



INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

CHEMIN DU POMMIER 5
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Women in Politics: 60 years in retrospect (data valid as at 1 February 2006)

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¹ Background paper prepared by the IPU for the United Nations Expert Group Meeting on "Equal participation of women and men in decision-making processes, with particular emphasis on political participation and leadership." Addis Ababa, 24 - 27 October 2005



DATA SHEET N° 1

HISTORICAL TABLE
As at 1 February 2006

Country	Sovereignty after 1940	Women Presidents	Women Prime Ministers	First legislature of the present sovereign State ¹	First woman elected (E) or nominated (N) to Parliament	Women as presiding officers of parliament or of one of its chambers
1 Afghanistan	---	---	---	07.1965	07.1965 (E)	---
2 Albania	---	---	---	21.01.1920	12.1945 (E)	Since 07.2005 J. Topalli (Assembly)
3 Algeria	05.07.1962	---	---	09.1962	09.1962 (N) 09.1964 (E)	---
4 Andorra	04.05.1993	---	---	12.1993	12.1993 (E)	---
5 Angola	11.11.1975	---	---	11.1980	11.1980 (E)	---
6 Antigua and Barbuda	01.11.1981	---	---	01.11.1981	04.1984 (N) 03.1994 (E)	Since 03.2004 - H. Mason Francis (Senate); Since 03.2004 - G. Isaac-Arrindell (House of Representatives); 1994-1999 & 1999-2003 - M. Percival (Senate); 1994-1999 - B. Harris (House of Representatives)
7 Argentina	---	07.1974-03.1976 - M.E. Martínez de Perón	---	01.05.1853	11.1951 (E)	10.1973-07.1974 - M.E. Martínez de Perón (Senate, pro tempore)
8 Armenia	21.09.1991	---	---	20.05.1990	05.1990 (E)	---
9 Australia	---	---	---	30.03.1901	08.1943 (E)	1996-2002 - M. E. Reid (Senate); 1987-1990 - J. Child (House of Representatives)
10 Austria	---	---	---	1919	04.03.1919 (E)	Since 01.01.2006 - S. Roth-Halvax (Bundesrat); 07.2004-12.2004 - A. E. Haselbach (Bundesrat); 01.2002 - U. B. Püringer (Bundesrat); 28.12.2000-31.12.2000 - J. Auer (Bundesrat); 07.1995-12.1995 & 01.2000-06.2000 - A. E. Haselbach (Bundesrat); 07.1987-12.1987 - H. Hieden-Sommer (Bundesrat); 01.1965-06.1965 & 07.1969-12.1969 & 01.1974-06.1974 - H. Tschitschko (Bundesrat); 1927-1928 & 1932 - O. Rudel-Zeynek (Bundesrat); 1953 - J. Bayer (Bundesrat)
11 Azerbaijan	01.1992	---	---	09.1990	09.1990 (E)	---
12 Bahamas	10.07.1973	---	---	07.1973	07.1977 (N) 06.1982 (E)	Since 05.2002 - S. Wilson (Senate); 1997-2002 - R. I. Johnson (House of Assembly)
13 Bahrain	15.08.1971	---	---	12.1973	2002 (?) (Senate)	---
14 Bangladesh	12.1971	---	Since 10.2001 - K. Zia; 06.1996-07.2001 - Sheikh Hasina; 03.1991-03.1996 - K. Zia	03.1973	03.1973 (E)	---
15 Barbados	---	---	---	03.11.1966	12.1951 (E)	---
16 Belarus	25.08.1991	---	---	03.1990	03.1990 (E)	---
17 Belgium	---	---	---	29.08.1931	27.12.1921 (N)	Since 07.2004 - A.-M. Lizin (Senate)
18 Belize	21.09.1981	---	---	12.1984	12.1984 (E+N)	Since 2001 - E. Zabaneh (House of Representatives); 2001-2003 - S. Flores (Senate); 1998-2001 - E. Zabaneh (Senate); 1989-1993 - J. Usher (Senate); 1998-2001 - S. Flores (House of Representatives); 1984-1989 - D. Lina Garcia (Senate)
19 Benin	01.08.1960	---	---	12.1960	11.1979 (E)	---
20 Bhutan	---	---	---	1953	1975 (E)	---
21 Bolivia	---	11.1979-07.1980 - L. Gueiler Tejada	---	10.07.1825	07.1966 (E)	8.2005 - 1.2006 N. Soruco (chamber of Deputies); 1979 - L. Gueiler Tejada (Chamber of Deputies)
22 Bosnia and Herzegovina	01.03.1992	---	---	11.12.1990	12.1990 (E)	---
23 Botswana	30.09.1966	---	---	03.1965	10.1979 (E)	---
24 Brazil	---	---	---	1926	05.1933 (E)	---
25 Brunei Darussalam ²	01.01.1984	---	---	---	---	---
26 Bulgaria	---	---	10.1994-01.1995 - R. Indzhova	17.04.1879	11.1945 (E)	04.02.2005 - 23.02.2005 - K. Kassabova (Acting) (National Assembly)
27 Burkina Faso	05.08.1960	---	---	12.1970	04.1978 (E)	---
28 Burundi	01.07.1962	---	07.1993-02.1994 - S. Kinigi	18.09.1961	10.1982 (E)	Since 8.2005 - I. Nahayo (National Assembly)
29 Cambodia	09.11.1953	---	---	09.1955	03.1958 (E)	---
30 Cameroon	01.10.1961	---	---	04.1960	04.1960 (E)	---
31 Canada	---	---	06.1993-11.1993 - K. Campbell	1867	12.1921 (E) (Commons); 02.1930 (N) (Senate)	1980-1984 - J. Sauvé (House of Commons); 1974-1979 - R. Lapointe (Senate); 1972-1974 - M. Fergusson (Senate)
32 Cape Verde	05.07.1975	---	---	07.1975	07.1975 (E)	---
33 Central African Republic	13.08.1960	---	01.1975-04.1976 - E. Domitien	08.1960	07.1987 (E)	---

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34 Chad	11.08.1960	---	---	03.1962	03.1962 (E)	---
35 Chile	---	---	---	04.07.1811	04.1951 (E)	03.2003-03.2004 - I. Allende Bussi (Chamber of Deputies); 2001-2003 - A. Muñoz D'albora (Chamber of Deputies)
36 China	---	02.1972 Soong Ching Ling (an honorary presidency was conferred to her upon her death)	---	04.07.1811	04.1954 (E)	---
37 Colombia	---	---	---	1832	04.1954 (N), 03.1958 (E)	Since 07.2005 C. Blum De Barberi (Senate); 07.2004 - 07.2005 - ZdC Jattin Corrales (House of Representatives); 2000-2001 - N. P. Gutiérrez Castañeda (House of Representatives)
38 Comoros	12.1975	---	---	12.1978	12.1993 (E)	---
39 Congo	15.08.1960	---	---	01.06.1959	12.1963 (E)	---
40 Costa Rica	---	---	---	16.05.1823	11.1953 (E)	05.2000-05.2001 - R. Contreras de Madriz (Legislative Assembly); 1986-1987 - R.M. Karpinsky Dodero (Legislative Assembly)
41 Côte d'Ivoire	07.08.1960	---	---	01.11.1960	11.1965 (E)	---
42 Croatia	08.10.1991	---	---	08.1992	08.1992 (E)	05.1994-05.2001 - K. Ivanisevic (Zupanijski Dom, House of Districts)
43 Cuba	---	---	---	20.05.1902	07.1940 (E)	---
44 Cyprus	16.08.1960	---	---	07.1960	10.1963 (E)	---
45 Czech Republic	01.01.1993	---	---	06.1992	06.1992 (E)	1998-2004 - L. Benesova (Senate)
46 Dem. People's Rep. of Korea	09.09.1948	---	11.07.2002-31.07.2002 - Chang Sang (nominated by President but not ratified by parliament)	08.1948	08.1948 (E)	---
47 Dem. Republic of Congo	30.06.1960	---	---	06.1960	11.1970 (E)	---
48 Denmark	---	---	---	05.06.1849	1918 (E)	03.1950 - I. Hansen (Landsting)
49 Djibouti	27.06.1977	---	---	01.05.1977	2003 (E)	---
50 Dominica	03.11.1978	---	1980-1985; 1985-1990 & 1990-1995 - M.E. Charles	07.1980	07.1980 (E+N)	Since 2000 - A. B. Knights (House of Assembly); 1993-1995 - N. Edwards (House of Assembly); 1980-1988 - M. Davies-Pierre (House of Assembly)
51 Dominican Republic	---	---	---	06.11.1844	1942 (E)	08.1999-08.2000 - R. Albuquerque (Chamber of Deputies)
52 Ecuador	---	09.2.1997-11.02.1997 R. Arteaga Serrano de Cordova (acting executive president)	---	28.08.1830	1956 (E)	20.04.2005 - 30.4.2005 - C. Fernanda Viteri Jiménez (Acting) (Congress) ; 01.08-29.08.2000 - S. Gonzáles Muños (Congress)
53 Egypt	---	---	---	01.1950	07.1957 (E)	---
54 El Salvador	---	---	---	09.1840	12.1961 (E)	1994-1997 - G. Salguero Cross (Legislative Assembly)
55 Equatorial Guinea	12.10.1968	---	---	09.1968	09.1968 (E)	---
56 Eritrea ²	24.05.1993	---	---	02.1994	02.1994 (E)	---
57 Estonia	20.08.1991	---	---	29.11.1920	05.03.1990	04.1919 (E); 11.1920 (E); Since 03.2003 - E. Ergma (Parliament)
58 Ethiopia	06.04.1941	---	---	02.11.1932	10.1957 (E)	1995-2000 - A. Meko (House of the Federation)
59 Fiji	10.10.1970	---	---	11.1970 (Senate); 05.1972 (House Rep.)	11.1970 (N) (Senate); 05.1972 (E) (House Rep.)	---
60 Finland	---	Since 03.2000 -T. Kaarina Halonen	04.2003-06.2003 - A. Jäätteenmäki	16.03.1907	03.1907 (E)	25.03.2003-15.04-2003 - A. Jäätteenmäki (Parliament); 1991-1995 & 1995-1999 & 1999-2003 - R. Uusukainen (Parliament)
61 France	---	---	05.1991-04.1992 - E. Cresson	17.06.1789	10.1945 (E)	---
62 Gabon	17.08.1960	---	---	02.1961	02.1961 (E)	---
63 Gambia	18.02.1965	---	---	05.1966	05.1982 (E)	---
64 Georgia	04.1991	11.2003-01.2004 - N. Burdjanadze (acting)	---	10.11.1990	10.1992 (E)	Since 11.2001 - N. Burdjanadze (Parliament)
65 Germany ³	---	04.1990-10.1990 S. Bergmann-Pohl (acting) Democratic Republic of Germany	Since 11.2005 - A. Merkel	03.03.1871	01.1919 (E)	04-10.1990 - S. Bergmann-Pohl (Volkskammer); 1988-1994 & 1994-1998 - R. Süßmuth (Bundestag); 1972-1976 - A. Renger (FRG-Bundestag)
66 Ghana	06.03.1957	---	---	17.07.1956	08.1960 (N); 09.1969 (E)	---
67 Greece	---	---	---	1844	11.1952 (E)	Since 03.2004 - A. Benaki-Psarouda (Parliament)
68 Grenada	07.02.1974	---	---	02.1972	12.1976 (E+N)	Since 2004 - L.A Seon (Senate); 1990-1996 - M. Neckles (Senate)
69 Guatemala	---	---	---	?	03.1956 (E)	01.1994-01.1995 - A.Castro de Camparini (Congress); 01.1991-01.1992 - A.C.Soberanis Reyes (Congress)
70 Guinea	02.10.1958	---	---	09.1963	09.1963 (E)	---
71 Guinea-Bissau	24.09.1974	14.05.1984-16.05.1984 C. Periera (acting)	---	14.10.1972	10.1972 (N); 03.1984 (E)	---

