)	Round 2 (25 April)
Number of registered electors	8,034,394	2,486,111
Voters	5,172,222	64.38 %
		1,160,117 46.66 %

► **Distribution of seats according to political group (Round 1)**

	Single-member votes	Territorial votes	Total votes	Single-member seats	Territorial seats	Total Seats 1st round
Hungarian Civic Union-Christian Democratic People's Party (FIDESZ-KDNP)	2,732,965	2,706,292	5,439,257	119	87	206
Hungarian Socialist Party (MSZP)	1,088,374	990,428	2,078,802	0	28	28
Movement for a Better Hungary (Jobbik)	836,774	855,436	1,692,210	0	26	26
Politics Can Be Different (LMP)	259,220	383,876	643,096	0	5	5
Hungarian Civic Union-Christian Democratic People's Party (FIDESZ-KDNP) - Entrepreneur's Party	10,661	0	10,661	0	0	0
Independents	381	0	381	0	0	0
Total				119	146	265

► **Distribution of seats according to political group (Round 2)**

	Single- member votes	Single- member seats	National seats	Total seats 2 nd round	Total 1st & 2 nd rounds
Hungarian Civic Union-Christian Democratic People's Party (FIDESZ-KDNP)	620,232	53	3	56	262
Hungarian Socialist Party (MSZP)	326,361	2	29	31	59
Movement for a Better Hungary (Jobbik)	141,415	0	21	21	47
Politics Can Be Different (LMP)	43,437	0	11	11	16
Hungarian Civic Union-Christian Democratic People's Party (FIDESZ-KDNP) - Entrepreneurs' Party	8,796	1	0	1	1
Independents	0	1	0	1	1
Total		57	64	121	386

► **Distribution of seats according to sex**

Men	351	
Women	35	9.07 %
Total	386	

► **Distribution of seats according to profession**

	Seats
Political party official	109
Civil service and local authority administration	102
Education profession	32
Legal profession	29
Entrepreneur	23
Physician, dentist	12
Civil society activity	10
Agriculture/farming	8
Economist	7
Architect, surveyor, engineer	6
Journalism, broadcasting, media	5
Research/sciences	5
International civil servant	3
Writer, literary, artist	2
Home-maker, care-taker	2
Clerical, secretarial, administration	1
Finance, management or business	1
Others	29
Total	386

► **Distribution of seats according to age**

21 to 30 years	22
31 to 40 years	82
41 to 50 years	127
51 to 60 years	115
61 to 70 years	30
Over 70 years	9
Unknown	1
Total	386

IRAQ

Council of Representatives of Iraq

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Council of Representatives of Iraq
Structure of Parliament	Unicameral
Number of members	325 members - 318 directly elected - 7 national compensatory seats
Term of House	4 years
Date of elections	7 March 2010

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all seats in the Council of Representatives of Iraq.

Electoral system▶ **Constituencies**

18 governorate-based constituencies for 318 seats including 8 seats reserved for minorities (the remaining 7 seats are "national compensatory seats". See the "Voting system").

Breakdown for the 318 seats apportioned to each governorate:

Anbar: 14

Babil: 16

Baghdad: 70 (including 1 seat for Christians and 1 seat for the Sabeen)

Basra: 24

Diyala: 13

Dahuk: 11 (including 1 seat for Christians)

Erbil: 15 (including 1 seat for Christians)

Kerbala: 10

Kirkuk: 13 (including 1 seat for Christians)

Missan: 10

Muthana: 7

Najaf: 12

Ninewa: 34 (including 1 seat for Christians, 1 seat for the Yzidi and 1 seat for the Shabak)

Qadissiya: 11

Salahaddin: 12

Sulaymaniya: 17

Thi-Qar: 18

Wassit: 11

▶ **Voting system: Proportional**

Proportional representation system (governorate-based) for 318 of the 325 seats.

- The remaining 7 seats ("national compensatory seats") are allotted to the winning lists according to the proportion of seats they receive.
 - At least 25% of the members of the parliament must be women.
- Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- Iraqi citizenship
- age: at least 18 years
- Legally competent persons
- Registration on the voters' list

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified voters
- Iraqi citizenship
- age: at least 30 years
- Possession of a high-school certificate

Ineligibility:

- Persons covered by the de-Baathification law (the Accountability and Justice law, which restricts the political participation of high-ranking officials of the dissolved Baath Party);
- Persons convicted of a crime violating honour;
- Persons who have enriched themselves in an illegitimate manner at the expense of the homeland and public finance
- Persons who are members of the armed forces at the time of their nomination

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- other official positions.

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- Each party list must comprise at least one woman among every three nominees.

Background and Outcome of the Elections

On 8 December 2009, the Presidential Council called elections to the enlarged 325-member Council of Representatives, up from 275, for 7 March 2010. They had initially been set for 16 January 2010 but were postponed due to the late passing of the new electoral law, which had been vetoed

twice by Vice-President Tariq al-Hashemi. He had sought changes to the distribution of seats so as to ensure a greater political voice for the Sunni Muslim minority. Over 97 per cent of the country's 28 million inhabitants are Muslim, of whom around 65 per cent are Shiite and the rest are Sunnis.

The new electoral law maintained the 25 per cent quota for women, or 82 seats. It reserved eight seats for minorities (see note 1). It made provisions for internally displaced persons (IDPs, see note 2), allowing some 97,000 IDPs to vote anywhere in the country.

In the previous elections held in December 2005 and boycotted by a large proportion of the Sunni community, the Unified Iraqi Coalition (UIC), representing the Shiite community, took 128 of the 275 seats at stake. The Kurdish Gathering (Alliance) came in second with 53 seats. The Tawafaq (Accord) Iraqi Front and the Hewar (Dialogue) National Iraqi Front - both representing Sunni Muslims - took 44 and 11 seats respectively. The Iraqi List of former Prime Minister Iyad Allawi took 25 seats, while the remaining seats went to small parties.

After lengthy negotiations, in April 2006, the Council of Representatives re-elected Mr. Jalal Talabani of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) as President of the Republic, who then appointed Mr. Nouri al-Maliki of the Unified Iraqi Coalition as Prime Minister.

In early 2009, the UIC split into the State of Law coalition, led by Prime Minister Maliki, and the Iraqi National Alliance (INA), led by Mr. Ammar Hakim. The former includes Mr. Maliki's Dawa Party and the Anbar Salvation Front. The INA includes Mr. Hakim's Islamic Supreme Council of Iraq, the Iraqi National Congress, the Badr Organization, the Sadrists, the Fadhila (Islamic Virtue Party), the Shiite Turkmen Movement, as well as a group of Dawa Party dissidents led by former Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari.

In November 2009, the Kurdish Alliance (Kurdistania) united 14 parties. They include the two biggest parties - the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), led by Iraqi President Talabani, and the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) of Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) President Masud Barzani. Mr. Nawshirwan Mostaf's Goran (Change) Movement and two other Kurdish parties - Jamaa Islamia and the Kurdistan Islamic Union - preferred to stay out of the Alliance.

In all, 6,529 candidates representing 86 parties were vying for seats in the 2010 elections. The Election Commission rejected the candidature of nearly

500 candidates because of their alleged ties to the dissolved Baath Party (the former ruling party under Saddam Hussein's regime). These included several prominent Sunni lawmakers including Defence Minister Abdulqadir al-Obeidi.

Most parties ran on similar platforms, focusing on the security situation in the country. Prime Minister al-Maliki's State of Law coalition pledged to provide better services and security and to work towards reconciliation and reconstruction.

The State of Law coalition was challenged by the INA and the Iraqi National Movement (INM), a secularist coalition led by former Prime Minister Allawi, himself a secular Shiite. The INM comprised Mr. Allawi's Iraqi National Accord, the Iraqi Front for National Dialogue, and other smaller Sunni parties. Prominent INM members include Vice-President Tariq al-Hashemi (a Sunni Muslim), and senior Sunni politician Saleh al-Mutlaq, who was barred from running in the 2010 polls. The INM opposed regional interference in Iraqi affairs, referring to the Islamic Republic of Iran, which it accused of backing both the State of Law and the INA coalitions.

For security reasons, all vehicles - except for those belonging to the security forces, election workers and the media - were banned on election day. The Election Commission set up 50,000 polling stations so that most voters could find a polling station within a short walking distance of their home. Only 420 voters were registered at each polling station so that polling stations would not be overwhelmed by large numbers of voters.

Despite numerous threats from extremists, including Al-Qaida, to disrupt the elections, 62.4 per cent of the 18.9 million registered voters in Iraq turned out on 7 March. Some 100,000 of the 1.3 million Iraqi nationals abroad registered to vote in 2010. They voted in 16 countries (see note 3).

Even with the enhanced security measures, several blasts killed nearly 40 people on polling day.

The United Nations (UN) and the European Union (EU) sent election observers. The UN congratulated the Iraqi people and the government on holding successful elections. The EU stated that the elections had shown the commitment of the Iraqi people to a democratic Iraq. Both observer missions praised the high turnout.

The final results gave 91 seats to Mr. Allawi's INM, two more than Prime Minister Maliki's State of Law coalition. The INA and the Kurdish Alliance took 70 and 43 seats respectively. In all, 82 women were elected.

On 14 June, the newly elected Council of Representatives held its first session, chaired by Acting Speaker, Mr. Fuad Masum. He said there was a need for further consultations among the blocs and deputies to elect a Speaker, and ended the session by stating "the session will remain open and we will resume it later on". Consultations remained deadlocked, and on 24 October the Supreme Court ordered the Council of Representatives to reconvene to elect a new Speaker and a government.

On 11 November, the Council of Representatives reconvened for the first time since June and elected Mr. Osama al-Nujaifi (INM) as new Speaker. This followed a deal the previous day among the major parties on the formation of a new government. Speaker Nujaifi asked that details of the government formation deal be ratified through a vote. However, members voted not to debate the issue, triggering the walk-out of all INM members, except the Speaker. The remaining members subsequently re-elected Mr. Talabani as President who then re-appointed Mr. al-Maliki as Prime Minister.

Note 1:

Five seats are reserved for Christians, while one seat each is reserved for the Sabeen, the Yzidi and the Shabak communities.

Note 2:

An internally displaced person is defined as "an Iraqi who has been forcefully displaced from his permanent place of residence to another place within Iraq after April 9, 2003, for any reason".

Note 3:

Iraqi citizens living abroad cast their votes in Austria, Australia, Canada, Denmark, Egypt, Germany, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Sweden, the Netherlands, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Election results and statistics

► Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	18,900,000
Voters	62.40 %

► **Distribution of seats according to political group**

	Seats
Iraqi National Movement (INM, Al-Iraqiya Coalition)	91
State of Law coalition	89
Iraqi National Alliance (INA)	70
Kurdish Alliance (Kurdistania)	43
Goran Movement (for Change)	8
Tawafiq Iraqi Front (Al-Tawafiq list)	6
Iraq Unity coalition	4
Al-Rafidain list	3
Kurdish Islamic Party	3
Kurdistan Islamic Union	3
Chaldeo-Assyrian-Syriac Public Council	2
Ayazei Movement for Reforming	1
Representative of Sabeen community	1
Representative of Shabak community	1
Total	325

► **Distribution of seats according to sex**

Men	243	
Women	82	25.23 %
Total	325	

JAPAN

House of Councillors

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Kokkai / National Diet
Structure of Parliament	Bicameral
Chamber	Sangiin / House of Councillors
Number of members	242 directly elected
Term of House	6 years; one half of the membership is renewed every three years
Date of elections	11 July 2010

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for one-half of the seats in the House of Councillors on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

- 47 multi-member constituencies (between two and ten seats each), formed on a metropolitan or prefectural basis for a total of 146 seats
- one national constituency for the remaining 96 seats

At each election, 121 seats are renewed based on the following constituencies:

- 29 single-seat constituencies
- 18 multi-member constituencies (between two and five seats each) for 44 seats
- one national constituency for the remaining 48 seats

Candidates are not allowed to run in more than one type of constituency at a time.

▶ **Voting system: Mixed**

- 73 chosen by simple majority system in geographical constituencies; successful candidates are decided in the order of the number of valid votes obtained on the basis of the comparative plurality. However, they should receive votes which is equal to or more than one-sixth of the quotient divided the total of valid ballots cast by the number of seats to be filled from the constituency concerned.

- 48 elected by proportional representation system, from a single constituency covering the whole country, in accordance with the d'Hondt method.

Vacancies arising between regular elections are filled by the "next-in-line" candidate of the same party on a list of candidates under the proportional representation system. In the case of the geographical constituency system, a vacancy occurring within three months after the election is filled by the candidates who obtained the statutory number of votes and did not become elected. A by-election is held in other cases or if a certain number of seats become vacant in the same constituency.

Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 20 years
- Japanese citizenship

Disqualification:

- Persons recognised as a ward of the court by a family court;
- Persons sentenced to imprisonment or a more severe form of punishment and who have not completed their sentences;
- Persons sentenced to imprisonment or to a more severe form of punishment for an electoral offence, and who are given suspended sentences;
- Persons who, during their tenure as public office holders, have been convicted of bribery. This disqualification is valid during the term of the sentence and for five years thereafter.

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified electors
- age: 30 years
- Japanese citizenship

Disqualification:

- Persons recognised as a ward of the court by a family court;
- Persons sentenced to imprisonment or a more severe form of punishment and who have not completed their sentences;
- Persons sentenced to imprisonment or to a more severe form of punishment for an electoral offence, and who are given suspended sentences;
- Persons who, during their tenure as public office holders, have been convicted of bribery. This disqualification is valid during the term of the sentence and for ten years thereafter.

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- holders of official post in the Government or in local public entities. However, Prime Minister, Ministers of State, Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretaries, Aides to the Prime Minister, Vice-Ministers, Parliamentary Secretaries can stand for the House of Councillors (and a Councillor may, during his or her term of office, be appointed as such a post).
- executive or staff member of a public corporation

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- deposit of 3,000,000 yen if running in geographical constituencies. Deposit is reimbursed if the candidate obtains at least one-eighth of the number resulting from the division of valid votes by seats in the constituency concerned
- for any political party or group, deposit of 6,000,000 yen multiplied by the number of candidates registered on its list under the proportional representation system. Deposit is reimbursed if the result obtained by doubling the number of those elected from a party or group list is at least equal to the number of candidates on this same list.

A political party has to meet one of the following conditions: (1) to have a minimum of five MPs in the Diet (i.e. both lower and upper houses), or (2) to have obtained a minimum of two per cent of votes either in the single-member-constituencies or in the proportional representation system in the most recent election.

Background and Outcome of the Elections

The 2010 elections to the House of Councillors were the first general elections to be held after the shift in power in 2009, when the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) - which had governed the country almost interruptedly since 1955 - lost to the Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) in the 2009 elections to the House of Representatives. At stake in the 2010 elections were half of the 242 seats (121) in the House of Councillors.

In the previous elections to the House of Councillors (July 2007), the LDP of then Prime Minister Shinzo Abe suffered a heavy defeat, taking only 37 of the 121 seats at stake. The LDP lost control of the chamber for the first time since the party's inception in 1955, retaining only 83 seats in the House. Its coalition partner, the New Komeito, took nine seats. Inversely, the DPJ, previously the main opposition party, won a record 60 seats and became the largest party in the House of Councillors. Mr. Satsuki Eda (DPJ) was elected as the new President of the House, becoming the first opposition member to hold the

post. Prime Minister Abe resigned in September and was replaced by Mr. Yasuo Fukuda (LDP). Mr. Fukuda in turn resigned one year later and was succeeded by a former foreign minister, Mr. Taro Aso (LDP), shortly after the global economic crisis started to affect the Japanese economy.

Prime Minister Aso initially enjoyed high popularity. However, he soon came under criticism over his government's economic policies. In the elections to the House of Representatives held in August 2009, the LDP took only 119 of the 480 seats at stake, its worst performance since 1955. The DPJ became the largest force in the House of Representatives, winning 308 seats. Its victory marked a turning point in Japanese politics. Mr. Aso resigned both as Prime Minister and LDP President.

In September, Mr. Yukio Hatoyama (DPJ) was elected as the new Prime Minister. In an apparent bid to secure a majority in the House of Councillors, he subsequently formed a coalition government comprising the DPJ, the Social Democratic Party (SDPJ) and Kokumin Shinto (People's New Party). The SDPJ advocated the transfer of the United States military base out of Okinawa prefecture, while the Kokumin Shinto promised to review the privatization of the postal service.

Prime Minister Hatoyama was also initially popular. However, shortly after he took up the post, financial scandals involving DPJ members caused his popularity to drop. He came under criticism over his changes of mind concerning the relocation of the US military base in Okinawa prefecture. On 23 May 2010, he announced that the government would relocate the military base within the prefecture, not, as advocated by the SDPJ, outside it. The latter subsequently left the coalition, leaving the DPJ-led government with a slim majority in the House of Councillors. The government's approval rating dropped to below 20 per cent. In order to boost support for the DPJ ahead of the 2010 elections, on 4 June 2010 Mr. Hatoyama stepped down as Prime Minister and was succeeded by the Finance Minister, Mr. Naoto Kan (DPJ), on 8 June.

On 16 June, Prime Minister Kan officially called elections for 11 July and announced that the government would introduce legislation in the next session of parliament, to scale back privatization of the postal services, as advocated by Kokumin Shinto.

In all, 437 candidates were vying for seats in the 2010 elections. House President Eda's candidacy was backed by the DPJ, while his predecessors

had stood for election as independents to ensure the post remained neutral.

Prior to the 2010 elections, several new parties were formed by LDP dissidents. Your Party (Minna no To), launched by Mr. Yoshimi Watanabe in August 2009, took five seats in the 2009 elections to the House of Representatives. Two more parties were formed in April 2010: the New Renaissance Party (Shinto Kaikaku), under the leadership of former Health Minister Yoichi Masuzoe, and the Sunrise Party of Japan ("Tachiagare Nippon", which means literally "Stand up, Japan"), co-founded by former Trade Minister Takeo Hiranuma and former Finance Minister Kaoru Yosano.

The media focused on whether the DPJ-led government would retain a majority, over 122 seats, in the House of Councillors. In addition to the 65 seats not up for renewal in 2010, the government camp needed to win at least 57 seats.

Prime Minister Kan set the DPJ's victory line at over 54 seats (the same number of DPJ seats that were to be renewed in 2010). LDP leader Sadakazu Tanigaki, who set the LDP's target at over 40 seats, said he would resign if opposition forces did not win an overall majority in the new House of Councillors.

The LDP's pledge to raise the consumption tax from the current 5 per cent to 10 per cent pushed the tax issue to the centre of the election campaign, which officially started on 24 June.

The DPJ promised to launch a debate with the LDP and the other parties on whether to raise the consumption tax with a view to fiscal consolidation by 2020. It reportedly fared well at the beginning of the election campaign thanks to Mr. Kan's popularity. It fared less well, however, when Mr. Kan's popularity dropped sharply, from 70 to 30 per cent, after he stated that the government would consider the LDP's tax-rise proposal. Mr. Kan subsequently withdrew the statement and urged voters to give the DPJ another chance to implement policies to revitalize Japan.

LDP leader Tanigaki argued that the DPJ's way of running the government was "arbitrary and irresponsible". He urged voters to support the LDP, insisting that they needed to defeat the ruling bloc and prevent it from gaining a majority.

Unlike the DPJ and the LDP, Your Party promised not to raise the

consumption tax for three years and pledged to eliminate wasteful public expenditure. Party leader Watanabe ruled out a post-election coalition with the DPJ but said his party would cooperate with the new government to beat deflation.

The leader of the New Renaissance Party, Mr. Masuzoe, warned that Japan could not sustain its economy unless the consumption tax was raised to over 10 per cent by 2020. The Sunrise Party of Japan promised to raise the consumption tax to 8 percent from 2012 and to between 12 and 15 per cent once the economy had recovered. Both parties were reportedly struggling to set themselves apart from the major parties.

In all, 57.92 per cent of some 104 million registered voters turned out at the polls. A record 12 million voted before the official polling day.

The DPJ took 44 seats while its coalition partner, Kokumin Shinto, failed to win any seats. The coalition government failed to retain an overall majority in the House of Councillors, holding 109 of the 242 seats. The LDP took the largest number of seats in 2010, winning 51 of the 121 seats at stake. Its overall share increased from 71 to 84 seats. Your Party (Minna no To) won ten seats, thus holding 11 seats in all. New Komeito, the Japanese Communist Party and the SDPJ took nine, three and two seats respectively. The New Renaissance Party and the Sunrise Party of Japan took one seat each. In all, 17 women were elected in 2010, bringing the total number of women in the House of Councillors to 44.

On 30 July, the newly elected members joined the members who were not up for re-election in 2010. They elected Mr. Takeo Nishioka (DPJ) as the new President of the House of Councillors.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

	Proportional representation system		Majority system	
Number of registered electors	104,029,135		104,029,135	
Voters	60,251,214	57.92 %	60,255,670	57.92%

▶ **Distribution of seats according to political group**

	Candidates	Majority	PR	Seats
Liberal Democratic Party (LDP)	84	39	12	51
Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ)	106	28	16	44
Your Party (Minna no To)	44	3	7	10
New Komeito	20	3	6	9
Japanese Communist Party (JCP)	64	0	3	3
Social Democratic Party (SDPJ)	14	0	2	2
New Renaissance Party (Shinto Kaikaku)	12	0	1	1
Sunrise Party of Japan ("Tachiyagare Nippon")	13	0	1	1
Total		73	48	121

Parliamentary groups in the House of Councillors (26 July 2010)

The Democratic Party and the Shin-Ryokufukai (DP-SR): 107

Liberal Democratic Party (LDP): 83

New Komeito (NK): 19

Your Party: 11

Japanese Communist Party (JCP): 6

The Sunrise Party of Japan and New Renaissance Party: 5

Social Democratic Party (SDP): 4

The People's New Party (PN): 3

Independents: 4

Total: 242

▶ **Distribution of seats according to sex**

	Seats 2010	Total
Men	104	198
Women	17	44
Total	121	242

▶ **Distribution of seats according to profession**

	Seats
Civil service and local authority administration	114
Finance, management or business	103
Education profession	57
Secretary to MPs and Ministers	56
Trade union official	30
Journalism, broadcasting, media	24
Legal profession	21
Physician, dentist	21
Civil society activity	14
Writer, literary, artist	14
Political party official	8
Research/sciences	6
Agriculture/farming	5
Nursing	2
International civil servant	1
Others	33
Total	509

Note:

Some members have listed more than one primary occupation.

▶ **Distribution of seats according to age**

31 to 40 years	24
41 to 50 years	75
51 to 60 years	66
61 to 70 years	63
Over 70 years	14
Total	242

JORDAN

House of Representatives

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Majlis Al-Umma / National Assembly
Structure of Parliament	Bicameral
Chamber	Majlis Al-Nuwaab / House of Representatives
Number of members	120 directly elected* *Twelve seats are reserved for minorities: nine for Christians and three for Circassians. An additional 12 seats are reserved for women.
Term of House	4 years
Date of elections	9 November 2010

Timing and scope of renewal

Early elections were held for an enlarged 120-member House of Representatives following the dissolution of the chamber on 24 November 2009. The previous elections had been held in November 2007.

Electoral system

► Constituencies

- For 108 general seats: 108 single-member constituencies (subdistricts) in 45 electoral zones. They include 12 subdistricts for minorities.
- For 12 seats reserved for women: 12 governorates, three of which include one Badia (Bedouin) constituency each.

► Voting system: Majority

- Each elector casts one vote. Voters must be registered in electoral zones and may vote for candidates running in any of the subdistricts in their electoral zone.
- The election commission will distribute seats first to the 108 candidates elected from the subdistricts. The candidate (man or woman) with the highest number of votes in each electoral subdistrict is declared elected.
- Second, the election commission will calculate the percentage of votes won by unsuccessful women candidates by dividing the number of votes they obtain by the total number of votes cast in their constituency. The 12 women candidates who obtain the highest percentage of votes nationwide are declared elected on condition that no governorate obtains more than one reserved seat for women

(ie, the three governorates with badia (Bedouin) constituencies may receive only one reserved seat either for the governorate or badia constituency).

- Vacancies are normally filled through by-elections within two months.
- Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years
- Jordanian citizenship
- ordinary residence in a constituency

Disqualification: insanity, undischarged bankruptcy, criminal conviction, allegiance to a foreign State, members of the armed forces

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified electors
- age: 30 years
- Jordanian citizenship

Ineligibility: government contractors, blood relatives of the King, imprisonment exceeding one year for a non-political offence

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- public office
- Deputies may become ministers of government while sitting, but a minister who wishes to run for parliament must first resign from his post

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- non-reimbursable deposit equivalent to US\$ 700
- candidates may run in only one subdistrict

Background and Outcome of the Elections

The 2010 elections followed the early dissolution of the House of Representatives by King Abdullah II in November 2009. At stake were 120 seats in the enlarged House, up from 110.

In the previous elections held in November 2007, independents and tribal candidates loyal to the King took a majority of the 110 seats at stake while the country's largest opposition party - the Islamic Action Front (IAF, the political arm of the Jordanian Muslim Brotherhood) - saw its share of seats reduced from 17 to six.

The 2007 elections were held under the electoral law that provides for

several multi-member constituencies, with voters able to choose only one candidate. The law attributed fewer seats to the constituencies in large cities where there are many citizens of Palestinian origin. Half of Jordan's 6 million inhabitants are either Palestinian or of Palestinian origin, mainly those who fled the West Bank in 1967 when Israel took over control of the territory.

The 2007 Political Parties Law stipulated that a political party must have a minimum of 500 founding members from five governorates. By April 2008, 24 of the 36 political parties in existence were dissolved (or became legally defunct). Twelve parties, including the IAF, successfully validated their status.

On 23 November 2009, King Abdullah II issued a royal decree, dissolving the House of Representatives with effect from the following day, two years earlier than the normal expiry of its term. The decree did not specify the reason but in the run-up to the dissolution, parliament had been reportedly criticized for being ineffective. It was the second time since he acceded to the throne in 1999 that the King dissolved parliament early. He tasked Prime Minister Nader Dahabi with planning parliamentary elections, which he said should be "transparent and fair, reflecting Jordan's reform drive".

Elections were postponed to allow more time to draft an electoral law. The King subsequently issued 30 decrees, including Law No. 9 of 2009, or a "temporary" electoral law. On 24 May 2010, the Cabinet published the temporary electoral law, thereby paving the way for parliamentary elections to take place. On 15 June, the Cabinet set parliamentary elections for 9 November.

The law provides for a 120-member House of Representatives (up from 110). It doubles the number of seats reserved for women to 12, while those reserved for minorities remains at 12 (nine for Christians and three for Circassians).

In the Cabinet's view, the revised law aims to curb tribalism since it does not specify any geographical boundaries for the sub-districts. However, many analysts claim that the new electoral system, which provides for smaller sub-districts, would boost tribalism since candidates would campaign among a smaller pool of core voters than before. Some analysts also warned that sub-districting might result in the election of candidates over others who win more votes in the electoral zone, depending on which sub-district they represent. The new law gives some additional seats to big cities but many more seats are attributed to rural areas. The IAF criticized the new electoral

law, arguing that it was designed to limit its parliamentary representation and, consequently, that of the Muslim Brotherhood. In September, the IAF announced that it would boycott the 2010 elections.

In all, 763 candidates - including 100 former parliamentarians and 134 women - stood for the 2010 elections. Most candidates stood as independents but reportedly have strong ties to tribes traditionally loyal to the King. Seven IAF candidates defied the boycott and ran as independents.

The elections were held amid economic woes. The country's budget deficit reached a record US\$ 2 billion and its debt soared to US\$ 4.7 billion in August 2010, close to 60 per cent of its gross domestic product (GDP). Unemployment was approaching 13 per cent. Prime Minister Al-Rifai pledged to halve the deficit within a year.

The major election issues included how to deal with inflation, increases in fuel and food prices and unemployment. In mid-October, a member of the Israeli Parliament stated that the "solution" to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict was to consider Jordan as the future Palestinian State, pushing the Israeli-Palestinian peace process to the centre stage of the 2010 elections.

Many candidates, regardless of their political persuasions, criticized Israel and pledged to defend Jordan from the "Israeli threat", while avoiding calls for violence. Some called for ending the Peace Treaty with Israel, signed by the then King Hussein in 1994. Jordan and Egypt are the only Arab States to have reached a peace deal with Israel. King Abdullah II stated that Jordan would not accept any solution to the Palestinian conflict at the expense of Jordan.

The Cabinet declared polling day a holiday in a bid to encourage citizens to vote. According to official figures, 53 per cent of 2.37 million eligible voters turned out at the polls. Turnout in rural areas was higher than in the big cities, where the IAF reportedly draws its support. Only 34 per cent of voters in the capital Amman turned out at the polls.

The police reported 53 violent incidents across the country on polling day, including one in which a 25-year-old man was killed in a shoot-out between supporters of rival candidates.

For the first time, the government allowed 250 international observers to

monitor the elections. The National Democratic Institute (NDI) noted that there had been a clear improvement over the previous election in 2007 and recommended further improvements in the way elections are administered.

Pro-government candidates and those close to King Abdullah II triumphed in the parliamentary elections. 20 former Cabinet ministers and 78 first-time parliamentarians from Bedouin tribal families were elected. One IAF candidate, who stood as an independent, was elected. In all, 13 women (12 under the reserved seats and one outside the quota) were elected. A woman candidate in a Bedouin district won one of the reserved seats, becoming the first Bedouin woman to enter the House of Representatives.

IAF Secretary General Hamzah Mansour rejected the results, claiming that the elections had been marred by vote-buying and other irregularities. Some unsuccessful candidates, who won more votes than winning candidates in the same electoral zone, demanded that the electoral law be amended.

On 20 November, King Abdullah II tasked Mr. Samir Al-Rifai with forming a new cabinet. The latter subsequently formed a 30-member cabinet, including three women, which was approved by a royal decree on 24 November.

On 25 November, King Abdullah II appointed 60 senators, including nine women. He also re-appointed Mr. Taher Al-Masri as Senate President.

On 28 November, King Abdullah II officially inaugurated parliament. On the same day, the House of Representatives elected former Prime Minister, Mr. Faisal Al-Fayez, as its new Speaker.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	2,370,000	
Voters		53.00 %

▶ Distribution of seats according to sex

Men	107	
Women	13	10.83 %
Total	120	

KYRGYZSTAN

Supreme Council

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Jogorku Kenesh / Supreme Council
Structure of Parliament	Unicameral
Number of members	120 directly elected
Term of House	5 years
Date of elections	10 October 2010

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for an enlarged 120-member Supreme Council, provided for by the 2010 Constitution.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

One nationwide constituency for 120 seats

▶ **Voting system: Proportional**

Proportional representation system (party-list system).

