

WOMEN IN PARLIAMENTS

1945 - 1995

WORLDWIDE STATISTICAL SURVEY

Inter-Parliamentary Union 1995

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FOREWORD

Producing a statistical and historical work on the presence of women in all national Parliaments, and in the two regional parliamentary assemblies that have today sprung from direct suffrage, and covering the period 1945-1995, represents a challenge indeed.

In 50 years the physiognomy of the world has changed considerably. The number, designation and frontiers of sovereign countries have greatly varied and many have undergone one or more changes of political regime. There has also been a big shift in the structure, composition and designation of the parliamentary assemblies of many countries. Apart from the fact that historians and political analysts are not always agreed as to when the first national legislature was founded, several of these assemblies have suffered one or more unconstitutional interruptions. Furthermore, owing both to accidents of history and to simple administrative difficulties, data collection sometimes proves an arduous and sensitive undertaking. In addition to which, historical presentation of the data is not without its pitfalls.

This work is the fruit of a bid to overcome all these difficulties. It constitutes a reliable and highly informative scientific tool, albeit inevitably imperfect and still incomplete regarding a number of countries.

Part I contains a series of tables allowing ready comparisons between all countries of the world and between the various regions, together with an evolving analysis of the situation over 50 years. It also offers data or snapshots, as it were, of both the present and the historical situation in all countries having a Parliament today or having had such a body at a particular juncture of their institutional and political history in the half-century that has just elapsed. Part II supplies information on the two regional assemblies already referred to, the European Parliament and the Central American Parliament.

These data taken together point to the political and electoral successes and setbacks alike of women and, if coupled with other information, they provide a valuable indication of the extraordinary change that has taken place over 50 years in the world in general and in each of the countries considered in particular.

The content of this study is therefore more than likely to provide food for thought and to prompt fresh research, which is altogether propitious at the time of the opening in Beijing of the IVth World Conference on Women, organized by the United Nations, and when balanced participation of men and women in political and parliamentary life is henceforth perceived as one of the signs of full-blown democracy.

For the Inter-Parliamentary Union it constitutes a logical sequel to past publications on the distribution of seats between men and women in parliamentary assemblies, as well as on the participation of women in political and parliamentary life. More than anything, it is the most explicit evidence of the urgent need to implement the ***Plan of Action to correct present imbalances in the participation of men and women in political life***, adopted in Paris in March 1994 by the Inter-Parliamentary Council, given a genuine desire to ensure that parliamentary assemblies really are representative of the sexual duality of any society.

In presenting this work, I wish to thank all those men and women who, in their national Parliaments as well as within the European Parliament and the Central American

Parliament, were kind enough to take part in seeking data and answering the host of questions put to them by the Secretariat of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. Without their assistance, it would have been utterly impossible for Christine Pintat, Programme Officer for Questions relating to the Status of Women, to compile this study which, it is to be hoped, will be a helpful source of reference for them and which may of course be completed as and when fresh information comes in.

The gratitude of the Inter-Parliamentary Union also goes to the Netherlands Development Co-operation Fund and to the Swedish International Development Co-operation Agency (SIDA), contributing as they did to the production of this work through a generous financial grant.

Above all, however, I wish to pay tribute to all those women who, either as members or as Presidents of their Assemblies or in any other capacity, were in the past or are today the pioneers of a new form of parliamentary life. With them, what we have seen is the access to Parliament of the specific talent and acumen of the other half of humankind, modifying more or less markedly parliamentary habits, discourse and even priorities. Wherever it occurs, such a change is welcome both because it reflects a new vision of relations between the sexes and because direct participation by women in the parliamentary decision-making process can only assist the more balanced running of public affairs. On the threshold of the twenty-first century, it is greatly to be hoped that the Parliaments of all countries will become places where men and women work side by side in equitable proportion and legislate in a spirit of partnership and complementarity, for the common good of society as a whole.

Pierre Cornillon
Secretary General

NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS

1945 - 1995

TABLES AND COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

**WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE AND THE ACCESS OF WOMEN TO PARLIAMENT
AND TO THE POST OF PRESIDENT**

Table I (pp. 12 to 19) provides several key items of information at a glance. For virtually all the 189 countries mentioned in the study, it gives the foundation date of the parliamentary institution and, in the case of the 123 countries having attained sovereignty after 1945, the date of such accession, whether resulting from a decolonisation process or from dissolution of the federation of which they were part. These dates can be set against those at which the rights of women to vote and to stand for election were established in national legislation, and the date at which women first entered Parliament, through election or appointment, together with information regarding any instance of a woman presiding over the Assembly. As a complement to this information, Table II (pp. 20 to 24) gives the world and regional calendar of recognition of the rights of women to vote and to stand for election between 1788 and 1995.

Table I may be consulted both horizontally, to examine the trend in any individual country, and vertically for the sake of inter-country comparisons. Table II, for its part, may be consulted with dates and regions alike as the reference. A somewhat original reading should thus be possible of how the movement in favour of women's suffrage developed and of the electoral and parliamentary trajectory of women, of which the following notes constitute but a far from exhaustive overview.

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**I. BRIEF SURVEY OF RECOGNITION OF THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN TO VOTE AND TO
STAND FOR ELECTION**

Freely expressing one's personal political options by means of the ballot paper or seeking elective office are two acts which, on the threshold of the twenty-first century, feature among the most symbolic expressions of democratic freedom. Since 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights has had them as two fundamental rights of the human person without distinction as to sex, race or status. Yet this has not always been the reality of the matter.

1. A long obstacle race as yet unfinished

Historically speaking, access to suffrage has undoubtedly tied in with an elitist view of society. The surest evidence of this is that, for the great majority of the inhabitants of the planet, men or women, the achievement of voting rights has been the outcome of a bitter struggle signifying victory over social or racial prejudice and, in many cases, a victory over colonial oppression. As to women, while undergoing the same vicissitudes as men, they have had to overcome the additional obstacle of men's sexual prejudice. Hence in many countries they were granted the rights to vote and to stand for election much later than men - who also happened to be the sole arbiters in the matter - and often in stages.

It is by no means rare that, initially, voting rights were granted only to women able to demonstrate a certain level of income and/or education, or even women enjoying a particular marital and social status (wife, widow or daughter of a member of the military, for example), or women of white descent. Women have sometimes been accorded electoral rights locally but not at national level. From the country data, it will be seen that preliminary requirements were laid down in at least the following countries: Argentina, Australia, Bahamas, Belgium, Bolivia, Canada, Chile, Ecuador, Greece, Ireland, Japan, Kenya, Norway, Panama, Portugal, Romania, Samoa, South Africa, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom and Zimbabwe.

In some countries women are still unable to take part in elections, either as mere electors or as candidates. The Constitutions of Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates, two countries with a legislative institution at the time of this study, provide for the equality of all citizens but allow only men to become members of the institution. Similarly, when in December 1973 Bahrain instituted a legislative body (suspended by decision of the Emir since 26 August 1975), only men were permitted to exercise the rights to vote and to stand for election despite the fact that the December 1973 Constitution stipulates equal rights for all citizens.

Other States having never possessed an institution with powers of legislation and executive oversight, but which have moved encouragingly along that path by setting up an appointed consultative body, unfortunately give far less promising signals since it would seem that no such consultative body includes women.

2. The twentieth century, that of women's suffrage

As we have just seen, at this close of the twentieth century, the legislation of virtually all countries of the world establishes the unrestricted rights of women to vote and to stand for election, and Table II shows that, with very few exceptions, the history of women's suffrage merges with the twentieth century. It also clearly indicates that, for countries having been colonised, access to suffrage for the indigenous populations is often contemporaneous with decolonisation; where it predated the process, the reason was not uncommonly some passing political consideration of the colonial power.

The first two countries to grant women the rights to vote and to stand for election were New Zealand in 1893 and Australia in 1902, but those concerned were a specific minority category of women: those of European descent. On the other side of the world, in Sweden, a movement to grant women local voting rights had already started up in 1862 but only in 1918 did it come to anything, with recognition of the right of women to take part in all ballots, local and national alike, and it was finally in 1921 that this was embodied in the Constitution.

It can be stated that long before that, in 1788, the Constitution of the United States of America had recognised the right of women to stand for election to Congress, but such recognition was in fact more implicit than explicit since the instrument established the right of "all persons" to seek election. While it may be conceded that in the legislator's mind the word "person" covered women as well as men, who would venture to assert that, in the United States of America of 1788, the word "all" designated (not just *de jure* but also *de facto*) persons of all races? It was in any case only much later, on 26 August 1920, that women were explicitly granted by law the rights to vote and to stand for election to Congress ¹.

¹ In Table II it will be seen that the women of several countries became eligible for election before even being able to vote.

All the **Nordic countries** had meanwhile discarded sexual prejudice and acknowledged in women the political maturity not credited to them anywhere else in the world.

As early as 20 July 1906, in Finland (then part of the Russian empire), women of all conditions were granted the unrestricted rights to vote and to stand for election. Between 1907 and 1915 the women of Norway, Denmark and Iceland followed in their footsteps. This was no doubt what set off throughout **Europe** (interpreted in this 1995 study as being made up of the OSCE member countries) a basic movement leading to electoral rights for women. As pointed out earlier, despite the thankless struggle taken into the street by the suffragettes, electoral rights were sometimes granted only partially, subject to conditions and with restrictions, but a first step had at least been taken, leading sooner or later to full recognition of the capacity of women of all stations and origins to vote and to seek elective office.

Liechtenstein was, in 1984, the last European country to permit women to take part in national elections both as electors and as candidates. In all, it took some 80 years for European legislation as a whole to grant women full electoral rights. It then remained for women to overcome the cultural prejudice and political practices so deeply entrenched in people's minds and sometimes stubbornly averse to letting them into the political arena.

In the **Americas** the process whereby women won access to electoral rights more or less paralleled that engaged in Europe, even though it picked up and slowed at different times and concluded earlier. In Canada, for instance, the enfranchisement process for women started in 1917. Initially, the only women allowed to exercise such rights were those belonging to the Canadian Armed Forces or having a close relative in their ranks, but as early as 1920 the vote was extended to women of all conditions, but not of all races; the indigenous Indian population had to wait until 1950 for removal of the restriction on its participation in national elections. Meanwhile, Saint Lucia saw the start, in 1924, of the movement to grant women electoral rights in the Caribbean. It soon spread to the south of the continent and by the 1960s (some 35 years on and nearly a quarter of a century before Europe) the legislation of all Latin American and Caribbean countries could be said to recognise for women of all ethnic origins and all conditions the rights to vote and to stand for election. As in Europe, the process was not always easy and the country data show that several stages were sometimes needed before all women gained full statutory electoral rights. It also remained, as in Europe, to provide all women with full information on the existence of such rights and how they could be exercised, and to overcome cultural misgivings and political practices long established without their having had any say in the matter.

In the other regions of the world, the process of women's access to electoral rights generally got under way later than in Europe and the Americas, but it sometimes concluded more rapidly.

In **sub-Saharan Africa** the enfranchisement process for women usually accompanied that of decolonization and was one of its expressions, but in some cases it coincided with a similar move in the home country. It was with Senegal and Togo in 1945, then Liberia and Cameroon in 1946 and Niger and the Seychelles in 1948, that the history of electoral rights for African women began. Between 1952 and 1989 (the year of Namibia's accession to sovereignty) the other 40 or so present States of the continent followed suit. South Africa stands out as a country apart since three dates, symbolising its social and racial development, mark the access of women to electoral rights: 21 May 1930 for White women, 30 March 1984 for Coloured and Indian women, and 14 January 1994 for Black women (but also men). In all, it took nearly half a century both to complete the decolonization process and to attain legal recognition of women's electoral rights throughout the continent. From law to practice, and from law to electoral consciousness, there may nevertheless be something of a gap. It goes without saying

that still today, in Africa and indeed in most other parts of the world, women living in towns or cities are generally more familiar with their rights than rural women, especially if they have had some schooling, and that, information aside, they are often more emancipated than peasant women from the cultural prejudice and tribal taboos that hamper free exercise of the rights to vote and to stand for election to Parliament.

In **Asia** it is Mongolia which, by recognising the electoral rights of women as early as 1 November 1924, stands out as a pioneer in the matter. It was not before the 1930s that things changed in Sri Lanka (1931), in Thailand and the Maldives (1932), in Burma (now Myanmar - 1935) and in the Philippines (1937). Only after the Second World War did women in most other Asian countries gain the rights to vote and to stand for election. For instance, the giant of the region, China, granted those rights to women on 1 October 1949, followed a few months later by India. Bangladesh, the last-born of the independent States of the region, concluded the process on 4 November 1972, or nearly 50 years later and 12 years before Europe.

In the **Pacific**, apart from the two world pioneers already mentioned, New Zealand and Australia, it was only in the 1960s that the various States of the region began not only to accede to independence but also to recognise, sometimes in several stages, the rights of women to vote and to stand for election. The process concluded in 1990 with recognition of the electoral rights of women in Samoa, nearly 30 years after the archipelago's accession to sovereignty. Meanwhile, the last-born of the sovereign States of the region, Palau, had already recognised women's electoral rights in 1979.

In the same period a process got under way in the **Arab countries**. As early as 1946, women were given the vote in Djibouti. In 1953, Syria granted them the rights to vote and to stand for election; then, in 1956, Egypt enshrined these rights in the law, followed in 1959 by Tunisia, in 1961 by Mauritania and, as of its independence, Algeria (1962). Morocco followed in 1963, Libya in 1964, South Yemen in 1967 and North Yemen in 1970, Jordan in 1974 and Iraq in 1980. Then, in 1986, Djibouti women obtained the right to stand for election. On the other hand, as mentioned earlier, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates continue to deny women the capacity to participate, directly or through representatives of their choosing, in the running of public affairs.

3. The underlying factors

Table I and the preceding information show how difficult it is to dissociate the dates of women's suffrage from the historical and political events affecting the lives of nations and marking their development.

Furthermore, an examination of the granting of women's electoral rights would no doubt be more complete and qualified if it were possible to take into account a series of factors not quantifiable in dates and figures but nevertheless decisive, such as the mores corresponding to the various cultures and their practices and traditions as to sexual hierarchy and division of labour between men and women. The societies of the South Pacific islands have, as we know, very different traditions from those of the countries of the Middle East, and the tradition of the latter is hardly comparable to that of the Nordic countries, which in turn has nothing to do with that of China or Latin America. There can be no doubt that these factors counted at the time of legislation in favour of the rights of women to vote and to stand for election, and that they remain very much to the fore when it comes to polling.

II. WOMEN'S ACCESS TO PARLIAMENT

While there has been much resistance to letting women vote, it pales beside what they encountered when seeking access to the parliamentary institution and then exercising responsibilities in it.

From Table I it will be seen that it is not rare for several years or decades, even running into centuries, to elapse between the date of the founding of the national Parliament and that at which a woman first became a member of that institution.

It is in **countries with a long parliamentary tradition** in Europe and in the Americas (disregarding here the vicissitudes of the parliamentary institution in some of them, as will be apparent from the country data ²) that **the time lapse is the most striking**, as a few examples will illustrate.

Electoral and parliamentary records show that it took 486 years for a woman to become a member of the Swedish Parliament, founded according to the historians in 1435. In Poland, a country possessing a Parliament since 1593, the voice of a woman was not heard in the Diet until 326 years later. Iceland has had a representative institution since the Middle Ages and a Parliament in the modern sense of the term since 1845, but only in 1922 did the people return a woman to it. It even took 156 years for a woman to become a member of the French Parliament, founded though it was in 1789 to revolutionary cries of "Liberty, Equality, Fraternity". In Nicaragua, 146 years were necessary. In Bolivia and Chile 140 years elapsed between the founding of Parliament and the election of a woman, six years more than in Peru; and in the United States of America, Costa Rica, Honduras, Ecuador, Colombia, Mexico, Switzerland and Spain the range was 130 to 120 years. In Venezuela the interval was 118 years, in Portugal and Uruguay 112 years, and in Greece 108 years. Hungary has since the thirteenth century had an institution representing the people, which became a Parliament in the modern sense of the term in 1845 but, as in Argentina, Italy, the Netherlands and Liechtenstein, all of which have also had a representative institution since the last century, took nearly 100 years to return a woman to it. In Belgium the corresponding time lapse was 73 years; it was 69 years in Denmark, 66 in Bulgaria, 54 in Canada, 48 in Germany and 37 in Norway.

The presence of women in those Parliaments then had to be consolidated and extended, and it will be seen from Chapter II that the process did not always go entirely smoothly.

On the other hand, in **most countries of more recent parliamentary tradition**, the access of women to Parliament has often coincided with or in any case been close in time not only to the confirmation in national legislation of their right to stand for election, but also to the founding of the parliamentary institution.

In Afghanistan, for instance, four women entered the Council of Representatives elected in July 1965, the year in which electoral rights were granted them. In the very first legislature established three months after women were given the vote, in 1963, the Parliament of Monaco included a woman. The Assembly of Singapore likewise included a woman at the outset, in 1963. In all those countries, the future was unfortunately to show how difficult it remained for women to win election.

As mentioned earlier, in most of the **former colonial countries** it was in the period immediately preceding independence or at the actual time of accession to independence that

² Between 1945 and 1995, about a hundred military coups throughout the world resulted in suspension of the parliamentary institution, also dissolved on occasion in the wake of political or institutional crisis or a revolution.

adult citizens and in any case women acquired full electoral rights. Furthermore, the attainment of sovereignty was often marked by the institution of a Parliament to represent the newly sovereign people. In this respect, there are three classic cases: (i) a Parliament had been elected shortly before independence and, either as composed prior to independence or modified, the institution became the Legislature of the new independent State; (ii) a Parliament was instituted at the actual time of independence, and (iii) a Parliament was established in the first few years after accession to sovereignty.

Even though some of those assemblies ran into trouble later, particularly following military coups, it is noteworthy that they have nearly always included a number of women. Sometimes, with succeeding legislative elections, the presence of women has diminished or not been confirmed, but in most cases the proportion of female representatives has kept up or increased.

Thus when Algeria, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Congo, Dominica, Equatorial Guinea, Fiji, Gabon, Grenada, Guinea-Bissau, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sao Tome and Principe, Singapore, Suriname, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Zambia and Zimbabwe acceded to sovereignty, they gave themselves a representative institution in which a number of women were returned from the outset. In Algeria, Cape Verde, Congo, Namibia and Sao Tome and Principe, such election took place in the actual year in which women had been granted electoral rights, and in the other countries election coincided with the first opportunity for women to exercise those rights or to exercise them for a sovereign national assembly.

In Belize and Mali a Parliament was established three years after accession to sovereignty and a woman was returned to it straight away. Angola and Guinea instituted their Parliament some five years after their accession to independence and five years after the enfranchisement of women. As of the first election women entered the National Assembly, which has included women ever since. Jamaica likewise acquired a Parliament five years after its accession to sovereignty, returning two women right away. In Mauritius and the Maldives a Parliament was established only ten and fifteen years, respectively, after independence, but the Assembly included women from the outset.

In Barbados, Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Madagascar, Senegal, the Seychelles, Sudan and Tunisia it was in the second national legislative elections, between two and five years after the establishment of Parliament, that women won seats in the Assembly.

On the other hand, in Antigua and Barbuda, Botswana, Samoa, Tuvalu and Vanuatu, it was seven to ten years before women were returned to the Assembly. In the Solomon Islands, 13 years elapsed between establishment of the independent Legislature and the time a woman was first returned to it. In Tonga a woman was not elected to Parliament until 15 years after its inception and some 30 years after women were granted electoral rights. In Nauru it was only in the eighth legislative elections, nearly 20 years after the country's accession to sovereignty and the granting of voting rights to women, that a woman eventually won a seat.

To permit the access of women to Parliament despite a context not very conducive to their election, some countries adopted the idea from the start of setting aside a number of seats for them. This was done notably in Bangladesh and Eritrea (in this connection, see also page 37). In Bangladesh it was not until the fourth legislature, after some 15 years, that the women occupying reserved seats, allocated by co-optation, were joined by four women having directly faced popular suffrage.

In the great majority of countries mentioned above, it will be seen in Chapter II that subsequent elections often showed how difficult it was for women to consolidate, or merely preserve, the initial gain. In Papua New Guinea, women even ended up losing all seats in the Assembly, today consisting solely of men.

III. WOMEN'S ACCESS TO THE OFFICE OF SPEAKER OF PARLIAMENT

Table I shows that there are very few women indeed to occupy the office of President of Parliament or a Chamber of Parliament at present, or to have done so in the past.

Of the 186 countries surveyed, a bare 33 have elected a woman to the office of President of Parliament or one of its Chambers at some point in their parliamentary history.

Austria stands out as a pioneer in this respect, with the election of a woman to preside over the Bundesrat back in 1927, some eight years after Austrian women were given the right to stand for election. The same woman, Mrs. O. Rudel-Zeynek, was then re-elected President of that Chamber of the Austrian Parliament in 1932.

In the other 32 countries concerned, the election of a woman President of Parliament or a Chamber of Parliament came after the Second World War. The Danish *Landsting* was, in 1950, the first such institution to be presided over (very briefly, it may be added) by a woman. In Austria a woman was once more elected President of the Bundesrat in 1953, but for a few months only. Elsewhere, it was not until **the 1960s** that a woman first directed the proceedings in Parliament.

The election of a woman President of the Assembly may on occasion have been an isolated or situational phenomenon not subsequently repeated. This applies to Argentina, Bolivia and Denmark. On the other hand, the repeated election of women Presidents of the Assembly or a Chamber of it is to be noted in Austria, Canada, Dominica, Finland, Germany, Guatemala, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Sweden and Switzerland, together with the former SFR of Yugoslavia. For some of those countries, like Austria, Germany or Iceland, or indeed Switzerland, it would be no exaggeration to speak of a certain tradition in this respect.

After being a rare and isolated phenomenon, **the election of a woman to preside over parliamentary proceedings has become commoner in this decade and, at 30 June 1995, a woman is to be found as President of Parliament or a Chamber of Parliament in the following 16 countries:** Antigua and Barbuda, Croatia, Dominica, El Salvador, Finland, Germany, Grenada, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Norway, Panama, South Africa, Sweden, Trinidad and Tobago, and the United Kingdom. For 11 of those countries, including six on the American continent, the holding of such office by a woman is a first and signals a notable change of parliamentary tradition: Antigua and Barbuda, Croatia, El Salvador, Grenada, Japan, Mexico, Norway, Panama, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago, and the United Kingdom.

Nº I - HISTORICAL TABLE

COUNTRY	SOVEREIGNTY AFTER 1945	FIRST LEGISLATURE OF THE PRESENT SOVEREIGN STATE ²	RECOGNITION OF WOMEN'S RIGHT TO VOTE	RECOGNITION OF WOMEN'S RIGHT TO BE ELECTED	FIRST WOMAN ELECTED (E) OR APPOINTED (A) TO PARLIAMENT	WOMAN AS PRESIDING OFFICER OF PARLIAMENT OR ONE OF ITS CHAMBERS
<i>Afghanistan</i> ¹	---	07.1965	1965	1965	07.1965 (E)	---
Albania	---	21.01.1920	21.01.1920	21.01.1920	12.1945 (E)	---
Algeria	05.07.1962	09.1962	05.07.1962	05.07.1962	09.1962 (N) 09.1964 (E)	---
Andorra	04.05.1993	12.1993	14.04.1970	05.09.1973	12.1993 (E)	---
Angola	11.11.1975	11.1980	11.11.1975	11.11.1975	11.1980 (E)	---
Antigua and Barbuda	01.11.1981	04.1984	01.12.1951	01.12.1951	04.1984 (N) 03.1994 (E)	1994-99 - M. Percival (Senate) 1994-99 - B. Harris (House of Represent.)
Argentina	---	01.05.1853	27.09.1947 ^{*3}	27.09.1947 *	11.1951 (E)	12.10.1973-01.07.1974 - M.E. Martinez de Perón (Senate)
Armenia	21.09.1991	20.05.1990	02.02.1921	02.02.1921	05.1990 (E)	---
Australia	---	30.03.1901	12.06.1902 18.06.1962 *	12.06.1902 18.06.1962 *	21.08.1943 (E)	1987-90 - J. Child (House of Represent.)
Austria	---	1867	19.12.1918	19.12.1918	04.03.1919 (E)	01.12.1927-31.05.1928 and 01.06.1932-30.11.1932 - O. Rudel-Zeynek (<i>Bundesrat</i>); 01.07.1953-31.12.1953 - J. Bayer (<i>Bundesrat</i>); 01.01.1965-30.06.1965, 01.07.1969-31.12.1969 and 01.01.1974-30.06.1974 - H. Tschitschko (<i>Bundesrat</i>); 01.07.1987-31.12.1987 - H. Hieden-Sommer (<i>Bundesrat</i>); 01.01.1991-30.06.1991 -A.E. Haselbach (<i>Bundesrat</i>)
Azerbaijan	01.1992	09.1990	19.05.1921	19.05.1921	09.1990 (E)	---
Bahamas	10.07.1973	07.1973	18.02.1961 1964 *	18.02.1961 1964 *	07.1977 (N) 06.1982 (E)	---
<i>Bahrain</i>	15.08.1971	12.1973	06.12.1973 ?	06.12.1973 ?	No	---
Bangladesh	12.1971	03.1973	04.11.1972	04.11.1972	03.1973 (E)	---
Barbados	30.11.1966	03.11.1966	23.10.1950	23.10.1950	03.11.1966 (N) 09.1971 (E)	---
Belarus	25.08.1991	03.1990	04.02.1919	04.02.1919	03.1990 (E)	---
Belgium	---	13.06.1848	09.05.1919 27.03.1948 *	07.02.1921 27.03.1948 *	27.12.1921 (N)	---
Belize	21.09.1981	12.1984	25.03.1954	25.03.1954	12.1984 (E+N)	1984-89 - D. June Garcia (Senate) 1989-93 - J. Usher (Senate)
Benin	01.08.1960	12.1960	1956	1956	11.1979 (E)	---
Bhutan	---	1953	1953	1953	1975 (E)	---

1. The countries where Parliament stood suspended or temporarily dissolved at the time of the study are indicated in italics.

2. 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 the 13th century, this reference is given as well as the date on which a Parliament in the present-day meaning of the word was established.

3. The asterisk next to the date signifies that conditions or restrictions were attached when women were granted the right to vote and/or stand for election. Reference to several dates reflects the stages in the granting of rights. For further information in this connection, please consult the country data sheets.

COUNTRY	SOVEREIGNTY AFTER 1945	FIRST LEGISLATURE OF THE PRESENT SOVEREIGN STATE	RECOGNITION OF WOMEN'S RIGHT TO VOTE	RECOGNITION OF WOMEN'S RIGHT TO BE ELECTED	FIRST WOMAN ELECTED (E) OR APPOINTED (A) TO PARLIAMENT	WOMAN AS PRESIDING OFFICER OF PARLIAMENT OR ONE OF ITS CHAMBERS
Bolivia	---	10.07.1825	1938 21.07.1952 *	1938 21.07.1952 *	07.1966 (E)	1979 - L. Gueiler Tejada (Ch. Deputies)
Bosnia and Herzegovina	03.1992	11-12.1990	31.01.1949	31.01.1949	12.1990 (E)	---
Botswana	30.09.1966	03.1965	01.03.1965	01.03.1965	10.1979 (E)	---
Brazil	---	1926	16.07.1934	16.07.1934	03.05.1933 (E)	---
Bulgaria	---	17.04.1879	16.10.1944	16.10.1944	18.11.1945 (E)	---
Burkina Faso	05.08.1960	12.1970	28.09.1958	28.09.1958	04.1978 (E)	---
Burundi	01.07.1962	18.09.1961	17.08.1961	17.08.1961	10.1982 (E)	---
Cambodia	09.11.1953	09.1955	25.09.1955	25.09.1955	03.1958 (E)	---
Cameroon	01.10.1961	04.1960	10.1946	10.1946	04.1960 (E)	---
Canada	---	1867	09.1917 05.1918 1950 *	07.1920 08.1960 *	12.1921 (E) (Commons) 02.1930 (N) (Senate)	1972-74 - M. Fergusson (Senate) 1974-79 - R. Lapointe (Senate) 1980-84 - J. Sauvé (House of Commons)
Cape Verde	05.07.1975	07.1975	05.07.1975	05.07.1975	07.1975 (E)	---
Central African Republic	13.08.1960	08.1960	1986	1986	07.1987 (E)	---
Chad	11.08.1960	03.1962	1958	1958	03.1962 (E)	---
Chile	---	04.07.1811	30.05.1931 15.05.1949 *	30.05.1931 15.05.1949 *	24.04.1951 (E)	---
China	---	09.1954	01.10.1949	01.10.1949	04.1954 (E)	---
Colombia	---	1832	25.08.1954	25.08.1954	25.04.1954 (N) 16.03.1958 (E)	---
Comoros	12.1975	12.1978	1956	1956	12.1993 (E)	---
Congo	15.08.1960	06.1959	08.12.1963	08.12.1963	12.1963 (E)	---
Costa Rica	---	16.05.1823	17.11.1949	17.11.1949	11.1953 (E)	---
Côte d'Ivoire	07.08.1960	11.1960	1952	1952	07.11.1965 (E)	---
Croatia	08.10.1991	08.1992	11.08.1945	11.08.1945	02.08.1992 (E)	1993-97 - K. Ivanisevic (<i>Zupanijski Dom</i>)
Cuba	---	20.05.1902	02.01.1934	02.01.1934	14.07.1940 (E)	---
Cyprus	16.08.1960	07.1960	16.08.1960	16.08.1960	10.1963 (E)	---
Czech Republic	01.01.1993	06.1992	1920	1920	06.1992 (E)	---
Dem. People's Rep. of Korea	09.09.1948	08.1948	30.07.1946	30.07.1946	08.1948 (E)	---
Denmark	---	05.06.1849	05.06.1915	05.06.1915	1918 (E)	03.1950 - I. Hansen (<i>Landsting</i>)
Djibouti	27.06.1977	05.1977	1946	1986	No	---
Dominica	03.11.1978	07.1980	07.1951	07.1951	07.1980 (E)	1980-88 - M. Davis-Pierre (House of Ass.) 1993-95 - N. Edwards (House of Assembly)
Dominican Republic	---	06.11.1844	1942	1942	1942 (E)	---

Ecuador	---	28.08.1830	26.03.1929 1967 *	26.03.1929 1967 *	1956 (E)	---
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COUNTRY	SOVEREIGNTY AFTER 1945	FIRST LEGISLATURE OF THE PRESENT SOVEREIGN STATE	RECOGNITION OF WOMEN'S RIGHT TO VOTE	RECOGNITION OF WOMEN'S RIGHT TO BE ELECTED	FIRST WOMAN ELECTED (E) OR APPOINTED (A) TO PARLIAMENT	WOMAN AS PRESIDING OFFICER OF PARLIAMENT OR ONE OF ITS CHAMBERS
Egypt	---	01.1950	23.06.1956	23.06.1956	03.07.1957 (E)	---
El Salvador	---	09.1840	1939	1961	29.12.1961 (E)	1994-97 - G. Salguero Gross (Leg. Ass.)
Equatorial Guinea	12.10.1968	09.1968	15.12.1963	15.12.1963	09.1968 (E)	---
Eritrea	24.05.1993	02.1994	04.11.1955 ?	04.11.1955 ?	02.1994 (E)	---
Estonia	20.08.1991	29.11.1920 05.03.1990	24.11.1918	24.11.1918	07.04.1919 (E) 03.1990 (E)	---
Ethiopia	06.04.1941	02.11.1932	04.11.1955	04.11.1955	10.1957 (E)	---
Fiji	10.10.1970	11.1970 (Senate) 05.1972 (House Rep.)	17.04.1963	04.05.1963	11.1970 (N) (Senate) 05.1972 (E) (House Rep.)	---
Finland	---	16.03.1907	20.07.1906	20.07.1906	16.03.1907 (E)	1991-95 and 1995-99 - R. Uosukainen (Parliament)
France	---	17.06.1789	21.04.1944	21.04.1944	10.1945 (E)	---
Gabon	17.08.1960	02.1961	23.05.1956	23.05.1956	12.02.61 (E)	---
<i>Gambia</i>	18.02.1965	05.1966	1960	1960	05.1982 ?(E)	---
Georgia	04.1991	10-11.1990	22.11.1918 21.02.1921 *	22.11.1918 21.02.1921 *	10.1992 (E)	---
Germany ⁴	---	03.03.1871	12.11.1918	12.11.1918	01.1919 (E)	1972-76 - A. Renger (RFA- <i>Bundestag</i>) 1988-94 and 94-98 - R. Süßmuth (<i>Bundestag</i>)
Ghana	06.03.1957	17.07.1956	1954	1954	08.1960 ?(N) 09.1969 (E)	---
Greece	---	1844	01.01.1952	01.01.1952	11.1952 (E)	---
Grenada	07.02.1974	02.1972	08.1951	08.1951	12.1976 (E+N)	1990-96 - M. Neckles (Senate)
Guatemala	---	?	1946	1946	01.03.1956 (E)	14.01.1991-14.01.92-A.C.Soberanis Reyes (Congress); 01.1994-01.95 -A.Castro de Camparini (Congress)
<i>Guinea</i>	02.10.1958	09.1963	02.10.1958	02.10.1958	09.1963 (E)	---
Guinea-Bissau	24.09.1974	14.10.1972	1977	1977	14.10.1972 (N) 31.03.1984 (E)	---
Guyana	26.05.1966	07.12.1964	1953	1945	12.1968 (E)	---
Haiti	---	22.04.1817	25.11.1950	25.11.1950	12.05.1961 (E)	---
Honduras	---	29.08.1824	25.01.1955	25.01.1955	1957	---

Hungary	---	12th cent. 1848	17.05.1953	16.11.1958	1945 (E)	---
Iceland	---	930-1845	19.06.1915	19.06.1915	08.07.1922 (E)	1974-1978 - R. Helgadóttir (Lower House) 1983-1987 - S. Thorkelsdóttir (Upper House) 1988-1991 - G. Helgadóttir (<i>Althingi</i> Uni) 1991-1995 - S. Thorkelsdóttir (<i>Althingi</i>)

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

COUNTRY	SOVEREIGNTY AFTER 1945	FIRST LEGISLATURE OF THE PRESENT SOVEREIGN STATE	RECOGNITION OF WOMEN'S RIGHT TO VOTE	RECOGNITION OF WOMEN'S RIGHT TO BE ELECTED	FIRST WOMAN ELECTED (E) OR APPOINTED (A) TO PARLIAMENT	WOMAN AS PRESIDING OFFICER OF PARLIAMENT OR ONE OF ITS CHAMBERS
India	15.08.1947	02.1952	26.01.1950	26.01.1950	04.1952 (E)	---
Indonesia	17.08.1945	02.1950	17.08.1945	17.08.1945	02.1950 (N) 07.1971 (E)	---
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	---	07.10.1906	06.10.1963	06.10.1963	09.1963 (E+N)	---
Iraq	---	03.1920	01.04.1980	01.04.1980	06.1980 (E)	---
Ireland	---	06.12.1922	06.02.1918 02.07.1928 *	06.02.1918 02.07.1928 *	14.12.1918 (E)	13.05.1982- 23.02.1983 and 1987-1989 - Tras Honan (Senate)
Israel	15.05.1948	25.01.1949	15.05.1948	15.05.1948	01.1949 (E)	---
Italy	---	1848	01.02.1945	01.02.1945	06.1946 (E)	1979-92 - N. Iotti (Chamber Deputies) 1994-98 - I. Pivetti (Chamber Deputies)
Jamaica	06.08.1962	02.1967	20.11.1944	20.11.1944	14.12.1944 (E)	---
Japan	---	01.07.1890	17.12.1945 24.02.1947 *	17.12.1945 24.02.1947 *	04.1946 (E) (Representatives) 04.1947 (E) (Council)	1993/-- T. Doi (House of Rep.)
Jordan	22.03.1946	1946	1974	1974	11.1989 (N) (Senate) 11.1993 (E) (Ch. Deputies)	---
<i>Kazakstan</i>	16.12.1991	03.1990	31.01.1924 28.01.1993 *	31.01.1924 28.01.1993 *	03.1990 (E)	---
Kenya	12.12.1963	05.1963	12.12.1963	12.12.1963	12.1969 (E+N)	---
Kiribati	12.07.1979	02.02.1978	15.11.1967	15.11.1967	25.07.1990 (E)	---
Kuwait	19.06.1961	01.1962	Right not recognized	Right not recognized	No	---
Kyrgyzstan	09.1991	02.1990	06.1918	06.1918	02.1990 (E)	---
Lao People's Dem. Rep.	10.1953	25.12.1955	1958	1958	04.05.1958 (E)	---
Lebanon	22.11.1943	04.1947	1952	1952	06.1991 (N) 10.1992 (E)	---
Lesotho	04.10.1966	04.1965	30.04.1965	30.04.1965	04.1965 (N) 03.1993 (E)	---
Latvia	21.08.1991	03-04.1990	18.11.1918	18.11.1918	?	---

<i>Liberia</i>	---	1889	07.05.1946	07.05.1946	1964 (E ?)	---
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	24.12.1951	02.1952	1964	1964	?	---
Liechtenstein	---	24.11.1862	01.07.1984	01.07.1984	02.1986 (E)	---
Lithuania	06.09.1991	15.05.1920 + 03.1990	05.10.1921	05.10.1921	15.05.1920 (N)	---
Luxembourg	---	28.07.1918	15.05.1919	15.05.1919	04.1919 (E)	1989-1994 and 1994-1995 - E. Hennicot-Schoepges (Chamber of Deputies)
Madagascar	26.06.1960	06.1960	29.04.1959	29.04.1959	08.1965 (E)	---

COUNTRY	SOVEREIGNTY AFTER 1945	FIRST LEGISLATURE OF THE PRESENT SOVEREIGN STATE	RECOGNITION OF WOMEN'S RIGHT TO VOTE	RECOGNITION OF WOMEN'S RIGHT TO BE ELECTED	FIRST WOMAN ELECTED (E) OR APPOINTED (A) TO PARLIAMENT	WOMAN AS PRESIDING OFFICER OF PARLIAMENT OR ONE OF ITS CHAMBERS
Malawi	06.07.1964	04.1964	1961	1961	04.1964 (E)	---
Malaysia	31.08.1957	08.1959	31.08.1957	31.08.1957	08.1959 (E) (Ch. Deputies) 05.1965 (N) (Senate)	---
Maldives	26.07.1965	11.1979	1932	1932	11.1979 (E)	---
Mali	20.06.1960	02.1964	1956	1956	02.1964 (E)	---
Malta	21.09.1964	03.1966	05.09.1947	05.09.1947	28.03.1966 (E)	---
Marshall Islands	09.1991	11.1991	01.05.1979 ?	01.05.1979 ?	11.1991 (E)	---
Mauritania	28.11.1960	1965	20.05.1961	20.05.1961	10.1975 (E)	---
Mauritius	12.03.1968	12.1976	1956	1956	12.1976 (E)	---
Mexico	---	31.01.1824	15.02.1947	17.10.1953	09.1952 (N) 07.1955 (E)	1994-97 - M. Moreno Uriegas (Ch. Deputies)
Micronesia (Fed. States of)	09.1991	03.1993	03.11.1979	03.11.1979	No	---
Moldova	08.1991	02.1990	15.04.1978 14.10.1993 *	15.04.1978 14.10.1993 *	02.1990 (E)	---
Monaco	---	02.1963	17.12.1962	17.12.1962	02.1963 (E)	---
Mongolia	01.1946	06.1951	01.11.1924	01.11.1924	06.1951 (E)	---
Morocco	02.03.1956	05.1963	05.1963	05.1963	06.1993 (E)	---
Mozambique	04.12.1977	12.1977	25.06.1975	25.06.1975	12.1977 (E)	---
Myanmar	---	04.1947	1935	19.03.1946	04.1947 (E)	---
Namibia	21.03.1990	11.1989	07.11.1989	07.11.1989	11.1989 (E)	---
Nauru	31.01.1968	31.01.1968	03.01.1968	03.01.1968	12.1986 (E)	---
Nepal	---	02.1959	1951	1951	1952 (N) 21.10.1959 (E+N)	---
Netherlands	---	1796 or 1813	09.08.1919	29.11.1917	07.1918 (E)	---
New Zealand	---	1852	19.09.1893	29.10.1919	13.09.1933 (E)	---
Nicaragua	---	08.04.1826	21.04.1955	21.04.1955	02.1972 (E)	1990 - M. Argüello Morales (Nat. Ass.)
Niger	03.08.1960	1958	1948	1948	10.12.1989 (E)	---

Nigeria	01.10.1960	03.1965 ?	1958 ?	1958 ?	?	---
Norway	---	1884	1913 *	1907-1913 *	1911 (N) 1921 (E)	1993/-- - K. Kolle Grondahl (<i>Stortinget</i>)
Pakistan	01.1972	1973 ⁵	08.1947	08.1947	1973 (E)	---
Palau	01.10.1994	11.1992	02.04.1979	02.04.1979	No	---
Panama	---	1904	05.07.1941 01.03.1946 *	05.07.1941 01.03.1946 *	1946 (E)	1994-1999 - B. Herrera Araúz (Legislative Assembly)

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

COUNTRY	SOVEREIGNTY AFTER 1945	FIRST LEGISLATURE OF THE PRESENT SOVEREIGN STATE	RECOGNITION OF WOMEN'S RIGHT TO VOTE	RECOGNITION OF WOMEN'S RIGHT TO BE ELECTED	FIRST WOMAN ELECTED (E) OR APPOINTED (A) TO PARLIAMENT	WOMAN AS PRESIDING OFFICER OF PARLIAMENT OR ONE OF ITS CHAMBERS
Papua New Guinea	16.09.1975	07.1977	15.02.1964	27.02.1963 ?	07.1977 (E)	---
Paraguay	---	1811	05.07.1961	05.07.1961	01.04.1963 (E)	---
Peru	---	20.09.1822	07.09.1955	07.09.1955	28.07.1956 (E)	---
Philippines	04.07.1946	23.04.1946	30.04.1937	30.04.1937	11.1941 (E)	---
Poland	---	01.1593	28.11.1918	28.11.1918	26.01.1919 (E) (<i>Sejm</i>) 11.03.1928 (E) (Senate)	---
Portugal	---	27.01.1821	05.05.1931 16.11.1934 02.06.1976 *	05.05.1931 16.11.1934 02.06.1976 *	19.11.1934 (N) 24.11.1934 (E)	---
Republic of Korea	15.08.1948	10.05.1948	17.07.1948	17.07.1948	10.05.1948 (E)	---
Romania	---	20.11.1919	1929 07.1946 *	1929 07.1946 *	11.1946 (E)	---
Russian Federation ⁶	06.1990	12.1993	06.1918	06.1918	12.1993 (E)	---
Rwanda	01.07.1962	12.1965	25.09.1961	25.09.1961	12.1965 ?	---
Saint Kitts and Nevis	19.09.1983	06.1984	1951	1951	06.1984 (E)	---
Saint Lucia	22.02.1979	07.1979	1924	1924	07.1979 (N)	---
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	27.10.1979	12.1979	05.05.1951	05.05.1951	12.1979 (E)	---
Samoa	01.01.1962	04.1964	10.1990	10.1990	02.1976 (N) 04.1991 (E)	---
San Marino	---	13th cent. 1906	29.04.1959	10.09.1973	08.09.1974 (E)	04.1981 - M.L. Pedini Angelini (Great General Council); 04.1984 -10.1989 - G. Ranocchini (Great General Council); 10.1991 - E. Ceccoli (Great General Council); 04.1993 - P. Busignani (Great General Council)
Sao Tome and Principe	12.07.1975	12.1975	12.07.1975	12.07.1975	12.1975 (E)	05.1980-02/03.1991 - A. Graça de Espírito Santo (National Assembly)
Senegal	04.04.1960	1960	19.02.1945	19.02.1945	12.1963 (E)	---

Seychelles	28.06.1976	01.09.1976	06.08.1948	06.08.1948	06.1976 (E) 09.1976 (N)	---
Sierra Leone	27.04.1961	04.1962	27.04.1961	27.04.1961	?	---
Singapore	09.08.1965	21.09.1963	18.07.1947	18.07.1947	21.09.1963 (E)	---
Slovakia	01.01.1993	06.1992	1920	1920	06.1992 (E)	---
Slovenia	08.10.1991	12.1992	10.08.1945	10.08.1945	12.1992 (E)	---
Solomon Islands	07.07.1978	08.1980	04.1974 ?	04.1974 ?	05.1993 (E)	---
Somalia	01.07.1960	02.1960	1956	1956	12.1979 (E)	---

6. For the USSR, see page 213.

COUNTRY	SOVEREIGNTY AFTER 1945	FIRST LEGISLATURE OF THE PRESENT SOVEREIGN STATE	RECOGNITION OF WOMEN'S RIGHT TO VOTE	RECOGNITION OF WOMEN'S RIGHT TO BE ELECTED	FIRST WOMAN ELECTED (E) OR APPOINTED (A) TO PARLIAMENT	WOMAN AS PRESIDING OFFICER OF PARLIAMENT OR ONE OF ITS CHAMBERS
South Africa	---	21.04.1933	1930 - Whites 1984 - Coloureds + Indians 1994 - Blacks	1930 - Whites 1984 - Coloureds + Indians 1994 - Blacks	21.04.1933 (E)	1994-99 - F.N. Ginwala (National Assembly)
Spain	---	1810	09.12.1931	08.05.1931	07.1931 (E)	---
Sri Lanka	04.02.1948	09.1947	20.03.1931	20.03.1931	09.1947 (E)	---
Sudan	01.01.1956	1954	11.1964	11.1964	11.1964 (E)	---
Suriname	25.11.1975	10.1975	09.12.1948	09.12.1948	10.1975 (E)	---
Swaziland	06.09.1968	04.1972	06.09.1968	06.09.1968	04.1972 (E+N)	---
Sweden	---	1435	05.1919-1921	05.1919-1921	09.1921 (E)	1991-94 - I. Troedsson (<i>Riksdag</i>) 1994-98 - B. Dahl (<i>Riksdag</i>)
Switzerland	---	1848	07.02.1971	07.02.1971	10.1971 (E)	05-11.1977 - E. Blunschy (National Council) 1982 - H. Lang (National Council) 1992 - J. Meier (Council of States) 1994 - G. Haller (National Council)
Syrian Arab Republic	17.04.1946	07.1947	10.09.1949-1953 *	1953	05.1973 (E)	---
Tadjikistan	09.09.1991	02.1990	1924	1924	02.1990 (E)	---
Thailand	---	1932	1932	1932	1948 (N) 1949 (E)	---
The Former Yugoslav Rep. of Macedonia	08.09.1991	11-12.1990	31.12.1946	31.12.1946	11-12.1990 (E)	---
Togo	27.04.1960	04.1961	22.08.1945	22.08.1945	09.04.1961 (E)	---
Tonga	04.06.1970	05.1975	1960	1960	02.1993 (E)	---
Trinidad and Tobago	31.08.1962	31.08.1962	1946	1946	08.1962 (E+N)	1991-96 - O. Seapaul (House of Rep.)
Tunisia	20.03.1956	04.1956	01.06.1959	01.06.1959	08.11.1959 (E)	---
Turkey	---	1920	03.04.1930	05.12.1934	02.1935 (N) 03.1943 (E)	---
Turkmenistan	27.10.1991	01.1990	1927	1927	01.1990 (E)	---

Tuvalu	01.10.1978	08.1977	01.01.1967	01.01.1967	09.1989 (E)	---
Uganda	09.10.1962	04.1962	1962	1962	04.1962 (N)	---
Ukraine	05.12.1991	03.1990	10.03.1919	10.03.1919	03.1990 (E)	---
United Arab Emirates	02.12.1971	12.1971	Right not recognized	Right not recognized	No	---
United Kingdom	---	13th cent. 06.1886 ⁷	06.02.1918 02.07.1928 *	06.02.1918 02.07.1928 *	14.12.1918 (E)	1992 - B. Boothroyd (House of Commons)
United Republic of Tanzania	09.12.1961	09.1965	1959	1959	?	---

7 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.