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72 Guyana	26.05.1966	12.1997-08.1999 - Janet Jagan	03.1997-12.1997 - Janet Jagan	26.05.1966	04.1953 (E); 12.1968 (E)	
73 Haiti	--	03.1990-02.1991 - E. Pascal Trouillot	11.1995-02.1996 - C. Werleigh	22.04.1817	05.1961 (E)	
74 Honduras	--	--	--	29.08.1824	1957	
75 Hungary	--	--	--	12th cent.1848	1945 (E)	Since 04.2002 - K. Szilín (Parliament)
76 Iceland	--	08.1980-08.1996 - V. Finnbogadóttir	--	1930	07.1922 (E)	Since 10.2005 - S. Pétursdóttir (Althingi); 1991-1995 - S. Thorkelsdóttir (Althingi); 1988-1991 - G. Helgadóttir (Althingi Uni); 1983-1987 - S. Thorkelsdóttir (Upper House); 1974-1978 - R. Helgadóttir (Lower House)
77 India	15.08.1947	--	01.1966-03.1977 & 01.1980-10.1984 - I. Gandhi	02.1952	04.1952 (E)	1996-2004 - N.A. Heptulla (acting) (Council of States)
78 Indonesia	17.08.1945	07.2001-10.2004 - M. Sukarnoputri	--	02.1950	02.1950 (N); 07.1971 (E)	
79 Iran (Islamic Rep. of)	--	--	--	07.10.1906	09.1963 (E+N)	
80 Iraq	--	--	--	03.1920	06.1980 (E)	
81 Ireland	--	Since 11.1997 - M. McAleese; 12.1990-11.1997 - M. Robinson	--	06.12.1922	12.1918 (E)	05.1982-02.1983 & 1987-1989 - T. Honan (Senate)
82 Israel	15.05.1948	--	03.1969-04.1974 - G. Meir	25.01.1949	01.1949 (E)	
83 Italy	--	--	--	1848	06.1946 (E)	1994-1998 - I. Pivetti (Chamber of Deputies); 1979-1992 - N. Iotti (Chamber of Deputies)
84 Jamaica	06.08.1962	--	--	02.1967	12.1944 (E)	Since 01.1998 - S. Marshall-Burnett (Senate); 12.1997-2002 - V. Neilson (House of Representatives); 09.1984-10.1986 - J. Grant Woodham (Senate)
85 Japan	--	--	--	29.11.1890	04.1946 (E) (House of Representatives); 04.1947 (E) (House of Councillors)	Since 2004 - C. Oogi (House of Councillors); 1993-1996 - T. Doi (House of Representatives)
86 Jordan	25.05.1946	--	--	1946	11.1989 (N) (Senate); 11.1993 (E) (Ch. Deputies)	
87 Kazakhstan	16.12.1991	--	--	03.1990	03.1990 (E)	
88 Kenya	12.12.1963	--	--	05.1963	12.1969 (E+N)	
89 Kiribati	12.07.1979	--	--	02.02.1978	07.1990 (E)	
90 Kuwait	19.06.1961	--	--	01.1962	06.2005 (N) ⁶	
91 Kyrgyzstan	09.1991	--	--	02.1990	02.1990 (E)	
92 Lao People's Dem. Rep.	10.1953	--	--	25.12.1955	05.1958 (E)	
93 Latvia	21.08.1991	Since 06.1999 - V. Vike-Freiberga	--	03.04.1990	04.1920 (E)	Since 10.2002 - I. Udre (Saeima); 10.1995-09.1996 - I. Kreituse (Saeima)
94 Lebanon	22.11.1943	--	--	04.1947	04.1963 (E)	
95 Lesotho	04.10.1966	--	--	04.1965	04.1965 (N); 03.1993 (E)	Since 11.1999 - N. Motsamai (National Assembly)
96 Liberia	--	Since 01.2006 - E. Johnson-Sirleaf; 09.1996-08.1997 - R. Perry	--	1889	?	
97 Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	24.12.1951	--	--	02.1952	?	
98 Liechtenstein	--	--	--	24.11.1862	02.1986 (E)	
99 Lithuania	11.03.1990	--	03.1990-01.1991 - K. Prunskiene; 04-18.04.1999 - I. Degutiene (acting)	15.09.1920	05.1920 (E)	
100 Luxembourg	--	--	--	28.07.1918	04.1919 (E)	1989-1994 & 1994-1995 - E. Hennicot-Schoepges (Chamber of Deputies)
101 Madagascar	26.06.1960	--	--	06.1960	08.1965 (E)	
102 Malawi	06.07.1964	--	--	04.1964	04.1964 (E)	
103 Malaysia	31.08.1957	--	--	08.1959	08.1959 (E) (Ch. Deputies); 05.1965 (N) (Senate)	
104 Maldives	26.07.1965	--	--	11.1979	11.1979 (E)	
105 Mali	20.06.1960	--	--	1960	1960 (E)	
106 Malta	21.09.1964	02.1982-02.1987 - A. Barbara	--	03.1966	03.1966 (E)	1996-1998 - M. Spiteri Debono (House of Representatives)
107 Marshall Islands	09.1991	--	--	01.11.1991	11.1991 (E)	
108 Mauritania	28.11.1960	--	--	1965	10.1975 (E)	
109 Mauritius	12.03.1968	--	--	12.1976	06.1975 (E)	
110 Mexico	--	--	--	31.01.1824	09.1952 (N); 07.1955 (E)	09.2001-12.2002 - B. Paredes Rangel (Chamber of Deputies); 1997-2000 - M. Moreno Uriegas (Senate); 1994-1997 - M. Moreno Uriegas (Chamber of Deputies)
111 Micronesia (Fed. States of)	09.1991	--	--	03.1993	No	
112 Monaco	--	--	--	02.1963	02.1963 (E)	

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113 Mongolia	01.01.1946	09.1953-07.1954 - S. Yanjmaa (Acting)	22.07.1999-30.07.1999 - N.-O. Tuyaa (acting)	06.1951	06.1951 (E)	--
114 Morocco	02.03.1956	--	--	05.1963	06.1993 (E)	--
115 Mozambique	04.12.1977	--	Since 02.2004 - L. Diogo	12.1977	12.1977 (E)	--
116 Myanmar	--	--	--	04.1947	04.1947 (E)	--
117 Namibia	21.03.1990	--	--	11.1989	11.1989 (E)	--
118 Nauru	31.01.1968	--	--	31.01.1968	12.1986 (E)	--
119 Nepal	--	--	--	02.1959	1952 (N); 10.1959 (E+N)	--
120 Netherlands	--	--	--	1796 or 1813	07.1918 (E)	Since 06.2003 - Y. Timmerman-Buck (Senate); 05.1998-05.2002 - J. van Nieuwenhoven (House of Representatives)
121 New Zealand	--	--	Since 11.1999 - H. Clark; 12.1997-11.1999 - J. Shipley	1852	09.1933 (E)	Since 3.2005 - M. Wilson (House of Representatives)
122 Nicaragua	--	04.1990-01.1997- V. Barrios de Chamorro	--	08.04.1826	02.1972 (E)	1990-1992 - M. Argüello Morales (National Assembly)
123 Niger	03.08.1960	--	--	1958	12.1989 (E)	--
124 Nigeria	01.10.1960	--	--	03.1965	?	--
125 Norway	--	--	02-10.1981; 05.1986-10.1989 & 11.1990-10.1996 G. Harlem Brundtland	1814	1911 (N)	1993-1997 & 1997-2001 - K. Kolle Grøndahl (Stortinget)
126 Oman	--	--	--	?	?	--
127 Pakistan ⁷	01.1972	--	12.1988-08.1990 & 10.1993-11.1996 - B. Bhutto	1973	1973 (E)	--
128 Palau	01.10.1994	--	--	11.1992	No	--
129 Panama	--	09.1999-09.2004 - M.E. Moscoso de Arias	--	1904	1946 (E)	1994-1996 - B. Herrera Araúz (Legislative Assembly)
130 Papua New Guinea	16.09.1975	--	--	07.1977	07.1977 (E)	--
131 Paraguay	--	--	--	1811	04.1963 (E)	--
132 Peru	--	--	06.2003-12.2003 - B. Merino (President of the Council of Ministers)	20.09.1822	07.1956 (E)	1999-2000 - M. Hildebrandt Pérez (Congress); 1995-1996 - M. Chávez Cossío de Ocampo (Congress)
133 Philippines	04.07.1946	Since 01.2001 - G. Macapagal-Arroyo; 02.1986-06.1992 - C. Aquino	--	23.04.1946	11.1941 (E)	--
134 Poland	--	--	07.1992-10.1993 - H. Suchocka	01.1593	01.1919 (E) (Sejm); 03.1928 (E) (Senate)	1997-2001 - A. Grzeszkowiak (Senate)
135 Portugal	--	--	08.1979-01.1980 - M. de Lourdes Pintasilgo	27.01.1821	11.1934 (N); 11.1934 (E)	--
136 Qatar	09.01.1971	--	--	?	?	--
137 Republic of Korea	15.08.1948	--	--	10.05.1948	05.1948 (E)	--
138 Republic of Moldova	01.08.1991	--	--	01.02.1990	02.1990 (E)	03.2001 - 3.2005 - E. Ostapciuc (Parliament)
139 Romania	--	--	--	20.11.1919	11.1946 (E)	--
140 Russian Federation ⁸	01.06.1990	--	--	01.12.1993	12.1993 (E)	--
141 Rwanda	01.07.1962	--	07.1993-04.1994 - A. Uwilingiyimana	01.12.1965	12.1981(E)	--
142 Saint Kitts and Nevis	19.09.1983	--	--	06.1984	06.1984 (E)	Since 10.2004 - M. Lburd (Assembly); 09.2001-10.2004 - M. Morton (Assembly)
143 Saint Lucia	22.02.1979	--	--	07.1979	05.1974 (E)	--
144 Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	27.10.1979	--	--	12.1979	12.1979 (E)	--
145 Samoa	01.01.1962	--	--	04.1964	02.1976 (N); 04.1991 (E)	--
146 San Marino	--	10.2003-03.2004 V. Ciavatta; 04.2000-09.2000 - M. D. Michelotti; 04.1999-09.1999 - R. Zafferani; 10.1991 - E. Ceccoli; 04.1993 - P. Busignani; 10.1989 & 04.1984 - G. Ranocchini; 04-10.1981 - M.L. Ranocchini	--	13 th cent.; 1906	09.1974 (E)	04.2005 - 10.2005 F. Morganti; 10.2003-03.2004 V. Ciavatta; 04.2000-09.2000 - M. D. Michelotti; 04.1999-09.1999 - R. Zafferani; 10.1991 - E. Ceccoli; 04.1993 - P. Busignani; 10.1989 & 04.1984 - G. Ranocchini; 04-10.1981 - M.L. Pedini Angellini;
147 São Tomé and Príncipe	12.07.1975	--	Since 06.2005 - Maria do Carmo Silveira; 09.2002-09.2004 - M. das Neves Ceita	12.1975	12.1975 (E)	1980-1985 & 1985-1991 - A. Graça do Espírito Santo (National Assembly)
148 Saudi Arabia	--	--	Batista de Sousa	?	No	--
149 Senegal	04.04.1960	--	05.2001-11.2002 - M. Boye	1960	12.1963 (E)	--