No political party can be formed on religious or ethnic grounds, and members of the armed forces, police, and the judiciary are not allowed to join a political party. No party list can comprise more than 70 per cent of candidates from one sex and every fourth candidate on the party list must be of the other sex (Ex. 1. male, 2. male, 3. male and 4. female; or 1. female, 2. female, 3. female and 4. male). In addition, each party list must comprise at least 15 per cent of candidates from other ethnic minorities.

Each voter must vote for a party list. Seats will be distributed to parties in proportion to the percentage of votes they obtain. However, no party may be granted over 65 seats and elected candidates may not join another political party.

Vacancies arising between general elections are filled through "next-in-line" candidates of the same party.

Overseas citizens can vote without restriction.

Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- Kyrgyz citizenship including naturalized citizens

- Age: 18 years old at the time of registration

Disqualification from voting:

- Conviction for treason, crime, bribery, or electoral offence.

Disqualification for any of the reasons cited above remains valid for the term of the sentence.

- Insanity/mental illness, undocumented immigrants.

▶ **Eligibility**

- Kyrgyz citizenship, including naturalized citizens

- Age: 21 years old at the time of registration

- Permanent residence in the country for at least 5 years

Ineligibility:

- Members of the armed forces

- Members of the police forces

- Holders of judicial offices (judges)

- Imprisonment for any reason

- Conviction for treason, crimes, bribery or electoral offence.

Ineligibility for any of the reasons cited above remains valid for the term of the sentence.

- Insanity/mental illness, guardianship/ward, holders of temporary entry permits, undocumented immigrants, executives and members of the Electoral Commission.

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- Head of State

- Ministers of State

- Holders of public posts

- Holders of judicial offices (judges)

- Civil servants

- Government advisers

- Executives of the Electoral Commission

- Staff member of a public (State) corporation

- Members of the armed forces

- Members of the police forces

- Clergymen

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- Nomination by at least 5% of the voters in of the constituency concerned

- Submission of candidature at least 40 days prior to polling day

- Candidature can be submitted by political parties without restriction

- The name of substitute member must be submitted simultaneously
- Deposit for political parties: 500,000 soms (approx. US\$ 11,000)
- Deposit is reimbursed for parties obtaining at least 5% of the total votes

Background and Outcome of the Elections

The 2010 elections were the first to be held since President Kurmanbek Bakiyev was ousted following civil unrest in April 2010. They were held to elect the enlarged 120-member Supreme Council provided for in the 2010 Constitution.

Prior to the previous elections held in December 2007, President Bakiyev had helped establish a new party called Ak Zhol People's Party (Ak Zhol meaning "Bright Path"). It had absorbed the Ata-Jurt party - formed in 2004 by former Foreign Minister Roza Otunbayeva - and some small parties. In the 2007 elections, the Ak Zhol People's Party won 71 of the 90 seats at stake. The Social Democratic Party and the Communist Party took 11 and eight seats respectively. The opposition coalition Ata-Merken (Fatherland), led by Mr. Omurbek Tekebayev - former Speaker and prominent opposition figure - received the second highest percentage of votes nationwide (8.7%) but did not win seats in parliament because it failed to pass the 0.5 per cent threshold in each of the regions as required by the law.

In 2009, this country of 5.3 million inhabitants was hard hit by the global economic crisis. Although Kyrgyzstan exports gold and uranium, the average monthly income remains around US\$ 130, and one third of the population lives below the poverty line. Remittances from workers in Russia have fallen sharply amid rising prices. President Bakiyev, who came to power in the 2005 Tulip Revolution that ousted Kyrgyzstan's first post-Soviet president, Askar Akayev, came under heavy criticism for alleged corruption. In July 2009, he was re-elected President after Mr. Almazbek Atambayev - a former Prime Minister and the leader of the Social Democratic Party - withdrew from the race, alleging widespread fraud. In April 2010, the Constitutional Court agreed to a proposal by President Bakiyev that the acting president should be approved by a State Council, a collective consultative body that included his younger son Maksim.

On 7 April 2010, protests that had started in a provincial town a day earlier spread to the capital, Bishkek, and turned violent. Over 80 people were killed. The following day, the protests forced the President to flee the capital. Ms. Otunbayeva - now a member of the Social Democratic Party - declared herself Chairman of the interim government and demanded that the

President resign, but he refused. Later on the same day, Ms. Otunbayeva issued a decree dissolving the Supreme Council and announced that most articles of the Constitution remained in force. Mr. Atambaev's Social Democratic Party, Mr. Tekebayev's Ata-Merken and the Ak-Shumkar (White Falcon) of Mr. Temir Sariyev (another presidential candidate in 2009) subsequently joined the interim government. Mr. Tekebayev became its Deputy Chairman.

On 13 April, the interim government lifted the President's immunity and urged him to surrender. It also suspended the Constitutional Court, accusing it of having adopted decisions boosting President Bakiyev's power. Mr. Bakiyev subsequently went into exile in Belarus.

On 19 April, several members of parliament from Mr. Bakiyev's Ak Zhol People's Party and the Communist faction convened an extraordinary session at which the Speaker, Zainidin Kurmanov (Ak Zhol), was not present. He had reportedly refused to convene the session on the grounds that the Supreme Council had been dissolved by the interim government and he was no longer Speaker. The members subsequently voted to dismiss him and elected Mr. Iskhak Masaliyev (Communist) as the new Speaker.

On 22 April, the interim government announced that a constitutional referendum would be held on 27 June, to be followed by parliamentary polls on 10 October. On 3 May, Ms. Otunbayeva signed a resolution setting up a 75-member Constitutional Council headed by the Deputy Chairman, Mr. Tekebayev (Ata-Merken). On 19 May, the Council submitted the final draft Constitution, which was approved by the interim government on 21 May. The draft provided for a transitional period until January 2012 when the new President is expected to be inaugurated. The interim government appointed Ms. Otunbayeva as Transitional President for a period of eighteen months).

The April unrest revived ethnic tensions in the country, which is made up of ethnic Kyrgyz (69.6%), Uzbeks (14.5%) and Russians (8.4%). In mid-May, clashes between Mr. Bakiyev's supporters and backers of the interim government broke out in Jalalabad, Mr. Bakiyev's home town in the south, leaving two people dead and some 60 injured. Uzbeks account for about 40 per cent of the 1 million inhabitants of Jalalabad region and about 50 per cent in the neighbouring region of Osh. On 19 May, the interim government declared a state of emergency in Jalalabad and the adjoining Suzak district until 1 June, and imposed a nightly curfew. However, deadly clashes

between ethnic Kyrgyz and Uzbek continued into June, killing nearly 400 people.

On 27 June, a constitutional referendum was held amid ethnic tension, along with a referendum to approve Ms. Otunbayeva as Transitional President until December 2011. In all, 64.22 per cent of the 2.7 million voters turned out for the constitutional referendum, and the new Constitution was approved by 90.55 per cent.

Under the new Constitution, which provides for a parliamentary system, the president may serve only one six-year term. Ms. Otunbayeva will not be allowed to run for the more powerful post of prime minister. The term of parliament remains unchanged at five years but the statutory number of seats is raised from 90 to 120. No more than 70 per cent of the candidates on any party list can be from one sex (i.e. at least 30 per cent of candidates must be women). No party may hold more than 65 seats in the new legislature.

On 2 July, the election commission validated the referendum results. It endorsed the decree issued by the interim government on 8 April dissolving the Supreme Council, thus officially ending the mandate of the outgoing members.

Transitional President Otunbayeva urged all members of her government who wished to participate in the upcoming parliamentary elections first to vacate their government positions so as to build public confidence in the openness and transparency of the electoral process. On 12 July, Mr. Tekebayev resigned as Deputy Chairman to run for parliament; he was succeeded by Mr. Azimbek Beknazarov.

On 20 July, Transitional President Otunbayeva issued a decree amending the electoral law, lowering the minimum age for candidates for parliament from 25 to 21. On 10 August, she issued another decree, officially calling elections for 10 October.

A total of 29 parties, including three parties in the transitional government - the Social Democratic Party, Ata-Merken and Mr. Temir Sariev's Ak-Shumkar - contested the 2010 elections. Other major contenders included Ar-Namys, the party of pro-Russia former Prime Minister Felix Kulov, and Ata-Jurt, now led by former Emergencies Minister Kamchybek Tashiyev and encompassing supporters of Mr. Bakiyev. Respublika - a new party

formed in June 2010 by former Deputy Prime Minister Omurbek Babanov - and the Butun (United) Kyrgyzstan party of Mr. Adakhhan Madumarov were also vying for seats. Respublika did not have a clear pro- or anti-government policy but was expected to be the post-election kingmaker.

Ata-Jurt promised to maintain closer ties with the Russian Federation and shut down the US air base located near the capital, Bishkek. Ata-Jurt and Ar-Namys pledged to amend the Constitution so as to restore the presidential system of government. Ar-Namys leader Kulov also promised to raise the ceiling on seats for the largest parliamentary party from 65 to over 70. He argued that the current provision would lead to political stalemate since the absence of a handful of members could deprive the Supreme Council of the required majority (60 +1).

Ata-Merken leader Tekebayev criticized the move to amend the Constitution on the grounds that 90 per cent of the population had approved the new version in June. Transitional President Otunbayeva criticized her predecessors for what she termed "a family-run government". She urged citizens to turn out massively to establish a parliamentary democracy as provided for in the 2010 Constitution.

In all, 56.59 per cent of 2.8 million registered voters turned out at the polls. Voting took place without major incidents.

The Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) stated that the elections had provided a "genuine choice" and demonstrated a "further consolidation of the democratic process".

In order to win seats in parliament, a party had to obtain at least 5 per cent of the votes cast nationwide, and at least 0.5 per cent in each of Kyrgyzstan's nine electoral districts. Five parties surpassed both thresholds. Ata-Jurt came in first, winning 8.89 per cent of the votes. As for the parties in the transitional government, the Social Democratic Party came in second with 8.04 per cent and Ata-Merken took 5.6 per cent, while Ak-Shumkar failed to exceed the national threshold. Ar-Namys and Respublika polled 7.74 per cent and 7.24 per cent respectively. In all, 28 women were elected.

On 10 November, the newly elected Supreme Council held its first session.

The following day, Transitional President Otunbayeva tasked the Democratic

Party with forming a coalition government. On 29 November, the Social Democratic Party (26 seats), Ata-Merken (18 seats) and Respublika (23 seats) announced that they would try to form a coalition. However, they were reportedly divided over the candidacy for the speakership. On 2 December, their sole candidate - Ata-Merken party leader Omurbek Tekebaev - failed to win election as Speaker with 58 votes for, 59 votes against. On 7 December, Transitional President Otunbayeva invited Respublika party leader Omurbek Babanov to form a government.

On 16 December, Respublika, Ata-Jurt (28 seats) and the Social Democratic Party (26 seats) agreed to form a new government. The following day, the Supreme Council elected Mr. Ahmatbek Keldibekov (Ata-Jurt) as its new Speaker and Mr. Almazbek Atambayev (Social Democratic Party) as the new Prime Minister. On 20 December, Acting President Otunbaeva swore in the new government.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	2,852,751	
Voters	1,614,427	56.59 %

▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

	Votes	% votes	Seats
Ata-Jurt	257,100	8.47	28
Social Democratic Party	236,634	7.83	26
Ar-Namys	226,916	7.57	25
Respublika	210,594	6.93	23
Ata-Merken	166,714	5.49	18
Total			120

▶ Distribution of seats according to sex

Men	92	
Women	28	23.33 %
Total	120	

LATVIA

Parliament

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Saeima / Parliament
Structure of Parliament	Unicameral
Number of members	100 directly elected
Term of House	4 years
Date of elections	2 October 2010

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all the seats in Parliament on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

► **Constituencies**

5 multi-member constituencies (from 13 to 29 seats each): Riga (which also includes polling stations abroad), Vidzeme, Latgale, Kurzeme, and Zemgale.

► **Voting system: Proportional**

Party-list system with preferential voting.

Electors vote for lists of candidates but can also indicate specific support or rejection. Only those parties obtaining at least 5% of the national vote gain representation in the Saeima. Distribution of seats among them is based on the Saint-Lagüe method. Within each list, the order of candidates is re-arranged to reflect the preferences expressed by the voters. The vote for each candidate is equal to the number of votes cast for the list, plus or minus specific votes. Those candidates with the highest totals are declared elected, up to the number of seats allotted to each list. There are no reserved seats or quotas for women, ethnic minorities or other categories.

Vacancies which occur between general elections are filled by the "next-in-line" candidates of the same party list.

Voting is not compulsory.

► **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years
- Latvian citizens (including naturalized citizens)
- citizens overseas can vote without restriction

Disqualification: to be serving court sentences in penitentiaries, legal incapacity, insanity/mental illness

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified electors
- age: 21 years
- Latvian citizens (including naturalized citizens)
- citizens overseas are eligible without restriction

Ineligibility: persons legally declared incapacitated, persons serving a court sentence in a penitentiary or having been criminally convicted; former employees of the USSR, Latvian Soviet Socialist Republic (Latvian SSR) or foreign state security, intelligence or counter-intelligence services; persons active after 13 January 1991 in the Latvian Communist Party (CPSU), the Working People's International Front of the Latvian SSR, the United Board of Working Bodies, the Organisation of War and Labour Veterans, the All-Latvia Salvation Committee or its regional committees

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- President of the Republic and some other public officials
- members of the European Parliament
- members of the armed forces

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- lists of candidates must be submitted to the Central Election Commission between 80 and 60 days prior to the poll
- legally registered political parties or legally registered associations of parties can submit candidatures without restriction
- parties surpassing the 5% threshold are refunded the required 1,000-lats deposit

Background and Outcome of the Elections

The 2010 elections were the first to be held following the 2008 global economic crisis that severely hit the country of 2.2 million inhabitants. In December 2008, Latvia was granted a 7.5-billion-euro bailout from by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and another 1.3 billion euros from the European Union (EU). The country's economy shrank by 18 per cent in 2009 and unemployment soared to 20 per cent. Prime Minister Valdis Dombrovskis, who took office in March 2009, implemented austerity measures including wage cuts of up to 50 per cent in the public sector.

Previous elections in October 2006 were won by then Prime Minister Algars Kalvitis' centre-right government. His new government comprised the People's Party (TP, which won 23 seats), the Union of Farmers and Greens (ZS, 18 seats), the Electoral Union of Latvia's First Party (LPP) - The Latvian Way (LC), which took a total of 10 seats, as well as the Conservative Union for the Fatherland and Freedom (TB/LNNK, eight seats). The opposition included the New Era (JL) and the Centre for Harmony, which took 18 and 17 seats respectively as well as the For Civil Rights party (PCTVL) which took six seats. In May 2007, parliament elected Mr. Valdis Zatlers, the coalition government's candidate, as the country's new President.

In October 2007, Prime Minister Kalvitis resigned. Mr. Ivars Godmanis (LC) - the country's first post-independence Prime Minister - succeeded him in December 2007.

Street protests demanding the dissolution of parliament took place in January 2009, fuelled by the global economic crisis. The LC-LPP's coalition partners - the TP and the ZS - called for the Prime Minister's resignation, which he tendered in February 2009. Former finance minister, Mr. Valdis Dombrovskis (JL), took over from him in March 2009. He subsequently led a minority government comprising the JL, the ZS and the TB/LNNK.

The 2010 elections were contested by 1,234 candidates from 13 political parties and coalitions of political parties. They saw a duel between the centre-right Unity coalition, led by Prime Minister Dombrovskis, and the left-wing opposition Centre for Harmony (SC), led by the Mayor of the capital Riga, Mr. Nils Usakovs.

The Unity coalition comprised Prime Minister Dombrovskis' New Era (JL, currently led by Ms. Solvita Aboltina), the Civic Union (PS) of Mr. Girts Valdis Kristovskis and the Society for Other Politics (SCP) of Mr. Gatis Kokins. The two other parties in the outgoing government - the ZS and the TB/LNNK - stayed outside the Unity coalition. The TB/LNNK of Mr. Roberts Zile formed the National Alliance coalition with the far-right Everything for Latvia party (VL). The LPP-LC of Mr. Ainars Slesers formed an election coalition, For a Better Latvia, with the TP of Mr. Andris Skele.

The SC comprised the pro-Russian Social Democratic party Harmony, the Socialist Party of Latvia and the Daugavpils City Party. Harmony was formed under the leadership of Mr. Janis Urbanovics in February 2010 by parties in the Concord Centre. The Russian speaking minority accounts for 27 per cent

of the population.

Prime Minister Dombrovskis called on voters' support for the Unity coalition, arguing that the austerity measures implemented under his government were the only way to restore the country's economy. Latvia reportedly needed to find a further 800 to 900 million lats (US\$ 1.5-US\$ 1.7 billion) through budget cuts or tax increases over the next two years to respect the bailout terms. The Prime Minister's plan included a 6% reduction in the 2011 budget. He promised to introduce the EU currency, the euro, in 2014.

The SC pledged to provide a social-democratic alternative and criticized the government for its budget cuts and tax increases. It pledged to renegotiate the reimbursement plan of the bailout granted by the IMF and the EU and withdraw Latvian troops from Afghanistan.

President Zatlers underscored the need to respect the terms of the bailout and stated that the support for the withdrawal of the troops would compromise any party's bid to participate in the new government.

In all, 62.63 per cent of 1.5 million registered voters turned out at the polls.

Five parties/coalitions surpassed the 5-per cent threshold. The Unity coalition came in first with 33 seats, winning four more seats than its rival SC. Prime Minister Dombrovskis received the highest number of preferential votes. The other parties in his outgoing government - the ZZS and the National Alliance - took 22 and eight seats respectively. For a Better Latvia (LPP-LC) won eight seats, while the PCTVL failed to win parliamentary representation.

On 2 November, the newly elected parliament held its first session and elected Ms. Solvita Abolīņa of the New Era, which was a part of the Unity coalition, as its new Speaker.

On the same day, President Zatlers invited Mr. Dombrovskis to form a new government. Mr. Dombrovskis' government, comprising his Unity coalition and the ZZS, won a vote of confidence in parliament on 3 November. Mr. Dombrovskis - a 39-year-old former member of the European Parliament - is the youngest Prime Minister in the EU.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	1,491,735	
Voters	934,336	62.63 %

▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

	Votes	% votes	Seats
Unity (VIENOTIBA)	301,429	31.22	33
Centre for Harmony (SC)	251,400	26.04	29
Union of Farmers and Greens (ZZS)	190,025	19.68	22
For a Better Latvia (LPP-LC)	73,881	7.65	8
National Alliance (NA)	74,029	7.67	8
Total			100

▶ Distribution of seats according to sex

Men	81	
Women	19	19.00 %
Total	100	

Note:

Nineteen women were elected in October 2010. However, after the formation of the new government in November, the total number of women parliamentarians increased to 20.

► **Distribution of seats according to profession**

	Seats
Civil service and local authority administration	13
Legal profession	11
Entrepreneur	10
Education profession	8
Research/sciences	8
Architect, surveyor, engineer	7
Finance, management or business	6
Journalism, broadcasting, media	5
Physician, dentist	4
Agriculture/farming	4
Armed services/Police	4
IT/technology	4
International civil servant	3
Civil society activity	3
Social worker	3
Writer, literary, artist	2
Political party official	2
Economist	2
Clerical, secretarial, administration	1
Total	100

► **Distribution of seats according to age**

21 to 30 years	8
31 to 40 years	12
41 to 50 years	33
51 to 60 years	31
61 to 70 years	13
Over 70 years	3
Total	100

MAURITIUS

National Assembly

Parliament name (generic / translated)	National Assembly - Assemblée nationale
Structure of Parliament	Unicameral
Number of members	69 members - 62 directly elected - 7 appointed* *The Electoral Supervisory Commission may nominate a maximum of eight additional members with a view to correcting any imbalance in community representation in parliament.
Term of House	5 years
Date of elections	5 May 2010

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all the directly elected members of the National Assembly following the early dissolution of this body in March 2010. General elections had previously been held in July 2005.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

- 20 multi-member (3 seats) constituencies
- 1 multi-member (2 seats) constituency (Island of Rodrigues)

▶ **Voting system: Majority**

Block vote. Each elector casts as many votes as the number of candidates elected in each constituency. The three candidates (2 for Rodrigues) receiving the largest number of votes being declared elected.

The unsuccessful candidates with the highest number of votes (best losers) are designated by an electoral commission as the "additional" members of the Assembly in order to balance the representation of ethnic communities.

Vacancies arising between general elections are filled through by-elections (elective seats) or by the highest-placed unsuccessful candidate (designated seats).

Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years
 - British Commonwealth citizenship
 - residence in Mauritius for not less than two years or domiciled in the country on a prescribed date
- Disqualification: insanity, electoral offences, imprisonment exceeding 12 months

▶ **Eligibility**

- age: 18 years
 - British Commonwealth citizenship
 - residence in Mauritius for at least two years before the date of nomination (and for six months immediately before that date)
 - ability to speak and read English with a degree of proficiency sufficient to allow for taking an active part in Assembly proceedings
- Ineligibility: allegiance to a State outside the Commonwealth, undischarged bankruptcy, imprisonment exceeding 12 months, electoral offences, undisclosed government contractors

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- public or local government officers
- Speaker or Deputy Speaker must not be a Minister

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- nomination by at least six electors of the constituency
- deposit of approximately US\$25, reimbursed if the candidate polls at least 10% of the votes cast

Background and Outcome of the Elections

On 31 March 2010, President Anerood Jungnauth dissolved the National Assembly for early elections. The following day, Prime Minister Navinchandra Ramgoolam announced that they would be held on 5 May.

In the previous elections held in July 2005, Mr. Ramgoolam's Social Alliance (AS) took 38 of the 62 directly elected seats, 16 more than the coalition of the Militant Mauritian Movement (MMM) and the Militant Socialist Movement (MSM), led by the then Prime Minister Paul Berenger. The Organization of the People of Rodrigues (OPR) retained its two seats. Mr. Ramgoolam, who had served as Prime Minister between 1995 and 2000, was elected Prime Minister in July 2005. The AS comprised Prime Minister Ramgoolam's Labour Party and the Xavier-Luc Duval Party, as well as other smaller parties.

Upon assuming office, Prime Minister Ramgoolam - the son of Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, who had led the island to independence from Britain in 1968 - slashed red-tape to attract foreign investors. The country's economic policies enabled it to cope well with the global economic crisis. It enjoys a stable economy with a per capita income of US\$ 6,431. Its economy is expected to grow by 4.6 per cent in 2010, up from 3.1 per cent in 2009.

The country of 1.2 million inhabitants comprises four ethnic groups: Hindus, Muslims, Chinese, and the remaining "general population" (see note). It has nearly always had a prime minister from the Hindu majority, except for Mr. Berenger (MMM), who is of French origin representing the general population community.

Candidates are required by the Constitution to declare their ethnicity. In 2010, 104 candidates refused to do so, resulting in their candidatures being rejected. Consequently, 529 candidates were vying for the 62 seats at stake. Up to eight additional seats, or "best losers" seats, are allocated to non-elected party candidates in order to ensure an adequate representation of each community in the National Assembly.

In the 2010 elections, Prime Minister Ramgoolam's Labour Party formed the Alliance of the Future, comprising his Labour Party (PTR), the Mauritian Social Democrat Party (PMSD) and the MSM of Mr. Pravind Jugnauth, son of the incumbent President. Former Prime Minister Berenger led the Alliance of the Heart, comprising his MMM, the National Union (UN) and the Mauritian Socialist Democratic Movement (MMSD).

Both coalitions campaigned on a similar platform, pledging to alleviate poverty, strengthen the welfare state and increase social justice.

Prime Minister Ramgoolam also promised to make ownership of the vast sugarcane plantations, currently controlled by Mauritians of French descent, accessible to everyone.

Mr. Berenger promised to increase the number of women in parliament by forcing political parties to have at least one woman candidate in every constituency. Only eight of the 60 candidates of his Alliance of the Heart were women, five fewer than the Prime Minister's Alliance of the Future. Mr. Berenger accused the national television network of favouring the Prime Minister's Alliance.

In all, 77.82 per cent of the nearly 880,000 registered voters turned out at the polls.

Voters who sent their name and identity card number via text message to the election commission were able to receive their electoral roll number and information on their polling station on their mobile phones.

The African Union (AU) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) observed the elections. The SADC concluded that the elections had been free and fair. The AU considered that the polls had been well organised but underscored the need to better supervise the identification of voters so as to avoid any risk of fraud.

The final results gave 41 seats to Prime Minister Ramgoolam's Alliance of the Future. The Alliance of the Heart took 18 seats. The remainder went to small parties. The Rodrigues Movement and the Mauritian Solidarity Front (FSM) took two seats and one seat respectively. In all, 10 women were elected.

The Electoral Commission announced the seven "best losers": four from the Alliance of the Future, two from the Alliance of the Heart took and one from the OPR.

Three of the seven appointed members were women, bringing the total number of women to 13.

On 18 May, the newly elected National Assembly held its first session and re-elected Mr. Rajkeswur Purryag, an appointed member, as its Speaker.

In the meantime, on 14 May, Mr. Ramgoolam formed a new government comprising the parties in the Alliance of the Future.

Note:

According to the 1968 Constitution, the population of Mauritius includes "a Hindu community, a Muslim community and a Sino-Mauritian community; and every person who does not appear, from his way of life, to belong to one or other of those 3 communities shall be regarded as belonging to the General Population, which shall itself be regarded as a fourth community".

Election results and statistics**▶ Voter turnout**

Number of registered electors	879,897	
Voters	684,768	77.82 %
Blank or invalid ballot papers	5,776	
Valid votes	678,992	

▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

	Directly elected	Appointed	Total seats
Labour Party (PTR) - Mauritian Social Democrat Party (PMSD) - Militant Socialist Movement (MSM)	41	4	45
Militant Mauritian Movement (MMM)-National Union (UN)-Mauritian Socialist Democratic Movement (MMSD)	18	2	20
Rodrigues Movement	2	0	2
Mauritian Solidarity Front (FSM)	1	0	1
Organization of the People of Rodrigues (OPR)	0	1	1
Total	62	7	69

▶ Distribution of seats according to sex

	Elected	Appointed	Total	
Men	52	4	56	
Women	10	3	13	18.84 %
Total	62	7	69	

MYANMAR

House of Representatives

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Pyidaungsu Hluttaw / Assembly of the Union
Structure of Parliament	Bicameral
Chamber	Pythu Hluttaw / House of Representatives
Number of members	440 members - 330 directly elected - 110 appointed* *Not more than 110 members who are Defence Services personnel are nominated by the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services.
Term of House	5 years
Date of elections	7 November 2010

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all the seats in the House of Representatives.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

330 single-member constituencies

▶ **Voting system: Majority**

Majority vote with a possible run-off election.

- Elections are held only in the constituencies where there are several candidates. Fresh elections will be organized in case the sole candidate in these constituencies dies.

- The Election Commission may decide not to hold elections in some areas within the constituencies where the situation does not permit it. It may also transfer the polling booth to secure places. However, the elections as a whole are deemed valid if 51% of the voters on the electoral roll turn out at the polls.

- Each voter casts one ballot for a candidate of his/her choice. The candidate with the highest number of valid votes is declared elected. In case of a tie, a run-off election will be held.

- Vacancies are filled through by-elections.

Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- Citizenship of Myanmar and born of both parents who are citizens;
- Age: 18 years or over on election day.

Disqualification:

- members of religious orders;
- persons serving prison terms;
- persons determined to be and declared of unsound mind by a competent court;
- persons who have not yet been declared free from insolvency;
- persons disqualified by election law.

▶ **Eligibility**

- Qualified voters
- Citizenship of Myanmar and born of both parents who are citizens
- Age: 25 years or over
- Residence in the country for at least 10 consecutive years prior to the election. The official period of stay in a foreign country with the permission of the State shall be counted as a residing period in the country.

Ineligibility:

- Persons serving prison term or persons convicted of an offence,
- Persons of unsound mind
- Persons declared insolvent by a court
- Persons who owe allegiance to a foreign government, subjects of a foreign government, or citizens of a foreign country
- Persons who are entitled to enjoy the rights and privileges of subjects of a foreign government or citizens of a foreign country
- Persons working for an organization owned by a foreign country
- Persons working for an organization that abets the act of inciting, through speech or by issuing a declaration, the decision to vote or not based on religion for political purposes
- Members of a religious order
- Civil servants
- Persons working for State-owned companies
- Persons who have committed electoral offences.

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- Members of the other chamber or regional parliaments.

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- Candidature submitted by political parties or independent

candidates.

- Political parties participating in the elections have to pay 300,000 kyat (US\$ 300) to register and 500,000 kyat (US\$ 500) for each candidate.

Note:

Myanmar uses two exchange rates: the official rate, which is tied to the Special Drawing Right (SDR, a type of international monetary reserve currency, created by the IMF in 1969) and the free market rate. The equivalent in US\$ above has been calculated by applying the free market rate.

Background and Outcome of the Elections

The 2010 elections were the first to be held since 1990. The unicameral People's Assembly elected at the time was never convened. The 1990 election results were invalidated by the Electoral Laws enacted in March 2010. At stake in the 2010 elections were all seats in the Assembly of the Union (Pyidaungsu Hluttaw), a bicameral parliament established under the 2008 Constitution and comprising a 440-member House of Representatives (Pyithu Hluttaw) and a 224-member House of Nationalities (Amyotha Hluttaw).

Myanmar gained independence from Britain in 1948 under the name of Burma. It had a parliamentary system of government until the 1962 coup led by General Ne Win. He led the Socialist Programme Party (BSPP) - the only party authorized under his regime - until nationwide massive student-led street protests in August 1988 (known as the 8-8-88 Uprising). Later that same month, Ms. Aung San Suu Kyi - the daughter of General Aung San, who had played a major role in the country's independence - addressed a massive rally, calling for democratic government. In September, a military group called the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), led by General Saw Maung, seized power in another coup, bringing the street protests to a bloody end and dissolving the People's Assembly elected in 1985.