COUNTRY	SOVEREIGNTY AFTER 1945	FIRST LEGISLATURE OF THE PRESENT SOVEREIGN STATE	RECOGNITION OF WOMEN'S RIGHT TO VOTE	RECOGNITION OF WOMEN'S RIGHT TO BE ELECTED	FIRST WOMAN ELECTED (E) OR APPOINTED (A) TO PARLIAMENT	WOMAN AS PRESIDING OFFICER OF PARLIAMENT OR ONE OF ITS CHAMBERS
United States of America	---	04.1789	26.08.1920	13.09.1788 *	04.03.1917 (E) (House of Rep.) 12.01.1932 (E) (Senate)	---
Uruguay	---	18.07.1830	16.12.1932	16.12.1932	11.1942 (E)	1963+1965+1967 - A. Roballo (Senate)
Uzbekistan	31.08.1991	02.1990	1938	1938	02.1990 (E)	---
Vanuatu	30.07.1980	11.1979	11.1975 30.07.1980 *	11.1975 30.07.1980 *	11.1987 (E)	---
Venezuela	---	29.04.1830	28.03.1946	28.03.1946	02.1948 (E)	---
Viet Nam ⁸	1955 + 07.1976	07.1976	06.01.1946	06.01.1946	04.1976 (E)	---
Yemen ⁹	30.11.1967 + 22.05.1990	1967 (DPR of Yemen) 1970 (Arab Rep. Yemen)	1967 (DPR of Yemen) 1970 (Arab Rep. Yemen)	1967 (DPR of Yemen) 1970 (Arab Rep. Yemen)	05.1990 (E ?)	---
Yugoslavia ¹⁰	1992	12.1992	31.01.1946	31.01.1946	29.11.1943 (E)	29.06.1963-16.05.1967 - Olga Vrabic (Chamber of Welfare and Health of the Federal Assembly of the S.F.R.Y.) 16.05.1967-16.05.1969 - Vida Tomsic (Federal Chamber and Chamber of Nationalities of the Federal Assembly) 31.10.1979-15.05.1982 - Stana Tomasevic- Arnesen (Federal Chamber of the S.F.R.Y. Assembly) 15.05.1986-15.05.1987 - Milka Gligorijevic- Takeva (Federal Chamber of the S.F.R.Y.) 15.05.1989-11.06.1992 - Bogdana Glumac- Levakov (Federal Chamber of the S.F.R.Y.)
Zaire	30.06.1960	06.1960	03.05.1967	17.04.1970	11.1970 (E)	---
Zambia	24.10.1964	01.1964	30.10.1962	30.10.1962	01.1964 (E+N)	---

Zimbabwe	18.04.1980	02.1980	1957	03.1978	02-03.1980 (E+N)	---
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8. Reunification of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and the Republic of Viet Nam in July 1976.
9. Reunification of Yemen on 22 May 1990.
10. For the SFR of Yugoslavia, see p. 269.

**N° II - WORLD AND REGIONAL CALENDAR OF WHEN WOMEN WERE GRANTED
THE RIGHT TO VOTE(V) AND TO STAND FOR ELECTION (E)**

YEAR	SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA	AMERICAS	ASIA	ARAB STATES	EUROPE ³	PACIFIC
1788	---	13.09 (E) USA ¹	---	---	---	---
1893	---	---	---	---	---	19.09 (V) New Zealand
1902	---	---	---	---	---	12.06 <i>Australia</i> *
1906	---	---	---	---	20.07 Finland	---
1907	---	---	---	---	- 06 (E) <i>Norway</i> *	---
1913	---	---	---	---	- - <i>Norway</i> *	---
1915	---	---	---	---	05.06 Denmark 19.06 Iceland	---
1917	---	- 09 (V) <i>Canada</i> ^{*2}	---	---	29.11 (E) Netherlands	---
1918	---	- 05 (V) <i>Canada</i> *	---	---	06.02 <i>UK</i> *	---
					06.02 <i>Ireland</i> *	
					- 06 Russian Fed.	
					- 06 Kyrgyzstan	
					12.11 Germany	
					18.11 Latvia	
					22.11 <i>Georgia</i> *	
					24.11 Estonia	
					28.11 Poland	
					19.12 Austria	
1919	---	---	---	---	04.02 Belarus 10.03 Ukraine 09.05 (V) <i>Belgium</i> *	29.10 (E) New Zealand
					15.05 Luxembourg	
					- 05 <i>Sweden</i>	
					09.08 (V) Netherlands	
1920	---	- 07 (E) <i>Canada</i> *	---	---	21.01 Albania	---
		26.08 (V) USA			- - Czech Rep.	
					- - Slovakia	

1. The asterisk next to the name of the country signifies that conditions or restrictions were attached when women were granted the right to vote and/or stand for election : for further information in this connection, please consult the country data sheets.
2. When the two rights were recognized in stages, the name of the country first appears in italics. It appears without italics only when all women were granted full rights.
3. The countries listed under Europe are the member countries of the OSCE.

YEAR	SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA		AMERICAS		ASIA		ARAB STATES		EUROPE		PACIFIC
1921	---		---		---		---		02.02	Armenia	---
									07.02 (E)	<i>Belgium</i> *	
									21.02	Georgia *	
									19.05	Azerbaijan	
									05.10	Lithuania	
									--	Sweden *	
1924	---		--	St. Lucia	01.11	Mongolia	---		31.01	<i>Kazakstan</i> *	---
									--	Tajikistan	
1927	---		---		---		---		--	Turkmenistan	---
1928	---		---		---		---		02.07	UK *	---
									02.07	Ireland *	
1929	---		26.03	<i>Ecuador</i> *	---		---		--	<i>Romania</i> *	---
1930	21.05	<i>South Africa</i> (Whites)	---		---		---		03.04 (V)	Turkey	---
1931	---		30.05	<i>Chile</i> *	20.03	Sri Lanka	---		08.05 (E)	Spain	---
									09.12 (V)	<i>Portugal</i> *	
									05.05		
1932	---		16.12	Uruguay	--	Thailand	---		---		---
					--	Maldives					
1934	---		02.01	Cuba	---		---		16.11	<i>Portugal</i> *	---
			16.07	Brazil					05.12 (E)	Turkey	
1935	---		---		-- (V)	Myanmar	---		---		---
1937	---		---		30.04	Philippines	---		---		---
1938	---		--	<i>Bolivia</i> *	---		---		--	Uzbekistan	---
1939	---		-- (V)	El Salvador	---		---		---		---
1941	---		05.07	<i>Panama</i> *	---		---		---		---
1942	---		--	Dominican Rep.	---		---		---		---
1944	---		20.11	Jamaica	---		---		21.04	France	---
									16.10	Bulgaria	
1945	19.02	Senegal	-- (E)	Guyana	17.08	Indonesia	---		01.02	Italy	---
	22.08	Togo			17.12	<i>Japan</i> *			10.08	Slovenia	
									11.08	Croatia	
1946	07.05	Liberia	01.03	<i>Panama</i> *	06.01	Viet Nam	-- (V)	Djibouti	31.01	Yugoslavia	---
	- 10	Cameroon	28.03	Venezuela	19.03 (E)	Myanmar			- 07	Romania *	
			--	Guatemala	30.07	DPR Korea			31.12	The F.Y.R. of Macedonia	
			--	Trinidad & Tobago							

YEAR	SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA		AMERICAS		ASIA		ARAB STATES		EUROPE		PACIFIC
1947	---		15.02 (v) 27.09	Mexico Argentina	24.02 18.07 - 08	Japan * Singapore Pakistan	---		05.09	Malta	---
1948	-- 06.08	Niger Seychelles	09.12	Suriname	15.05 17.07	Israel Rep. of Korea	---		27.03	Belgium *	---
1949	---		15.05 17.11	Chile * Costa Rica	01.10	China	10.09 (v)	Syrian Arab Rep. *	31.01	Bosnia and Herzegovina	---
1950	---		23.10 25.11 -- (v)	Barbados Haiti Canada *	26.01	India	---		---		---
1951	---		05.05 - 07 - 08 01.12 --	St. Vincent and the Grenadines Dominica Grenada Antigua and Barbuda St. Kitts and Nevis	--	Nepal	---		---		---
1952	--	Côte d'Ivoire	21.07	Bolivia *	---		--	Lebanon	01.01	Greece	---
1953	---		17.10 (E) -- (v)	Mexico Guyana	--	Bhutan	--	Syrian Arab Rep. *	17.05 (v)	Hungary	---
1954	--	Ghana	25.03 25.08	Belize Colombia	---		---		---		---
1955	04.11 (?) 04.11	Eritrea Ethiopia	07.09 21.04 25.01	Peru Nicaragua Honduras	25.09	Cambodia	---		---		---
1956	23.05 -- -- --	Gabon Benin Mali Mauritius	---		---		23.06 -- --	Egypt Comoros Somalia	---		---
1957	-- (v)	Zimbabwe *	---		31.08	Malaysia	---		---		---
1958	28.09 02.10 -- (?) --	Burkina Faso Guinea Nigeria Chad	---		--	Lao People's Dem. Rep.	---		16.11 (E)	Hungary	---

YEAR	SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA		AMERICAS		ASIA		ARAB STATES		EUROPE		PACIFIC	
1959	29.04	Madagascar	---		---		01.06	Tunisia	29.04 (v)	San Marino	---	
	--	United Rep. of Tanzania										
1960	--	Gambia	- 08 (E)	Canada *	---		---		16.08	Cyprus	--	Tonga
1961	27.04	Sierra Leone	18.02	Bahamas *	---		20.05	Mauritania	---		---	
	17.08	Burundi	05.07	Paraguay								
	25.09	Rwanda	-- (E)	El Salvador								
	--	Malawi										
1962	30.10	Zambia	---		---		05.07	Algeria	17.12	Monaco	18.06	Australia *
	--	Uganda										
1963	08.12	Congo	---		06.10	Iran (Islamic Rep. of)	- 05	Morocco	---		27.02 (E)(?)	Papua New Guinea
	12.12	Kenya									17.04 (v)	Fiji
	15.12	Equatorial Guinea									04.05 (E)	Fiji
1964	---		--	Bahamas *	---		--	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	---		15.02 (v)	Papua New Guinea
							- 11	Sudan				
1965	01.03	Botswana	---		--	Afghanistan	---		---		---	
	30.04	Lesotho										
1967	03.05 (v)	Zaire	--	Ecuador *	---		--	Yemen (D.P.Rep.)	---		01.01	Tuvalu
											15.11	Kiribati
1968	06.09	Swaziland	---		---		---		---		03.01	Nauru
1970	17.04 (E)	Zaire	---		---		--	Yemen (A. Rep.)	14.04 (v)	Andorra	---	
1971	---		---		---		---		07.02	Switzerland	---	
1972	---		---		04.11	Bangladesh	---		---		---	
1973	---		---		---		06.12	Bahrain (right recognized ?)	05.09 (E)	Andorra	---	
									10.09 (E)	San Marino		
1974	---		---		---		--	Jordan	---		- 04 (?)	Solomon Isl.
1975	25.06	Mozambique	---		---		---		---		- 11	Vanuatu *
	05.07	Cape Verde										
	12.07	Sao Tome and Principe										
	11.11	Angola										
1976	---		---		---		---		02.06	Portugal *	---	
1977	--	Guinea Bissau	---		---		---		---		---	
1978	- 03 (E)	Zimbabwe	---		---		---		15.04	Moldova *	---	

YEAR	SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA	AMERICAS	ASIA	ARAB STATES	EUROPE	PACIFIC
1979	---	---	---	---	---	01.05 (?) Marshall Isl. 03.11 Micronesia (Fed.States of) 02.04 Palau
1980	---	---	---	-- Iraq	---	30.07 Vanuatu *
1984	30.03 South Africa (Coloureds + Indians)	---	---	---	01.07 Liechtenstein	---
1986	-- Central African Rep.	---	---	-- (E) Djibouti	---	---
1989	07.11 Namibia	---	---	---	---	---
1990	---	---	---	---	---	- 10 Samoa
1994	14.01 South Africa (Blacks)	---	---	---	28.01 Kazakstan * 14.10 Moldova *	---

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1995 - RIGHTS TO VOTE AND TO STAND FOR ELECTION NOT YET RECOGNIZED TO WOMEN : Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates.

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**BRIEF COMPARATIVE OVERVIEW OF THE PROPORTION OF WOMEN
IN NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS IN 1995 AND FROM 1945 TO 1995**

Table III (pp. 41 to 44) is a worldwide projection of the number and proportion of women in the Parliaments of countries possessing such an institution as of 30 June 1995, while Table IV (pp. 45 to 49) is a regional projection of the same data. Information is nevertheless lacking in the case of four Parliaments, either because legislative elections are very recent or were still under way at the time of publication, so that the final results are not yet known (Armenia, Haiti and Nauru) or because the data have simply not been communicated (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya).

In both tables the countries are placed in descending order of the percentage of women in the single Chamber or the popular Chamber. This gives a fairly precise idea of the electoral sensibility of each country since, with the exception of the National Transitional Council in Algeria, the National Council of the United Arab Emirates and the Transitional National Assembly of Sudan, all these chambers are elected by direct popular suffrage, wholly or in part; the assemblies of China and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya are the only ones to be entirely constituted through indirect ballot. In some countries with a bicameral Parliament, the number of women senators may nevertheless exceed that of women deputies, and if these women senators have been not elected but appointed, as is often the case, the list then offers a rather distorted view of reality. Hence the need to go beyond mere figures.

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I. THE SITUATION IN 1995

1. World overview

In five countries, all in Northern Europe, the electors have returned a 30 to 40% proportion of women to the single Chamber or the popular Chamber operating in 1995: Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland and the Netherlands. None of these Parliaments has yet attained the parity of representation advocated by the Council of Europe, of which they are all members. With a 40.4% female representation in the Riksdag in September 1994, Sweden is the country coming closest to this, a position the Seychelles had achieved in July 1991 by electing a National Assembly 45.8% of whose members were women (the proportion nevertheless fell to 27.3% in the ensuing legislative elections).

By contrast with that situation, **the Assemblies of 12 countries are exclusively composed of men:** Bhutan, Comoros, Djibouti, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Kuwait, Mauritania, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis and the United Arab Emirates. While the zero percentage of women in Parliament is something they have in common, the reality in these countries is nevertheless not uniform. In Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates, women do not yet enjoy the rights to vote and to stand for election, while these rights have been recognised for them in all the other countries mentioned, sometimes for one or more decades: over 70 years in Saint Lucia, over 40 years in Bhutan, over 30 years in Mauritania, the Comoros and Papua New Guinea, over 15 years in Micronesia and nearly 10 years in Djibouti. Some of these 12 countries have no woman in

their Assembly at present but have had at least one at some point or another in their parliamentary history: Bhutan, Kiribati, Mauritania and Papua New Guinea. In Saint Lucia the fact of there being no women in the Assembly in 1995, as in the previous legislatures, is partially offset by the presence of four women in the Senate, who constitute 36.4% of that body entirely made up of appointed members (since independence the Senate has always included women). In the Comoros the first woman to be elected to Parliament since independence, in December 1993, had to give up her seat when she entered the Government. She was replaced by a man with the result that, despite the desire expressed by some electors, the Assembly has reverted to its entirely male membership.

In all other countries the proportion of women members of the Assembly lies, at the end of June 1995, within a percentage range of which the lowest point is barely above 0% and the highest only just topping 27%.

Thus in five countries - three in Africa and two European - the proportion of women members of the single Chamber or popular Chamber ranges from 27.3 to 25%: Seychelles, Germany, Iceland, Mozambique and South Africa.

For ten countries with a great variety of political regimes and electoral systems, this proportion ranges from 20 to 25%: Austria, Cuba, Argentina, New Zealand, China, Eritrea, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Grenada, Guyana and Luxembourg. The Constitution of Eritrea having reserved ten seats for women, since the country has no parliamentary experience prior to the present and first independent legislature, it is difficult to ascertain whether the women who occupy 22 of the 105 seats in Parliament would have all been elected without the quota system. As we shall see later, the question of reserved seats merits observation over several legislatures and in the light of events when they are eliminated.

In 12 countries, also very diverse in terms of political experience and of culture, the proportion of women members of the single Chamber or popular Chamber ranges from 15% to 20%: Trinidad and Tobago, Viet Nam, Namibia, Turkmenistan, Switzerland, Canada, Uganda, Chad, Nicaragua, Spain, Italy and Latvia.

There are then 31 countries where women make up between 10 and 15% of the single Chamber or popular Chamber, 50 countries in the 5 to 10% range and 46 countries where women account for 0 to 5% of such membership.

The ranking on the world list of some countries with a long democratic tradition, constituting references for the rest of the world, will certainly come as some surprise. For instance, the United States of America comes 43rd (with 10.9%), the United Kingdom 49th (9.5%) and France 64th (6.4%).

A glance at the list shows that the Assembly of a country of rather recent parliamentary tradition like Zimbabwe has over twice as many women as the French National Assembly (respectively 14.7% and 6.4%); the situation is similar if we compare the Chamber of Deputies of the Argentine Congress and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America (respectively 21.8% and 10.9%), the Chinese National People's Congress and the House of Representatives of Australia (respectively 21% and 9.5%), the Assembly of Guyana and the House of Commons of the United Kingdom (respectively 20% and 9.5%), or the National Assembly of South Africa and the House of Representatives of Ireland (respectively 25% and 12.7%). The Assembly of Chad has proportionately more women than that of Spain (respectively 16.4% and 16%) and that of Iran more than that of Egypt (respectively 3.5% and 2.2%). In one and the same continent, the situations in countries with similar cultures may vary considerably, even when the political and electoral regimes are comparable.

2. Regional overview

Table IV and the overview below should permit regional and intra-regional comparisons or open up paths for research and reflection in this regard.

Classification in descending order of the proportion of women MPs in single Chambers or popular Chambers:

	Asia	Europe	Americas	Africa (sub-Saharan)	Pacific	Arab States
Countries with a functioning Parliament	21	50	35	40	14	16
Total MPs	8444	10928	4734	5751	730	3479
Number and % of women MPs	1116 13.2%	1416 13.2%¹	589 12.7%¹	561 9.8%	45 6.3%¹	118 4.3%¹
Maximum regional %	21% China	40.4% Sweden	22.8% Cuba	27.3% Seychelles	21.2% New Zealand	10,8% Iraq
Minimum regional %	0% Bhutan	1.5% Malta	0% Saint Lucia Saint Kitts and Nevis	1.2% Togo	0% Kiribati Micronesia Palau Papua New Guinea	0% Comoros Djibouti Kuwait Mauritania United Arab Emirates

1. These percentages of women are based on the total number of seats but without taking account of those Parliaments for which the distribution of seats between men and women is not known.

As before, in each regional group of countries, it is interesting to note how the individual countries rank on the list.

3. A complex reality

These few examples among others are all indicators that **the figures are in themselves only signals and that it would be rash to interpret them without taking into account other factors not all of which are quantifiable**: political system, existence or not of political parties, existence or not of political pluralism, the prevailing electoral system, electoral practices of political parties in regard to the polling system in force, existence or not of quota systems or reserved seats, political culture of the country (facilitating, for example, the election of women from families with a traditional role in politics), cultural approach of the hierarchy between men and women, etc.

II. WOMEN IN PARLIAMENTS FROM 1945 TO 1995: PROGRESS, STAGNATION OR REGRESSION ?

Examination of the situation in 1995 is given considerably more interest and perspective when conducted in the light of developments in the last five decades, which obliges us first to look at the general parliamentary development of the world in this period.

1. Sovereign States with a Parliament: 1945-1995

As Table I shows, the number of sovereign States has almost trebled in 50 years; yet it will be noted that the table includes only States possessing a parliamentary institution at the end of June 1995 or which have possessed one at some time or another since 1945.

At the same time, the number of States with a national Parliament greatly increased. The number of such States was:

- (i) 26 in 1945, including 11 with a bicameral Parliament ¹;
- (ii) 61 in 1955, including 29 with a bicameral Parliament;
- (iii) 94 in 1965, including 35 with a bicameral Parliament;
- (iv) 115 in 1975, including 40 with a bicameral Parliament;
- (v) 136 in 1985, including 43 with a bicameral Parliament.

At the end of June 1995 there were 176 States with a legislative authority, 52 of which have adopted a bicameral system.

In the past 50 years the number of sovereign States has thus almost trebled and that of such States adopting a Parliament increased sevenfold, which signifies a both constant and fundamental modification of the political and institutional physiognomy of the world.

2. General development in the proportion of women in national Parliaments from 1945 to 1995

The information gathered for the purposes of this study provides a few indicators as follows:

Year	States with a Parliament	Members of single or popular Chambers	Proportion of women members of such Chambers	Members of second Chambers or Senates ⁶	Proportion of women members of such Chambers
1945	26 States	26 Chambers 6365 members	3.0% 188 / 6365	11 Chambers 980 members	2.2% 22 / 980
1955	61 States ¹	61 Chambers 17038 members	7.5% 1278 / 17038	29 Chambers 3570 members	7.7% 274 / 3570
1965	94 States ²	94 Chambers 22707 members	8.1% 1830 / 22707	35 Chambers 4129 members	9.3% 382 / 4129
1975	115 States ³	115 Chambers 24642 members	10.9% 2697 / 24642	40 Chambers 3976 members	10.5% 416 / 3976
1985	136 States ⁴	136 Chambers 28950 members	12.0% 3478 / 28950	43 Chambers 4363 members	12.7% 553 / 4363
1995	176 States ⁵	176 Chambers 34066 members	11.6% 3845 / 33025 ⁵	52 Chambers 5388 members	9.4% 501 / 5313 ⁵

1. No information on the proportion of women MPs in one State.
2. No information on the proportion of women MPs in 11 States.
3. No information on the proportion of women MPs in three States.
4. No information on the proportion of women MPs in four States.

¹ At the end of the Second World War, a number of States traditionally possessing a representative institution were without one. In many cases it was not until 1946 that such institutions were resumed.

5. No information on the proportion of women MPs in four States.
6. South Africa had a tricameral system from 1981 to 1994.

Over 50 years, while the number of States with a Parliament increased sevenfold, **the overall proportion of women MPs quadrupled, rising from 3% to 11.6% in the single Chambers or popular Chambers and from 2.2% to 9.4% in the second Chambers or Senates.**

Considerable as it has been, such progress seems hardly satisfactory and, on the face of it, the present prospects do not look encouraging.

The above table shows that a positive "turning point" occurred in the early 1950s and that after a fairly regular, albeit relatively small, increase in the overall proportion of women MPs, the most favourable period is situated in the 1980s. The end of the decade and the early 1990s, on the other hand, show a marked decrease in the number of women in national parliamentary assemblies, at present followed by a slight recovery, as we shall be seeing. **Are this recovery and the progress recorded in a number of countries a sign that a fresh electoral dynamic, more favourable to women, is emerging?** Only the future will tell.

Furthermore, it is interesting to note that, globally speaking and except in 1995, there is no marked difference of situation between the two Chambers of Parliament (there may nevertheless be a major disparity in individual countries), despite the fact that many senators are appointed and not elected. To understand the figures, therefore, it would seem insufficient to examine the mode of access to Parliament, as already mentioned.

3. The world records of women MPs, from 1945 to 1995

The data gathered for this study enabled a world ranking to be established for the various countries in terms of the proportion of women MPs. Irrespective of the Senate (if any), where the situation may sometimes be more favourable than in the popular Chamber, particularly if all senators are appointed, the situation at ten-year intervals works out as follows:

Year	The first 15 countries of the world for the proportion of women MPs in the single chamber or the popular Chamber
1945	Finland (9.0%), Sweden (7.8%), Bulgaria (5.8%), France (5.6%) Dominican Rep. (5.6%), Austria (5.5%), Denmark (5.4%), Norway (4.7%), United Kingdom (3.8%), Albania (3.7%), Turkey (3.3%), Cuba (2.9%), Ireland (2.9%), Hungary (2.9%) and Yugoslavia (2.6%)
1955	German Dem. Rep. (24.5%), USSR (24.0%), Mongolia (22.4%), Argentina (21.7%), Poland (17.7%), Hungary (17.5%), Bulgaria (15.7%), Czechoslovakia (15.5%), Romania (15.4%), Finland (15.0%), Sweden (12.2%), Dem. People's Rep of Korea (12.1%), China (12.0%), Albania (12.0%) and Denmark (9.5%).
1965	German Dem. Rep. (27.4%), USSR (27.2%), Bulgaria (20.3%), Mongolia (20.0%), Czechoslovakia (20.0%), Guinea (18.7%), Hungary (18.2%), China (17.8%), Romania (14.4%), Finland (14.0%), Yugoslavia (13.7%), Sweden (13.3%), Poland (12.4%), Albania (11.7%) and Netherlands (10.0%)
1975	Albania (33.2%), Dem. Rep. of Viet Nam (32.3%), German Dem. Rep. (31.8%), USSR (30.5%), Hungary (28.7%), Czechoslovakia (26.0%), Finland (23.0%), Mongolia (22.9%), China (22.6%), Sweden (21.4%), Dem. People's Rep. of Korea (20.9%), Grenada (20.0%), Yugoslavia (19.1%), Bulgaria (18.8%) and Sao Tome and Principe (18.2%)

1985	Guyana (36.9%), Romania (34.4%), Norway (34.4%), German Dem. Rep. (32.4%), Sweden (31.5%), USSR (31.1%), Finland (30.5%), Albania (30.4%), Czechoslovakia (28.0%), Denmark (26.3%), Mongolia (24.3%), Seychelles (24.0%), Cuba (22.7%), Viet Nam (21.8%) and Bulgaria (21.8%)
1995	Sweden (40.4%), Norway (39.4%), Finland (33.5%), Denmark (33.0%), Netherlands (31.3%), Seychelles (27.3%), Germany (26.2%), Iceland (25.4%), Mozambique (25.2%), South Africa (25.0%), Austria (23.5%), Cuba (22.8%), Argentina (21.8%), New Zealand (21.2%), China and Eritrea (21.0%)

It should be remembered that this table is only indicative since had there been a different choice of reference years, a number of sometimes significant variations might be noted. Furthermore, as regards interpretation, it goes without saying that one has to be mindful of the political developments in the world during the years considered, with due regard in particular (but not exclusively) to the type of political system prevailing in the States in question at the reference date and to the mode of election of MPs then applied.

The merit of the table nevertheless lies in its highlighting of a number of points:

- (i) that the maximum proportion of women MPs has quadrupled in 50 years from 9.0% in Finland in 1945 to 40.4% in Sweden in 1995; a similar observation has already been made regarding the overall proportion of women MPs (see section 2 above);
- (ii) that the Nordic countries are not only among the first States in the world to have granted women the rights to vote and to stand for election, but that they have also been the most constant in their positive electoral attitude regarding women; we shall see the stages passed through in section 4 below;
- (iii) that, in the decades from 1950 to 1980, it was in the countries then termed people's democracies that the greatest proportion of women MPs is to be found; that proportion then plummeted after 1989, as we shall see in detail in section 6 below.

However interesting they may be, the overall figures provided in this and the previous section nevertheless remain insufficient to gauge the variations in the representations of women in Parliament, whether positive or adverse fluctuations. Only a closer examination of how things move inside individual countries will provide a more precise idea of this development.

4. Instances of progress

A country-by-country examination of the situation tends to show that the number of States in which female representation in Parliament has progressed in the last 50 years is higher than that of States recording a stagnation or regression of such membership.

Among the countries where progress is to be noted, **the Seychelles represents a remarkable and unique case.** For when the country became independent there was not a single woman in the National Assembly and it was only in the ensuing legislature, in 1976, that a woman entered it through appointment; then suddenly, in the June 1979 elections, nine women became members of the Assembly, including eight by election, bringing the proportion of women MPs sharply up from 4% to 36%, a world record for the time. After tailing off over two legislatures, that rise resumed sharply in the December 1991 elections since no fewer than 45.8% of the seats were then won by women, making the Seychelles the country that has, to date, come closest to achieving an absolute balance in the representation of the two sexes in

Parliament. That situation was unfortunately short-lived since the proportion of women MPs tumbled to 27.3% in the July 1993 elections.

How are these singular electoral results to be explained? Without any clarifying data on the subject, it would be quite arbitrary to seek the answer here.

The situation in **the Nordic countries** is more clear-cut: the progression of the proportion of women MPs is both more marked and regular and it came about in two distinct stages in the 1950s and 1970s.

In 1947, for instance, women MPs accounted for 14.5% and 5.4%, respectively, of the membership of the two Houses of the Danish Parliament. Nearly 40 years later, in 1984, there were 26.2% of women in the unicameral Parliament, the present proportion being 33.5%. It was in the September 1971 elections that women achieved an upswing, from 10.6% to 16.7%, since when the advance has been just about constant.

In Norway's case the advance has been still more spectacular since, while women occupied barely 4.6% of seats in 1945, they obtained 34.4% in 1985, followed by 39.4% in 1995. There again, the turning-point was in the 1970s, after the general elections of September 1973 the proportion of women MPs jumped from 9.3% to 15.5%, which advance has also stood the test of time.

In Finland the proportion of women MPs climbed from 9.0% in 1945 (then the world record) to 30.3% in the general elections of March 1983 and then to 33.5% today. It was in 1954, as it happens, that the first upsurge took place (from 9.0% to 15.0%), followed in March 1970 by marked new progress with a rise from 16.5% to 21.5%.

But the most remarkable progression is no doubt that recorded in Sweden, where from 1.3% in the Senate and 7.8% in the Chamber of Deputies in September 1944, women attained 31.5% in September 1985 and are today at 40.4% in the unicameral Parliament. Between those two dates, two key advances are to be noted, as in Finland: a first advance from 4.0% to 6.7% in the Senate and from 9.6% to 12.2% in the Chamber of Deputies in the September 1952 elections, and a second advance from 14.0% to 21.4% between the unicameral Chamber elected in September 1970 and that returned three years later.

In Iceland, too, a first upward movement was achieved in the 1967 elections, where the proportion of women MPs left the 1.7% zone to attain, for four successive legislatures, the vicinity of 5%. A second and yet more decisive upswing took place following the legislative elections of April 1987, where a leap from 5% to 15% in the number of women representatives was recorded and, with the election of April 1995, women now account for over a quarter of the members of the Althingi. It will be noted in passing, that since the 1983 elections, a party entirely made up of women has been presenting candidates for Parliament; the parliamentary basis of the party in question was somewhat curtailed in the recent legislative elections but that erosion has been offset by the fact that other parties have paid more attention to putting forward women candidates.

The Nordic countries are nevertheless not the only ones where progress is to be observed.

With the advent of multiracial democracy, a veritable revolution is to be noted in South Africa: between 1945 and 1985, women had never accounted for more than 2% of the Assembly of that country (only the Senate elected in 1974 had included up to 3.6%) but with the April 1994 elections the female membership of the National Assembly jumped to 25% and for the first time the office of Speaker went to a woman, Ms Frene Ginwala.

Similarly, in the Caribbean, the proportion of women MPs in the House of Representatives of Trinidad and Tobago rose sharply as of the November 1981 elections: from 3.3% in the first independent legislature, in 1962, the proportion of women representatives rose to 8.8%, subsequently plunging to 2.8% before recovering to 8.3%; then suddenly, in 1981, the proportion doubled to 16.7%. The trend was confirmed in the subsequent elections and, in the December 1991 legislative elections, women finally took 18.9% of the seats in the House of Representatives thereby ranking Trinidad and Tobago 18th in the world as regards female representation in Parliament. The impression of a fairly high participation of women in the parliamentary life of that country is reinforced by two facts: the House is today presided over by a woman, Ms Occah Seapaul, and at the same time the number of women in the Senate (a chamber only open to appointment) has reached 22.6%. From 20.8% in 1962, the proportion of women senators had dwindled to between 12.5% and 16.7%.

In Mozambique, too, the proportion of women MPs rose from 15.7% to 25.2% in the October 1994 elections, which means a big advance not only over the previous legislature but also in relation to those of 1977 (12.4%) and 1982 (16%). In Namibia the same phenomenon is to be observed: between the country's first and second legislature the proportion of women MPs more than doubled, rising straight from 6.9% to 18.1%.

In the northern hemisphere, the proportion of women in the Second Chamber of the States-General of the Netherlands rose steadily from 4% to 9.3% between 1946 and 1972. Then in the 1977 elections there was a jump to 13.3% that was built upon in the subsequent legislative elections. However, the elections of May 1994 changed the panorama in the Chamber definitively, with the assignment to women of nearly a third of the seats: 31.3%. The proportion of women in the First Chamber fell back slightly in the May 1995 elections, from 25.3% to 22.7%, or to exactly the same proportion as in 1987.

In 1943 the unicameral Parliament of Spain comprised 0.4% women, a proportion which, with a few slight variations, remained practically constant until 1964 and ultimately doubled in 1971, but it was in the general elections of 1986 that the number of women MPs rose sharply: from 5.5% in the Senate and 6.3% in the Congress of Deputies, their representation rose to 10.6% and 14.6% respectively. Today there are 12.6% women senators and 16% women deputies, markedly more than in the neighbouring European countries.

In Austria, from a pattern of 5 to 5.5% in the Nationalrat during eight legislatures, the electorate modified its behaviour by returning 7.7% women in 1975, nearly 10% in 1979 and 1983 followed by 11.5% in 1986, 19.7% in 1991 and 21.9% in 1994. As a result of replacements, women account in 1995 for 23.5% of members of the Nationalrat, so that in 50 years the proportion of women in that Chamber has increased almost fivefold.

In Luxembourg there were no women at all in Parliament until 1965 when, in elections held that year, a woman won a first seat in the Chamber of Deputies (46 years after women had been granted the right to stand for election), opening the way for the election of two and then three women in the subsequent two legislative elections. In 1973 the proportion of women MPs then suddenly jumped to 13.6%, a rise confirmed in the subsequent two elections until, in June 1994, the electors came back for more and assigned 20% of the seats to women. It will further be noted that the Chamber has been presided over by a woman in the last two legislatures, Ms Erna Hennicot-Schoepges.

Similarly, in Ireland the proportion of women in the House of Representatives, long one of the lowest in Europe and the world, began to build up as of 1982 and jumped from 7.8% to 12% in the November 1992 elections.

In San Marino the first decisive step was taken in 1974. In the elections held that year, women entered the Great General Council for the first time in the country's parliamentary history, winning 6.4% of the elective seats; a second threshold was clearly reached in 1983 when they conquered 10% of those seats, the proportion in 1995 being 11.7%.

Turning to the Americas, it will be noted that in Brazil the proportion of women in the Chamber of Deputies took off spectacularly, for the first time in 13 legislatures, in the elections of October 1994: after stagnating between 0% and 1%, it jumped to 7%, the first signs of a change having already become apparent in the 1986 and 1990 elections.

A comparable situation occurred in Canada. Women having long accounted for 0.4% to 5% of its membership, the House of Commons experienced an initial big advance (9.6%) in 1984, which was confirmed in 1988 (13.3%), and in the October 1993 elections women won no fewer than 18% of the seats.

In Mexico the proportion of women in the Chamber of Deputies grew steadily from 0.6% to 7.8% between 1952 and 1979 before jumping straight to 11.3% in the legislative elections of July 1982. After a brief relapse to 7.6% in 1991, it now stands at 14.2% and, for the first time in Mexican parliamentary history, the Chamber is presided over by a woman Ms María Moreno Uriegas. It was also in 1982 that a positive swing was noted in the Mexican Senate, all of whose members are elected. In the July elections, the proportion of women senators more than doubled, up from 6.2% to 12.5%. This trend was confirmed in the legislative elections of 1988 though in 1991 there was, at the same time as in the Chamber, a sharp fall in the proportion of women senators (4.7%) on which only a thorough analysis of the political climate in Mexico would throw some light. The recovery to 12.5% took place in the August 1994 elections.

In the Congress of the United States of America, progress is relative and limited but nevertheless real. In the period immediately following the Second World War, women were completely absent from the Senate and occupied only 2.5% of seats in the House of Representatives; they now account for 7% of senators and 10.6% of representatives. It was in the 1992 elections that the take-off occurred, with a jump from 2 to 7% in the proportion of women returned to the Senate and from 6.4 to 11% in the case of the House.

In New Zealand, a country that pioneered women's suffrage, it was in 1981 that the proportion of women in Parliament began to move out of the 4% to 5% zone, rising straight to 8.7%. The upward trend has been borne out in all subsequent legislative elections and women now account for 21.2% of the membership of the House of Representatives.

In the Syrian Arab Republic the year 1981 saw clear progress regarding the participation of women in politics: the proportion of women in the People's Council jumped from 6.7 to 9.2%. Since then the progression has been maintained, and despite the increase in the total number of seats in the Council and the inevitable increase in electoral competition involved, the proportion of women is close on 10% as against 2.7% in 1973.

In sub-Saharan Africa a noteworthy case is Senegal. In 1960 the first independent legislature did not include a single woman; 35 years later, there are 14 women among the 120 members of the National Assembly, representing 11.7% of all deputies. It was in 1963 that a woman first took her place in the Assembly. It took another ten years for three other women

to join her and a new decisive step was taken in 1983 with the return to Parliament of 13 women, occupying 10.8% of seats.

With regard to the Arab countries, a remarkable and recent change is to be noted in three countries where, for the first time in their parliamentary history, one or more women have won a seat in Parliament through election. In Jordan just one woman was elected in the November 1993 legislative elections (a woman had already entered the Senate through appointment in the previous legislature), while in Lebanon three women were straight away returned in the October 1992 election; and in Morocco two women won seats in September 1993.

Similar situations are to be observed elsewhere. In Tonga, for instance, a woman finally entered the Legislative Assembly following the February 1993 elections, thereby ending a male monopoly in the previous six legislatures. Exactly the same scenario is to be found in the case of Tuvalu and Vanuatu, except that in those two countries a woman first entered Parliament a few years earlier, respectively in 1989 and 1987.

While the proportion of women MPs has risen sharply in some States, such progression has, on the other hand, been constant and regular in some other countries.

Thus, a few fits and starts notwithstanding, Belgium gives the image of a country in which the proportion of women MPs has risen constantly over the last 50 years and is even progressing remarkably today in the Senate. Women occupied 1.5% of seats in the House of Representatives immediately after the Second World War; having gradually increased their representation, they won 12% of the 150 seats going in the May 1995 elections. In the Senate, women represented 3% of members in 1946 and, though less regular than in the House of Representatives, their progress has nevertheless been real, particularly in the 1980s: they have just won 22.7% of the 71 seats going in the Senate in May 1995, twice as many as in the November 1991 elections.

Greece is likewise a country in which, though not yet up to 7%, the proportion of women MPs has increased constantly and regularly. The same can be said of Honduras, despite a relatively big decline in the number of women returned to the National Congress in the last legislative elections of November 1993. Much the same applies to Indonesia, where from election to election the proportion of women MPs has risen from 2.7% to 12.2%, and to Malaysia where from the 2.9% they represented, women have gradually come to occupy 7.8% of seats in the House of Representatives. Their number in the Senate, on the other hand, has progressed more rapidly, particularly as of 1976, when it jumped from 3.4% to 9.3%; the proportion is now 23.1%, one of the highest in the world.

In Portugal, between November 1945 and October 1969, the proportion of seats occupied by women increased regularly from 1.7% to 3.1%. After jumping to 6.1% in 1973, it has continued to progress fairly steadily up to 8.7%.

In the United Kingdom, the proportion of women in the House of Commons has likewise increased fairly steadily since the end of the Second World War, up from 3.8% in 1945 to 9.2% in 1995, after a brief decline in the 1979 and 1983 elections. Another noteworthy fact is that the Speaker of the House is at present a woman, Ms Betty Boothroyd, for the first time in the country's parliamentary history.

Tunisia, a pioneering country in North Africa for women's rights, also falls into the category of countries for which the proportion of women MPs has steadily increased, up from 0% in 1956 to 6.7% in 1995.

In some countries, on the other hand, the proportion of women MPs has fluctuated from one legislative election to another, sometimes with spectacular contrasts. The case of Argentina is the most striking. While in 1948 the first legislative elections following the enfranchisement of women returned no woman to the Chamber of Deputies, women accounted for 15.5% of its membership after the 1951 elections and 21.7% in 1955. Practically identical proportions are to be found in the Chamber of Deputies after the elections of October 1993 (14.4%) and May 1995 (21.8%), two polls for which a constitutional quota of 30% of elective seats for women was applied. Meanwhile, the Constituent Assembly elected for a few months in 1994, with the same 30% quota of women, had the highest proportion of women ever attained in Argentina, at 26.5%. Only an in-depth study of Argentina's history and electorate would provide an explanation as to why the proportion of women deputies plummeted from 21.7% in 1955 to 2.2% three years later, and why it then took 40 years and a quota law to achieve a similar percentage again. In the 11 legislatures between 1958 and 1995 the proportion of women had fluctuated constantly, notably with a sharp drop to 0.5% in July 1963, and it had never exceeded 7.8%, a peak attained in 1973.

Other factors than the simple proportional advance of women MPs may also usefully point to positive change or progress. Mention has already been made of the election of women Speakers in some Parliaments or Chambers of Parliament, but the fact that some population categories elect for the first time one of their own female members to represent them in Parliament may also be a valuable indication. In Guatemala, for example, the first Quiché Maya woman entered Congress in 1985 and, though she lost her seat in the subsequent elections, she soon had a successor in the August 1994 legislative elections. Considering that Guatemala has had a Parliament for over a century (albeit with lasting unconstitutional interruptions) and that the majority of the population is Quiché Maya, the development may be construed, at least for indigenous women, as a fresh signal.

5. Instances of stagnation

By contrast with the examples of progression applied above, some countries display a constancy in the low proportion of women MPs that borders on stagnation.

A case in point is Japan, where from 8.4% in 1946 the proportion of women in the House of Representatives has, since the April 1947 elections, constantly wavered between 1.5% and 2.5%. The situation is nevertheless distinctly better in the House of Councillors, where, after regularly progressing from 4% to 8.8%, women at present occupy 14.7% of the 252 seats, all elective. Furthermore, the fact that a woman, Ms Takako Doi, was elected Speaker of the House of Representatives in 1993 is in itself a very encouraging sign of positive change for women.

The situation in France is less rosy since women accounted for 6.7% of the Senate and 5.6% of the National Assembly in December 1946, and for 5% of the Senate and 6.4% of the National Assembly in 1992. Between those two dates there was a constant decline in the proportion of women in the Senate, where the lowest level of female representation was 1.4% in 1971 and the ceiling 3.8% in 1948; while a number of variations are to be observed in the National Assembly, where the lowest proportion of women was 1.5% in 1955 and the highest 7.1% in 1981. It would seem difficult to blame this low stagnation on the method of voting used since France has seen an alternation between majority and proportional polling. One may on the other hand be inclined to attribute it to a lack of evolution in the electoral practices of the parties and in the electoral behaviour of the French people in regard to women.

The situation is nevertheless much more radical in Saint Lucia, a country pioneering recognition of women's rights to vote and to stand for election in the Caribbean. No woman has yet succeeded in winning a seat in the Assembly in the four legislative elections held since independence. Despite that marked resistance on the part of the electorate, the presence of women in the Senate - a Chamber all of whose members are appointed - has steadily increased since 1979, rising in stages from 18.2% to 36.4%.

6. Instances of decline and rise

While one may regret the absence or sluggishness of advance in the number of women in Parliaments, in general and more particularly in some countries, there can be no failing to observe the loss of ground suffered by women in the assemblies of some others.