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150 Serbia and Montenegro ⁹	1992	12.02 - 02.2004 - N. Micić (acting)	05.1982-05.1986 - M. Planinc	01.12.1992	11.1943 (E)	2001-2004 - N. Micić (National Assembly); 2001-2002 - V. Perović (Parliament); 05.1989-06.1992 - B. Glumac-Levakov (Federal Chamber of the S.F.R.Y.); 05.1986-05.1987 - M. Gligorjević-Takeva (Federal Chamber of the S.F.R.Y.); 10.1979-05.1982 - S. Tomasević-Amesen (Federal Chamber of the S.F.R.Y. Assembly); 05.1967-05.1969 - V. Tomšić (Federal Chamber and Chamber of Nationalities of the Federal Assembly); 06.1963-05.1967 - O. Vrbica (Chamber of Welfare and Health of the Federal Assembly of the S.F.R.Y.)
151 Seychelles	28.06.1976	---	---	01.09.1976	06.1976 (E); 09.1976 (N)	---
152 Sierra Leone	27.04.1961	---	---	04.1962	?	---
153 Singapore	09.08.1965	---	---	21.09.1963	09.1963 (E)	---
154 Slovakia	01.01.1993	---	---	01.06.1992	06.1992 (E)	---
155 Slovenia	08.10.1991	---	---	12.1992	12.1992 (E)	---
156 Solomon Islands	07.07.1978	---	---	08.1980	05.1993 (E)	---
157 Somalia	01.07.1960	---	---	02.1960	12.1979 (E)	---
158 South Africa	---	---	---	04.1933	04.1933 (E)	Since 04.2004 - B. Mbete (National Assembly); 1999-2004 - N. Pandore (National Council of Provinces); 1994-1999 & 1999-2004 - F.N. Ginwala (National Assembly)
159 Spain	---	---	---	1810	07.1931 (E)	04.2000-01.2004 - L. F. Rudi (Chamber of Deputies); 02.1999-04.2000 & 04.2000-10.2002 - E. Aguirre Gil de Biedma (Senate)
160 Sri Lanka	04.02.1948	11.1994-11.1999 & 12.1999 - 11.2005 C. Kumaratunge	08.1994-11.1994 C. Kumaratunge; 07.1960-03.1965 & 05.1970-07.1977 & 11.1994-08.2000 - S. Bandaranaike	09.1947	09.1947 (E)	---
161 Sudan	01.1956	---	---	1954	11.1964 (E)	---
162 Suriname	25.11.1975	---	---	10.1975	03.1963 (E)	10.1996-07.2000 - I.M. Djawalapersad (National Assembly)
163 Swaziland	06.09.1968	---	---	04.1972	04.1972 (E+N)	---
164 Sweden	---	---	---	1435	09.1921 (E)	1994-1998 & 1998-2002 - B. Dahl (Riksdag); 1991-1994 - I. Troedsson (Riksdag)
165 Switzerland	---	01.1999-12.1999 - R. Dreifuss	---	1848	10.1971 (E)	2005 - T. Meyer (National Council); 2002 - L. Maury Pasquier (National Council); 2001 - F. Saudan (Council of States); 1998 - T. Heberlein (National Council); 1996 - J. Stamm (National Council); 1994 - G. Haller (National Council); 1992 - J. Meier (Council of States); 1982 - H. Lang (National Council); 05-11.1977 - E. Blunschy (National Council)
166 Syrian Arab Republic	17.04.1946	---	---	01.07.1947	05.1973 (E)	---
167 Tajikistan	09.09.1991	---	---	01.02.1990	02.1990 (E)	---
168 Thailand	---	---	---	1932	11.1947 (N); 06.1949 (E)	---
169 The Former Yugoslav Rep. of Macedonia	08.09.1991	---	05.2004-06.2004 & 11.2004-12.2004 - R. Sekerinska (acting)	11.12.1990	11.12.1990 (E)	---
170 Timor-Leste	20.05.2002	---	---	20.05.2002	2002 (E)	---
171 Togo	27.04.1960	---	---	04.1961	04.1961 (E)	---
172 Tonga	04.06.1970	---	---	05.1975	02.1993 (E)	---
173 Trinidad and Tobago	31.08.1962	---	---	31.08.1962	08.1962 (E+N)	Since 2002 - L. Baboolal (Senate); 1991-1995 - O. Seapaul (House of Representatives)
174 Tunisia	20.03.1956	---	---	04.1956	11.1959 (E)	---
175 Turkey	---	---	06.1993-07.1996 - T. Çiller	1920	02.1935 (N); 1939 (E);	---
176 Turkmenistan	27.10.1991	---	---	01.1990	01.1990 (E)	---
177 Tuvalu	01.10.1978	---	---	08.1977	09.1989 (E)	---
178 Uganda	09.10.1962	---	---	04.1962	04.1962 (E)	---
179 Ukraine	05.12.1991	---	02.2005 - 9.2005 - Y. Tymoshenko	03.1990	03.1990 (E)	---
180 United Arab Emirates	02.12.1971	---	---	12.1971	No	---
181 United Kingdom	---	---	05.1979 - 11.1990 - M. Thatcher	13 th cent.; 06.1886	12.1918 (E); 11.1919 (E)	1992-1997 & 1997-2000 - B. Boothroyd (House of Commons)
182 United Republic of Tanzania	09.12.1961	---	---	01.09.1965	?	---
183 United States of America	---	---	---	04.1789	03.1917 (E) (House of Rep.); 01.1932 (E) (Senate)	---
184 Uruguay	---	---	---	18.07.1830	11.1942 (E)	Since 02.2005 - N. Castro (House of Representatives); 1963, 1965 & 1967 - A. Roballo (Senate)
185 Uzbekistan	31.08.1991	---	---	02.1990	02.1990 (E)	---
186 Vanuatu	30.07.1980	---	---	11.1979	11.1987 (E)	---
187 Venezuela	---	---	---	29.04.1830	02.1948 (E)	1998-1999 - I. Rojas (Chamber of Deputies); 1994-1995 - C. Lavria (Chamber of Deputies)
188 Viet Nam ¹¹	1946 & 07.1976	---	---	01.07.1976	01.1946 (E)	---

Country	Sovereignty after 1940	Women Presidents	Women Prime Ministers	First legislature of the present sovereign State ¹	First woman elected (E) or nominated (N) to Parliament	Women as presiding officers of parliament or of one of its chambers
189 Yemen ¹²	30.11.1967 22.05.1990	---	---	1967 - (DPR of Yemen); 1970 - (Arab Rep. Yemen)	05.1990 (E ?)	---
190 Zambia	24.10.1964	--	--	01.1964	01.1964 (E+N)	---
191 Zimbabwe	18.04.1980	---	---	02.1980	02-03.1980 (E+N)	Since 11.2005 E. Madzongwe (Senate)

1. The date given is that of the first legislature of the present sovereign State. Likewise, account is taken only of the date on which a woman became a member of the first legislature **after** independence.

For all countries which had a form of representative institution between the 10th and 13th century, this reference is given as well as the date on which a Parliament in the present day meaning of the word (i.e. having legislative and oversight powers according to internal law) was established.

2. The countries where Parliament stood suspended or temporarily dissolved at the time of the study are indicated in italics. The same applied to countries which never had a Parliament.

3. Michelle Bachelet was elected as first woman president in Chile in January 2006. She will assume her position in March 2006.

4. In November 1955, Eritrea was part of Ethiopia. The Constitution of sovereign Eritrea adopted on 23 May 1997 stipulates that "*All Eritrean citizens, of eighteen years of age or more, shall have the right to vote.*"

5. Reunification of the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic on 3 October 1990.

6. In Kuwait, women were granted the right to vote and to stand for election in May 2005. In June 2005, Dr. Massouma Al-Mubarak became the first woman minister of Kuwait and consequently an ex officio member of parliament - the first woman to hold such a post.

7. Pakistan became independent in August 1947; the dates given here are for Pakistan following the partition of Bangladesh.

8. For the USSR, see data in IPU publication « *Women in Parliament: 1945-1995, A World Statistical Survey* », Series "Reports and Documents", N°23, 1995

9. The Federal Rep. of Yugoslavia became Serbia and Montenegro in 2003. For the SFR of Yugoslavia, see data in IPU publication « *Women in Parliament: 1945-1995* », Series "Reports and Documents", N°23, 1995

10. This date is that of the first elections to the House of Commons following the electoral reform of 1884, which established a uniform electoral system for the entire United Kingdom and granted adult males the right to vote and to stand for election.