The SLORC assumed all the functions performed by the BSPP and General Maung declared himself Prime Minister. The ruling junta and former BSPP members founded the National Unity Party (NUP) in 1988, which was backed by the SLORC. In September, the National League for Democracy (NLD) was established under Ms. Suu Kyi's leadership. The name of the country was changed from Burma to Myanmar in May 1989. Two months later, Ms. Suu Kyi was placed under house arrest. She remained under house arrest through the May 1990 elections.

The May 1990 elections to the 492-member People's Assembly were held under the Electoral Law of May 1989, which allowed the participation of all parties other than the BSPP. Some 2,300 candidates from 93 parties and 87 independents contested 485 parliamentary seats (polling for seven others was cancelled for security reasons). The SLORC promised to turn over power to a civilian government after the newly elected legislature drafted a new constitution. The final results gave a resounding victory to the NLD, which won 392 seats to a mere 10 for the NUP. The Shan National League for Democracy, representing the Shan minority, became the second largest party with 23 seats, followed by the Rakhine Democracy League (also known as the Arakan League for Democracy) with 11 seats. The Mon National Democratic Front (MNDF), representing the Mon community, took five seats and the National Democratic Party for Human Rights (NDPHR) four. The remaining 34 seats went to 21 small parties. The SLORC initially conceded this outcome. However, the newly elected People's Assembly was never convened.

In July 1990, the SLORC issued Declaration No. 1/90 stating that it did not accept the formation of a new government under a temporary constitution and that the role of the representatives elected in the 1990 elections would be to draft a new constitution. It added that the SLORC, as a military government, would continue to rule the country under martial law. Later that month, elected NLD candidates adopted a provisional constitution (in line with the 1947 Constitution) to allow for the transfer of power and the convening of the People's Assembly, which the SLORC refused to do. The SLORC instead started a massive campaign of repression and harassment against elected NLD candidates. In December, the NLD agreed to Declaration No. 1/90. However, the repression continued and by 1992, most of the 93 parties that had contested the 1990 elections had been declared illegal. Only 10 parties, including the NLD, remained legal. Several banned parties, including the NDPHR, went into exile. In October 1991, Ms. Suu Kyi was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

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In late March, the NLD announced that it would boycott the 2010 polls, condemning the Electoral Laws as "unjust". The MNDF also announced that it would boycott the election, along with other parties representing the Mon community. Ms. Suu Kyi is reported to have told senior NLD members not to participate. Pursuant to the Political Parties Registration Law, the NLD was officially dissolved on 14 September. In the meantime, in May, a number of NLD members who believed the NLD should participate formed the National Democratic Force (NDF) under the co-leadership of Mr. Than Nyein and Mr. Khin Maung Swe (see note 1). The NDF argued that the 2010 polls could herald change in the country. It was officially registered as a political party in July. The Union Democracy Party (UDP), another newly formed opposition

party led by Mr. Thein Hta, announced its participation as well. The UDP was formed in May 2010 by participants of the 8-8-88 Uprising.

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Over 3,000 candidates were vying for a total of 1,159 seats in the national and 14 regional parliaments. The USDP and the NUP backed around 1,100 and 1,000 candidates respectively. Bowing to financial constraints, and in order to avoid competition with ethnic parties, the NDF - the largest opposition party - fielded only 163 candidates, mainly in Yangon and Mandalay regions. Some 20 parties representing ethnic minorities participated, but they ran only in a few constituencies where they have substantial populations.

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The USDP's main rival, the NUP, pledged to "fight capitalism" while promising to grant all farmers the right to own the land they cultivate, in an apparent bid to appeal to voters in rural areas.

The NDF called on the voters' support so that it could seize what limited opportunities there were to make their voices heard in the Assembly of the Union. Several independent candidates also underscored that voting in the elections would be the only way to bring about change in a nation repressed by years of military rule. They argued that even if the window of opportunity was small, it should be taken.

In all, 77.26 per cent of the country's 29 million registered voters turned out for the elections to the House of Representatives, while 76.78 per cent voted in elections to the House of Nationalities. After the polling, several attacks by Karen armed groups (see note 3) were reported. Subsequent fighting between the groups and the armed forces forced some 20,000 people to flee to Thailand.

At least six parties, including the NDF, filed complaints with the Election Commission, claiming State workers were forced to vote for the USDP. The NDF accused the USDP of "widespread fraud", an allegation that the USDP denied.

The country allowed no foreign journalists or international observers to be present at the polling stations. It instead invited all foreign diplomats in the country on a group visit to selected polling stations. Some 20 diplomats - mainly from South-east Asia - accepted the invitation, while a number of western diplomats declined.

United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon stated that the voting was held in conditions that were "insufficiently inclusive, participatory and

transparent". He urged the Myanmar authorities to demonstrate that the 2010 elections would be part of "a credible transition towards democratic government, national reconciliation and respect for human rights".

The USDP took 259 of the 326 elective seats in the House of Representatives (elections were not held in four constituencies) and 129 of the 168 elective seats in the House of Nationalities. The NUP took 12 and five seats respectively. Four pro-government parties took a total of eight seats in the House of Representatives and four seats in the House of Nationalities (see note 4). The NDF won eight and four seats respectively. Two ethnic parties fared well: the Shan Nationalities Democratic Party took 18 and three seats respectively, while the Rakhine Nationalities Development Party took nine and seven seats respectively. In all, 14 women were elected to the House of Representatives, while six were elected to the House of Nationalities.

On 31 January 2011, the new parliament was convened for the first time. The House of Representatives elected Mr. Shwe Mann - the third most powerful general in the Junta - as its Speaker while the House of Nationalities elected the incumbent Minister of Culture, Mr. Khin Aung Myint, as its Speaker. The convening of both chambers of the Assembly of Union effectively restored the country's parliament, which had not functioned since its unconstitutional dissolution in September 1988.

On 4 February, the Presidential Electoral College (see note 5) elected former Prime Minister Thein Sein (USDP) as President of the country. His 30-member cabinet was approved on 11 February. The cabinet included only four civilians. Most cabinet members were former officers who had retired from the military in order to run in the 2010 elections.

Note 1:

Mr. Than Nyein - brother-in-law of former Prime Minister Khin Nyunt - was a founding member of the NLD and a member of its Central Executive Committee (CEC). In 2008, he was released after 11 years in prison along with Mr. Khin Maung Swe, a fellow CEC member who had spent a total of 16 years in prison since 1990. Neither of them contested the 2010 elections, the former for health reasons, the latter owing to indications that the Election Commission would bar him because he had been convicted of high treason in connection with his NLD activities.

Note 2:

The United Wa State Army is the largest ethnic armed group in the country.

Although a cease-fire agreement between the government, the United Wa State Army and the National Democratic Alliance Army (formerly known as the Kokang Democracy Party) had been in place since 1989, sporadic clashes have been reported. In August 2009, the government crackdown on these two ethnic armies triggered the flight of 10,000 refugees into China.

Note 3:

On 2 November 2010, six major armed opposition groups, including the Karen National Union (KNU), gathered in Mae Hong Son on the Thai side of the border and formed an alliance against the government armed forces, which had threatened to further tighten their control. The six groups represent the Karen ethnic group, which accounts for around seven per cent of the country's 50 million inhabitants and is present primarily in southern and south-eastern Myanmar. The Karen have been working towards an independent State since before Burma gained independence from Britain in 1948.

Note 4:

The four pro-government parties are Pa-O National Organisation, Palaung National Party, Wa Democratic Party and the Unity and Democracy Party of Kachin State.

Note 5:

The Presidential Electoral College is composed of three groups: (a) elected members of the House of Representatives, (b) elected members of the House of Nationalities and (c) appointed members of both chambers. Each group elects a Vice-President (who does not have to be a parliamentarian). The Presidential Electoral College then elects one of the three Vice-Presidents as the President. The candidate who wins the highest number of votes takes the presidency, while the two others remain as Vice-Presidents.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	29,021,608	
Voters	22,421,123	77.26 %
Blank or invalid ballot papers	1,555,962	
Valid votes	20,865,161	

► **Distribution of seats according to political group**

	Seats
Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP)	259
Shan Nationalities Democratic Party	18
National Unity Party (NUP)	12
Rakhine Nationalities Development Party	9
National Democratic Force (NDF)	8
All Mon Regions Democracy Party	3
Pa-O National Organisation	3
Chin National Party	2
Chin Progressive Party	2
Phalon-Sawaw Democratic Party	2
Unity and Democracy Party of Kachin State	2
Wa Democratic Party	2
Inn Nationalities Development Party	1
Kayin People's Party	1
Parti national palaung	1
Independents	1
Total	326

► **Distribution of seats according to sex**

Men	422	
Women	14	3.21 %
Total	436	

MYANMAR

House of Nationalities

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Pyidaungsu Hluttaw / Assembly of the Union
Structure of Parliament	Bicameral
Chamber	Amyotha Hluttaw / House of Nationalities
Number of members	224 members - 168 directly elected (12 representatives from each region or territory and one representative from each self-administered division/zone) - 56 appointed who are Defence Services personnel are nominated by the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services; four representatives from each region or territory.
Term of House	5 years
Date of elections	7 November 2010

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all the seats in the House of Nationalities.

Electoral system

► **Constituencies**

- 12 multi-member constituencies for 168 seats

► **Voting system: Majority**

Majority vote with a possible run-off election.

- Elections are held only in the constituencies where there are several candidates. Fresh elections will be organized in case the sole candidate in these constituencies dies.

- The Election Commission may decide not to hold elections in some areas within the constituencies where the situation does not permit it. It may also transfer the polling booth to secure places. However, the elections as a whole are deemed valid if 51% of the voters on the electoral roll turn out at the polls.

- Each voter casts one ballot for a candidate of his/her choice. The candidate with the highest number of valid votes is declared elected. In case of a tie, a run-off election will be held.

- Vacancies are filled through by-elections.

- Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- Citizenship of Myanmar and born of both parents who are citizens;
- Age: 18 years or over on election day.

Disqualification:

- members of religious orders;
- persons serving prison terms;
- persons determined to be and declared of unsound mind by a competent court;
- persons who have not yet been declared free from insolvency;
- persons disqualified by election law.

▶ **Eligibility**

- Qualified voters

- Citizenship of Myanmar and born of both parents who are citizens
- Age: 30 years or over

- Residence in the country for at least 10 consecutive years prior to the election. The official period of stay in a foreign country with the permission of the State shall be counted as a residing period in the country.

Ineligibility:

- Persons serving prison term or persons convicted of an offence,
- Persons of unsound mind
- Persons declared insolvent by a court
- Persons who owe allegiance to a foreign government, subjects of a foreign government, or citizens of a foreign country
- Persons who are entitled to enjoy the rights and privileges of subjects of a foreign government or citizens of a foreign country
- Persons working for an organization owned by a foreign country
- Persons working for an organization that abets the act of inciting, through speech or by issuing a declaration, the decision to vote or not based on religion for political purposes
- Members of a religious order
- Civil servants
- Persons working for State-owned companies
- Persons who have committed electoral offences.

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- Members of the other chamber or regional parliaments.

► **Candidacy requirements**

- Candidature submitted by political parties or independent candidates.
- Political parties participating in the elections have to pay 300,000 kyat (US\$ 300) to register and 500,000 kyat (US\$ 500) for each candidate.

Note:

Myanmar uses two exchange rates: the official rate, which is tied to the Special Drawing Right (SDR, a type of international monetary reserve currency, created by the IMF in 1969) and the free market rate. The equivalent in US\$ above has been calculated by applying the free market rate.

Background and Outcome of the Elections

The 2010 elections were the first to be held since 1990. The unicameral People's Assembly elected at the time was never convened. The 1990 election results were invalidated by the Electoral Laws enacted in March 2010. At stake in the 2010 elections were all seats in the Assembly of the Union (Pyidaungsu Hluttaw), a bicameral parliament established under the 2008 Constitution and comprising a 440-member House of Representatives (Pyithu Hluttaw) and a 224-member House of Nationalities (Amyotha Hluttaw).

Myanmar gained independence from Britain in 1948 under the name of Burma. It had a parliamentary system of government until the 1962 coup led by General Ne Win. He led the Socialist Programme Party (BSPP) - the only party authorized under his regime - until nationwide massive student-led street protests in August 1988 (known as the 8-8-88 Uprising). Later that same month, Ms. Aung San Suu Kyi - the daughter of General Aung San, who had played a major role in the country's independence - addressed a massive rally, calling for democratic government. In September, a military group called the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), led by General Saw Maung, seized power in another coup, bringing the street protests to a bloody end and dissolving the People's Assembly elected in 1985.

The SLORC assumed all the functions performed by the BSPP and General Maung declared himself Prime Minister. The ruling junta and former BSPP members founded the National Unity Party (NUP) in 1988, which was backed by the SLORC. In September, the National League for Democracy (NLD) was established under Ms. Suu Kyi's leadership. The name of the country was changed from Burma to Myanmar in May 1989. Two months later, Ms. Suu Kyi was placed under house arrest. She remained under house arrest through

the May 1990 elections.

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Mr. Than Nyain - brother-in-law of former Prime Minister Khin Nyunt - was a founding member of the NLD and a member of its Central Executive Committee (CEC). In 2008, he was released after 11 years in prison along with Mr. Khin Maung Swe, a fellow CEC member who had spent a total of 16 years in prison since 1990. Neither of them contested the 2010 elections, the former for health reasons, the latter owing to indications that the Election Commission would bar him because he had been convicted of high treason in connection with his NLD activities.

Note 2:

The United Wa State Army is the largest ethnic armed group in the country. Although a cease-fire agreement between the government, the United Wa State Army and the National Democratic Alliance Army (formerly known as the Kokang Democracy Party) had been in place since 1989, sporadic clashes have been reported. In August 2009, the government crackdown on these two ethnic armies triggered the flight of 10,000 refugees into China.

Note 3:

On 2 November 2010, six major armed opposition groups, including the Karen National Union (KNU), gathered in Mae Hong Son on the Thai side of the border and formed an alliance against the government armed forces, which had threatened to further tighten their control. The six groups represent the Karen ethnic group, which accounts for around seven per cent of the country's 50 million inhabitants and is present primarily in southern and south-eastern Myanmar. The Karen have been working towards an independent State since before Burma gained independence from Britain in 1948.

Note 4:

The four pro-government parties are Pa-O National Organisation, Palaung National Party, Wa Democratic Party and the Unity and Democracy Party of Kachin State.

Note 5:

The Presidential Electoral College is composed of three groups: (a) elected members of the House of Representatives, (b) elected members of the House of Nationalities and (c) appointed members of both chambers. Each group elects a Vice-President (who does not have to be a parliamentarian). The Presidential Electoral College then elects one of the three Vice-Presidents as the President. The candidate who wins the highest number of votes takes the presidency, while the two others remain as Vice-Presidents.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	29,021,608	
Voters	22,283,465	76.78 %
Blank or invalid ballot papers	1,432,387	
Valid votes	20,851,078	

► **Distribution of seats according to political group**

	Seats
Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP)	129
Rakhine Nationalities Development Party	7
National United Party (NUP)	5
All Mon Regions Democracy Party	4
Chin Progressive Party	4
National Democratic Force (NDF)	4
Phalon-Sawaw Democratic Party	3
Shan Nationalities Democratic Party	3
Chin National Party	2
Kayin People's Party	1
Kayin State Democracy and Progressive Party	1
Pa-O National Organisation	1
Palaung National Party	1
Unity and Democracy Party of Kachin State	1
Wa Democratic Party	1
Independents	1
Total	168

► **Distribution of seats according to sex**

Men	218	
Women	6	2.68 %
Total	224	

NAURU

Parliament

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Parliament
Structure of Parliament	Unicameral
Number of members	18 directly elected
Term of House	3 years
Date of elections	24 April & 19 June 2010

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

8 multi-member constituencies (7 two-member constituencies and 1 four-member constituency).

▶ **Voting system: Majority**

Dowdall system (a modified Borda-count system, applied to multi-member constituencies instead of single-member constituencies).

Each voter indicates his/her preferences by marking each box on the ballot paper with sequential numbers, placing a '1' next to their preferred candidate, a '2' next to their second preference and so on. Voters must rank their preference for all candidates listed on the ballot for their vote to be validated.

Every preference carries a value, and the value of all preferences is tallied. A first preference has the value of 1, and second preference is valued at 0.5, a third preference at 0.33 and so on. The total number of values of the various preferences for each candidate is tallied to calculate the total value of the votes they have received. In two-member constituencies, the two candidates with the highest total of votes calculated in accordance with the fractional value of each vote are elected. In the four-member constituency, the four members with the highest total of votes calculated in accordance with the fractional value of each vote are elected.

Vacancies arising between general elections are filled through by-elections.

Voting is compulsory. Failure to vote is punishable by a fine of AU\$ 6.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 20 years
- Nauru citizenship

- residence in the country

▶ **Eligibility**

- age: 20 years
- Nauru citizenship
- residence in the country

Ineligibility: insanity, undischarged bankruptcy, sentence of death or imprisonment for at least one year.

▶ **Incompatibilities**

Not applicable.

Article 31 (e) of the Constitution provides that a person shall be disqualified if he/she "holds an office of profit in the service of Nauru or of a statutory corporation, being an office prescribed by law for the purposes of this paragraph". However, no such law has been passed prescribing prohibited offices, so the paragraph has no effect.

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- Nomination fee of AU\$ 50.
- Written nominations must be submitted at least 14 days prior to polling day, signed by the candidate and two or more electors of his/her district.

Election of 24 April 2010

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all the seats in the Parliament following its premature dissolution on 20 March 2010. The elections had previously taken place on 26 April 2008.

Background and Outcome of the Elections

The early elections in April 2010 followed a stand-off between pro-government members of parliament supporting President Marcus Stephen and anti-government members, including the former Speaker, finance and foreign minister, Mr. David Adeang. Both groups held nine seats in the 18-member parliament.

The previous election in April 2008 had also been triggered by a political stalemate in the country of 14,000 inhabitants, which had had 36 governments since it gained independence from the United Kingdom in

1968. In March 2008, President Stephen had endorsed Mr. Adeang as the Speaker in a bid to reduce the number of opposition votes in parliament (as the Speaker only votes in the event of a tie). Mr. Adeang's decision to suspend all nine pro-government members, including President Stephen, triggered early elections in April 2008. In these elections, all nine pro-government members had retained their seats. Three newly elected members subsequently moved over to the government side, giving it 12 of the 18 seats. In late April, parliament elected former Speaker Mr. Riddel Akua as its Speaker. Mr. Stephen was re-elected as the country's President.

Mr. Adeang was suspended from the new parliament in July 2009 for making derogatory statements. Between January and February 2010, three members from the government side joined the opposition, expressing their general dissatisfaction with the government. Consequently, both sides held nine seats each again. In early February, Mr. Adeang was allowed to attend parliamentary sessions after submitting a letter of apology. In late February, President Stephen survived a vote of no-confidence.

On 27 February 2010, the country's first-ever constitutional referendum failed to obtain the required two-thirds majority. Some opposition members, who had voted in favour of the amendments in parliament, campaigned against them in the run-up to the referendum.

Shortly after the referendum, the opposition members brought another no-confidence motion against the President. The Finance Minister, Kieran Keke, accused the opposition of political manoeuvring and constant attempts to defeat the government in order to grab power for selfish reasons.

On 16 March, President Stephen ordered that parliament be dissolved on 20 March, the day when the no-confidence motion was to be debated, on the grounds that the opposition was preventing both the government and the parliament from carrying out their duties properly. Speaker Akua resigned, and was replaced by Mr. Shadlog Bernicke. On 22 March, Acting Speaker Bernicke advised the returning officer to call elections for 24 April 2010, 12 months before they were constitutionally due.

In all, 86 candidates, including all outgoing members, contested the 2010 elections. Since there are no political parties in Nauru, all candidates stood as independents.

President Stephen urged voters to give him a clear mandate to continue his efforts to rebuild the country. Pro-government members ran on their record. They argued that Nauru's phosphate exports and GDP had increased significantly. Since 2009, electricity has been available 24 hours a day seven days a week for the first time in a decade. The Minister for Commerce, Industry and the Environment, Mr. Frederick Pitcher, pledged to hold another constitutional referendum if the government was returned to office.

Anti-government members argued that those achievements should also be credited to the administration of former President Scotty and Mr. Adeang.

Over 91% of the 5,700 registered voters. The country introduced stringent verification procedures using computers for the first time. This resulted in a slight delay in announcement of the polling results.

No major international observers monitored the polls. No violent incidents were reported.

The final results gazetted on 26 April showed that all 18 members in the outgoing legislature had been returned, resulting in yet another political stalemate. No women were elected.

The newly elected parliament held its first session on 27 April but failed to elect a new Speaker. On 13 May, parliament elected Mr. Godfrey Thoma, an opposition member, as its new Speaker at sixth attempt. However, he resigned on 18 May, bringing back the country to political deadlock.

An opposition member, Mr. Dominic Tabuna, changed sides and was elected as new Speaker on 1 June. However, he too resigned three days later. After subsequent parliamentary sessions failed to elect a new Speaker, Acting President Stephen declared a state of emergency and dissolved Parliament in view of fresh elections to be held on 19 June, less than two months after the previous elections.

Election results and statistics

► Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	About 5700	
Voters	5,202	About 91%
Blank or invalid ballot papers	185	
Valid votes	5,017	

► **Distribution of seats according to sex**

Men	18	
Women	0	0.00 %
Total	18	

Election of 18 June 2010

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all the seats in the Parliament following its early dissolution on 11 June 2010. The elections had previously taken place on 24 April 2010.

Background and Outcome of the Elections

The world's smallest republic (covering just 21 square kilometres) held another snap poll in June 2010, less than two months since the previous early elections in April.

The April 2010 elections were held in an attempt to resolve a standoff between government members of parliament supporting President Marcus Stephen and opposition members who included the former Speaker, Finance and Foreign Minister, Mr. David Adeang. Both groups had held nine seats in the 18-member Parliament. The April elections returned exactly the same 18 members, resulting in yet another political stalemate.

The newly elected Parliament held its first session on 27 April but failed to elect a new Speaker. After lengthy negotiations, an opposition member, Mr. Godfrey Thoma, agreed to accept the post, in the context of a move to raise the statutory number of seats to 19 with the Speaker becoming a non-elected member (see note 1). Upon assuming the post on 13 May, Speaker Thoma announced that he would resign before the next sitting unless the government formed a coalition with the opposition or advised him to dissolve Parliament with a view to holding fresh elections. He duly resigned as Speaker on 18 May, returning the country to political deadlock.

Government MP, Mr. Dominic Tabuna was elected as Speaker on 1 June, and he too resigned only three days later, citing "recent developments in Parliament".

Under the current Constitution, whenever the post of Speaker is vacant, Parliament cannot transact any business other than the election of Speaker

(see note 2). The country, which had a budget running only to June, was once again left without a functioning Parliament to pass the new budget.

After subsequent parliamentary sittings failed to elect a new Speaker, Acting President Stephen declared a state of emergency on 11 June, so that he could obtain a supplementary appropriation even in the absence of a functioning Parliament. On the same day, he dissolved Parliament with a view to fresh elections being held on 19 June. The state of emergency was to last for up to 21 days (1 July) or until the country's new President was elected by the newly elected Parliament, whichever occurred first.

The opposition, now led by Mr. Baron Waqa, argued that the state of emergency was a threat to human rights such as freedom of expression and the rights of assembly and association. It criticized the short duration of the campaign period, which it said would not allow new candidates to run.

All 18 members in the outgoing legislature ran in the June elections. The media focused on a leading candidate in Aiwo constituency, Mr. Milton Dube, who had never served in Parliament. He campaigned on local issues, pledging to deal with environmental concerns relating to the phosphate industry. The amount of phosphate dust from the 100-year-old phosphate drying plant became the main campaign issue. Acting President Stephen promised to relocate the plant to a remote part of the island. The Environment Minister, Mr. Frederick Pitcher, said that the government had been assessing new technology that is designed to reduce dust emissions during the phosphate drying process. Mr. Dube said he would support the side that committed itself to the interests of his Aiwo constituency.

Voting being compulsory in Nauru, turnout has been traditionally high. In June, 92.69 per cent of the 5,700 voters turned out at the polls.

All nine pro-government members were re-elected, while an opposition member, Mr. Dantes Tsitsi, lost his seat to Mr. Dube, the sole new member in the new legislature. Once again, no women were elected to Parliament.

Acting President Stephen urged Mr. Dube to join the government so as to resolve the political deadlock but the latter did not declare his allegiance before the first session.

On 22 June, the newly elected Parliament held its first session. Mr. Aloysius Amwano, an opposition member, subsequently accepted to become new

Speaker but demanded the resignation of Acting President Stephen. Mr. Stephen said he would stand down, as long as the new leader came from within his group of supporters. On 2 July, Mr. Amwano was elected new Speaker.

On 6 July, Mr. Mathew Batsiua, a pro-government member, put the motion to elect a President to Parliament. He announced that the government had a required majority to govern after an opposition member, Mr. Rykers Solomon, had joined the government side. However, Speaker Amwano refused to let the motion proceed, returning the country to a political stalemate.

President Stephen subsequently dismissed Speaker Amwano by emergency order. Mr. Landon Deireragea became Acting Speaker.

On 11 October, opposition members led by Mr. Waqa initiated court action on the grounds that the Acting President acted unconstitutionally when he dismissed the Speaker and declared a state of emergency in June. On 20 October, the Supreme Court ruled in favour of the government on all accounts.

Mr. Ludwig Scotty subsequently accepted a nomination to be Speaker, giving a parliamentary majority to the government. On 1 November, he was unanimously elected to the post. On the same day, Mr. Stephen was re-elected President, defeating Mr. Dube by an 11-6 vote, ending the political deadlock. His first action was to lift the state of emergency.

Note 1:

For these amendments to be implemented, two bills need to be introduced in Parliament: one ordinary act to increase the statutory number of members and another to amend the Constitution of Nauru (Parliamentary Amendments) Act 2009, which includes provisions to make the Speaker a non-elected member. The latter has to be before Parliament for at least 90 days before being adopted.

Note 2:

Article 34.-(1.) says "Parliament shall, before it proceeds to the despatch of any other business, elect one of its members to be Speaker and, whenever the office of Speaker is vacant, shall not transact any business other than the election of one of its members to fill that office". After the election of the Speaker, Parliament will have to elect the Deputy Speaker, the committee

chairmen and the country's president before any other business can be transacted.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	5,704	
Voters	5,287	92.69 %
Blank or invalid ballot papers	107	
Valid votes	5,180	

▶ Distribution of seats according to sex

Men	18	
Women	0	0.00 %
Total	18	

NETHERLANDS

House of Representatives

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Staten-Generaal / States General
Structure of Parliament	Bicameral
Chamber	Tweede Kamer der Staten-Generaal / House of Representatives
Number of members	150 directly elected
Term of House	4 years
Date of elections	9 June 2010

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all seats in the House of Representatives following the publication of the Royal Decree of 18 March 2010 calling for early elections. Elections to the House of Representatives had previously taken place on 22 November 2006.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

18 multi-member constituencies.

▶ **Voting system: Proportional**

Party-list system with proportional representation. Seats are distributed at the national level among different lists or groups of lists which have obtained at least 0.67% of the nationwide vote, each being awarded as many seats as the number of times the votes for its candidates is the multiple of an established national quota (the total of valid votes in the country divided by the number of seats (150) to be filled). Within each list, seats are then allocated among candidates according to the order in which they appear on the list. The seats remaining unfilled after this first distribution are then allotted according to the d'Hondt method of highest average.

Vacancies arising between general elections are filled by the candidate who is "next-in-line" on the list of the same party which previously held the seat.

Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years

- Dutch citizenship

Disqualification: insanity, imprisonment, disfranchisement as result of certain criminal convictions, deprivation of parental authority or guardianship over children

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified electors
- age: 18 years
- Dutch citizenship

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- Minister, Vice-President or member of the Council of State
- judge of the Supreme Court
- member of the General Board of Auditors
- Queen's Commissioner in a province
- Clerk or any other official of either Chamber

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- lists of candidates must be supported by at least 25 electors in each district. The 25 nominating persons can appoint a representative who is empowered to link their list with other lists, at the national level, into what is then called a group of lists.
- deposit of 11,250 euros for lists of parties not already represented in the Second Chamber. This deposit is not reimbursed if the number of votes obtained by the political group remains below 75% of the applicable electoral quota

Background and Outcome of the Elections

The June 2010 elections followed the collapse of Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende's fourth coalition government in February 2010.

In the previous elections (November 2006), neither the right nor the left won a clear majority. Prime Minister Balkenende's Christian Democratic Appeal (CDA) remained the largest party, winning 41 of the 150 seats at stake. The pro-business People's Party for Freedom and Democracy (VVD) took 22 seats. The VVD's breakaway Party for Freedom (GW/PvdV), led by Mr. Geert Wilders, took nine seats. The main left-wing opposition, the Labour Party (PvdA), remained the second largest party with 33 seats, followed by the Socialist Party (SP) with 25 seats. The Green Left won seven seats while the centre-left Christian Union took six.

After lengthy negotiations, Mr. Balkenende formed his fourth coalition government in February 2007. It comprised the CDA, the PvdA, the Christian Union and the Democrats 66 (D66, a centrist party that had taken three seats).

Mr. Balkenende first came to power in 2002 but his three previous coalition governments had broken down before the end of the full four-year term. The three parties in his fourth government disagreed on major issues, including pension reform and public spending in the wake of the economic downturn.

Disagreement over continuing the Dutch military involvement in Afghanistan was the immediate cause of the collapse of the coalition. In 2006 the Netherlands supplied a contingent for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) mission in Afghanistan. The initial engagement was to end by 2008 but the mission was extended since no other NATO members had sent troops to replace the Dutch contingent. Amid growing unpopularity, the House of Representatives voted in October 2009 to withdraw all 2,000 Dutch soldiers by August 2010.

However, NATO requested the Dutch government to extend the deployment beyond 2010 owing to insecurity in Afghanistan. Prime Minister Balkenende's CDA was in favour of the extension, but the PvdA of Deputy Prime Minister Wouter Bos was vehemently opposed. In February 2010, the PvdA announced it was withdrawing from the coalition government, triggering its collapse. Queen Beatrix subsequently asked the outgoing government to dissolve the House of Representatives with a view to holding early elections on 9 June. They were the fourth to be held since 2002.

Mr. Balkenende became caretaker Prime Minister. He pledged to introduce drastic economic reforms by forming a new government comprising the CDA, the VVD, the Green Left and the D66, an unprecedented composition.