A number of examples concerning the countries that used to be part of the Socialist bloc of Europe will suffice to illustrate the brutal change that took place as of 1989.

In March 1983, women accounted for 34.4% of members of the unicameral Parliament of Romania; today's proportions for its two Chambers are, respectively, 2.1% and 4.1%, even lower than in November 1946 when female representation in Parliament was 5.3%. Yet the 1995 figures represent a slight rise over those of May 1990, the date of the first multi-party elections after the fall of the Ceaucescu regime, when women took 0.8% of seats in the Senate and accounted for 3.6% of the Chamber of Deputies.

To differing degrees, the same goes for the Russian Federation and practically all the former republics that used to make up the Soviet Union and held elections shortly after 1989. For example, the Supreme Soviet of the Soviet Socialist Republic of Armenia boasted a female representation of 35.6% until 1990 and, since 1938, the proportion of women in it had increased regularly; when the first multi-party elections were held in the country in May 1990, within a few months of its accession to independence, the proportion of women MPs plummeted to 3.7%. For the legislative elections of July 1995, however, women decided to regain the upper hand and, in the image of the "Women of Russia" movement established in 1993 in the Russian Federation, a women's party, "Shamiram", threw itself into the election campaign and won 20% of the votes, becoming the country's second party in terms of its parliamentary representation. The final results of the elections are unfortunately not available as this study goes to press, but it seems that in one election women have thus been able to make up much of the ground lost.

A similar situation has occurred in Turkmenistan, where the proportion of women in Parliament had fallen to 4.6% in the January 1990 elections; there has apparently been a sharp recovery in the December 1994 elections since women were returned to 18% of the seats.

The retreat of women has been a little less drastic in Poland, though quite marked and definite. Women accounted for 23% of the members of the Diet in 1980 and 20.2% in 1985. In the June 1989 elections the proportion dwindled to 13.5%, while women made up only 7% of the (newly instituted) Senate. In the multi-party elections held a few months later, in October 1991, the proportion of women in both Chambers was below the 10% mark: 9.6% in the Diet and 8% in the Senate. It was only with the September 1993 elections that the electorate seems to have pulled itself together, as it were, returning women to 13% of seats in each of the two Chambers of Parliament.

An almost identical situation is to be found in Hungary, where from 3.1% in 1945 the proportion of women MPs rose straight to 17.2% in April 1949 and advanced to 30.1% in 1980 before falling back to 20.7% in 1985 and then collapsing to 7.3% in 1990. As in the countries just mentioned and others that could be cited, **after the initial shock of the switch to multi-party politics, the May 1994 elections reflect a reaction by the electorate and hold out the hope of better times ahead.** Women today account for 11.4% of the membership of the National Assembly.

Those European countries are not the only ones to have recorded a degree of backsliding. In Mongolia, a country in which the proportion of women MPs was in the 20% to 25% range almost uninterruptedly since 1951, a sharp decline to 2.1% occurred in the August 1990 elections; the proportion nevertheless doubled in the 1992 elections to 3.9%.

A few examples of this situation may also be observed in Africa. For instance, in the first legislative Assembly elected in Sao Tome and Principe after its accession to independence, in 1975, women occupied 18.2% of the seats, a proportion then ranking the country 15th in the world for female participation in Parliament. Twenty years later, only 7.3% of seats in the Assembly were occupied by women. A first backslide occurred abruptly at the time of the second legislative elections, in May 1980, when the proportion of women returned was a mere 5.0%; The rise to 11.8% in 1985 was not confirmed in 1991 and still less in 1995 since the representation of women in the National Assembly has dropped back to 7.3%.

In Guinea-Bissau as in Cape Verde, the 1980s marked an apogee for the representation of women in the Assembly, with a proportion of 20% returned in Guinea-Bissau in June 1989 and 12.7% in Cape Verde in 1980. The subsequent legislative elections, on the other hand, resulted in a marked decline in the proportion of women in Parliament, to 10% in Guinea-Bissau in 1994 and 7.6% in Cape Verde in 1991.

Likewise in Guinea, a country in which the parliamentary institution has just been restored after more than ten years, a notable downward trend is also to be observed since the Assembly elected in January 1968 boasted a female representation of 21.3%, but in June 1995 the proportion was only 7%.

Malta is somewhere else where the proportion of women members of the House of Representatives has constantly declined since the first elections following the country's accession to independence. Women occupied 4% of seats in 1966 and, after falling back to 3.6% and subsequently 3.1% and 2.9%, their proportion has been a mere 1.5% since 1992.

In Papua New Guinea the hopes born of independence have been disappointed. From the 2.8% representation they enjoyed in the first independent legislature, in 1977, women occupied only 0.9% of seats in the 1982 Assembly and, since then, they have been completely absent from Parliament.

In Turkey the overall proportion of women MPs has scarcely varied since the Second World War, remaining in the 1 to 3% range. Yet today's situation is much less favourable than ten years ago since female representation in the Grand National Assembly declined over the period from 3% to 1.8%.

7. Parliaments in which seats are reserved for women

There are few countries with a statutory number of seats reserved for a particular population group, in this case women. In 1995, such exceptions were Bangladesh (30 seats out of 330), Eritrea (10 seats out of 105) and the United Republic of Tanzania (15 seats of 255), the first two countries mentioned having applied the system since the introduction of Parliament in the sovereign State. In the past, the system was also applied in Egypt and Pakistan, for two successive legislatures; in Egypt, 30 seats out of 392 were reserved for women between 1979 and 1984, and 30 seats out of 458 between 1984 and 1987; in Pakistan, 20 seats out of the 237 in the National Assembly were set aside for women from 1985 to 1988 and from 1988 to 1990.

From data gathered for this study, the following may be deduced:

Country	% of women before introduction of reserved seats	% of women under the system of reserved seats	% of women after the abolition of reserved seats
Bangladesh	(no Parliament)	10.3% women in Parliament	(system in force)
Egypt	1.7% of women in People's Assembly	8.9%, then 7.9% women in People's Assembly	3.9%, then 2.2% women in People's Assembly
Eritrea	(no Parliament)	21.0% women in National Assembly	(system in force)
Pakistan	4.6% of women in National Assembly	8.9%, then 10.1% women in National Assembly	0.9%, then 1.8% women in National Assembly
United Republic of Tanzania	3.9% of women in National Assembly	11.2% women in National Assembly	(system in force)

8. What explanation is there for the instances of progress, stagnation and decline recorded in the proportion of women in Parliaments between 1945 and 1995 ?

It would be hazardous to venture one single explanation. Clearly, the causes are many and varied and it would be difficult to examine developments in the political and parliamentary realm irrespective of those taking place in the economic, social and cultural fields.

Thus, as regards the Nordic countries and some others where the proportion of women in Parliament has progressed, there can be no doubt that the key to the phenomenon of the advance in women's parliamentary representation clearly recorded over the past 50 years lies in a basic social movement, accompanied by a change in mores, including political mores, and perhaps economic progress. Furthermore, the introduction of a quota system by certain political parties is perhaps not unrelated to this improvement of women's position in parliamentary assemblies.

How, on the other hand, can the stagnation observed in some countries be explained? To understand this we no doubt have to look at the political parties whose electoral practices have perhaps not fundamentally altered since the end of the Second World War. But this explanation is likely to be only partial and maybe the attitude of the electorate also needs examining.

As to the former socialist countries of Europe, one question inevitably arises: how, in 40 years of socialism and the perhaps artificial but in any case relatively high proportion of

women in Parliaments, has there not come about a women's political culture guaranteeing the stability of their representation ?

In its reply to the survey conducted in 1991 by the Inter-Parliamentary Union on women in politics ², Poland offered the following explanation:

"The participation of women in the last parliamentary elections (also in local self-government elections) decreased as compared with the previous period. In the entire Polish post-war history the same phenomenon is to be observed: in times of economic or political crisis, the participation of women decreased as compared with the period of stability. The phenomenon can be explained by the actual system of appointing candidates for deputies. The political system existing in Poland until recently did not guarantee truly free elections. In reality, the candidates were nominated by the ruling party and political organisations co-operating closely with it. A special system (key) was implemented whereby each social group had a number of mandates allocated beforehand. What was mainly taken into consideration was not so much the actual political activity or competence of a candidate as his/her features of representativeness of society as a whole. The sex of a candidate was considered one such feature. Women deputies nominated because of this variable were but a mere 'decoration'. In periods of political difficulties this decoration was forgotten. Therefore, women's actual political activity can only be evaluated on the basis of their participation in the Parliaments elected in times of crisis, for only then were the women who won the mandates those really able to beat their male opponents."

²

Women and Political Power survey carried out among the 150 national Parliaments existing as of 31 October 1991. Inter-Parliamentary Union, Geneva - 1992, "Reports and Documents, N° 19 (pp. 101).

N° III

WOMEN IN PARLIAMENTS IN 1995 : WORLDWIDE PROJECTION

By descending order of the percentage of women
in the Single or Lower House

A. NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS

Parliaments			
Total of parliamentarians	39454		
Data available on	38338		
Women	4346	11.3%	
Men	33992	88.7%	

Single or Lower Chamber			
Total of parliamentarians	34066		
Data available on	33025		
Women	3845	11.6%	
Men	29180	88.4%	

Upper House or Senate			
Total of parliamentarians	5388		
Data available on	5313		
Women	501	9.4%	
Men	4812	90.6%	

Order	Country	Single or Lower House				Upper House or Senate			
		Elections	Seats	Women	% W	Elections	Seats	Women	% W
1	Sweden	09 1994	349	141	40.4	---	---	---	---
2	Norway	09 1993	165	65	39.4	---	---	---	---
3	Finland	03 1995	200	67	33.5	---	---	---	---
4	Denmark	09 1994	179	59	33.0	---	---	---	---
5	Netherlands	05 1994	150	47	31.3	05 1995	75	17	22.7
6	Seychelles	07 1993	33	9	27.3	---	---	---	---
7	Germany	10 1994	672	176	26.2	10 1994	68	13	19.1
8	Iceland	04 1995	63	16	25.4	---	---	---	---
9	Mozambique	10 1994	250	63	25.2	---	---	---	---
10	South Africa	04 1994	400	100	25.0	04 1994	90	16	17.8
11	Austria	11 1994	183	43	23.5	11 1994	63	14	22.2
12	Cuba	02 1993	589	134	22.8	---	---	---	---
13	Argentina	05 1995	257	56	21.8	05 1995	48	?	?
14	New Zealand	11 1993	99	21	21.2	---	---	---	---
15	China	03 1993	2978	626	21.0	---	---	---	---
15	Eritrea	02 1994	105	22	21.0	---	---	---	---
16	Dem. People's Rep. of Korea	04 1990	687	138	20.1	---	---	---	---
17	Grenada	06 1995	15	3	20.0	03 1990	13	2	15.4
17	Guyana	10 1992	65	13	20.0	---	---	---	---
17	Luxembourg	06 1994	60	12	20.0	---	---	---	---
18	Trinidad and Tobago	12 1991	37	7	18.9	12 1991	31	7	22.6
19	Viet Nam	07 1992	395	73	18.5	---	---	---	---
20	Namibia	12 1994	72	13	18.1	---	---	---	---
21	Canada	10 1993	295	53	18.0	1994	104	19	18.3
21	Switzerland	10 1991	200	36	18.0	10 1991	46	5	10.9
21	Turkmenistan	12 1994	50	9	18.0	---	---	---	---
22	Uganda	03 1994	270	47	17.4	---	---	---	---
23	Chad	04 1993	55	9	16.4	---	---	---	---
24	Nicaragua	02 1990	92	15	16.3	---	---	---	---
25	Spain	06 1993	350	56	16.0	06 1993	254	32	12.6
26	Italy	03 1994	630	95	15.1	03 1994	326	29	8.9
27	Latvia	06 1993	100	15	15.0	---	---	---	---

Order	Country	Single or Lower House				Upper House or Senate			
		Elections	Seats	Women	% W	Elections	Seats	Women	% W
28	Slovakia	10 1994	150	22	14.7	---	---	---	---
28	Zimbabwe	04 1995	150	22	14.7	---	---	---	---
29	Slovenia	12 1992	90	13	14.4	---	---	---	---
30	Mexico	08 1994	500	71	14.2	08 1994	128	16	12.5
31	Costa Rica	02 1994	57	8	14.0	---	---	---	---
32	Russian Federation	12 1993	449	60	13.4	12 1993	176	9	5.1
33	Bulgaria	12 1994	240	32	13.3	---	---	---	---
34	Poland	09 1993	460	60	13.0	09 1993	100	13	13.0
35	Estonia	03 1995	101	13	12.9	---	---	---	---
36	Ireland	11 1992	166	21	12.7	02 1993	60	8	13.3
37	Burundi	06 1993	81	10	12.3	---	---	---	---
38	Cameroon	03 1992	180	22	12.2	---	---	---	---
38	Indonesia	06 1992	500	61	12.2	---	---	---	---
39	Belgium	05 1995	150	18	12.0	05 1995	71	16	22.5
40	Dominican Republic	1994	120	14	11.7	1994	30	1	3.3
40	Jamaica	03 1993	60	7	11.7	03 1993	21	3	14.3
40	San Marino	05 1993	60	7	11.7	---	---	---	---
40	Senegal	05 1993	120	14	11.7	---	---	---	---
41	Hungary	05 1994	386	44	11.4	---	---	---	---
42	United Rep. of Tanzania	10 1990	249	28	11.2	---	---	---	---
43	United States of America	11 1994	440	48	10.9	11 1994	100	8	8.0
44	Bolivia	06 1993	130	14	10.8	06 1993	27	1	3.7
44	Colombia	03 1994	166	18	10.8	03 1994	102	7	6.9
44	Iraq	04 1989	250	27	10.8	---	---	---	---
45	Barbados	09 1994	28	3	10.7	09 1994	21	6	28.6
45	El Salvador	05 1994	84	9	10.7	---	---	---	---
46	Bangladesh	02 1991	330	35	10.6	---	---	---	---
47	Botswana	10 1994	40	4	10.0	---	---	---	---
47	Czech Republic	06 1992	200	20	10.0	---	---	---	---
47	Guinea-Bissau	07 1994	100	10	10.0	---	---	---	---
47	Peru	04 1995	120	12	10.0	---	---	---	---
48	Syrian Arab Republic	08 1994	250	24	9.6	---	---	---	---
49	Angola	09 1992	220	21	9.5	---	---	---	---
49	Australia	03 1993	147	14	9.5	03 1993	76	16	21.1
49	Saint Vincent & the Grenadines	02 1994	21	2	9.5	---	---	---	---
49	United Kingdom	04 1992	651	62	9.5	01 1995	1200	82	6.8
50	Dominica	06 1995	32	3	9.4	---	---	---	---
50	Lao People's Democratic Rep.	12 1992	85	8	9.4	---	---	---	---
51	Israel	06 1992	120	11	9.2	---	---	---	---
52	Philippines	05 1995	250	22	8.8	05 1995	24	4	16.7
53	Portugal	10 1991	230	20	8.7	---	---	---	---
54	Panama	05 1994	72	6	8.3	---	---	---	---
55	Bahamas	08 1992	49	4	8.2	08 1992	16	3	18.8
55	Sudan	02 1992	316	26	8.2	---	---	---	---
56	Ghana	12 1992	200	16	8.0	---	---	---	---
56	India	06 1991	528	42	8.0	1994	245	20	8.2
56	Liechtenstein	10 1993	25	2	8.0	---	---	---	---
57	Benin	03 1995	64	5	7.8	---	---	---	---
57	Malaysia	04 1995	192	15	7.8	06 1995	52	12	23.1
58	Tuvalu	11 1993	13	1	7.7	---	---	---	---
59	Cape Verde	01 1991	79	6	7.6	---	---	---	---
60	Chile	12 1993	120	9	7.5	12 1993	46	3	6.5
60	Equatorial Guinea	11 1993	80	6	7.5	---	---	---	---

Order	Country	Single or Lower House				Upper House or Senate			
		Elections	Seats	Women	% W	Elections	Seats	Women	% W
60	Guatemala	08 1994	80	6	7.5	---	---	---	---
61	Sao Tome and Principe	10 1994	55	4	7.3	---	---	---	---
62	Lithuania	11 1992	141	10	7.1	---	---	---	---
62	Uruguay	11 1994	99	7	7.1	11 1994	30	2	6.7
63	Brazil	10 1994	513	36	7.0	10 1994	81	6	7.4
63	Guinea	06 1995	114	8	7.0	---	---	---	---
63	Honduras	11 1993	128	9	7.0	---	---	---	---
64	Algeria	01 1994	178	12	6.7	---	---	---	---
64	Tunisia	03 1994	163	11	6.7	---	---	---	---
64	Zambia	10 1991	150	10	6.7	---	---	---	---
65	France	03 1993	577	37	6.4	09 1992	321	16	5.0
66	Georgia	10 1992	222	14	6.3	---	---	---	---
66	Maldives	12 1994	48	3	6.3	---	---	---	---
67	Thailand	07 1995	391	24	6.1	03 1992	270	8	3.0
68	Greece	10 1993	300	18	6.0	---	---	---	---
68	Uzbekistan	12 1994	250	15	6.0	---	---	---	---
69	Gabon	10 1990	119	7	5.9	---	---	---	---
69	Suriname	05 1991	51	3	5.9	---	---	---	---
69	Venezuela	12 1993	203	12	5.9	12 1993	50	4	8.0
70	Cambodia	05 1993	120	7	5.8	---	---	---	---
70	Croatia	08 1992	138	8	5.8	02 1993	68	3	4.4
71	Albania	03 1992	140	8	5.7	---	---	---	---
71	Liberia	03 1994	35	2	5.7	---	---	---	---
72	Malawi	05 1994	177	10	5.6	---	---	---	---
72	Monaco	01 1993	18	1	5.6	---	---	---	---
73	Antigua and Barbuda	03 1994	19	1	5.3	03 1994	17	3	17.7
73	Sri Lanka	08 1994	225	12	5.3	---	---	---	---
74	Ethiopia	05 1995	220	11	5.0	---	---	---	---
74	Zaire	04 1994	738	37	5.0	---	---	---	---
75	Kyrgyzstan	02 1995	103	5	4.9	---	---	---	---
76	Moldova	02 1994	104	5	4.8	---	---	---	---
77	Côte d'Ivoire	11 1990	175	8	4.6	---	---	---	---
77	Lesotho	03 1993	65	3	4.6	03 1993	33	8	24.2
78	Bosnia and Herzegovina	12 1990	156	7	4.5	---	---	---	---
78	Ecuador	05 1994	67	3	4.5	---	---	---	---
79	Fiji	02 1994	70	3	4.3	06 1992	34	3	8.8
79	Rwanda	11 1994	70	3	4.3	---	---	---	---
79	Samoa	04 1991	47	2	4.3	---	---	---	---
80	Romania	09 1992	341	14	4.1	09 1992	143	3	2.1
81	Mongolia	06 1992	76	3	3.9	---	---	---	---
82	Ukraine	05 1994	450	17	3.8	---	---	---	---
83	Burkina Faso	05 1992	107	4	3.7	---	---	---	---
83	Singapore	08 1991	81	3	3.7	---	---	---	---
84	Andorra	12 1993	28	1	3.6	---	---	---	---
84	Cyprus	05 1991	56	2	3.6	---	---	---	---
84	Madagascar	06 1993	138	5	3.6	---	---	---	---
84	Niger	01 1995	83	3	3.6	---	---	---	---
85	Central African Republic	09 1993	85	3	3.5	---	---	---	---
85	Iran (Islamic Rep. of)	05 1992	261	9	3.5	---	---	---	---
86	Belize	06 1993	29	1	3.4	06 1993	10	3	30.0
87	The F.Y.R. of Macedonia	10 1994	120	4	3.3	---	---	---	---
87	Tonga	02 1993	30	1	3.3	---	---	---	---
88	Swaziland	10 1993	65	2	3.1	10 1993	30	6	20.0

Order	Country	Single or Lower House				Upper House or Senate			
		Elections	Seats	Women	% W	Elections	Seats	Women	% W
89	Kenya	12 1992	202	6	3.0	---	---	---	---
89	Marshall Islands	11 1991	33	1	3.0	---	---	---	---
90	Mauritius	09 1991	70	2	2.9	---	---	---	---
90	Yugoslavia	12 1992	138	4	2.9	03 1994	36	1	2.8
91	Tajikistan	02 1995	181	5	2.8	---	---	---	---
92	Japan	03 1993	511	14	2.7	07 1992	252	37	14.7
93	Paraguay	05 1993	80	2	2.5	05 1993	45	5	11.1
94	Lebanon	10 1992	128	3	2.3	---	---	---	---
94	Mali	03 1992	129	3	2.3	---	---	---	---
95	Egypt	12 1990	454	10	2.2	---	---	---	---
95	Vanuatu	12 1991	46	1	2.2	---	---	---	---
96	Solomon Islands	05 1993	47	1	2.1	---	---	---	---
97	Azerbaijan	09 1990	50	1	2.0	---	---	---	---
97	Republic of Korea	03 1992	299	6	2.0	---	---	---	---
98	Pakistan	10 1993	217	4	1.8	03 1994	87	1	1.1
98	Turkey	10 1991	450	8	1.8	---	---	---	---
99	Congo	10 1993	125	2	1.6	08 1993	60	1	1.7
100	Malta	02 1992	66	1	1.5	---	---	---	---
101	Jordan	11 1993	80	1	1.3	11 1993	40	2	5.0
102	Togo	02 1994	81	1	1.2	---	---	---	---
103	Yemen	04 1993	301	2	0.7	---	---	---	---
104	Morocco	09 1993	333	2	0.6	---	---	---	---
105	Bhutan	1995	150	0	0.0	---	---	---	---
105	Comoros	12 1993	42	0	0.0	---	---	---	---
105	Djibouti	12 1992	65	0	0.0	---	---	---	---
105	Kiribati	07 1994	41	0	0.0	---	---	---	---
105	Kuwait	10 1992	50	0	0.0	---	---	---	---
105	Mauritania	03 1992	79	0	0.0	04 1992	56	0	0.0
105	Micronesia (Fed. States of)	03 1995	14	0	0.0	---	---	---	---
105	Palau	11 1992	16	0	0.0	11 1992	14	0	0.0
105	Papua New Guinea	06 1992	109	0	0.0	---	---	---	---
105	Saint Kitts and Nevis	07 1995	16	0	0.0	---	---	---	---
105	Saint Lucia	04 1992	17	0	0.0	04 1992	11	4	36.4
105	United Arab Emirates	02 1993	40	0	0.0	---	---	---	---
106	Armenia	07 1995	190	?	?	---	---	---	---
106	Haiti	06 1995	83	?	?	06 1995	27	?	?
106	Lybian Arab Jamahiriya	01 1994	750	?	?	---	---	---	---
106	Nauru	11 1992	18	?	?	---	---	---	---
	Belarus	suspen.	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	Kazakstan	suspen.	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	Nepal	suspen.	---	---	---	06 1991	60	3	5.0
	Myanmar	suspen.	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

B. REGIONAL PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

Order	Assembly	Elections	Seats	Women	% of Women
1	European Parliament	01 1995	626	173	27.6
2	Central American Parliament	1991	87	9	10.3

⋮

N° IV
WOMEN IN PARLIAMENTS IN 1995 : REGIONAL PROJECTION

By descending order of the percentage of women
in the Single or Lower House

% of women based on the total membership but without taking account of those Parliaments
for which the distribution of seats between men and women is not known

Order	SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA	Single or Lower House				Upper House or Senate			
		Elections	Seats	Women	% W	Elections	Seats	Women	% W
1	Seychelles	07 1993	33	9	27.3	---	---	---	---
2	Mozambique	10 1994	250	63	25.2	---	---	---	---
3	South Africa	04 1994	400	100	25.0	04 1994	90	16	17.8
4	Eritrea	02 1994	105	22	21.0	---	---	---	---
5	Namibia	12 1994	72	13	18.1	---	---	---	---
6	Uganda	03 1994	270	47	17.4	---	---	---	---
7	Chad	04 1993	55	9	16.4	---	---	---	---
8	Zimbabwe	04 1995	150	22	14.7	---	---	---	---
9	Burundi	06 1993	81	10	12.3	---	---	---	---
10	Cameroon	03 1992	180	22	12.2	---	---	---	---
11	Senegal	05 1993	120	14	11.7	---	---	---	---
12	United Rep. of Tanzania	10 1990	249	28	11.2	---	---	---	---
13	Botswana	10 1994	40	4	10.0	---	---	---	---
13	Guinea-Bissau	07 1994	100	10	10.0	---	---	---	---
14	Angola	09 1992	220	21	9.5	---	---	---	---
15	Ghana	12 1992	200	16	8.0	---	---	---	---
16	Benin	03 1995	64	5	7.8	---	---	---	---
17	Cape Verde	01 1991	79	6	7.6	---	---	---	---
18	Equatorial Guinea	11 1993	80	6	7.5	---	---	---	---
19	Sao Tome and Principe	10 1994	55	4	7.3	---	---	---	---
20	Guinea	06 1995	114	8	7.0	---	---	---	---
21	Zambia	10 1991	150	10	6.7	---	---	---	---
22	Gabon	10 1990	119	7	5.9	---	---	---	---
23	Liberia	03 1994	35	2	5.6	---	---	---	---
23	Malawi	05 1994	177	10	5.6	---	---	---	---
24	Ethiopia	05 1995	220	11	5.0	---	---	---	---
24	Zaire	04 1994	738	37	5.0	---	---	---	---
25	Côte d'Ivoire	11 1990	175	8	4.6	---	---	---	---
25	Lesotho	03 1993	65	3	4.6	03 1993	33	8	24.2
26	Rwanda	11 1994	70	3	4.3	---	---	---	---
27	Burkina Faso	05 1992	107	4	3.7	---	---	---	---
28	Madagascar	06 1993	138	5	3.6	---	---	---	---
28	Niger	01 1995	83	3	3.6	---	---	---	---
29	Central African Republic	09 1993	85	3	3.5	---	---	---	---
30	Swaziland	10 1993	65	2	3.1	10 1993	30	6	20.0
31	Kenya	12 1992	202	6	3.0	---	---	---	---
32	Mauritius	09 1991	70	2	2.9	---	---	---	---
33	Mali	03 1992	129	3	2.3	---	---	---	---
34	Congo	10 1993	125	2	1.6	08 1993	60	1	1.7
35	Togo	02 1994	81	1	1.2	---	---	---	---
Total		40	5751	561	9.8	4	213	31	14.6

Order	AMERICAS	Single or Lower House				Upper House or Senate				
		Elections	Seats	Women	% W	Elections	Seats	Women	% W	
1	Cuba	02 1993	589	134	22.8	---	---	---	---	
2	Argentina	05 1995	257	56	21.8	05 1995	48	?	?	
3	Grenada	06 1995	15	3	20.0	03 1990	13	2	15.4	
3	Guyana	10 1992	65	13	20.0	---	---	---	---	
4	Trinidad and Tobago	12 1991	37	7	18.9	12 1991	31	7	22.6	
5	Canada	10 1993	295	53	18.0	1994	104	19	18.3	
6	Nicaragua	02 1990	92	15	16.3	---	---	---	---	
7	Mexico	08 1994	500	71	14.2	08 1994	128	16	12.5	
8	Costa Rica	02 1994	57	8	14.0	---	---	---	---	
9	Dominican Republic	1994	120	14	11.7	1994	30	1	3.3	
9	Jamaica	03 1993	60	7	11.7	03 1993	21	3	14.3	
10	United States of America	11 1994	440	48	10.9	11 1994	100	8	8.0	
11	Bolivia	06 1993	130	14	10.8	06 1993	27	1	3.7	
11	Colombia	03 1994	166	18	10.8	03 1994	102	7	6.9	
12	Barbados	09 1994	28	3	10.7	09 1994	21	6	28.6	
12	El Salvador	05 1994	84	9	10.7	---	---	---	---	
13	Peru	04 1995	120	12	10.0	---	---	---	---	
14	Saint Vincent & the Grenadines	02 1994	21	2	9.5	---	---	---	---	
15	Dominica	06 1995	32	3	9.4	---	---	---	---	
16	Panama	05 1994	72	6	8.3	---	---	---	---	
17	Bahamas	08 1992	49	4	8.2	08 1992	16	3	18.8	
18	Chile	12 1993	120	9	7.5	12 1993	46	3	6.5	
18	Guatemala	08 1994	80	6	7.5	---	---	---	---	
19	Uruguay	11 1994	99	7	7.1	11 1994	30	2	6.7	
20	Brazil	10 1994	513	36	7.0	10 1994	81	6	7.4	
20	Honduras	11 1993	128	9	7.0	---	---	---	---	
21	Suriname	05 1991	51	3	5.9	---	---	---	---	
21	Venezuela	12 1993	203	12	5.9	12 1993	50	4	8.0	
22	Antigua and Barbuda	03 1994	19	1	5.3	03 1994	17	3	17.6	
23	Ecuador	05 1994	67	3	4.5	---	---	---	---	
24	Belize	06 1993	29	1	3.4	06 1993	10	3	30.0	
25	Paraguay	05 1993	80	2	2.5	05 1993	45	5	11.1	
26	Saint Kitts and Nevis	07 1995	16	0	0.0	---	---	---	---	
26	Saint Lucia	04 1992	17	0	0.0	04 1992	11	4	36.4	
27	Haiti	06 1995	83	?	?	06 1995	27	?	?	
	Total		35	4734	589	12.7	21	958	103	11.7

Order	ASIA	Single or Lower House				Upper House or Senate			
		Elections	Seats	Women	% W	Elections	Seats	Women	% W
1	China	03 1993	2978	626	21.0	---	---	---	---
2	Dem. People's Rep. of Korea	04 1990	687	138	20.1	---	---	---	---
3	Viet Nam	07 1992	395	73	18.5	---	---	---	---
4	Indonesia	06 1992	500	61	12.2	---	---	---	---
5	Bangladesh	02 1991	330	35	10.6	---	---	---	---
6	Lao People's Democratic Rep.	12 1992	85	8	9.4	---	---	---	---
7	Israel	06 1992	120	11	9.2	---	---	---	---
8	Philippines	05 1995	250	22	8.8	05 1995	24	4	16.7
9	India	06 1991	528	42	8.0	1994	245	20	8.2
10	Malaysia	04 1995	192	15	7.8	06 1995	52	12	23.1
11	Maldives	12 1994	48	3	6.3	---	---	---	---
12	Thailand	07 1995	391	24	6.1	03 1992	270	8	3.0
13	Cambodia	05 1993	120	7	5.8	---	---	---	---
14	Sri Lanka	08 1994	225	12	5.3	---	---	---	---
15	Mongolia	06 1992	76	3	3.9	---	---	---	---
16	Singapore	08 1991	81	3	3.7	---	---	---	---
17	Iran (Islamic Rep. of)	05 1992	261	9	3.5	---	---	---	---
18	Japan	03 1993	511	14	2.7	07 1992	252	37	14.7
19	Republic of Korea	03 1992	299	6	2.0	---	---	---	---
20	Pakistan	10 1993	217	4	1.8	03 1994	87	1	1.1
21	Bhutan	1995	150	0	0.0	---	---	---	---
22	Nepal	suspen.	---	---	---	06 1991	60	3	5.0
Total		21+1	8444	1116	13.2	7	990	85	8.6

Order	ARAB STATES	Single or Lower House				Upper House or Senate			
		Elections	Seats	Women	% W	Elections	Seats	Women	% W
1	Iraq	04 1989	250	27	10.8	---	---	---	---
2	Syrian Arab Republic	08 1994	250	24	9.6	---	---	---	---
3	Sudan	02 1992	316	26	8.2	---	---	---	---
4	Algeria	01 1994	178	12	6.7	---	---	---	---
4	Tunisia	03 1994	163	11	6.7	---	---	---	---
5	Lebanon	10 1992	128	3	2.3	---	---	---	---
6	Egypt	12 1990	454	10	2.2	---	---	---	---
7	Jordan	11 1993	80	1	1.3	11 1993	40	2	5.0
8	Yemen	04 1993	301	2	0.7	---	---	---	---
9	Morocco	09 1993	333	2	0.6	---	---	---	---
10	Comoros	12 1993	42	0	0.0	---	---	---	---
10	Djibouti	12 1992	65	0	0.0	---	---	---	---
10	Kuwait	10 1992	50	0	0.0	---	---	---	---
10	Mauritania	03 1992	79	0	0.0	04 1992	56	0	0.0
10	United Arab Emirates	02 1993	40	0	0.0	---	---	---	---
11	Lybian Arab Jamahiriya	01 1994	750	?	?	---	---	---	---
Total		16	3479	118	4.3	2	96	2	2.1

Order	EUROPE <small>The countries in this list are members of the OSCE.</small>	Single or Lower House				Upper House or Senate			
		Elections	Seats	Women	% W	Elections	Seats	Women	% W
1	Sweden	09 1994	349	141	40.4	---	---	---	---
2	Norway	09 1993	165	65	39.4	---	---	---	---
3	Finland	03 1995	200	67	33.5	---	---	---	---
4	Denmark	09 1994	179	59	33.0	---	---	---	---
5	Netherlands	05 1994	150	47	31.3	05 1995	75	17	22.7
6	Germany	10 1994	672	176	26.2	10 1994	68	13	19.1
7	Iceland	04 1995	63	16	25.4	---	---	---	---
8	Austria	11 1994	183	43	23.5	11 1994	63	14	22.2
9	Luxembourg	06 1994	60	12	20.0	---	---	---	---
10	Switzerland	10 1991	200	36	18.0	10 1991	46	5	10.9
10	Turkmenistan	12 1994	50	9	18.0	---	---	---	---
11	Spain	06 1993	350	56	16.0	06 1993	254	32	12.6
12	Italy	03 1994	630	95	15.1	03 1994	326	29	8.9
13	Latvia	06 1993	100	15	15.0	---	---	---	---
14	Slovakia	10 1994	150	22	14.7	---	---	---	---
15	Slovenia	12 1992	90	13	14.4	---	---	---	---
16	Russian Federation	12 1993	449	60	13.4	12 1993	176	9	5.1
17	Bulgaria	12 1994	240	32	13.3	---	---	---	---
18	Poland	09 1993	460	60	13.0	09 1993	100	13	13.0
19	Estonia	03 1995	101	13	12.9	---	---	---	---
20	Ireland	11 1992	166	21	12.7	02 1993	60	8	13.3
21	Belgium	05 1995	150	18	12.0	05 1995	71	16	22.5
22	San Marino	05 1993	60	7	11.7	---	---	---	---
23	Hungary	05 1994	386	44	11.4	---	---	---	---
24	Czech Republic	06 1992	200	20	10.0	---	---	---	---
25	United Kingdom	04 1992	651	62	9.5	01 1995	1200	82	6.8
26	Portugal	10 1991	230	20	8.7	---	---	---	---
27	Liechtenstein	10 1993	25	2	8.0	---	---	---	---
28	Lithuania	11 1992	141	10	7.1	---	---	---	---
29	France	03 1993	577	37	6.4	09 1992	321	16	5.0
30	Georgia	10 1992	222	14	6.3	---	---	---	---
31	Greece	10 1993	300	18	6.0	---	---	---	---
31	Uzbekistan	12 1994	250	15	6.0	---	---	---	---
32	Croatia	08 1992	138	8	5.8	02 1993	68	3	4.4
33	Albania	03 1992	140	8	5.7	---	---	---	---
34	Monaco	01 1993	18	1	5.6	---	---	---	---
35	Kyrgyzstan	02 1995	103	5	4.9	---	---	---	---
36	Moldova	02 1994	104	5	4.8	---	---	---	---
37	Bosnia and Herzegovina	12 1990	156	7	4.5	---	---	---	---
38	Romania	09 1992	341	14	4.1	09 1992	143	3	2.1
39	Ukraine	05 1994	450	17	3.8	---	---	---	---
40	Andorra	12 1993	28	1	3.6	---	---	---	---
40	Cyprus	05 1991	56	2	3.6	---	---	---	---
41	The F.Y.R. of Macedonia	10 1994	120	4	3.3	---	---	---	---
42	Yugoslavia	12 1992	138	4	2.9	03 1994	36	1	2.8
43	Tajikistan	02 1995	181	5	2.8	---	---	---	---
44	Azerbaijan	09 1990	50	1	2.0	---	---	---	---
45	Turkey	10 1991	450	8	1.8	---	---	---	---
46	Malta	02 1992	66	1	1.5	---	---	---	---
47	Armenia	07 1995	190	?	?	---	---	---	---
48	Belarus	suspen.	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
48	Kazakstan	suspen.	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	Total	50+2	10928	1416	13.2	15	3007	261	8.7

Order	PACIFIC	Single or Lower House				Upper House or Senate			
		Elections	Seats	Women	% W	Elections	Seats	Women	% W
1	New Zealand	11 1993	99	21	21.2	---	---	---	---
2	Australia	03 1993	147	14	9.5	03 1993	76	16	21.1
3	Tuvalu	11 1993	13	1	7.7	---	---	---	---
4	Fiji	02 1994	70	3	4.3	06 1992	34	3	8.8
4	Samoa	04 1991	47	2	4.3	---	---	---	---
5	Tonga	02 1993	30	1	3.3	---	---	---	---
6	Marshall Islands	11 1991	33	1	3.0	---	---	---	---
7	Vanuatu	12 1991	46	1	2.2	---	---	---	---
8	Solomon Islands	05 1993	47	1	2.1	---	---	---	---
9	Kiribati	07 1994	41	0	0.0	---	---	---	---
9	Micronesia (Fed. States of)	03 1995	14	0	0.0	---	---	---	---
9	Palau	11 1992	16	0	0.0	11 1992	14	0	0.0
9	Papua New Guinea	06 1992	109	0	0.0	---	---	---	---
10	Nauru	11 1992	18	?	?	---	---	---	---
Total		14	730	45	6.3	3	124	19	15.3

NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS

1945 - 1995

COUNTRY DATA SHEETS

AFGHANISTAN

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 1965
(b) To stand for election: 1965

Women in Parliament: See previous situation below.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
07.1965	4	Yes	No

President of Parliament or of one of its Chambers: No woman has yet held this office.

*** AFGHANISTAN: Previous situation ***

Meli Shura - National Assembly (bicameral)

Meshrano Jirgah - Council of Elders

Appointments (All)	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
07.1965 ¹	84	84	0	0.0
09.1969 ²	84	84	0	0.0
04.1988 ³	173	173	0	0.0

Wolosi Jirgah - Council of Representatives

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
07.1965 ¹	210	206	4	2.0
09.1969 ²	216	216	0	0.0
04.1988 ³	235 (46 vacancies)	182	7	3.7

1. First legislature of Afghanistan after the abolition of the monarchy in 1964.
2. Parliament was dissolved following a military coup d'Etat in July 1973.
3. Collapse of constitutional institutions, including Parliament, in April 1992. A Council of Decision and Settlement or Constituent Assembly, comprising 1335 members met in December 1992 and January 1993 and elected from among its ranks a 250-member interim Assembly, pending general elections: no available information concerning the number of women members of the Council or the interim Assembly.

ALBANIA

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 21.01.1920
(b) To stand for election: 21.01.1920

Kuvendi Popullor - People's Assembly (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
12.1945	82	79	3	3.7
05.1950	121	104	17	14.0
05.1954	134	118	16	11.9
06.1958	187	170	17	9.1
06.1962	214	189	25	11.7
07.1966	240	201	39	16.3
09.1970	264	192	72	27.2
10.1974	250	167	83	33.2
11.1978	250	169	81	32.4
11.1982	250	174	76	30.4
02.1987	250	178	72	28.8
05.1991	250	241	9	3.6
03.1992	140	132	8	5.7

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
12.1945	3	Yes	No

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

ALGERIA

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 05.07.1962
 (b) To stand for election: 05.07.1962

Al-Majlis Al-Watani Al-Intiqali - National Transitional Council (unicameral)

Appointments (All)	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
01.1994 ¹	200 (22 vacancies)	166	12	6.7

1. Pursuant to Article 27 of Presidential Decree N° 94-49 of 29 January 1994, the National Transitional Council comprises 200 designated members, depending on the case, by the State or their group and vested by decree for the entire transitional period.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
09.1962	10	No	Yes
09.1964	2	Yes	No

President of Parliament or of one of its Chambers: No woman has yet held this office.

*** ALGERIA: Previous situation ***

I. **Al-Majlis Al-Watani Ettaassissi** - Constituent National Assembly (unicameral)

Elections (All)	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
09.1962 ¹	196	186	10	5.1

1. First legislature of Algeria after the country became independent on 5 July 1962.

II. **Al-Majlis Al-Watani** - National Assembly (unicameral) ²

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
09.1964	138	136	2	1.4

2. The Assembly was later dissolved following a military coup d'Etat on 19 June 1965.

III. **Al-Majlis Ech-Chaabi Al-Watani** - National People's Assembly (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
02.1977	261	251	10	3.8
03.1982	282	278	4	1.4
02.1987	295	288	7	2.4
12.1991-01.1992 ³	295	---	---	---

3. Legislative elections organized for the renewal of the National Assembly were cancelled on 12 January 1992 following the first round of voting. Presidential Decree N° 02-39 of 4 February 1992 established a 60-member Consultative National Council all appointed for an indeterminate period; women among the members of the Council: 10.0%.

ANDORRA

Dates on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 14.04.1970
(b) To stand for election: 05.09.1973

Consell General - General Council (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
12.1993 ¹	28	27	1	3.6

1. First Parliament of Andorra, which became an independent sovereign State on 4 May 1993.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
12.1985 ²	1	Yes	No
12.1993	1	Yes	No

2. Before recognition of Andorra's sovereignty.

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

ANGOLA

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 11.11.1975
(b) To stand for election: 11.11.1975

Assembleia Nacional - National Assembly ¹ (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
11.1980 ²	229	210	19	8.3
12.1986	289 + 29 ³	247 + 22	42 + 7 ⁴	14.5 + 24.1
09.1992	220	199	21	9.5

1. The Assembly was called *Assembleia do Povo* (People's Assembly) during the first two legislatures.
2. First legislature of Angola after the country became independent on 11 November 1975.
3. Titular members + substitute members.
4. As at 3 June 1991, the distribution of seats is as follows: 236 + 15 men, 45 + 3 women (19% + 20%).

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
11.1980	19	Yes	No

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 01.12.1951
(b) To stand for election: 01.12.1951

Parliament (bicameral)

Senate

Appointments (All)	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
04.1984 ¹	17	15	2	11.8
03.1989	17	16	1	5.9
03.1992	17	15	2	11.8
03.1994	17	14	3	17.6

House of Representatives

Elections ²	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
04.1984 ¹	17	17	0	0.0
03.1989	17	17	0	0.0
03.1994	19	18	1	5.3

1. First legislature of Antigua and Barbuda after the country became independent on 1 November 1981.
2. In 1984 and 1989, the members of the House of Representatives were all appointed. The first elections were held in 1994; however, the first female member of the House of Representatives was co-opted on appointment by the Government.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
04.1984	2 (Senate)	No	Yes
03.1994	1 (House of Rep.)	Yes (co-opted)	No

President of Parliament or of one of its Chambers

Chamber	Period	Name
Senate	1994-1999	Millicent PERCIVAL
House of Representatives	1994-1999	Bridget HARRIS

ARGENTINA

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 27.09.1947 ¹
 (b) To stand for election: 27.09.1947 ¹

1. In some provinces, women were given the right to vote and stand for election at an earlier date.

Congreso Nacional - National Congress (bicameral)

Senado - Senate

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
02.1946	34	34	0	0.0
11.1951 ²	34 (4 vacancies)	24	6	20.0
02.1958 ³	46 (4 vacancies)	42	0	0.0
07.1963 ⁴	46	46	0	0.0
04.1973 ⁵	69	66	3	4.3
10.1983	46	43	3	6.5
11.1986	46	43	3	6.5
12.1989	46	42	4	8.7
12.1992	48	46	2	4.2
05.1995	48	?	?	?

Cámara de Diputados - Chamber of Deputies

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
02.1946	158	158	0	0.0
03.1948 ⁷	158	158	0	0.0
11.1951	155	131	24	15.5
06.1955 ²	157	123	34	21.7
02.1958	187 (3 vacancies)	180	4	2.2
03.1960 ³	192 (2 vacancies)	188	2	1.1
07.1963	192	191	1	0.5
03.1965 ^{4 +} 8	192	188	4	2.1
04.1973 ⁵	243	224	19	7.8
10.1983	254	244	10	3.9
11.1985	254	244	10	3.9
09.1987	254	242	12	4.7
05.1989	254	238	16	6.3
08-12.1991	257	242	15	5.8
10.1993 ⁶	257	220	37	14.4
05.1995 ⁸	257	201	56	21.8

2. Congress was dissolved following a military coup d'Etat on 16 September 1955.

3. Election of 102 of the 192 members of the House, modifying its composition. Congress was dissolved some six months after the military coup d'Etat of March 1962.

4. Congress was dissolved following a military coup d'Etat on 28 June 1966.

5. Congress was dissolved following a military coup d'Etat on 24 March 1976.

6. A Constituent Assembly was set up on 10 April 1994, comprising 305 members, including 81 women: 26.5%.

7. Election for only half of the members of the House, modifying its composition.

8. Election for only half of the members of the House, modifying its composition.

(continued on next page)

ARGENTINA: (contd.)

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
11.1951	24	Yes	No

President of Parliament or of one of its Chambers

Chamber	Period	Name
Senate	12.10.1973 to 01.07.1974	María Estela MARTINEZ de PERÓN (President <i>Pro-Tempore</i>)

ARMENIA

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 02.02.1921
(b) To stand for election: 02.02.1921

National Assembly (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
05.1990 ¹	244	235	9	3.7
05.07.1995	190	?	?	?