11. Reunification of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and the Republic of Viet Nam in July 1976.

12. Reunification of Yemen on 22 May 1990.



DATA SHEET N° 2

PROGRESS AND SETBACKS
of Women in National Parliaments
between 01.07.1995 and 01.02.2006

Country	Single or Lower Chamber of Parliament					+ & - Percentage points
	01.07.1995		01.02.2006			
	Women	Total Seats filled	% of Women	Women	Total Seats filled	% of Women
Progress						
Rwanda		12/ 70	17.14	39/ 80	48.75	31.61
Andorra		1/ 28	3.57	8/ 28	28.57	25.00
Belgium		18/ 150	12.00	52/ 150	34.67	22.67
Costa Rica		8/ 57	14.04	20/ 57	35.09	21.05
Spain		56/ 350	16.00	126/ 350	36.00	20.00
Suriname		3/ 51	5.88	13/ 51	25.49	19.61
United Republic of Tanzania		28/ 249	11.24	97/ 319	30.41	19.16
Republic of Moldova		5/ 104	4.81	22/ 101	21.78	16.97
Ethiopia		11/ 220	5.00	117/ 546	21.43	16.43
Honduras		9/ 128	7.03	30/ 128	23.44	16.41
Tunisia		11/ 163	6.75	43/ 189	22.75	16.00
Liechtenstein		2/ 25	8.00	6/ 25	24.00	16.00
Croatia		8/ 138	5.80	33/ 152	21.71	15.91
T. F. Yugoslav Rep. of Macedonia		4/ 120	3.33	23/ 120	19.17	15.83
Monaco		1/ 18	5.56	5/ 24	20.83	15.28
Australia		14/ 147	9.52	37/ 150	24.67	15.14
Lithuania		10/ 141	7.09	31/ 141	21.99	14.89
Tajikistan		5/ 181	2.76	11/ 63	17.46	14.70
Argentina		56/ 257	21.79	93/ 257	36.19	14.40
Mauritius		2/ 70	2.86	12/ 70	17.14	14.29
Lao People's Democratic Republic		8/ 85	9.41	25/ 109	22.94	13.52
Cuba		134/ 589	22.75	219/ 609	35.96	13.21
Portugal		20/ 230	8.70	49/ 230	21.30	12.61
Cyprus		2/ 56	3.57	9/ 56	16.07	12.50
Guinea		8/ 114	7.02	22/ 114	19.30	12.28
Singapore		3/ 81	3.70	15/ 94	15.96	12.25
Bosnia and Herzegovina		7/ 156	4.49	7/ 42	16.67	12.18
Bahamas		4/ 49	8.16	8/ 40	20.00	11.84
Ecuador		3/ 67	4.48	16/ 100	16.00	11.52
Uzbekistan		15/ 250	6.00	21/ 120	17.50	11.50
Republic of Korea		6/ 299	2.01	40/ 299	13.38	11.37
Saint Lucia		0/ 17	0.00	2/ 18	11.11	11.11
Azerbaijan		1/ 50	2.00	15/ 115	13.04	11.04
New Zealand		21/ 99	21.21	39/ 121	32.23	11.02
Djibouti		0/ 65	0.00	7/ 65	10.77	10.77
Guyana		13/ 65	20.00	20/ 65	30.77	10.77
Equatorial Guinea		6/ 80	7.50	18/ 100	18.00	10.50
Turkmenistan		5/ 90	5.56	8/ 50	16.00	10.44
Austria		43/ 183	23.50	62/ 183	33.88	10.38
Morocco		2/ 333	0.60	35/ 325	10.77	10.17
United Kingdom		62/ 651	9.52	127/ 646	19.66	10.14
Mexico		71/ 500	14.20	121/ 500	24.20	10.00

Country	Single or Lower Chamber of Parliament					
	01.07.1995			01.02.2006		+ & -
	Women	Total Seats filled	% of Women	Women	Total Seats filled	% of Women
Progress						
Mozambique	63/ 250	25.20		87/ 250	34.80	9.60
Bhutan	0/ 150	0.00		14/ 150	9.33	9.33
Namibia	13/ 72	18.06		21/ 78	26.92	8.87
Viet Nam	73/ 395	18.48		136/ 498	27.31	8.83
Niger	3/ 83	3.61		14/ 113	12.39	8.77
Bulgaria	32/ 240	13.33		53/ 240	22.08	8.75
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	2/ 21	9.52		4/ 22	18.18	8.66
Panama	6/ 72	8.33		13/ 78	16.67	8.33
Peru	12/ 120	10.00		22/ 120	18.33	8.33
Sierra Leone	5/ 80	6.25		18/ 124	14.52	8.27
Burkina Faso	4/ 107	3.74		13/ 111	11.71	7.97
Malawi	10/ 177	5.65		26/ 191	13.61	7.96
Iceland	16/ 63	25.40		21/ 63	33.33	7.94
Mali	3/ 129	2.33		15/ 147	10.20	7.88
South Africa	100/ 400	25.00		131/ 400	32.75	7.75
Malta	1/ 66	1.52		6/ 65	9.23	7.72
Swaziland	2/ 65	3.08		7/ 65	10.77	7.69
Cape Verde	6/ 79	7.59		11/ 72	15.28	7.68
Chile	9/ 120	7.50		18/ 120	15.00	7.50
Paraguay	2/ 80	2.50		8/ 80	10.00	7.50
Senegal	14/ 120	11.67		23/ 120	19.17	7.50
Poland	60/ 460	13.04		94/ 460	20.43	7.39
Romania	14/ 341	4.11		37/ 331	11.18	7.07
Lesotho	3/ 65	4.62		14/ 120	11.67	7.05
Czech Republic	20/ 200	10.00		34/ 200	17.00	7.00
Greece	18/ 300	6.00		39/ 300	13.00	7.00
Switzerland	36/ 200	18.00		50/ 200	25.00	7.00
Democratic Republic of the Congo	37/ 738	5.01		60/ 500	12.00	6.99
Central African Republic	3/ 85	3.53		11/ 105	10.48	6.95
Congo	2/ 125	1.60		11/ 129	8.53	6.93
Liberia	2/ 35	5.71		8/ 64	12.50	6.79
Grenada	3/ 15	20.00		4/ 15	26.67	6.67
Uganda	47/ 270	17.41		73/ 305	23.93	6.53
Philippines	22/ 250	8.80		36/ 236	15.25	6.45
Sudan	26/ 316	8.23		66/ 450	14.67	6.44
Japan	14/ 511	2.74		43/ 480	8.96	6.22
Togo	1/ 81	1.23		6/ 81	7.41	6.17
Bolivia	14/ 130	10.77		22/ 130	16.92	6.15
Latvia	15/ 100	15.00		21/ 100	21.00	6.00
Zambia	10/ 150	6.67		20/ 158	12.66	5.99
Estonia	13/ 101	12.87		19/ 101	18.81	5.94
Israel	11/ 120	9.17		18/ 120	15.00	5.83
France	37/ 577	6.41		70/ 574	12.20	5.78
Maldives	3/ 48	6.25		6/ 50	12.00	5.75
Dominican Republic	14/ 120	11.67		26/ 150	17.33	5.67
Germany	176/ 672	26.19		195/ 614	31.76	5.57
Angola	21/ 220	9.55		33/ 220	15.00	5.45
Netherlands	47/ 150	31.33		55/ 150	36.67	5.33
Antigua and Barbuda	1/ 19	5.26		2/ 19	10.53	5.26

Country	Single or Lower Chamber of Parliament						
	01.07.1995			01.02.2006			+ & - Percentage points
	Women	Total Seats filled	% of Women	Women	Total Seats filled	% of Women	
Progress							
Serbia and Montenegro	4/	138	2.90	10/	126	7.94	5.04
San Marino	7/	60	11.67	10/	60	16.67	5.00
Sweden	141/	349	40.40	158/	349	45.27	4.87
Kiribati	0/	41	0.00	2/	42	4.76	4.76
Thailand	24/	391	6.14	54/	500	10.80	4.66
Nicaragua	15/	92	16.30	19/	92	20.65	4.35
United States of America	48/	440	10.91	66/	435	15.17	4.26
Jordan	1/	80	1.25	6/	110	5.45	4.20
Bangladesh	35/	330	10.61	51/	345	14.78	4.18
Kenya	6/	202	2.97	16/	224	7.14	4.17
Fiji	3/	70	4.29	6/	71	8.45	4.16
Uruguay	7/	99	7.07	11/	99	11.11	4.04
Finland	67/	200	33.50	75/	200	37.50	4.00
Guinea-Bissau	10/	100	10.00	14/	100	14.00	4.00
Cambodia	7/	120	5.83	12/	123	9.76	3.92
Denmark	59/	179	32.96	66/	179	36.87	3.91
Dominica	3/	32	9.38	4/	31	12.90	3.53
Gabon	7/	119	5.88	11/	119	9.24	3.36
Luxembourg	12/	60	20.00	14/	60	23.33	3.33
Madagascar	5/	138	3.62	11/	160	6.88	3.25
Belize	1/	29	3.45	2/	30	6.67	3.22
Georgia	14/	222	6.31	22/	235	9.36	3.06
Comoros	0/	42	0.00	1	33	3.03	3.03
Ghana	16/	200	8.00	25/	230	10.87	2.87
Canada	53/	295	17.97	64/	308	20.78	2.81
Mongolia	3/	76	3.95	5/	75	6.67	2.72
Barbados	3/	28	10.71	4/	30	13.33	2.62
Botswana	4/	47	8.51	7/	63	11.11	2.60
Turkey	8/	450	1.78	24/	550	4.36	2.59
Nepal	7/	205	3.41	12/	205	5.85	2.44
Syrian Arab Republic	24/	250	9.60	30/	250	12.00	2.40
Lebanon	3/	128	2.34	6/	128	4.69	2.34
Seychelles	9/	33	27.27	10/	34	29.41	2.14
Slovakia	22/	150	14.67	25/	150	16.67	2.00
Samoa	2/	47	4.26	3/	49	6.12	1.87
Saõ Tomé and Príncipe	4/	55	7.27	5/	55	9.09	1.82
Vanuatu	1/	46	2.17	2/	52	3.85	1.67
Brazil	36/	513	7.02	44/	513	8.58	1.56
Ukraine	17/	450	3.78	24/	450	5.33	1.56
Kuwait	0/	50	0.00	1	65	1.54	1.54
Albania	8/	140	5.71	10/	140	7.14	1.43
Zimbabwe	22/	150	14.67	24/	150	16.00	1.33
Malaysia	15/	192	7.81	20/	219	9.13	1.32
Colombia	18/	166	10.84	20/	165	12.12	1.28
Eritrea	22/	105	20.95	33/	150	22.00	1.05
Papua New Guinea	0/	109	0.00	1	109	0.92	0.92
Guatemala	6/	80	7.50	13/	158	8.23	0.73
Iran (Islamic Rep. Of)	9/	261	3.45	12/	290	4.14	0.69
Trinidad and Tobago	7/	37	18.92	7/	36	19.44	0.53