Shortly before the 2010 elections, the country's Bureau for Economic Policy Analysis announced a 29 billion euros cut from public spending by 2015, prompting many parties to focus on the budget cuts during the election campaign. The parties on the left and the right presented conflicting austerity plans.

The leftist parties - the PvdA, the SP and the Green Left - promised to cut defence spending while increasing taxes for people with higher incomes. The PvdA promised to save about 10 billion euros by 2015. The leftist parties

pledged fewer cuts than the parties on the right, arguing that too radical cuts would diminish people's spending power and increase unemployment, consequently threatening economic recovery.

The parties on the right - Mr. Mark Rutte's VVD, Mr. Wilders' PVV and Mr. Balkenende's CDA - pledged more spending cuts. The VVD pledged to save 20 billion euros through 2015 and an additional 10 billion euros by 2019 by cutting spending on the civil service and social security. The VVD and the CDA argued that the government needed to implement radical measures so as to prevent the country from going bankrupt. They insisted that interest-accruing loans that had been eating up a growing share of the government's budget had to be lowered. The VVD promised to halve the development cooperation budget (the equivalent of 0.8 percent of the country's gross national product), while the PVV pledged to abolish it altogether. Only the CDA promised to maintain the cooperation budget at its current level.

The pre-election debate also focused on immigration. The VVD promised a reduction in benefits for immigrants while the PVV pledged to restrict immigration. In March 2010, the PVV made major gains in local elections, advocating a ban on Muslim headscarves in public places. The PvdA was reportedly drawing support from immigrants thanks to its new leader, Mr. Job Cohen, who had been popular among the immigrant community while serving as Amsterdam Mayor.

Pre-election opinion polls indicated a neck-and-neck race between the leftist PvdA and the VVD on the right. 75.40 per cent of the 12.5 million registered voters turned out at the polls.

As in the 2006 elections, no party secured a majority in 2010. The final results gave 31 seats to the VVD and 30 to the PvdA. The PVV came in third with 24 seats, while the CDA took 21 seats. In all, 61 women (40.67%) were elected - up from 55 (36.67%) in 2006 - setting the highest percentage of women elected to the Dutch House of Representatives.

On 17 June, the newly elected House of Representatives held its first session. On 22 June, it re-elected Ms. Gerdi A. Verbeet (PvdA) as its Speaker.

After lengthy negotiations, on 29 September, the CDA - led by Mr. Maxime Verhagen - and the VVD agreed to form a coalition government, with parliamentary support from the PVV. On 14 October, Queen Beatrix sworn in

the new minority government led by Mr. Rutte (VVD). He became the first VVD leader to assume the post since the party's inception in 1948.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	12,524,152	
Voters	9,442,977	75.40 %
Blank or invalid ballot papers	26,976	
Valid votes	9,416,001	

▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

	Candi- dates	Votes	% votes	Seats	Gain/ Loss	Number of women
People's Party for Freedom and Democracy (VVD)	73	1,929,575	20.49	31	9	13
Labour Party (PvdA)	70	1,848,805	19.63	30	-3	15
Party for Freedom (PVV)	48	1,454,493	15.45	24	15	4
Christian Democratic Alliance (CDA)	75	1,281,886	13.61	21	-20	9
Socialist Party (SP)	50	924,696	9.82	15	-10	5
Democrats 66 (D66)	50	654,167	6.95	10	7	5
Green Left	30	628,096	6.67	10	3	6
Christian Union	50	305,094	3.24	5	-1	2
Party for the Animals (PvdD)	17	122,317	1.30	2	0	2
Reformed Political Party (SGP)	30	163,581	1.74	2	0	0
Total				150		61

▶ Distribution of seats according to sex

Men	89	
Women	61	40.67 %
Total	150	

► **Distribution of seats according to profession**

	Seats
Civil service and local authority administration	32
Civil society activity	30
Entrepreneur	26
Finance, management or business	19
Journalism, broadcasting, media	10
Physician, dentist	8
Armed services/Police	8
Education profession	6
Political party official	5
IT/technology	4
Legal profession	2
Total	150

► **Distribution of seats according to age**

21 to 30 years	8
31 to 40 years	44
41 to 50 years	53
51 to 60 years	37
61 to 70 years	8
Total	150

PHILIPPINES

House of Representatives

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Kongreso / Congress
Structure of Parliament Chamber	Bicameral Kapulungan Ng Mga Kinatawan / House of Representatives
Number of members	280 directly elected
Term of House	3 years
Date of elections	10 May 2010

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all the seats in the House of Representatives on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

- 228 single-member constituencies for majority vote
- one nationwide constituency for proportional representation vote

▶ **Voting system: Mixed**

Each elector casts two votes: one for a candidate and the other for a party.

- 228 seats filled by single member plurality systems ("first past the post")
- 52 seats filled by party-lists nominees proposed by indigenous, but non-religious, minority groups. Parties must pass a 2% vote threshold to gain parliamentary representation. A maximum of three seats is awarded to each party.

Vacancies arising between general elections are filled through by-elections.

Voting is compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years
 - Philippine citizenship
 - residence in the country for at least one year and in home constituency for at least six months immediately preceding election day
- Disqualification: insanity, adjudged incompetence, conviction for crime involving disloyalty to government or against national security

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified electors
 - age: 25 years
 - Philippine citizenship by birth
 - literacy
 - residence in district for at least one year immediately preceding the poll
- Ineligibility: bribery of voters or election officials, terrorist action, exceeding campaign expenses ceiling, prohibited financial dealings

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- any other office or employment in the Government, or any subdivision, agency, or instrumentality thereof, including government-owned or controlled corporations or their subsidiaries
- legal counsel (in courts, electoral tribunals or quasi-judicial and other administrative bodies)
- government contractor

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- candidatures by parties or independents, must be submitted at least 45 days before polling to the provincial election supervisor concerned
- under the party-list system, each party must submit a list of at least five nominees

Background and Outcome of the Elections

The May 2010 parliamentary elections were held concurrently with the presidential polls. At stake were 280 seats in the House of Representatives (up from 269, see note) and half of the Senate seats (12).

In the previous elections held in May 2007, TEAM Unity (Together Everyone Achieves More) - a coalition formed by supporters of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo - took nearly 170 of the 240 seats in the House of Representatives. The coalition included President Arroyo's Lakas-Kampi-CMD and the Nationalist People's Coalition (NPC). An electoral coalition called the "Genuine Opposition" (GO) took 44 seats. The GO included the Liberal Party (LP) and the Nationalist Party. Most of the 25 party nominees, proposed by indigenous groups, subsequently joined TEAM Unity. Only four pro-presidential candidates were elected to the Senate, where the GO coalition took an overall majority.

Since she was elected in 2004, President Arroyo had been seeking Charter

(constitutional) change, known locally as "Cha-Cha". These changes aimed at transforming the country's system of government from the current presidential system to a parliamentary one. Her opponents accused her of eyeing the Speaker's post and trying to return to power as Prime Minister once the constitutional changes were adopted. She had risen from being the country's Vice-President to President in January 2001 after the then President, Joseph Estrada, was impeached on allegations of corruption.

Ms. Arroyo was constitutionally barred from seeking a second consecutive term in 2010. Instead, she ran for a seat in the House of Representatives. She pledged to continue the push for Charter change. Former first lady Imelda Marcos - whose late husband, Ferdinand Marcos, served as President between 1969 and 1986, having imposed martial law in 1972 - was also vying for a House seat. Ms. Marcos had been elected to the House in 1995.

The media focused on the presidential polls, placing the parliamentary polls on the back burner.

President Arroyo endorsed Mr. Gilberto Teodoro of her Lakas-Kampi-CMD party as her successor. The Lakas-Kampi-CMD led a coalition with two small parties: the KABACA and the SARRO. The coalition pledged to work towards a "dynamic and progressive Philippines" by alleviating poverty and providing better infrastructure.

The Lakas-Kampi-CMD coalition was challenged by the NP-NPC coalition. The NP leader, former Senate President Manny Villar, was also running for the presidency. Mr. Villar, a property tycoon, focused on his rags-to-riches story, but his image was reportedly tarnished by corruption allegations. Former actor and president, Joseph Estrada, was also running. He had been jailed in 2001 for corruption but was pardoned by President Arroyo later the same year. He reportedly remained popular thanks to his heroic gangster movies.

Senator Benigno Aquino III - Mr. Teodoro's cousin and son of charismatic former President Corazon Aquino, who passed away in August 2009 - ran for the presidency on a Liberal Party (LP) ticket. The LP of former Speaker and Quezon City Mayor, Mr. Feliciano Belmonte Jr., was in coalition with the KKK (Kapayapaan, Katarungan, Kaunlaran). The LP coalition promised to lead a transparent administration. Mr. Aquino vowed to open an investigation into past allegations of corruption against President Arroyo. His running mate, Senator Manuel Roxas II, publicly criticized President Arroyo's bid for a House seat, arguing that she was seeking protection from prosecution.

Mr. Aquino accused the government of supporting the candidature of Mr. Villar, reportedly a close ally of President Arroyo, so he would keep quiet on issues confronting the current administration such as corruption scandals. As the only post-war parliamentarian to have presided over both Houses of Congress, Mr. Villar criticized Mr. Aquino for not having passed a single law after serving three terms in the House and one term in the Senate.

Many members of the Lakas-Kampi-CMD party reportedly supported either Mr. Aquino or Mr. Villar. In early April, Albay Governor Joey Salceda - one of President Arroyo's top economic advisers - announced that he would support Mr. Aquino.

73.42 per cent of the 50 million registered voters turned out for the polls.

As in the past, the election process was marred by violence, resulting in over 90 deaths. They included the 57 victims of a mass killing in November 2009 in Mindanao. Over 30 more people were killed during the election campaign and at least 12 others died on polling day as a result of political violence. Four municipalities in Mindanao declared that polling could not take place after poll workers reported harassment and death threats. The election commission accepted the declaration and announced that it would organize special elections there.

Several polling stations reported technical problems with new automated voting machines that were being used for the first time.

No major international organizations sent observer missions. The People's International Observers' Mission 2010 (PIOM) comprising 86 foreign observers from 11 countries - Argentina, Australia, Canada, China, France, Germany, Denmark, Japan, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States - monitored the polls. They noted several irregularities and criticized the lack of secrecy in certain precincts.

The final results for the House of Representatives gave 119 seats to the LP, 45 to the Lakas-Kampi-CMD coalition, and 22 to the NP-NPC coalition. The remainder went to small parties. In the Senate, the LP and the NP-NPC coalition won three seats each. The Lakas-Kampi-CMD and the Pwersa ng Masang Pilipino (Force of the Filipino Masses) of outgoing Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile took two seats each while the People's Reform Party (PRP) took one seat. The remaining seat went to an independent candidate. Both President Arroyo and Ms. Marcos were elected to the House of

Representatives.

In the presidential elections, Mr. Aquino was elected with over 40 per cent of the votes.

Supporters of Mr. Aquino formed the Conscience and Reform (CORE) coalition in the House of Representatives in a bid to prevent Ms. Arroyo from obtaining the speakership.

The newly-elected House of Representatives and the Senate were convened on 26 July. The House elected Mr. Feliciano R. Belmonte, Jr. (LP) as its new Speaker. The Senate re-elected Mr. Juan Ponce Enrile of the Force of the Filipino Masses (Pwersa ng Masang Pilipino, PMP) as its President.

Note: The number of party nominees has been increased to 52.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	50,723,733	
Voters	37,243,529	73.42 %
Valid votes	33,858,638	

▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

	Seats
Liberal Party (LP)	119
Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats - Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (Lakas-Kampi-CMD)	45
Nationalist Party (NP)	22
Pwersa ng Masang Pilipino (Force of the Filipino Masses, PMP)	5
Partido Demokratiko Pilipino-Laban (Philippine Democratic Party-People's Power, PDP-Laban)	2
Kilusang Bagong Lipunan (New Society Movement, KBL)	1
Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP)	1
Lapiang Manggagawa (Philippine Labour and Peasant Party)	1
Independents	1
Other	31
Total	228

▶ **Distribution of seats according to sex**

Men	218	
Women	62	22.14 %
Total	280	

PHILIPPINES

Senate

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Kongreso / Congress
Structure of Parliament	Bicameral
Chamber	Senado / Senate
Number of members	24 directly elected
Term of House	6 years; one-half of the membership is renewed every 3 years
Date of elections	10 May 2010

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for one-half of the Senate seats on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

One national constituency; all Senators being elected at-large from the country as a whole.

▶ **Voting system: Majority**

Block vote.

At each election, 12 candidates who obtained the highest number of votes are declared elected.

No Senator may serve for more than two consecutive (six-year) terms.

Vacancies arising between general elections are filled through by-elections.

Voting is compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years

- Philippine citizenship

- residence in the country for at least one year and in home constituency for at least six months immediately preceding election day

Disqualification: insanity, adjudged incompetence, conviction for crime involving disloyalty to government or against national security

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified electors

- age: 35 years
 - Philippine citizenship by birth
 - literacy
 - residence in the country for at least two years immediately preceding the poll
- Ineligibility: bribery of voters or election officials, terrorist action, exceeding campaign expenses ceiling, prohibited financial dealings

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- any other office or employment in the Government, or any subdivision, agency, or instrumentality thereof, including government-owned or controlled corporations or their subsidiaries
- appointment to office created during Senator's term

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- candidatures by parties or independents, must be submitted to Commission on Elections at least 90 days before polling

Background and Outcome of the Elections

The May 2010 parliamentary elections were held concurrently with the presidential polls. At stake were 280 seats in the House of Representatives (up from 269, see note) and half of the Senate seats (12).

In the previous elections held in May 2007, TEAM Unity (Together Everyone Achieves More) - a coalition formed by supporters of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo - took nearly 170 of the 240 seats in the House of Representatives. The coalition included President Arroyo's Lakas-Kampi-CMD and the Nationalist People's Coalition (NPC). An electoral coalition called the "Genuine Opposition" (GO) took 44 seats. The GO included the Liberal Party (LP) and the Nationalist Party. Most of the 25 party nominees, proposed by indigenous groups, subsequently joined TEAM Unity. Only four pro-presidential candidates were elected to the Senate, where the GO coalition took an overall majority.

Since she was elected in 2004, President Arroyo had been seeking Charter (constitutional) change, known locally as "Cha-Cha". These changes aimed at transforming the country's system of government from the current presidential system to a parliamentary one. Her opponents accused her of eyeing the Speaker's post and trying to return to power as Prime Minister once the constitutional changes were adopted. She had risen from being the country's Vice-President to President in January 2001 after the then

President, Joseph Estrada, was impeached on allegations of corruption.

Ms. Arroyo was constitutionally barred from seeking a second consecutive term in 2010. Instead, she ran for a seat in the House of Representatives. She pledged to continue the push for Charter change. Former first lady Imelda Marcos - whose late husband, Ferdinand Marcos, served as President between 1969 and 1986, having imposed martial law in 1972 - was also vying for a House seat. Ms. Marcos had been elected to the House in 1995.

The media focused on the presidential polls, placing the parliamentary polls on the back burner.

President Arroyo endorsed Mr. Gilberto Teodoro of her Lakas-Kampi-CMD party as her successor. The Lakas-Kampi-CMD led a coalition with two small parties: the KABACA and the SARRO. The coalition pledged to work towards a "dynamic and progressive Philippines" by alleviating poverty and providing better infrastructure.

The Lakas-Kampi-CMD coalition was challenged by the NP-NPC coalition. The NP leader, former Senate President Manny Villar, was also running for the presidency. Mr. Villar, a property tycoon, focused on his rags-to-riches story, but his image was reportedly tarnished by corruption allegations. Former actor and president, Joseph Estrada, was also running. He had been jailed in 2001 for corruption but was pardoned by President Arroyo later the same year. He reportedly remained popular thanks to his heroic gangster movies.

Senator Benigno Aquino III - Mr. Teodoro's cousin and son of charismatic former President Corazon Aquino, who passed away in August 2009 - ran for the presidency on a Liberal Party (LP) ticket. The LP of former Speaker and Quezon City Mayor, Mr. Feliciano Belmonte Jr., was in coalition with the KKK (Kapayapaan, Katarungan, Kaunlaran). The LP coalition promised to lead a transparent administration. Mr. Aquino vowed to open an investigation into past allegations of corruption against President Arroyo. His running mate, Senator Manuel Roxas II, publicly criticized President Arroyo's bid for a House seat, arguing that she was seeking protection from prosecution.

Mr. Aquino accused the government of supporting the candidature of Mr. Villar, reportedly a close ally of President Arroyo, so he would keep quiet on issues confronting the current administration such as corruption scandals. As the only post-war parliamentarian to have presided over both Houses of Congress, Mr. Villar criticized Mr. Aquino for not having passed a single law

after serving three terms in the House and one term in the Senate.

Many members of the Lakas-Kampi-CMD party reportedly supported either Mr. Aquino or Mr. Villar. In early April, Albay Governor Joey Salceda - one of President Arroyo's top economic advisers - announced that he would support Mr. Aquino.

73.42 per cent of the 50 million registered voters turned out for the polls.

As in the past, the election process was marred by violence, resulting in over 90 deaths. They included the 57 victims of a mass killing in November 2009 in Mindanao. Over 30 more people were killed during the election campaign and at least 12 others died on polling day as a result of political violence. Four municipalities in Mindanao declared that polling could not take place after poll workers reported harassment and death threats. The election commission accepted the declaration and announced that it would organize special elections there.

Several polling stations reported technical problems with new automated voting machines that were being used for the first time.

No major international organizations sent observer missions. The People's International Observers' Mission 2010 (PIOM) comprising 86 foreign observers from 11 countries - Argentina, Australia, Canada, China, France, Germany, Denmark, Japan, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States - monitored the polls. They noted several irregularities and criticized the lack of secrecy in certain precincts.

The final results for the House of Representatives gave 119 seats to the LP, 45 to the Lakas-Kampi-CMD coalition, and 22 to the NP-NPC coalition. The remainder went to small parties. In the Senate, the LP and the NP-NPC coalition won three seats each. The Lakas-Kampi-CMD and the Pwersa ng Masang Pilipino (Force of the Filipino Masses) of outgoing Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile took two seats each while the People's Reform Party (PRP) took one seat. The remaining seat went to an independent candidate. Both President Arroyo and Ms. Marcos were elected to the House of Representatives.

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The newly-elected House of Representatives and the Senate were convened on 26 July. The House elected Mr. Feliciano R. Belmonte, Jr. (LP) as its new Speaker. The Senate re-elected Mr. Juan Ponce Enrile of the Force of the Filipino Masses (Pwersa ng Masang Pilipino, PMP) as its President.

Note: The number of party nominees has been increased to 52.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	50,723,733	
Voters	37,243,529	73.42 %

▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

	Seats 2010	Total seats
Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats - Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (Lakas-Kampi-CMD)	2	4
Liberal Party (LP)	3	4
Nationalist Party (NP)	2	4
Nationalist People's Coalition (NPC)	1	2
Pwersa ng Masang Pilipino (Force of the Filipino Masses, PMP)	2	2
Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP)	0	1
People's Reform Party (PRP)	1	1
Independents	1	5
Total	12	23

Note:

Following the election of Senator Aquino of the Liberal Party (LP) as the country's President in May 2010, there is currently one vacant seat in the Senate. It will be filled at the next general elections due in 2013.

▶ **Distribution of seats according to sex**

	Seats 2010		Total	
Men	10		20	
Women	2	16.67%	3	13.04%
Total	12		23	

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Parliament

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Parlament / Parliament
Structure of Parliament	Unicameral
Number of members	101 directly elected
Term of House	4 years
Date of elections	28 November 2010

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all the seats in Parliament following the premature dissolution of this body on 29 September 2010. Elections had previously taken place on in July 2009.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

1 nationwide constituency.

▶ **Voting system: Proportional**

Seats are distributed first to the parties which have surpassed the thresholds (see below) and according to their share of votes. The remaining seats are distributed sequentially, by each party (or other socio-political organization, each electoral bloc), starting with the electoral candidate who has obtained the largest number of votes in descending order.

The following proportions of valid votes cast nationwide constitute the threshold for representation:

- For an independent candidate - 2%
- For a party or socio-political organization - 4%
- For electoral blocs comprising 2 parties - 7%
- For electoral blocs comprising 3 or more parties - 9%

Elections are validated if the turnout is over 33 per cent.

Vacancies which occur in between general elections are filled by the next-in-line candidates.

Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years
- Moldovan citizenship

Persons in detention (including convicts) may vote. Students are also allowed vote without a residence permit or visa in the area where they study.

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified voters
- age: 18 years
- Moldovan citizenship

Persons with dual (or multiple) citizenship may run for parliamentary elections without restriction.

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- President of the Republic
- members of the government (parliamentarians appointed to the government may hold a government post for a maximum of six months but must relinquish one of the posts thereafter)
- Ombudsman
- any paid position, including those offered by a foreign State or international organization

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- candidates nominated by parties, or as independents
- independent candidates must be supported by between 2,000, and 2,500 voters.

Background and Outcome of the Elections

In November 2010, Moldovans went to the polls for the third time since April 2009. At stake were 101 seats in the unicameral parliament, which elects the country's President.

In the April 2009 elections, the Party of Moldovan Communists (PCRM) of the then President Vladimir Voronin won 60 seats in the 101-member parliament. In June, its presidential candidate and then Prime Minister Zinaida Greceanii failed three times to secure the three-fifths majority (61 votes) in parliament that is required to be elected as the country's president. As a consequence, in accordance with the Constitution, parliament was dissolved on 15 June in view of early elections to be held in July 2009. In the meantime, on 10 June, former Speaker, Mr. Marian Lupu, resigned from the PCRM and joined the Democratic Party of Moldova (PDM).

In the July 2009 elections, the PCRM came in first with 48 seats. The four other

parties which won the remaining 53 seats announced that they would form a coalition government called the Alliance for European Integration (AEI). They were: the Liberal Democratic Party of Moldova (PLDM, 18 seats), the Liberal Party (PL, 15 seats), the PDM (13 seats) and the "Our Moldova" Alliance (AMN, seven seats). In August, Mr. Mihai Ghimpu (PL) was elected as the new Speaker. In September, the Constitutional Court confirmed him as Acting President, and he in turn appointed Mr. Vlad Filat (PLDM) as Prime Minister.

The presidential election in parliament set for 23 October 2009 was postponed since there was only one candidate, Mr. Lupu (PDM). His candidature was endorsed by the coalition government. On 30 October 2009, parliament passed constitutional amendments to allow presidential elections to take place even in cases where there is only one candidate. The article requiring the dissolution of parliament after two unsuccessful presidential elections was also modified. Henceforth, Parliament can not be dissolved within 365 days of the previous dissolution (15 June 2009).

After an unsuccessful presidential election in November 2009, Acting President and Speaker Mihai Ghimpu established a commission on 1 December 2009 to draft a bill amending the Constitution, which would stipulate that the President could be elected with 52 votes (50% plus one) instead of the current 61 (three-fifths). Members of the AEI opposed the bill and proposed a constitutional referendum that would provide for direct presidential elections. Consequently, the Constitution was not amended. In the second round of presidential elections on 7 December, parliament once again failed to elect Mr. Lupu.

On 6 July 2010, the Constitutional Court approved the holding of a constitutional referendum to review Article 78 of the Constitution in order to allow direct presidential elections (see note 1). The following day, parliament adopted a resolution to hold the referendum on 5 September. Former President and PCRM leader Vladimir Voronin called for a boycott of the referendum.

On 5 September, although 87.8 per cent of voters supported the constitutional amendments, turnout at the referendum did not reach the required 33 per cent (1/3 of the registered voters) to validate it: only 29.05 per cent of the 2.6 million registered voters turned out.

Acting President and Speaker Ghimpu subsequently asked the Constitutional

Court to confirm the procedure for dissolving parliament. On 21 September, the Constitutional Court ruled that failure to elect a president in two subsequent elections provided sufficient grounds for the dissolution of parliament, and thus parliament must be dissolved and a date for early parliamentary elections set. On 29 September, Mr. Ghimpu dissolved the parliament, calling fresh parliamentary elections for 28 November. All parliamentary parties, including the PCRM, welcomed the early elections while the ANM argued that the elections should be held much later.

The unsuccessful 2010 referendum revived differences within the AEI coalition. On 15 September, Mr. Lupu signed a political partnership in Moscow between his PDM and the United Russia, the party of Russian President Dmitry Medvedev and Prime Minister Vladimir Putin. Mr. Lupu reportedly did so without informing his partners in the AEI.

On 23 September, prosecutors asked parliament to lift former President Voronin's immunity. They held that while he was in office, his negligence had led to the death of a protester and police brutality during the street protests against his government following the April 2009 elections. On 11 October, the parliament rejected the request for lack of evidence. Mr. Voronin consequently led the PCRM in the 2010 elections.

The new electoral code passed by parliament on 19 June 2010 allows multi-party electoral blocs to participate in the polls. However, they need to surpass a higher threshold to win parliamentary representation: 7 per cent for electoral blocs comprising two parties, and 9 per cent for those with three or more parties. In comparison, a political party needs 4 per cent (down from 5%) and independent candidates need 2 per cent (down from 3%). The new seat distribution method replaces the previous d'Hondt system, which generally favours large parties (see note 2). Persons in detention (including convicts) are allowed to vote. Students can also vote without a residence permit or visa in the area where they study. The PCRM criticized the new electoral code.

In all, 20 parties and 19 independent candidates contested the 2010 elections. No electoral blocs ran. The major contenders included Mr. Voronin's PCRM and the three parties in the AEI: Prime Minister Filat's PLDM, former Speaker Lupu's PDM and Acting President Ghimpu's LP. The remaining party in the outgoing coalition, Mr. Serafim Urechean's AMN, was reportedly losing ground.

The PCRM promised free education at State universities by 2015. It accused the AEI coalition of massive fraud in 2010, an accusation denied by the AEI.

Speaker and Acting President Ghimpu urged voters to support the parties in the AEI coalition in order to allow the country to elect a new President. The AMN wooed voters by promising a democratic coalition government after the 2010 polls.

PDM leader Lupu publicly criticized Prime Minister Filat, arguing that the latter had focused on personal success rather than good governance. Mr. Lupu pledged to implement more "leftist" economic policies so as to resolve social problems.

Prime Minister Filat (PLDM) dismissed the allegation and accused Mr. Lupu - a former PCRM member - of being unable to break up with the PCRM. The PLDM launched a campaign, "Commitment to Youth", promising to improve the life of the youth through more jobs, quality education and easier movement within the European Union. The PLDM's youth wing launched a campaign called "The truth about poverty". It included a film entitled "8 years of lies", which criticized the previous PCRM Government. Prime Minister Filat rejected any future cooperation with the PCRM after the 2010 elections.

In all, 63.37 per cent of the 2.7 million registered voters turned out at the polls.

The PCRM pointed out instances of multiple voting, intimidation and voter bribery. Observers from the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) said the election had met most OSCE and Council of Europe commitments.

According to the final results, neither the PCRM nor the AEI coalition won the required two-thirds majority to elect the new President (61 of the 101 seats). The PCRM remained the largest party but its share of seats shrank from 48 to 42. In contrast, the PLDM more than doubled its share, from 14 to 32. The PDM followed with 15 seats, up from 12; and the LP took the remaining 12 seats, down from 15. The AMN failed to win seats. In all, 19 women were elected.

On 30 December, the newly elected parliament held its first session and elected Mr. Marian Lupu (PDM) as its new Speaker and appointed him as Acting President.

Note 1:

Under the proposed amendments, presidential candidates need to secure 50 per cent of votes to be elected in the first round. In run-off elections, the candidates with the highest number of votes are declared elected. Presidential candidates have to be over 40 years old and resident in the Republic of Moldova for at least 10 years preceding the election.

Note 2:

The country introduced the d'Hondt method in 1994 under which the votes of parties that fail to surpass the threshold are distributed proportionately based on each party's tally (i.e., the party with higher number of votes in the rest of the tally received a higher portion of the votes, and consequently more seats). The parties in the AEI coalition - in particular the LP and the AMN - argued that the d'Hondt method ran counter to Article 38 (1) of the Constitution, which stipulates that every vote is equal. The coalition subsequently reviewed the method of seat distribution in the electoral code. Article 87 (5) of the new Electoral Code (Law No. 119, June 18, 2010) provides that "MPs' mandates remaining undistributed shall be distributed sequentially, each by one party, other socio-political organization, each electoral bloc, starting with the electoral candidate who obtained the largest number of votes in descending order."

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	2,734,700	
Voters	1,733,051	63.37 %
Blank or invalid ballot papers	12,058	
Valid votes	1,720,993	

▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

	Votes	% votes	Seats	Gain/Loss
Party of Moldovan Communists (PCRM)	676,761	39.32	42	-6
Liberal Democratic Party of Moldova (PLDM)	506,365	29.42	32	14
Democratic Party of Moldova (PDM)	218,847	12.72	15	2
Liberal Party (PL)	171,434	9.96	12	-3
Total			101	

► **Distribution of seats according to sex**

Men	82	
Women	19	18.81 %
Total	101	

► **Distribution of seats according to profession**

	Seats
Legal profession	20
Research/sciences	15
Economist	12
Architect, surveyor, engineer	10
Education profession	10
Civil service and local authority administration	10
Entrepreneur	5
Civil society activity	4
Physician, dentist	4
Journalism, broadcasting, media	3
Finance, management or business	2
Agriculture/farming	2
Writer, literary, artist	2
Nursing	1
IT/technology	1
Total	101

► **Distribution of seats according to age**

21 to 30 years	1
31 to 40 years	24
41 to 50 years	37
51 to 60 years	30
61 to 70 years	9
Total	101

SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS

National Assembly

Parliament name (generic / translated)	National Assembly
Structure of Parliament	Unicameral
Number of members	15 members - 11 directly elected - 3 appointed by the Governor General on the advice of the Prime Minister and the leader of the Opposition. - 1 ex officio (the Attorney General when he is not an elected member). The Speaker may or may not be an elected member of the National Assembly.
Term of House	5 years
Date of elections	25 January 2010

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all elective seats in the National Assembly on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

11 single-member constituencies.

▶ **Voting system: Majority**

Simple majority vote.

Vacancies arising between general elections are filled through by-elections or appointment, according to the case.

Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years

- St. Kitts and Nevis citizenship (or British Commonwealth, if born in the country before independence).