1. The Soviet Supreme of the SSR of Armenia became, under the name of Supreme Council (**Khordaran**) the first legislature of Armenia after the country became independent on 21 September 1991.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
05.1990 ²	9	Yes	No

2. Armenian women were previously elected to the Soviet Supreme of the SSR of Armenia (see below) and to the Parliament of the USSR: see page 213.

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

*** SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA: Previous situation ***

Supreme Council of the Soviet Socialist Republic of Armenia (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
1938-1946	256	191	65	25.4
1947-1951	269	194	75	27.9
1951-1955	289	204	85	29.4
1955-1959	300	209	91	30.3
1959-1963	300	203	97	32.3
1963-1967	300	204	96	32.0
1967-1971	310	209	101	32.6
1971-1975	310	207	103	33.2
1975-1980	315	204	111	35.2
1980-1985	340	219	121	35.6
1985-1990	340	219	121	35.6

AUSTRALIA

Dates on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 12.06.1902 - 18.06.1962 ¹
 (b) To stand for election: 12.06.1902 - 18.06.1962 ¹

1. On a national basis, women, with the exception of Aboriginal women, obtained the right to vote and stand for federal election when the Commonwealth Electoral Act 1902 came into effect. However, women from the States of South Australia and Western Australia voted at the first federal election in 1901 because the elections were held under the electoral laws of the States. Aboriginal women received full franchise in 1962, along with Aboriginal men. However, from 1949 Aboriginals in the States of New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania were given the right to enrol and vote at federal elections because the respective State electoral laws enabled them to do so. Aboriginals in Queensland and Western Australia were entitled to vote only if they were serving or had served as members of the Australian Defence Force. The Commonwealth Franchise Act 1902 granted the franchise to all persons of the age of 21 years, and thus women voted at the first federal elections held under the Federal Law on 16 September 1903.

Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia (bicameral)

Senate

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
08.1943	36	35	1	2.8
09.1946	36	34	2	5.6
12.1949	60	56	4	6.7
04.1951	60	56	4	6.6
05.1953	60	56	4	6.6
12.1955	60	55	5	8.3
11.1958	60	55	5	8.3
12.1961	60	55	5	8.3
05.1964	60	56	4	6.7
11.1966	60	56	4	6.7
11.1967	60	57	3	5.0
11.1970	60	58	2	3.3
05.1974	60	56	4	6.7
12.1975	64	58	6	9.4
12.1977	64	58	6	9.4
10.1980	64	55	9	14.1
03.1983	64	51	13	20.3
12.1984	76	62	14	18.4
07.1987	76	59	17	22.4
03.1990	76	58	18	23.7
03.1993	76	60	16	21.1

(continued on next page)

AUSTRALIA: (contd.)**House of Representatives**

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
08.1943	75	74	1	1.3
09.1946	75	73	2	2.7
12.1949	123	122	1	0.8
04.1951	123	123	0	0.0
05.1954	123	123	0	0.0
12.1955	124	124	0	0.0
11.1958	124	124	0	0.0
12.1961	124	124	0	0.0
11.1963	124	124	0	0.0
11.1966	124	123	1	0.8
10.1969	125	125	0	0.0
12.1972	125	125	0	0.0
05.1974	127	126	1	0.8
12.1975	127	127	0	0.0
12.1977	124	124	0	0.0
10.1980	125	122	3	2.4
03.1983	125	119	6	4.8
12.1984	148	140	8	5.4
07.1987	148	139	9	6.1
03.1990	148	138	10	6.8
03.1993	147	134	13 ²	8.8

2. 14 women in March 1995: 9.5%.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
21.08.1943	1	Yes	No
23.09.1943	1	No	Yes

President of Parliament or of one of its Chambers

Chamber	Period	Name
House of Representatives	1987-1990	Joan CHILD

AUSTRIA

Date on which women were given the right

(a) To vote:	19.12.1918
(b) To stand for election:	19.12.1918

Parlament - Parliament (bicameral)

Bundesrat - Federal Council

Elections ¹	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
19.12.1945	49	49	0	0.0
08.11.1949	48	47	1	2.1
18.03.1953	45	44	1	2.2
08.06.1956	48	42	6	12.5
09.06.1959	48	42	6	12.5
14.12.1962	51	44	7	13.7
30.03.1966	51	45	6	11.8
31.03.1970	54	45	9	16.7
04.11.1971	51	42	9	17.6
04.11.1975	55	44	11	20.0
05.06.1979	55	46	9	16.4
19.05.1983	61	51	10	16.4
17.12.1986	62	49	13	21.0
05.11.1990	60	47	13	21.7
07.11.1994	63	49	14	22.2

1. Indirectly elected; dates of elections vary according to the province.

Nationalrat - National Council

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
19.12.1945	165	156	9	5.5
08.11.1949	165	157	8	4.8
18.03.1953	165	156	9	5.5
08.06.1956	165	157	8	4.8
09.06.1959	165	156	9	5.5
14.12.1962	165	156	9	5.5
30.03.1966	165	156	9	5.5
31.03.1970	165	157	8	4.8
04.11.1971	183	172	11	6.0
04.11.1975	183	169	14	7.7
05.06.1979	183	165	18	9.8
19.05.1983	183	166	17	9.3
17.12.1986	183	162	21	11.5
05.11.1990	183	147	36	19.7
07.11.1994	183	143	40 ²	21.9

2. 46 women in June 1995: 23.5%.

(continued on next page)

AUSTRIA: (contd.)**First women members of Parliament**

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
04.03.1919	8	Yes	No

President of Parliament or of one of its Chambers

Chamber	Period	Name
<i>Bundesrat</i>	01.12.1927-31.05.1928 + 01.06.1932- 30.11.1932	Olga RUDEL-ZEYNEK
<i>Bundesrat</i>	01.07.1953-31.12.1953	Johanna BAYER
<i>Bundesrat</i>	01.01.1965-30.06.1965 + 01.07.1969- 31.12.1969 + 01.01.1974-30.06.1974	Helene TSCHITSCHKO
<i>Bundesrat</i>	01.07.1987-31.12.1987	Helga HIEDEN-SOMMER
<i>Bundesrat</i>	01.01.1991-30.06.1991	Anna Elisabeth HASELBACH

AZERBAIJAN

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 19.05.1921
(b) To stand for election: 19.05.1921

Milli Majlis - National Council (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
09.1990 ¹	50	49	1	2.0

1. The Soviet Supreme of the SSR of Azerbaijan became the first legislature of Azerbaijan after the country became independent in January 1992 and was responsible for drawing up a new Constitution.

First woman member of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
09.1990 ²	1	Yes	No

2. Women from Azerbaijan were previously elected to the Supreme Soviet of the SSR of Azerbaijan and to the Parliament of the USSR: see page 213.

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

BAHAMAS

Dates on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 18.02.1961 - 1964 ¹
(b) To stand for election: 18.02.1961 - 1964 ¹

1. Adult male suffrage was introduced under British colonial administration in 1959, although members of the electorate satisfying certain property qualifications also received a second vote. Women were granted the vote in 1961 and by 1964 all property qualifications had been abolished.

Parliament (bicameral)

Senate

Appointments (All)	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
07.1973 ²	16	16	0	0.0
07.1977	16	13	3	18.8
06.1982	16	12	4	25.0
06.1987	16	13	3	18.8
08.1992	16	13	3	18.8

House of Assembly

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
07.1973 ²	38	38	0	0.0
07.1977	38	38	0	0.0
06.1982	43	42	1	2.3
06.1987	49	47	2	4.1
08.1992	49	45	4	8.2

2. First legislature of the Bahamas after the country became independent on 10 July 1973.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
07.1977	3	No	Yes
06.1982	1	Yes	No

President of Parliament or of one of its Chambers: No woman has yet held this office.

BAHRAIN

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: According to the Constitution in force (6 December 1973), all citizens are equal before the law; however, women were not able to exercise electoral rights in the only legislative elections held in Bahrain in December 1973.
- (b) To stand for election:

Women in Parliament: See above and previous situation below.

*** BAHRAIN: Previous situation ***

Assembly (unicameral)

Elections & Appointments ¹	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
12.1973 ²	44	44	0	0.0

1. 30 elected and 14 appointed.

2. First legislature of Bahrain after the country became independent on 15 August 1971; however, a constituent assembly comprising 22 male members had previously been formed on 1 December 1972. Parliament was subsequently dissolved by decree of the Emir on 26 August 1975.

BANGLADESH

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 04.11.1972
(b) To stand for election: 04.11.1972

Jatiya Sangsad - Parliament (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
03.1973 ¹	315	300	15 ²	4.8
02.1979 ³	330	300	30 ⁴	9.1
05.1986	330	300	30 ⁴	9.1
03.1988	330	296	34 ⁴	10.3
02.1991	330	296	34 ^{4 + 5}	10.3

1. First legislature of Bangladesh after the country became independent in December 1971; the Parliament was dissolved following a military coup d'Etat on 6 November 1975.
2. 15 seats reserved for women, co-opted by Parliament.
3. Parliament was dissolved following a military coup d'Etat on 24 March 1982.
4. 30 seats reserved for women, co-opted by Parliament.
5. 35 women in October 1994: 10.6%.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
03.1973	15	Yes ⁶	No

6. Seats reserved, with election by co-optation.

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

BARBADOS

Date on which women were given the right

(a) To vote:	23.10.1950
(b) To stand for election:	23.10.1950

Parliament of Barbados (bicameral)

Senate

Appointments (All)	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
11.1966 ¹	21	19	2	9.5
09.1971	21	18	3	14.3
09.1976	21	18	3	14.3
06.1981	21	17	4	19.0
05.1986	21	17	4	19.0
01.1991	21	15	6	28.6
09.1994	21	15	6	28.6

House of Assembly

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
11.1966 ¹	24	24	0	0.0
09.1971	24	22	2	8.3
09.1976	24	23	1	4.2
06.1981	27	26	1	3.7
05.1986	27	26	1	3.7
01.1991	28	27	1	3.6
09.1994	28	25	3	10.7

1. First legislature of Barbados after the country became independent on 30 November 1966

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
18.12.1951 ²	1	Yes	No
03.11.1966	2	No	Yes
09.1971	5	2	3

2. Prior to independence

President of Parliament or of one of its Chambers: No woman has yet held this office.

BELARUS

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 04.02.1919
(b) To stand for election: 04.02.1919

Women in Parliament: See previous situation below.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
03.1990 ¹	12	Yes	No

1. Belarus women were previously elected to the Supreme Soviet of the SSR of Belarus and to the Parliament of the USSR: see page 213.

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

*** BELARUS: Previous situation ***

Verkhovny Soviet - Supreme Soviet (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
03.1990 ¹	316	304	12	3.8
05.1995	260 ²	---	---	---

1. The Soviet Supreme of the SSR of Belarus became the first legislature of Belarus after the country became independent on 25 August 1991.
2. After the second round of voting, only 120 out of the 260 seats had been filled; under the circumstances Parliament was not able to sit.

BELGIUM

Dates on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 09.05.1919 - 27.03.1948 ¹
(b) To stand for election: 07.02.1921 - 27.03.1948 ¹

1. The Law of 9 May 1919 gave the right to vote in national election to the widows or mothers of servicemen killed during the war, citizens shot or killed by the enemy and women political prisoners. In 1921, women were given the right to stand for election in communal, provincial and parliamentary elections. The Law of 27 March 1948 then gave all women the right to vote in the same conditions as for men. Women voted for the first time in 1949. Universal suffrage was introduced for men in 1919 and was exercised for the first time in 1921.

Chambre législative - Wetgevende Kamers - Legislative Chambers (bicameral)

Sénat - Senaat - Senate

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
02.1946	167	162	5	3.0
06.1949	175	168	7	4.0
06.1950	175	168	7	4.0
04.1954	175	169	6	3.4
06.1958	175	169	6	3.4
03.1961	175	172	3	1.7
05.1965	178	176	2	1.1
03.1968	178	178	0	0.0
11.1971	178	173	5	2.8
03.1974	181	169	12	6.6
04.1977	181	165	16	8.8
12.1978	181	162	19	10.5
11.1981	181	160	21	11.6
10.1985	184	162	22	12.0
12.1987	184	169	15 ²	8.2 ²
11.1991	184	164	20	10.9
05.1995	71	55	16	22.5

2. Situation as at 1.11.1990 following the replacement of senators who had resigned: 19 women (10.4%).

(continued on next page)

BELGIUM: (contd.)**Chambre des représentants - Kamer van Volksvertegenwoordigers - House of Representatives**

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
02.1946	202	199	3	1.5
06.1949	212	207	5	2.4
06.1950	212	205	7	3.3
04.1954	212	203	9	4.2
06.1958	212	203	9	4.2
03.1961	212	201	11	5.2
05.1965	212	205	7	3.3
03.1968	212	204	8	3.8
11.1971	212	206	6	2.8
03.1974	212	198	14	6.6
04.1977	212	197	15	7.1
12.1978	212	196	16	7.5
11.1981	212	200	12	5.7
10.1985	212	196	16	7.5
12.1987	212	194	18 ³	8.5 ³
11.1991	212	192	20	9.4
05.1995	150	132	18	12.0

3. Situation as at 1.11.1990: 19 women (9.0%).

First woman member of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
27.12.1921	1 (Senate)	No	Co-opted

President of Parliament or of one of its Chambers: No woman has yet held this office.

BELIZE

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 25.03.1954
(b) To stand for election: 25.03.1954

National Assembly (bicameral)

Senate

Appointments (All ¹)	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
12.1984 ²	10	7	3	30.0
09.1989	10	7	3	30.0
06.1993	10	7	3	30.0

House of Representatives

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
12.1984 ²	28	27	1	3.6
09.1989	29	29	0	0.0
06.1993	29	28	1	3.4

1. Nine members appointed and a President who is elected from outside the Senate.

2. First legislature of Belize after the country became independent on 21 September 1981.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
12.1984	4	1	3

President of Parliament or of one of its Chambers

Chamber	Period	Name
Senate	1984-1989	Doris June GARCIA
Senate	1989-1993	Jane USHER

BENIN

(called Dahomey until 1975)

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 1956
(b) To stand for election: 1956

Assemblée nationale - National Assembly (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
02.1991	64	60	4	6.3
03. and/or 04. 1995	64	59 (?)	5 (?)	7.8 (?)

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
11.1979	28	Yes	No

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

*** BENIN: Previous situation ***

I. *Assemblée nationale* - National Assembly (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
12.1960 ¹	?	?	?	?
01.1964 ²	42	?	?	?
11.1979 ³	336	308	28	8.3
06.1984	196	188	8	4.1
06.1989 ⁴	205	200	6	2.9

1. First legislature of Dahomey after the country became independent on 1 August 1960. The mandate of the Assembly was extended for 18 months on 3 February 1963; the Assembly was dissolved following a coup d'Etat in October 1963.
2. The Assembly was dissolved following a military coup d'Etat on 22 December 1965.
3. The Assembly elected in 1979 was called the National Revolutionary Assembly.
4. The Assembly was dissolved on 1 March 1990 by the National Conference and replaced on a transitional basis by the High Council of the Republic.

II. *Haut Conseil de la République (Parlement de la transition)* - High Council of the Republic (Transitional Parliament)⁵ (unicameral)

Appointments (All)	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
03.1990	27	?	?	?

5. Responsible for the preparation of the new Constitution.

BHUTAN

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 1953
(b) To stand for election: 1953

Tshogdu - National Assembly (unicameral)

Elections ¹	Seats ²	Men	Women	% of women
1953 ³ - 1975	150	150	0	0.0
1975 - 1990	150	147	3	2.0
1991 - 1995	150	150	0	0.0

1. The members of the *Tshogdu* are elected for 3 years in individual constituencies at various dates depending on the expiry of their term. The information is given by period depending on whether or not there were any women in the *Tshogdu*.
2. Including 105 members directly elected by direct suffrage and 12 seats reserved for religious bodies; the remainder are occupied by dignitaries, ministers and members of the Royal Advisory Council.
3. 1953: Establishment of the *Tshogdu* as the first legislature of the Kingdom of Bhutan.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
1975 - 1990	3	Yes	No

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

BOLIVIA

Dates on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 1938 - 21.07 1952 ¹
 (b) To stand for election: 1938 - 21.07.1952 ¹
 1. Literate women and those with a certain level of income were given the right to vote and to stand for election in 1938. These rights were extended to all women in 1952.

Congreso Nacional - National Congress (bicameral)

Cámara de Senadores - Chamber of Senators

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
04.1951 ²	18	18	0	0.0
06.1956	18	18	0	0.0
06.1960 ³	27	27	0	0.0
07.1966 ⁴	27	27	0	0.0
07.1979 ⁵	27	26	1	3.7
06.1980 ⁶	27	25	2 ⁸	7.4
07.1985	27	25	2 ⁸	7.4
05.1989	27	26	1	3.7
05.1993	27	26	1	3.7

Cámara de Diputados - Chamber of Deputies

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
04.1951 ²	56	56	0 + ? ⁹	0.0 + ?
06.1956	56	55	1 + 1	1.8 + 1.8
07.1958 ⁷	56	56	0 + 1	0.0 + 1.8
06.1960 ³	103 (?)	103 (?)	0 + 2	0.0 + 1.9 (?)
1961	103 (?)	103 (?)	0 + 1	0.0 + 1.0 (?)
1962	103 (?)	101 (?)	2 + 6	1.9 + 5.8 (?)
1963	103 (?)	101 (?)	2 + 1	1.9 + 0.9 (?)
07.1966 ⁴	103	102	1 + 1	0.9 + 0.9
07.1979 ⁵	117	114	3 + ?	2.5 + ?
06.1980 ⁶	130	129	1 + 3 ⁸	0.7 + 2.,3
07.1985	130	126	4 + 4 ⁸	3.1 + 3.1
05.1989	130	118	12 + 12 ¹⁰	9.2 + 9.2
06.1993	130	116	14 + 13	10.8 + 10

2. The results of the elections were nullified and Congress was dissolved following a military coup d'Etat in May 1951.
 3. Elections for only half of the members of the House, modifying its composition.
 4. Congress was dissolved following a military coup d'Etat in September 1969.
 5. Elections held on 9 July 1979 were nullified by an Electoral Tribunal; following a military coup d'Etat on 1 November 1979, the parliamentary institution was then suspended.
 6. The military command which took power following a military coup d'Etat on 17 July 1980 nullified the results of the elections on 6 June 1980; on 23 September 1982, the Electoral Tribunal validated the election results and on 10 October 1982, the National Congress was restored.
 7. By-elections, modifying the composition of the House.
 8. Women members in the 1980 and 1985 legislatures were elected as substitute members and replaced male members.
 9. Titular and substitute members
 10. 13 women (10%) in July 1991.

(continued on next page)

BOLIVIA: (contd.)

First woman member of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
06.1966 ¹¹	2	Yes	No

1. One titular and one substitute member of parliament.

President of Parliament or of one of its Chambers

Chamber	Period	Name
Chamber of Deputies	1979	Lydia GUEILER TEJEDA

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 31.01.1949
(b) To stand for election: 31.01.1949

Skupstina Republike Bosne i Hercegovine - Assembly of the Republic (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
11-12.1990 ¹	156	149	7	4.5

1. The Assembly of the Federated Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina became the first legislature of Bosnia and Herzegovina after the country became independent in March 1992.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
12.1990 ²	7	Yes	No

2. Women of Bosnia and Herzegovina were previously elected to the Parliament of the SFR of Yugoslavia: see page 269.

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

BOTSWANA

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 01.03.1965
(b) To stand for election: 01.03.1965

National Assembly (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
03.1965 ¹	31	31	0	0.0
10.1969	36	36	0	0.0
10.1974	37	37	0	0.0
10.1979	37	35	2	5.4
09.1984	39	37	2	5.1
10.1989	40 ²	38	2	5.0
10.1994	40 ²	36	4	10.0

1. The Legislative Assembly of *Buchanaland* became the first legislature of Botswana after the country became independent on 30 September 1966.
2. 34 directly elected, 4 co-opted and 2 *ex officio* members (the President of the Republic and the Attorney-General).

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
10.1979	2	Yes	No

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

BRAZIL

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 16.07.1934
(b) To stand for election: 16.07.1934

Congresso Nacional - National Congress (bicameral)

Senado Federal - Federal Senate

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
12.1945	63	63	0	0.0
10.1950	63	63	0	0.0
10.1954	63	63	0	0.0
10.1958	63	63	0	0.0
11.1962	66	66	0	0.0
11.1966 ¹	66	66	0	0.0
11.1970	66	66	0	0.0
11.1974	66	66	0	0.0
09.1978	67	66	1	1.5
11.1982	69	69	0	0.0
11.1986	71	71	0	0.0
10.1990	81	79	2	2.5
10.1994	81	75	6	7.4

Câmara dos Deputados - Chamber of Deputies

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
12.1945	286	286	0	0.0
10.1950	304	303	1	0.3
10.1954	321	320	1	0.3
10.1958	326	323	3	0.9
11.1962	409	407	2	0.5
11.1966 ¹	409	404	5	1.2
11.1970	310	309	1	0.3
11.1974	364	363	1	0.3
09.1978	420	416	4	1.0
11.1982	479	472	7	1.5
11.1986	487	461	26	5.3
10.1990	503	473	28	5.6
10.1994	513	477	36	7.0

1. The military régime (in power since 1964) suspended Congress in December 1968, before recalling it in October 1969.

First woman member of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
03.05.1933	1	Yes	No

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

BULGARIA

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 16.10.1944
(b) To stand for election: 16.10.1944

Narodno Sobranie - National Assembly (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
11.1945	276	260	16	5.8
10.1946	465	427	38	8.2
12.1949	239	203	36	15.1
12.1953	249	210	39	15.7
12.1957	254	213	41	16.1
02.1962	321	256	65	16.2
02.1966	416	345	71	17.1
06.1971	400	325	75	18.8
05.1976	400	322	78	19.5
06.1981	400	313	87	21.8
06.1986	400	316	84	21.0
06.1990 ¹	400	366	34	8.5
10.1991	240	209	31	12.9
12.1994	240	208	32	13.3

1. In 1990, the National Assembly was elected for a shortened term of office (18 months minimum) pending adoption of a new Constitution and essential legislation in the economic sector.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
18.11.1945	16	Yes	No

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

BURKINA FASO

(called Upper Volta until August 1984)

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 28.09.1958
(b) To stand for election: 28.09.1958

Assemblée des députés du peuple - Assembly of the Deputies of the People (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
05.1992	107	101	6 ¹	5.6

1. Four women in June 1995: 3.7%.

First woman member of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
04.1978	1	Yes	No

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

*** UPPER VOLTA: Previous situation ***

Assemblée nationale - National Assembly (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
12.1970 ¹	57	57	0	0.0
04.1978 ²	57	56	1	1.8

1. First legislature of Upper Volta after the country became independent on 5 August 1960. The National Assembly was dissolved following a military coup d'Etat on 8 February 1974 and replaced in July by the Consultative Council for Renewal composed of 65 members appointed by the President.
2. The National Assembly was dissolved following a military coup d'Etat in November 1980.

BURUNDI

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 17.08.1961 ¹
 (b) To stand for election: 17.08.1961 ¹

1. Legislative Decree of Rwanda - Urundi (L.D.R.U.) N° 02/269.

Assemblée nationale - National Assembly (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
10.1982 ²	65 ³	59	6	9.2
29.06.1993	81	71	10	12.3

1. The Assembly was dissolved following a military coup d'Etat on 3 September 1987.

2. 52 elected and 13 appointed.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
10.1982	6	Yes	No

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

*** BURUNDI: Previous situation ***

I. *Assemblée nationale* - National Assembly ¹ (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
18.09.1961	64	64	0	0.0

1. First legislature of Burundi after the country became independent on 1 July 1962.

II. *Parlement* - Parliament (bicameral) ²

Sénat - Senate

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
10.05.1965	12 + 4 ³	12 + 4	0 + 0	0.0 + 0.0

Assemblée nationale - National Assembly

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
10.05.1965	33	33	0	0.0

2. Parliament was dissolved following a military coup d'Etat on 28 November 1966.

3. The Senate was composed of 8 elected members and 4 co-opted members as well as 4 substitutes.

CAMBODIA

(Kingdom of Cambodia until 18 March 1970; Khmer Republic from 18 March 1970 to 17 April 1975; Democratic Kampuchea from 17 May 1975 to 7 January 1979; People's Republic of Kampuchea from 7 January 1979 to 25 May 1993; Kingdom of Cambodia from 21 September 1993)

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 25.09.1955
 (b) To stand for election: 25.09.1955

Radhspea Ney Preah Recheanachakr Kampuchea - National Assembly (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
23.05.1993	120	113	7	5.8

First woman member of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
03.1958	1	Yes	No

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

*** CAMBODIA: Previous situation ***

I. Parliament of the Kingdom of Cambodia (bicameral) Council of the Kingdom (Senate)

Elections and Appointments	Seats ²	Men	Women	% of women
09.1955 ¹	28	28	0	0.0
03.1958	28	28	0	0.0
06.1962	28	28	0	0.0
09.1966 ³	28	28	0	0.0

National Assembly

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
09.1955 ¹	91	91	0	0.0
03.1958	61	60	1	1.6
06.1962	77	77	0	0.0
09.1966 ³	82	82	0	0.0

1. First legislature of Cambodia after the country became independent on 9 November 1953; the Parliament was then called National Congress.
2. 2 members appointed by the King, 2 members elected by the National Assembly, at least 10 members elected by the Regions, at least 10 members elected by the trades, and 4 members elected by the civil servants.
3. The Parliament was subsequently dissolved following a military coup d'Etat on 18 March 1970.

II. Parliament of the Khmer Republic (bicameral) Senate

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
09.1972 ⁴	40	40	0	0.0

National Assembly

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
09.1972 ⁴	126	122	4	3.2

4. Parliament was dissolved following the fall of the régime on 17 April 1975.

(continued on next page)

CAMBODIA: (contd.)

III. Assembly of Representatives of Democratic Kampuchea (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
03.1976 ⁵	250	204	46	18.4

5. The Assembly was dissolved following the fall of the régime in January 1979.

IV. National Assembly of the People's Republic of Kampuchea (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
10.05.1981	117	95	22	18.8
07.12.1986	117	94	23	19.7
07.06.1987	117	92	25	21.4

CAMEROON

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 10.1946
(b) To stand for election: 10.1946

Assemblée nationale - National Assembly (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
04.1960 ¹	100	99	1	1.0
04.1962	50	49	1	2.0
04.1964	50	49	1	2.0
06.1970	50	48	2	4.0
05.1973	120	113	7	5.8
05.1978	120	108	12	10.0
05.1983	120	103	17	14.2
04.1988	180	154	26	14.4
03.1992	180	158	22	12.2

1. First legislature of Cameroon after the country became independent on 1 October 1961; the French-administered Cameroon had already become the Independent Republic of Cameroon on 1 January 1960.

First woman member of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
04.1960	1	Yes	No

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

CANADA

Date(s) on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 09.1917 - 05.1918 - 1950 ¹
 (b) To stand for election: 07.1920 - 08.1960 ¹

1. In September 1917, women who served in the military or who had a close male relative serving in the military (i.e. a father, husband or son) were granted the right to vote at the federal level. All women won the right to vote federally in May 1918. Women were given the right to stand for federal election in July 1920. In 1950 the federal franchise was extended to Indians (regardless of gender) only if they waived their tax exemptions under the Indian Act. Universal adult suffrage was not finally achieved federally until August 1960, with the unqualified extension of voting rights to all Indians under the Act to Amend the Canada Elections Act. It was not until 1969, when Quebec became the last province to extend franchise rights to Indians, that provincial voting was secured.

Parliament of Canada - *Parlement du Canada* (bicameral)

Senate - *Sénat*

Appointments (All) ²	Seats ³	Men	Women	% of women
1945	96	78	2	2.1
1946	96	93	2	2.1
1947	96	84	2	2.1
1948	96	80	2	2.1
1949	102	89	2	2.0
1950	102	86	2	2.0
1951	102	85	2	2.0
1952	102	81	2	2.0
1953	102	83	5	4.9
1954	102	77	5	4.9
1955	102	85	6	5.9
1956	102	78	6	5.9
1957	102	89	5	4.9
1958	102	88	5	4.9
1959	102	90	5	4.9
1960	102	95	7	6.9
1961	102	89	7	6.9
1962	102	92	7	6.9
1963	102	94	6	5.9
1964	102	93	6	5.9
1965	102	92	5	4.9
1966	102	91	4	3.9
1967	102	89	5	4.9
1968	102	88	5	4.9
1969	102	84	5	4.9
1970	102	85	6	5.9
1971	102	83	6	5.9
1972	102	88	8	7.8
1973	102	88	7	6.9

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CANADA: (contd.)**Senate - Sénat** (contd.)

Appointments (All) ²	Seats ³	Men	Women	% of women
1974	102	86	7	6.9
1975	104	85	6	5.8
1976	104	87	6	5.8
1977	104	90	6	5.8
1978	104	88	8	7.7
1979	104	92	11	10.6
1980	104	87	10	9.6
1981	104	83	9	8.7
1982	104	80	9	8.7
1983	104	83	9	8.7
1984	104	88	13	12.5
1985	104	90	12	11.5
1986	104	87	15	14.4
1987	104	87	13	12.5
1988	104	85	13	12.5
1989	104	93	11	10.6
1990	112	95	17	15.2
1991	107	92	15	14.0
1992	104	89	15	14.4
1993	104	88	16	15.4
1994	104	85	19	18.3

2. The term of office of individual Senators is continuous and lasts until the age of their retirement (75 years). However, Senators appointed prior to 1 June 1965 hold office for life. It was therefore important to give a breakdown of seats every year.

3. Vacancies in each year except in 1960.

House of Commons - Chambre des communes

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
06.1945	245	244	1	0.4
06.1949	262	261	1	0.4
08.1953	265	261	4	1.5
06.1957	265	263	2	0.8
03.1958	265	260	5	1.9
06.1962	265	260	5	1.9
04.1963	265	259	6	2.3
11.1965	265	261	4	1.5
06.1968	264	263	1	0.4
10.1972	264	259	5	1.9
07.1974	264	255	9	3.4
05.1979	282	272	10	3.5
02.1980	282	268	14	5.0
09.1984	282	255	27	9.6
11.1988	295 (1 vacancy)	255	39	13.3
10.1993	295	242	53	18.0

(continued on next page)

CANADA: (contd.)

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
12.1921	1 (House of Commons)	Yes	No
02.1930	1 (Senate)	No	Yes

President of Parliament or of one of its Chambers

Chamber	Period	Name
Senate	1972-1974	Muriel FERGUSSON
Senate	1974-1979	Renaude LA POINTE
House of Commons	1980-1984	Jeanne SAUVÉ

CAPE VERDE

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 05.07.1975
(b) To stand for election: 05.07.1975

Assembleia Nacional - National Assembly (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
07.1975 ¹	56	55	1	1.8
12.1980	63	55	8	12.7
12.1985	83 + 66 ²	71 + 75	10 + 11	12.0 + 16.7
01.1991	79	73	6	7.6

1. First legislature of Cape Verde after the country became independent on 5 July 1975.
2. 83 members and 66 substitute members elected at the same time.

First woman member of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
07.1975	1	Yes	No

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 1986
(b) To stand for election: 1986

Assemblée nationale - National Assembly (unicameral) ¹

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
08.1960 ²	50	50	0	0.0
03.1964 ³	50	50	0	0.0
07.1987	52	50	2	3.8
08-09.1993	85	82	3	3.5

1. The Constitution stipulates that Parliament also consists of an Economic and Regional Council.
2. First legislature of the Central African Republic after the country became independent on 13 August 1960.
3. The National Assembly was dissolved following a military coup d'Etat on 31 December 1965.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
07.1987	2	Yes	No

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

CHAD

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 1958
(b) To stand for election: 1958

Conseil supérieur de la transition - Higher Transitional Council (unicameral)

Appointments	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
04.1993 ¹	55	46	9	16.4

1. Legislative body created by the National Conference which met from January to April 1993; on 4 April 1994, the mandate of the Council was extended for twelve months. Legislative elections are scheduled for February 1996.

First woman member of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
03.1962	1	Yes	No

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

*** CHAD: Previous situation ***

National Assembly (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
03.1962 ¹	75	74	1	1.3
12.1963 ²	75	73	2	2.7
07.1990 ³	123	120	3	2.4

1. First legislature of Chad after the country became independent on 11 August 1960. The Parliament was dissolved by the presidential decree of 26 March 1963.
2. Parliament was dissolved.
3. Parliament was dissolved in December 1990 following an internal armed conflict.

CHILE

Dates on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 30.05.1931 - 15.05.1949 ¹
 (b) To stand for election: 30.05.1931 - 15.05.1949 ¹
 1. 1931 for municipal elections and 1949 for legislative and presidential elections.

Congreso Nacional - National Congress (bicameral)

Senado de la República - Senate

Elections & Appointments	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
03.1945	45	45	0	0.0
03.1953	45	44	1	2.2
03.1957	45	45	0	0.0
03.1961	45	45	0	0.0
03.1965	45	43	2	4.4
03.1969	50	48	2	4.0
03.1973 ²	50	48	2	4.0
12.1990	47	44	3	6.4
12.1993	46	43	3	6.5

Cámara de Diputados - Chamber of Deputies

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
03.1945	146	146	0	0.0
03.1949	146	145	1 ³	0.7
03.1953	146	145	1	0.7
03.1957	150	148	2	1.3
03.1961	150	145	5	3.3
03.1965	150	138	12	8.0
03.1969	150	140	10	6.7
03.1973 ²	150	137	13	8.7
12.1990	120	113	7	5.8
12.1993	120	111	9	7.5

2. Dissolution of the National Congress on 11 September 1973 following a military coup d'Etat.

3. A second woman was elected following by-elections on 24 April 1951.

First woman member of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
24.04.1951	1 (Chamber of Deputies)	Yes ⁴	No

4. During by-elections.

President of Parliament or of one of its Chambers: No woman has yet held this office.

CHINA

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 01.10.1949
(b) To stand for election: 01.10.1949

Quanguo Renmin Daibiao Dahui - National People's Congress (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
09.1954 ¹	1226	1079	147	12.0
04.1959	1226	1076	150	12.2
12.1964	3040	2498	542	17.8
01.1975	2885	2232	653	22.6
02.1978	3497	2755	742	21.2
06.1983	2978	2346	632	21.2
09.1987-03.1988	2978	2344	634	21.3
09.1992-03.1993	2978	2352	626	21.0

1. First legislature of the People's Republic of China.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
04.1954	147	Yes	No

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

COLOMBIA

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 25.08.1954¹
 (b) To stand for election: 25.08.1954¹
 1. As of this date the Constitutional National Assembly adopted Legislative Act No. 3 granting women full political rights.

Congreso - Congress (bicameral)

Senado de la República - Senate

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
16.03.1947	63	63	0	0.0
05.06.1949	63	63	0	0.0
16.09.1951	67	67	0	0.0
16.03.1958	80	79	1	1.3
20.03.1960	80	80	0	0.0
18.03.1962	98	97	1	1.0
15.03.1964	98	98	0	0.0
20.03.1966	106	102	4	3.8
17.03.1968	106	106	0	0.0
19.04.1970	118	115	3	2.5
21.04.1974	112	111	1	0.9
26.02.1978	112	111	1	0.9
14.03.1982	114	111	3	2.6
09.03.1986	114	110	4	3.5
11.03.1990 ²	114	113	1	0.9
27.10.1991	100	92	8	8.0
13.03.1994	102	95	7	6.9

Cámara de Representantes - House of Representatives

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
03.1947	131	131	0	0.0
06.1949	132	132	0	0.0
09.1951	76	76	0	0.0
03.1958	148	140	8	5.4
03.1960	146	142	4	2.7
03.1962	184	176	8	4.3
03.1964	184	175	9	4.9
03.1966	190	183	7	3.7
03.1968	204	196	8	3.9
04.1970	210	201	9	4.3
04.1974	199	187	12	6.0
02.1978	199	189	10	5.0
03.1982	199	192	7	3.5
03.1986	199	190	9	4.5
03.1990 ²	199	182	17	8.5
10.1991	166	149	17	10.2
03.1994	166	148	18	10.8

2. A Constituent Assembly including five women, was elected on 9 December 1990.

(continued on next page)

COLOMBIA: (contd.)

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
25.08.1954	2	No	Yes
16.03.1958	9	Yes	No

President of Parliament or of one of its Chambers: No woman has yet held this office.

COMOROS

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 1956
(b) To stand for election: 1956

Assemblée fédérale - Federal Assembly (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
12.1978 ¹	38	38	0	0.0
03.1982	38	38	0	0.0
03.1987	42	42	0	0.0
12.1993	42	41	1 ²	2.4

1. First legislature of the Comoros after the country became independent in December 1975.
2. Appointed Minister soon after her election, she gave up her seat in Parliament: No women out of 42 members: 0.0%.

First woman member of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
12.1993	1	Yes	No

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

CONGO

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 08.12.1963
 (b) To stand for election: 08.12.1963

Parlement - Parliament (bicameral)

Sénat - Senate

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
08.1993	60	59	1	1.7

Assemblée nationale - National Assembly

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
10.1993	125	123	2	1.6

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
12.1963	3	Yes	Yes

President of Parliament or of one of its Chambers: No woman has yet held this office.

*** CONGO: Previous situation ***

I. *Assemblée nationale populaire* - People's National Assembly ¹ (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
06.1959 ²	58	58	0	0.0
12.1963 ³	55	52	3	5.5
1970	420	408	12	2.9
06.1973	115	107	8	7.0
07.1979	153	140	13	8.5
09.1984	153	138	15	9.8
09.1989 ⁴	133	114	19	14.3

1. Called National Assembly until 1970.
2. The Assembly elected before independence, became the first legislature of Congo after the country became independent on 15 August 1960.
3. The Assembly was dissolved following a military coup d'Etat in August 1968 and replaced by the National Revolutionary Council.
4. The Assembly was dissolved by the National Conference convened on 25 February 1991; the latter established a Transitional Parliament in June 1991, the High Council of the Republic.

II. *Haut Conseil de la République - Parlement de la transition* - High Council of the Republic - Transitional Parliament ⁵ (unicameral)

Appointments (All)	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
06.1991	153	143	10	6.5

5. Responsible for drawing up a new Constitution.

COSTA RICA

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 17.11.1949
(b) To stand for election: 17.11.1949

Asamblea Legislativa - Legislative Assembly (unicameral)

Elections	Seats ¹	Men	Women	% of women
11.1949	45	45	0	0.0
11.1953	45	42	3	6.7
04.1958	45	43	2	4.4
02.1962	57	56	1	1.8
02.1966	57	54	3	5.2
02.1970	57	53	4	7.0
02.1974	57	54	3	5.3
02.1978	57	53	4	7.0
02.1982	57	53	4	7.0
02.1986	57	51	6	10.5
02.1990	57	50	7	12.3
02.1994	57	49	8	14.0

1. Substitute members were elected at the same time as titular members until February 1962.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
11.1953	3	Yes	No

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 1952
(b) To stand for election: 1952

Assemblée nationale - National Assembly (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
11.1960 ¹	70	70	0	0.0
11.1965	85	82	3	3.5
11.1970	100	97	3	3.0
11.1975	120	109	11	9.2
11.1980	147	139	8	5.4
11.1985	175	165	10	5.7
11.1990	175	167	8	4.6

1. First legislature of Côte d'Ivoire after the country became independent on 7 August 1960.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
07.11.1965	3	Yes	No

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

CROATIA

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 11.08.1945
(b) To stand for election: 11.08.1945

Sabor - Parliament ¹ (bicameral)

Zupanijski Dom - House of Zupanije

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
02.1993	68	65	3	4.4

Zastupnicki Dom - House of Representatives

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
08.1992	138	130	8	5.8

1. First legislature of Croatia after the country became independent on 8 October 1991.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
02.08.1992 ²	8	Yes	No

2. Croatian women were previously elected to the Parliament of the SFR of Yugoslavia: see page 269.

President of Parliament or of one of its Chambers

Chamber	Period	Name
<i>Zupanijski Dom</i>	1993-1997	Katica IVANISEVIC

CUBA

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 02.01.1934
(b) To stand for election: 02.01.1934

Asamblea Nacional del Poder Popular - National Assembly of the People's Power (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
11.1976	481	374	107	22.2
12.1981	499	386	113	22.6
11.1986	510	337	173	33.9
02.1993	589	455	134	22.8

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
14.07.1940	4	Yes	No

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

*** CUBA: Previous situation ***

National Congress (bicameral)

Senate

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
07.1940	36	34	2	5.6
06.1944	54	53	1	1.9
06.1948 ¹	54	54	0	0.0
11.1958 ²	54	53	1	1.9

National Assembly

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
07.1940	163	161	2	1.2
06.1944	69	67	2	2.9
06.1948 ¹	72	68	4	5.6
11.1958 ²	128	125	3	2.3

1. Congress was dissolved following a military coup d'Etat on 10 March 1952.
2. Congress was dissolved in January 1959.

CYPRUS

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 16.08.1960
(b) To stand for election: 16.08.1960

Vouli Antiprosopon - House of Representatives (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
07.1960 ¹	35 + 15 ²	35	0 ⁴	0.0
07.1970	35 + 15 ²	35	0	0.0
09.1976	35 + 15 ²	35	0	0.0
05.1981	35 + 15 ²	34	1	2.9
12.1985	56 + 24 ³	55	1	1.8
05.1991	56 + 24 ³	53	3 ⁵	5.4

1. First legislature of Cyprus after the country became independent on 16 August 1960.
2. 15 seats for Turkish Cypriots, which have remained vacant.
3. 24 seats reserved for Turkish Cypriots, which have remained vacant.
4. One woman elected in a by-election held in October 1963: 2.9%.
5. In March 1993, one of these women parliamentarians became Minister of Education and therefore gave up her seat in Parliament: 2 women out of 56 members: 3.6%.

First woman member of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
10.1963	1	Yes ⁶	Non

6. Elected in a by-election.

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

CZECH REPUBLIC

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 1920
 (b) To stand for election: 1920

Poslanecka Snemovna - Chamber of Deputies (unicameral) ¹

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
06.1992 ²	200	180	20	10.0

- According to the Constitution, the Parliament also comprises an 81-member elected Senate, which has not yet been formed.
- First legislature of the Czech Republic after the country became independent on 1 January 1993.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
06.1992 ³	20	Yes	No

- Czech women had previously been elected to the Federal Parliament of Czechoslovakia.

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

*** CZECHOSLOVAKIA: Previous situation ***

I. Parliament (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
04.1946 ¹	280	254	26	9.3
04.1948	300	242	48	16.0
11.1954	368	311	57	15.5
1960	300	238	62	20.7
1964 ²	300	240	60	20.0

- Constituent Assembly.
- Parliament was dissolved in August 1968 following the events of May 1968.

II. *Federalni Shromazdeni* - Federal Assembly (bicameral)

Snemovna Narodu - Chamber of Nations

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
11.1971	150	113	37	24.7
10.1976	150	109	41	27.3
06.1981	150	107	43	28.7
05.1986	150	106	44	29.3
06.1990 ³	150 ⁴	133	17	11.3
06.1992	150 ⁴	135	15	10.0

Snemovna Lidu - Chamber of the People

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
11.1971	200	148	52	26.0
10.1976	200	141	59	29.5
06.1981	200	144	56	28.0
05.1986	200	141	59	29.5
06.1990 ³	150	137	13	8.7
06.1992	150	138	12	8.0

- In 1990, both Chambers were elected with a shortened term of office (2 years) pending the adoption of a new Constitution.
- 75 members elected by the Czech Republic and 75 by the Slovak Republic.

DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 30.07.1946
(b) To stand for election: 30.07.1946

Choe Ko In Min Hoe Ui - Supreme People's Assembly (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
08.1948 ¹	572	503	69	12.1
08.1957	215	187	28	13.0
10.1962	383	349	34	8.9
11.1967	457	384	73	16.0
12.1972	541	428	113	20.9
11.1977	579	464	115	19.9
02.1982	615	495	120	19.5
11.1986	655	517	138	21.1
04.1990	687	549	138	20.1

1. First legislature of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, proclaimed on 9 September 1948.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
08.1948	69	Yes	No

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

DENMARK

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 05.06.1915
(b) To stand for election: 05.06.1915

Folketinget - Parliament (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
09.1953	179	162	17	9.5
05.1957	179	164	15	8.4
11.1960	179	162	17	9.5
09.1964	179	162	17	9.5
11.1966	179	160	19	10.6
01.1968	179	160	19	10.6
09.1971	179	148	31	17.3
12.1973	179	152	27	15.1
01.1975	179	151	28	15.6
02.1977	179	149	30	16.8
10.1979	179	137	42	23.5
12.1981	179	137	42	23.5
01.1984	179	132	47	26.3
09.1987	179	127	52	29.0
05.1988	179	124	55	30.7
12.1990	179	120	59	33.0
09.1994	179	119	60 ¹	33.5

1. 59 women in June 1995: 33.0%

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
1918 (Lower Chamber)	4	Yes	No
1918 (Upper Chamber)	5	Yes	No

President of Parliament or of one of its Chambers

Chamber	Period	Name
<i>Landsting</i> (Upper Chamber)	03.1950	Ingeborg HANSEN

(continued on next page)

DENMARK: (contd.)

*** DENMARK: Previous situation ***

Parliament (bicameral)

Landsting - Upper Chamber

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
11.04.1947	76	65	11	14.5
10.04.1951	76	64	12	15.8
28.04.1953	76	66	10	13.2

Folketing - Lower Chamber

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
30.10.1945	149	141	8	5.4
28.10.1947	150	137	13	8.7
05.09.1950	151	139	12	7.9
21.04.1953	151	137	14	9.3
22.09.1953	179	162	17	9.5

DJIBOUTI

Dates on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 1946
(b) To stand for election: 1986

Assemblée nationale - National Assembly (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
05.1977 ¹	65	65	0	0.0
05.1982	65	65	0	0.0
04.1987	65	65	0	0.0
12.1992	65	65	0	0.0

1. First legislature of Djibouti after the country became independent on 27 June 1977.

First woman member of Parliament: No woman has ever been elected to the National Assembly.