Country	Single or Lower Chamber of Parliament						
	01.07.1995		01.02.2006		+ & -		
	Women	Total Seats filled	% of Women	Women	Total Seats filled	% of Women	Percentage points
Status quo							
Dem. People's Rep. of Korea		138/ 687	20.09		138/ 687	20.09	0.00
El Salvador		9/ 84	10.71		9/ 84	10.71	0.00
Jamaica		7/ 60	11.67		7/ 60	11.67	0.00
Marshall Islands		1/ 33	3.03		1/ 33	3.03	0.00
Micronesia (Federates States of)		0/ 14	0.00		0/ 14	0.00	0.00
Palau		0/ 16	0.00		0/ 16	0.00	0.00
Saint Kitts and Nevis		0/ 16	0.00		0/ 15	0.00	0.00
United Arab Emirates		0/ 40	0.00		0/ 40	0.00	0.00
Setbacks							
Egypt		10/ 454	2.20		9/ 442	2.04	-0.17
Yemen		2/ 301	0.66		1/ 301	0.33	-0.33
Ireland		21/ 166	12.65		14/ 114	12.28	-0.37
Sri Lanka		12/ 225	5.33		11/ 225	4.89	-0.44
Algeria		12/ 178	6.74		24/ 389	6.17	-0.57
Benin		5/ 64	7.81		6/ 83	7.23	-0.58
China		626/ 2978	21.02		604/ 2980	20.27	-0.75
Indonesia		61/ 500	12.20		62/ 550	11.27	-0.93
Armenia		12/ 190	6.32		7/ 131	5.34	-0.97
Norway		65/ 165	39.39		64/ 169	37.87	-1.52
Solomon Islands		1/ 47	2.13		0/ 50	0.00	-2.13
Côte d'Ivoire		8/ 75	10.67		19/ 223	8.52	-2.15
Slovenia		13/ 90	14.44		11/ 90	12.22	-2.22
Hungary		44/ 386	11.40		35/ 385	9.09	-2.31
Kazakhstan		9/ 67	13.43		8/ 77	10.39	-3.04
Cameroon		22/ 180	12.22		16/ 180	8.89	-3.33
Russian Federation		60/ 449	13.36		44/ 447	9.84	-3.52
Italy		95/ 630	15.08		71/ 616	11.53	-3.55
Kyrgyzstan		5/ 103	4.85		0/ 75	0.00	-4.85
Nauru		1/ 18	5.56		0/ 18	0.00	-5.56
Tuvalu		1/ 13	7.69		0/ 15	0.00	-7.69
Chad		9/ 55	16.36		10/ 155	6.45	-9.91

N.B.: Countries that did not have a parliament in 1995 or do not have one at present, and those for which the information available was not sufficient for a comparison between the presence of women in parliament in 1995 and 2006, are not included in this list.



DATA SHEET N° 3

WOMEN

in the two parliamentary regional assemblies
elected by direct suffrage

CENTRAL AMERICAN PARLIAMENT**18.9%***Classification by descending order of the percentage of women**Situation as at 1 February 2006 (according to data available on the Parliament's website)*

	Elections	Seats	Women	Percentage
Panama	05.2004	22	6	27.3%
Guatemala	11.2003	21	5	23.8%
Nicaragua	11.2001	21	4	19.0%
Dominican Republic	02.2004	22	4	18.2%
El Salvador	03.2003	20	3	15.0%
Honduras	11.2001	21	2	9.5%
		127	24	18.9%

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT**30.3%***Classification by descending order of the percentage of women**Situation as at 1 February 2006 (according to data available on the Parliament's website)*

	Elections	Seats	Women	Percentage
Sweden	06.2004	19	11	57.9%
Luxembourg	06.2004	6	3	50.0%
Netherlands	06.2004	27	12	44.4%
Slovenia	06.2004	7	3	42.9%
France	06.2004	78	33	42.3%
Ireland	06.2004	13	5	38.5%
Lithuania	06.2004	13	5	38.5%
Hungary	06.2004	24	9	37.5%
Denmark	06.2004	14	5	35.7%
Finland	06.2004	14	5	35.7%
Slovakia	06.2004	14	5	35.7%
Austria	06.2004	18	6	33.3%
Estonia	06.2004	6	2	33.3%
Spain	06.2004	54	18	33.3%
Germany	06.2004	99	32	32.3%
Belgium	06.2004	24	7	29.2%
Greece	06.2004	24	7	29.2%
United Kingdom	06.2004	78	20	25.6%
Portugal	06.2004	24	6	25.0%
Latvia	06.2004	9	2	22.2%
Czech Republic	06.2004	24	5	20.8%
Italy	06.2004	78	14	17.9%
Poland	06.2004	54	7	13.0%
Cyprus	06.2004	6	0	0.0%
Malta	06.2004	5	0	0.0%
		732	222	30.3%

The European Parliament since its establishment

OVERALL SITUATION BETWEEN 1979 AND 2006

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
06.1979	410	341	69	16.8%
06.1984	518	433	85	16.4%
06.1989	518	415	103	19.9%
06.1994	567	420	147	25.9%
01.1995	626	453	173	27.6%
05.2000	626	432	194	31.0%
03.2005	732	510	222	30.3%
02.2006	732	510	222	30.3%

COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY SITUATION

Country	June 1979	June 1984	June 1989	June 1994	May 2000	Jan. 2006
Austria	---	---	---	7/21=33.3	8/21=38.1%	6/18=33.3%
Belgium	6/24=25.0%	4/24=16.7%	5/24=20.8%	8/25=32.0%	8/25=32.0%	7/24=29.2%
Cyprus	---	---	---	---	---	0/6=0.0%
Czech Republic	---	---	---	---	---	5/24=20.8%
Denmark	4/16=25.0%	7/16=43.8%	6/16=37.5%	7/16=43.8%	6/16=37.5%	5/14=35.7%
Estonia	---	---	---	---	---	2/6=33.3%
Finland	---	---	---	10/16=62.5%	7/16=43.8%	5/14=35.7%
France	18/81=22.2%	16/81=19.8%	18/81=22.2%	26/87=29.9%	37/87=42.5%	33/78=42.3%
Germany	12/81=14.8%	16/81=19.8%	27/81=33.3%	35/99=35.3%	38/99=38.4%	32/99=32.3%
Greece	---	2/24=8.3%	0/24=0.0%	4/25=16.0%	5/25=20.0%	7/24=29.2%
Hungary	---	---	---	---	---	9/24=37.5%
Ireland	1/15=6.7%	1/15=6.7%	1/15=6.7%	4/15=26.7%	5/15=33.3%	5/13=38.5%
Italy	10/81=12.3%	8/81=9.9%	11/81=13.6%	11/87=12.6%	10/87=11.5%	14/78=17.9%
Latvia	---	---	---	---	---	2/9=22.2%
Lithuania	---	---	---	---	---	5/13=38.5%
Luxembourg	2/6=33.3%	2/6=33.3%	3/6=50.0%	2/6=33.3%	2/6=33.3%	3/6=50.0%
Malta	---	---	---	---	---	0/5=0.0%
Netherlands	5/25=20.0%	7/25=28.0%	7/25=28.0%	10/31=32.2%	11/31=35.5%	12/27=44.4%
Poland	---	---	---	---	---	7/54=13.0%
Portugal	---	2/24=8.3%	4/24=16.7%	2/25=8.0%	5/25=20.0%	6/24=25.0%
Spain	---	6/60=10.0%	9/60=15.0%	21/64=8.0%	21/64=32.8%	18/54=33.3%
Slovakia	---	---	---	---	---	5/14=35.7%
Slovenia	---	---	---	---	---	3/7=42.9%
Sweden	---	---	---	10/22=45.4%	10/22=45.5%	11/19=57.9%
United Kingdom	11/81=13.6%	12/81=14.8%	12/81=14.8%	16/87=18.4%	21/87=24.1%	20/78=25.6%



DATA SHEET N° 4

A CHRONOLOGY OF WOMEN
Heads of State or Government: 1945 - 02.2006

ELECTED WOMEN PRESIDENTS

◆ Argentina	Maria Estela Martínez de Perón	07.1974 - 03.1976
◆ Bolivia	Lydia Gueiler Tejada	11.1979 - 07.1980
◆ Iceland	Vigdís Finnbogadóttir	08.1980 - 08.1996
◆ San Marino	Maria Lea Pedini Angelini	04 - 10.1981
◆ Malta	Agatha Barbara	02.1982 - 02.1987
◆ San Marino	Gloriana Ranocchini	04 - 10.1984
◆ Philippines	Corazon Aquino	02.1986 - 06.1992
◆ San Marino	Gloriana Ranocchini	10.1989 - 04.1990
◆ Haiti	Ertha Pascal Trouillot	03.1990 - 02.1991
◆ Nicaragua	Violeta Barrios de Chamorro	04.1990 - 01.1997
◆ Ireland	Mary Robinson	12.1990 - 11.1997
◆ San Marino	Edda Ceccoli	10.1991 - 04.1992
◆ San Marino	Patrizia Busignani	04 - 10.1993
◆ Sri Lanka	Chandrika Kumaratunge	11.1994 - 11.1999
◆ Liberia	Ruth Perry	11.1996 - 08.1997
◆ Guyana	Janet Jagan	12.1997 - 08.1999
◆ Ireland	Mary McAleese	11.1997 - currently (02.2006)
◆ Switzerland	Ruth Dreifuss	01.1999 - 12.1999
◆ San Marino	Rosa Zafferani	04 - 10.1999
◆ Latvia	Vaira Vīķe-Freiberga	06.1999 - currently (02.2006)
◆ Panama	Mireya Elisa Moscoso de Arias	09.1999 - 09.2004
◆ Sri Lanka	Chandrika Kumaratunge	12.1999 - 11.2005
◆ Finland	Tanja Kaarina Halonen	03.2000 - currently (02.2006)
◆ San Marino	Maria Domenica Michelotti	04 - 10.2000
◆ Philippines	Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo	01.2001 - currently (02.2006)
◆ Indonesia	Megwati Sukarnoputri	07.2001 - 10.2004
◆ San Marino	Valeria Ciavatta	10.2003 - 03.2004
◆ Liberia	Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf	01.2006 - currently (02.2006)

Note: In January 2006, Michelle Bachelet was elected president of **Chile**. She assumes her position in March 2006.

The title of Honorary President was conferred posthumously on Soong Ching Ling, former Vice-President of the **People's Republic of China**. Seven women served as Acting Head of State: **Mongolia**, Suhbaataryn Yanjmaa, 09.1953 – 07.1954; **Guinea-Bissau**, Carmen Periera, 14.05.1984 – 16.05.1984; **Germany (Dem. Rep.)** Sabine Bergmann-Pohl, 04.1990-10.1990; **Ecuador**, Rodalia Serrano de Cordova, 09.02.1997 – 11.02.1997; **Serbia**, Natasa Micić 12.2002-02.2004, **Georgia**, Nino Burdschanadse, 11.2003 – 01.2004; **Austria**, Barbara Prammer, 06.07.2004 – 08.07.2004.

