

## Women's political participation

HDI rank	Year women received right <sup>a</sup>		Year first woman elected (E) or appointed (A) to parliament	Women in government at ministerial level (% of total) <sup>b</sup>	MDG Seats in parliament held by women (% of total) <sup>c</sup>			
	To vote	To stand for election			Lower or single house		Upper house or senate	
					1990	2007	2007	
<b>HIGH HUMAN DEVELOPMENT</b>								
1	Iceland	1915, 1920	1915, 1920	1922 E	27.3	20.6	31.7	—
2	Norway	1913	1907, 1913	1911 A	44.4	35.8	37.9	—
3	Australia	1902, 1962	1902, 1962	1943 E	20.0	6.1	24.7	35.5
4	Canada	1917, 1960	1920, 1960	1921 E	23.1	13.3	20.8	35.0
5	Ireland	1918, 1928	1918, 1928	1918 E	21.4	7.8	13.3	16.7
6	Sweden	1919, 1921	1919, 1921	1921 E	52.4	38.4	47.3	—
7	Switzerland	1971	1971	1971 E	14.3	14.0	25.0	23.9
8	Japan	1945, 1947	1945, 1947	1946 E	12.5	1.4	9.4	14.5
9	Netherlands	1919	1917	1918 E	36.0	21.3	36.7	34.7
10	France	1944	1944	1945 E	17.6	6.9	12.2	16.9
11	Finland	1906	1906	1907 E	47.1	31.5	42.0	—
12	United States	1920, 1965	1788 <sup>d</sup>	1917 E	14.3	6.6	16.3	16.0
13	Spain	1931	1931	1931 E	50.0	14.6	36.0	23.2
14	Denmark	1915	1915	1918 E	33.3	30.7	36.9	—
15	Austria	1918	1918	1919 E	35.3	11.5	32.2	27.4
16	United Kingdom	1918, 1928	1918, 1928	1918 E	28.6	6.3	19.7	18.9
17	Belgium	1919, 1948	1921	1921 A	21.4	8.5	34.7	38.0
18	Luxembourg	1919	1919	1919 E	14.3	13.3	23.3	—
19	New Zealand	1893	1919	1933 E	23.1	14.4	32.2	—
20	Italy	1945	1945	1946 E	8.3	12.9	17.3	13.7
21	Hong Kong, China (SAR)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
22	Germany	1918	1918	1919 E	46.2	..	31.6	21.7
23	Israel	1948	1948	1949 E	16.7	6.7	14.2	—
24	Greece	1952	1952	1952 E	5.6	6.7	13.0	—
25	Singapore	1947	1947	1963 E	0.0	4.9	24.5	—
26	Korea (Republic of)	1948	1948	1948 E	5.6	2.0	13.4	—
27	Slovenia	1946	1946	1992 E <sup>e</sup>	6.3	..	12.2	7.5
28	Cyprus	1960	1960	1963 E	0.0	1.8	14.3	—
29	Portugal	1931, 1976	1931, 1976	1934 E	16.7	7.6	21.3	—
30	Brunei Darussalam	—	—	—	9.1	.. <sup>f</sup>	.. <sup>f</sup>	.. <sup>f</sup>
31	Barbados	1950	1950	1966 A	29.4	3.7	13.3	23.8
32	Czech Republic	1920	1920	1992 E <sup>e</sup>	11.1	..	15.5	14.8
33	Kuwait	2005	2005	2005 A	0.0	..	3.1 <sup>g</sup>	—
34	Malta	1947	1947	1966 E	15.4	2.9	9.2	—
35	Qatar	2003 <sup>h</sup>	..	..	7.7	..	0.0	—
36	Hungary	1918, 1945	1918, 1945	1920 E	11.8	20.7	10.4	—
37	Poland	1918	1918	1919 E	5.9	13.5	20.4	13.0
38	Argentina	1947	1947	1951 E	8.3	6.3	35.0	43.1
39	United Arab Emirates	—	—	—	5.6	0.0	22.5	—
40	Chile	1949	1949	1951 E	16.7	..	15.0	5.3