DOMINICA

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 07.1951
(b) To stand for election: 07.1951

House of Assembly (unicameral)

Elections & Appointments ¹	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
07.1980 ²	30	26	4	13.3
07.1985	30	27	3	10.0
05.1990	30	25	5 ³	16.7
06.1995	32	29	3	9.4

1. 21 elected Representatives, 9 Senators appointed by the Head of State plus the Speaker.
2. First legislature of Dominica after the country became independent on 3 November 1978.
3. Four women in October 1994.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
07.1980	4	Yes	No

President of Parliament or of one of its Chambers

Chamber	Period	Name
House of Assembly	1980-1988	Marie DAVIS-PIERRE
House of Assembly	1993-1995	Neva EDWARDS

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 1942
 (b) To stand for election: 1942

Congreso de la República - Congress of the Republic (bicameral)

Senado - Senate

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
1942	16	15	1	6.3
1946	19	19	0	0.0
1950	20	20	0	0.0
1954	23	20	3	13.0
1958	24	22	2	8.3
1962 ¹	27	26	1	3.7
1966	27	26	1	3.7
1970	27	23	4	14.8
1974	27	24	3	11.1
1978	27	25	2	7.4
1982	27	26	1	3.7
1986	30	29	1	3.3
1990	30	30	0	0.0
1994	30	29	1	3.3

Cámara de Diputados - Chamber of Deputies

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
1942	36	34	2	5.6
1947	38	37	1	2.6
1952	52	49	3	5.8
1957	58	57	1	1.7
1962 ¹	75	73	2	2.7
1966	74	71	3	4.1
1970	74	71	3	4.1
1974	91	78	13	14.3
1978	91	80	11	12.1
1982	120	113	7	5.8
1986	120	111	9	7.5
1990	120	106	14	11.7
1994	120	106	14	11.7

1. Congress was dissolved following a military coup d'Etat in 1962.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
1946	3	Yes	No

President of Parliament or of one of its Chambers: No woman has yet held this office.

ECUADOR

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 26.03.1929 - 1967 ¹
(b) To stand for election: 26.03.1929 - 1967 ¹
1. Between 1929 and 1967, voting was compulsory for men but optional for women; in 1967 it became compulsory for both sexes.

Congreso Nacional - National Congress (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
04.1979	69	69	0	0.0
29.01.1984	72	69	3	4.2
06.1986	72	71	1	1.4
01.1988	67	64	3	4.5
06.1990	67	62	5	7.5
05.1992	67	63	4	6.0
05.1994	67	64	3	4.5

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
1956	1	Yes ²	No
09.1960	2	Yes	No

2. Elected as substitute member, this parliamentarian sat occasionally.

President of Parliament or of one of its Chambers: No woman has yet held this office.

(continued on next page)

ECUADOR: (contd.)***** ECUADOR: Previous situation *******I. National Congress (bicameral)****Senate**

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
06.1948	47	47	0	0.0
06.1952	47	47	0	0.0
09.1960 ¹	47	47	0	0.0

Chamber of Deputies

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
06.1948	73	73	0	0.0
06.1952	73	73	0	0.0
09.1960 ¹	73	71	2	2.7

1. Congress was dissolved following a military coup d'Etat in July 1963.

II. Constituent Assembly (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
10.1966	77	76	1	1.3

III. National Congress² (bicameral)**Senate**

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
06.1968	51	50	1	2.0

Chamber of Deputies

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
06.1968	74	74	0	0.0

2. In June 1970, the National Congress was dissolved by President Velasco with the support of the armed forces.

EGYPT

(called United Arab Republic from February 1958 to September 1971: union with Syria)

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 23.06.1956
(b) To stand for election: 23.06.1956

Majlis Al-Chaab - People's Assembly (unicameral)

Elections & Appointments	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
03.1964	360	354	8	2.2
01.1969	360	357	3	0.8
11.1971 ¹	360	352	8	2.2
11.1976	360	354	6	1.7
06.1979	392	357	35 ³	8.9
05.1984	458	422	36 ³	7.9
04.1987	458	440	18	3.9
11-12.1990	454	444	10 ⁴	2.2

1. First legislature of the Arab Republic of Egypt.
2. 10 members appointed by the Head of State.
3. 30 reserved seats.
4. Seven elected and three appointed.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
03.07.1957	2	Yes	No

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

*** EGYPT: Previous situation ***

I. *Majlis* - Assembly (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
01.1950 ¹	319	319	0	0.0
07.1957	350	348	2	0.6

1. Parliament was dissolved by royal decree on 24 March 1952.

II. Unitary Assembly of the United Arab Republic (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
21.07.1960 ²	400	393	7	1.8

2. The 400-member Assembly of Egypt, including 7 women, and 200 members of the Chamber of Deputies of Syria, no women among them. The Assembly was dissolved following a military coup d'Etat on 29 September 1961 in Damascus, following which Syria seceded from the UAR and established the independent Syrian Arab Republic.

EL SALVADOR

Dates on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 1939
(b) To stand for election: 1961

Asamblea legislativa - Legislative Assembly (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
29.12.1961 ¹	54	52	2	3.7
01.06.1964	52	51	1	1.9
01.06.1966	52	46	6	11.5
01.06.1968	52	50	2	3.8
01.06.1970	52	50	2	3.8
01.06.1972	52	50	2	3.8
01.06.1974	52	49	3	5.8
01.06.1976	54	51	3	5.6
01.04.1978 ²	54	50	4	7.4
22.04.1982 ³	60	52	8	13.3
20.12.1983	60	53	7	11.7
01.05.1985	60	56	4	6.7
01.05.1988	60	53	7	11.7
01.05.1991	84	77	7 + 7 ⁴	8.3 + 8.3
01.05.1994	84	75	9	10.7

1. First legislative elections in which women could run as candidates: the Constituent Assembly elected in 1961 became a Legislative Assembly as of January 1962.
2. The Legislative Assembly was dissolved following a military coup d'Etat on 15 October 1979.
3. Constituent Assembly.
4. Titular and substitute members.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
29.12.1961	2	Yes	No

President of Parliament or of one of its Chambers

Chamber	Period	Name
Legislative Assembly	1994-1997	Gloria SALGUERO GROSS

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 15.12.1963
(b) To stand for election: 15.12.1963

Cámara de Representantes del Pueblo - House of Representatives of the People (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
09.1968 ¹	35	33	2	5.7
08.1983	60	58	2	3.3
07.1988	60	52	8	13.3
11.1993	80	74	6	7.5

1. First legislature of Equatorial Guinea after the country became independent on 12 October 1968. The Assembly was later suspended in February 1970 by the President of the Republic, then dissolved in July 1972, date on which the new Constitution gave the President of the Republic full powers.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
09.1968	2	Yes	No

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

ERITREA

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 04.11.1955 (?)
(b) To stand for election: 04.11.1955 (?)

Hagerawi Baito - National Assembly (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
02.1994 ¹	105	83	22 ²	21.0

1. First legislature of Eritrea after the country became independent on 24 May 1993.
2. Ten seats reserved for women.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
02.1994	22	Yes (10 seats reserved)	No

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

ESTONIA

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 24.11.1918
(b) To stand for election: 24.11.1918

Riigikogu - State Assembly (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
03.1990 ¹	105	99	6	5.7
09.1992	102	88	14	13.7
03.1995	101	88	13	12.9

1. The Soviet Supreme of the SSR of Estonia became the first legislature of Estonia after the restoration of the country's independence on 20 August 1991.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
07.04.1919 ²	2	Yes	No
29.11.1920	2	Yes	No
03.1990	6	Yes	No

2. Constituent Assembly.

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

ETHIOPIA

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 04.11.1955
 (b) To stand for election: 04.11.1955

Yetewekayoch Mekir Bet - Council of Representatives (unicameral) ¹

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
06.1994	87	85	2	2.3
05.1995	220	189	11	5.0

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
10.1957	2	Yes	No

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

*** ETHIOPIA: Previous situation ***

I. Parliament of the Empire of Ethiopia (bicameral)

Senate

Appointments (All)	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
10.1957 ¹	35	35	0	0.0
1962	35 (?)	35 (?)	0	0.0
?	?	?	0	0.0
?	?	?	0	0.0
07.1973 ²	125	125 (?)	0	0.0

Chamber of Deputies

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
10.1957 ¹	210	208	2	1.0
1962	210	206	4	1.9
?	?	?	?	?
?	?	?	?	?
07.1973 ²	250	246	4	1.6

1. First legislature of the Empire since 1932.

2. Parliament was dissolved in September 1974 following the Revolution.

II. National Shengo National of the Republic (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
06.1987 ³	835	834	1 ⁴	0.1

3. The National Conference of July 1991 dissolved the National *Shengo* and on a transitional basis established a Council of the Republic.

4. One woman among the 136 members of the Central Bureau of the National Shengo and 6 substitute women members among the 64 substitute members of the Central Bureau; no women among the members of the Politburo of the National Shengo.

FIJI

Dates on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 17.04.1963
(b) To stand for election: 04.05.1963

Parliament of Fiji (bicameral)

Senate

Appointments (All)	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
11.1970 ¹	22	21	1	4.5
03.1976	22	21	1	4.5
07.1982 ²	22	21	1	4.5
06.1992	34	31	3	8.8

House of Representatives

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
05.1972 ¹	52	50	2	3.8
03-04.1977	52	51	1	1.9
09.1977	52	51	1	1.9
07.1982 ²	52	51	1	1.9
05.1987	51	51	0	0.0
05.1992	70	69	1	1.4
02.1994	70	67	3	4.3

1. First legislature of Fiji after the country became independent on 10 October 1970.
2. Parliament was dissolved following a military coup d'Etat of 1987.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
11.1970	1 (Senate)	No	Yes
05.1972	2 (House of Rep.)	Yes	No

President of Parliament or of one of its Chambers: No woman has yet held this office.

FINLAND

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 20.07.1906
(b) To stand for election: 20.07.1906

Eduskunta - Riksdagen - Parliament (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
1945	200	182	18	9.0
1954	200	170	30	15.0
1962	200	172	28	14.0
1966	200	167	33	16.5
03.1970	200	167	33	16.5
01.1972	200	157	43	21.5
09.1975	200	154	46	23.0
03.1979	200	148	52	26.0
03.1983	200	139	61	30.5
03.1987	200	137	63	31.5
03.1991	200	122	78	39.0
03.1995	200	133	67	33.5

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
16.03.1907	19	Yes	No

President of Parliament

Chamber	Period	Name
<i>Eduskunta - Riksdagen</i>	1991-1995	Riitta UOSUKAINEN
<i>Eduskunta - Riksdagen</i>	1995-1999	Riitta UOSUKAINEN

FRANCE

Date on which women were given the right

(a) To vote:	21.04.1944
(b) To stand for election:	21.04.1944

Parlement - Parliament (bicameral)

Sénat - Senate

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
12.1946	314	293	21	6.7
11.1948	320	308	12	3.8
05.1951	319	310	9	2.8
06.1955	319	310	9	2.8
06.1958	314	308	6	1.9
04.1959	307	302	5	1.6
09.1962	274	269	5	1.8
09.1964	274	269	5	1.8
09.1968	283	278	5	1.8
09.1971	283	279	4	1.4
09.1974	283	276	7	2.5
09.1977	295	290	5	1.7
09.1980	304	297	7	2.3
09.1983	317	308	9	2.8
09.1986	319	310	9	2.8
09.1989	321	311	10 ¹	3.1
09.1992	321	305	16	5.0

1. Eleven in 1991: 3.5%.

Assemblée nationale - National Assembly

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
10.1945	586	553	33	5.6
06.1946	586	556	30	5.1
11.1946	618	575	43	7.0
06.1951	627	604	23	3.7
01.1956	596	577	19	3.2
11.1958	586	577	9	1.5
11.1962	482	473	9	1.9
03.1967	487	476	11	2.3
06.1968	487	477	10	2.1
03.1973	490	477	13	2.7
03.1978	491	470	21	4.3
06.1981	491	456	35	7.1
03.1986	577	539	38	6.6
06.1988	577	537	40	6.9
03.1993	577	540	37	6.4

(continued on next page)

FRANCE: (contd.)

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
10.1945	33 (National Assembly)	Yes	No
12.1946	21 (Senate)	Yes	No

President of Parliament or of one of its Chambers: No woman has yet held this office.

GABON

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 23.05.1956
(b) To stand for election: 23.05.1956

Assemblée nationale - National Assembly (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
02.1961 ¹	67	66	1	1.5
04.1964	47	?	?	?
03.1967	67	67	0	0.0
02.1973	70	67	3	4.3
02.1980	93	80	13	14.0
02.1985	120 ²	103	16	13.3
09-10.1990	120 ² (1 vacancy)	112	7	5.9

1. First legislature of Gabon after the country became independent on 17 August 1960. The Assembly was then dissolved following a military coup d'Etat in February 1964
2. 111 elected and 9 appointed by the Head of State.

First woman member of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
12.02.1961	1	?	?

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

GAMBIA

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 1960
(b) To stand for election: 1960

Women in Parliament: See previous situation below.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
05.1982 (?)	3	Yes (?)	No (?)

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

*** GAMBIA: Previous situation ***

House of Representatives (unicameral)

Elections & Appointments ¹	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
05.1966 ²	41	41	0	0.0
03.1972	41	41	0	0.0
04.1977	45	?	?	?
05.1982	49	46	3	6.1
03.1987	51	47	4	7.8
04.1992 ³	51	47	4 ⁴	7.8

1. A number of appointed members and *ex-officio* members in all legislatures.
2. First legislature of the Gambia after the country became independent on 18 February 1965; Parliament was then called **Legislative Assembly**.
3. The House was dissolved following a military coup d'Etat on 22 July 1994.
4. All appointed.

GEORGIA

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 22.11.1918 - 21.02.1921 ¹
(b) To stand for election: 22.11.1918 - 21.02.1921 ¹
1. Article 1 of the Law of 22 November 1918 regarding legislative elections, granting women the right to vote and to be elected, was adopted by the National Council and Council of Ministers. The Constitution of 21 February 1921 confirmed these rights in Article 46.

Sakartvelos Parlamenti - Parliament (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
10-11.1990 ²	250	232	18	7.2
10.1992	222	208	14	6.3

2. The Supreme Soviet of the SSR of Georgia became the first legislature of Georgia after the country became independent in April 1991.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
10.1992 ³	14	Yes	No

3. Georgian women were previously elected to the Supreme Soviet of SSR of Georgia and to the Parliament of the USSR: see page 213.

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

GERMANY

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 12.11.1918
 (b) To stand for election: 12.11.1918

Parliament: There is no official name for the two Chambers as a whole.

Bundesrat - Federal Council

Appointments	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
12.1990	68	58	10	14.7
10.1994	68	55	13	19.1

Deutscher Bundestag - Federal Diet

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
12.1990	662	526	136	20.5
10.1994	672	495	177 ¹	26.2

1. 176 women in June 1995

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
01.1919	41	Yes	No

President of Parliament or of one of its Chambers

Chamber	Period	Name
<i>Bundestag</i>	1972-1976	Annemarie RENGER
<i>Bundestag</i>	1988-1994	Rita SÜSSMUTH
<i>Bundestag</i>	1994-1998	Rita SÜSSMUTH

*** GERMANY: Previous situation ***

I. GERMANY (Federal Republic of)

Bicemeral Parliament: There was no official name for the two Chambers as a whole.

Bundesrat - Federal Council

Appointments ¹	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
08.1949	46 + 32 ²	46 + 31 ²	0 + 1 ²	0.0 + 1.3 ²
01.1950	46 + 36	46 + 35	0 + 1	0.0 + 1.2
01.1960	44 + 60	44 + 55	0 + 5	0.0 + 4.8
01.1970	45 + 62	44 + 61	1 + 1	2.2 + 1.9
01.1980	45 + 76	42 + 68	3 + 8	6.7 + 9.1
01.1985	45 + 79	44 + 69	1 + 10	2.2 + 8.8
06.1987	45 + 82	44 + 70	1 + 12	2.2 + 10.2

- Members belonged to a Government of a *Land* (State) which appointed (and recalled) them; their term of office depended on the duration of the term of the *Land* Parliament which they represented. As this duration varied, the *Bundesrat* was a permanent body with no fixed legislative period.
- Regular members + deputy members.

(continued on next page)

GERMANY: (contd.)

Deutscher Bundestag - Federal Diet

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
08.1949	410	382	28	6.8
09.1953	509	464	45	8.8
09.1957	519	471	48	9.2
09.1961	521	478	43	8.3
09.1965	518	482	36	6.9
09.1969	518	484	34	6.6
11.1972	518	488	30	5.8
10.1976	518	480	38	7.3
10.1980	519	475	44	8.5
03.1983	520	469	51	9.8
01.1987 ¹	519	439	80 ¹	15.4 ¹

1. Following the unification of Germany on 3 October 1990, the composition of the *Bundestag* was enlarged with the inclusion of 144 members of the former People's Chamber of the German Democratic Republic: out of the 663 parliamentarians forming the *Bundestag*, 144 (i.e. 18.3%) were women.

II. GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

Volkskammer - People's Chamber (unicameral)

Called *Volkskammer und Länderkammer* (People's and States Chamber) between 1950 and 1958 and *Volkskammer der DDR* (People's Chamber of the GDR) between 1963 and 1990

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
10.1950	466	338	128	27.5
10.1954	466	352	114	24.5
11.1958	466	352	114	24.5
10.1963	500	363	137	27.4
07.1967	500	347	153	30.6
11.1971	500	341	159	31.8
10.1976	500	332	168	33.6
06.1981	500	338	162	32.4
06.1986	500	339	161	32.2
03.1990 ²	400	318	82	20.5

2. On 3 October 1990, the GDR acceded to Article 23 of the Basic Law of the Federal Republic of Germany: see footnote 1 above.

GHANA

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 1954
(b) To stand for election: 1954

Parliament (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
07.1956 ¹	?	?	?	?
08.1960	104	94	10	9.6
06.1965 ²	104	94	10	9.6
09.1969 ³	140	138	2	1.4
06.1979 ⁴	140	135	5	3.6
12.1992	200	184	16	8.0

1. The Legislative Assembly of the Gold Coast, elected on 17 July 1956, became the first legislature of Ghana after the country became independent on 6 March 1957.
2. Parliament was dissolved following a military coup d'Etat in January 1966.
3. Parliament was dissolved following a military coup d'Etat in January 1972.
4. Parliament was dissolved following a military coup d'Etat on 31 December 1981; a Consultative Assembly comprising 260 members (including ? women) was established in May 1991 with a mandate to draw up a draft Constitution.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
08.1960	10	No	Yes
08.1969	2	Yes	No

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

GREECE

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 01.01.1952 ¹
- (b) To stand for election: 01.01.1952 ¹
1. The Constitution of 1927 provides that all Greek citizens are equal in law and that "*political rights can be conferred to women by law*". On 2 January 1930, the Council of State expressed the view that women could have the right to vote in municipal and communal elections. In April 1949, Law N° 959 gave to women the right to vote and to stand for office in municipal and communal elections. The Constitution of 1 January 1952 then established the right to vote and to stand for election at the national level.

Vouli Ton Ellinon - Greek Chamber of Deputies (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
03.1946	354	354	0	0.0
03.1950	250	250	0	0.0
09.1951	258	258	0	0.0
11.1952	300	299	1	0.3
02.1956	300	298	2	0.7
05.1958	300	296	4	1.3
10.1961	300	298	2	0.7
11.1963	300	299	1	0.3
02.1964 ²	300	298	2	0.7
11.1974	300	294	6	2.0
11.1977	300	290	10	3.3
10.1981	300	287	13	4.3
06.1985	300	287	13	4.3
06.1989	300	288	12	4.0
11.1989	300	280	20	6.7
04.1990	300	284	16 ³	5.3
10.1993	300	282	18	6.0

2. The Chamber was dissolved by Royal decree on 14 April 1967 and new elections were announced. Parliament was suspended following a military coup d'Etat on 21 April 1967.

3. Two women resigned.

First woman member of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
11.1952	1	Yes	No

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

GRENADA

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 08.1951
(b) To stand for election: 08.1951

Parliament (bicameral)

Senate

Appointments (All)	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
02.1972 ¹	13	12	1	7.7
12.1976 ²	13	12	1	7.7
12.1984 ³	13	12	1	7.7
03.1990	13	11	2	15.4

House of Representatives

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
02.1972 ¹	15	12	3	20.0
12.1976 ²	15	12	3	20.0
12.1984 ³	16	14	2	12.5
03.1990	15	13	2	13.3
06.1995	15	12	3	20.0

1. The Parliament elected in February 1972 became the first legislature of Grenada after the country became independent on 7 February 1974.
2. Parliament was dissolved following a military coup d'Etat on 13 March 1979.
3. The term of the Parliament was extended on 23 August 1989.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
12.1976	4	3	1

President of Parliament or of one of its Chambers

Chamber	Period	Name
Senate	1990-1996	Margaret NECKLES

GUATEMALA

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 1946
 (b) To stand for election: 1946

Congreso de la República - Congress of the Republic (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
10.1954 ¹	66	65	1	1.5
12.1955	66	66	0 ⁶	0.0
01.1958 ²	66	66	0	0.0
05.1964 ³	94	94	0	0.0
03.1966	55	54	1	1.8
03.1970	49	48	1	2.0
03.1974	50	48	2	4.0
03.1978	62	60	2	3.2
03.1982 ⁴	66	---	---	---
07.1984 ⁵	88	85	3	3.4
11.1985	100	93	7 ⁷	7.0
11.1990	116	110	6	5.2
08.1994	80	74	6	7.5

1. Congress was dissolved following a military coup d'Etat in 1954.
2. Congress was dissolved following a military coup d'Etat in March 1963.
3. Constituent Assembly.
4. The Congress elected on 7 March 1982 was dissolved following a military coup d'Etat on 23 March 1982.
5. Constituent Assembly.
6. A woman elected on 1 March 1956 by the drawing of lots: 1.5%.
7. Among these seven women MPs was the first indigenous woman MP (*Maya*); a second indigenous woman MP was subsequently elected in 1994.

First woman member of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
01.03.1956	1	Yes (drawing of lots)	No

President of Parliament or of one of its Chambers

Chamber	Period	Name
Congress of the Republic	14.01.1991-14.01.1992	Ana Catalina SOBERANIS REYES
Congress of the Republic	01.1994-01.1995	Arabella CASTRO DE CAMPARINI

GUINEA

(called People's Revolutionary Republic of Guinea from November 1978 to 26 March 1984)

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 02.10.1958
(b) To stand for election: 02.10.1958

Assemblée nationale - National Assembly ¹ (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
09.1963 ²	75	61	14	18.7
01.1968	75	59	16	21.3
12.1974	150	125	25	16.7
01.1980 ³	210	?	?	?
06.1995	114	106	8	7.0

1. Called Legislative Assembly until 1980.
2. First legislature of Guinea after the country became independent on 2 October 1958.
3. The Parliament was then dissolved following a military coup d'Etat on 3 April 1984.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
09.1963	14	Yes	No

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

GUINEA-BISSAU

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 1977
(b) To stand for election: 1977

Assembleia Nacional Popular - National People's Assembly (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
08-14.10.1972 ¹	120 ³	110	10	8.3
19-21.12.1976 ²	150	131	19	12.7
31.03.1984	150	128	22	14.7
01.06.1989	150	120	30	20.0
03.07.1994	100	90	10	10.0

1. The Parliament elected in 1972 became the first legislature of Guinea-Bissau after the country became independent on 24 September 1974. It should be noted that for security reasons, elections were not held on the same date in all parts of the country.
2. The Assembly was then dissolved following a military coup d'Etat on 14 November 1990.
3. 80 members elected and 40 members appointed by the African Party for the Freedom of Guinea-Bissau and the Islands of Cape Verde.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
14.10.1972	10	No	Yes
31.03.1984	22	Yes	No

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

GUYANA

Dates on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 1953 ¹
(b) To stand for election: 1945 ¹
1. In 1953, universal adult suffrage was granted to both men and women 20 years and over; women became eligible to sit in the Legislative Council of British Guyana in 1945.

National Assembly (unicameral)

Elections & Appointments ²	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
12.1964 ³	53	?	?	?
12.1968	59	52	7	11.9
07.1973 ⁴	59	52	7	11.9
12.1980	65	51	14	21.5
12.1985 ⁵	65	41	24	36.9
10.1992	65	52	13	20.0

2. 17 members appointed from 1980 to 1995.
3. The Assembly of British Guyana elected on 7 December 1964 became the first legislature of Guyana after the country became independent on 26 May 1966.
4. Mandate extended the first time until October 1979; then a second time until October 1980.
5. 5-year term extended in December 1990 until compilation of a new voters' register.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
04.1953 ⁶	?	Yes	No
12.1968	7	Yes	No

6. Prior to independence.

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

HAITI

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 25.11.1950
 (b) To stand for election: 25.11.1950¹
 1. Right to be elected confirmed by Article 16 of the 1957 Constitution.

Corps législatif - Legislative body (bicameral)

Sénat - Senate

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
07.02.1988 ²	27	26	1	3.7
07.02.1991	27	27	0	0.0
24.06.1995	27	?	?	?

Chambre des députés - Chamber of Deputies

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
07.02.1988 ²	77 ³	75	1	1.3
07.02.1991	83 ³	79	3	3.6
24.06.1995	83	?	?	?

2. The Parliament was dissolved following a military coup d'Etat on 20 June 1988.

3. One seat abolished.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
12.05.1961	3	Yes	No

President of Parliament or of one of its Chambers: No woman has yet held this office.

*** HAITI: Previous situation ***

I. *Parlement* - Parliament (bicameral)

Sénat - Senate

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
30.01.1941	21	21	0	0.0
02.07.1946	21	21	0	0.0
02.04.1950 ¹	21	21	0	0.0
06.12.1950	21	21	0	0.0
22.01.1955	21	21	0	0.0
11.10.1957	21	21	0	0.0

Chambre des députés - Chamber of Deputies

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
30.01.1941	37	37	0	0.0
02.07.1946	37	37	0	0.0
02.04.1950 ¹	37	37	0	0.0
06.12.1950	37	37	0	0.0
22.01.1955	37	37	0	0.0
11.10.1957	37	37	0	0.0

1. The Parliament was subsequently dissolved on 10 May 1950 following a military coup d'Etat.

(continued on next page)

HAITI: (contd.)

II. *Chambre législative* - Legislative Assembly (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
12.05.1961	58	55	3	5.2
10.04.1967	58	53	5	8.6
09.04.1973	58	56	2	3.4
14.04.1979 ²	58	55	3	5.2
09.04.1984	59	54	5	8.5

2. Parliament was subsequently dissolved following the partial revision of the Constitution.

HONDURAS

Date on which women were given the right

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------|
| (a) To vote: | 25.01.1955 |
| (b) To stand for election: | 25.01.1955 |

Congreso Nacional - National Congress (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
1949	48	48	0	0.0
10.1954 ¹	59	59	0	0.0
1957 ²	58	55	3	5.2
02.1965 ³	64	62	2	3.1
03.1971 ⁴	62	56	6	9.7
03.1980 ⁵	71	67	4	5.6
11.1981 ⁶	82	75	7	8.5
11.1985	133	123	10	7.5
11.1989	128	115	13	10.2
11.1993	128	119	9	7.0

1. The National Congress was dissolved following a coup d'Etat in 1956.
2. The National Congress was dissolved following a military coup d'Etat in 1963.
3. Constituent Assembly.
4. The National Congress was dissolved following a military coup d'Etat in December 1972, followed by two further military coups d'Etat.
5. Constituent Assembly.
6. The National Congress was dissolved following a military coup d'Etat in March 1984.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
1957	3	Yes	No

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

HUNGARY

Dates on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 17.05.1953
(b) To stand for election: 16.11.1958

Országgyűlés - National Assembly (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
1945	421	409	12	2.9
08.1947	411	389	22	5.4
04.1949	402	331	71	17.7
1953	298	246	52	17.4
1958	338	276	62	18.3
02.1963	340	278	62	18.2
03.1967	349	280	69	19.8
04.1971	352	268	84	23.9
06.1975	352	251	101	28.7
06.1980	352	246	106	30.1
06.1985	386	306	80	20.7
03-04.1990	386	358	28	7.3
05.1994	386	344	44	11.4

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
1945	11	Yes	No

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

ICELAND

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 19.06.1915
 (b) To stand for election: 19.06.1915

Althingi - Parliament (unicameral) ¹

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
06.1946	52	51	1	1.9
10.1949	52	50	2	3.8
06.1953	52	52	0	0.0
06.1956	52	51	1	1.9
06.1959	52	50	2	3.8
10.1959	60	58	2	3.3
06.1963	60	59	1	1.7
06.1967	60	59	1	1.7
06.1971	60	57	3	5.0
06.1974	60	57	3	5.0
06.1978	60	57	3	5.0
12.1979	60	57	3	5.0
04.1983	60	51	9	15.0
04.1987	63	50	13	20.6
04.1991	63	48	15	23.8
04.1995	63	47	16	25.4

1. Until it became a unicameral Parliament in 1991, the *Althingi* was elected as a single legislative body but operated as a tricameral Parliament: the Upper House (comprised of 21 members) and the Lower House (comprised of 42 members) dealt with legislative matters, while the joint *Althingi* (comprised of all 63 members) dealt with all other issues.

First woman member of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
08.07.1922	1	Yes	No

President of Parliament or of one of its Chambers

Chamber	Period	Name
Lower House	1974-1978	Ragnbildur HELGADOTTIR
Upper House	1983-1987	Salome THORKELSDOTTIR
United <i>Althingi</i>	1988-1991	Gudrun HELGADOTTIR
<i>Althingi</i>	1991-1995	Salome THORKELSDOTTIR

INDIA

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 26.01.1950
(b) To stand for election: 26.01.1950

Sansad - Parliament (bicameral)

Rajya Sabha - Council of States

Elections & Appointments	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
10.1951-02.1952 ¹	216	201	15	6.9
1955	219	202	17	7.8
1957	232	212	20	8.6
1958	232	210	22	9.4
1960	236	212	24	10.2
1962	236	218	18	7.6
1964	238	217	21	8.8
1966	238	215	23	9.6
1968	240	218	22	9.1
1970	240	226	14	5.8
1972	243	225	18	7.4
03.1974	243	226	17	7.0
03.1976	244	220	24	9.8
04.1978	244	219	25	10.2
04.1980	244	215	29	11.8
04.1982	244	220	24	9.8
03.1984	244	216	28	11.5
1986	244	219	25	10.2
03.1988	245	220	25	10.2
03.1990-01.1991 ²	245 ³	221	24	9.8
03-07.1992	245	228	17	6.9
1994	245	225	20	8.2

1. First legislature of India after the country became independent on 15 August 1947.
2. Elections in 29 March 1990 and appointments on 11 January 1991.
3. Including 12 members appointed by the President of India.

(continued on next page)

INDIA: (contd.)**Lok Sabha - House of the People**

Elections	Seats ⁶	Men	Women	% of women
10.1951-02.1952 ⁵	499	479	20	4.0
04.1957	493	466	27	5.5
04.1962	503	469	34	6.8
02.1967	523	492	31	5.9
03.1971	518	497	21	4.1
03.1977	540	522	18	3.3
01.1980	537	510	27	5.0
12.1984	528	487	41	7.8
11.1989	521	495	26	5.0
04-06.1991	498	462	36 ⁷	7.2

5. First legislature of India after the country became independent on 15 August 1947

6. Respective shares of men and women in each *Lok Sabha* are compared with the total membership of each *Lok Sabha* at the time of its constitution and first sitting. Thus, information relating to elections annulled or held later on, and by-elections have been excluded from this table. The figures given under the column "Seats" may not necessarily indicate the official strength of different *Lok Sabhas*. Similarly, when two members from the Anglo-Indian Community have been mentioned after the date of the constitution and first sitting of the House, they have been excluded from this table wherever necessary.

7. 528 members; including 42 women in October 1994: 8.0%.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
04.1952	35	Yes	No

President of Parliament or of one of its Chambers: No woman has yet held this office.

INDONESIA

Date on which women were given the right

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------|
| (a) To vote: | 17.08.1945 |
| (b) To stand for election: | 17.08.1945 |

Dewan Perwakilan Rakyat (DPR) - House of Representatives (unicameral)

Elections & Appointments	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
02.1950 ¹⁺²	151	147	4	2.7
08.1950 ²	236	228	8	3.4
09.1955 ¹⁺³	272	255	17	6.3
07.1959 ²	259	243	16	6.2
06.1960 ²	304	276	28	9.2
12.1966 ²	350	321	29	8.3
02.1968 ²	414	383	31	7.5
07.1971	460 ⁴	427	33	7.2
05.1977	460 ⁴	426	34	7.4
05.1982	460 ⁴	418	42	9.1
04.1987	500 ⁵	438	62	12.4
06.1992	500 ⁵	439	61	12.2

1. First legislature of Indonesia after the country became independent on 17 August 1945.
2. No elections for the periods 02.1950 to 08.1950, 08.1950 to 03.1956, 03.1956 to 07.1959, 07.1959 to 06.1960, 06.1960 to 12.1966, 12.1966 to 02.1968 and 02.1968 to 07.1971: all members were appointed by political parties and appointed by the President of the Republic.
3. A Constituent Assembly composed of 520 members was also elected in December 1955; number of women not known.
4. Including 75 members of the Armed Forces who are appointed by the President of the Republic.
5. Including 100 members of the Armed Forces who are appointed by the President of the Republic.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
02.1950	4	No	Yes
07.1971	33	Yes	No

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

IRAN (Islamic Republic of)

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 06.10.1963
(b) To stand for election: 06.10.1963

Majles Shoraye Eslami - Islamic Consultative Assembly (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
05.1980	270	266	4	1.5
05.1984	270	266	4	1.5
04-05.1988	270	266	4	1.5
04-05.1992	261	252	9	3.5

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
09.1963	8	6	2

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

(continued on next page)

IRAN (Islamic Republic of): (contd)

*** IRAN: Previous situation ***

I. *Majlis* - National Assembly (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
25.02.1944	136	136	0	0.0
17.07.1947	136	136	0	0.0

II. *Parlement* (bicameral)

Senate

Elections & Appointments ¹	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
09.1949 ²	60	---	---	---
03.1954	60	60	0	0.0
08.1960 ⁴	60	---	---	---
09.1963	60	58	2	3.3
08.1967	60	58	2	3.3
07.1971	60	57	3	5.0
06.1975 ⁷	60	58	2	3.3

Majlis - National Assembly

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
09.1949 ²	136	---	---	---
02.1950 ³	115	115	0	0.0
03.1954	135	135	0	0.0
08.1960 ⁴	136	---	---	---
03.1961 ⁵	196	196	0	0.0
09.1963	198	192	6	3.0
08.1967 ⁶	219	212	7	3.2
07.1971	268	250	18	6.7
06.1975 ⁷	268	248	20	7.5

1. 30 appointed members and 30 elected members.
2. Elections held in September 1949 were cancelled one month later due to irregularities.
3. Parliament was dissolved following a military coup d'Etat in August 1953.
4. Elections were cancelled.
5. Parliament was then dissolved on 8 May 1961 by decree of the Shah.
6. A Constituent Assembly set up of 279 members was elected on 4 August 1967.
7. The Parliament of the Empire of Iran was dissolved following the Islamic Revolution of 10 February 1979.

IRAQ

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 02.1980
 (b) To stand for election: 02.1980

Majlis Watani - National Assembly (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
06.1980	250	234	16	6.4
10.1984	250	217	33	13.2
04.1989 ¹	250	223	27	10.8

1. Mandate renewed for two years in January 1993 as of 1 April 1993, then again renewed for one year (until January 1996).

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
06.1980	16	Yes	No

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

*** IRAQ: Previous situation ***

Parliament (bicameral)

Senate

Appointments (All)	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
1944 ? ¹	?	?	0	0.0
06.1948 ²	?	?	0	0.0
01.1953	?	?	0	0.0
06.1954 ³	?	?	0	0.0
09.1954	?	?	0	0.0
04.1958 ⁴	?	?	0	0.0

Majlis Alluma' - National Assembly

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
1944 ? ¹	138 ?	138 ?	0	0.0
06.1948 ²	138	138	0	0.0
01.1953	135	135	0	0.0
06.1954 ³	135	135	0	0.0
09.1954	135	135	0	0.0
04.1958 ⁴	145	145	0	0.0

- The National Assembly was dissolved by Royal Decree of 19 February 1948 on the grounds that it "no longer represented the nation" and had been "elected illegally".
- The Assembly was then dissolved by royal decree on 17 October 1952.
- The Assembly was then dissolved by royal decree on 4 August 1954.
- The Assembly was then dissolved following the Revolution of 17 July 1958.

IRELAND

Dates on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 06.02.1918 - 02.07.1928 ¹
 (b) To stand for election: 06.02.1918 - 02.07.1928 ¹
 1. 1918 for women over 30 years of age; 1928 for the granting of the same voting rights as men.

An Oireachtas - The Parliament (bicameral)

Seanad Eireann - Senate

Elections	Seats ²	Men	Women	% of women
05.1944	60	57	3	5.0
02.1948	60	57	3 ³	5.0
08.1951	60	57	3	5.0
07.1954	60	57	3	5.0
05.1957	60	56	4	6.7
12.1961	60	57	3	5.0
06.1965	60	56	4	6.7
06.1969	60	55	5	8.3
05.1973	60	56	4	6.7
08.1977	60	54	6	10.0
08.1981	60	51	9	15.0
05.1982	60	52	8	13.3
01.1983	60	54	6	10.0
04.1987	60	55	5	8.3
08.1989	60	54	6	10.0
02.1993	60	52	8	13.3

2. Including 11 appointed members for all legislatures, one of whom was a woman in 1993.

3. Another woman was elected in a by-election on 16 June 1950: 6.7%.

(continued on next page)

IRELAND: (contd.)***Dáil Eireann* - House of Representatives**

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
05.1944	138	134	4 ⁴	2.9
02.1948	147	142	5	3.4
05.1951	147	142	5	3.4
05.1954	147	142	5 ⁵	3.4
03.1957	147	142	5	3.4
10.1961	144	141	3 ⁶	2.1
04.1965	144	139	5	3.5
03.1968	144	141	3	2.1
06.1969	144 (1 vacancy)	140	3	2.1
02.1973	143	139	4	2.8
06.1977	148	142	6	4.1
06.1981	166	156	10	6.0
02.1982	166	158	8	4.8
11.1982	166	153	13	7.8
02.1987	166	152	14	8.4
06.1989	166	153	13	7.8
11.1992	166	146	20 ⁷	12.0

4. Another woman was elected in a by-election on 4 December 1945: 3.6%.

5. Another woman was elected in a by-election on 29 February 1956: 4.1%.

6. Another woman was elected in a by-election on 19 February 1964: 2.8%; yet another woman was elected in a by-election on 8 July 1964: 3.5%; and still another was elected in a by-election on 10 March 1965: 4.2%.

7. Another woman was elected in a by-election in November 1994: 12.7%.

First woman member of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
14.12.1918	1	Yes	No

President of Parliament or of one of its Chambers

Chamber	Period	Name
Senate	13.05.1982-23.02.1983	Tras HONAN
Senate	1987-1989	Tras HONAN

ISRAEL

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 15.05.1948
(b) To stand for election: 15.05.1948

Knesset - Parliament (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
01.1949 ¹	120	107	13	10.8
07.1951	120	109	11	9.2
1955	120	109	11	9.2
1959	120	111	9	7.5
1961	120	110	10	8.3
1965	120	111	9	7.5
10.1969	120	112	8	6.7
12.1973	120	112	8	6.7
05.1977	120	112	8	6.7
06.1981	120	111	9	7.5
07.1984	120	110	10	8.3
11.1988	120	112	8	6.7
06.1992	120	109	11	9.2

1. First legislature of the State of Israel, proclaimed on 15 May 1948.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
01.1949	13	Yes	No

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

ITALY

Date on which women were given the right

(a) To vote:	01.02.1945
(b) To stand for election:	01.02.1945

Il Parlamento - Parliament (bicameral)

Senato della Repubblica - Senate

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
04.1948	342	338	4	1.2
06.1953	243	242	1	0.4
05.1958	249	246	3	1.2
04.1963	321	315	6	1.9
05.1968	322	311	11	3.4
05.1972	322	316	6	1.9
06.1976	322	311	11	3.4
06.1979	322	312	10	3.1
06.1983	324	307	17	5.2
06.1987	324	302	22	6.8
04.1992	326	295	31	9.5
03.1994	326	297	29	8.9

Camera dei Deputati - Chamber of Deputies

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
06.1946 ¹	556	535	21	3.8
04.1948	574	530	44	7.8
06.1953	590	557	33	5.6
05.1958	596	571	25	4.2
04.1963	630	601	29	4.6
05.1968	630	613	17	2.7
05.1972	630	606	24	3.8
06.1976	630	583	47	7.5
06.1979	630	577	53	8.4
06.1983	630	582	48	7.6
06.1987	630	549	81	12.9
04.1992	630	579	51	8.1
03.1994	630	535	95	15.1

1. Constituent Assembly.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
06.1946 ²	21	Yes	No
04.1948 ³	48	Yes	No

1. Constituent Assembly.

2. General elections.

President of Parliament or of one of its Chambers

Chamber	Period	Name
Chamber of Deputies	1979-1992	Nilde IOTTI
Chamber of Deputies	1994-1998	Irene PIVETTI

JAMAICA

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 20.11.1944
 (b) To stand for election: 20.11.1944

Parliament (bicameral)**Senate**

Appointments (All)	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
02.1967 ¹	21	19	2	9.5
02.1972	21	18	3	14.3
12.1976	21	18	3	14.3
10.1980	21	17	4	19.0
12.1983	21	18	3	14.3
02.1989	21	17	4	19.0
03.1993	21	18	3	14.3

House of Representatives

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
02.1967 ¹	53	51	2	3.8
02.1972	53	51	2	3.8
12.1976	60	55	5	8.3
10.1980	60	54	6	10.0
12.1983	60	53	7	11.7
02.1989	60	57	3	5.0
03.1993	60	53	7	11.7

1. First legislature of Jamaica after the country became independent on 6 August 1962.

First woman member of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
14.12.1944	1	Yes	No

President of Parliament or of one of its Chambers: No woman has yet held this office.

JAPAN

Dates on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 17.12.1945 - 24.02.1947 ¹
(b) To stand for election: 17.12.1945 - 24.02.1947 ¹
1. 17 December 1945 for elections to the House of Representatives, and 24 February 1947 for elections to the House of Councillors.

Kokkai - National Diet (bicameral)

Sangi-In - House of Councillors

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
04.1947	250	240	10	4.0
06.1950	250	238	12	4.8
04.1953	250	235	15	6.0
07.1956	250	235	15	6.0
06.1959	250	237	13	5.2
07.1962	250	234	16	6.4
07.1965	250 (1 vacancy)	232	17	6.8
07.1968	250	237	13	5.2
06.1971	252 (1 vacancy)	238	13	5.2
07.1974	252	234	18	7.1
07.1977	252 (2 vacancies)	234	16	6.3
06.1980	252 (1 vacancy)	234	17	6.8
06.1983	252 (3 vacancies)	231	18	7.1
07.1986	252 (1 vacancy)	229	22	8.7
07.1989	252	219	33	13.1
07.1992	252	215	37	14.7

(continued on next page)

JAPAN: (contd.)**Shugi-In - House of Representatives**

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
04.1946	466	427	39	8.4
04.1947	466	451	15	3.2
01.1949	466	454	12	2.6
10.1952	466	457	9	1.9
04.1953	466	457	9	1.9
02.1955	467	459	8	1.7
05.1958	467	456	11	2.4
11.1960	467	460	7	1.5
11.1963	467	460	7	1.5
01.1967	486	479	7	1.4
12.1969	486	478	8	1.6
12.1972	491	484	7	1.4
12.1976	511	505	6	1.2
10.1979	511	500	11	2.2
06.1980	511	502	9	1.8
12.1983	511	503	8	1.6
07.1986	512	505	7	1.4
02.1990	512	500	12	2.3
03.1993	511	497	14	2.7

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
04.1946 ²	39	Yes	No
04.1947 ³	10	Yes	No

2. House of Representatives.

3. House of Councillors.

President of Parliament or of one of its Chambers

Chamber	Period	Name
House of Representatives	1993- -	Takako DOI

JORDAN

(Transjordan until 2 June 1949)

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 1974 ¹
(b) To stand for election: 1974 ¹
1. Exercised for the first time in 1989.

Majlis Al-Umma - National Assembly (bicameral)

Majlis Al-Aayan - Senate

Appointments (All)	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
1946 ²	10	10	0	0.0
03.1950	20	20	0	0.0
08.1951	20	20	0	0.0
10.1955	20	20	0	0.0
10.1961 ³	20	20	0	0.0
11.1962 ⁴	20	20	0	0.0
07.1963	20	20	0	0.0
04.1967 ⁵	30	30	0	0.0
01.1984	30	30	0	0.0
11.1989	40	39	1	2.5
11.1993	40	38	2	5.0

Majlis Al-Nuwaab - House of Deputies

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
1946 ²	20	20	0	0.0
03.1950	40	40	0	0.0
08.1951	40	40	0	0.0
10.1955	40	40	0	0.0
10.1961 ³	60	60	0	0.0
11.1962 ⁴	60	60	0	0.0
07.1963	60	60	0	0.0
04.1967 ⁵	60	60	0	0.0
11.1989	80	80	0	0.0
11.1993	80	79	1	1.3

2. First legislature of Jordan after the country became independent on 22 March 1946.
3. Parliament was dissolved by royal decree on 26 September 1962.
4. Parliament was dissolved by royal decree on 21 May 1963.
5. Dissolved on 23 November 1974, the Chamber elected on 15 February 1967 was convened for a short period in February 1978, then dissolved again and reconvened on 8 January 1984; by-elections were subsequently held for seats which had fallen vacant: no women among the newly elected members.