- residence in the country for at least one year

Disqualification: insanity, allegiance to a foreign State.

▶ Eligibility

- qualified electors
- age: 21 years
- St. Kitts and Nevis citizenship (or that of one parent) by birth
- residence in the country on the date of nomination for election or appointment

Ineligibility: undischarged bankrupts, persons under sentence of death or imprisonment exceeding 12 months, ministers of religion.

▶ Candidacy requirements

- support of at least two electors from the constituency concerned
- deposit of a sum equivalent to US\$ 55, which is reimbursed on obtaining at least 1/8 of votes cast in the constituency.

Background and Outcome of the Elections

On 15 December 2009, Prime Minister Denzil L. Douglas asked Governor-General Sir Cuthbert Sebastian to dissolve the National Assembly with immediate effect in view of general elections. On 7 January 2010, the Governor-General issued a writ, calling elections for 25 January 2010 (see note). The twin-island federation of 40,000 inhabitants elects 11 members to the National Assembly: eight from Saint Kitts and three from Nevis.

In the previous elections held in October 2004, Prime Minister Douglas' Labour Party (SKNLP) took seven of the eight seats at stake in Saint Kitts. The main opposition force, the People's Action Movement (PAM), took the remaining seat. In Nevis, the Concerned Citizens' Movement (CCM) and the Nevis Reformation Party (NRP) won two seats and one seat respectively. Mr. Mark Brantley (CCM) became the Leader of the Opposition.

A total of 23 candidates were vying for seats in the 2010 elections. Both the SKNLP and the PAM fielded candidates in all eight constituencies in Saint Kitts, where one independent candidate was also running. The CCM and the NRP fielded three candidates each in Nevis.

Prime Minister Douglas' SKNLP campaigned under the slogan "Progress, Not Promises". Mr. Douglas has been in power since 1995 and was seeking an unprecedented fourth term in office. Former Speaker, Ms. Marcella Liburd, was the sole woman candidate for the SKNLP. Prime Minister Douglas ran on the government's record, arguing that his SKNLP had helped people emerge from poverty and landlessness. He added that the country, which had been hit by the global economic crisis, needed "mature, highly experienced

hands" to lead it.

PAM leader Lindsay Grant argued that while the global economic crisis posed serious challenges, it also offered many opportunities. He pledged to provide the positive change the country needed once voted into office. Sir Kennedy Simmonds - who had led the country to independence in September 1983 - came out of retirement and joined the election campaign in support of the PAM. He criticized the Prime Minister for having run up more than US\$ 1.1 billion in debt. Mr. Simmonds insisted that only the PAM could save the country from that "chaotic situation".

In all, 83.51% of the 32,000 registered voters turned out at the polls.

The Organization of American States (OAS), the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the Commonwealth expert team monitored the polls. CARICOM declared that the voting had been conducted in a "peaceful and incident-free manner".

The final results gave six seats to the SKNLP, one fewer than in the 2004 elections. Former Speaker, Ms. Liburd, was elected. The PAM increased its share to two seats although its leader, Mr. Grant, lost his seat. The CCM and the NRP retained the same number of seats as before: two and one each.

On 10 March, the National Assembly held its first session and re-elected Mr. Curtis Martin (SKNLP) as its Speaker.

In the meantime, on 27 January, Prime Minister Douglas was sworn in for a fourth term.

Note:

The term of the National Assembly is five years from the first session, not from the election date. The new elections are constitutionally due within three months after the end of the legislature. Although the previous elections were held in October 2004, since the outgoing legislature held its first session in December 2004, the elections were due by March 2010.

Election results and statistics**▶ Voter turnout**

Number of registered electors	32,766	
Voters	27,364	83.51 %
Blank or invalid ballot papers	118	
Valid votes	27,246	

▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

	Candidates	Votes	Seats
Labour Party (SKNLP)	8	12,227	6
Concerned Citizens' Movement (CCM)	3	2,860	2
People's Action Movement (PAM)	8	8,393	2
Nevis Reformation Party (NRP)	3	2,539	1
Total			11

▶ Distribution of seats according to sex

Men	10	
Women	1	9.09 %
Total	11	

SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

House of Assembly

Parliament name (generic / translated)	House of Assembly
Structure of Parliament	Unicameral
Number of members	23 members - 15 directly elected - 6 appointed by the Governor General - 2 ex officios (the Speaker and the Attorney General)
Term of House	5 years
Date of elections	13 December 2010

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all directly-elected members of the House of Assembly on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

15 single-member constituencies.

▶ **Voting system: Majority**

Single member plurality systems ("first past the post").

Vacancies arising between general elections are filled through by-elections or appointment within 90 days.

Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years

- British Commonwealth citizenship

- ordinary domicile or residence in the country during the preceding 12 months

Disqualification: insanity, undischarged bankruptcy, death sentence or imprisonment exceeding 12 months, allegiance to a foreign State

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified electors

- age: 21 years

- British Commonwealth citizenship

- ability to speak and read the English language

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- judges of the Supreme Court
- public servants
- persons having an interest in a government contract
- members of the armed or police forces
- ministers of religion (may at the same time be Senators but not Representatives)

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- support of six electors of the constituency
- deposit of EC\$500, reimbursed if candidate obtains at least 1/8 of the votes cast

Background and Outcome of the Elections

On 14 November 2010, Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves announced that the House of Assembly would be dissolved on 15 November in view of general elections to be held on 13 December.

In the previous elections held in December 2005, Prime Minister Gonsalves' Unity Labour Party (ULP) won its second consecutive term. It took 12 of the 15 seats, winning 55.26 per cent of the votes. The New Democratic Party (NDP), which had been voted out of office in 2001 after 17 years in power, won only three seats although it took 44.68 per cent of the votes.

The country of 110,000 inhabitants was severely affected by the global economic crisis in 2008. In an apparent bid to supplement a reduced budget, Prime Minister Gonsalves forged closer ties with Iran, which sent US\$ 7 million in aid for several local development projects. In 2009, St. Vincent and the Grenadines joined the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America (ALBA, see note), launched in 2004 by Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez and the then Cuban President Fidel Castro.

In September 2009, the House of Assembly adopted a constitutional referendum bill, paving the way for a referendum to be held on 25 November. The proposed constitution provided for a President as the Head of State instead of the Governor-General, as stipulated in the current 1979 Constitution. The President would be elected by the National Assembly, as the parliament would be known. Prime Minister Gonsalves' ULP claimed that the new constitution would bring true independence to the country. The

opposition NDP, led by former Prime Minister Arnhim Eustace, urged voters to reject it, arguing that it did not reduce the prime minister's powers. On 25 November, 43 per cent of voters supported the proposed constitution, well short of the two-thirds majority required for approval. The NDP demanded early general elections, a call rejected by the Prime Minister.

In 2010, 44 candidates were vying for the 15 directly elected seats in the House of Assembly: 15 each from the ULP and the NDP and 14 from the Green Party, which had failed to win parliamentary representation in 2005. The media focused on the duel between the ULP and the NDP, pushing the Green Party's election campaign to the back burner.

The ULP was seeking a third consecutive victory. It presented 10 policies aiming at poverty reduction, job creation, economic growth and development. It focused on information and communications technology (ICT) training and the implementation of the "one laptop per student" project as part of extending its "education revolution" policy. Prime Minister Gonsalves called on voters' support for the ULP, arguing that he needed another five-year term "to complete certain unfinished tasks" and to lead the country to "the next level" in the interest of all citizens. He pledged to provide better housing, health and well-being, ICT and airport development.

The NDP criticized the government's economic and social policies, arguing that the poor were becoming poorer and many citizens were in need of better health services. The NDP launched a "Social, Spiritual and Redemption Charter", a job-creation policy that aims to employ at least one member of each of the country's 33,000 households. NDP leader Eustace, an economist, pledged to implement "knowledge-based" economic policies. He accused the Prime Minister of having an "autocratic" style of leadership. Many NDP candidates pledged to relax the country's ties with Venezuela and Cuba.

The 2010 electoral roll comprised 101,000 registered voters, up from 91,000 recorded in 2005. NDP leader Eustace alleged that the list contained the names of 20,000 deceased persons, which was denied by the election supervisor.

In all, 62.33 per cent of the 101,000 registered voters turned out at the polls.

The Organization of American States (OAS) and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) monitored the elections. The OAS concluded that the elections had complied with international standards for inclusiveness and

transparency. CARICOM stated that the preparations for the elections had been adequate and the conditions existed for the free expression of the will of the voters.

Prime Minister Gonsalves was returned to office with a reduced majority, taking eight of the 15 seats at stake. The NDP took the remainder while the Green Party failed again to win parliamentary representation.

On 15 December, Mr. Gonsalves was sworn in for a third consecutive term as Prime Minister along with his deputy, Ms. Girlyn Miguel, the sole woman elected to the House of Assembly in 2010. Prime Minister Gonsalves nominated four members, all male, to the House of Assembly while the NDP nominated two members, both female. They were subsequently appointed by the Governor General.

On 30 December, the newly elected House of Assembly held its first session and re-elected Mr. Hendrick Alexander as its Speaker.

Note:

ALBA was launched as an alternative to the Free Trade Area of Americas, proposed by the United States. By 2010, Antigua and Barbuda, Bolivia, Cuba, Dominica, Ecuador, Nicaragua and Venezuela had acceded to ALBA.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	101,067	
Voters	62,993	62.33 %
Blank or invalid ballot papers	188	
Valid votes	62,805	

▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

	Votes	% votes	Seats
United Labour Party (ULP)	32,099	51.11	8
New Democratic Party (NDP)	30,568	48.67	7
Total			15

► **Distribution of seats according to sex**

	Elected	Appointed	Ex officios	Total	
Men	14	4	1	19	
Women	1	2	1	4	17.39 %
Total	15	6	2	23	

SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE

National Assembly

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Assembleia Nacional / National Assembly
Structure of Parliament	Unicameral
Number of members	55 directly elected
Term of House	4 years
Date of elections	1 August 2010

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all seats in the National Assembly on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

7 multi-member constituencies.

▶ **Voting system: Proportional**

Proportional representation system with closed party lists.

Vacancies arising between general elections are filled by the "next-in-line" candidates of the same party list.

Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years

- Sao Tome citizenship

Disqualification: mental deficiency, allegiance to foreign State, criminal conviction

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified electors

- age: 18 years

- Sao Tome citizenship

Ineligibility: convicted persons with a suspended sentence, those sentenced to imprisonment and still serving, those legally deprived of their political rights

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- members of the National Electoral Commission

- members of the Government and their office directors
- ambassadors, directors general

► **Candidacy requirements**

- nomination by a party and inclusion on its list or by group of 250 qualified electors

Background and Outcome of the Elections

In February 2010, Prime Minister Rafael Branco announced that parliamentary elections, constitutionally due by April 2010, would be postponed indefinitely due to a lack of funds. The Government had reportedly been unable to set a date for elections due to a standoff between the President and Parliament. On 17 March, President Fradique de Menezes issued a decree stating that the President was the sole person to set election dates and setting parliamentary elections for 1 August.

In the previous elections held in March and April 2006, the Force for Change Democratic Movement/Liberal Party - Democratic Convergence Party (MDFM/PL-PCD), effectively led by President de Menezes, took 23 of the 55 seats in the National Assembly. The Sao Tome and Principe Liberation Movement-Social Democratic Party (MLSTP-PSD) and the Independent Democratic Alliance (ADI), both of which had been in the coalition government with the MDFM/PL-PCD, took 19 and 12 seats respectively. The remaining seat went to a small party. After the 2006 elections, President de Menezes appointed his ally, Mr. Tomé Vera Cruz (MDFM/PL), as the new Prime Minister, thus ending the period of cohabitation. Mr. Francisco da Silva (PCD) was elected as the new Speaker of the National Assembly. Mr. de Menezes (MDFM/PL) was re-elected in the presidential elections held in July 2006, defeating ADI leader Patrice Trovoada, son of former President Miguel Trovoada.

Since the 1990 Constitution created a multi-party democracy, no government has lasted for the entire legislature. In February 2008, a power-sharing administration between the MDFM/PL, the PCD and the ADI was formed under the premiership of ADI leader Trovoada. However, in May 2008, this government collapsed as a result of a no-confidence vote in parliament brought by the MLSTP-PSD and the PCD. In May 2008, President de Menezes appointed Mr. Rafael Branco (MLSTP-PSD) as the new Prime Minister, the 14th since 1990. President Menezes' MDFM/PL and the PCD joined the new government.

In December 2009, Mr. Menezes, who had been the MDFM/PL's honorary president until then, was elected MDFM/PL leader. The PCD argued that his election was 'unconstitutional' since the Constitution prohibits the President from holding any other official post. The MLSTP-PSD and the PCD asked the Supreme Court to rule on the legality of President de Menezes' election as MDFM/PL leader. The MDFM/PL subsequently withdrew from the MLSTP-PSD-led government. In April 2010, Speaker da Silva (PCD) passed away and was succeeded by Mr. Arzemiro de Jesus Ribeiro dos Prazeres of the Democratic Convergence Party (PCD) the following month.

The MDFM/PL was reportedly losing ground, making the 2010 elections a race between Prime Minister Branco's MLSTP-PSD and the opposition ADI of former Prime Minister Trovoada.

The ADI's election campaign focused on "change". It pledged to restore the State's authority and fight corruption. It ruled out any possibility of forming a government with the parties in the outgoing government, i.e. the MLSTP-PSD and the PCD.

The MLSTP-PSD urged voters to give them an absolute majority in the new legislature so as to bring an end to political instability in the country. Prime Minister Branco promised that he would open his new government to civil society. The PCD, led by Mr. Albertino Bragança, promised "dynamic governance" and economic growth.

On 1 August, 88.45 per cent of some 79,000 registered voters turned out at the polls. Voting took place in relative peace although it was disrupted in two polling stations. In Belem, citizens staged an election boycott over the lack of drinking water in their community. In a separate incident, a ballot box was stolen from a polling station in Montalvaio. ADI leader Trovoada denounced vote-buying and intimidation tactics against ADI supporters. On 8 August, the election commission repeated elections in those polling stations.

The final results gave 26 seats to the opposition ADI, a sharp increase from the 12 seats it had obtained in 2006. Prime Minister Branco's MLSTP-PSD came in second with 21 seats and the PCD took seven. The MDFM/PL won only one seat. In all, ten women were elected.

On 14 August, the Supreme Court validated the election results. President de Menezes appointed Mr. Trovoada of the ADI as the new Prime Minister. His

government, comprising the ADI and the MDFM/PL, was sworn in on 23 August.

On 11 September, the National Assembly held its first session and elected former Prime Minister Evaristo do Espírito Santo Carvalho (ADI) as its new Speaker.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	79,296	
Voters	70,136	88.45 %
Blank or invalid ballot papers	1,531	
Valid votes	68,605	

▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

	Votes	% votes	Seats
Independent Democratic Alliance (ADI)	29,588	43.13	26
Sao Tome and Principe Liberation Movement - Social Democratic Party (MLSTP-PSD)	22,510	32.81	21
Democratic Convergence Party (PCD)	9,540	13.91	7
Force for Change Democratic Movement/Liberal Party (MDFM/PL)	4,986	7.27	1
Total			55

▶ Distribution of seats according to sex

Men	45	
Women	10	18.18 %
Total	55	

SLOVAKIA

National Council

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Narodna rada Slovenskej republiky / National Council
Structure of Parliament	Unicameral
Number of members	150 directly elected
Term of House	4 years
Date of elections	12 June 2010

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all the seats in the National Council on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

One nationwide constituency.

▶ **Voting system: Proportional**

Closed party-list system using Hagenbach-Bischoff method and greatest remainders calculation for leftover seats.

Each elector can cast four preferential votes for candidates with respect to the same list.

Each party (even listed in a coalition) needs to obtain 5% of the national vote to gain parliamentary representation.

Vacancies arising between general elections are filled by substitutes chosen at the same time as titular members.

Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years

- Slovak citizenship (including naturalized citizens)

- citizens overseas can vote under certain conditions.

Disqualification: imprisonment, legal incapacity, limitation on personal freedom for health purposes

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified electors

- age: 21 years

- Slovak citizenship (including naturalized citizens)

- permanent residence in country

Ineligibility: imprisonment, legal incapacity and limitation on personal freedom for health purposes.

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- President of the Republic
- judges
- public prosecutor
- police and career military officers
- prison or judicial guards
- ombudsman
- members of the European Parliament

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- candidature must be submitted at least 90 days prior to elections
- candidature must be submitted by political parties, each of which must have a minimum of 10,000 members unless it had representatives in the outgoing legislature
- deposit for political parties: 500,000 Slovak crowns, reimbursed if the party has obtained at least 2% of the valid vote

Background and Outcome of the Elections

The June 2010 elections were the first to be held after the country's adoption of the euro in January 2009. They followed elections in Hungary (April) and the Czech Republic (May) in which centre-right parties regained power after pledging to reduce their country's debt amid the Greek and euro crises. In May, the Slovak Government agreed to make some 800 million euros available for the European Union's bailout package for Greece.

The previous elections (June 2006) followed the collapse of the centre-right coalition government led by Mr. Mikulas Dzurinda of the Slovak Democratic and Christian Union - Democratic Party (SDKU - DS). Three parties in that government - the SDKU - DS, the Party of the Hungarian Coalition (SMK) and the Christian Democratic Movement (KDH) - took 31, 20 and 14 seats respectively, or a total of 65 seats in the 150-member National Council. The leftist Smer (Direction)-Social Democracy (Smer-SD) came in first with 50 seats and subsequently formed a coalition government with the far-right Slovak National Party (SNS, which took 20 seats) and the People's Party - Movement for a Democratic Slovakia (LS-HZDS, 15 seats) under the premiership of Mr. Robert Fico (Smer-SD).

Mr. Fico's administration halted the privatization projects initiated by Mr. Dzurinda and implemented a series of welfare programmes. The country's economy remained strong until the global economic crisis in late 2008. Public debt reached 6.8 per cent of GDP (gross domestic product) in 2009.

In the run-off presidential elections held in April 2009, Mr. Ivan Gasparovic, supported by the Smer-SD and the SNS, was re-elected over Ms. Iveta Radicova (SDKU - DS). In February 2010, SDKU - DS leader Dzurinda announced that he would not contest the 2010 parliamentary elections but remain as SDKU - DS leader. His decision followed a party funding scandal in which Mr. Dzurinda denied any involvement. In March, Ms. Radicova won the top spot on the SDKU - DS' candidate list for the 2010 parliamentary elections, effectively becoming the party's election leader.

Shortly before the 2010 elections, the relationship between Slovakia and Hungary deteriorated. On 26 May, the Hungarian National Assembly passed a law allowing Hungarians living abroad to be granted Hungarian citizenship. Ethnic Hungarians account for about 10 per cent of Slovakia's 5 million inhabitants. Later on the same day, the Slovak National Council passed a law banning dual citizenship and stipulating that Slovak citizens who were granted another country's citizenship would lose their Slovak citizenship as of 17 July 2010.

In 2010, 18 parties and 2,397 candidates, including 545 women, were vying for seats in the National Council.

The parties in the outgoing government - the Smer-SD, the LS-HZDS and the SNS - were challenged by the SDKU - DS and the KDH. The SMK of Mr. Pal Csaky and the Most-Hid (Bridge) joined the parties on the right.

Prime Minister Fico called on voters to support his Smer-SD and its allies so that he could continue to lead a "strong social State". In mid-May, a local newspaper reported a funding scandal involving the Smer-SD which was vehemently denied by the Prime Minister. In the run-up to election day, the Smer-SD used a series of radical slogans in a bid to defeat the SDKU - DS. It argued that the SDKU - DS-KDH-SMK coalition government had sold out Slovakia by bringing ethnic Hungarians into the Slovak government. The slogan ended with the phrase "And they (the SDKU - DS- KDH- SMK coalition government) would do it again".

The Smer-SD's coalition partner, the SNS, focused on patriotism and traditional values. SNS leader Jan Slota is known for anti-Hungarian statements. Before the 2010 elections, he had argued that the Roma minority abused the welfare State. Although the SNS refrained from targeting the Hungarian minority during the election campaign, the party's election slogan was "Don't feed those who don't want to work". The SNS argued that the slogan referred to all those who abuse the welfare system.

The LS-HZDS of Mr. Vladimir Meciar was reportedly weakened after certain prominent members, including Trnava regional governor Tibor Mikus, left the party. The party had drawn support from the elderly in the previous elections thanks to the popularity of Mr. Meciar, who had played a leading role in the country's independence in the 1990s. However, some LS-HZDS supporters reportedly supported the Smer-SD in 2010.

The SDKU - DS, leading the parties on the right, pledged to reduce the budget deficit, improve the business environment to create more jobs, and tackle corruption. It opposed Slovakia's pledge to provide some 800 million euros to Greece.

The KDH and its leader, Mr. Jan Figel, focused on the party's traditional platform, underscoring the importance of Christian and family values.

The SMK pledged to protect the interests of the country's 500,000 ethnic Hungarians in cooperation with the Hungarian Prime Minister, Mr. Viktor Orban. SMK leader Csaky publicly announced that he was interested in applying for Hungarian citizenship under the new law passed in Hungary. The SMK did not rule out an alliance with the Smer-SD in the post-election government.

In June, the Ministry of Culture, citing the Slovak language law of September 2009, ordered the SMK to place a text in Slovak on its election billboards. The law obliges inhabitants of Slovakia to use the Slovak language in official communications on pain of a fine. The SMK did not change the billboards.

The SMK was reportedly losing ground due to an internal split. Former SMK leader, Mr. Bela Burgar, formed the Most-Hid in June 2009. The Most-Hid pledged to become a bridge between Slovaks and ethnic Hungarians in Slovakia.

Another non-parliamentary party, Freedom and Solidarity (SaS), was also

ying for seats. SaS leader Richard Sulík had served as an aide to the finance ministers of both the Dzurinda and the Fico administrations, implementing tax reforms. Mr. Sulík said he would work with either camp to form a parliamentary majority after the elections. SaS candidates included Mr. Daniel Krajcer, a former television presenter. The SaS promised to hold a referendum on reducing the number of MPs and their immunity and abolishing TV license fees. It campaigned on the Internet, using Facebook and Twitter, which reportedly made it popular among young people.

In all, 58.84 per cent of the 4.3 million registered voters turned out at the polls, up from 54.67 per cent in 2006.

The Smer-SD increased its share to 62 seats. However, its ally, the SNS, took only nine seats, and the LS-HZDS failed to win parliamentary representation for the first time since its inception in 1991. The SDKU - DS came in a distant second with 28 seats, followed by the SaS with 22 seats. The KDH and the Most-Hid took 15 and 14 seats respectively. The SMK failed to win parliamentary representation for the first time since its inception in 1998. In all, 23 women were elected.

Both Prime Minister Fico and the SDKU - DS election leader, Ms. Radicova, claimed election victory.

On 13 June, President Gasparovic asked Mr. Fico to form a new government, arguing that the party with the most seats should lead the country. However, Mr. Fico failed to form a coalition government.

On 8 July, after a coalition agreement was reached between the SDKU - DS, the SaS, the KDH and the Most-Hid, President Gasparovic appointed Ms. Radicova (SDKU - DS) as Prime Minister. The latter became the first woman in Slovakia to assume the post.

On the same day, the newly elected National Council held its first session and elected Mr. Richard Sulík (SaS) as its new Speaker.

Ms. Radicova's government won a vote of confidence in the National Council on 10 August.

Election results and statistics**▶ Voter turnout**

Number of registered electors	4,362,369	
Voters	2,566,779	58.84 %
Valid votes	2,529,385	

▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

	Candidates	Votes	% votes	Seats	Gain/ Loss
Smer - Social Democracy (Smer-SD)	150	880,111	34.80	62	12
Slovak Democratic and Christian Union - Democratic Party (SDKU - DS)	150	390,042	15.42	28	-3
Freedom and Solidarity (SaS)	148	307,287	12.15	22	
Christian Democratic Movement (KDH)	150	215,755	8.53	15	1
Most-Híd	150	205,538	8.13	14	
Slovak National Party (SNS)	148	128,490	5.08	9	-11
Total				150	

▶ Distribution of seats according to sex

Men	127	
Women	23	15.33 %
Total	150	

► **Distribution of seats according to profession**

	Seats
Finance, management or business	37
Architect, surveyor, engineer	20
Education profession	20
Legal profession	18
Economist	14
Physician, dentist	14
Civil service and local authority administration	12
Research/sciences	10
Writer, literary, artist	5
Journalism, broadcasting, media	4
Political party official	2
Social worker	2
Others	5
Total	163

Note:

Some members have listed more than one primary occupation.

► **Distribution of seats according to age**

21 to 30 years	5
31 to 40 years	35
41 to 50 years	48
51 to 60 years	51
61 to 70 years	11
Total	150

SOLOMON ISLANDS

National Parliament

Parliament name (generic / translated)	National Parliament
Structure of Parliament	Unicameral
Number of members	50 directly elected
Term of House	4 years
Date of elections	4 August 2010

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all seats in the National Parliament on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

50 single-member constituencies.

▶ **Voting system: Majority**

Single member plurality systems ("first past the post").

Vacancies arising between general elections are filled through by-elections.

Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years

- Solomon Islands citizenship (including naturalized citizens)

- residence in the constituency at the time of election

- citizens overseas cannot vote

Disqualification: insanity, electoral offence, imprisonment for more than 6 months, death sentence, holders of temporary entry permits, undocumented immigrants

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified electors

- age: 21 years

- Solomon Islands citizenship (including naturalized citizens)

- residence in the constituency at the time of election

Ineligibility: allegiance to a foreign State, undischarged bankruptcy, imprisonment for more than six months, death sentence, holders of

temporary entry permits, undocumented immigrants, executives of the Electoral commission, members of the Electoral Commission

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- Head of State
- holders of public posts
- holders of judicial offices (judges)
- civil servants
- Government advisors
- executives of the Electoral Commission
- members of the Electoral Commission
- executive of a public (state) corporation
- staff member of a public (state) corporation
- members of the armed forces
- members of the police forces

The incompatibilities above are valid during the term of office.

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- nomination by at least three qualified electors of the constituency concerned at least 28 days prior to elections
- candidature can be submitted by individuals or by political parties
- non-reimbursable deposit of 2,000 Solomon Island dollars per candidate

Background and Outcome of the Elections

On 15 January 2010, Speaker Peter Kenilorea announced that parliament would be dissolved on 24 April in view of parliamentary elections. In May, he announced that he would be retiring from politics. He had become the Chief Minister of the Solomon Islands in 1976, and led his country to independence from Great Britain two years later, before becoming the first Prime Minister. On 22 June, Governor-General Frank Kabui called elections for 4 August upon the proposal of Prime Minister Derek Sikua.

In the previous elections held in April 2006, no party won more than four seats, triggering political instability until the 2010 elections. Independent candidates - most of whom were reportedly allied with the Association of Independent Members of Parliament (AIM, formed by independent MPs in the outgoing legislature) - took 30 seats. The National Party (NP) and the Solomon Islands Party for Rural Advancement won four seats each, while the Solomon Islands Democratic Party took three. The then Prime Minister Allan Kemakeza's People's Alliance Party (PAP) took three seats. Former Prime

Minister Manasseh Sogavare's Social Credit Party (Socred) and Speaker Kenilorea's Liberal Party (LP) took two seats each. No women were elected in 2006. Only one woman has ever entered parliament in the country's history.

Mr. Snyder Rini's candidature (backed by AIM) for the post of prime minister following the 2006 elections triggered widespread street protests in the capital Honiara, targeted at the Chinatown area. Protesters alleged corruption and insisted that Mr. Rini had been unfairly favouring Chinese businessmen. Protests intensified after Mr. Rini was elected Prime Minister on 18 April, prompting peacekeeping troops from Australia and New Zealand to arrive in the Solomon Islands the following day. On 24 April, Mr. Kenilorea was elected unopposed as Speaker. Two days later, Mr. Rini resigned as Prime Minister in anticipation of a no-confidence vote in parliament and was succeeded by caretaker Prime Minister Fred Fono, a close ally. Parties opposing the premiership of either Mr. Rini or Mr. Kemakeza subsequently formed a Grand Coalition for Change (GCC) government. Their candidate for the premiership, Mr. Manasseh Sogavare (Socred), defeated Mr. Fono in May.

In November 2007, nine ministers, including the then Education Minister Derek Sikua, defected to the opposition amid controversy over the appointment of Mr. Julian Moti - an Australian citizen wanted for child sex charges - to the post of Attorney General. In December, Prime Minister Sogavare lost a no-confidence vote brought by Mr. Sikua. Parliament subsequently elected Mr. Sikua, who was serving his first term as a parliamentarian, as the new Prime Minister. In January 2008, Mr. Sikua's Coalition for National Unity and Rural Advancement government (C-NURA) dismissed Mr. Moti from the post of Attorney General, which led to a normalization of the country's relations with Australia.

In April 2010, parliament rejected the proposal contained in the Constituency Boundaries Commission 2009 report to create 17 additional seats. Later the same month, it also rejected the Constitution Political Parties Amendment Bill and the Political Parties (Registration and Administration) Bill 2009, which would have prevented parliamentarians from crossing the floor. Prime Minister Sikua, who had argued that the bills would stabilize politics, subsequently dismissed five ministers who had opposed them.

On 24 April, parliament was dissolved in view of general elections.

Several parties were formed prior to the 2010 elections. In February 2010, former Prime Minister Sogavare and eight other parliamentarians established the Ownership, Unity and Responsibility party (OUR). In May, the country's first 'women's political party', the Twelve Pillars to Peace and Prosperity (TP4), was launched under the leadership of Ms. Delma Nori. The TP4 pledged to provide an avenue for women and men who believed in a gender-friendly democratic process. In June, Deputy Prime Minister Fred Fono launched the Solomon Islands People's Congress Party, pledging to reform constituency development funding.

In all, 509 candidates, including 25 women, were vying for seats in the 2010 elections.

Outgoing Prime Minister Sikua of the C NURA called on voters' support, urging them to elect leaders who would serve the country's interest ahead of their own.

The Solomon Islands Democratic Party (SIDP), led by Planning Minister Steve Abana, pledged to table a bill that would seek to ensure political stability.

The OUR party, of former Prime Minister Sogavare, pledged to decentralize economic development and reintroduce the bottom-up development strategy that had been previously implemented under his government.

The PAP, led by Mr. James Mekab, promised to improve roads by bringing a dozen well qualified engineers to supervise road developments.