41	Bahrain	1973, 2002	1973, 2002	2002 A	8.7	..	2.5	25.0
42	Slovakia	1920	1920	1992 E <sup>e</sup>	0.0	..	19.3	—
43	Lithuania	1919	1919	1920 A	15.4	..	24.8	—
44	Estonia	1918	1918	1919 E	15.4	..	21.8	—
45	Latvia	1918	1918	..	23.5	..	19.0	—
46	Uruguay	1932	1932	1942 E	0.0	6.1	11.1	9.7
47	Croatia	1945	1945	1992 E <sup>e</sup>	33.3	..	21.7	—
48	Costa Rica	1949	1949	1953 E	25.0	10.5	38.6	—
49	Bahamas	1961, 1964	1961, 1964	1977 A	26.7	4.1	12.2	53.8
50	Seychelles	1948	1948	1976 E+A	12.5	16.0	23.5	—
51	Cuba	1934	1934	1940 E	16.2	33.9	36.0	—
52	Mexico	1947	1953	1952 A	9.4	12.0	22.6	17.2
53	Bulgaria	1937, 1945	1945	1945 E	23.8	21.0	22.1	—

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	To vote	To stand for election			Lower or single house		Upper house or senate
					1990	2007	2007
54	1951	1951	1984 E	0.0	6.7	0.0	—
55	1960	1960	1993 E	..	0.0	3.3	—
56	1964	1964	..	..	..	7.7	—
57	1951	1951	1984 A	15.4	0.0	10.5	17.6
58	1994, 2003	1994, 2003	..	10.0	..	2.4	15.5
59	1946	1946	1962 E+A	18.2	16.7	19.4	32.3
60	1929, 1946	1929, 1946	1946 E	12.5	34.4	11.2	9.5
61	—	—	—	0.0	..	0.0	—
62	1941, 1946	1941, 1946	1946 E	14.3	7.5	16.7	—
63	1957	1957	1959 E	9.1	5.1	9.1	25.7
64	1918	1919	1990 E <sup>e</sup>	10.0	..	29.1	31.0
65	1956	1956	1976 E	8.0	7.1	17.1	—
66	1946	1946	1990 E <sup>e</sup>	11.1	..	14.3	13.3
67	1918	1918	1993 E <sup>e</sup>	0.0	..	9.8	3.4
68	1920	1920	1945 E	5.3	28.8	7.1	—
69	1946	1946	1990 E <sup>e</sup>	16.7	..	28.3	—
70	1932	1932	1933 E	11.4	5.3	8.8	12.3
<b>MEDIUM HUMAN DEVELOPMENT</b>							
71	1951	1951	1980 E	0.0	10.0	12.9	—
72	1951	1951	1979 A	8.3	0.0	5.6 <sup>i</sup>	18.2
73	1924, 1993	1924, 1993	1990 E <sup>e</sup>	17.6	..	10.4	5.1
74	1946	1946	1948 E	13.6	10.0	18.6	—
75	1954	1954	1954 A	35.7	4.5	8.4	11.8
76	1919	1919	1990 E <sup>e</sup>	5.6	..	8.7	—
77	1948, 1990	1948, 1990	1976 A	7.7	0.0	6.1	—
78	1932	1932	1948 A	7.7	2.8	8.7	—
79	1942	1942	1942 E	14.3	7.5	19.7	3.1
80	1954	1954	1984 E+A	6.3	0.0	6.7	25.0
81	1949	1949	1954 E	6.3	21.3	20.3	—
82	1951	1951	1976 E+A	40.0	..	26.7	30.8
83	1918	1918	1990 E <sup>e</sup>	0.0	35.6	9.2	—
84	1930, 1934	1930, 1934	1935 A	4.3	1.3	4.4	—
85	1948	1948	1975 E	11.8	7.8	25.5	—
86	1974	1974	1989 A	10.7	0.0	5.5	12.7
87	1955	1955	1956 E	11.8	5.6	29.2	—
88	1952	1952	1991 A	6.9	0.0	4.7	—
89	1929	1929	1956 E	14.3	4.5	25.0	—
90	1937	1937	1941 E	25.0	9.1	22.5	18.2
91	1959	1959	1959 E	7.1	4.3	22.8	13.4
92	1963	1963	1970 A	9.1	.. <sup>i</sup>	.. <sup>i</sup>	.. <sup>i</sup>
93	1951	1951	1979 E	20.0	9.5	18.2	—
94	1963	1963	1963 E+A	6.7	1.5	4.1	—