(continued on next page)

JORDAN: *(contd.)*

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
11.1989	1 (Senate)	No	Yes
11.1993	1 (House of Deputies)	Yes	No

President of Parliament or of one of its Chambers: No woman has yet held this office.

KAZAKSTAN

Dates on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 31.01.1924 - 28.01.1993 ¹
(b) To stand for election: 31.01.1924 - 28.01.1993 ¹
1. The rights to vote and to stand for election were recognized on 31 January 1924 and confirmed on 28 January 1993.

Women in Parliament: See previous situation below.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
03.1990 ²	24	Yes	No

2. Kazak women were previously elected to the Supreme Soviet of SSR of Kazakstan and to the USSR Parliament: see page 213.

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

*** KAZAKASTAN: Previous situation ***

Verkhovny Soviet - Supreme Soviet (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
03.1990 ¹	360	336	24	6.7
03.1994 ²	177	156	21	11.9

1. The Supreme Soviet of the SSR of Kazakstan became the first legislature of Kazakstan after the country became independent on 16 December 1991.
2. The elections were cancelled and the Supreme Soviet was dissolved in March 1995.

KENYA

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 12.12.1963 ¹
- (b) To stand for election: 12.12.1963 ¹
1. The rights to vote and to stand for election were given to European women in 1919; in 1956, they were given to African men and women under certain conditions: educational level or property; in 1963, all Kenyans were given the rights to vote and to stand for election.

Bunge - National Assembly (unicameral)

Elections & Appointments ²	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
05.1963 ³	170	170	0	0.0
12.1969	172	170	2	1.2
10.1974	172	166	6	3.5
11.1979	172	167	5	2.9
09.1983	172	169	3	1.7
03.1988	188	186	2	1.1
12.1992	202	196	6	3.0

2. Including the Speaker and the Attorney-General as *ex officio* members elected and appointed respectively by the Parliament and the Head of State.
3. The Assembly elected in May 1963 became the first legislature of Kenya after the country became independent on 12 December 1963; by-elections were held in March 1964 and in June 1966; but did not lead to the election of a woman to Parliament.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
12.1969	2	1	1

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

KIRIBATI

Dates on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 15.11.1967 ¹
(b) To stand for election: 15.11.1967 ¹
1. Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony (Electoral Provisions) Order 1967 and Constitution 1967.

Maneaba Ni Maungatabu - House of Assembly (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
02.1978 ²	36	36	0	0.0
04.1982	37	37	0	0.0
01.1983	37	37	0	0.0
03.1987	41	41	0 ³	0.0
05.1991	41	41	0 ⁴	0.0
07.1994	41	41	0	0.0

2. The Assembly elected on 2 February 1978 became the first legislature of Kiribati after the country became independent on 12 July 1979.
3. A woman elected on 25 July 1990 in a by-election: 2.4%.
4. A woman elected on 13 February 1992 in a by-election: 2.4%.

First woman member of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
25.07.1990	1	Yes ⁵	No

1. Elected in a by-election.

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

KUWAIT

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: According to the Constitution (November 1962), only men have the right to vote and stand for election.

Majles Al-Ummah - National Assembly (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
01.1962 ¹	50	50	0	0.0
01.1967	50	50	0	0.0
01.1971	50	50	0	0.0
01.1975 ²	50	50	0	0.0
02.1981	50	50	0	0.0
02.1985 ³	50	50	0	0.0
06.1990	50	50	0	0.0
10.1992	50	50	0	0.0

1. First legislature of Kuwait after the country became independent on 19 June 1961. A 20-member Constituent Assembly had however been elected in December 1961.
2. The Assembly was suspended by a decree of the Emir on 29 August 1976.
3. The Assembly was suspended by a decree of the Emir in July 1986.

KYRGHYZSTAN

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 06.1918
(b) To stand for election: 06.1918

Joghorku Kenesh - Supreme Soviet (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
02.1990 ¹	350	328	22	6.3
02.1995	105 (2 vacancies)	98	5	4.9

1. The Supreme Soviet of Kyrgyzstan became, under the name of *Uluk Kenesh*, the first legislature of Kyrgyzstan after the country became independent in September 1991.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
02.1990 ²	22	Yes	No

2. Kyrgyz women were previously elected to the Supreme Soviet of the SSR of Kyrgyzstan and to the USSR Parliament: see page 213.

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

(Laos until 2 December 1975)

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 1958
(b) To stand for election: 1958

Sapha Heng Xat - National Assembly (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
02.12.1975	45	41	4	8.9
26.03.1989	79	74	5	6.3
20.12.1992	85	77	8	9.4

First woman member of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
04.05.1958	1	Yes ¹	No

1. During elections to provide 20 additional seats in the Parliament elected on 25 December 1955.

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

*** LAOS: Previous situation ***

National Assembly (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
25.12.1955 ¹	39	39	0 ⁴	0.0
25.04.1960	59	59	0	0.0
07.1965 ²	59	59	0	0.0
01.01.1967	59	59	0	0.0
20.01.1972 ³	59	57	2	3.4

1. First legislature of the Kingdom of Laos after the country became independent in October 1953.
2. The Assembly was dissolved by royal decree in October 1966.
3. The Assembly was dissolved in December 1975 by the People's National Representative Congress, which abolished the monarchy and elected a 45-member People's Supreme Assembly.
4. A woman was elected on 4 May 1958 during a by-election for 20 additional seats in the Parliament elected on 25 December 1955. Following these elections, the situation was as follows: 59 members, including 1 woman, i.e. 1.7%.

LATVIA

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 18.11.1918
(b) To stand for election: 18.11.1918

Saeima - Parliament (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
03-04.1990 ¹	181	?	?	?
06.1993	100	85	15	15.0

1. The Supreme Council of the SSR of Latvia became the first legislature of Latvia after the restoration of the country's independence on 21 August 1991.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
?	?	?	?

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

LEBANON

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 1952
(b) To stand for election: 1952

Majlis Al-Nuwwab - National Assembly (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
04.1947 ¹	77	77	0	0.0
08.1953	44	44	0	0.0
06.1957	66	66	0	0.0
06-07.1960	99	99	0	0.0
04-05.1965	99	99	0	0.0
04.1968	99	99	0	0.0
04.1972 ²	99 ³	99	0 ³	0.0
08-10.1992	128	125	3	2.3

1. First legislature of Lebanon after the country became independent on 22 November 1943.
2. The mandate of the National Assembly elected in 1972 was extended for the eighth time.
3. In June 1991, in accordance with the National Reconciliation Agreement or the Taif Agreement of 1989, the Government appointed 40 more members in order to allow the representation of Christian and Muslim communities, thus bringing the total of the members of the Assembly to 108: one woman was appointed to the Assembly, i.e. 0.9%.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
06.1991	1	No	Yes
08-10.1992	3	Yes	No

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

LESOTHO

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 30.04.1965
(b) To stand for election: 30.04.1965

Parliament (bicameral) ¹

Senate

Appointments (All)	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
03.1993	33	25	8	24.2

National Assembly

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
03.1993	65	62	3	4.6

1. Parliament was dissolved on 17 August 1994 and reinstated on 14 September 1994.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
04.1965	3	No	Yes

President of Parliament or of one of its Chambers: No woman has yet held this office.

*** LESOTHO: Previous situation ***

I. Parliament (bicameral)

Senate

Appointments (All)	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
04.1965 ¹	33	30	3	9.1

National Assembly

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
04.1965 ¹	60	60	0	0.0

1. The first legislature of Lesotho after the country became independent on 4 October 1966. The results of the elections were annulled and Parliament suspended by the Prime Minister.

II. Parliament (unicameral)

Appointments (All)	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
04.1973 ²	93	87	6	6.5

2. Interim Parliament.

(continued on next page)

LESOTHO: (contd.)

III. Parliament (bicameral)

Senate

Appointments (All)	Seats	Men	Women	Percent
08.1985	30	22	8	26.7

National Assembly

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	Percent
08.1985	80 ³	80	0	0.0

3. Following the boycott of the elections by the opposition parties, the members of the BNP (party in power) were confirmed according to the Electoral Law. The Assembly was dissolved following a military coup d'Etat on 20 January 1986.

IV. Constituent Assembly (unicameral)

Elections & Appointments	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
04.1990	109	101	8	7.3

LIBERIA

Date(s) on which women were given the right

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------|
| (a) To vote: | 07.05.1946 |
| (b) To stand for election: | 07.05.1946 |

Transitional Legislative Assembly (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
04.1991 ¹	51	?	?	?
03.1994 ²	35	33	2	5.7

- Interim legislative body established by a National Conference. Its mandate was then extended and general elections are tentatively scheduled for November 1995.
- Transitional Legislative Assembly was established for six months by the National Conference.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
1964	?	?	?

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

*** LIBERIA: Previous situation ***

Parliament (bicameral)

Senate

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
?	?	?	?	?
?	?	?	?	?
?	?	?	?	?
?	?	?	?	?
?	?	?	?	?
?	?	?	?	?
01.1971	18	?	?	?
10.1975	18	?	?	?
10.1985	26	?	?	?

House of Representatives

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
?	?	?	?	?
?	?	?	?	?
?	?	?	?	?
?	?	?	?	?
?	?	?	?	?
?	?	?	?	?
05.1971	52	?	?	?
10.1975 ¹	71	?	?	?
10.1985	64	?	?	?

- The Parliament was dissolved following a military coup d'Etat in April 1980.

LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA

(Libya until March 1977)

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 1964
 (b) To stand for election: 1964

Mutamar Al Sha'Ab Al Aam - General People's Congress (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
01.1976 ¹	1112	?	?	?
1984	?	?	?	?
1987	?	?	?	?
03.1990	750	?	?	?
01.1994	750	?	?	?

1. The Congress convened in January 1976 was called the General National Congress of the Socialist Arab Union; it was renamed General People's Congress in November 1976.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
?	?	?	?

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

*** LIBYA: Previous situation ***

Parliament (bicameral)

Senate

Appointments (All)	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
02.1952 ¹	24	24	0	0.0
?	?	?	?	?
?	?	?	?	?
10.1964	24	24	0	0.0
02.1965	24	24	0	0.0
? ²	?	?	?	?

Chamber of Deputies

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
02.1952 ¹	55	55	0	0.0
?	?	?	?	?
?	?	?	?	?
10.1964 ³	55	55	0	0.0
02.1965	103	?	?	?
? ²	?	?	?	?

1. First legislature of Libya after the country became independent on 24 December 1951.
 2. The Parliament of the Kingdom of Libya was dissolved following the Revolution in September 1969.
 3. Elections were nullified in view of public protest against the ban on candidates from the opposition.

LIECHTENSTEIN

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 01.07.1984
(b) To stand for election: 01.07.1984

Landtag - Diet (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
02.1986 ¹	15	14	1	6.7
03.1989	25	24	1	4.0
02.1993	25	24	1	4.0
10.1993	25	23	2	8.0

1. First elections in which women could run as candidates. The Parliament of Liechtenstein has operated without interruption since 24 November 1862.

First woman member of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
02.1986	1	Yes	No

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

LITHUANIA

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 05.10.1921
(b) To stand for election: 05.10.1921

Seimas - Parliament (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
1990	173	159	14	8.1
10-11.1992 ¹	141	131	10	7.1

1. The Soviet Supreme of the SSR of Lithuania became the first legislature of Lithuania after the restoration of the country's independence on 6 September 1991.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
15.05.1920	1	No	Yes
1990	14	Yes	No

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

LUXEMBOURG

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 15.05.1919
(b) To stand for election: 15.05.1919

Chambre des députés - Chamber of Deputies (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
10.1945	51	51	0	0.0
06.1948	51	51	0	0.0
06.1951	52	52	0	0.0
05.1954	52	52	0	0.0
02.1959	52	52	0	0.0
06.1964	56	55	0 ¹	0.0
12.1968	56	54	2	3.6
05.1974	59	56	3	5.1
06.1979	59	51	8	13.6
06.1984	60	53	7	11.7
06.1989	60	52	8	13.3
06.1994	60	48	12	20.0

1. One woman was elected during a by-election on 25 October 1965: 1.8%.

First woman member of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
04.1919	1	Yes	No

President of Parliament

Chamber	Period	Name
Chamber of Deputies	1989-1994	Erna HENNICOT-SCHOEPGES
Chamber of Deputies	1994-1995	Erna HENNICOT-SCHOEPGES

MADAGASCAR

Date on which women were given the right

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------|
| (a) To vote: | 29.04.1959 |
| (b) To stand for election: | 29.04.1959 |

Antanimieram Pirenena - National Assembly ¹ (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
06.1977	137	133	4	2.9
08.1983	137	135	2	1.5
05.1989 ²	138	129	9	6.5
06.1993	138	133	5	3.6

- The Assembly was called *Antinimierampirenana Entim-Bahoaka* or National People's Assembly until 1993.
- The Assembly was dissolved in February 1992.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
08.1965	2	Yes	No

President of Parliament or of one of its Chambers: No woman has yet held this office.

*** MADAGASCAR: Previous situation ***

Parlement - Parliament (bicameral)

Senate

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
06.1960 ¹	54	54	0	0.0
08.1965	51	50	1	2.0
09.1970 ²	51	47	4	7.8

National Assembly

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
06.1960 ¹	107	107	0	0.0
08.1965	107	106	1	0.9
05.1970 ²	104	98	6	5.8

- First legislature of Madagascar after the country became independent on 26 June 1960.
- The Assembly was dissolved in 1972 and a People's National Council (a consultative body without legislative power) was set up on 21 October 1973.

MALAWI

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 1961
(b) To stand for election: 1961

National Assembly (unicameral)

Elections	Seats ²	Men	Women	% of women
04.1964 ¹	50	49	1	2.0
04.1971	60	56	4	6.7
05.1976	87	81	6	6.9
06.1978	87	79	8	9.2
06.1983	101	96	5	4.9
05.1987	112	101	11 ³	9.8
06.1992	146	129	17	11.6
06.1994	177	167	10	5.6

1. First legislature of Malawi after the country became independent on 6 July 1964; term of office extended in 1969 to 1971; plus two members (no women) as from July 1966.
2. Does not include members that the Head of State may appoint (limited number of 15 until 1983; unlimited number since then).
3. Four elected and seven appointed.

First woman member of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
04.1964	1	Yes	No

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

MALAYSIA

Date on which women were given the right

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------|
| (a) To vote: | 31.08.1957 |
| (b) To stand for election: | 31.08.1957 |

Parlimen - Parliament (bicameral)

Dewan Negara - Senate

Elections & Appointments ¹	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
09.1959 ²	38 (1 vacancy)	37	0	0.0
05.1960	38	38	0	0.0
05.1965	60 (2 vacancies)	56	2	3.4
05.1972	60 (6 vacancies)	52	2	3.4
04.1976	58 (4 vacancies)	49	5	9.3
04.1980	67	60	7	10.4
08.1984	69 (16 vacancies) ³	46	7	13.2
03.1988	69 (8 vacancies) ³	50	11	18.0
08.1992	69 (8 vacancies) ³	52	9	14.8
06.1995	69 (17 vacancies) ³	40	12	23.1

Dewan Rakyat - House of Representatives

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
08.1959 ²	104	101	3	2.9
04.1964	159	156	3	1.9
05.1969	144	141	3	2.1
08.1974	154	149	5	3.2
07.1978	154	147	7	4.5
04.1982	154	146	8	5.2
08.1986	177	168	9	5.1
10.1990	180	169	11	6.1
04.1995	192	177	15	7.8

1. Senators are appointed or elected at varying dates. The dates indicated above, with the exception of the last one, are those on which the King's Speech is debated in the Senate after the elections during which the Senate is at its maximum strength.
2. First legislature of Malaysia after the country became independent on 31 August 1957.
3. 26 elected by the State Legislative Assemblies and 43 appointed by the King.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
08.1959	3 (House of Representatives)	Yes	No
05.1965	2 (Senate)	No	Yes

President of Parliament or of one of its Chambers: No woman has yet held this office.

MALDIVES

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 1932
(b) To stand for election: 1932

Majlis - Citizens' Majlis (unicameral)

Elections & Appointments ¹	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
11.1979 ²	48	46	2	4.2
11.1984	48	47	1	2.1
11.1989	48	45	3	6.3
12.1995	48	45	3	6.3

1. 40 members elected and 8 appointed by the Head of State.
2. First legislature of the Maldives after the country became independent on 26 July 1965.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
01.01.1953 ³	1	Yes	No
11.1979	2	Yes	No

3. Prior to independence.

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

MALI

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 1956
(b) To stand for election: 1956

Assemblée nationale - National Assembly (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
02.1964 ¹	80	79	1	1.3
06.1979	82	79	3	3.7
06.1982	82	80	2	2.4
06.1985	82	79	3	3.7
06.1988 ²	82	?	?	?
02-03.1992	129	126	3	2.3

1. First legislature of Mali after the country became independent on 20 June 1960. The Assembly was dissolved in January 1968 following which the parliamentary institution was abrogated in November 1968 following a military coup d'Etat.
2. The Assembly was dissolved following a military coup d'Etat in March 1991. A National Conference sat in July and August 1991, paving the way for the election of a pluralistic Parliament.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
1959 ³	1	Yes	No
02.1964	1	Yes	No

3. Prior to independence.

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

MALTA

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 05.09.1947
(b) To stand for election: 05.09.1947

Il-Kamra Tad-Deputati - House of Representatives (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
03.1966 ¹	50	48	2	4.0
06.1971	55	53	2	3.6
09.1976	65	63	2	3.1
12.1981	65	63	2 ³	3.1
05.1987	69 ²	67	2	2.9
02.1992	65	64	1	1.5

1. First legislature of Malta after the country became independent on 21 September 1964.
2. 65 members elected and 4 appointed by the Majority Party.
3. One woman MP became President of Malta in January 1982 and therefore gave up her seat in Parliament.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
10.1947 ⁴	1	Yes	No
28.03.1966	2	Yes	No

4. Prior to independence.

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

*** MALTA: Situation prior to independence ***

Il-Kamra Tad-Deputati - House of Representatives (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
10.1947	40	39	1	2.5
1950	40	37	3	7.5
1951	40	36	4	10.0
1953	40	39	1	2.5
1955	40	39	1	2.5
1962	50	48	2	4.0

MARSHALL ISLANDS

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 01.05.1979 (?)
(b) To stand for election: 01.05.1979 (?)

Nitijela - Parliament (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
11.1991 ¹	33	32	1	3.0

1. First legislature of the Marshall Islands after they became independent in September 1991.

First woman member of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
11.1991	1	Yes	No

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

MAURITANIA

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 20.05.1961
(b) To stand for election: 20.05.1961

Barlamane - Parliament (bicameral)

Majlis Al-Chouyoukh - Senate

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
04.1992	56	56	0	0.0

Al Jamiya-Al-Wataniya - National Assembly

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
03.1992	79	79	0	0.0

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
10.1975	2	Yes	No

President of Parliament or of one of its Chambers: No woman has yet held this office.

*** MAURITANIA: Previous situation ***

National Assembly (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
1965 ¹	40	40	0	0.0
08.1971	50	50	0	0.0
10.1975 ²	70 ³	68	2	2.9

1. First legislature of Mauritania after the country became independent on 28 November 1960.
2. The Assembly was then dissolved following a military coup d'Etat on 10 July 1978.
3. In July 1976, 7 supplementary seats for the representatives of the Province of Rio de Oro; these 7 seats were filled in the by-elections of 8 August 1976; no woman was elected and women thus constituted 2.6% of the 77 members of the Assembly.

MAURITIUS

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 1956
(b) To stand for election: 1956

National Assembly (unicameral)

Elections & Appointments ¹	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
12.1976 ²	70	67	3	4.3
06.1982	70	67	3	4.3
08.1983	70	66	4	5.7
08.1987	70	65	5	7.1
09.1991	70	68	2	2.8

1. 62 members elected and 8 appointed.

2. First legislature of Mauritius after the country became independent on 12 March 1968.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
12.1976	3	Yes	No

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

MEXICO

Dates on which women were given the right

(a) To vote:	15.02.1947
(b) To stand for election:	17.10.1953

Congreso de la Unión - Congress of the Union (bicameral)

Cámara de Senadores - Senate

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
07.1964	60	58	2 ¹	3.3
07.1970	60	58	2	3.3
07.1976	64	60	4	6.2
07.1982	64	54	10	15.6
07.1988	64	54	10	15.6
08.1991	64	61	3	4.7
08.1994	128	112	16	12.5

Cámara de Diputados - Chamber of Deputies

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
09.1952	162	161	1 ²	0.6
07.1955	162	158	4	2.5
07.1958	162	154	8	4.9
07.1961	210	201	9	4.3
07.1964	210	197	13	6.2
07.1967	210	198	12	5.7
07.1970	210	199	11	5.2
07.1973	300	282	18	6.0
07.1976	300	276	24	8.0
07.1979	400	369	31	7.8
07.1982	400	355	45	11.3
07.1985	400	356	44	11.0
07.1988	500	440	60	12.0
08.1991	500	462	38	7.6
08.1994	500	429	71	14.2

1. No women in the Senate before 1964.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
09.1952 ²	1	No	Yes
07.1955	4	Yes	No

2. In September 1952, a woman was appointed, not elected, to the Chamber of Deputies, following the creation of the State of Baja California.

President of Parliament or of one of its Chambers

Chamber	Period	Name
Chamber of Deputies	1994-1997	María MORENO URIEGAS

MICRONESIA (Federated States of)

Date(s) on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 03.11.1979
(b) To stand for election: 03.11.1979

Congress (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
03.1993 ¹	14	14	0	0.0
03.1995	14	14	0	0.0

1. First legislature of Micronesia after the country became independent in September 1991.

First women members of Parliament: No woman has ever been elected to Parliament as yet.

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

MOLDOVA

Dates on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 15.04.1978 - 14.10.1993 ¹
(b) To stand for election: 15.04.1978 - 14.10.1993 ¹
1. The right to vote and to stand for election were recognized on 15 April 1978 and confirmed on 14 October 1993.

Parlamentul - Parliament (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
02.1990 ²	380	372	8	2.1
02.1994	104	99	5	4.8

2. The Supreme Soviet of the SSR of Moldova became the first legislature of Moldova after the country became independent in August 1991.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
02.1990 ³	8	Yes	No

3. Moldovian women were previously elected to the Supreme Soviet of the SSR of Moldova and to the USSR Parliament: see page 213.

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

MONACO

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 17.12.1962
(b) To stand for election: 17.12.1962

Conseil nationale - National Council (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
02.1963 ¹	18	17	1	5.6
03.1968	18	17	1	5.6
02.1973	18	17	1	5.6
02.1978	18	16	2	11.1
01.1983	18	16	2	11.1
01.1988	18	16	2	11.1
01.1993	18	17	1	5.6

1. First legislature of the Principality of Monaco.

First woman member of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
02.1963	1	Yes	No

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

MONGOLIA

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 01.11.1924
(b) To stand for election: 01.11.1924

Ulsyn Ikh Khural - State Great Hural ¹ (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
06.1951 ²	295	236	59	20.0
06.1954	295	229	66	22.3
06.1957	233	211	22	9.4
06.1960	267	211	56	21.0
06.1963	270	216	54	20.0
06.1966	287	225	62	21.6
06.1969	297	232	65	21.9
06.1973	336	259	77	22.9
07.1977	354	272	82	23.2
06.1981	370	280	90	24.3
06.1986	370	278	92	24.9
07-08.1990	430	421	9	2.1
06.1992	76	73	3	3.9

1. Between 1951 and 1990, the Parliament was called *Ardyn Ikh Khural* (Great People's Hural).
2. First legislature of Mongolia after the country became independent in July 1921.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
06.1951	59	Yes	No

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

MOROCCO

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 05.1963
(b) To stand for election: 05.1963

Majlis Nawab - House of Representatives (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
05.1963 ¹	202	202	0	0.0
08.1970	240	240	0	0.0
06.1977	267	267	0	0.0
10.1984 ²	306	306	0	0.0
06-09.1993	333	331	2	0.6

1. First legislature of Morocco after the country became independent on 2 March 1956; a Chamber of Councillors, comprising 80 members was also set up; no woman among them.
2. By referendum held on 1 December 1989, the House's six-year term was extended for 2 years.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
06.1993	2	Yes	No

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

MOZAMBIQUE

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 25.06.1975
(b) To stand for election: 25.06.1975

Assembleia da Republica - Assembly of the Republic ¹ (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
12.1977 ²	210	184	26	12.4
12.1982	250	210	40	16.0
01.1986	249	210	39	15.7
10.1994	250	187	63	25.2

1. Called the *Assembleia Popular* (People's Assembly) during the first three legislatures.

2. First legislature of Mozambique after the country became independent on 4 December 1977.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
12.1977	26	Yes	No

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

MYANMAR

(Burma until May 1989)

Dates on which women were given the right

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------|
| (a) To vote: | 1935 |
| (b) To stand for election: | 19.03.1946 |

Women in Parliament: See previous situation below.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
04.1947	3	Yes	No

President of Parliament or of one of its Chambers: No woman has yet held this office.

*** BURMA: Previous situation ***

I. Parliament (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
04.1947 ¹	237	234	3	1.3
01.1952	233 (17 vacancies)	?	?	?

1. Constituent Assembly.

II. Parliament (bicameral)

Chamber of Nationalities

Elections & Appointments	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
04.1956	125	?	?	?
02.1960 ²	125	?	?	?

Chamber of Deputies

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
04.1956	250	?	?	?
02.1960 ²	250	?	?	?

2. The Assembly was dissolved in March 1964 following a military coup d'Etat.

III. Pyithu Hluttaw - People's Assembly (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
02.1974	451	442	9	2.0
01.1978	464	452	12	2.6
10.1981	475	462	13	2.7
10.1985 ³	489	?	?	?
04.1990 ⁴	492	---	---	---

3. Parliament was dissolved following a military coup d'Etat on 18 September 1988.

4. The Parliament elected in 1990 has never been convened nor authorized to sit.

NAMIBIA

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 07.11.1989
(b) To stand for election: 07.11.1989

National Assembly (unicameral)

Elections ¹	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
11.1989 ²	72	67	5	6.9
12.1994	72	59	13	18.1

1. A maximum of 6 additional non-voting members may be appointed by the President of the Republic.
2. The constituent Assembly elected in November 1989 became the first legislature of Namibia after the country became independent on 21 March 1990.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
11.1989	5	Yes	No

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

NAURU

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 03.01.1968
(b) To stand for election: 03.01.1968

Parliament (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
01.1968 ¹	18	18	0	0.0
01.1971	18	18	0	0.0
12.1973	18	18	0	0.0
12.1976	18	18	0	0.0
11.1977	18	18	0	0.0
12.1980	18	18	0	0.0
12.1983	18	18	0	0.0
12.1986	18	17	1	5.6
01.1987	18	17	1	5.6
12.1989	18	17	1	5.6
14.11.1992	18	?	?	?

1. First legislature of Nauru after the country became independent on 31 January 1968.

First woman member of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
12.1986	1	Yes	No

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

NEPAL

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 1951
 (b) To stand for election: 1951

Sansad - Parliament (bicameral) ¹

Rastriya Sabha - National Council

Elections & Appointments ¹	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
06.1991	60	57	3	5.0

Pratinidhi Sabha - House of Representatives

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
05.1991	205	198	7	3.4
11.1994 ²	205	198	7	3.4

- 10 appointed by the King, 35 (including at least 3 women) elected by the House of Representatives, and 15 indirectly elected.
2. The King dissolved the House of Representatives on 13 June 1995; legislative elections are scheduled for 23 November 1995.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
1952	3	No	Yes
21.10.1959	2	1	1

President of Parliament or of one of its Chambers: No woman has yet held this office.

*** NEPAL: Previous situation ***

I. *Shallahkar Sammittee* - Consultative Assembly (unicameral)

Appointments	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
1952	35	32	3	8.6

II. *Sallahkar Sabha* - Consultative Assembly (unicameral)

Appointments	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
1954	106	96	10	9.4
1958	91	83	8	8.8

III. *Maha Sabha* - General Assembly (bicameral) ¹

Rastriya Sabha - National Council

Appointments (All)	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
1959 ¹	36	35	1	2.8

Pratinidhi Sabha - House of Representatives

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
02.1959 ¹	109	108	1	0.9

1. First legislature of Nepal.

(continued on next page)

NEPAL: (contd.)

IV. Rashtriya Panchayat - National Panchayat (unicameral)

Elections and Appointments	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
1962	125	122	3	2.4
1963	125	122	3	2.4
1964	125	122	3	2.4
1965	125	121	4	3.2
1966	125	121	4	3.2
1967	125	122	3	2.4
1968	125	122	3	2.4
1969	125	122	3	2.4
1970	125	121	4	3.2
1971	120	116	4	3.3
1972	124	120	4	3.2
1973	123	118	5	4.1
1974	125	120	5	4.0
1975	108	106	2	1.9
1976	118	116	2	1.7
1977	125	122	3	2.4
1978	127	124	3	2.4
1979	135	131	4	3.0
1980	104	99	5	4.8
1981	140	133	7 ³	5.0
1982	140	133	7	5.0
1983	140	133	7	5.0
1984	140	133	7	5.0
1985	140	133	7	5.0
1986	137 ^(3 vacancies)	127	7	5.2
1987	137 ^(3 vacancies)	126	8	6.0
1988 ²	136 ^(4 vacancies)	124	8	6.1

2. The Panchayat was dissolved on 16 April 1990 in connection with the change in political system.

3. Two elected and 5 appointed.

NETHERLANDS

Dates on which women were given the right

(a) To vote:	09.08.1919
(b) To stand for election:	29.11.1917

Staten-Generaal - States-General (bicameral)

Eerste Kamer der Staten-Generaal - First Chamber of the States-General

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
07.1946	50	48	2	4.0
07.1948	50	49	1	2.0
07.1951	50	49	1	2.0
06.1952	50	48	2	4.0
08.1955	50	48	2	4.0
06.1956 ¹	50	48	2	4.0
10.1956	75	71	4	5.3
08.1960	75	71	4	5.3
05.1963	75	70	5	6.7
07.1966	75	70	5	6.7
07.1969	75	71	4	5.3
04.1971	75	72	3	4.0
07.1974	75	71	4	5.3
07.1977	75	68	7	9.3
07.1980	75	64	11	14.7
06.1981	75	59	16	21.3
08.1983	75	61	14	18.7
05.1986	75	59	16	21.3
06.1987	75	58	17	22.7
09.1989	75	59	16	21.3
05.1991	75	56	19	25.3
05.1995	75	58	17	22.7

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NETHERLANDS: (contd.)***Tweede Kamer der Staten-Generaal*** - Second Chamber of the States-General

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
05.1946	100	96	4	4.0
07.1948	100	95	5	5.0
06.1952	100	92	8	8.0
06.1956	100	91	9	9.0
11.1956	150	137	13	8.7
03.1959	150	136	14	9.3
05.1963	150	135	15	10.0
02.1967	150	138	12	8.0
04.1971	150	138	12	8.0
11.1972	150	136	14	9.3
05.1977	150	130	20	13.3
05.1981	150	128	22	14.7
09.1982	150	125	25	16.7
05.1986	150	120	30	20.0
09.1989	150	118 (112) ²	32 (38) ²	21.3 (25.3) ²
05.1994	150	103	47	31.3

1. The members elected in June 1956 were called to vote on a constitutional amendment to increase membership of the First Chamber of the States General from 50 to 75 and membership of the Second Chamber from 100 to 150; elections were held in October 1956 to elect additional members.
2. The figures in brackets give the totals after formation of the *Lubbers/Kok* Government.

First woman member of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
07.1918	1	Yes	No

President of Parliament or of one of its Chambers: No woman has yet held this office.

NEW ZEALAND

Dates on which women were given the right

(a) To vote:	19.09.1893
(b) To stand for election:	29.10.1919

House of Representatives (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
09.1951	80	77	3	3.8
11.1954	80	76	4	5.0
11.1957	80	76	4	5.0
11.1960	80	76	4	5.0
11.1963	80	75	5	6.3
11.1966	80	75	5	6.3
11.1969	84	80	4	4.8
11.1972	87	83	4	4.6
11.1975	87	83	4	4.6
11.1978	92	88	4	4.3
11.1981	92	84	8	8.7
07.1984	95	83	12	12.6
08.1987	97	83	14	14.4
10.1990	97	81	16	16.5
11.1993	99	78	21	21.2

First woman member of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
13.09.1933	1	Yes	No

President of Parliament or of one of its Chambers: No woman has yet held this office.

*** NEW ZEALAND: Previous situation ***

Parliament (bicameral)

Legislative Council

Appointments (All)	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
11.1946	25	23	2	8.0
06.1950	53	48	5	9.4

House of Representatives

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
11.1946	80	78	2	2.5
11.1949	80	77	3	3.8

NICARAGUA

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 21.04.1955 ¹
 (b) To stand for election: 21.04.1955
 1. The Constitutions of 1939, 1948 and 1950 indicated that a law would determine when women would be given the right to vote. That right was established by the Electoral Law of 1950 and enshrined in the Constitution of 1955.

Asamblea Nacional - National Assembly (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
11.1984 ²	88	75	13	14.8
02.1990	92	77	15	16.3

2. Constituent Assembly.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
02.1972	9	Yes	No

President of Parliament

Chamber	Period	Name
National Assembly	1990	Myriam ARGÜELLO MORALES

*** NICARAGUA: Previous situation ***

I. *Parlamento* - Parliament (bicameral)

Senado - Senate

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
1948	15	15	0	0.0
1950	16	16	0	0.0
1967	16	16	0	0.0

Cámara de Diputados - Chamber of Deputies

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
1948	49	49	0	0.0
1950	42	42	0	0.0
1967	54	54	0	0.0

II. *Asamblea Nacional Constituyente* - National Constituent Assembly (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
02.1972	100	91	9	9.0

III. *Parlamento* - Parliament (bicameral)

Senado - Senate

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
09.1974 ¹	30	30	0	0.0

Cámara de Diputados - Chamber of Deputies

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
09.1974 ¹	70	62	8	11.4

1. Parliament was dissolved following a Revolution on 20 July 1979.

IV. *Consejo de Estado* - Council of State (unicameral)

Appointments ² (All)	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
07.1979	51	40	11	21.6

2. Variable dates.

NIGER

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 1948
 (b) To stand for election: 1948

Assemblée nationale - National Assembly (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
02.1993	83	78	5	6.0
01.1995	83	80	3	3.6

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
10.12.1989	5	Yes	No

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

*** NIGER: Previous situation ***

I. *Assemblée nationale* - National Assembly (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
1958 ¹	60	60	0	0.0
10.1965	50	60	0	0.0
10.1970 ²	50	50	0	0.0
12.1989 ³	93	88	5	5.4

- The Assembly elected in 1958 became the first legislature of Niger after the country became independent on 3 August 1960, and members' terms of office were extended by five years.
- The Assembly was dissolved following a military coup d'Etat on 15 April 1974.
- The Assembly was dissolved by the National Conference and a High Council of the Republic (transitional Parliament) was set up in August 1991.

II. *Haut Conseil de la République (Parlement de la transition)* - High Council of the Republic (transitional Parliament) (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
08.1991 ⁴	15	?	?	?

- Set up by the National Conference.

NIGERIA

(Federation of Nigeria from 1 October 1960 to 1 October 1963; Federal Republic of Nigeria since 1 October 1963)

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 1958 (?)
(b) To stand for election: 1958 (?)

Women in Parliament: See previous situation below.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
?	?	?	?

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

*** NIGERIA: Previous situation ***

I. Parliament (bicameral)

Senate

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
12.1964+03.1965 ¹	?	?	?	?

House of Representatives

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
12.1964+03.1965 ¹	312	?	?	?

1. First legislature of Nigeria after the country became independent on 1 October 1960. Following the boycott of elections in the eastern part of the country, another election was held in March 1965. The Parliament was dissolved following a military coup d'Etat on 15 January 1966.

II. Constituent Assembly (unicameral)

Elections & Appointments ²	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
10.1977	232	?	?	?

2. 203 elected members and 29 appointed members.

III. Parliament (bicameral)

Senate

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
07.1979	95	?	?	?
09.1983 ³	96	?	?	?

House of Representatives

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
07.1979	449	?	?	?
09.1983 ³	450	?	?	?

3. The Parliament was dissolved following a military coup d'Etat on 31 December 1983.

(continued on next page)

NIGERIA: (contd.)

IV. Constituent Assembly (unicameral)

Elections & Appointments ⁴	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
04.1988	567	?	?	?

4. 450 elected members and 117 appointed members.

V. Parliament (bicameral)

Senate

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
07.1992 ⁵	91	90	1	1.1

House of Representatives

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
07.1992 ⁵	593	580	13	2.2

5. The Parliament was dissolved following a military coup d'Etat in November 1993.

NORWAY

Dates on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 1913
 (b) To stand for election: 1907 - 1913 ¹
 1. Women were granted the right to vote and to stand for election in 1907 but on special conditions between 1907 and 1913: private means, property and a good position and income were necessary for a woman to be elected a Member of Parliament.

Stortinget - Parliament ² (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
10.1945	150	143	7	4.7
10.1949	150	143	7	4.7
10.1953	150	143	7	4.7
10.1957	150	140	10	6.7
09.1961	150	137	13	8.7
09.1965	150	138	12	8.0
09.1969	150	136	14	9.3
09.1973	155	131	24	15.5
09.1977	155	118	37	23.9
09.1981	155	115	40	25.8
09.1985	157	103	54	34.4
09.1989	165	106	59	35.8
09.1993	165	100	65	39.4

2. When dealing with legislative matters, the *Stortinget* divides itself into two bodies, the *Lagting* (acting as Upper Chamber) with 41 members, and the *Odelsting* (acting as Lower Chamber) with 124 members. Under the terms of the Constitution, at the first sitting of each new legislature, the *Stortinget* appoints one-fourth (41) of its members to form the *Lagting*, while the remaining three-fourths (124) constitute the *Odelsting*.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
1911	1	No	Yes ³
1921	1	Yes ⁴	No

3. In 1911, one woman obtained a seat by proxy.
 4. In 1921, the first woman was directly elected.

President of Parliament

Chamber	Period	Name
<i>Stortinget</i>	1993--	Kirsti KOLLE GRONDAHL ⁵

5. Mrs. Kalle Grondahl was Vice-President of the *Stortinget* from 1989 to 1993.

PAKISTAN

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 08.1947
(b) To stand for election: 08.1947

Majlis-e-Shoora - Parliament (bicameral)

Senate

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
1973 ¹	45	44	1	2.2
1975	45	44	1	2.2
03.1977	63	60	3	4.8
03.1985	87	87	0	0.0
03.1991	87	86	1	1.1
03.1994	87	86	1	1.1

National Assembly

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
1973 ¹	146	140	6	4.1
03.1977	216	206	10	4.6
03.1985	237	216	21 ²	8.9
11.1988	237	213	24 ²	10.1
10.1990	217	215	2	0.9
10.1993	217	213	4	1.8

1. First legislature of present Pakistan after the cessation of Bangladesh in January 1972; Pakistan became independent in August 1947.
2. 20 indirectly elected seats reserved for women.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
1973	4	Yes	No

President of Parliament or of one of its Chambers: No woman has yet held this office.

PALAU

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 02.04.1979
(b) To stand for election: 02.04.1979

Olbiil Era Kelulau - National Congress ¹ (bicameral)

Senate

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
11.1992	14	14	0	0.0

House of Delegates

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
11.1992	16	16	0	0.0

1. The Parliament elected on 4 November 1992 became the first legislature of the Republic of Palau after the country became independent on 1 October 1994.

First woman member of Parliament: No woman has ever been elected to the National Congress.

President of Parliament or of one of its Chambers: No woman has yet held this office.

PANAMA

Dates on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 05.07.1941 - 01.03.1946 ¹
(b) To stand for election: 05.07.1941 - 01.03.1946 ¹
1. Law N° 98 of 5 July 1941 stipulated that "Panamanian women aged 21 and over who held a university degree or have completed vocational training teachers' college or secondary schooling, may vote in and be elected to provincial bodies". The Law of 1 March 1946 granted women full political rights.

Asamblea Legislativa - Legislative Assembly (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
1946	50	48	2	4.0
1948 ²	42	41	1	2.4
04.1952	53	52	1	1.9
04.1956	53	51	2	3.8
1960	53	51	2	3.8
1964	42	41	1	2.4
1968	38	37	1	2.6
1972	16	16	0	0.0
08.1978 ³	37	34	3	8.1
1980	56	53	3	5.4
1982	56	55	1	1.8
05.1984	67	63	4	6.0
05.1989 ⁴	67	62	5	7.5
05.1994	72	66	6	8.3

2. The Assembly was dissolved following a military coup d'Etat in May 1951.
3. From 1946 to 1968, members were called Deputies; from 1972 to 1978, the legislature functions were exercised by 7 Commissioners and 9 State Ministers; as from 1978, members were called Legislators.
4. These elections were annulled by the Government on 10 May 1989. On 27 December 1989, the Electoral Tribunal declared that the annulment was null and void and the Legislative Assembly was installed on 1 March 1990.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
1946	2	Yes	No

President of Parliament

Chamber	Period	Name
Legislative Assembly	1994-1999	Balbina HERRERA ARAUZ

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Dates on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 15.02.1964
(b) To stand for election: 27.02.1963 (?)

National Parliament (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
07.1977 ¹	109	106	3	2.8
06.1982	109	108	1	0.9
06-07.1987	109	109	0	0.0
06.1992	109	109	0	0.0

1. First legislature of Papua New Guinea after the country became independent on 16 September 1975.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
07.1977	3	Yes	No

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

PARAGUAY

Date on which women were given the right

(a) To vote:	05.07.1961
(b) To stand for election:	05.07.1961

Congreso - Congress (bicameral) ¹

Cámara de Senadores - Senate

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
02.1968	30	29	1	3.3
02.1973	30	29	1	3.3
02.1978	30	29	1	3.3
02.1983	30	29	1	3.3
02.1988	36	34	2	5.6
05.1989 ¹	36	34	2	5.6
05.1993	45	40	5	11.1

Cámara de Diputados - Chamber of Deputies

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
02.1968	60	58	2	3.3
02.1973	60	57	3	5.0
02.1978	60	58	2	3.3
02.1983	60	59	1	1.7
02.1988	72	70	2	2.8
05.1989 ¹	72	68	4	5.6
05.1993	80	78	2	2.5

1. A constituent Assembly comprising 72 members, including 4 women (5.6%), was set up on 1 December 1991.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
01.04.1963	2	Yes	No

President of Parliament or of one of its Chambers: No woman has yet held this office.

*** PARAGUAY: Previous situation ***

I. *Cámara de Representantes* - Chamber of Representatives (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
02.1948	40	40	0	0.0
02.1950	40	40	0	0.0
02.1953 ¹	40	40	0	0.0
02.1958	60	60	0	0.0
02.1960	60	60	0	0.0
02.1963	60	58	2	3.3

1. The Chamber was dissolved following a military coup d'Etat on 4 May 1954.

II. *Convención nacional constituyente* - National Constituent Assembly (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
04.1967	109	107	2	1.8

PERU

Dates on which women were given the right

(a) To vote:	07.09.1955
(b) To stand for election:	07.09.1955

Congreso Constituyente Democrático - Democratic Constituent Congress (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
29.12.1992	80	73	7	8.8
09.04.1995	120	108	12	10.0

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
1956	9	Yes	No

President of Parliament or of one of its Chambers: No woman has yet held this office.

*** PERU: Previous situation ***

I. *Congreso* - Congress (bicameral)

Senado - Senate

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
28.07.1945 ¹	46	46	0	0.0
28.07.1950	42	42	0	0.0
28.07.1956	53	52	1	1.9
06.1962 ²	55	53	2	3.6
28.07.1963 ³	45	45	0	0.0

Cámara de Diputados - Chamber of Deputies

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
28.07.1945 ¹	149	149	0	0.0
28.07.1950	152	152	0	0.0
28.07.1956	182	174	8	4.4
06.1962 ²	147	142	5	3.4
28.07.1963 ³	140	138	2	1.4

1. The Congress was dissolved following a military coup d'Etat on 2 November 1948.

2. The parliamentarians elected in 1962 did not sit.

3. The Congress was dissolved following a military coup d'Etat on 3 October 1968.

II. *Constituent Assembly* (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
20.07.1978	100	98	2	2.0

(continued on next page)

PERU: (contd.)

III. Congreso - Congress (bicameral)

Senado - Senate

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
28.07.1980	60	58	2	3.3
27.07.1985	60	57	3	5.0
27.07.1990 ⁴	60	56	4	6.7

Cámara de Diputados - Chamber of Deputies

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
28.07.1980	180	167	13	7.2
27.07.1985	180	170	10	5.6
27.07.1990 ⁴	180	168	12	6.7

3. The Congress was dissolved by the President of the Republic on 6 April 1992.

PHILIPPINES

Date on which women were given the right

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------|
| (a) To vote: | 30.04.1937 |
| (b) To stand for election: | 30.04.1937 |

Kongreso - Congress (bicameral)

Senado - Senate

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
05.1987	24	22	2	8.3
05.1992	24	20	4	16.7
05.1995	24	20	4	16.7

Kapulungan Mga Kinatawan - House of Representatives

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
05.1987	220 ¹	200	20 ³	9.1
05.1992	216 ²	193	23 ⁴	10.7
05.1995	250	228	22	8.8

- 14 members appointed by the President of the Republic.
- 16 members appointed by the President of the Republic.
- Two seats reserved for women in the categories "women and the handicapped" and "labour" within the framework of the voting list.
- Two seats reserved for women in the category "women".