Deputy Prime Minister Fono's Solomon Islands People's Congress Party promised to transform the Solomon Islands into an innovative and prosperous nation. It also promised to foster private-sector expansion so as to create jobs. Mr. Fono said he would consider allotting up to four reserved seats for women in parliament if women did not perform well in the upcoming elections.

Despite heavy rain in some constituencies, turnout was reportedly high among the 600,000 registered voters. Voting took place in relative peace except in Temotu, Central and Malaita provinces where crowds angry at election results damaged shops and buildings. In Malaita, Mr. Jimmy Lusibaea, a former militia leader, won a landslide victory in the northern part of the island.

The Commonwealth observers who monitored the polls praised the peaceful atmosphere in which voting had taken place and concluded that voters had freely exercised their democratic right. They nevertheless expressed concern over the quality of the voter register and recommended that the electoral management body create a new register before the next elections.

As in the 2006 elections, independent members became the largest force in the new legislature, controlling 19 seats. Among the political parties, the SIDP came in first with 13 seats. Former Prime Minister Sogavare's OUR party and the Reform Democratic Party of Solomon Islands (RDPSI) led by Mr. Danny Phillip took three seats each. The TP4 failed to win any parliamentary representation. As in the previous elections, no women were elected in 2010.

The 2010 election resulted in a high turnover, with half of the outgoing members voted out. They included former Prime Minister Kemakeza, outgoing Deputy Prime Minister Fono and Foreign Minister William Haomae. The latter was defeated by Mr. Rick Hou, a former central bank governor credited with preventing the country's economic collapse.

On 25 August, a veteran politician, Mr. Phillip (RDPSI), was elected Prime Minister, beating Mr. Abana (SIDP) by 26 votes to 23.

On 8 September, the National Parliament held its first session and elected former Prime Minister Kemakeza (PAP) as its new Speaker.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	About 600,000
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► **Distribution of seats according to political group**

	Seats
Solomon Islands Democratic Party	13
Ownership, Unity and Responsibility party (OUR)	3
Reform Democratic Party	3
Independent Democratic Party	2
People's Alliance Party (PAP)	2
Solomon Islands Party for Rural Advancement	2
People's Congress Party	1
People's Federation Party	1
Rural and Urban Political Party	1
Rural Development Party	1
Solomon Islands Liberal Party (LP)	1
Solomon Islands National party (NP)	1
Independents	19
Total	50

► **Distribution of seats according to sex**

Men	50	
Women	0	0.00 %
Total	50	

SRI LANKA

Parliament

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Parliament
Structure of Parliament	Unicameral
Number of members	225 directly elected
Term of House	6 years
Date of elections	8 - 20 April 2010

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all the seats in Parliament on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

- 22 multi-member (4 to 20 seats, depending on population) constituencies (for 196 seats)
- one nationwide constituency (29 seats)

▶ **Voting system: Proportional**

Proportional representation system with preferential voting for 196 seats. Each elector selects specific party or independent group and three of its candidates. Parties polling less than one-eighth of vote in each constituency are not entitled for seat allocation.

The remaining 29 "national" seats are distributed to political parties in proportion to their overall share of the votes received in the election.

Vacancies filled by substitutes nominated by same party or group which held seat in question.

Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years
- Sri Lankan citizenship
- residence in constituency where voting is held

Disqualification: insanity, imprisonment of six months or more (in preceding 7 years), death sentence, conviction for corrupt or illegal practice connected with elections, imposition of civic disability.

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified electors
- age: 18 years
- Sri lankan citizenship

Ineligibility: undischarged bankrupt, interest in government contract, acceptance of bribe or gratification offered with view to influencing judgment as MP (In preceding 7 years).

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- holders of public offices
- certain employees of corporations
- membership of police or armed forces
- Judicial officers, Secretary General of Parliament and his staff, members of the Public Service Commission and Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration (Ombudsman)

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- nomination lists submitted from seventh to fifth week prior to polling
- in each district, a party or independent group can nominate up to three more candidates than there are seats to be filled
- groups must also deposit 2,000 rupees per candidate (reimbursable if group polls more than one-eighth of the votes cast in the district)

Background and Outcome of the Elections

The April 2010 elections were the first to be held after the end of the 26-year armed conflict in May 2009 when the army defeated the Tamil Tiger rebels and killed their leader Velupillai Prabhakaran. The rebels, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), had been fighting for a separate state for Tamils in Sri Lanka's north and east. More than 70,000 people were killed and thousands more displaced during the civil war. Tamils make up 12 per cent of the country's 21 million inhabitants, while the majority Sinhalese account for 75 per cent.

In the previous elections held in April 2004, the United People's Freedom Alliance (UPFA, see note), led by the then President Chandrika Kumaratunga the daughter of two former prime ministers won 105 of the 225 seats at stake. The United National Party (UNP), led by the then Prime Minister Ranil Wickramasinghe, took 82 seats. A row between Ms. Kumaratunga and Mr. Wickramasinghe over how to handle peace talks with the LTTE had triggered the early elections in 2004. The Lanka Tamil State Party (ITAK), comprising candidates loyal to the LTTE, came in third with 22 seats. The

remainder went to small parties. Following the elections, Mr. Mahinda Rajapakse (UPFA) was sworn in as new Prime Minister.

In November 2005, Mr. Rajapakse defeated Mr. Wickramasinghe in the presidential polls. The newly elected President expanded the size of the cabinet - comprising nearly 110 ministerial and deputy ministerial posts - in an apparent bid to secure a majority in Parliament.

A ceasefire agreement had been in place since 2002, although there were regular violations. These reached a climax in July 2006 when the LTTE closed the sluice gate of Mavil Aru Anicut, which irrigates paddy fields in the Eastern Province, depriving thousands of farmers of a source of income and livelihood. The Government launched a military campaign against the LTTE and in January 2008, announced its intention to withdraw formally from the truce, accusing the LTTE of repeatedly breaking the agreement. Intense military operations continued until the end of the war in May 2009.

In November, General Sarath Fonseka, who had led the military operation against the LTTE, retired from the military to run in the presidential elections. The relationship between the President and the former general reportedly worsened as Mr. Fonseka was accused of trying to stage a coup against President Rajapakse.

In the early presidential elections held on 25 January 2010, President Rajapakse (UPFA) defeated Mr. Fonseka. The latter, representing the New Democratic Front (NDF) of Ms. Shamila Perera, was also backed by the UNP and the People's Liberation Front (Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna, JVP). After the presidential elections, the JVP tried to form an electoral alliance for the parliamentary polls with the NDF and the UNP. These attempts failed and the JVP subsequently formed the Democratic National Alliance (DNA) on its own under Mr. Fonseka's leadership.

On 8 February, Mr. Fonseka was arrested by the military police to answer two court martial charges of corruption and illegal engagement in politics before he had retired from the military - allegations which he denied. The following day, President Rajapakse dissolved parliament and called early elections for 8 April. The term of the outgoing legislature had been due to end on 21 April. On 9 March, Parliament was reconvened for a special session and extended the state of emergency by another month, until election day. The UNP and the Tamil National Alliance (TNA, considered to be close to the LTTE) voted against the extension of emergency rule, on the basis of the Prevention of

Terrorism Act enacted in 1979.

A total of 7,620 candidates from 36 parties and 301 independent candidates were vying for seats in the 2010 polls. They included two brothers and a son of the President. The UPFA, the UNP and the DNA were the main contenders. Two parties representing descendants of Indian Tamils brought to Sri Lanka by the colonial authorities - the Ceylon Workers Congress and the Upcountry People's Front - ran under the UPFA banner. The UNP formed an electoral coalition, the United National Front (UNF), with the Sri Lanka Muslim Congress (SLMC), which had won five seats in the 2004 polls. This coalition was led by former Prime Minister Wickramasinghe.

Shortly before the elections, President Rajapakse (UPFA) announced that he would drastically trim the list of ministries and hinted that he might amend the Constitution without specifying which articles would be modified. He stated his wish to re-establish the first-past-the-post system to replace the proportional representation system, which had been instituted in 1978. The UPFA promised to provide more jobs and work for rural and agricultural development.

The UNP led UNF opposed any constitutional changes, which in their view could threaten democracy and promote authoritarianism. It argued that President Rajapakse was seeking to remain in power beyond 2017, when his second term ends. It accused the President of trying to establish dynasty politics. The UNF advocated electoral reform, pledging to reduce the legislative term from six to five years. It also promised to raise civil servants' salaries.

The DNA ran on an anti-corruption platform and pledged to work towards national reconciliation. Although Mr. Fonseka was running for a parliamentary seat in the capital Colombo, the Supreme Court had not announced whether the candidate in custody would actually be allowed to take up a parliamentary seat. Both the UNF and the DNA pledged to free Mr. Fonseka if they won a parliamentary majority. The TNA, which also supported Mr. Fonseka's liberation, was reportedly losing ground to other Tamil parties.

The government deployed nearly 80,000 police and soldiers to provide security during the voting.

The turnout at the elections was 61.26% of the 14 million registered voters.

The Department of Elections invalidated the results of two polling stations in Kandy and Trincomalee districts, where elections were repeated on 20 April.

The final results gave 144 seats to the UPFA, six short of a two thirds majority. The UNP led UNF came in a distant second with 60 seats. The TNA and the JVP led DNA took 14 and seven seats respectively.

The newly elected Parliament held its first session on 22 April and elected Mr. Chamal Rajapakse (UPFA), the eldest brother of President Rajapakse as its new Speaker.

Note:

Ms. Kumaratunga and Mr. Rajapakse belong to the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP). The following parties of the UPFA are currently represented in Parliament:

- Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP)
- Mahajana Eksath Front (MEP)
- Lanka Sama Samaja Party (LSSP)
- Communist Party of Sri Lanka (CP)
- National Freedom Front (NFF)
- Ceylon Worker's Congress (CWC)
- Eelam People's Democratic Party (EPDP)
- Jathika Hela Urumaya (JHU)
- National Muslim Congress (NMC)
- All Ceylon Muslim Congress (ACMC)
- Democratic Left Front (DLF)
- Liberal Party (LP)
- Up-Country People's Front (UCPF).

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	14,088,500	
Voters	8,630,689	61.26 %
Blank or invalid ballot papers	596,972	
Valid votes	8,033,717	

▶ **Distribution of seats according to political group**

	Constituency seats	National seats	Total Seats
United People's Freedom Alliance (UPFA)	127	17	144
United National Party (UNP)	51	9	60
Lanka Tamil State Party (ITAK)	13	1	14
Democratic National Alliance (DNA)	5	2	7
Total	196	29	225

▶ **Distribution of seats according to sex**

Men	213	
Women	12	5.33 %
Total	225	

▶ **Distribution of seats according to profession**

	Seats
Agriculture/farming	60
Entrepreneur	36
Legal profession	31
IT/technology	20
Education profession	18
Social workers	15
Journalism, broadcasting, media	10
Nursing	10
Architect, surveyor, engineer	8
Physician, dentist	5
Writer, literary, artist	5
Trade union official	2
Economist	2
Finance, management or business	2
Civil service and local authority administration	1
Total	225

▶ **Distribution of seats according to age**

21 to 30 years	5
31 to 40 years	34
41 to 50 years	67
51 to 60 years	54
61 to 70 years	34
Over 70 years	20
Unknown	11
Total	225

SUDAN

National Assembly

Parliament name (generic / translated)	National Legislature
Structure of Parliament	Bicameral
Chamber	Majlis Watani / National Assembly
Number of members	450 directly elected* *25 per cent, or 112 seats, are reserved for women.
Term of House	5 years
Date of elections	11 April 2010

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all seats in the National Assembly.

Electoral system

► **Constituencies**

There are 25 constituencies corresponding to the country's 25 states.

Majority system: 25 multi-member constituencies comprising between two and 36 seats each;

Proportional representation system:

- For the 112 seats reserved for women, there is one single-member constituency and 24 multi-member constituencies (from two to 15 seats each);
- For the remaining 68 seats, there are six single-member constituencies and 19 multi-member constituencies (from two to nine seats each).

► **Voting system: Mixed**

450 members directly elected, of whom:

- No more than 60 per cent (270 members) are elected under the majority vote from constituencies;
 - No less than 40 per cent (180 members) are elected under the proportional representation (PR) system using party lists.
- Both individuals and political parties may participate in the election under the majority system. Only political parties may participate in the PR system. No less than 50 per cent of the names on the party list must be women. The names of the candidates on a party list shall be ranked in order of election with names of the male and female candidates

alternating from top to bottom.

- Each voter casts one vote for one candidate under the majority vote and one party list under the PR system.

- Under the majority system, the candidate with the highest number of valid votes in each constituency is declared elected.

- Under the PR system, party lists which obtain over five per cent of the valid votes are entitled to win parliamentary representation. Seats are proportionally attributed to parties that surpass the threshold on the basis of the largest divider.

- The Election Commission first determines the number of women required to be elected under the PR system by subtracting the female candidates elected under the majority system. When attributing seats to each party under the PR system, the Election Commission ensures that at least 25 per cent of the total elected members (112) are women. It attributes the rest of the seats to the remaining candidates - both men and women - on each party list in the order in which they appear on the list. In cases where a sufficient number of women is elected under the majority system, the seats under the PR system will be attributed to the candidates in the order in which they appear on the list.

Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- Sudanese nationality
- age: 18 years old
- registration in the electoral register
- persons of sound mind

Note: Overseas citizens may be registered in the electoral register for the presidential elections and referenda but not for parliamentary elections.

▶ **Eligibility**

- Sudanese nationality
- age: 21 years old
- persons of sound mind
- being literate
- persons who have not been convicted of an offence involving honesty or moral turpitude during the seven years prior to the nomination
- persons who are not a member of Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly or its Government or a member of a state legislature or its government, or a member of the National Council of Ministers.

► Candidacy requirements

For the majority system:

- Nomination by at least 150 registered voters in the constituency
- Candidature must be submitted between 60 and 50 days prior to elections
- Candidature can be submitted by individuals
- Candidature can be submitted by political parties
- Deposit of 150 Sudanese pounds (US \$ 60), reimbursable if the candidate obtains at least 10 per cent of valid votes in the constituency concerned or if he/she withdraws at least 30 days before polling day.

For the Proportional Representation system:

- Candidature by political parties
- Candidature must be submitted between 60 and 50 days prior to elections
- Deposit of 100 Sudanese pounds (US \$ 40) per candidate, reimbursable if the party obtains at least 5 per cent of the valid votes in the constituency concerned or if the party withdraws the list at least 30 days before polling day. In cases where the party includes its candidates under the majority system in the party list, it is not required to pay a second deposit under the proportional representation system.

Background and Outcome of the Elections

In April 2010, elections to the 450-seat National Assembly were held in parallel with presidential and State Assembly polls. Once constituted, each of the 25 State Assemblies would elect two members to the Council of States, the upper chamber, which would also comprise two observers from the Abyei Area Council.

The 2010 elections were the first to be held under the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), signed by President Omar Al-Bashir's National Congress Party (NCP) and the South Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) in January 2005. The CPA ended the civil war - that had started in 1983 between the predominantly Muslim North and the mainly Christian and animist South.

Under the CPA, the elections had been due by July 2009 but were postponed several times because of the time required to pass a new electoral law (finally adopted in July 2008) and the delay in completing the national census. The official results of the census were announced in May 2009: a total population of 39 million, of which 8 million lived in the south. The

extension of the voter registration period further delayed the polls.

In the previous elections held in December 2000, boycotted by most opposition parties, President Al-Bashir's NCP took 355 of the 360 seats in the then National Assembly. Mr. Al-Bashir had come to power through a military coup in June 1989, ousting Prime Minister Sadiq al-Mahdi. He maintained the enforcement of Sharia law across the country, and launched a military campaign to control the South. In 1993, he declared himself President. He was elected President in 1996 and 2000.

Based on the CPA, a national unity government was sworn in in September 2005. The NCP held 52 per cent of the 74 government posts, while the SPLM had 28 per cent. Neither the northern opposition National Democratic Alliance nor a separate group of rebels fighting in the western Darfur region participated in the government. The CPA provided for a transitional parliament composed of the National Assembly (comprising 450 appointed members, see note) and the 52-member Council of States. The CPA also granted South Sudan limited autonomy. A referendum on full independence for the South is scheduled for 2011.

The 2010 election campaign started on 13 February. In March, 17 opposition parties sent a memorandum to the President, requesting the postponement of the elections until November so that several laws on national security and the media could be modified. The Election Commission nevertheless maintained the election dates for April. Several opposition parties subsequently announced that they would boycott the polls, alleging election fraud.

Shortly before the elections, two presidential candidates - Mr. Yasir Arman (SPLM) and former Prime Minister Sadiq al-Mahdi of the National Umma Party (NUP) - withdrew from the presidential polls; citing, above all, security concerns and electoral irregularities. Mr. Arman had been seen as the strongest challenger to President Al-Bashir. Upon his withdrawal, several other opposition parties, including another major opposition force - the Democratic Unionist Party - announced that they too would boycott the presidential polls. The SPLM boycotted most elections in the North, accusing the NCP of rigging the polls. The former prime minister's cousin, Mr. Mubarak al-Mahdi, ran for the presidency from a splinter party, the Umma Party-Reform and Renewal (UPRR).

The NUP, which also withdrew from the parliamentary polls, has strong

support in Darfur, which has been embroiled in civil war since 2003. Despite the conclusion of several truces officially ending the civil war, sporadic violence has continued. According to the United Nations, nearly 300,000 people have died from the combined effects of war, famine and disease and 2 million have been displaced. The Sudanese Government insists that the real death toll stands at 10,000. In March 2009, the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague issued an arrest warrant for President Al-Bashir on charges including war crimes and crimes against humanity in Darfur. He became the first sitting Head of State to be indicted by the ICC. Notwithstanding, in October 2009, the NCP nominated Mr. Al-Bashir for the 2010 presidential polls.

The main contenders in the 2010 elections included Mr. Al-Bashir's NCP and the SPLM, led by Mr. Salva Kiir Mayadrit, who was running for the presidency in South Sudan.

President Al-Bashir called on voters' support for the NCP so that he could consolidate national unity and peace in Darfur. He pledged to implement development and service projects and provide for the welfare of citizens.

The SPLM ran under the slogan "Freedom-Peace-Prosperity". It promised democratic transformation and full implementation of the CPA. It pledged to provide a better life for all and bring peace and stability to the country.

The 2010 elections were to be held over three days between 11 and 13 April. However, the voting period was extended to 15 April due to the late opening of some polling stations.

In the South, where 12 separate elections were taking place, voters had to cast 12 different votes. The high illiteracy rate - considered to be around 70 per cent in the south - further complicated the voting process.

Turnout was reportedly low among the 16 million registered voters. No major incidents were reported during voting.

The SPLM accused the Election Commission of numerous irregularities. It argued that many voters' names had been missing from the voters' list.

The Carter Center and the European Union monitored the polls. They both praised the generally peaceful voting process and termed the elections a significant step toward democracy. They nevertheless concluded that the

elections had failed to meet international standards, citing reports of intimidation and harassment.

The final results gave 323 to the NCP and 99 to the SPLM.

In the presidential elections, Mr. Al-Bashir was elected in the first round, winning over 68 per cent of the votes. In South Sudan, Mr. Kiir won the presidency with over 90 per cent of the votes.

On 24 May 2010, the newly elected National Assembly held its first session and re-elected Mr. Ahmed Ibrahim Al-Tahir (NCP) as its Speaker. The newly elected Council of States held its first session on the same day and elected Mr. Adam Hamid Musa (NCP) as its new Chairman.

Note:

The following 450 members were appointed to the National Assembly in 2005:

- 52%, or 234 members, from the National Congress Party (NCP);
- 28%, or 126 members, from the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM);
- 14%, or 63 members, from other northern parties;
- 6%, or 27 members, from other southern groups.

Based on the Darfur Peace Agreement and the East Sudan Peace Agreement, which were signed in May and October 2006 respectively, 12 members of the Darfur States joined the National Assembly on 3 April 2007. Nine filled the vacant seats reserved for them, while three took over seats vacated by the NCP. Another eight members representing the Eastern States were appointed by a presidential decree on 25 June 2007 to fill seats vacated by the NCP. These eight members were sworn in October 2007.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	About 16,000,000
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► **Distribution of seats according to political group**

	Seats
National Congress Party (NCP)	323
Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM)	99
Democratic Unionist Party	4
People's Congress	4
Federal Umma Party	3
Democratic Unionist Party - Origin	2
Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM)-DC	2
Umma Party for Reform and Development	2
Muslim Brotherhood	1
National Umma Party	1
Umma collective leadership	1
Umma Party	1
Independents	3
Vacant	4
Total	450

► **Distribution of seats according to sex**

Men	332	
Women	114	25.56 %
Total	446	

SURINAME

National Assembly

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Nationale Assemblée / National Assembly
Structure of Parliament	Unicameral
Number of members	51 directly elected
Term of House	5 years
Date of elections	25 May 2010

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all the seats in the National Assembly on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

10 multi-member constituencies (between 2 and 17 seats each).

▶ **Voting system: Proportional**

Party-list system.

Candidates are elected by proportional representation on a largest-average formula basis with preferential votes.

In each constituency, the first seat is awarded to the political party having obtained the highest number of votes. The remaining seats are awarded to the party with the highest average number of votes. In each party list, the candidate(s) having obtained the most preferential votes are declared elected.

Vacancies arising between general elections are filled by substitutes, according to the order of names on each party list.

Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years

- Suriname citizenship

- residence in the country

Disqualification: deprivation of voting right by court decision, detention, insanity

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified electors

- age: 21 years
- Suriname citizenship
- residence in the constituency where running for at least 2 years
- member of a political party

► **Candidacy requirements**

- nomination by political party
- support by specified number of electors

Background and Outcome of the Elections

On 6 October 2009, President Ronald Venetiaan announced that parliamentary elections would be held on 25 May 2010. Mr. Venetiaan, a 73-year old veteran politician serving his third term as President, said he would not run again.

Suriname is one of the smallest countries in South America. Its population of 519,000 is around 37 percent Hindustani (descendants of Indian immigrants), 31 per cent Creole, 15 per cent Javanese, and 10 per cent Maroon (descendants of former slaves). Most political parties are ethnic-based. Mr. Venetiaan's New Front for Democracy and Development (NF) includes his National Party of Suriname (which draws on the Creole community for support), the Pertjajah Luhur Party (PLP, a Javanese party) and the Progressive Reform Party (VHP, a Hindustani party).

No party secured a majority in the previous elections in May 2005. President Venetiaan's NF took 23 of the 51 seats at stake. The National Democratic Party (NDP, not based on ethnicity), led by former military ruler Desi Bouterse, more than doubled its representation to 15 seats. The Coalition for People's Alliance for Prosperity (VVP) of former President Jules Wijdenbosch and A Combination (A-Com) of former rebel leader Ronnie Brunswijk took five seats each. Mr. Brunswijk had fought against Mr. Bouterse during the Bush War in 1986.

In July 2005, the National Assembly failed twice to elect a president after candidates failed to secure the necessary two-thirds majority (34 votes). Pursuant to the Surinamese Constitution, the United People's Assembly (a body representing district and regional councils) was convened in August and re-elected Mr. Venetiaan as president.

Since the 2005 elections, President Venetiaan's administration was rocked by numerous scandals related to land grants reportedly involving several

cabinet ministers and PLP officials.

In July 2008, the trial began of Mr. Bouterse and 24 others allegedly involved in the killing of 15 opposition leaders in 1982 under the former's military regime. It had not been concluded by the 2010 elections. If convicted, Mr. Bouterse faces a 20-year prison sentence. He was also sentenced to 11 years in prison by a Dutch court for drug smuggling in 1999, but has not been sent to the Netherlands because a treaty between the two countries prohibits extradition.

In March 2010, the PLP announced that it would not run in the 2010 elections on its own. PLP leader and outgoing Speaker, Mr. Paul Somohardjo, was eyeing the presidency but the NF had reportedly backed the incumbent Vice-President Ram Sardjoe, VHP leader. Mr. Somohardjo argued that his PLP would be able to win at least 10 seats while the NF gave it only nine slots in its joint candidate list. He subsequently formed a new party, the People's Alliance (VA), comprising small ethnic Javanese parties.

In the 2010 elections, in which eight parties were running, President Venetiaan's NF was challenged by the Mega Combination. The latter comprised Mr. Bouterse's NDP, the New Suriname (NU), the Palu party (a left-wing party) and the Indonesian Peasant's Party (KTPI). Mr. Bouterse was widely expected to become the country's new president if there was no clear majority in parliament, since his camp held 567 of the 919 seats in the United People's Assembly.

The NF ran on the government's record. Vice-President Sardjoe called on voters to support the NF as the only party offering economic development to improve the people's lives. Justice Minister Chandrikapersad Santokhi pledged to lead a "clear stable future" that would encourage Surinamese abroad to return. Many NF candidates referred to the military regime led by Mr. Bouterse and urged voters to support the NF so as to prevent a return to "repression and disastrous policies".

President Venetiaan said that the NF would not form a new government with Mr. Bouterse because of his ongoing court case and the role he had played in overthrowing the government in 1980.

Mr. Bouterse said he would seek the presidency if his Mega Combination won enough seats in the elections. His opponents claimed that his bid for the presidency was a way to avoid imprisonment and grant amnesty to all those

involved in the 1982 killings. The Mega Combination promised to create more jobs and affordable housing. It was reportedly gaining support among young voters, who make up 60 per cent of the electorate and are not old enough to remember the period of military rule.

A-Com leader Brunswijk also announced that he would seek the presidency but did not rule out possible cooperation with Mr. Bouterse in the new government.

73.21 per cent of the 324,000 registered voters turned out at the polls.

The observer team of the Organization of American States (OAS) said the elections were marked by the country's "civility, professionalism and democratic commitment". It nevertheless recommended that the Election Commission provide greater assistance to persons with disabilities. The CARICOM observers said the elections had been free and fair.

The final results gave 23 seats to the Mega Combination. The NF came in second with 14 seats. A-Com and the VA took seven and six seats respectively. The Party for Democracy and Development through Unity (DOE, a Christian party) won its first seat in parliament. Five women were elected.

The newly elected National Assembly comprised 17 Hindustani, 11 Creole, nine Javanese, 10 Maroon, two Amerindians and two Chinese members. In all, 31 candidates (60.78 per cent) were elected to parliament for the first time.

On 30 June, the newly elected National Assembly held its first session and elected Ms. Jennifer Geerlings-Simons (Mega Combination) as its new Speaker and Ms. Ruth Wijdenbosch of the National Party of Suriname as Deputy Speaker.

On 19 July, the National Assembly elected Mr. Bouterse (Mega Combination) as the country's new President. His candidature was supported by his Mega Combination, A-Com and the VA.

On 12 August, Mr. Bouterse was officially sworn in as the country's President. He subsequently formed a coalition government comprising the parties which supported him in the indirect presidential elections.

Election results and statistics**▶ Voter turnout**

Number of registered electors	324,490	
Voters	237,575	73.21 %

▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

	Votes	% votes	Seats
Mega Combination	95,543	40.22	23
New Front for Democracy and Development (NF)	75,190	31.65	14
A Combination	11,176	4.70	7
People's Alliance (VA)	30,844	12.98	6
Party for Democracy and Development through Unity (DOE)	12,085	5.09	1
Total			51

Note:

The statistics above indicate the number and percentage of votes won by each political party/coalition at the national level. Since the seats are distributed by constituency, a party which obtained a lower percentage of votes nationwide can nevertheless end up with a higher number of seats.

▶ Distribution of seats according to sex

Men	46	
Women	5	9.80 %
Total	51	

► **Distribution of seats according to profession**

	Seats
Civil service and local authority administration	17
Education profession	12
Legal profession	9
Entrepreneur	6
IT/technology	6
Civil society activity	5
Physician, dentist	3
Economist	2
Journalism, broadcasting, media	2
Armed services/Police	1
Nursing	1
Others	2
Total	66

Note:

Some members have listed more than one primary occupation.

► **Distribution of seats according to age**

21 to 30 years	3
31 to 40 years	8
41 to 50 years	19
51 to 60 years	14
61 to 70 years	6
Over 70 years	1
Total	51

SWEDEN

Parliament

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Riksdagen / Parliament
Structure of Parliament	Unicameral
Number of members	349 directly elected
Term of House	4 years
Date of elections	19 September 2010

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all the seats in Parliament on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

- 29 multi-member constituencies for 310 members (2 to 34 seats each; the number of seats per constituency is revised at each election based on the number of eligible voters)
- 1 other multi-member constituency for 39 "at large" seats

▶ **Voting system: Proportional**

For 310 seats:

- members are elected under the closed-party list system with preferential vote;
- seats are proportionally distributed according to the modified Sainte-Laguë method;
- to be awarded a seat, a party must obtain either at least 4 per cent of the votes cast throughout the country or 12 per cent of the votes cast in a constituency;
- votes are cast for party lists, and electors may also express specific preferences for individual candidates. In such cases, the required threshold for election on the basis of personal votes is 8 per cent of the total cast for the candidate's party in the constituency concerned.

For the 39 remaining ("at-large") seats:

- the remaining seats are allotted by the system of full proportional representation based on the votes that each party obtained nationwide;
- to be awarded a seat, a party must obtain at least 4 per cent of the

votes cast throughout the country.

Vacancies arising between general elections are filled by a substitute member chosen at the same time as the elected member.

Elections are held for all seats in Parliament on the normal expiry of the members' term of office (four years). They are held on the third Sunday in September of the election year.

Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: at least 18 years old on election day
- Swedish citizenship (including naturalized citizens)
- there is no residence requirement
- citizens overseas can vote under certain conditions: they must be on the special electoral roll, which includes citizens who have emigrated during the past ten years or who have notified the tax authorities of their wish to be on the electoral roll no later than 16 August of the election year (non-registered citizens may still be included in the electoral roll on condition that their ballot paper arrives before 14 September of the election year)

Disqualification: holders of temporary entry permits, undocumented immigrants

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified electors
- age: at least 18 years old on election day
- Swedish citizenship (including naturalized citizens)
- there is no residence requirement
- citizens overseas are eligible under certain conditions (if they are on the special electoral roll mentioned under voter requirements)

Ineligibility: holders of temporary entry permits, undocumented immigrants

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- ministers of State
- speaker of the Parliament

Although ministers and the speaker may not serve as members of parliament while in office, they may retain their seats, which are held by substitute members in the meantime. The ministers and the speaker may take up their parliamentary duties when they give up the posts mentioned above.