QUEENS / GRAND DUCHESSES

◆ Netherlands	Wilhelmina Helena Pauline Maria Orange-Nassau and Waldeck-Prymont	11.1890 - 09.1948
◆ Tonga	Salote Tupou III	04.1918 - 12.1965
◆ Luxembourg	Charlotte Aldegonde Elise Marie Wilhelmine	01.1919 - 11.1964
◆ Netherlands	Juliana Louise Emma Marie Wilhelmina Orange-Nassau and Mecklenburg-Schwerin	09.1948 - 04.1980
◆ United Kingdom	Elizabeth Alexandra Mary II	02.1952 - currently (02.2006)
◆ Cambodia	Sisovath Kossemak Searieath	03.1955 - 04.1966
◆ Lesotho	'MaMohato Tabitha' Masentle Lerotholi	06 - 11.1970 & 01 - 02.1996
◆ Denmark	Margrethe Alexandrine Thorhildur Ingrid Slesvig-Holsten-Sonderborg- Glucksborg and Bernadotte	01.1972 - currently (02.2006)
◆ Netherlands	Beatrix Wilhemina Armgard Orange-Nassau and Lippe-Biesterfeld	04.1980 - currently (02.2006)
◆ Swaziland	Dzeliwe Shongwe	08.1982 - 08.1983
◆ Swaziland	Ntombi Thwala	08.1983 - 04.1986

WOMEN GOVERNOR-GENERAL

1. Belize	Elmira Minita Gordon	09.1981 - 11.1993
2. Canada	Jeanne Mathilde Sauvé	05.1984 - 01.1990
3. Barbados	Ruth Nita Barrow	06.1990 - 12.1995
4. New Zealand	Catherine Tizard	11.1990 - 04.1996
5. Saint Lucia	Calliopa Pearlette Louisy	09.1997 - currently (02.2006)
6. Canada	Adrienne Clarkson	07.1999 - 09.2005
7. New Zealand	Silvia Catright	04.2001 - currently (02.2006)
8. Bahamas	Ivy Dumont	01.2002 - 11.2005
9. Canada	Michaëlle Jean	09.2005 - currently (02.2006)

WOMEN PRIME MINISTERS

1. Sri Lanka	Sirimavo Bandaranaike	07.1960 - 03.1965
2. India	Indira Gandhi	01.1966 - 03.1977
3. Israel	Golda Meir	03.1969 - 04.1974
4. Sri Lanka	Sirimavo Bandaranaike	05.1970 - 07.1977
5. Central African Republic	Elisabeth Domitien	01.1975 - 04.1976
6. United Kingdom	Margaret Thatcher	05.1979 - 11.1990
7. Portugal	Maria de Lourdes Pintasilgo	08.1979 - 01.1980
8. India	Indira Gandhi	01.1980 - 10.1984
9. Dominica	Mary Eugenia Charles	07.1980 - 06.1995
10. Norway	Gro Harlem Brundtland	02 - 10.1981
11. Yugoslavia	Milka Planinc	05.1982 - 05.1986
12. Norway	Gro Harlem Brundtland	05.1986 - 10.1989
13. Pakistan	Benazir Bhutto	12.1988 - 08.1990
14. Lithuania	Kazimiera Prunskiene	03.1990 - 01.1991
15. Norway	Gro Harlem Brundtland	11.1990 - 10.1996
16. Bangladesh	Khaleda Zia	03.1991 - 03.1996
17. France	Edith Cresson	05.1991 - 04.1992
18. Poland	Hanna Suchocka	07.1992 - 10.1993
19. Canada	Kim Campbell	06.1993 - 11.1993
20. Turkey	Tansu Çiller	06.1993 - 07.1996
21. Burundi	Sylvie Kinigi	07.1993 - 02.1994
22. Rwanda	Agathe Uwilingiyimana	07.1993 - 04.1994
23. Pakistan	Benazir Bhutto	10.1993 - 11.1996
24. Sri Lanka	Chandrika Kumaratunge	08.1994 - 11.1994
25. Bulgaria	Reneta Indzhova	10.1994 - 01.1995
26. Sri Lanka	Sirimavo Bandaranaike	11.1994 - 08.2000
27. Haiti	Claudette Werleigh	11.1995 - 02.1996
28. Bangladesh	Sheikh Hasina Wajed	06.1996 - 07.2001
29. Guyana	Janet Jagan	03.1997 - 12.1997
30. New Zealand	Jenny Shipley	12.1997 - 12.1999
31. Lithuania	Irina Degutienė (acting)	4-18.04.1999
32. Mongolia	Nyam-Osoriyn Tuyaa (acting)	22 - 30.07.1999
33. New Zealand	Helen Elizabeth Clark	12.1999 - currently (02.2006)
34. Senegal	Madior Boye	05.2001 - 11.2002
35. Bangladesh	Khaleda Zia	10.2001 - currently (02.2006)
36. Dem. People's Rep. of Korea	Chang Sang	11.07.2002 - 31.07.2002
37. São Tome and Principe	Maria das Neves Ceita Batista de Sousa	09.2002 - 09.2004
38. Finland	Anneli Jaateenmaki	04.2003 - 06.2003
39. Peru	Beatriz Merino	06.2003 - 12.2003
40. Mozambique	Luisa Diogo	02.2004 - currently (02.2006)
41. T.F.Y.R. of Macedonia	Radmila Sekerinska (acting)	05.2004 - 06.2004; 11.2004 - 12.2004
42. Ukraine	Yulia Tymoshenko	02.2005 - 09.2005
43. São Tome and Principe	Maria do Carmo Silveira	06.2005 - currently (02.2006)
44. Germany	Angela Merkel	11.2005 - currently (02.2006)

Chang Sang of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was nominated on 11.07.2002 by the President to become the Prime Minister of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, however she was not ratified by the parliament, and thus served only till 31.07.2002. Beatriz Merino served as the President of the Council of Ministers of Peru 06.2003 – 12.2003.

Sources: Inter-Parliamentary Union, national parliaments, governmental web sites and other web sites, in particular, www.guide2womenleaders.com.

WOMEN HEADS OF STATE OR GOVERNMENT: A General Overview

The percentages are valid strictly for the year considered.
However, women may have occupied such positions in other years during the periods considered.
Queens and Governors General are not included in this overview.

1945

68	Sovereign States
0	Women Heads of State or Government

1955

81	Sovereign States
0	Women Heads of State or Government

1965

122	Sovereign States
1	Woman Head of Government in Sri Lanka

1975

147	Sovereign States
4	Women Head of State or Government in Argentina, Central African Republic, India and Sri Lanka

1985

162	Sovereign States
6	Women Head of State or Government in Dominica, Iceland, Ireland, Malta, United Kingdom and Yugoslavia

1995

187	Sovereign States
12	Women Head of State or Government in Bangladesh, Bulgaria, Dominica, Haiti, Iceland, Ireland, Malta, Nicaragua, Norway, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Turkey

2000 (May)

190	Sovereign States
9	Women Heads of State or Government in Bangladesh, Finland, Ireland, Latvia, New Zealand, Panama, San Marino and Sri Lanka (both Head of State and Head of Government)

2005 (January)

191	Sovereign States
8	Women Heads of State or Government in Bangladesh, Finland, Ireland, Latvia, New Zealand, Mozambique, Philippines and Sri Lanka

2006 (January)

191	Sovereign States
10	Women Heads of State or Government in Bangladesh, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Latvia, Liberia, Mozambique, New Zealand, Philippines and Sao Tome and Principe ¹

¹ In January 2006, Michelle Bachelet was elected president of Chile. She assumes her position in March 2006.

**DATA SHEET N° 5****An Overview of
Women in Parliament: 1945 - 2006**

The percentages are valid strictly for the year considered.

1945

26	Parliaments, 37 houses (bicameral parliaments)
0 (0 %)	Women presiding officers
3.0 %	Women members of parliament (Lower or single house)
2.2 %	Women senators (Upper House)

1955

61	Parliaments, 90 houses (bicameral parliaments)
0 (0 %)	Women presiding officers
7.5 %	Women members of parliament (Lower or single house)
7.7 %	Women senators (Upper House)

1965

94	Parliaments, 129 houses (bicameral parliaments)
3 (2.3 %)	Women presiding officers in Austria, Hungary and Uruguay
8.1 %	Women members of parliament (Lower or single house)
9.3 %	Women senators (Upper House)

1975

115	Parliaments, 155 houses (bicameral parliaments)
3 (1.9 %)	Women presiding officers in Canada, Germany and Iceland
10.9 %	Women members of parliament (Lower or single house)
10.5 %	Women senators (Upper House)

1985

136	Parliaments, 179 houses (bicameral parliaments)
6 (3.4 %)	Women presiding officers in Belize, Dominica, Iceland, Italy, Jamaica and Sao Tome and Principe
12.0 %	Women members of parliament (Lower or single house)
12.7 %	Women senators (Upper House)

1995 (July)

- 176 Parliaments, 228 houses (bicameral parliaments)
- 24 (10.5 %) Women presiding officers in Antigua and Barbuda (both houses), Austria, Croatia, Dominica, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Finland, Germany, Grenada, Guatemala, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Luxembourg, Mexico, Norway, Panama, Peru, South Africa, Sweden, Trinidad and Tobago and United Kingdom
- 11.6 % Women members of parliament (Lower or single house)
- 9.4 % Women senators (Upper House)

2000 (May)

- 177 Parliaments, 242 houses (bicameral parliaments)
- 30 (12.8 %) Women presiding officers in Antigua and Barbuda (both houses), Australia, Bahamas, Belize (both houses), Colombia, Croatia, Czech Republic, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Finland, India, Jamaica (both houses), Lesotho, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Poland, San Marino, South Africa (both houses), Spain (both houses), Suriname, Sweden and United Kingdom
- 13.9 % Women members of parliament (Lower or single house)
- 13.7 % Women senators (Upper House)

2005 (January)

- 184 Parliaments, 254 houses (bicameral parliaments)
- 21 (8.3%) Women presiding officers in Antigua and Barbuda (both houses), Bahamas, Belgium, Belize, Colombia, Dominica, Estonia, Georgia, Greece, Grenada, Hungary, Jamaica, Japan, Latvia, Lesotho, Netherlands, Republic of Moldova, Saint Kitts and Nevis, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago
- 15.9 % Women members of parliament (Lower or single house)
- 14.7 % Women senators (Upper House)

2006 (January)

- 187 Parliaments, 262 houses (bicameral parliaments)
- 27 (10.3%) Women presiding officers in Albania, Antigua and Barbuda (both houses), Austria, Bahamas, Belgium, Belize, Burundi, Colombia, Dominica, Estonia, Georgia, Greece, Grenada, Hungary, Iceland, Jamaica, Japan, Latvia, Lesotho, Netherlands, New Zealand, Saint Kitts and Nevis, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and Zimbabwe
- 16.5 % Women members of parliament (Lower or single house)
- 15.1 % Women senators (Upper House)



DATA SHEET N° 6

The Participation of Women and Men in Decision-Making: The parliamentary dimension

Background paper prepared by the IPU for the United Nations Expert Group Meeting on "Equal participation of women and men in decision-making processes, with particular emphasis on political participation and leadership."