First woman member of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
11.1941	1	Yes	No

President of Parliament or of one of its Chambers: No woman has yet held this office.

(continued on next page)

PHILIPPINES: (contd.)

*** PHILIPPINES : Previous situation ***

I. *Kongreso* - Congress (bicameral)

Senado - Senate

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
04.1946	16	16	0	0.0
11.1947	8	7	1	12.5
11.1949	8	8	0	0.0
11.1951	8	8	0	0.0
11.1953	8	8	0	0.0
11.1955	8	7	1	12.5
11.1957	8	8	0	0.0
11.1959	8	8	0	0.0
11.1961	8	7	1	12.5
11.1963	8	7	1	12.5
11.1965	8	7	1	12.5
11.1967	8	6	2	25.0
11.1969	8	8	0	0.0
11.1971	8	7	1	12.5

Kapulungan Ng Mga Kinatawan - House of Representatives

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
04.1946	99	98	1	1.0
11.1949	102	101	1	1.0
11.1953	103	101	2	1.9
11.1957	103	101	1	1.0
11.1961	106	104	2	1.9
11.1965	109	103	6	5.5
11.1969	109	106	3	2.8

II. *Batasang Pambansa* - House of Representatives (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
04.1978	200	189	11	5.5
05.1984	197	186	11	5.6

POLAND

Date on which women were given the right

(a) To vote:	28.11.1918
(b) To stand for election:	28.11.1918

Zgromadzenie Narodowe - National Assembly (bicameral) ¹

Senat - Senate

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
06.1989	100	93	7	7.0
10.1991	100	92	8	8.0
09.1993	100	87	13	13.0

Sejm - Diet

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
06.1989	460	398	62	13.5
10.1991	460	416	44	9.6
09.1993	460	400	60	13.0

1. The two Chambers are mentioned separately in the Constitution; they only meet jointly as the National Assembly when the new President of the Republic is sworn in or when a new Constitution is adopted.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
26.01.1919	6 (<i>Sejm</i>)	Yes	No
11.03.1928	3 (Senate)	Yes	No

President of Parliament or of one of its Chambers: No woman has yet held this office.

*** POLAND: Previous situation ***

Sejm - The Diet (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
02.1947 ¹	444	444	0	0.0
11.1952	425	350	75	17.6
02.1957	459	440	19	4.1
04.1961	460	400	60	13.0
05.1965	460	403	57	12.4
06.1969	460	398	62	13.5
03.1972	460	387	73	15.9
03.1976	460	365	95	20.7
03.1980	460	354	106	23.0
10.1985	460	367	93	20.2

1. Called Legislative *Sejm* of the Republic of Poland at that time.

PORTUGAL

Dates on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 05.05.1931 - 16.11.1934 - 02.06.1976
(b) To stand for election: 05.05.1931 - 16.11.1934 - 02.06.1976 ¹
1. Decree N° 19694 of 5 May 1931 formally gave women the right to vote and to stand for election, albeit with some conditions: it was necessary for women to have completed secondary or higher studies while men only had to know how to read and write. The Electoral Law D.L. 24631 of 6 November 1934 granted the right to vote and be elected to all citizens who knew how to read and write. In 1968, Law N° 2137 established equal political rights for men and women but maintained some restrictions (already contained in the preceding Law) on elections to certain local administrative bodies. Full equality was only achieved with the Constitution of 1976.

Assembleia Da Republica - Assembly of the Republic (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
11.1945	120	118	2	1.7
11.1949	120	118	2	1.7
11.1953	120	118	2	1.7
11.1957	120	118	2	1.7
11.1961	130	127	3	2.3
11.1965	130	126	4	3.1
10.1969	130	126	4	3.1
10.1973	148	139	9	6.1
04.1974 ²	250	230	20	8.0
04.1976	263	250	13	4.9
12.1979	250	233	17	6.8
10.1980	250	233	17	6.8
04.1983	250	232	18	7.2
10.1985	250	234	16	6.4
07.1987	250	231	19	7.6
10.1991	230	210	20	8.7

2. Election for the Constituent Assembly after the change of régime on 25 April 1974.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
19.11.1934	1	No	Yes
24.11.1934	3	Yes	No

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 17.07.1948
 (b) To stand for election: 17.07.1948

Kuk Hoe - National Assembly (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
11.1963	175	173	2	1.1
06.1967	175	172	3	1.7
05.1971	204	199	5	2.5
02.1973	219	207	12	5.5
12.1978	231	223	8	3.5
03.1981	276	267	9	3.3
02.1985	276	268	8	2.9
04.1988	299	293	6	2.0
03.1992	299	293	6	2.0

First woman member of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
10.05.1948	1	Yes	No

President of Parliament or of one of its Chambers: No woman has yet held this office.

*** REPUBLIC OF KOREA: Previous situation ***

I. National Assembly (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
05.1948 ¹	200	119	1	0.5
05.1950	210	208	2	1.0
05.1954	203	202	1	0.5
05.1958	233	230	3	1.3

1. First legislature of the Republic of Korea, proclaimed on 15 August 1948.

II. Parliament (bicameral)

House of Councillors

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
07.1960 ²	58	58	0	0.0

National Assembly

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
07.1960 ²	233	232	1	0.4

2. Parliament was dissolved following a military coup d'Etat in May 1961.

ROMANIA

Dates on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 1929 - 07.1946 ¹
 (b) To stand for election: 1929 - 07.1946 ¹
 1. Women had restricted electoral rights as from 1929; under the same conditions as men, as from July 1946.

Parlamentul României - Parliament (bicameral)

Senat - Senate

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
05.1990 ²	119	118	1	0.8
09.1992	143	140	3	2.1

Camera Deputatilor - House of Deputies

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
05.1990 ²	387	373	14	3.6
09.1992	341	327	14	4.1

2. In May 1990, Parliament was elected for a short term of 18-months maximum, with constituent powers.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
11.1946	22	Yes	No

President of Parliament or of one of its Chambers: No woman has yet held this office.

*** ROMANIA: Previous situation ***

Marea Adunare Nationala - Grand National Assembly (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
11.1946	414	392	22	5.3
1948	414	384	30	7.2
1952	423	358	65	15.4
1957	437	366	71	16.2
1961	465	388	77	16.6
1965	465	398	67	14.4
03.1969	465	398	67	14.4
03.1975	349	296	53	15.2
03.1980	369	247	122	33.1
03.1985	369	242	127	34.4

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

(Official name of the country since December 1991, preceded by the declaration of sovereignty in June 1990)

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 06.1918
(b) To stand for election: 06.1918

Federalnoye Sobraniye - Federal Assembly (bicameral)

Soviet Federatsii - Council of the Federation

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
12.1993	176	167	9	5.1

Gosudarstvennaya Duma - State Duma

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
12.1993	449	389	60	13.4

First women members of Parliament

Date ¹	Number	Elected	Appointed
12.1993	9	Yes	No

1. The first election of a woman to the Parliament of the former USSR was held in 1922.

President of Parliament or of one of its Chambers: No woman has yet held this office.

*** RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Previous situation ***

Verkhovnyi Soviet Rossiyskoi Federatsii - Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation (bicameral)

Soviet Respubliki - Council of the Republic

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
03.1990 ¹	126	115	11	8.7

Soviet Natsionalnoitei - Council of Nationalities

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
03.1990 ¹	126	115	11	8.7

1. First legislature of the Russian Federation.

(continued on next page)

RUSSIAN FEDERATION: (contd.)

*** UNION OF THE SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS (USSR): Previous situation ***

I. *Verkhovnyi Soviet SSR* - Supreme Soviet of the USSR (bicameral)

Soviet Natsionalnostei - Soviet of Nationalities

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
02.1946	657	496	161	24.5
03.1950	638	491	147	23.0
03.1954	639	461	178	27.9
03.1958	640	464	176	27.5
03.1962	652	477	175	26.8
06.1966	750	547	203	27.1
06.1970	750	519	231	30.8
06.1974	750	509	241	32.1
03.1979	750	503	247	32.9
03.1984	750	491	259	34.5

Soviet Soiuzu - Soviet of the Union

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
02.1946	682	566	116	17.0
03.1950	678	545	133	19.6
03.1954	708	538	170	24.0
03.1958	738	548	190	25.7
03.1962	791	576	215	27.2
06.1966	767	545	222	28.9
06.1970	767	535	232	30.2
06.1974	767	533	234	30.5
03.1979	750	510	240	32.0
03.1984	750	517	233	31.1

II. *S'ezd Narodnykh Deputatov SSSR* - Congress of People's Deputies of the USSR

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
03-05.1989	2250	1898	352	15.6

Verkhovnyi Soviet SSSR - USSR Supreme Soviet (bicameral)

Soviet Soiuzu - Soviet of the Union

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
05.1989	271	232	39	14.4

Soviet Natsionalnostei - Soviet of Nationalities

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
05.1989	271	216	55	20.3

RWANDA

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 25.09.1961
(b) To stand for election: 25.09.1961 ¹
1. The right to stand for election was granted to women at the same time as men, with the exception of the office of the President of the Republic. That restriction was removed by the Constitution of December 1978.

Assemblée nationale de transition - Transitional National Assembly ² (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
12.1965 ³	47	?	?	?
1969 ⁴	47	?	?	?
12.1981	64	60	4	6.3
12.1983	70	61	9	12.9
12.1988 ⁵	70	58	12	17.1
11.1994	70 ⁶	67	3	4.3

2. Parliament was called the National Assembly in 1965 and 1969 and it was called National Development Council from 1981 to 1988.
3. First legislature of Rwanda after the country became independent on 1 July 1962.
4. Parliament was dissolved following a military coup d'Etat in July 1972.
5. Collapse of constitutional institutions in April 1994.
6. All appointed.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
12.1965	?	?	?

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 1951
(b) To stand for election: 1951

National Assembly (unicameral)

Elections & Appointments ¹	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
06.1984 ²	15	14	1	6.7
03.1989	15	14	1	6.7
11.1993	16	15	1	6.3
03.07.1995	16	16	0 ³	0.0

1. Three appointed members and 1 *ex-officio* member.

2. First legislature of Saint Kitts and Nevis after the country became independent on 19 September 1983.

3. Provisional figures.

First woman member of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
06.1984	1	Yes	No

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

SAINT LUCIA

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 1924
(b) To stand for election: 1924

Houses of Parliament (bicameral)

Senate

Appointments (All)	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
07.1979 ¹	11	9	2	18.2
05.1982	11	8	3	27.3
04.1987	11	9	2	18.2
04.1992	11	7	4	36.4

House of Assembly

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
07.1979 ¹	17	17	0	0.0
05.1982	17	17	0	0.0
04.1987	18	18	0	0.0
04.1992	17	17	0	0.0

1. First legislature of Saint Lucia after the country became independent on 22 February 1979; however, the Parliament existing before independence continued to function until the end of its mandate, in June 1979.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
31.08.1951 ²	1	Yes	No
07.1979	2	No	Yes

2. Prior to independence.

President of Parliament or of one of its Chambers: No woman has yet held this office.

SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 05.05.1951
(b) To stand for election: 05.05.1951

House of Assembly (unicameral)

Elections & Appointments ¹	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
12.1979 ²	19	17	2	10.5
07.1984	19	18	1	5.3
05.1989	21	19	2	9.5
02.1994	21	19	2	9.5

1. Six Senators are appointed and the other members are elected Representatives.
2. First legislature of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines after the country became independent on 27 October 1979.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
12.1979	2	Yes	No

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

SAMOA

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 10.1990 ¹
(b) To stand for election: 10.1990 ¹
1. On this date, all adults were granted universal suffrage, replacing the prevailing system whereby only the *matais* (heads of clans) had the right to vote and stand for election.

Fono - Legislative Assembly (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
04.1964 ²	47	47	0	0.0
02.1967	47	47	0	0.0
02.1970	47	47	0	0.0
02.1973	47	47	0	0.0
02.1976	47	45	2 ³	4.3
02.1982	47	46	1 ³	2.1
02.1985	47	45	2 ³	4.3
02.1988	47	47	0	0.0
04.1991	47	45	2	4.3

2. First legislature of Samoa after the country became independent on 1 January 1962.

3. Women could be appointed to 2 seats in Parliament before they were granted the right to stand for election.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
02.1976	2	No	Yes
04.1991	2	Yes	No

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

SAN MARINO

Dates on which women were given the right

(a) To vote:	29.04.1959
(b) To stand for election:	10.09.1973

Consiglio Grande e Generale - Great General Council (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
03.1945	60	60	0	0.0
02.1949	60	60	0	0.0
09.1951	60	60	0	0.0
08.1955	60	60	0	0.0
09.1959	60	60	0	0.0
09.1964	60	60	0	0.0
09.1969	60	60	0	0.0
09.1974	60	56	4	6.7
05.1978	60	57	3	5.0
05.1983	60	54	6	10.0
05.1988	60	53	7	11.7
05.1993	60	53	7	11.7

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
08.09.1974	4	Yes	No

President of Parliament or of one of its Chambers ¹

Chamber	Period	Name
<i>Consiglio Grande e Generale</i>	04.1981	Maria Lea PEDINI ANGELINI
"	04.1984 and 10.1989	Gloriana RANOCCHINI
"	10.1991	Edda CECCOLI
"	04.1993	Patricia BUSIGNANI

1. The Presidents of the Parliament are the two Heads of State, or Captains-Regent, who are appointed twice a year, in April and October. The other Captain-Regent and co-President of the Great General Council for all the dates given below was a man.

SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 12.07.1975
(b) To stand for election: 12.07.1975

Assembleia Nacional - National Assembly (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
12.1975 ¹	33	27	6	18.2
05.1980	40	38	2 ²	5.0
09.1985	51	45	6	11.8
01.1991	55	49	6	10.9
10.1994	55	51	4	7.3

1. First legislature of Sao Tomé and Príncipe after the country became independent on 12 July 1975.
2. Two representatives of the Women's Organization.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
12.1975	6	Yes	No

President of Parliament or of one of its Chambers

Chamber	Period	Name
National Assembly	12.05.1980-02.03.1991	Alda da Graça do ESPIRITO SANTO

SENEGAL

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 19.02.1945
(b) To stand for election: 19.02.1945

Assemblée nationale - National Assembly (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
1960 ¹	80	80	0	0.0
12.1963	80	79	1	1.3
02.1968	80	79	1	1.3
01.1973	100	96	4	4.0
02.1978	100	93	7	7.0
02.1983	120	107	13	10.8
02.1988	120	105	15 ²	12.5
05.1993	120	106	14	11.7

1. First legislature of Senegal after the country became independent on 4 April 1960.

2. Thirteen women in July 1991: 10.8%.

First woman member of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
12.1963	1	Yes	No

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

SEYCHELLES

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 06.08.1948
(b) To stand for election: 06.08.1948

National Assembly (unicameral) ¹

Elections & Appointments ²	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
04.1974 ³	15	15	0	0.0
09.1976 ⁴	25	24	1	4.0
06.1979	25	17	8	32.0
08.1983	25	19	6	24.0
12.1987	25	21	4	16.0
11-12.1991	24	13	11	45.8
07.1993	33	24	9	27.3

1. Parliament was called the People's Assembly from 1976 to early 1993.
2. From 1976 to 1991, two members appointed by the President of the Republic.
3. The National Assembly elected on 25 April 1974 became the first legislature of the Seychelles after the country became independent on 28 June 1976.
4. When the National Assembly began operating as the Parliament of the independent State of Seychelles on 1 September 1976, the number of members was increased to 25, one woman member was appointed without fresh elections having been held; the Parliament was dissolved following a military coup d'Etat on 4 June 1977.

First woman member of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
12.1967 ⁵	1	Yes	No
09.1976	1	No	Yes
06.1979	9	8	1

5. Prior to independence.

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

SIERRA LEONE

Date on which women were given the right

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------|
| (a) To vote: | 27.04.1961 |
| (b) To stand for election: | 27.04.1961 |

Women in Parliament: See previous situation below.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
?	?	?	?

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

*** SIERRA LEONE: Previous situation ***

House of Representatives (unicameral)

Elections & Appointments ¹	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
04.1962 ²	97	?	?	?
04.1967	97	?	?	?
05.1973	97	96	1	1.0
05.1977	100	100	0	0.0
05.1982	104	103	1	1.0
05.1986 ³	129	?	?	?

1. Including 12 Tribal Chiefs and 7 Representatives appointed by the Head of State.
2. First legislature of Sierra Leone after the country became independent on 27 April 1961.
3. The mandate of the House was extended for 12 months in June 1991; it was dissolved following a military coup d'Etat on 29 April 1992.

SINGAPORE

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 18.07.1947
(b) To stand for election: 18.07.1947

Parliament (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
09.1963 ¹	51	48	3	5.9
04.1968	58	57	1	1.7
09.1972	65	65	0	0.0
12.1976	69	69	0	0.0
12.1980	75	75	0	0.0
12.1984	79	76	3	3.8
09.1988	82	78	4	4.9
08.1991	81	78	3	3.7

1. First legislature of Singapore after the country became independent on 9 August 1965: Singapore's representatives to the Assembly of the Federation of Greater Malaysia, created in September 1963 with Singapore as a federated State, formed the Legislative Assembly of Singapore when the country became independent.

First woman member of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
07.1963	3	Yes	No

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

SLOVAKIA

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 1920
 (b) To stand for election: 1920

Národná Rada Slovenskej Republiky - National Council (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
06.1992 ¹	127	104	23	18.1
09-10.1994	150	128	22	14.7

1. The National Council elected prior to the dissolution of the Federation of Czechoslovakia became the first legislature of the Slovakia after the country became independent on 1 January 1993.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
06.1992 ²	23	Yes	No

2. Slovak women had previously been elected to the Federal Parliament of Czechoslovakia.

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

*** CZECHOSLOVAKIA: Previous situation ***

I. Parliament (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
04.1946 ¹	280	254	26	9.3
04.1948	300	252	48	16.0
11.1954	368	311	57	15.5
1960	300	238	62	20.7
1964 ²	300	240	60	20.0

1. Constituent Assembly.
 2. Parliament was dissolved in August 1968 following the events of May 1968.

II. *Federalni Shromazdeni* - Federal Assembly (bicameral)

Snemovna Narodu - Chamber of Nations

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
11.1971	150	113	37	24.7
10.1976	150	109	41	27.3
06.1981	150	107	43	28.7
05.1986	150	106	44	29.3
06.1990 ³	150 ⁴	133	17	11.3
06.1992	150 ⁴	135	15	10.0

Snemovna Lidu - Chamber of the People

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
11.1971	200	148	52	26.0
10.1976	200	141	59	29.5
06.1981	200	144	56	28.0
05.1986	200	141	59	29.5
06.1990 ³	150	137	13	8.7
06.1992	150	138	13	8.0

3. In 1990, both Chambers were elected with a shortened term of office (2 years) pending the adoption of a new Constitution.
 4. 75 members elected by the Czech Republic and 75 by the Slovak Republic.

SLOVENIA

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 10.08.1945
(b) To stand for election: 10.08.1945

***Drzavni Zbor Republike Slovenije* - National Assembly (unicameral)**

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
12.1992 ¹	90	77	13	14.4

1. First legislature of Slovenia after the country became independent on 8 October 1991.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
12.1992 ²	13	Yes	No

2. Slovenian women had previously been elected to the Parliament of the SFR of Yugoslavia: see page 269.

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

SOLOMON ISLANDS

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 04.1974 (?)
(b) To stand for election: 04.1974 (?)

National Parliament (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
08.1980 ¹	38	38	0	0.0
10.1984	38	38	0	0.0
02.1989	38 (1 vacancy)	37	0	0.0
05.1993	48 (1 vacancy)	47	1	2.1

1. First legislature of the Solomon Islands after they became independent on 7 July 1978.

First woman member of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
05.1993	1	Yes	No

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

SOMALIA

Date on which women were given the right

- | | |
|----------------------------|------|
| (a) To vote: | 1956 |
| (b) To stand for election: | 1956 |

Women in Parliament: See previous situation below.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
12.1979	18	Yes	No

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

*** SOMALIA: Previous situation ***

Golaha Shacbiga - People's Assembly (unicameral)

Elections & Appointments ¹	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
03.1959 ²	124	124	0	0.0
02.1960 ²	124	124	0	0.0
03.1964	124	124	0	0.0
03.1969 ³	124	124	0	0.0
12.1979	177	159	18	10.2
12.1984 ⁴	177	170	7	4.0

1. Six appointed by the Head of State in 1979 and 1984.
2. First legislature of Somalia after the country became independent on 1 July 1960; the legislative Assemblies elected respectively in March 1959 in the Italian Somaliland (90 seats) and in February 1960 the British Somaliland (44 seats) altogether became the National Assembly of new the Independent Republic.
3. The National Assembly was dissolved following a military coup d'Etat on 15 October 1969.
4. Extension of the mandate of the Assembly for one year in December 1989, followed by the collapse of constitutional institutions in 1990-1991.

SOUTH AFRICA

Dates on which women were given the right

(a) To vote:	Whites	21.05.1930
	Coloureds & Indians	30.03.1984
	Blacks	14.01.1994
(b) To stand for election:	Whites	21.05.1930
	Coloureds & Indians	30.03.1984
	Blacks	14.01.1994

Parliament (bicameral)

Senate - *Senaat*

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
04.1994	90	74	16	17.8

National Assembly - *Volksraad*

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
04.1994	400	300	100	25.0

First women member of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
21.04.1933	1	Yes	No

President of Parliament or of one of its Chambers

Chamber	Period	Name
National Assembly	1994-1999	Frene Noshir GINWALA

(continued on next page)

SOUTH AFRICA: (contd.)

*** SOUTH AFRICA: Previous situation ***

I. Assembly (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
07.1943	153	152	1	0.7
05.1948	153	151	2	1.3

II. Parliament (bicameral)

Senate

Elections & Appointments ¹	Seats	Men	Women ²	% of women
11-12.1955	89	88	1	1.1
11-12.1960	54	52	2	3.7
11-12.1965	55	53	2	3.6
11.1970	55	54	1	1.8
05.1974	55	53	2	3.6

1. The Senate was comprised of both elected and appointed members; when the elections and appointments were held on different dates, the month of the elections and that of appointments are indicated one after the other: for example 11 (elections) - 12 (appointments) 1955.
2. All the female senators were appointed with the exception of one who was elected in 1974.

House of Assembly

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
04.1953	159	156	3	1.9
04.1958	163	161	2	1.2
10.1961	160	157	3	1.9
03.1966	170	168	2	1.2
04.1970	166	164	2	1.2
04.1974	171	170	1	0.6
11.1977	165	164	1	0.6

III. House of Assembly (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
04.1981	177	175	2	1.1

IV. Parliament (tricameral)¹

Volksraad - House of Assembly

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
04.1981	177	175	2	1.1
04.1987	178	174	4	2.2
09.1989	178	173	5	2.8

Raad van Verteenwoordigers - House of Representatives

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
08.1984	85	83	2	2.3
04.1987	85 ^(2 vacancies)	80	3	3.6
09.1989	85	84	1	1.2

Raad van Afgevaardigdes - House of Delegates

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
08.1984	45	45	0	0.0
04.1987	45 ^(1 vacancy)	44	0	0.0
09.1989	45	44	1	2.2

1. The Constitution providing for the tricameral system came into effect in 1983, i.e. after the House of Assembly elections in 1981, but before the elections for the other two Houses which took place under the new Constitution; special arrangements were made to enable the House of Assembly to sit beyond the period of five years specified by the Constitution.

SPAIN

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 09.12.1931
 (b) To stand for election: 08.05.1931

Las Cortes Generales - The Cortes (bicameral)

Senado - Senate

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
06.1977	248	242	6	2.4
03.1979	248	243	5	2.0
10.1982	256	245	11 ¹	4.3
06.1986	254	240	14	5.5
10.1989	254	227	27	10.6
06.1993	254	222	32	12.6

1. Three women appointed by the autonomous communities.

Congreso de los Diputados - Congress of Deputies

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
06.1977	350	329	21	6.0
03.1979	350	326	19 + 5 ²	5.4 (6.9)
10.1982	350	328	17 + 5	4.9 (6.3)
06.1986	350	317	33	9.4
10.1989	350	299	51	14.6
06.1993	350	294	56	16.0

2. Five additional women to replace Deputies appointed to Government posts.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
07.1931	2	Yes	No

President of Parliament or of one of its Chambers: No woman has yet held this office.

*** SPAIN: Previous situation ***

Cortes Españoles (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
1943	527	525	2	0.4
1946	581	579	2	0.3
1949	612	610	2	0.3
1952	593	591	2	0.3
1955	723	721	2	0.3
1958	685	683	2	0.3
1961	720	717	3	0.4
1964	760	756	4	0.5
1967	727	720	7	1.0
1971	814	805	9	1.1

SRI LANKA

(Ceylon until May 1972)

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 20.03.1931
(b) To stand for election: 20.03.1931

Parliament (unicameral)

Elections & Appointments	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
05.1970 ¹	157 ³	151	6	3.8
07.1977 ²	168 ³	160	4 ⁴	2.4
02.1989	225 (1 vacancy) ³	213	11 ⁵	4.9
08.1994	225	213	12	5.3

1. In the framework of the constitutional reform of 1972, the bicameral Parliament elected in May 1970 became a unicameral Parliament without new elections having been held.
2. A referendum of 22 December 1982 approved the extension of the Parliament's term by six years from August 1983.
3. Five seats were multi-member seats.
4. That number increased to 11: 6.5%.
5. That number increased to 12: 5.3% in July 1991.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
14.11.1931 ⁶	?	Yes	No
08-09.1947	1	Yes	No

6. Prior to independence.

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

*** SRI LANKA: Previous situation ***

Parliament (bicameral)

Senate

Elections & Appointments ¹	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
08-09.1947 ²	30	28	2	6.7
05.1952	30	28	2	6.7
04.1956	30	29	1	3.3
03.1960	30	28	2	6.7
07.1960	30	27	3	10.0
03.1965	30	29	1	3.3
05.1970	30	30	0	0.0

House of Representatives

Elections & Appointments ¹	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
08-09.1947 ²	101	100	1 ⁴	1.0
05.1952	101	99	2	2.0
04.1956	101	98	3 ⁴	3.0
03.1960	157	154	3	1.9
07.1960	157	155	2 ⁴	1.3
03.1965	157	153	4 ⁴	2.5
05.1970	157	151	6	3.8

1. Half of the number of the Senators elected and the other half appointed by the Attorney General.
2. The Assembly elected in September 1947 became the first legislature of Sri Lanka after the country became independent on 4 February 1948.
3. Six appointed members between 1947 and 1970.
4. Additional women in those legislatures following by-elections: 2 women elected in 1948 and 1949 respectively, 1 woman elected in 1957, 1 woman elected in 1964 and 2 women elected in 1966 and 1967 respectively.

SUDAN

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 11.1964
 (b) To stand for election: 11.1964

Majlis Watani - Transitional National Assembly (unicameral)

Appointments (All)	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
02.1992	316	290	26	8.2

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
11.1964	1	Yes	No

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

*** SUDAN: Previous situation ***

Parliament (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
1954-1958 ¹	95	95	0	0.0
04.1965-1968 ²	233	232	1	0.4
04.1968-1969 ³	233	233	0	0.0
1972 ⁴	255	241	14	5.5
04.1974-1977	250 ⁵	235	15	6.0
02.1978-1980	304	284	20	6.6
04.1980-1981	368	344	24	6.5
01.1982-1985 ⁶	153	140	13	8.5
04.1986-1989 ⁷	264	262	2	0.8

1. First legislature of Sudan after the country became independent on 1 January 1956. The Parliament was dissolved following a military coup d'Etat in November 1958.
2. First Constituent Assembly.
3. Second Constituent Assembly.
4. The first People's Assembly was then dissolved following a military coup d'Etat in 1972.
5. The number of members of the Assembly was increased to 304 in November 1977: increase in the number of territory representatives.
6. The fifth People's Assembly was dissolved following a military coup d'Etat on 6 April 1985.
7. The Constituent Assembly was dissolved following a military coup d'Etat on 30 June 1989.

SURINAME

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 09.12.1948
(b) To stand for election: 09.12.1948

Nationale Assemblée - National Assembly (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
10.1975 ¹	39	37	2	5.1
01.1985	31 ²	27	4	12.9
11.1987	51	47	4	7.8
05.1991	51	48	3	5.9

1. First legislature of Suriname after the country became independent on 25 November 1975; the National Assembly was later dissolved following a military coup d'Etat on 13 August 1980.
2. All appointed.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
10.1975	2	Yes	No

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

SWAZILAND

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 06.09.1968
(b) To stand for election: 06.09.1968

Libandla - Parliament (bicameral)

Senate

Elections & Appointments ¹	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
04.1972 ²	20	19	1	5.0
10.1978	20	19	1	5.0
10.1983	20	17	3	15.0
11.1987 ³	20	17	3	15.0
09-10.1993	30	24	6	20.0

House of Assembly

Elections & Appointments ⁴	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
04.1972 ²	55	54	1	1.8
10.1978	55	52	3	5.5
10.1983	55	54	1	1.8
11.1987 ³	55	53	2	3.6
09-10.1993	65	63	2	3.1

1. 10 members elected by the Assembly and 10 members appointed by the King from 1972 to 1987; 10 members elected by the Assembly and 20 members appointed by the King in 1993.
2. First legislature of Swaziland after the country became independent on 6 September 1968. Parliament was dissolved on 12 April 1973 by the King who then abolished the parliamentary system by decree of 24 March 1977.
3. The Parliament was dissolved by royal decree on 9 October 1992.
4. 40 members elected by an electoral college, 10 members appointed by the King from 1972 to 1987; 55 members elected by an electoral college and 10 members appointed by the King in 1993.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
04.1972	2	1	1

President of Parliament or of one of its Chambers: No woman has yet held this office.

SWEDEN

Dates on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 05.1919 - 1921¹
 (b) To stand for election: 05.1919 - 1921¹
 1. Women were granted the right to vote in local elections at different stages between 1862 and 1918, and were progressively granted the right to stand for election to local bodies between 1907 and 1918. For national elections, women were granted the right to vote and to stand for election in May 1919; however, these rights came into force only in 1921.

Riksdagen - Parliament (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
09.1970	350	301	49	14.0
09.1973	350	275	75	21.4
09.1976	349	269	80	22.9
09.1979	349	252	97	27.8
09.1982	349	253	96	27.5
09.1985	349	239	110	31.5
09.1988	349	215	134	38.4
09.1991	349	232	117	33.5
09.1994	349	208	141	40.4

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
09.1921	5	Yes	No

President of Parliament or of one of its Chambers

Chamber	Period	Name
<i>Riksdagen</i>	1991-1994	Ingegerd TROEDSSON
<i>Riksdagen</i>	1994-1998	Birgitta DAHL

*** SWEDEN: Previous situation ***

Parliament (bicameral)

Senate

Elections ¹	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
01.1945	150	148	2	1.3
01.1949	150	144	6	4.0
01.1953	150	144	6	4.0
01.1957	151	141	10	6.7
01.1961	151	140	11	7.3
01.1965	151	138	13	8.6
01.1969	151	134	17	11.3

Chamber of Deputies

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
09.1944	230	212	18	7.8
09.1948	230	208	22	9.6
09.1952	230	202	28	12.2
09.1956 ²	230	201	29	12.6
09.1960	232	200	32	13.8
09.1964	233	202	31	13.3
09.1968	233	197	36	15.5

1. The distribution of seats is that indicated in the year following the election.
 2. Additional election in 1958 for which no information as distribution of seats between men and women is available.

SWITZERLAND

Date on which women were given the right

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------|
| (a) To vote: | 07.02.1971 |
| (b) To stand for election: | 07.02.1971 |

Assemblée fédérale - Bundesversammlung - Assemblea Federale - Federal Assembly
(bicameral)

Conseil des Etats - Ständerat - Consiglio degli Stati - Council of States

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
10.1971 ¹	44	43	1	2.3
10.1975	44	44	0	0.0
10.1979	46	43	3	6.5
10.1983	46	43	3	6.5
10.1987	46	41	5	10.9
10.1991	46	42	4 ³	8.7

Conseil national - Nationalrat - Consiglio nazionale - National Council

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
10.1971 ¹	200	189	11	5.5
10.1975	200	186	14	7.0
10.1979	200	179	21	10.5
10.1983	200	178	22	11.0
10.1987	200	172	28 ²	14.0
10.1991	200	165	35 ³	17.5

1. First elections in which women could run as candidates; Switzerland has had a Federal Parliament since 1848 when the Federal State was created.
2. 32 women (16.0%) in April 1991.
3. Five women in the Council of States (10.9%) and 36 women in the National Council in January 1995 (18.0%).

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
10.1971	12	Yes	No

President of Parliament or of one of its Chambers

Chamber	Period	Name
National Council	05.11.1977	Elisabeth BLUNSCHY
National Council	1982	Heidi LANG
Council of States	1992	Josi MEIER
National Council	1994	Gret HALLER

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

(From February 1958 to September 1961, United Arab Republic: union with Egypt)

Dates on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 10.09.1949 - 1953 ¹
 (b) To stand for election: 1953
 1. The right to vote was initially given to women having reached the educational level of the 6th primary class; it was then given to women who were literate; in 1953, these restrictions and provisions were lifted.

Majlis Al-Chaab - People's Council (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
05.1973	186	181	5	2.7
08.1977	195	188	7	3.6
11.1981	195	182	13	6.7
02.1986	195	177	18	9.2
05.1990	250	229	21	8.4
08.1994	250	226	24	9.6

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
05.1973	5	Yes	No

President of Parliament or of one of its Chambers: No woman has yet held this office.

*** SYRIA: Previous situation ***

I. *Majlis* - Chamber of Deputies (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
1947 ¹	114	114	0	0.0

1. First legislature of Syria after the country became independent on 17 April 1946. The Assembly was dissolved following a military coup d'Etat on 30 March 1949.

II. *Majlis* - Chamber of Deputies (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
15-16.11.1949 ²	103	103	0	0.0
09.10.1953	81	81	0	0.0

2. The Assembly was dissolved following a military coup d'Etat on 2 December 1949.

III. Unitary Assembly of the United Arab Republic (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
21.07.1960 ³	600	593	7 ³	1.8

3. The 400-member Assembly of the Assembly of Egypt and 200 representatives from Syria: there were no women among representatives from Syria. The Assembly was dissolved following a military coup d'Etat on 29 September 1961 in Damascus. Syria then seceded from the UAR and established the independent Syrian Arab Republic.

II. *Majlis* - Chamber of Deputies (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
12.11.1961 ⁴	171	171	0	0.0

4. The Assembly was dissolved following a military coup d'Etat in February 1966.

TAJIKISTAN

Date(s) on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 1924
(b) To stand for election: 1924

Shuroi Oly - Supreme Soviet (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
02.1990 ¹	230	223	7	3.0
02.1995	181	176	5	2.8

1. The Supreme Soviet of the SSR of Tajikistan became the first legislature of Tajikistan after the country became independent on 9 September 1991.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
02.1990 ²	7	Yes	No

2. Tajikistan women had previously been elected to the Soviet Supreme of the SSR of Tajikistan and to the USSR Parliament: see page 213.

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

THAILAND

(Siam until 20 July 1948)

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 10.12.1932
(b) To stand for election: 10.12.1932

Rathasapha - National Assembly (bicameral)

Vuthisapha - Senate

Appointments (All)	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
22.03.1992	270	262	8 ¹	3.0

Saphaphoothan-Rajsandhorn - House of Representatives

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
09.1992 ²	360	345	15 ³	4.2
02.07.1995	391	367	24	6.1

1. Two women appointed on 19 November 1993 and 1 January 1995 respectively, replacing two senators who had resigned - 10: 3.7%.
2. Early dissolution on 19 May 1995.
3. Another woman was elected on 11 July 1993 in a by-election - 16: 4.4%.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
11.1947	2	No	Yes
06.1949	1	Yes ⁴	No

4. Elected in a by-election.

President of Parliament or of one of its Chambers: No woman has yet held this office.

*** THAILAND: Previous situation ***

I. *Saphaphoothan-Rajsandhorn* - House of Representatives (unicameral)

Elections and Appointments	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
01.1946 ¹	192	192	0	0.0

1. 96 elected members, qualified under the Constitution of 1932 as members of the first category, and 96 appointed members, qualified under the Constitution of 1932 as members of the second category. The Chamber was dissolved following the entry into force of the 1946 Constitution.

(continued on next page)

THAILAND: (contd.)

II. *Rathasapha* - National Assembly (bicameral)

Vuthisapha - Senate

Appointments (All)	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
09.1945	95	95	0	0.0
05.1946 ²	80	80	0	0.0
11.1947 ³	100	98	2	2.0
11.1951	123	122	1	0.8
09.1957	121	121	0	0.0

Saphaphoothan-Rajsandhorn - House of Representatives

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
09.1945	96	96	0	0.0
08.1946 ²	178	178	0	0.0 ³
02.1948 ³	120 ⁴	120	0 ⁴	0.0
02.1952	123	115	4	3.3
02.1957	160	159	1	0.6
12.1957 ⁵	160	156	4	2.5

2. Parliament was dissolved following a military coup d'Etat on 8 November 1947.

3. Parliament was dissolved following a military coup d'Etat on 20 November 1951.

4. 21 extra seats filled at by-elections in June 1949 - 1: 0.7%

5. Parliament was dissolved following a military coup d'Etat on 20 October 1958.

III. Constituent Assembly (unicameral)

Appointments (All)	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
03.1959 ⁶	240 (76 vacancies)	164	0	0.0

6. The Assembly was dissolved following the entry into force of the 1968 Constitution.

IV. *Rathasapha* - National Assembly (bicameral)

Vuthisapha - Senate

Appointments (All)	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
07.1968 & 07.1969	164	164	0	0.0

Saphaphoothan-Rajsandhorn - House of Representatives

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
02.1969 ⁷	219	213	6	2.8

7. The Parliament was dissolved following a military coup d'Etat in November 1971.

V. *Saphanitibanyat-Haengchat* - Legislative Assembly (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
12.1972 ⁸	299	299	0	0.0
12.1973 ⁹	299	281	18	6.0

8. The Assembly was dissolved in December 1973 following a students revolt.

9. The Assembly was dissolved following the entry into force of the 1974 Constitution.

VI. *Rathasapha* - National Assembly (bicameral)

Vuthisapha - Senate

Appointments (All)	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
01.1975 ¹⁰	100	91	9	9.9

Saphaphoothan-Rajsandhorn - House of Representatives

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
01.1975 ¹⁰	269 (13 vacancies)	253	3	1.1
04.1976 ¹¹	279 (10 vacancies)	264	5	1.8

10. Early dissolution of the House in 1976.

11. Parliament was dissolved following a military coup d'Etat in October 1976.

(continued on next page)

THAILAND: (contd.)

VII. Saphatiroopkanpokkrong-Paendin - Administrative Reform Assembly (unicameral)

Appointments (All)	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
11.1976 ¹²	340	322	18	5.2
11.1977 ¹³	360	350	10	2.8

12. The Assembly was dissolved following a military coup d'Etat in October 1977.

13. The Assembly was dissolved following the entry into force of the 1978 Constitution.

VIII. Rathasapha - National Assembly (bicameral)*Vuthisapha* -Senate

Appointments (All)	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
04.1979 ¹⁴	225	222	3	1.3
04.1981	225	222	3	1.3
04.1983	243	239	4	1.6
06.1985	260	255	5	1.9
07.1986	260	255	5	1.9
04.1987	260	255	5	1.9
07.1988 ¹⁵	267	261	6	2.2

Saphaphoothan-Rajsandhorn - House of Representatives

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
04.1979 ¹⁴	301	292	9	3.0
04.1983	324	311	13	4.0
07.1986	347	335	12	3.4
07.1988	357	347	10	2.8

14. The Parliament was dissolved following a military coup d'Etat in March 1981.

15. The Parliament was dissolved following a military coup d'Etat on 23 February 1991.

IX. Saphanitibanyat-Haengchat - Legislative Assembly (unicameral)

Appointments (All)	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
03.1991 ¹⁶	292	281	11	3.8

16. The Assembly was dissolved following the entry into force of the 1992 Constitution.

THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 31.12.1946
(b) To stand for election: 31.12.1946

Sobranie - Assembly of the Republic (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
11-12.1990 ¹	120	115	5	4.2
10.1994	120	116	4	3.3

1. The Assembly of the federated Socialist Republic of Macedonia became the first legislature of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia after the country became independent on 8 September 1991.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
11-12.1990 ²	5	Yes	No

2. Macedonian women were previously elected to the Parliament of the SFR of Yugoslavia: see page 269.

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office. However, prior to independence, a woman chaired the Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Macedonia from 1984 to 1985.

TOGO

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 22.08.1945
(b) To stand for election: 22.08.1945

Assemblée nationale - National Assembly (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
02.1994	81	80	1	1.2

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
09.04.1961	1	Yes	No

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

*** TOGO: Previous situation ***

I. National Assembly (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
04.1961 ¹	51	50	1	2.0
05.1963 ²	56	56	0	0.0
12.1979	67	60	7	10.4
03.1985	77	73	4	5.2
03.1990 ³	77	74	3	3.9

1. First legislature of Togo after the country became independent on 27 April 1960.
2. The National Assembly was dissolved following a military coup d'Etat on 13 January 1967.
3. The National Assembly was dissolved by the National Conference opened on 16 July 1991, and in August 1991, the latter formed a transitional Parliament, the High Council of the Republic.

II. *Haut Conseil de la République* - High Council of the Republic (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
08.1991	79	74	5	6.3

TONGA

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 1960
(b) To stand for election: 1960

Fale Alea - Legislative Assembly (unicameral)

Elections & Appointments ¹	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
05.1975 ²	23	23	0	0.0
04.1978	23	23	0	0.0
05.1981	25	25	0	0.0
05.1984	29	29	0	0.0
02.1987	29	29	0	0.0
02.1990	29	29	0	0.0
02.1993	30	29	1	3.3

1. Eleven *ex officio* members.

2. First legislature of Tonga after the country became independent on 4 June 1970.

First woman member of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
02.1993	1	Yes	No

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 1946
 (b) To stand for election: 1946

Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago (bicameral)

Senate

Appointments (All)	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
08.1962 ¹	24	19	5	20.8
11.1966	24	20	4	16.7
05.1971	24	21	3	12.5
09.1976	31	26	5	16.1
11.1981	31	27	4	12.9
12.1986	31	27	4	12.9
12.1991	31	24	7	22.6

House of Representatives

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
08.1962 ¹	30	29	1	3.3
11.1966	36	33	3	8.3
05.1971	36	35	1	2.8
09.1976	36	33	3	8.3
11.1981	36	30	6	16.7
12.1986	36	30	6	16.7
12.1991 ²	37	30	7	18.9

1. First legislature of Trinidad and Tobago after the country became independent on 31 August 1962.

2. The distribution of seats corresponds to March 1995, i.e. after the by-elections held in 1994.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
1946 ³	1	No	Yes
1961 ³	1	Yes	No
08.1962	6	1	5

3. Prior to independence.

President of Parliament or of one of its Chambers

Chamber	Period	Name
House of Representatives	1991-1996	Occah SEAPUL

TUNISIA

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 01.06.1959 ¹
(b) To stand for election: 01.06.1959 ¹
1. In May 1957, for the first time women took part in municipal elections by decree.

Majlis Al-Nuwaab - Chamber of Deputies ² (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
04.1956 ³	98	98	0	0.0
11.1959 ⁴	90	89	1	1.1
11.1964	90	89	1	1.1
11.1969	108	104	4	3.7
11.1974	118	115	3	2.5
11.1979	126	122	4	3.2
11.1981	136	129	7	5.1
11.1986	125	118	7	5.6
04.1989	141	135	6	4.3
04.1994	163	152	11	6.7

2. Called National Assembly from 1959 to 1979.

3. Constituent Assembly.

4. First legislature of Tunisia after the country became independent in March 1956.

First woman member of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
08.11.1959	1	Yes	No

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

TURKEY

Dates on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 03.04.1930 ¹
 (b) To stand for election: 05.12.1934 ¹
 1. 1930 - local elections; 1934 - legislative elections.

Türkiye Büyük Millet Meclisi (T.B.M.M.) - Turkish Grand National Assembly (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
11.1983	400	388	12	3.0
11.1987	450	444	6	1.3
10.1991	450	442	8	1.8

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
02.1935	18	No	Yes
03.1943	16	Yes	No

President of Parliament or of one of its Chambers: No woman has yet held this office.

*** TURKEY: Previous situation ***

I. *Kamutay* - National Assembly (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
03.1943	484	468	16	3.3
08.1946	497	488	9	1.8
05.1950	491	488	3	0.6
05.1954	535	531	4	0.7
10.1957 ¹	602	594	8	1.3

1. The Assembly was dissolved following a military coup d'Etat in May 1960.

II. Parliament (bicameral)

Senate

Elections & Appointments ²	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
15.10.1961	150	148	2	1.3
07.06.1964	150	148	2	1.3
05.06.1966	150	149	1	0.7
02.06.1968	150	149	1	0.7
14.10.1973	150	149	1	0.7
12.10.1975	150	150	0	0.0
05.06.1977 ³	150	148	2	1.3
14.10.1979	150	149	1	0.7

National Assembly

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
10.1961	449	446	3	0.7
10.1965	450	447	3	0.7
10.1969	450	445	5	1.1
10.1973	456	450	6	1.3
06.1977 ³	455	451	4	0.9

2. Electoral constituencies for Senators were divided into three main sub-groups and elections in each sub-group of Senators were held on different dates.