► **Candidacy requirements**

- nomination by a registered political party
- the names of the titular and substitute member must be submitted simultaneously

Background and Outcome of the Elections

There were 349 seats at stake in the 2010 parliamentary elections. The media focused on whether Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt's government would be the first from the centre-right to be returned to power since Sweden introduced universal suffrage for men and women in 1921.

In the previous elections (September 2006), the Alliance for Sweden, which comprised four opposition centre-right parties - the Moderate Party (97 seats), the Centre Party (CP, 29), the Liberal Party (FP, 28) and the Christian Democratic Party (KD, 24) - won a total of 178 seats. Prime Minister Göran Persson's Social Democratic Party (SAP) - which had ruled the country for most of the period since 1932 - took 130 seats. The Left Party (VP) and the Green Party (Mpg) - which had voted with the outgoing SAP minority government - took 22 and 19 seats respectively. Prime Minister Persson conceded defeat. Mr. Reinfeldt (Moderate Party), who was the Alliance for Sweden's only candidate for premier, formed a coalition government in October.

In the next four years, Prime Minister Reinfeldt pushed through income-tax cuts to the tune of 70 billion kronor (US\$ 10 billion) and promised to lower taxes on incomes and pensions by a further 25 billion kronor through 2014. The country's economy shrank by 5.1 per cent in 2009 as a result of the global economic crisis but was expected to expand by 4.5 per cent in 2010, the best performance among the 27 Member States of the European Union (EU). However, the unemployment rate stood at 7.4 per cent - higher than when Mr. Reinfeldt came to power.

In the 2010 elections, Prime Minister Reinfeldt's four-party coalition was challenged by the SAP and other centre-left parties as well as the Sweden Democrats (SD), a far-right party formed in 1988.

Prime Minister Reinfeldt urged voters to keep the SD out of parliament. He said he wanted Sweden be more involved in the EU but promised not to hold a new referendum on the euro (which had been rejected in a 2003 referendum). FP leader and Minister of Education Jan Björklund proposed to open "elite classes" in high schools so as to enable more pupils to pursue

upper secondary education. The Centre Party, led by Deputy Prime Minister Maud Olofsson, positioned itself as the party of entrepreneurs and ecologists of the right. KD leader Göran Högglund promised to create more jobs and to raise the minimum age of retirement from 67 to 70.

The SAP leader, Ms. Mona Sahlin, who had her eye on becoming Sweden's first female prime minister, criticized the government's tax-cut policies. She argued that the government was dismantling the welfare system step by step and widening the gap between rich and poor, a view shared by VP leader Lars Ohly. Ms. Sahlin was said to be unpopular because of an incident in the 1990s in which she was criticized for using a professional credit card for private purchases. On the other hand, the Mpg, co-led by Mr. Peter Eriksson and Ms. Maria Wetterstrand, gained ground on the back of Ms. Wetterstrand's popularity. She is known for her "liberal-green" policies. In addition to its traditional environmental agenda, the Mpg promised to privatize some public enterprises. Mr. Eriksson said the Mpg was open to cooperation with centre-right parties.

The SD argued that Islam and Muslims were "un-Swedish" and promised to reduce immigration by as much as 90 per cent. It portrayed immigration as an economic burden on the welfare system. SD leader Jimmie Aakesson pledged to introduce tougher citizenship requirements and stiffer penalties for crime, including obligatory expulsion of all foreigners committing serious crimes. He also promised to raise spending on the elderly.

All the main parties criticized the SD's anti-immigration platform and urged voters not support it. They also stated they would not cooperate with the SD. Sweden has a long tradition of accepting immigrants and refugees, and they currently account for 14 per cent of the country's 9.4 million inhabitants.

In all, 84.63 per cent of the 7.1 million registered voters turned out at the polls.

The four parties in Mr. Reinfeldt's government won a total of 173 seats, two seats short of a majority. The SAP recorded its worst result since its inception in 1914, taking 112 seats. Conversely, the SD fared well and entered parliament for the first time with 20 seats. The Mpg took 25 seats - up from 19 in 2006 - while the FP took 19.

Because few of the SD candidates elected were women (3 out of 20, or 15%), the percentage of women parliamentarians fell for the first time since 1991, from 162 (46.42%) in 2006 to 157 (44.99%) in 2010.

On 23 September, Prime Minister Reinfeldt announced that he would form a minority government in an enhanced coalition with the Mpg. He became the first centre-right leader since 1921 to be returned to government after serving a full term.

On 4 October, the newly elected Parliament held its first session and re-elected Mr. Per Westerberg of the Moderate Party as its Speaker.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	7,123,651	
Voters	6,028,682	84.63 %
Blank or invalid ballot papers	68,274	
Valid votes	5,960,408	

▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

	Votes	% votes	Seats	Gain/ Loss	Number of women
Social Democratic Party (SAP)	1,827,497	30.66	112	-18	54
Moderate Party (M)	1,791,766	30.06	107	10	51
Green Party (Mpg)	437,435	7.34	25	6	14
Liberal Party (FP)	420,524	7.06	24	-4	10
Center Party	390,804	6.56	23	-6	7
Sweden Democrats (SD)	339,610	5.70	20	20	3
Christian Democrats (KD)	333,696	5.60	19	-5	7
Left Party (VP)	334,053	5.60	19	-3	11
Total			349		157

▶ Distribution of seats according to sex

Men	192	
Women	157	44.99 %
Total	349	

► **Distribution of seats according to profession**

	Seats
Education profession	29
Journalism, broadcasting, media	17
Economist	15
Social worker	15
Nursing	14
Legal profession	14
Trade union official	14
Finance, management or business	13
Civil service and local authority administration	11
Home-maker, care-taker	9
Agriculture/farming	8
Armed services/Police	7
Architect, surveyor, engineer	5
Clerical, secretarial, administration	5
Civil society activity	4
Research/sciences	4
Political party official	4
Entrepreneur	3
IT/technology	3
Physician, dentist	2
Others	153
Total	349

► **Distribution of seats according to age**

Below 20 years	1
21 to 30 years	25
31 to 40 years	71
41 to 50 years	108
51 to 60 years	109
61 to 70 years	33
Over 70 years	2
Total	349

TAJKISTAN

House of Representatives

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Majlisi Oli / Supreme Council
Structure of Parliament Chamber	Bicameral Majlisi namoyandogon / House of Representatives
Number of members	63 directly elected
Term of House	5 years
Date of elections	28 February 2010

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all seats in the House of Representatives on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

- 41 single-member constituencies.
- One nationwide constituency for 22 seats (under the proportional representation system)

▶ **Voting system: Mixed**

Mixed system:

- Proportional representation using the party list for 22 seats. Parties must surpass a 5-per-cent threshold to win parliamentary representation.
- Majority: Absolute majority vote in two rounds.

In each constituency, at least 50% of the electorate must participate for the poll to be valid and candidates are declared elected if they obtain more than 50% of the votes cast. Should one of these conditions not be met, a second round of elections must take place.

Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years
- Tajik citizenship

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified electors
- age: 25 years

- Tajik citizenship

- ▶ **Incompatibilities**

- Head of State
- members of the other chamber
- ministers of State
- holders of public posts
- holders of judicial offices (judges)
- members of the armed forces

- ▶ **Candidacy requirements**

Deposit of 7,000 somoni (about US\$ 1,600) per candidate, refundable to candidates elected in the single-member constituencies and parties that surpass the 5-per-cent threshold.

Background and Outcome of the Elections

The third elections since the end of the civil war in 1997 were held for the House of Representatives on 28 February 2010.

In the previous elections held in February and March 2005, the People's Democratic Party of Tajikistan (PDPT), led by President Emomali Rahmon, won 52 of the 63 seats at stake. President Rahmon has been in power since 1992 and his PDPT has held an absolute majority in the House of Representatives since a party-based election system was introduced in 2000. The Communist Party of Tajikistan (CPT) and the Islamic Renaissance Party of Tajikistan (IRPT) took four and two seats respectively, while the remaining five seats went to independent candidates.

In May 2009, the CPT proposed to abolish the deposit for candidates, currently set at 7,000 somoni (about US\$ 1,600) per candidate. It argued that very few people could afford such an amount in a country where well-educated professionals earn US\$ 150 per month. However, the amount of the deposit remained unchanged for the 2010 elections.

A total of 221 candidates, including 22 women, representing the country's eight registered parties, contested the 2010 elections. In addition to the three parliamentary parties (the PDPT, the CPT and the IRPT), two pro-government parties were vying for seats: the Party of Economic Reforms of Tajikistan and the Agrarian Party of Tajikistan.

Prior to the elections, Speaker Saidullo Hairulloev (PDPT) announced that he

would not contest the 2010 elections. The Minister of Labour and Social Security, Mr. Shukurjon Zuhurov, ran in the Speaker's constituency.

In the run-up to the elections, the State media chose to focus on the PDPT government's efforts to meet the country's electricity needs and to export power to neighbouring Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Mr. Shodi Shabdolov's CPT called for greater social justice, promising to provide education, medical care and old age with dignity for everybody.

The IRPT, led by Mr. Mukhiddin Kabiri, aimed to be able to form a parliamentary group in the new House of Representatives. The IRPT, which had fought President Rahmon's government in a civil war that lasted from 1992-1997, is the only religious political party in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) whose activities are not sanctioned by the Constitution. The party's membership had doubled to 35,000 since the previous elections in 2005.

The Central Commission for Elections and Referenda (CCER) announced that 90.84 per cent of the 3.6 million registered voters turned out at the polls.

The Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) said that elections had taken place in "a generally good atmosphere". However, it noted serious irregularities, including a high prevalence of family and proxy voting and cases of ballot box stuffing, and declared that the election had failed to meet basic democratic standards. The CIS declared that the elections had been "democratic, transparent and free". The CIS also noted many cases of family voting (one family member casts ballots on behalf of the entire family), but said that this kind of violation was typical for practically all the CIS member nations.

The PDPT won 54 of the 62 seats confirmed in the first round. The CPT, the IRPT, the Agrarian Party of Tajikistan and the Party of Economic Reforms of Tajikistan took two seats each. IRPT leader Mukhiddin Kabiri claimed that his party had won 30 per cent of votes, instead of the 8 per cent announced by the CCER.

In the municipal elections that were held concurrently with the parliamentary elections, Mr. Rustami Emomali, President Rahmon's 23-year-old son, who is widely considered to be in line to succeed his father, was elected to the City Council of the capital Dushanbe.

In the run-off elections held on 14 March, the PDPT candidate won the remaining seat, bringing the party's share to 55. In all, 12 women, all members of the PDPT, were elected.

On 16 March, the newly elected House of Representatives held its first session and elected Mr. Shukurjon Zuhurov (PDPT) as its Speaker.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	3,621,174	
Voters	3,289,377	90.84 %
Blank or invalid ballot papers	21,710	
Valid votes	3,267,667	

▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

	Votes	% votes	Majority	PR	Total seats
People's Democratic Party of Tajikistan (PDPT)	2,321,436	71.04	39	16	55
Agrarian Party of Tajikistan	166,935	5.11	1	1	2
Communist Party of Tajikistan (CPT)	229,080	7.01	0	2	2
Islamic Renaissance Party of Tajikistan (IRPT)	268,096	8.20	0	2	2
Party of Economic Reforms of Tajikistan	165,324	5.06	1	1	2
Total			41	22	63

▶ Distribution of seats according to sex

Men	51	
Women	12	19.05 %
Total	63	

TONGA

Legislative Assembly

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Fale Alea / Legislative Assembly
Structure of Parliament	Unicameral
Number of members	28 members - 17 directly elected - 9 indirectly elected (nobles) - 2 ex-officio members* *Two Cabinet members who are not elected to the Legislative Assembly. In addition, seven parliamentarians are members of the Cabinet.
Term of House	4 years
Date of elections	25 November 2010

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all directly elected seats in the Legislative Assembly following the early dissolution of this body on 30 September. The elections had previously taken place in April 2008.

Electoral system▶ **Constituencies**

27 single-member constituencies: 10 in Tongatapu, three in Vava'u and two in Ha'apai and one each in 'Eua and Niuatoputapu/Niuafu'ou.

▶ **Voting system: Majority**

Single member plurality systems ("first past the post").

Candidates with the highest number of votes are declared elected.

Vacancies arising in seats held by representatives of nobles or the commoners are filled through by-elections.

Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 21 years

- Tonga citizenship

- Registration on the electoral roll

Disqualification: insanity, nobles, persons under summons for debt

▶ Eligibility

- qualified electors
 - age: 21 years
 - Tonga citizenship
- Ineligibility: civil servants, persons with unpaid debts under court order

▶ Incompatibilities

- all offices of emolument under the Crown except those of Minister and Governor

▶ Candidacy requirements

Candidatures submitted by individuals

For directly elected members:

- supported by 50 qualified electors of the district concerned
- registration fee of \$T 400 (US\$ 200)

Background and Outcome of the Elections

In the 2010 elections, the majority of parliamentarians were directly elected for the first time. The new 26-member Legislative Assembly comprises 17 directly elected members (commoners) and nine indirectly elected members (nobles). The outgoing 32-member Legislative Assembly comprised nine commoners, nine nobles and 14 ex officio members (12 cabinet members and the royal governors of Vava'u and Ha'apai, all appointed by the King).

Tonga is a constitutional monarchy and the King retains considerable power. However, he has pursued a strong reform agenda in recent years. Following the November 2006 pro-democracy rally that turned violent (see note 1), King George Tupou V (who had acceded to the throne in September 2006) initiated a series of political reforms. In June 2007, the King established a tripartite committee comprising nobles, ministers and commoners. The committee was tasked with finding a consensus on political reform and with making recommendations to the Legislative Assembly, but it failed to reach a consensus on the new composition of the Legislative Assembly prior to the April 2008 elections.

The 2008 elections were thus held under the previous system, whereby only nine members were directly elected. Candidates representing pro-democracy parties took six of the nine seats at stake: four seats went to the Friendly Island Human Rights and Democracy Movement (FIHRDM) and two to the People's Democratic Party (PDP). The three remaining seats were

won by independent candidates who are also reportedly close to the pro-democracy parties.

On 15 April 2010, following a recommendation by the Constitutional and Electoral Commission (CEC), established in July 2008, to work on electoral reform, the Legislative Assembly enacted a law providing for 17 members to be directly elected. Although the CEC recommended that the Single Transferable Vote system (STV, see note 2) be used, the Legislative Assembly voted to maintain the first-past-the-post system and, subsequently, adopted new boundaries accordingly.

Several parties were formed prior to the 2010 elections. They included the Democratic Party of the Friendly Islands (DPFI), led by a pro-democracy MP, Mr. 'Akillisi Pohiva (formerly of the FIHRDM), who had won the highest number of votes in the 2008 elections. It promised to improve the economic well-being of Tongans.

On 30 September 2010, King George Tupou V dissolved the Legislative Assembly in view of the elections to be held on 25 November.

The King said that the 2010 elections would bring the country a more representative political system, which, in his view, was a "natural development" for Tongan politics. Outgoing Prime Minister Fred Sevele, who was retiring from politics, urged voters to elect representatives who would be able to run government "fairly, with accountability and squarely for the benefit of everybody".

In all, 147 candidates, including 10 women, contested the 2010 elections.

Shortly before the official start of the election campaign, the results of the country's first public opinion poll were published. It was commissioned by the Media Council of Tonga and conducted by a New Zealand firm. It showed that the economy, crime and women's issues were the three top concerns of Tongans and many candidates focused on them.

The elections saw lively campaigning, with candidates putting their posters up on every available space, while trucks with loudspeakers drove along streets. Many candidates, in particular women, also resorted to door-to-door canvassing. Ms. Allisi Taumoepeau, a former cabinet minister and attorney general, pledged to bring good leadership, equal opportunities, land rights for women and a change for the better.

In all, 90.85 per cent of the 42,000 registered voters turned out at the polls.

Pro-democracy parties - the DPFI, the FHRDM and Democratic party - took a total of 12 seats, while the four remaining seats went to pro-government candidates.

In the indirect elections for noble representatives held the previous day, nine nobles, including outgoing Speaker Tu'ilakepa, were elected.

On 3 December, King Tupou V appointed Lord Tupou as Acting Speaker. However, on 6 December, he was placed under house arrest as part of a police drugs investigation.

The newly-elected Legislative Assembly held its first session on 20 December. The following day, it designated Lord Lasike as its new Speaker unopposed.

On 22 December, the Legislative Assembly elected Lord Tu'ivakano as Prime Minister by 14 votes including nobles and independents. His sole rival, Mr. Pohiva, took 12 votes.

King Tupou V subsequently appointed Lord Lasike and Lord Tu'ivakano as Speaker and Prime Minister respectively. On 31 December, the new Prime Minister announced his cabinet members, including Mr. Pohiva. It was the first Cabinet in Tonga which was not chosen by the King.

Note 1:

In November 2006, a pro-democracy rally urging the government to speed up the pace of reform turned into a riot in which eight people were killed and much of the business district of the capital, Nuku'alofa, was set on fire. The ensuing state of emergency was maintained until the 2010 elections.

Note 2:

Under the Single Transferrable Vote (STV), each voter may mark as many candidates as he/she wishes in order of preference. After the total number of first-preference votes is tallied, the quota of votes required for the election of a candidate is established. Any candidate who has a number of first-preference votes greater than or equal to the quota is elected. If no candidate surpasses the quota in the first count, the candidate with the lowest total of votes is eliminated. In the second count, his/her votes are redistributed to the remaining candidates. This process is repeated until one candidate is elected in each constituency.

Election results and statistics**▶ Voter turnout**

Number of registered electors	42,395	
Voters	38,516	90.85 %
Blank or invalid ballot papers	66	
Valid votes	38,450	

▶ Distribution of seats according to sex

	Elected members	Ex-officio members	Total	
Men	26	1	27	
Women	0	1	1	3.57%
Total	26	2	28	

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

House of Representatives

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Parliament
Structure of Parliament	Bicameral
Chamber	House of Representatives
Number of members	42 members - 41 directly elected - The Speaker* *The Speaker may be designated from outside parliament and becomes a member of parliament by virtue of holding the office of Speaker.
Term of House	5 years
Date of elections	24 May 2010

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all the seats in the House of Representatives following the early dissolution of this body on 9 April 2010. Elections to the House of Representatives had previously taken place on 5 November 2007.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

41 single-member constituencies.

▶ **Voting system: Majority**

Single member plurality systems ("first past the post").

Vacancies arising within the first four years of Parliament's term are filled through by-elections held within 90 days.

Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years

- Trinidad and Tobago citizens

- residence in country for at least one year and in home district and for at least two months prior to poll

Disqualification: insanity, electoral offence, sentence of death or imprisonment exceeding 12 months

▶ **Eligibility**

- age: 18 years
 - Trinidad and Tobago citizenship
 - residence in country for at least two years immediately before nomination or on election date
- Ineligibility: allegiance to a foreign State, undischarged bankruptcy, insanity, sentence of death or imprisonment exceeding 12 months, conviction for election-connected offence

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- certain public offices and posts connected with administration of elections
- the Speaker or Deputy Speaker of the House may not be a Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- nomination by six or more registered electors of the constituency (district)
- deposit of TT\$ 5000.00, which is reimbursed if the candidate polls at least one-eighth of the vote in his/her district

Background and Outcome of the Elections

Prime Minister Patrick Manning asked President George Maxwell Richards to dissolve Parliament on 8 April 2010, one day before parliament was scheduled to examine a motion of no-confidence in the Prime Minister. The motion had been filed in March by the Leader of the opposition United National Congress-Alliance (UNC), Mrs. Kamla Persad-Bissessar. She had accused the government of a lack of oversight over corruption scandals involving a government urban development corporation. She criticized the Prime Minister's decision to dissolve Parliament as an act of cowardice. The elections to the House of Representatives were subsequently set for 24 May, two and a half years earlier than they were constitutionally due.

In the previous elections held in November 2007, Prime Minister Manning's People's National Movement (PNM) won 26 of the 41 seats at stake, giving him a second consecutive term. The UNC took the remaining 15 seats. The Congress of the People (COP), a breakaway party from the UNC, failed to win any parliamentary representation. The PNM had governed the country for all but 11 years since the party was founded in 1956.

Trinidad and Tobago is one of the world's leading exporters of liquefied

natural gas (LNG), but the economy was severely damaged by the global economic crisis in 2009. The country's gross domestic product (GDP) contracted by 3.2 per cent in 2009, the country's first annual GDP decline in 16 years.

Prior to the 2010 elections, the UNC accused the PNM of corruption and mismanagement of the country's energy wealth. The UNC argued that the PNM government had wasted energy revenues on giant building projects and two international summits instead of providing better services and more jobs for citizens.

For the first time since the country gained independence from Great Britain in 1962, an opposition coalition - The People's Partnership - was formed in a bid to oust the ruling party. On 22 April 2010, five opposition parties (see note 1) - including the UNC and the COP - signed a unity pact.

Of the country's 1.2 million inhabitants, around 40 per cent are of Indian descent and 37.5 per cent of African origin, while 20.5 per cent of the population are described as "mixed". These communities traditionally vote along ethnic lines. The PNM draws support from Trinidadians of African descent, while the UNC has the backing of the Indian community. Mrs. Persad-Bissessar (of Indian ethnicity) pledged to cut across ethnic lines.

Prime Minister Manning's PNM ran on its record, citing poverty reduction and a better education system. It argued that the government had successfully brought billions of dollars in investment to the country's petrochemical industries. According to the government, the percentage of students enrolled in higher education increased fivefold from 9 per cent in 2001 to 45 per cent in 2010. The Prime Minister promised to construct 18 new modern police stations across the nation to improve security. However, the PNM was reportedly losing ground due to the economic slow-down, spiralling crime and a spate of corruption scandals.

The People's Partnership promised change. It accused the PNM government of massive corruption, failure to provide medical facilities and general mismanagement of the nation. COP leader and former Central Bank Governor Winston Dookeran said that the People's Partnership would work for safety and security, economic development, justice and the well-being of citizens, and introduce a new face of governance.

After boisterous campaign rallies, the polling took place in calm. In all, 69.45

per cent of the 1 million registered voters turned out at the polls.

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) declared that the elections had been free, fair and transparent. However, it recommended that the Election and Boundaries Commission use bigger polling stations to avoid congestion and provide facilities for persons with disabilities.

The final results gave 29 seats to the People's Partnership. The PNM took the remaining 12 seats. In all, 12 women were elected.

On 26 May, Mrs. Persad-Bissessar took the oath of the office as Prime Minister in a ceremony administered by President George Maxwell Richards, thereby becoming the first woman to assume the premiership in Trinidad and Tobago.

The Senate, an appointed chamber that is up for renewal in June 2010 (see note 2), comprised eight women among its 31 members.

On 18 June, the newly elected House of Representatives held its first session and elected former senator Mr. Wade Mark as its new Speaker. On the same day, Mrs. Persad-Bissessar appointed Mr. Timothy Hamel-Smith, an attorney-at-law, as Senate President.

Note 1:

The People's Partnership coalition comprised the following parties:

- United National Congress (UNC)
- Congress of the People (COP)
- Tobago Organisation of the People (TOP)
- Movement for Social Justice (MSJ)
- National Joint Action Committee (NJAC)

Note 2:

16 senators are nominated by the largest party in the House of Representatives while six are nominated by the opposition party. The President nominates nine independent senators.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	1,040,127	
Voters	722,322	69.45 %

► **Distribution of seats according to political group**

	Seats	Number of women
People's Partnership	29	6
People's National Movement (PNM)	12	6
Total	41	12

► **Distribution of seats according to sex**

Men	30	
Women	12	28.57 %
Total	42	

Note:

The 'Distribution of seats according to sex' above refers to all 42 members of the House of Representatives (41 directly elected members and the Speaker). Mr. Wade Mark, who was not one of the directly elected members, became a member of the House by virtue of his election as Speaker.

TUVALU

Parliament of Tuvalu

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Palamene o Tuvalu/Parliament of Tuvalu
Structure of Parliament	Unicameral
Number of members	15 directly elected
Term of House	4 years
Date of elections	16 September 2010

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all the seats in Parliament on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

- 7 multi-member (2 seats) constituencies corresponding to the seven islands with population over 1,000
- 1 single-member constituency corresponding to the remaining inhabited islands

▶ **Voting system: Majority**

Single member plurality systems ("first past the post") for single member constituency. In the two-member constituencies, the two candidates with the highest number of votes are declared elected.

Vacancies arising between general elections are filled through by-elections.

Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years
 - Tuvalu citizenship
 - physical presence in country on polling day
- Disqualification: sentence of death or imprisonment exceeding one year, insanity, election-connected offence

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified electors
- age: 21 years
- Tuvalu citizenship

- residence in the country and actively participate in islands activities
- own land

Ineligibility: allegiance to a foreign State, undischarged bankruptcy, insanity, death sentence, imprisonment for a term exceeding 12 months

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- any public office

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- candidates must be proposed by at least three electors
- list of candidates, published in each constituency at least 21 days prior to polling day
- as there are no recognized political parties, each candidate is considered independent and responsible for his own election campaign

Background and Outcome of the Elections

On 13 August 2010, parliament was dissolved in view of general elections set for 16 September.

Following the previous elections held in August 2006, parliament elected Mr. Apisai Ielemia as Prime Minister. He subsequently formed an eight-member cabinet. Under his administration, the country of 11,000 inhabitants enjoyed political stability.

In the 2010 elections, 26 candidates, including all outgoing members, were vying for the 15 seats in parliament. Since there are no political parties in Tuvalu, all candidates ran as independents.

A number of senior government officials resigned to contest the elections. They included Mr. Enele Sopoaga, a former Tuvalu Ambassador to the United Nations who attracted worldwide attention during the UN Climate Change Conference held in Copenhagen in 2009. He proposed amending the UN climate treaty to require all countries to keep the rise in temperatures to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, a proposal subsequently rejected. Most of Tuvalu's main islet is only 1m above high tide. With the sea level rising at a rate of 5.7mm per year, Tuvalu risks becoming uninhabitable by the end of century.

Many candidates focused on climate change issues. Prime Minister Ielemia ran on the government's record and called on voters' support to be able to

continue the development projects he had started.

Turnout was reportedly high among the 6,000 registered voters.

Ten of the 15 outgoing members were re-elected. Most cabinet members were re-elected while Deputy Prime Minister Tavau Teii lost his seat. Speaker Kamuta Latasi retained his seat. Mr. Sopoaga entered parliament for the first time. As in the previous elections, no women were elected.

On 29 September, parliament held its first session and elected Mr. Isaia Taea Italeli, the younger brother of the Governor General, Iakopa Taea Italeli, as its new Speaker. It elected Mr. Maatia Toafa as Prime Minister, a post he had held from 2004 to 2006. He was backed by five new members and three members that had supported the former government. Mr. Sopoaga became Foreign Minister.

On 15 December, Prime Minister Toafa lost a motion of no-confidence only after three months in office. Prior to the vote, his Home Minister, Mr. Willie Telavi, had withdrawn support from the government, citing a row over financial policies. On 25 December 2010, Mr. Telavi was elected new Prime Minister by eight to seven votes, winning over outgoing foreign minister Sopoaga. Mr. Kamuta Latasi, former Speaker until the 2010 elections, became Speaker again.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	6,008
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▶ Distribution of seats according to sex

Men	15	
Women	0	0.00 %
Total	15	

UNITED KINGDOM

House of Commons

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Parliament
Structure of Parliament	Bicameral
Chamber	House of Commons
Number of members	650 directly elected
Term of House	5 years
Date of elections	6 May 2010

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all the seats in the House of Commons on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

650 single-member constituencies:

- 533 for England
- 59 for Scotland
- 40 for Wales
- 18 for Northern Ireland

▶ **Voting system: Majority**

Single member plurality systems ("first past the post").

Vacancies arising between general elections are filled through by-elections.

Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years

- British, Irish or Commonwealth citizenship

Disqualification: imprisonment, detention in mental health institutions, members of the House of Lords, conviction for electoral offence (disqualification for a period of five years)

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified electors

- age: 21 years

- British, Irish or Commonwealth citizenship

Ineligibility: insanity, undischarged bankruptcy, imprisonment exceeding one year

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- members of the armed forces
- policemen
- civil servants
- holders of certain judicial offices
- clergymen (except of non-conformist churches)
- peers
- members of a large number of public boards and tribunals

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- lists must be supported by at least 10 electors
- deposit of £500, reimbursed if candidate obtains at least 5% of the total votes in the constituency concerned

Background and Outcome of the Elections

On 6 April 2010, Prime Minister Gordon Brown announced that elections would be held on 6 May. The elections followed a revision of constituency boundaries (see note 1), which increased the statutory number of members of the House of Commons from 646 to 650.

In the previous elections held in May 2005, the Labour Party, led by the then Prime Minister Tony Blair, won 355 of the 646 seats at stake, with 35.19 per cent of the votes. The Conservative Party (commonly referred to as the Tories) came in a distant second with 198 seats, although it won 32.35 per cent of the votes - a result of the first-past-the post electoral system. The Liberal Democrats (Lib Dems) took 62 seats, with 22.05 per cent of the votes. The remaining seats were taken by nine other parties.

In December 2005, Mr. David Cameron was elected as the new leader of the Conservative Party. In June 2007, Mr. Blair - who had served as Prime Minister since Labour had taken power from the Conservatives in 1997 - resigned and was succeeded by the then Chancellor of the Exchequer (Finance Minister), Mr. Brown. Under the latter's government, the country was hit by the global economic crisis in 2008, followed by a parliamentary expenses scandal in 2009, which led Speaker Michael Martin to resign in May 2009. He became the first Commons Speaker to be forced out of office since 1695.

In February 2010, the House of Commons approved government plans to hold a nationwide referendum on changing the electoral system from "first-past-the-post" to "alternative votes" (see note 2). The Labour Party, which had pledged electoral reform in its 1997 election manifesto, argued that the new voting system was needed to restore trust in politics. The Liberal Democrats led by Mr. Nick Clegg, which have historically been a strong proponent of electoral reform, supported the plan. On the contrary, the Conservative Party argued that the current system had ensured a stable government and kept out extremists. It pledged to abolish the referendum plan if it won the general elections. Finally, the outgoing House of Commons was dissolved before the Bill could become law.

In the 2010 elections, three parties - Labour, the Conservatives and the Liberal Democrats remained the major contenders. In all, 4,150 candidates were vying for seats. Owing to the death of a candidate, the election in one constituency in North Yorkshire was postponed to 27 May.