Addis Ababa, 24 - 27 October 2005

Introduction

This paper has been prepared for the United Nations Expert Group Meeting (EGM) entitled the "Equal participation of women and men in decision-making processes, with particular emphasis on political participation and leadership." It focuses on the quantitative aspect of women's participation in parliaments, primarily in the past ten years. It provides an overview of the gains relating to women's access to parliaments and executive bodies, and highlights some of the factors that influence women's access to decision-making positions.

As the world organization of parliaments, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) has more than 140 member parliaments, and it works for the enhancement of democracy through the institution of parliaments. It believes that genuine democracy cannot exist without the equal participation of men and women in politics, and for several decades it has been at the forefront of efforts to support women's political participation. The Programme for Partnership between Men and Women works to promote women's participation and input into parliaments through the following activities: (1) The IPU has been tracking the numbers of women in national parliaments since the 1970s, and has collected data on women's election results dating back to 1945. It produces surveys and reports on women in politics and in parliament, and publishes a monthly update on the status of women in parliament on its website. (2) In addition to this knowledge production, the Programme also facilitates contact between women parliamentarians and encourages them to exchange experiences through the organization of regular meetings. (3) It also develops technical assistance projects, and has recently worked in Rwanda and Bahrain in support of women parliamentarians and women candidates. (4) The Programme promotes the participation of women parliamentarians in the IPU's internal structures, such as in the delegations sent to the biannual IPU Assemblies.

The information provided in this paper focused on the IPU's knowledge production aspect and is the result of ongoing research into the status of women parliamentarians in more than 180 national parliaments. In January 2005, the IPU, together with the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women (UNDAW) produced a global comprehensive map on women in politics covering nearly 190 countries. The statistics referred to here regarding the numbers of women in parliaments and the executive are taken from the map and form the basis of this paper, together with other analyses produced by the IPU during 2005¹.

¹ These include the IPU statistics on *Women in National Parliaments* from 30 September 2005, and information in IPU, Sonia Palmieri, 2005. Data Sheet No. 6, *Ten Years in Review: Trends of women in national parliaments worldwide*, Background information document.

Table 1: Women in Parliament 1945-2005

	1945	1955	1965	1975	1985	1995	2000	2005*
Number of parliaments	26	61	94	115	136	176	177	187
% women representatives (lower house or unicameral)	3.0	7.5	8.1	10.9	12.0	11.6	13.4	16.2
% women representatives (upper house)	2.2	7.7	9.3	10.5	12.7	9.4	10.7	14.8

*Data from 30 September 2005

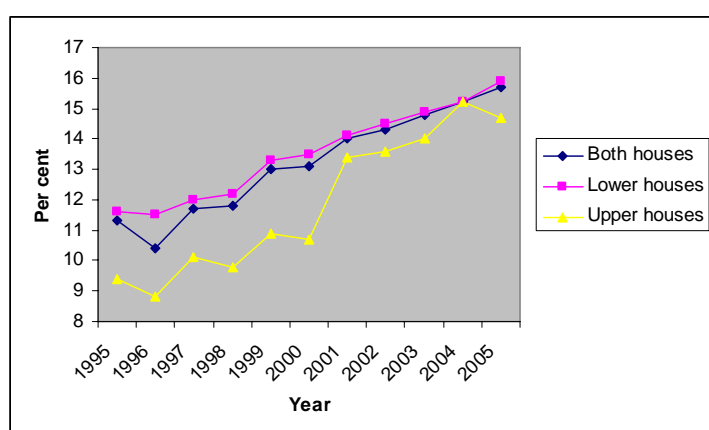
Source: IPU, 2005. *Women in Politics: 1945-2005*. Information kit. <http://www.ipu.org/english/surveys.htm#45-05>

Women in Parliament: Averages in global perspective

The trend in terms of women’s representation over the past decade has been one of gradual but steady progress. In 1975, at the time of the First World Conference on Women in Mexico City, women accounted for 10.9 per cent of MPs worldwide. Ten years later, in 1985, women’s representation had increased by only 1 percentage point, to an average 12 per cent. In 1995, the number of women had actually decreased to 11.6 per cent but a new impetus for women’s participation in decision-making found expression at the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing in 1995, and the adoption of the Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA). By 2000, the number of women in parliaments had increased to 13.4 per cent of parliamentarians in lower houses of parliament.

In October 2005, a new global high was reached, as 16.2 per cent of the members of lower or single houses of parliament were women, and 14.8 per cent in upper houses, bringing an overall total average of 16.0 per cent in all parliaments. While steady, the progress has been slow. If current incremental rates continue, it will not be until 2025 that an average of 30 per cent will be reached, and not until 2040 that parity will be achieved.

Figure 1: World Averages in Perspective, 1995-2005



Source: IPU, 2005. *Women in Politics: 1945-2005*. Information kit. <http://www.ipu.org/english/surveys.htm#45-05>

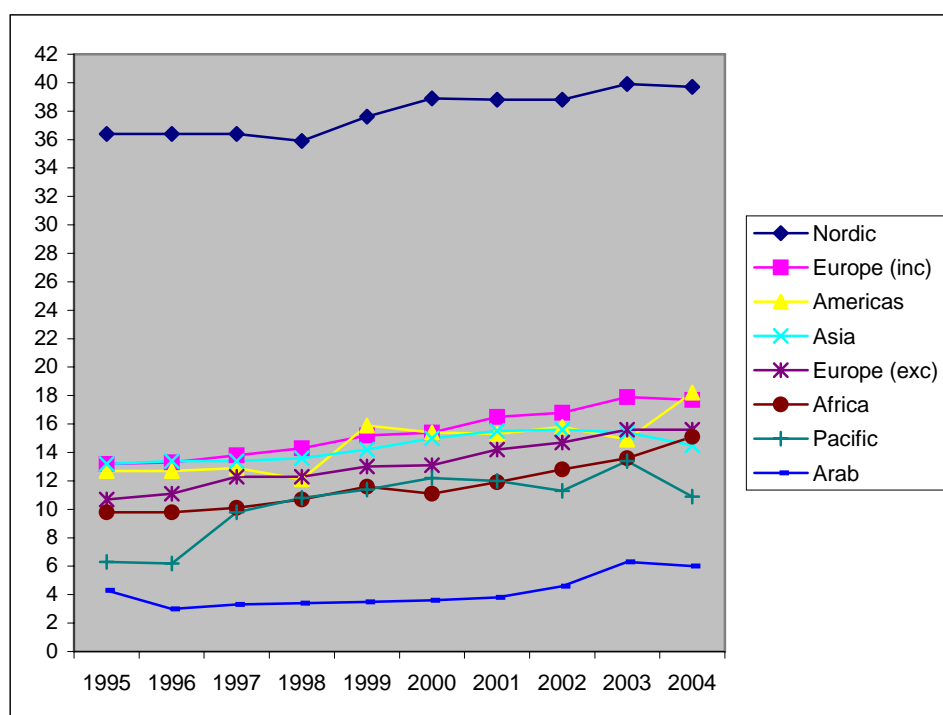
Compared with previous decades, in absolute terms the past ten years have seen the fastest growth in the numbers of women in parliament. The number of parliaments with female memberships less than 10 per cent has decreased significantly from 63 per cent in 1995 to 37 per cent today. There are several factors that account for this; they will be touched on later in this paper. But the increases are not present across all countries, and there are certainly significant regional variations.

Regional trends

Since 1995, the **Nordic countries** have always had the highest representation of women, with averages consistently over 38 per cent. In October 2005, they reached an average of 40 per cent women for the first time. Sweden has always been the top performer; it now has 45.3 per cent of parliamentarians being women, followed by Norway, Finland, Denmark and Iceland.

In contrast, women are still least represented in the **Arab States**, where as at October 2005 the regional average in lower houses is 8.2 per cent. While this is half of the global average, it is in fact double the rate of eight years ago, when the average was less than 4 per cent. Much of this progress is attributable to the implementation of different types of quotas in some countries in the region, including in Djibouti, Jordan, Iraq, Morocco and Tunisia. Women remain woefully under-represented in the parliaments of the **Pacific Island States**. The average for the Pacific region (excluding Australia and New Zealand, where women's representation stands at 24.7% and 32.2% respectively) is 3.2 per cent.

Figure 2: Women in Parliament by Region: 1995-2004



Note: Europe (inc)=OSCE member countries, including Nordic countries.

Europe (exc)=OSCE member countries, excluding Nordic countries.

Source: IPU, 2005. *Women in Politics: 1945-2005*. Information kit. <http://www.ipu.org/english/surveys.htm#45-05>

In between these two extremes, women's representation has hovered between 10 and 15 per cent in the other regions. The most marked increases are found in Africa and Latin America where on average there has been a gain of more than 5 percentage points in the past 10 years. Research has shown that for the most part, the increase in these regions can be attributed to the adoption of quotas for women, although of course there have also been a number of other important factors to take into account. There have also been significant changes in the ranking of national parliaments. Perhaps one of the most remarkable changes was the unseating of Sweden as the top-ranked parliament in 2003 when Rwanda elected 48.8 per cent women in its first post-conflict elections.

Countries with a "Critical Mass" of Women

The number of parliaments with a female representation of 30 per cent or more has increased four-fold in the past ten years. In 1995, only in five countries did women constitute over 30 per cent of the legislature. As at October 2005 there are 20 parliaments that have reached the BPFA target of 30 per cent, which is

considered by some to constitute a sufficient "critical mass" of women deemed necessary by some to bring about real changes in parliament.

Table 2: Countries with 30% Women Representatives (in lower or single houses of parliament)

Level	Country	% Women	Quota
1	Rwanda	48.8	30% Reserved seats (indirectly elected) Voluntary party quotas**
2	Sweden	45.3	Voluntary party quotas
3	Norway	37.9	Voluntary party quotas
4	Finland	37.5	N/A
5	Denmark	36.9	N/A
6	Netherlands	36.7	Voluntary party quotas
7*	Cuba	36.0	N/A
7*	Spain	36.0	Voluntary party quotas
8	Costa Rica	35.1	Legislated quota of 40% women candidates on party lists
9	Mozambique	34.8	Voluntary party quotas
10	Belgium	34.7	Legislated quota of 33% women candidates on party lists
11	Austria	33.9	Voluntary party quotas
12	Argentina	33.7	Legislated quota of 33% women candidates on party lists
13	South Africa	32.8	Voluntary party quotas
14	New Zealand	32.2	Voluntary party quotas
15	Germany	31.8	Voluntary party quotas
16	Iraq	31.5	Legislated quota of 33% women candidates on party lists
17	Guyana	30.8	N/A
18	Burundi	30.5	Legislated quota of 30% women candidates on party lists
19	Iceland	30.2	Voluntary party quotas

N/A=Not applicable.