3. The Assembly was dissolved following a military coup d'Etat on 12 September 1980.

TURKMENISTAN

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 1927
(b) To stand for election: 1927

Mejlis - Parliament (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
01.1990 ¹	175	167	8	4.6
12.1994	50	41	9	18.0

1. The Supreme Soviet (*Yokani Soveti*) of the SSR of Turkmenistan became the first legislature of Turkmenistan after the country became independent on 27 October 1991.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
01.1990 ²	8	Yes	No

2. Turkmenistan women had been previously elected to the Supreme Soviet of the SSR of Turkmenistan and the USSR Parliament: see page 213.

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

TUVALU

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 01.01.1967
(b) To stand for election: 01.01.1967

Palamene o Tuvalu - Parliament of Tuvalu (unicameral)

Elections	Seats ²	Men	Women	% of women
08.1977 ¹	13	13	0	0.0
1978	13	13	0	0.0
09.1981	13	13	0	0.0
09.1985	13	13	0	0.0
09.1989	13	12	1	7.7
09-11.1993	13	12	1	7.7

1. The Parliament elected prior independence became the first legislature of Tuvalu after the country became independent on 1 October 1978.
2. Including one *ex officio* member.

First woman member of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
09.1989	1	Yes	No

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

UGANDA

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 1962
(b) To stand for election: 1962

National Resistance Council (unicameral)

Elections & Appointments ¹	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
02.1989	278	244	34	12.2
03.1994 ²	270	223	47	17.4

1. 210 members elected; the others are appointed by the Head of State.
2. A Constituent Assembly was set up on 28 March 1994; it is composed of 288 members (214 elected and 74 appointed) including 54 women: 18.8%.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
04.1962	?	No	Yes

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

*** UGANDA: Previous situation ***

National Assembly (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
04.1962 ¹	91	?	?	?
01.1971 ²	?	?	?	?
07.1980 ³	126	125	1	0.8

1. First legislature of Uganda after the country became independent on 9 October 1962; the Assembly was dissolved following a military coup d'Etat in February 1966.
2. The Assembly was dissolved following a military coup d'Etat in January 1971.
3. The Assembly was dissolved following a military coup d'Etat in July 1985.

UKRAINE

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 10.03.1919
(b) To stand for election: 10.03.1919

Verkhovna Rada - Parliament (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
03.1990 ¹	450	439	11	2.4
04.1994	450	433	17	3.8

1. The Supreme Soviet of the SSR of the Ukraine became the first legislature of the Ukraine after the country became independent on 5 December 1991.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
03.1990 ²	11	Yes	No

2. Ukrainian women had previously been elected to the Supreme Soviet of the SSR of Ukraine and to the USSR Parliament: see page 213.

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: According to the Constitution (December 1971) only men have the right to vote and stand for election
- (b) To stand for election: According to the Constitution (December 1971) only men have the right to vote and stand for election

Majlis Watani Itihad - Federal National Council (unicameral)

Appointments ¹ (All)	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
12.1971 ²	40	40	0	0.0
1973	40	40	0	0.0
1975	40	40	0	0.0
1977	40	40	0	0.0
03.1980	40	40	0	0.0
12.1981	40	40	0	0.0
01.1984	40	40	0	0.0
01.1988	40	40	0	0.0
03.1990	40	40	0	0.0
02.1993	40	40	0	0.0

1. Each of the 7 Emirates constituting the Federation determines the method of appointment of its representatives within the Federal National Council.
2. First legislature of the United Arab Emirates, which became an independent federated State on 2 December 1971.

UNITED KINGDOM

Dates on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 06.02.1918 - 02.07.1928 ¹
(b) To stand for election: 06.02.1918 - 02.07.1928 ¹
1. 1918 for women over 30 years of age - 1928 for full voting equality with men (over 21 and now 18 for both sexes).

Parliament (bicameral)

House of Lords ²

Continuous term	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
01.1995	1200 ³	1118	82	6.8

2. Until 1958, women Peers could not sit in the House of Lords but since then many women Peers have been appointed for their lifetime; since 1963, women inheriting peerages in their own right have also been able to sit in the House of Lords.
3. Eighty-two women, including two of the four new Peeresses in the 1995 Honours List.

House of Commons

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
07.1945	635	611	24	3.8
02.1950	635	614	21	3.3
10.1951	635	618	17	2.7
05.1955	635	611	24	3.8
10.1959	635	610	25	3.9
10.1964	635	607	28	4.4
03.1966	635	609	26	4.1
06.1970	635	609	26	4.1
02.1974	635	612	23	3.6
10.1974	635	608	27	4.3
05.1979	635	616	19	3.0
06.1983	650	627	23	3.5
06.1987	650	609	41 ⁴	6.3
04.1992	651	591	60 ⁵	9.2

4. Three more women have been elected at by-elections: 6.8%.
5. Two women elected in the by-elections in June 1994: 9.5%.

First women members of Parliament (House of Commons)

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
14.12.1918	1	Yes ⁶	No
05.11.1919	1	Yes ⁷	No

6. The first woman elected to the House of Commons at a general election, Countess Constance Markiewicz, refused to take her seat in Parliament together with other elected members of her Party, Sinn Fein, as a protest at British policy in Ireland.
7. Elected at a by-election, Viscountess Nancy Astor was the first woman to take her seat in the House of Commons.

President of Parliament or of one of its Chambers

Chamber	Period	Name
House of Commons	1992	Betty BOOTHROYD

UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 1959
(b) To stand for election: 1959

Bunge - National Assembly (unicameral)

Elections & Appointments	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
09.1965 ¹	204	?	?	?
10.1970	205	197	8	3.9
10.1975	218	200	18 ²	8.3
10.1980	239	216	23 ²	9.6
10.1985	244	?	? ²	?
10.1990	255 (6 vacancies)	221	28 ²	11.0

1. First legislature of Tanzania after the country became independent on 9 December 1961.
2. 15 seats reserved for women.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
?	?	?	?

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Dates on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 26.08.1920
 (b) To stand for election: 13.09.1788¹
 1. The Constitution of 13 September 1788 does not mention sex with regard to the right to stand for election to the House of Representatives or the Senate, referring only to "members" or "persons". Nor does the Constitution mention sex with regard to eligibility for election to the Presidency or Vice-Presidency.

US Congress (bicameral)

Senate

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
11.1946	100	100	0	0.0
11.1948	100	99	1	1.0
11.1950	100	99	1	1.0
11.1952	100	99	1	1.0
11.1954	100	97	3	3.0
11.1956	100	99	1	1.0
11.1958	100	99	1	1.0
11.1960	100	98	2	2.0
11.1962	100	98	2	2.0
11.1964	100	98	2	2.0
11.1966	100	98	2	2.0
11.1968	100	99	1	1.0
11.1970	100	99	1	1.0
11.1972	100	98	2	2.0
11.1974	100	100	0	0.0
11.1976	100	100	0	0.0
11.1978	100	98	2	2.0
11.1980	100	98	2	2.0
11.1982	100	98	2	2.0
11.1984	100	98	2	2.0
11.1986	100	98	2	2.0
11.1988	100	98	2	2.0
11.1990	100 (1 vacancy)	97	2	2.0
11.1992	100	93	7	7.0
11.1994	100	92	8	8.0

(continued on next page)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: (contd.)

House of Representatives

Elections	Seats ²	Men	Women	% of women
11.1946	440	429	11	2.5
11.1948	440	433	7	1.6
11.1950	440	431	9	2.1
11.1952	440	430	10	2.3
11.1954	440	428	12	2.7
11.1956	440	423	17	3.9
11.1958	440	425	15	3.4
11.1960	440	423	17	3.9
11.1962	440	422	18	4.1
11.1964	440	428	12	2.8
11.1966	440	429	11	2.5
11.1968	440	429	11	2.5
11.1970	440	430	10	2.3
11.1972	440	427	13	3.0
11.1974	440	424	16	3.7
11.1976	440	421	19	4.4
11.1978	440	422	18	4.1
11.1980	440	424	16	3.7
11.1982	440	419	21	4.8
11.1984	440	418	22	5.0
11.1986	440	417	23	5.3
11.1988	440	411	29	6.7
11.1990	440 (4 vacancies)	412	28 ³	6.4
11.1992	440	392	48	11.0
11.1994	440	392	48	11.0

2. Including 5 non-voting members.

3. Including one non-voting woman member.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
04.03.1917	1	Yes (House of Rep.)	No
12.01.1932	1	Yes (Senate)	No

President of Parliament or of one of its Chambers: No woman has yet held this office.

URUGUAY

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 16.12.1932
 (b) To stand for election: 16.12.1932

Asamblea General - General Assembly (bicameral)

Cámara de Senadores - Senate

Elections	Seats	Men	Women ¹	% of women ¹
11.1942	30	29	1 + 1	3.3 + 3.3
11.1946	30	30	0 + 2	0.0 + 6.7
11.1950	30	30	0 + 3	0.0 + 10.0
11.1954	30	30	0 + 1	0.0 + 3.3
11.1958	30	30	0 + 1	0.0 + 3.3
11.1962	30	30	0 + 1	0.0 + 3.3
11.1966	30	30	0 + 2	0.0 + 6.7
11.1971 ²	30	30	0 + 0	0.0 + 0.0
11.1984	30	30	0 + 2	0.0 + 6.7
11.1989	31	31	0 + 2	0.0 + 6.7
11.1994	30	28	2 + 3	6.7 + 10.0

Cámara de Representantes - Chamber of Representatives

Elections	Seats	Men	Women ¹	% of women ¹
11.1942	99	99	0 + 3	0.0 + 3.0
11.1946	99	99	0 + 4	0.0 + 4.0
11.1950	99	99	0 + 6	0.0 + 6.1
11.1954	99	99	0 + 8	0.0 + 8.1
11.1958	99	99	0 + 5	0.0 + 5.1
11.1962	99	99	0 + 4	0.0 + 4.0
11.1966	99	99	0 + 3	0.0 + 3.0
11.1971 ²	99	98	1 + 1	1.0 + 1.0
11.1984	99	95	4 + 0	4.0 + 0.0
11.1989	99	93	6 + 2	6.1 + 2.0
11.1994	99	92	7 + 2	7.1 + 2.0

1. Titular members + substitute members who effectively sat in Parliament.

2. Congress was dissolved following a military coup d'Etat on 27 June 1973.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
11.1942	1+1 (Senate) 0+3 (Chamber of Rep.)	Yes	No

President of Parliament or of one of its Chambers:

Chamber	Period	Name
Senate	1963	Alba ROBALLO
Senate	1965	Alba ROBALLO
Senate	1967	Alba ROBALLO

UZBEKISTAN

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 1938
(b) To stand for election: 1938

***Oliy Majlis* - Supreme Council (unicameral)**

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
02.1990 ¹	500	452	48	9.6
12.1994	250	235	15	6.0

1. The Soviet Supreme of the SSR of Uzbekistan became the first legislature of Uzbekistan after the country became independent on 31 August 1991.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
02.1990 ²	48	Yes	No

2. Uzbek women were previously elected to the Supreme Soviet of the SSR of Uzbekistan and to the USSR Parliament: see page 213.

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office. However, prior to independence, a woman chaired the Presidium of the Supreme Council of the SSR of Uzbekistan from 1959 to 1970: Mrs. Yadgar S. NASRIDINOVA.

VANUATU

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 11.1975 - 30.07.1980 ¹
(b) To stand for election: 11.1975 - 30.07.1980 ¹
1. The right to vote and to stand for election were recognized in November 1975 and confirmed on 30 July 1980.

Parliament (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
11.1979 ²	39	39	0	0.0
11.1983	39	39	0	0.0
11.1987	46	44	2 ³	4.3
12.1991	46	45	1	2.2

2. First legislature of Vanuatu after the country became independent on 30 July 1980.

3. No longer any woman in Parliament as of May 1991.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
11.1987	2	Yes	No

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

VENEZUELA

Date on which women were given the right

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------|
| (a) To vote: | 28.03.1946 |
| (b) To stand for election: | 28.03.1946 |

Congreso de la República - Congress of the Republic ¹ (bicameral)

Senado - Senate

Elections	Seats ³	Men ³	Women	% of women
02.1948 ²	45	43	2	4.4
04.1953	40	40	0	0.0
12.1958	51	51	0	0.0
03.1963	47	47	0	0.0
12.1968	52	51	1	1.9
12.1973	47	47	0	0.0
12.1978	44	43	1	2.3
12.1983	44	44	0	0.0
12.1988	46	43	3	6.5
12.1993	50	46	4	8.0

Cámara de Diputados - Chamber of Deputies

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
02.1948 ²	110	108	2	1.8
04.1953	96	89	7	7.3
12.1958	133	130	3	2.3
03.1963	178	172	6	3.4
12.1968	214	214	0	0.0
12.1973	200	195	5	2.5
12.1978	199	193	6	3.0
12.1983	200	193	7	3.5
12.1988	201	181	20	10.0
12.1993	203	191	12	5.9

1. A 160-member Constituent Assembly, including 9 women (5.6%), had previously been elected in October 1946.
2. Congress was dissolved following a military coup d'Etat in December 1952.
3. Excluding Senators for life (former Presidents of the Republic).

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
02.1948	4	Yes	No

President of Parliament or of one of its Chambers: No woman has yet held this office.

VIET NAM

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 06.01.1946
(b) To stand for election: 06.01.1946

Quoc-Hoi - National Assembly (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
04.1976 ¹	492	360	132	26.8
04.1981	496	388	108	21.8
04.1987	496	408	88	17.7
07.1992	395	322	73	18.5

1. First legislature after the reunification of Viet Nam, which was officially proclaimed in July 1976.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
06.01.1946 (Prior to independence)	10	Yes	No
04.1971 (Dem. Rep. of Viet Nam)	125	Yes	No
? (Rep. of Viet Nam)	?	?	?
04.1976 (United Viet Nam)	132	Yes	No

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

(continued on next page)

VIET NAM: (contd.)

*** VIET NAM: Previous situation ***

A. DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM

Parliament (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
04.1971 ¹	420	295	125	29.8
04.1975	424	287	137	32.3

1. First legislature of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, proclaimed in 1955.

B. REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM

I. Constituent Assembly (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
04.03.1956	123	?	?	?

II. Parliament (bicameral)

Senate

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
1960 ²	?	?	?	?
09.1963 ³	?	?	?	?

Chamber of Deputies

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
1960 ²	?	?	?	?
09.1963 ³	?	?	?	?

2. First legislature of the Republic of Viet Nam, proclaimed in 1955.

3. Parliament was dissolved following a military coup d'Etat on 1 November 1963.

III. Constituent Assembly (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
09.1966	117	116	1	0.9

IV. Parliament (bicameral)

Senate

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
1973 ⁴	60	?	?	?

Chamber of Deputies

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
1973 ⁴	?	?	?	?

4. Collapse of institutions in South Viet Nam in April 1975.

YEMEN

Dates on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 1967 - 1970 ¹
 (b) To stand for election: 1967 - 1970 ¹
 1. 1967 in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen and 1970 in the Arab Republic of Yemen.

Majlis Annwab - House of Representatives (unicameral) ²

Elections & Appointments ³	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
05.1990	301	291	10	3.3
04.1993	301	299	2	0.7

2. On 22 May 1990, the unification of the Arab Republic of Yemen and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen entailed the amalgamation of the two Republics' Parliaments into a unicameral House of Representatives.
 3. 31 members appointed by the Head of State.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
1971 (People's Dem. Rep. of Yemen)	9	No	Yes
05.1990 (Reunified Yemen)	10	?	?

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

*** YEMEN: Previous situation ***

I. ARAB REPUBLIC OF YEMEN (ARY)

Majlis Chura - Constituent People's Assembly (unicameral)

Elections & Appointments	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
1970 ¹	?	?	0	0.0
04.1978 ²	99	99	0	0.0
07.1988	159 ³	159	0	0.0

1. First legislature of the Arab Republic of Yemen proclaimed on 30 November 1967. The Assembly was later dissolved following a military coup d'Etat on 13 June 1974.
 2. People's Constituent Assembly where all the members were appointed for 3 years by the Military Command Council.
 3. 128 elected members and 31 appointed by the Head of State.

II. PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN (PDRY)

Majlis Al-Sha'b Al-A'la - Supreme People's Council (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
12.1967 ⁴	101	?	?	?
1971	101 ⁵	92	9	8.9
12.1978	111	104	7	6.3
10.1986	111	100	11	9.9

4. First legislature of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, proclaimed on 30 November 1967.
 5. In 1971, the members of the Council were all appointed.

III. ARY and PDRY

Joint Council of the Arab Republic of Yemen and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
1989	270	259	11	4.1

YUGOSLAVIA

Date on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 31.01.1946¹
(b) To stand for election: 31.01.1946¹
1. Equal rights were given to men and women in 1943 by the law voted by the Antifascist National Council for Liberation of Yugoslavia (the supreme representative organ with Executive and Legislative power to which a woman was first elected on 29 November 1943. This law was upheld by the Constitution of 1946.

Skupstina SRJ - Federal Assembly (bicameral)

Vece Republika - Chamber of Republics

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
06.1992	40	39	1	2.5
02.1993	40	39	1	2.5
03.1994	40 (4 vacancies) ²	35	1	2.8

Vece Gradjana - Chamber of Citizens

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
05.1992	138 (2 vacancies)	129	7	5.1
12.1992	138	134	4	2.9

2. Four vacancies following elections to the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
05.06.1992	8 ³	Yes	No

3. Women from Serbia and Montenegro had previously been elected to the Parliament of the S.F.R. of Yugoslavia: see page 269.

President of Parliament or of one of its Chambers: No woman has yet held this office.

ZAIRE

(called the Republic of Congo until July 1964, then Democratic Republic of Congo until October 1971)

Dates on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 03.05.1967
(b) To stand for election: 17.04.1970

Haut Conseil de la République - Parlement de la transition (HCR-PT) -

High Council of the Republic - Transitional Parliament (HCR-TP) (unicameral) ¹

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
04.1994	738	701	37	5.0

1. Established for a 15-month period, which was extended for nine more months in July 1995.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
11.1970	12	Yes	No

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

*** ZAIRE: Previous situation ***

I. Parliament (bicameral)

Senate

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
06.1960 ¹	84	84	0	0.0

House of Representatives

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
06.1960	137	137	0	0.0

1. First legislature of the Democratic Republic of Congo after the country became independent on 30 June 1960. Parliament was dissolved following a military coup d'Etat.

II. National Assembly (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
03-04.1965 ²	?	?	?	?
11.1970	420	408	12	2.8

2. The Parliament was dissolved following a military coup d'Etat in November 1965.

III. National Legislative Council (unicameral)

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
11.1975	244	217	27	11.1
10.1977	272	267	5	1.8
09.1982	310	299	11	3.5
09.1987 ³	222	210	12	5.4

3. The Council was dissolved by the National Conference which was established in August 1991 but only convened in April 1992.

IV. High Council of the Republic (unicameral) ⁴

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
12.1992	453	?	?	?

4. Established by the National Conference as a Transitional Executive and Legislative authority.

ZAMBIA

Dates on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 30.10.1962
(b) To stand for election: 30.10.1962

National Assembly (unicameral)

Elections & Appointments ¹	Seats	Men	Women ³	% of women
01.1964 ²	75	71	4	5.3
12.1968	111	109	2	1.8
12.1973	136	128	8	5.9
12.1978	136	130	6	4.4
10.1983	136	132	4	2.9
10.1988	136	127	9	6.6
10.1991	150	140	10	6.7

1. Certain members appointed by the Head of State and the Speaker of the National Assembly.
2. The Legislative Council elected in January 1964 became the first legislature of Zambia after the country became independent on 24 October 1964; it was renamed the National Assembly on 28 October 1964.
3. In 1964, 1968 and 1973, one of the women members of Parliament was appointed; in 1976 and 1983, all women were elected; in 1988, two of the women members were appointed and in 1991, one of the women members was also appointed.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
01.1964	4	3	1

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

ZIMBABWE

Dates on which women were given the right

- (a) To vote: 1957¹
 (b) To stand for election: 03.1978

1. Up to 1957, only men and European women could vote. In 1957, a qualified right to vote was extended to black married women. A wife was deemed to have the same means of qualifications as her husband, but in the case of a polygamous marriage, this privilege only applied to the first wife. Wives were required to have literacy in English and any educational qualifications in their own right. In order to be registered as a general voter, a person had to have one of four alternative qualifications: (i) income of £ 720 per annum or ownership of immovable property valued at £ 1,500; (ii) income of £ 3,480 per annum or ownership of immovable property valued at £ 1,000 plus the completion of a primary course of education of prescribed standard; (iii) being a minister of religion, who had undergone certain stipulated training and periods of service in the Ministry and who followed no other profession, trade or gainful occupation; (iv) being a chief as defined in the Act.

Parliament (unicameral)

Elections & Appointments	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
03.1990	150 ²	132	18 ³	12.0
04.1995	150	128	22	14.7

2. 120 elected and 30 seats reserved for members appointed by the President of the Republic and traditional Chiefs.

3. 14 elected and 4 appointed; one of them was then appointed Ambassador and was replaced by a man.

First women members of Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
02.1980	8	Yes	No
03.1980	3	No	Yes

President of Parliament: No woman has yet held this office.

*** ZIMBABWE: Previous situation ***

Parliament (bicameral)

Senate

Elections & Appointments ¹	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
03.1980 ²	40	37	3	7.5
07.1985	40	36	4	10.0

House of Assembly

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
02.1980 ²	100	92	8	8.0
07.1985	100	89	11	11.0

1. 24 Senators appointed by the Assembly, 10 Chiefs and 6 Senators appointed by the Head of State.

2. First legislature of Zimbabwe after the country became independent on 18 April 1980.

S.F.R. OF YUGOSLAVIA (until 1991)

(In the absence of an internationally recognized successor State, the information pertaining to the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is presented in this separate data sheet)

I. Constituent Assembly of the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia (bicameral) ¹**Assembly of Nationalities**

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
11.11.1945	175	164	11	6.3

Federal Assembly

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
11.11.1945	349	340	9	2.6

1. After the adoption of the Constitution, the Constituent Assembly became the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia Assembly on 31 January 1946.

II. The People's Assembly of the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia (bicameral)**Chamber of Nationalities**

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
11.1945 + 11.1947	175	164	11	6.3

Federal Chamber

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
11.1945 + 11.1947 ²	362	352	10	2.8

2. By-elections to the People's Assembly of the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia were held on 30 November 1947 to full, in the Federal Chamber, the additional seats corresponding to the region united with Yugoslavia in accordance with the Peace Treaty with Italy. The situation presented here corresponds to the situation after those elections which brought the total number of seats in the People's Assembly to 537.

III. Federal People's Assembly of the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia (bicameral) ³**Council of Nationalities**

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
26.03.1950	215	197	18	8.4
24.11.1953	202	195	7	3.5
26.03.1958	216	202	14	6.5

Federal Council

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
26.03.1950	405	392	13	3.2
22.11.1953	352	333	19	5.4
23.03.1958	371	347	24	6.5

3. The Council of Nationalities was called the Council of Producers in 1953 and 1958.

IV. Federal Assembly (Five chambers) ⁴**Federal Chamber and Chamber of Nationalities**

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
04 & 16.06.1963	190	157	33	17.4
04 & 18.04.1965	190	164	26	13.7
09.04.1967	190	172	18	9.5

Economic Chamber

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
03.06.1963	120	108	12	10.0
04.04.1965	120	113	7	5.8
09.04.1967	120	118	2	1.7

Chamber of Education and Culture

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
03.06.1963	120	86	34	28.3
04.04.1965	120	94	26	21.7
09.04 & 10.05.1967	120	95	25	20.8

(continued on next page)

S.F.R. OF YUGOSLAVIA (until 1991): (contd)

Organizational-Political Chamber

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
03.06.1963	120	104	16	13.3
04.04.1965	120	104	16	13.3
09.04.1967	120	107	13	10.8

Chamber of Welfare and Health

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
03.06.1963	120	84	36	30.0
04.04.1965	120	76	44	36.7
09.04.1967	120	89	31	25.8

4. The term of the Federal Assembly was from 29 June 1963 to 16 May 1969. According to the Electoral Law in force at the time, at least 50% of the delegates of each Chamber had to be replaced every two years. Membership of the five Chambers is given here for the successive two-year periods.

V. Federal Assembly (Five Chambers)

Chamber of Nationalities

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
05.1969	140	121	19	13.6

Socio-Political Chamber

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
13.04.1969	120	113	7	5.8

Economic Chamber

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
23.04.1969	120	119	1	0.8

Chamber of Education and Culture

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
23.04.1969	120	106	14	11.7

Chamber of Welfare and Health

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
23.04.1969	120	111	9	7.5

VI. Federal Assembly of the S.F.R.Y. (bicameral)

***Pokrajniti* - Chamber of Republics and Provinces**

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
Until 10.05.1974	88 ^(1 vacancy)	78	9	10.3
10.05.1978	88	78	10	11.4
10.05.1982	88	79	9	10.2
Until 10.05.1986 ⁵	88	79	9	10.2

***Savezno Vece - Savezno Vijece - Svezni Zbor - Sojuzen Sobor* - Federal Chamber**

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
22-29.04.1974	220	178	42	19.1
12-21.04.1978	220	176	44	20.0
13-21.04.1982	220	175	45	20.5
14-21.04.1986 ⁵	220	180	40	18.2

5. By a Constitutional Law of 15 March 1990 the term of the Assembly of the S.F.R.Y. was prolonged until 30 December 1990; subsequently, on 15 November 1990, the Federal Council of the S.F.R.Y. decided to extend its term until such time as a new Assembly of the S.F.R.Y. had been formed as a result of pluralist elections. On 28 December 1990, the Chamber of Republics and Provinces decided to extend until 15 May 1991 the term of office of its delegates representing the assemblies of the Socialist Republics and the Autonomous Socialist Provinces. On 26 April 1991, the Chamber of Republics and Provinces adopted an amendment to that latter decision prolonging its members' term of office. On 25 June 1991, the number of delegates in the Federal Assembly of the S.F.R.Y. changed as a result of the secession of the R.S. of Slovenia, Croatia, Macedonia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

(continued on next page)

S.F.R. OF YUGOSLAVIA (until 1991): (contd)**First women members of Parliament**

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
29.11.1943 ⁶	2	Yes	No
11.11.1945 ⁷	20	Yes	No

6. Members of Presidency of the Antifascist National Council of Yugoslavia.

7. People's Assembly of the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia.

President of Parliament or of one of its Chambers

Chamber	Period	Name
Chamber of Welfare and Health of the Federal Assembly of the S.F.R.Y.	29.06.1963-16.05.1967	Olga VRABIC
Federal Chamber and Chamber of Nationalities of the Federal Assembly	16.05.1967-16.05.1969	Vida TOMSIC
Federal Chamber of the S.F.R.Y. Assembly	31.10.1979-15.05.1982	Stana TOMASEVIC-ARNESEN
Federal Chamber of the S.F.R.Y.	15.05.1986-15.05.1987	Milka GLIGORIJEVIC-TAKEVA
Federal Chamber of the S.F.R.Y.	15.05.1989-11.06.1992	Bogdana GLUMAC-LEVAKOV

REGIONAL PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLIES

TABLES AND COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

**REGIONAL PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLIES
ELECTED BY DIRECT BALLOT**

On pages 276 to 277, tables will be found for the proportion of women members in the only two regional parliamentary assemblies whose members are, at the time of this study, elected by direct ballot: the European Parliament and the Central American Parliament.

*
* *

I. A CLEAR DISPARITY BETWEEN THE PROPORTION OF WOMEN MPS IN NATIONAL AND REGIONAL PARLIAMENTS

In each of the two tables the proportion of women belonging to the regional parliamentary assembly and of women in the national Parliament is provided for each of the countries concerned.

Comparison of the two sets of figures shows that only two countries, Italy and Portugal, boast a proportion of women in the **European Parliament** that is much the same as in their national Parliaments: respectively 12.6% and 8% of European MPs as against 13% and 8.7% of national MPs. All the other countries are represented within the European institution by a proportion of women higher than in their national Parliaments: the difference in percentage varies from 10% to 24%. As to the three countries which acceded to the European Union in January 1995 and are provisionally represented in the European Parliament by delegates from their national Parliaments and not by directly elected representatives, the disparity in favour of the European Parliament ranges from 5% to 29%, the biggest difference existing in Finland since its proportion of women in the European Parliament is 62.5%, or practically the reverse of the situation in the national Parliament, where women account for 33.5% of deputies.

With regard to the **Central American Parliament**, the opposite is true since the proportion of women representatives of each of the member countries is well below that of women in the corresponding national Parliament.

II. HOW IS THIS DISPARITY TO BE INTERPRETED?

Does the fact that women are proportionately more numerous in the European Parliament than in their national Parliaments suggest that men are less interested in Europe than women, or that the latter are more optimistic about Europe's future as a community? Should one see in it a sign that the function of European MP is perceived by men as offering less political kudos and visibility, compared with that of national MP, while offering women a chance they would not have had, or at least not easily, at national level? Must it further be concluded that the youth of the institution favours women? If we consider the matter alongside the fact that some countries having recently acceded to the parliamentary system boast a greater proportion of women MPs than many old representative democracies, the inclination is to concur. But the question in truth remains open. And all the more open since the opposite trend is observed in the Central American Parliament, an institution seeking to consolidate itself and within which, let us hope, women will be able to build up their presence in the future.

N° V

PROPORTIONATE COMPARISON OF WOMEN MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND WOMEN MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS OF THE 15 COUNTRIES CONCERNED

Country and date of accession to the European Union	Women in the European Parliament (June 1994)	Women in national Parliament (June 1995)			
Austria ¹ 01.01.1995	7/21 33.3%	Bundesrat Nationalrat	(11.94) : (11.94) ³ :	14/63 43/183	22.2% 23.5%
		Total:		57/246	23.2%
Belgium 25.07.1952	8/25 32.0%	Senate House of Rep.	(05.95) : (05.95) :	16/71 18/150	22.5% 12.0%
		Total:		34/221	15.4%
Denmark 01.01.1973	7/16 43.8%	Folketinget	(09.04) :		
		Total:		59/179	33.0%
Finland ¹ 01.01.1995	10/16 62.5%	Parliament	(03.95) :		
		Total:		67/200	33.5%
France 25.07.1952	26/87 29.9%	Senate Nat. Assem.	(09.92) : (03.93) :	16/321 35/577	5.0% 6.4%
		Total :		53/898	5.9%
Germany 25.07.1952 (FRG) & 10.1990 (Unif. Germany)	35/99 35.3%	Bundesrat ⁴ Bundestag	(variable dates) (10.94) :	13/68 ² 176/672	19.1% 26.2%
		Total:		189/740	25.5%
Greece 01.01.1981	4/25 16.0%	House of Dep.	(10.93) :		
		Total:		18/300	6.0%
Ireland 01.01.1973	4/15 26.7%	Senate House of Rep.	(02.92) : (11.92) :	8/60 21/166	13.3% 12.7%
		Total :		29/226	12.8%
Italy 25.07.1952	11/87 12.6%	Senate Chamber of Dep.	(03.94) : (03.94) :	29/326 95/630	8.9% 15.1%
		Total :		124/956	13.0%
Luxembourg 25.07.1952	2/6 33.3%	Chamber of Dep.	(06.94) :		
		Total:		12/60	20.0%
Netherlands 25.07.1952	10/31 32.2%	1st Ch. States General 2nd Ch. States General	(05.91) : (05.94) :	17/75 47/150	22.7% 31.3%
		Total :		64/225	28.4%
Portugal 01.01.1986	2/25 8.0%	Assem. of the Rep.	(10.91) :		
		Total:		20/230	8.7%
Spain 01.01.1986	21/64 32.8%	Senate Congress of Deputies	(06.93) (06.93)	32/254 56/350	12.6% 16.0%
		Total:		88/604	14.6%
Sweden ¹ 01.01.1995	10/22 45.4%	Riksdag	(09.94)		
		Total:		141/349	40.4%
United Kingdom 01.01.1973	16/87 18.4%	House of Lords ⁴ House of Commons	(non elected) (04.92)	82/1200 62/651	6.8% 9.5%
		Total:		144/1851	7.8%

1. In Austria, Finland and Sweden, members of the European Parliament have been appointed since 1 January 1995 by the national parliament pending elections by direct vote.
2. The number of women is indicated according to the total number of members of the Chamber or of the Parliament: for example, in Belgium, 20 women out of a total of 184 senators, i.e. 10.9% women senators, and 20 women out of a total of 212 representatives, i.e. 9.4% representatives, and a total of 40 women out of 396 members of Parliament, i.e. 10.1% of women MPs.
3. Date of the most recent elections.
4. The Parliaments of Germany and the United Kingdom are not, strictly speaking, bicameral Parliaments.

N° VI

**PROPORTIONATE COMPARISON OF WOMEN MEMBERS OF THE CENTRAL AMERICAN PARLIAMENT AND
WOMEN MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS OF THE SIX COUNTRIES CONCERNED**

Country and date of accession to the Treaty	Women in the Central American Parliament (June 1995)	Women of national Parliaments of the six countries concerned (June 1995)		
Costa Rica 15.10.1987	0/0 ¹ 0.0%	Legislative Assembly	(02.1994) ⁵ :	Total : 8/57 14.0%
El Salvador 08.10.1987	2/22 ² 9.1%	Legislative Assembly	(05.1994) :	Total : 9/84 10.7%
Guatemala 16.10.1987	0/22 0.0%	Congress of the Republic	(08.1994) :	Total : 6/80 7.5%
Honduras 15.10.1987	1/22 4.5%	National Congress	(11.1993) :	Total : 10/128 7.8%
Nicaragua ---	0/2 ³ 0.0%	National Assembly	(02.1990) :	Total : 15/92 16.3%
Panama ---	7/19 ⁴ 36.8%	Legislative Assembly	(05.1994) :	Total : 6/72 8.3%

1. Costa Rica has not elected its members to the Central American Parliament.
2. The number of women is in relation to the total membership of the Chamber or of Parliament: for example, El Salvador, 2/22, i.e. two women out of a total of 22 members, i.e. 9.1%.
3. Nicaragua's representatives to the Parlacen will be elected in February 1996 together with the national MPs; in the meanwhile, the ex-President and ex-Vice-President of the Republic are Nicaragua's only representatives in the Parlacen.
4. The electoral law is being revised to enable direct election of Panama's representatives to the Parlacen; pending the adoption and entry into force of this amendment, Panama is represented in the Parlacen by 19-non-voting MPs.
5. Date of legislative elections.

REGIONAL PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLIES

DATA SHEET BY ASSEMBLY

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

The unicameral assembly established by the Treaties of Rome of 25 March 1957, met as the *European Parliamentary Assembly* until 30 March 1962. It was then renamed European Parliament.

Right to vote and stand for election to the European Parliament

The members of the European Parliament have been elected by direct vote since June 1979. However, in the three countries which acceded to the European Union in January 1995 (Austria, Finland and Sweden), the members of the European Parliament are appointed by their national Parliaments pending the holding of direct elections.

Country and date of accession to the European Union	Right to vote for the European Parliament	Right to stand for election to the European Parliament	Introduction of direct suffrage ¹
Austria 01.01.1995	(right not yet introduced in law)	(right not yet introduced in law)	(direct suffrage not yet introduced)
Belgium 25.07.1952	23.03.1989 (16.07.1993 and 27.02.1994 amendments)	23.03.1989 (16.07.1993 and 27.02.1994 amendments)	11.04.1994 (Law N° 94-1029)
Denmark 01.01.1973	02.12.1977 (06.04.1984, 07.12.1988 and 22.12.1993 amendments)	02.12.1977 (06.04.1984, 07.12.1988 and 22.12.1993 amendments)	22.12.1993 (Law N° 1086)
Finland 01.01.1995	(right not yet introduced in law)	(right not yet introduced in law)	03.03.1995 (Law N° 272/95)
France 25.07.1952	07.07.1977 (and Decree-Law N° 79.160 of 28.02.1979)	07.07.1977 (and Decree-Law N° 79.160 of 28.02.1979)	05.02.1994 (Law N° 94.104)
Germany 25.07.1952 (FRG) & 10.1990 (reunif. Germany)	16.06.1978 (11.11.1993 amendment)	16.06.1978 (11.11.1993 amendment)	08.03.1994 (Law N° 94-8681; amendment I.1994, N°14)
Greece 01.01.1981	20.07.1981 (and Law N° 1143/84)	20.07.1981 (and Law N° 1143/84)	21.03.1994 (Law N° 2196)
Ireland 01.01.1973	09.12.1977 (and 17.04.1984 and 13.12.1993 Laws; 1977 to 1993 Acts)	09.12.1977 (and 17.04.1984 and 13.12.1993 Laws; 1977 to 1993 Acts)	05.11.1992 (Electoral Law)
Italy 25.07.1952	24.06.1979 (09.04.1984 amendment, Law N° 9 of 18.01.1989 and Decree-Law N° 128 of 21.02.1994)	24.06.1979 (09.04.1984 amendment, Law N° 9 of 18.01.1989 and Decree-Law N° 128 of 21.02.1994)	24.06.1994 (Decree-Law N° 408 and Law N° 483 of 03.08.1994)
Luxembourg 25.07.1952	25.02.1979 (14.03.1984 and 28.01.1994 amendments)	25.02.1979 (14.03.1984 and 28.01.1994 amendments)	28.01.1994 (Law)

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EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: (contd.)

Country and date of accession to the European Union	Right to vote for the European Parliament	Right to stand for election to the European Parliament	Introduction of direct suffrage ¹
Netherlands 25.07.1952	13.12.1978 (30.05.1979, 27.01.1982, 25.09.1985 and 02.12.1993 amendments)	13.12.1978 (30.05.1979, 27.01.1982, 25.09.1985 and 02.12.1993 amendments)	26.01.1994 (Law)
Portugal 01.01.1986	29.04.1987	29.04.1987	09.03.1994 (Law N° 4/94)
Spain 01.01.1986	19.06.1985 (02.04.1987, 13.05.1991 and 02.11.1992 amendments, and Royal Decree of 05.04.1991 amended on 16.04.1993)	19.06.1985 (02.04.1987, 13.05.1991 and 02.11.1992 amendments, and Royal decree of 05.04.1991 amended on 16.04.1993)	02.04.1987 (Organic Law N° 13 of 30.03.1994)
Sweden 01.01.1995	SFS Act 1995-374 (entry into force - 1 May 1995)	SFS Act 1995-374 (entry into force - 1 May 1995)	SFS Act 1995-374 (entry into force - 1 May 1995)
United Kingdom 01.01.1973	05.05.1978 (SI.1994 N° 342 & 748 amendments)	05.05.1978 (SI.1994 N° 342 & 748 amendments)	15.02.1994 (The European Parliamentary Elections Regulations)

1. According to a European Council Directive of 6 December 1993, "any citizen of the European Union who resides in a member State of which he or she is a national has the right to vote in and be a candidate for elections to the European Parliament in the member States in which he or she resides, in the same conditions as the nationals of the said State". The Directive is based on the principle that the right to vote and to be elected to the European Parliament must be exercised in accordance with the national legislation of the country in which such rights are exercised.

Elections - June 1979

Overall situation

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
06.1979	410	341	69 ¹	16.8

Breakdown by country

Belgium	24	18	6	25.0
Denmark	16	12	4	25.0
France	81	63	18	22.2
Germany (FR)	81	69	12	14.8
Ireland	15	14	1	6.7
Italy	81	71	10	12.3
Luxembourg	6	4	2	33.3
Netherlands	25	20	5	20.0
United Kingdom	81	70	11	13.6

1. Greece acceded to the European Community on 1 January 1981. From 1 January to 18 October 1981, during which period Greek members were appointed to the European Parliament (and not directly elected), no women out of a total of 24 members. From 2 November 1981 to 24 July 1984 (end of the first legislature of the European Parliament): one woman out of a total of 24 members. The overall situation thus became as follows: 70 women out of a total membership of 434, i.e. 16.1% of women.

(continued on next page)

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: (contd.)

Elections - June 1984

Overall situation

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
06.1984	518	433	85	16.4

Breakdown by country

Belgium	24	20	4	16.7
Denmark	16	9	7	43.8
France	81	65	16	19.8
Germany (FR)	81	65	16	19.8
Greece	24	22	2	8.3
Ireland	15	14	1	6.7
Italy	81	73	8	9.9
Luxembourg	6	4	2	33.3
Netherlands	25	18	7	28.0
Portugal ²	24	22	2	8.3
Spain ²	60	54	6	10.0
United Kingdom	81	69	12	14.8

2. Separate elections were held in Portugal and Spain in June 1987 after these two countries acceded to the European Community on 1 January 1986; between January 1986 and June 1987 these two countries were represented in the European Parliament by members appointed by their national Parliament (the figures given here are for the period after the June 1987 elections).

Elections - June 1989

Overall situation

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
06.1989	518	415	103	19.9

Breakdown by country

Belgium	24	19	5	20.8
Denmark	16	10	6	37.5
France	81	63	18	22.2
Germany ³	81	54	27	33.3
Greece	24	24	0	0.0
Ireland	15	14	1	6.7
Italy	81	70	11	13.6
Luxembourg	6	3	3	50.0
Netherlands	25	18	7	28.0
Portugal	24	20	4	16.7
Spain	60	51	9	15.0
United Kingdom	81	69	12	14.8

3. As of 30 October 1990 (reunification of Germany), Germany was also represented by 18 observers of the new *Länder*, including 3 women; as a result, the proportion of women for Germany was 30 women, i.e. 30.3%.

(continued on next page)

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: (contd.)

Elections - June 1994

Overall situation

Elections	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
06.1994	567	420	147	25.9
01.01.1995 ⁴	626	453	173	27.6

Breakdown by country

<i>Austria</i>	21	14	7	33.3
Belgium	25	17	8	32.0
Denmark	16	9	7	43.8
<i>Finland</i>	16	6	10	62.5
France	87	61	26	29.9
Germany	99	64	35	35.3
Greece	25	21	4	16.0
Ireland	15	11	4	26.7
Italy	87	76	11	12.6
Luxembourg	6	4	2	33.3
Netherlands	31	21	10	32.2
Portugal	25	23	2	8.0
Spain	64	43	21	32.8
<i>Sweden</i>	22	12	10	45.4
United Kingdom	87	71	16	18.4

4. These figures include the representatives of Austria, Finland and Sweden. Since they became members of the European Union on 1 January 1995, Austria, Finland and Sweden have been represented in Parliament by persons not elected by universal suffrage.

First woman member of the European Parliament

Date	Number	Elected	Appointed
26.08.1952	1	No	Yes ⁵

5. Designated by her national Parliament.

President of Parliament

Period	Name
07.1979 - 01.1982	Simone VEIL (France)

CENTRAL AMERICAN PARLIAMENT (PARLACEN)

The *Constitutive Treaty of the Central American Parliament and other political bodies* was signed in Guatemala City on 8 October 1987 by the Presidents of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua, then in 1994 by the President of Panama.

Right to vote and stand for election to the Central American Parliament

The Treaty stipulates that the 20 representatives of each of the six member countries, as well as their 20 substitutes, will be elected by direct and universal secret ballot; in addition, the Presidents and Vice-Presidents of the six Republics become *ex officio* members of the Central American Parliament once their presidential term of office has expired.

Country and date of accession to the Treaty	Right to vote in the Parlacen	Right to be elected to the Parlacen	Introduction of direct suffrage in the Parlacen
Costa Rica ¹ 15.10.1987	---	---	---
El Salvador 08.10.1987	Yes	Yes	Yes
Guatemala 16.10.1987	Yes	Yes	Yes
Honduras 15.10.1987	Yes	Yes	Yes
Nicaragua ---	Yes	Yes	Yes
Panama ---	Right not yet introduced in Law: change in course	Right not yet introduced in Law: change in course	Direct suffrage not yet introduced

1. Costa Rica has not elected its members to the Central American Parliament and has not taken steps to change its legislation to that effect.

First legislature

Overall situation

Period	Seats	Men	Women	% of women
1991-1996	87	78	9	10.3

Breakdown by country

Costa Rica ²	0	0	0	0.0
El Salvador	20 + 2	20	2	9.1
Guatemala	20 + 2	22	0	0.0
Honduras	20 + 2	21	1	4.5
Nicaragua ³	0 + 2	0 + 2	0	0.0
Panama ⁴	19	12	7	36.8

2. Costa Rica has not elected its members to the Central American Parliament.
3. Nicaragua's representatives to the Parlacen will be elected in February 1996 together with the national MPs; in the meanwhile, the ex-President and ex-Vice-President of the Republic are Nicaragua's only representatives in the Parlacen.
4. The electoral law is being revised to enable direct election of Panama's representatives to the Parlacen; pending the adoption and entry into force of this amendment, Panama is represented in the Parlacen by 19-non-voting MPs.

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CENTRAL AMERICAN PARLIAMENT: (contd.)

President of Parliament

Period	Name
10.1993	Ilsa DIAZ ZELAYA (Honduras)

INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

The Inter-Parliamentary Union is the international organisation which brings together the representatives of the Parliaments of sovereign States.

As the focal point for world-wide parliamentary dialogue since 1889, the Inter-Parliamentary Union works for peace and co-operation among peoples and for the firm establishment of representative institutions. To that end, it:

- Fosters contacts, co-ordination and the exchange of experience among Parliaments and parliamentarians of all countries;
- Considers questions of international interest and expresses its views on such issues with the aim of bringing about action by Parliaments and their members;
- Contributes to the defence and promotion of human rights, which are universal in scope and respect for which is an essential factor of parliamentary democracy and development;
- Contributes to better knowledge of the working of representative institutions and to the strengthening and development of their means of action.

The Union, which shares the objectives of the United Nations, supports its efforts and works in close co-operation with it. It also co-operates with the regional inter-parliamentary organisations, as well as with international intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations which are motivated by the same ideals.