The media focused on whether the Conservatives - in opposition since 1997 - would return to power. The main issues included addressing the budget deficit in the aftermath of the financial crisis, British troops in Afghanistan and the country's relationship with the European Union (EU).

Prime Minister Brown urged voters to give his Labour Party a clear mandate to consolidate economic recovery. He promised to continue to invest in schools, childcare and the National Health Service (NHS), while applying a 50 per-cent income tax on high-income earners.

Conservative leader Cameron said his party would give the country a fresh start. He pledged immediate spending cuts of £ 6 billion in his first year in office, while protecting the NHS and foreign aid. He also promised corporate tax cuts.

The Liberal Democrats leader, Mr. Clegg, argued that only his party would bring about real change in UK politics, pledging to play a major role in any new government. He promised to cut public spending by £ 15 billion a year.

The Labour Party pledged to begin pulling out the British troops from Afghanistan in the last quarter of 2011 while the Conservatives aimed for a full withdrawal within five years. The latter further pledged to double the operational bonus for troops serving in Afghanistan in the meantime. The Liberal Democrats promised to come up with a successful strategy that

would stabilize Afghanistan enough to allow British troops' withdrawal during the next Parliament.

On the relationship with the EU, the Conservative Party pledged to change the law so that a referendum would be required on any new treaty that would transfer more power from the UK to the EU. The Labour Party pledged to push for an outward-facing European Union that delivered jobs, prosperity and global influence. The Liberal Democrats promised to bring Britain to the heart of Europe, so as to "achieve prosperity, security and opportunity for Britain".

Pre-election opinion polls predicted that no party would secure a majority, and indicated the likelihood of a "hung parliament". The Liberal Democratic Party, which ranked third in the polls, was expected to be a king maker in the new House of Commons. Its leader Clegg - a former member of the European Parliament known for his pro-EU policies - did not reveal which party he would align with if none won a clear majority.

On 6 May, 65.1 per cent of the 45 million registered voters turned out at the polls. Due to the high turnout (up from 61.79 in the 2005 polls), voters waiting in line in several polling stations could not cast their ballots before the official deadline of 10 p.m.

The elections resulted in the first hung parliament since 1974, when fresh elections had been called in the same year. The Conservatives came in first with 306 seats. Labour and the Liberal Democrats followed with 258 and 57 seats respectively. The remainder went to small parties. In all, 143 women were elected.

A period of uncertainty about which party would form the government followed the elections. On 10 May, the Conservative Party and the Liberal Democratic Party announced a coalition government headed by Mr. Cameron, with Mr. Clegg as his deputy. Mr. Brown announced that he would resign both as leader of the Labour Party and as Prime Minister. The following day, Queen Elisabeth officially confirmed 43 year-old Mr. Cameron as the new Prime Minister. He became the youngest Prime Minister since Lord Liverpool took office in 1812 at age 42.

On 18 May, the newly elected House of Commons held its first session and re-elected Mr. John Bercow as its Speaker (see note 3).

Note 1:

In all, 478 of 533 constituencies in England, 22 of 40 constituencies in Wales, and all 18 seats in Northern Ireland have had their boundaries changed since 2005. In Scotland, changes to the constituency boundaries had already been introduced for the 2005 elections.

Note 2:

In the alternative votes system, voters rank candidates in order of preference. A candidate obtaining more than 50 per cent of the first choice votes is declared elected. If no candidate secures more than 50 per cent of the votes, the candidate with the fewest number of votes is eliminated and voters' second choices are allocated to the remaining candidates. This process continues until a winner emerges.

Note 3:

Mr. Bercow had sat as a member of the Conservative Party before being elected as Speaker in June 2009. In the House of Commons, the Speaker ceases to be involved in party politics upon election.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	45,597,461
Voters	65.10 %

▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

	Seats
Conservative Party	306
Labour Party	258
Liberal Democrats	57
Democratic Unionist Party	8
Scottish National Party	6
Sinn Féin	5
Plaid Cymru	3
Social Democratic and Labour Party	3
Alliance Party of Northern Ireland	1
Greens	1
The Speaker	1
Independents	1
Total	650

► **Distribution of seats according to sex**

Men	507	
Women	143	22.00 %
Total	650	

► **Distribution of seats according to profession**

	Seats
Finance, management or business	243
Legal profession	86
Education profession	49
Journalism, broadcasting, media	38
Trade union official	27
Civil society activity	18
Civil service and local authority administration	18
Armed services/Police	17
Architect, surveyor, engineer	13
Agriculture/farming	10
Physician, dentist	9
Research/sciences	3
Others	119
Total	650

► **Distribution of seats according to age**

21 to 30 years	15
31 to 40 years	113
41 to 50 years	198
51 to 60 years	213
61 to 70 years	96
Over 70 years	15
Total	650

UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

National Assembly

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Bunge / National Assembly
Structure of Parliament	Unicameral
Number of members	357 members - 239 directly elected - 102 women elected by political parties in proportion to their share of the electoral vote - 5 members from Zanzibar (two of whom must be women) - 10 appointed by the President (five of whom must be women) - the Attorney General
Term of House	5 years
Date of elections	31 October 2010

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all elective seats of Parliament on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

239 single-member constituencies.

▶ **Voting system: Majority**

Single member plurality systems ("first past the post") for directly elected members.

Vacancies arising between general elections are filled through by-elections.

Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years

- Tanzanian citizenship

Disqualification: allegiance to a foreign State, insanity, death sentence, imprisonment exceeding 6 months

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified electors
- age: 21 years
- Tanzanian citizenship

Ineligibility: detention or deportation for more than 6 months, undischarged bankruptcy

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- government contractors
- civil servants

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- nomination between 5 and 25 days after the dissolution of the previous Parliament
- each nomination must be supported in writing by at least 25 registered electors of the constituency

Background and Outcome of the Elections

The 2010 polls were the fourth to be held since the country introduced multi party politics in 1992. The President dissolved Parliament on 1 August 2010, paving the way for general elections to take place on 31 October. They were held in parallel with presidential elections.

In the previous elections held in December 2005, the ruling Revolutionary Party of Tanzania (CCM) swept 206 of the 232 directly elected seats. Four opposition parties won a total of 26 seats: 19 for the Civic United Front (CUF), five for the Party for Democracy and Development (Chadema) and one each for the Tanzania Labour Party (TLP) and the United Democratic Party (UDP). In the presidential elections, the CCM candidate, Mr. Jakaya Kikwete, was elected with more than 80 per cent of the votes.

Although President Kikwete was elected on an anti-corruption ticket, his administration came under criticism due to several corruption scandals. In February 2008, Prime Minister Edward Lowassa and two ministers resigned over allegations of awarding a contract to a ghost US electricity company. Other former ministers were facing court cases concerning a contract to audit gold production in the country.

In 2010, 16 parties fielded candidates for the 239 directly elected seats (up from 232). The main contenders in the 2010 elections included the CCM, Chadema and the CUF.

Seven candidates were running in the presidential race. President Kikwete's main rivals were Mr. Willbrod Slaa (Chadema), a former Roman Catholic priest, and Mr. Ibrahim Lipumba (CUF), a former World Bank economist who was making his fourth bid for the presidency.

The major issues in 2010 included the water supply, health services, education and the fight against corruption.

All three major parties identified sustainable water supply among the top priorities to be implemented in their first two years of office. The ruling CCM ran on the government's record, underscoring that President Kikwete's Administration had improved the water supply. It claimed that in 2009 58.3 per cent of inhabitants in rural areas and 80.3 per cent of people in urban areas had access to clean water. President Kikwete pledged to continue his efforts if given a second term. Chadema promised to allocate more funds to the water sector. The CUF argued that the water situation in the country for both domestic and industrial use was still very poor. Its presidential candidate, Lipumba, said that he would review all water supply schemes in the country and introduce new ones with imported technologies.

On other leading issues, President Kikwete's CCM pledged to improve education facilities and reduce poverty. It also promised to build more health facilities and transportation infrastructure, including roads and railways. Chadema and the CUF ran on similar platforms and pledged to tackle corruption, accusing the CCM of not taking adequate anti-corruption measures.

Around 43 per cent of the 19.7 million registered voters turned out at the polls. Voting took place smoothly in most polling stations, although the late arrival of ballot papers and problems related to the voters' roll were reported in some polling stations.

The final results showed some progress for the opposition parties. The CCM took 186 of the 239 seats at stake, down from the 206 recorded in 2005. Chadema increased its share from five to 23 and the CUF took 24 seats, up from 19. The remaining seats went to small parties.

Several cabinet ministers lost to Chadema candidates. Chadema's newly elected members of parliament included Mr. Vincent Nyerere, a nephew of Tanzania's first post-independence president, Julius Nyerere. Mr. Salum Khalifani Bar'wani (CUF) became the first albino (see note) to be elected to

the Tanzanian Parliament.

In the presidential election, President Kikwete (CCM) was re-elected for a second and final term with 61 per cent of the votes.

On 12 November, the newly elected parliament held its first session. Outgoing Deputy Speaker Anne Makinda (CCM) was elected as its new Speaker, becoming the first woman to assume the post.

Note:

Albinos have been discriminated against in many African countries. In Tanzania, many have been killed by witch doctors who believe that charms made from their body parts bring good luck. In April 2008, President Kikwete had nominated Ms. Al Shaymaa Kwegyir, making her the first albino member of Parliament, in a nationwide effort to eliminate discrimination against albinos.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	About 19,700,000	43%
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▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

	Directly elected	Women seats	Appointed/ Zanzibar	Total
Revolutionary Party of Tanzania (CCM)	186	67	6	259
Civic United Front (CUF)	24	10	2	36
Chadema (Party for Democracy and Development)	23	25	0	48
NCCR-Mageuzi	4	0	0	4
Tanzania Labour Party (TLP)	1	0	0	1
United Democratic Party (UDP)	1	0	0	1
Other (the Attorney General)	0	0	1	1
Total	239	102	9	350

▶ **Distribution of seats according to sex**

	Directly elected	Women seats	Appointed/ Zanzibar	Total
Men	218	0	6	224
Women	21	102	3	126
Total	239	102	9	350

Note: Seven additional members can be appointed by the President.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

House of Representatives

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Congress
Structure of Parliament	Bicameral
Chamber	House of Representatives
Number of members	435 directly elected Plus non-voting Delegates from the District of Columbia, US Virgin Islands, American Samoa and Guam and a non-voting Resident Commissioner from Puerto Rico.
Term of House	2 years
Date of elections	2 November 2010

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all the seats of the House of Representatives on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

435 single-member constituencies

Each Representative represents roughly the same number of citizens, provided that each State has at least one Representative. Within the constitutional limitation that "the number of Representatives shall not exceed one for every thirty thousand" inhabitants, the Congress itself has the power to determine the size of the House of Representatives.

▶ **Voting system: Majority**

Single member plurality systems ("first past the post") except in the State of Georgia where a run-off is held if no candidate receives an absolute majority.

Vacancies arising between general elections are filled through by-elections.

Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years

- US citizens who "in each State, shall have the qualifications requisite for electors of the most numerous branch of the State legislature"

- the determination of who may vote falls under the jurisdiction of each State

- absentee registration and voting mandated by federal law for certain groups of citizens (e.g. armed forces and merchant marine personnel, their spouses and dependants, private citizens residing outside the United States and government employees)

Disqualification: convicted felons, the mentally incompetent (most States)

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified electors
- age: 25 years
- US citizenship for 7 years
- residence in the State where running

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- any civil office under the authority of the United States

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- nomination as a result of "nominating", or primary, elections of political parties is the practice in most States; it is regulated by state law
- number of voters whose support is necessary to qualify as a candidate in either a party's primary or in a general election, and the necessity or amount of an accompanying filing fee, vary according to state law

Background and Outcome of the Elections

At stake in the 2010 midterm elections were all 435 seats in the House of Representatives and 37 seats in the 100-member Senate (see note).

In the previous elections held in November 2008, in parallel with the presidential elections, the Democrats won 257 seats in the House of Representatives while the Republicans took 178. In the Senate elections, the Democrats won 20 seats, bringing their total to 59 seats (including support from two independents), thus narrowly failing to win the 60 seats required to avoid filibustering (the use of procedural hurdles to obstruct the passage of legislation). The Republicans took 15 seats in 2008, holding 41 seats in all. In the presidential elections, Mr. Barack Obama secured 53 per cent of the popular vote (and 365 votes in the electoral college), thereby becoming the first African American to accede to the highest office in the United States.

President Obama was elected on his pledge to restore the country's

economy. In February 2009, the Democrat-led Congress passed a US\$ 787 billion economic stimulus bill that was opposed by the Republicans. In March 2010, Congress passed a health care reform bill, opposed by Republicans and some Democrats, which President Obama signed into law later the same month. The reform aims to extend medical coverage to some 30 million uninsured persons by 2014 and prohibit insurers from refusing coverage to persons with medical problems. Democrats hailed the law as a historic act while Republicans argued that the plan would lead to a government takeover of the country's private health care system and would result in higher premiums and taxes.

The economy, health care reform and the federal deficit remained the major issues in the 2010 elections. Both the Democrats and Republicans promised to create more jobs and make the country's economy more competitive. Although official statistics showed that the country's recession ended in June 2010, the unemployment rate remained high, at 9.6 per cent in September 2010, up from 6.2 per cent in September 2008. The federal budget deficit was expected to reach US\$ 1.56 trillion in 2010, up from a record \$ 1.41 trillion in the 2009 fiscal year.

The Democrats were reportedly losing ground due to the country's economic difficulties. The Republicans pledged to reduce the size of federal government, stop its "out-of-control spending" and repeal "the government takeover of health care". House Republican leader John Boehner, who was aspiring to become the new House Speaker, promised to cut spending and keep taxes at current levels. Republican Whip Eric Cantor launched the "YouCut" programme, whereby people can vote online to identify the spending cuts they want to see the House enact (with a view to implementing them in the federal budget).

The election campaign revealed dissent among the Democrats. Few candidates openly defended the health care reform, with some emphasizing that they had opposed the bill. A number of Democratic candidates and incumbents in Republican-leaning districts reportedly distanced themselves from outgoing Speaker Nancy Pelosi. Her crucial role in the passage of the health care reform and her support for extending federal funding for abortions made her a target of attacks from conservatives. President Obama and Vice President Biden for their part urged voters' support for Democrats, arguing that it would be destructive and irresponsible to let Congress fall back into the hands of Republicans.

Prior to the 2010 elections, a grass-roots conservative movement emerged, known as the Tea Party. It favours limited government, low taxes and reduced public spending. The Tea Party, which has not officially been registered as a political party, included prominent Republican figures such as former vice-presidential candidate Ms. Sarah Palin, Senator Jim Demint, former House Republican leader Dick Armey and House member Michelle Bachmann. Ms. Bachmann helped create the Tea Party Congressional Caucus comprising 52 of the 178 House Republicans. In the 2010 elections, 138 Tea Party-backed candidates (129 for the House and nine for the Senate), all Republicans, were vying for seats.

The elections to the House of Representatives resulted in the largest swing since 1948, giving the Republicans a resounding victory. They took 242 of the 435 seats at stake, up from 178 in 2008, while the Democrats' share was reduced from 257 to 193. In the Senate elections, the Democrats narrowly retained their majority, winning 13 seats, bringing their total to 53 (including support from two independents), while the Republicans won 24 seats, to hold 47 seats in all. Unofficial sources indicated that around 70 candidates endorsed by the Tea Party movement were elected to Congress.

The newly elected Congress was convened on 5 January 2011. The House elected Mr. John Boehner (Republican) as its new Speaker. Vice President Biden (Democrat) and Daniel K. Inouye (Democrat) continue to serve as President and President pro tempore of the Senate.

Note:

34 seats were renewed upon the normal end of the senators' term of office. Three other seats in Delaware, New York and West Virginia were subject to special elections after they had been vacated by Mr. Joseph Biden (elected US Vice-President), Ms. Hillary Clinton (appointed as Secretary of State) and Mr. Robert Byrd, who passed away in June 2010.

Election results and statistics

► Distribution of seats according to political group

	Seats	Number of women
Republican Party	242	25
Democratic Party	193	48
Total	435	73

► **Distribution of seats according to sex**

Men	362	
Women	73	16.78 %
Total	435	

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Senate

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Congress
Structure of Parliament	Bicameral
Chamber	Senate
Number of members	100 directly elected
Term of House	6 years; one-third of the membership is renewed every 2 years
Date of elections	2 November 2010

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for one-third of the seats of the Senate on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

50 multi-member constituencies (two seats each) corresponding to the country's 50 states

▶ **Voting system: Majority**

Simple majority vote except in the State of Georgia where a run-off is held if no candidate receives an absolute majority.

If a seat becomes vacant between general elections, the Governors in 49 of the 50 States may, through a temporary appointment, fill it either for the balance of the term, or until the next general election, when a special election is held, depending on State requirements. One State (Oregon) requires that Senate vacancies be filled only by special election.

Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years

- US citizens who "in each State, shall have the qualifications requisite for electors of the most numerous branch of the State legislature"

- the determination of who may vote falls under the jurisdiction of each State

- absentee registration and voting mandated by federal law for certain groups of citizens (e.g. armed forces and merchant marine personnel,

their spouses and dependants, private citizens residing outside the United States and government employees)

Disqualification: convicted felons, the mentally incompetent (most States)

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified electors
- age: 30 years
- citizenship for at least 9 years
- residence in the State where running

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- any civil office under the authority of the United States

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- nomination as a result of "nominating", or primary, elections of parties is the practice in most States; it is regulated by state law
- number of voters whose support is necessary to qualify as a candidate in either a party's primary or in a general election, and the necessity or amount of an accompanying filing fee, vary according to state law.

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Election results and statistics

► Distribution of seats according to political group

	Seats 2010	Total seats	Number of women
Democratic Party	13	51	12
Republican Party	24	47	5
Independents	0	2	0
Total	37	100	17

▶ **Distribution of seats according to sex**

	Seats 2010		Total	
Men	32		83	
Women	5	13.51%	17	17.00%
Total	37		100	

VENEZUELA

National Assembly

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Asamblea Nacional / National Assembly
Structure of Parliament	Unicameral
Number of members	165 members - 162 directly elected - 3 seats reserved for indigenous people of Venezuela.
Term of House	5 years
Date of elections	26 September 2010

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all the seats in the National Assembly.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

For the 110 majority seats

There are 87 constituencies, including:

- 68 single-member constituencies (68 seats);
- 15 two-member constituencies (30 seats);
- 4 three-member constituencies (12 seats).

For the 52 proportional representation seats

There are 24 multi-member constituencies corresponding to the states and the Federal District, as below:

- 4 three-member constituencies (12 seats);
- 20 two-member constituencies (40 seats).

▶ **Voting system: Mixed**

- 110 members are elected under the majority system
 - 52 others elected under the proportional representation system using closed party lists; seats are allocated according to the d'Hondt method
- In addition, three seats are reserved for the indigenous community. They are filled by separate elections.

Vacancies arising between general elections are filled by the "next in line" candidate on the same party list.

Voting is compulsory, except in certain specific cases.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years
- Venezuelan citizens and non-citizens who have lived in Venezuela for over 10 years before the election.

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified elector
- age: 21 years
- Venezuelan citizenship by birth or naturalisation, with a minimum of 15 years residence in the country
- Residence in the region for four consecutive years.

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- President of the Republic, Executive Vice-President, Ministers, Secretary to the Presidency, director of autonomous institute or of State enterprise, up to three months after separation from any such office
- Governors and secretaries of Governor's Offices, of states and similarly ranking authorities of the Capital City District up to three months after separation from such office
- Municipal, State and national officials, and those from autonomous institutes, when the election is held in their jurisdictions, except in cases where the position is temporary or subordinate or for teaching or academic purposes.

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- candidatures must be submitted independently on the individual's own initiative
- submitted by a political party
- candidates must be enrolled on the electoral register
- submitted by a number of citizens equal to had required by the Constitution or political party

Background and Outcome of the Elections

On 14 April 2010, the National Election Commission (CNE) called parliamentary elections for 26 September, three months ahead of the scheduled end of the outgoing legislature's term in December 2010. At stake were all 165 seats in the National Assembly.

The previous elections (December 2005) were boycotted by the country's three main opposition parties - Democratic Action (AD), Project Venezuela (PRYZL) and the Social Christian Party (COPEI) - and marked by a low

turnout - 25 per cent, down from 56 per cent in 2000. President Hugo Chávez's Fifth Republic Movement (MVR) and its allies swept 161 of the 167 seats and the remaining seats went to other candidates supporting the President, who has been in power since 1999.

The 2010 elections were the first to be held under a new electoral law passed by the National Assembly in July 2009 (*Ley de Procesos Electorales*). The law contains provisions said to favour major candidates and political parties (see note 1). It also relaxes voter requirements by allowing non-citizens over 18 years old who have lived in Venezuela for over 10 years to register. Under the previous electoral law, eligible voters had to be citizens by birth. The Law was gazetted in August 2009. In the same month, the National Assembly passed another law allowing the CNE to redraw electoral districts at any moment. President Chávez's allies said the new districts would favour indigenous and other marginalized groups while opposition leaders argued that the CNE would modify the districts so as to increase the ruling party's share of seats. The districts used in the 2010 elections reportedly gave more representation per capita to states where President Chávez has strong support. The same law also reduced the percentage of seats filled under the proportional representation system, from 40 per cent to roughly 30 per cent, or 52 of the 165 seats.

In June 2009, 11 opposition parties formed an election coalition, the Coalition for Democratic Unity (*Mesa de la Unidad Democrática*, MUD) in view of the 2010 parliamentary elections. The coalition was led by the COPEI President, Mr. Luis Ignacio Planas. By April 2010, the MUD comprised some 50 parties and groups. The main parties included the COPEI, the AD, the Movement for Socialism, the Radical Cause (*La Causa Radical*) and Red Flag Party, A New Era (*Un Nuevo Tiempo*), Justice First (*Primero Justicia*), For Social Democracy (*PODEMOS*) and Clear Accounts (*Cuentas Claras*).

In all, 6,411 candidates were vying for seats in the 2010 elections. President Chávez led the United Socialist Party of Venezuela (PSUV). It was challenged by the MUD.

President Chávez, although not a parliamentary candidate, dominated the PSUV's campaign. He accused opposition parties of serving the interests of wealthy citizens and the US Government and urged voters to continue supporting his "Bolivarian Revolution". He stated that his target was to secure a two-thirds majority in the new National Assembly, the number required, *inter alia*, to amend the Constitution, appoint and remove members of the

Supreme Court of Justice and the CNE, and create and abolish National Assembly standing committees.

President Chávez came under criticism for the water and power shortages that had plagued the country since late 2009 and for the rising crime rate (between 13,000 and 16,000 people were murdered in 2009).

The MUD promised to restore a "plural" National Assembly and restrict interference by the Executive in order to allow Venezuelans to live and progress peacefully. It pledged to make the National Assembly a place of dialogue, tolerance and consensus on solutions to the country's problems so as to guarantee all citizens a better life.

MUD candidates included several outspoken critics of President Chávez, such as Ms. María Corina Machado and Mr. Enrique Mendoza, leader of the Democratic Coordinator (CD, a former opposition alliance). In 2004, Súmate, a non-governmental organization, then headed by Ms. Machado, spearheaded a petition for a recall of President Chávez in which the CD was also involved. Ms. Machado was subsequently charged with treason and conspiracy. She urged voters to reject "Cuban-style communism".

Other major MUD candidates included Mr. Iván Simonovis, a former police chief serving a prison term for participating in a 2002 attempted coup d'état, and A New Era party leader Manuel Rosales, who ran against Mr. Chávez in the 2006 presidential elections and has since lived in exile in Peru.

In all, 66.45 per cent of some 17 million registered voters turned out at the polls, a sharp increase from the 25 per cent recorded in 2005.

The PSUV won 46 per cent of the total votes and took 95 of the 165 seats. With its three allies, which won one seat each (see note 2), the President's camp took 98 seats in all but was 12 seats short of a two-thirds majority. The MUD took 48 per cent of the votes but won only 65 seats, due mainly to the districts used in the 2010 elections (see note 3). Another opposition party, Fatherland for All (Patria Para Todos), took two seats with 2.9 per cent of the votes.

Ms. Machado and Mr. Mendoza of the MUD were the two highest vote-earners nationwide and were elected to Parliament.

On 5 January 2011, the newly elected National Assembly held its first session and elected Mr. Fernando Soto Rojas (PSUV) as its new Speaker.

Note 1:

The new law provides for a "twin" voting system (morochas) whereby two different parties may nominate the same candidate: once for a party list and once as a constituency (majority) candidate.

Note 2:

The PSUV's allies which won seats were the Communist Party of Venezuela (PCV) as well as two parties representing the indigenous community: the CONIVE, National Indian Council of Venezuela and the Foundation for Training, Integration and Dignity.

Note 3:

The 2010 election results showed that the MUD had obtained more votes in the six districts with the largest number of voters - Zulia, Miranda, Carabobo, Lara, Aragua, and the Metropolitan District, comprising 9,319,360 registered voters (52% of the total) but they elect only 64 of the 165 members (39%) in the National Assembly.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	17,575,975	
Voters	11,679,235	66.45 %

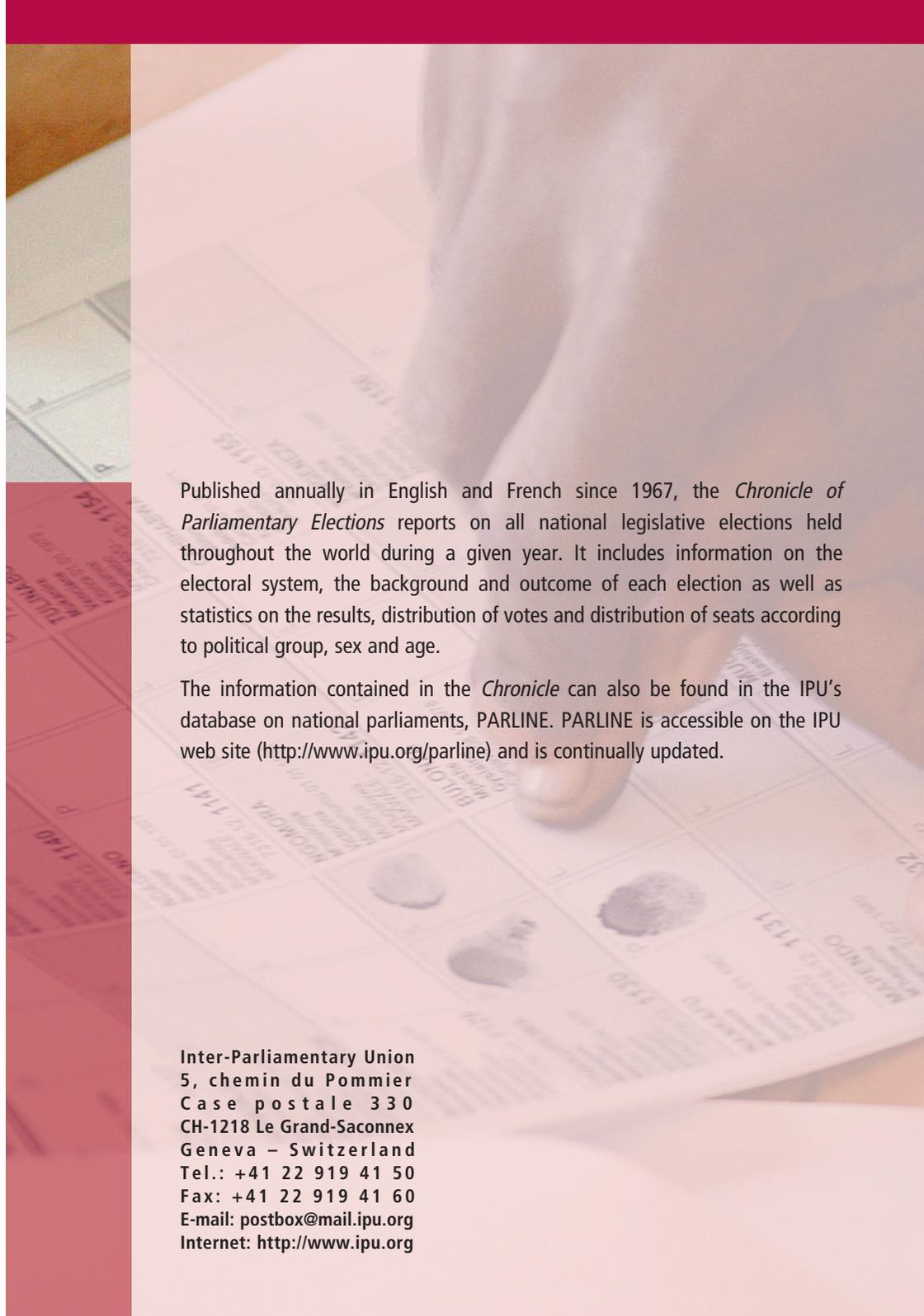
► **Distribution of seats according to political group**

United Socialist Party of Venezuela (PSUV) and its allies	98
United Socialist Party of Venezuela (PSUV)	95
Communist Party of Venezuela (PCV)	1
CONIVE, National Indian Council of Venezuela*	1
Foundation for Training, Integration and Dignity*	1
Coalition for Democratic Unity (MUD)	65
A New Era (Un Nuevo Tiempo)	10
Justice First (Primero Justicia)	10
Democratic Action (AD)	8
Social Christian Party (COPEI)	5
For Social Democracy (PODEMOS)	2
Clear Accounts (Cuentas Claras)	1
Radical Cause (La Causa Radical)	1
Project Venezuela (PRYZL)	1
Zulia State Autonomous Indigenous Movement*	1
Fatherland for All (PPT)	2
Total	165

*These seats are reserved for indigenous people of Venezuela.

► **Distribution of seats according to sex**

Men	137	
Women	28	16.97 %
Total	165	



Published annually in English and French since 1967, the *Chronicle of Parliamentary Elections* reports on all national legislative elections held throughout the world during a given year. It includes information on the electoral system, the background and outcome of each election as well as statistics on the results, distribution of votes and distribution of seats according to political group, sex and age.

The information contained in the *Chronicle* can also be found in the IPU's database on national parliaments, PARLINE. PARLINE is accessible on the IPU web site (<http://www.ipu.org/parline>) and is continually updated.

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