* Both Cuba and Spain have 36.0% women in parliament and therefore share seventh position, bringing the total number of countries in this table to 20.

** Quotas adopted on a voluntary basis by one or more political party, ranging from 20-40% women candidates. Source: IPU, 2005. *Women in National Parliaments*, <http://www.ipu.org/wmn-e/world.htm>; and International IDEA and Stockholm University. 2005, *Global Database of Electoral Quotas for Women*, <http://www.quotaproject.org>

Table 2 shows the 20 countries with 30 per cent or greater female representation in parliament, and reveals different observations:

Firstly, one quarter of the countries are Nordic countries. It should be borne in mind that these countries have struggled for more than 50 years to obtain this level of representation. In the 1940s, women accounted for between 1.3 per cent and 14.5 per cent percent of legislators. Dramatic changes really started occurring during the 1970s, with profound social and political changes together with marked economic growth and the adoption of party quotas. This type of slow but constant progress in the number of women elected is what Drude Dahlerup has coined the **slow track** to women's representation in parliament.

Secondly, one quarter of the countries are so called "post conflict" countries (Burundi, Iraq, Mozambique, Rwanda and South Africa). These countries have been referred to as **fast track countries**, where in a relevantly short space of time, often in one election cycle, the representation of women has increased dramatically. For example, in South Africa the representation of women jumped from 2.7 per cent to 25 per cent in one election, and from less than 15.0 per cent to 48.8 per cent in Rwanda. An important part of the equation in these fast track countries is that they are countries in transition, and the process of establishing new constitutions and institutions and rewriting the rules of the political landscape provides a golden opportunity for women to influence the process and make their voices heard, especially in the drafting of electoral and political party laws.

Thirdly, nine of the 20 countries are developing countries, which demonstrates that **developing countries** are likely to be among the top performers in terms of numbers as are the developed ones.

The last point to note is that 16 out of the 20 countries use **electoral quotas**. Rwanda is the only country to use reserved seats, where 30 per cent of the seats in parliament are set-aside for female legislators. In Sweden, Norway, the Netherlands, Spain, Mozambique, Austria, South Africa, New Zealand, Germany, Iceland (and formally Denmark), one or more political party, usually the ruling party, has adopted a voluntary party quota setting a target or firm percentage of the number of women candidates it fields for election. Costa Rica, Belgium and Argentina have legislated quotas, which specify that a certain percentage of candidates for election must be women. There are firm legal sanctions in place if the provisions are not met, such as rejecting electoral lists that have less than the statutory minimum number of women.

Developments in 2005

In 2005, the debate on universal **suffrage** continued in the Arab Gulf States. Although women in Saudi Arabia are still denied the right to vote, and neither men nor men have voting rights in the United Arab Emirates, Kuwaiti women finally gained full political rights when the all-male Kuwaiti parliament granted women the right to vote and stand for elections in May 2005. It is estimated that this will result in a majority female electorate for the 2007 polls.

Important elections in **post conflict states** have taken place recently, including in Iraq, Afghanistan and Liberia. In the Iraqi vote held in January 2005, which elected a Transitional Assembly, 31.5 per cent of the elected parliamentarians were women. This was in large part owing to the adoption of candidate quotas by the interim administration in Iraq in 2004, requiring political parties to nominate women to at least 30 per cent of their positions on candidate lists. In the September 2005 elections in Afghanistan, seats were reserved for women. Although the official figures were not announced at the time of writing, women will obtain at least 25 per cent of the seats in the parliament as guaranteed in the constitution. In September 2005, Liberia held its presidential and legislative elections. The presidential election was particularly noteworthy because of the popularity of female candidate Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, who is poised to become Africa's first female elected president. However, the adoption of special measures in the Political Party and Independent Candidates Registration Guidelines encouraging political parties to put forward 30 per cent women candidates was not enforced in practice, and it is likely that women will not constitute more than 14 per cent of elected representatives.

In **Bangladesh**, the negative trend whereby women's participation in parliament had been decreasing was finally reversed in 2005. Until 2000, Bangladesh had had a system which reserved ten per cent of the seats in parliament for women. However, this provision expired, in the 2001 elections there was a dramatic decrease in the number of female legislators to 2.0 per cent. In 2004, a new law was enacted increasing the size of the parliament to include an extra 45 seats reserved for women. These reserved seats were filled in September 2005, allocated to political parties in direct proportion to their overall share of the national vote they received in the 2001 election. In effect, the number of women has now surpassed the previous high; they now account for nearly 13.0 per cent of the membership.

No women, no change

In contrast to these positive examples, the number of parliaments with no women in them has not changed significantly. Most of these countries are in the Pacific. As of 30 September 2005, a total of eight countries had no women in their national parliaments: namely, the Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saudi Arabia, the Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and the United Arab Emirates. While Bahrain has no women in its lower house, six women have been appointed to the upper house.

This has been a decrease of two countries since May 2005. In Kuwait a woman, Dr. Masouma al-Mubarak, was sworn into office as Minister of Planning and Administrative Development Affairs in June 2005. She is an ex-officio member of parliament, making her the only woman in parliament, albeit not directly elected. The other country is Tonga. Although in the March 2005 elections, none of the six female candidates (out of a

total of 64) were returned to the nine elected seats in the parliament, Ms. Lepolo Taunisila was elected in the by-election held on 5 May 2005.

Women in Top Positions of State

Turning to the number of women in the highest positions of State, including executive positions and presiding officers of parliament, the picture becomes more negative. Women have not reached the highest levels of decision-making in the same proportions as in parliaments. This demonstrates that serious obstacles persist.

In terms of **elected Heads of State and Government**, the number has actually decreased since 1995, when there were 12 women. In January 2005, there were only eight.

Secondly, in terms of women **presiding officers**, the overall number has also decreased, from 10.0 per cent in 1995 to 8.0 per cent in 2005. Developing countries and countries in transition are more likely to have women speakers of parliament than developed countries. Nearly one-third of the women speakers come from Caribbean countries.

Table 3: Women in the Executive, January 2005

Position	Number of women
Women Ministers	14.3%
Ministerial portfolios held by women	858 in 183 countries

In January 2005, 14.3 per cent of ministers in the Executive were women. Sweden had the highest number of women ministers in the world ever, at 52.4 per cent, followed by Spain, with 50.0 per cent. Women held 858 **ministerial portfolios**, although it is extremely difficult to calculate this in terms of a percentage because of the lack of information on the total number of ministerial portfolios worldwide.

However, it is possible to examine the type of portfolios held by women:

- o Of the 858 ministerial posts, 83 women (9.7%) held portfolios related to family, children, youth, disabled, and elderly;
- o 69 women (8.0%) held ministerial portfolios related to social affairs;
- o 63 women (7.3%) held ministerial portfolios related to women's affairs;
- o 63 women (7.3%) held ministerial portfolios related to education;
- o 60 women (7%) held ministerial portfolios related to the environment and energy.
- o Women were least represented in portfolios related to parliamentary affairs, population and information.
- o Only 12 women held defence portfolios, 20 on finance and the budget and 25 on foreign affairs.

Lessons Learned

The incremental change over the past decades clearly demonstrates that women have faced, and continue to face, persistent challenges relating to their political participation. The increase in the number of women in decision-making bodies was not an automatic result of the opening up of the political space and processes in many countries with the evolution of democracy since the 1990s. Rather, it has been the result of institutional and electoral engineering, such as the adoption of electoral quotas and reserved seats, political party commitment and will, sustained mobilization and the emphasis placed on achieving gender equality by the international community. This international discourse and the work of international organizations has been instrumental in concentrating efforts to support women's full political participation in the past ten years. Women's activism and mobilization at the country, regional and international levels have also been pivotal.

The slow pace at which change has occurred has prompted many parliaments and political parties to implement candidate **quotas** and other special measures to ensure women's presence in politics. It was noted earlier that 16 of the 20 top-placed countries in terms of women's representation use some form of an electoral quota. International IDEA and Stockholm University's *Global Database of Electoral Quotas for Women* has found that there is an increasing number of countries opting for quotas. In most cases this has had a positive effect on women's representation. Currently there are around 80 countries with their own types of electoral quotas: these may consist of reserved seats, candidate quotas or quotas adopted voluntarily by political parties. Ten countries reserve seats for women, around 30 countries have legislated quotas and 120 political parties have voluntary quotas. It is important to add however, that quotas do not work alone and have to be supplemented by a range of other measures. For example, as **political parties** play an ever-increasing role in the management of parliamentary politics, it is at the party level that the principle of equality must be put into practice. Political parties remain the gatekeepers to the advancement of women in politics.

International discourses have played an instrumental role. The equal participation of women and men in public life is one of the cornerstones of the 1979 United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). Renewed pressure for the implementation of CEDAW provisions was generated at the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995, and the BPFA identified "inequality between men and women in the sharing of power and decision-making at all levels" and "insufficient mechanisms at all levels to promote the advancement of women", as two areas of critical concern where action was vital for the advancement of women. International lobbying efforts intensified after 1995, with other international instruments, such as United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) making an impact. The MDGs recognize the fundamental role of women in development, with the proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments being a key indicator in measuring progress on women's empowerment. These international instruments, especially their provisions relating to the use of special measures, have proved pivotal for women's movements worldwide.

International and regional **organizations** have also played their part. They have supported actors on the ground, through the provision of information and tools for reform, by working directly with political parties, by providing training to women candidates seeking election or those already in parliament, and through technical assistance projects. Promoting women's participation within international organizations is also important. Indeed, the IPU is one of the only international organizations, if not the only one, that has adopted specific measures and mechanisms to promote gender equality within the organization. In October 2005, women parliamentarians accounted for 16 per cent of parliamentarians worldwide. In contrast, at the last IPU Assembly held in Geneva in October 2005, 32 per cent of participants were women, thus surpassing the 30 per cent target set by the United Nations. The participation of women at the IPU is strong, resulting from an important women's movement and complemented by specific positive action measures or quotas. Underpinning all such efforts, however, is the need for political will, both within and outside parliaments and at the international, regional and local levels.

While this paper has focused mainly on the quantitative aspects of women in decision-making, the IPU also works with parliaments with the aim of making them more gender-sensitive and supporting women once they are elected to parliament. The IPU has previously undertaken different surveys on women's experiences in parliament, and is currently working on a survey of experiences in decision-making, to be fielded among both male and female parliamentarians. It will seek to document the contribution of parliamentarians to the promotion of gender equality, with the aim of making parliament more gender-friendly. As the 50th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women in 2006 will address this very question, the IPU is preparing a parliamentary event entitled *Gender Equality: Making a difference through parliaments* and is undertaking further survey research on the existence and functioning of committees related to gender equality and the status of women in parliament. Through these programmes and activities, the IPU hopes to achieve gender equality in parliaments worldwide. It is democracy in the making.

Further Reading

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