95	1961	1961	1963 E	30.8	5.6	10.0	8.9
96	1918, 1921	1918, 1921	1992 E <sup>e</sup>	22.2	..	9.4	—
97	1953	1945	1968 E	22.2	36.9	29.0	—
98	1918	1918	1990 E <sup>e</sup>	15.0	..	11.3	—
99	1931	1931	1947 E	10.3	4.9	4.9	—
100	1932	1932	1979 E	11.8	6.3	12.0	—
101	1944	1944	1944 E	17.6	5.0	11.7	19.0
102	1975	1975	1975 E	18.8	12.0	15.3	—
103	1939	1961	1961 E	35.3	11.7	16.7	—
104	1962	1962	1962 A	10.5	2.4	7.2	3.1
105	1946	1946	1976 E	11.5	17.7	25.8	—
106	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

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	To vote	To stand for election			Lower or single house		Upper house or senate	
					1990	2007	2007	
107	Indonesia	1945, 2003	1945	1950 A	10.8	12.4	11.3	—
108	Syrian Arab Republic	1949, 1953	1953	1973 E	6.3	9.2	12.0	—
109	Turkmenistan	1927	1927	1990 E <sup>e</sup>	9.5	26.0	16.0	—
110	Nicaragua	1955	1955	1972 E	14.3	14.8	18.5	—
111	Moldova	1924, 1993	1924, 1993	1990 E	11.1	..	21.8	—
112	Egypt	1956	1956	1957 E	5.9	3.9	2.0	6.8
113	Uzbekistan	1938	1938	1990 E <sup>e</sup>	3.6	..	17.5	15.0
114	Mongolia	1924	1924	1951 E	5.9	24.9	6.6	—
115	Honduras	1955	1955	1957 E	14.3	10.2	23.4	—
116	Kyrgyzstan	1918	1918	1990 E <sup>e</sup>	12.5	..	0.0	—
117	Bolivia	1938, 1952	1938, 1952	1966 E	6.7	9.2	16.9	3.7
118	Guatemala	1946	1946, 1965	1956 E	25.0	7.0	8.2	—
119	Gabon	1956	1956	1961 E	11.8	13.3	12.5	15.4
120	Vanuatu	1975, 1980	1975, 1980	1987 E	8.3	4.3	3.8	—
121	South Africa	1930, 1994	1930, 1994	1933 E	41.4	2.8	32.8 <sup>k</sup>	33.3 <sup>k</sup>
122	Tajikistan	1924	1924	1990 E <sup>e</sup>	3.1	..	17.5	23.5
123	Sao Tome and Principe	1975	1975	1975 E	14.3	11.8	7.3	—
124	Botswana	1965	1965	1979 E	26.7	5.0	11.1	—
125	Namibia	1989	1989	1989 E	19.0	6.9	26.9	26.9
126	Morocco	1963	1963	1993 E	5.9	0.0	10.8	1.1
127	Equatorial Guinea	1963	1963	1968 E	4.5	13.3	18.0	—
128	India	1935, 1950	1935, 1950	1952 E	3.4	5.0	8.3	10.7
129	Solomon Islands	1974	1974	1993 E	0.0	0.0	0.0	—
130	Lao People's Democratic Republic	1958	1958	1958 E	0.0	6.3	25.2	—
131	Cambodia	1955	1955	1958 E	7.1	..	9.8	14.8
132	Myanmar	1935	1946	1947 E	..	.. <sup>l</sup>	.. <sup>l</sup>	.. <sup>l</sup>
133	Bhutan	1953	1953	1975 E	0.0	2.0	2.7	—
134	Comoros	1956	1956	1993 E	..	0.0	3.0	—
135	Ghana	1954	1954	1960 A	11.8	..	10.9	—
136	Pakistan	1935, 1947	1935, 1947	1973 E <sup>e</sup>	5.6	10.1	21.3	17.0
137	Mauritania	1961	1961	1975 E	9.1	..	17.9	17.0
138	Lesotho	1965	1965	1965 A	27.8	..	23.5	30.3
139	Congo	1947, 1961	1963	1963 E	14.7	14.3	8.5	13.3
140	Bangladesh	1935, 1972	1935, 1972	1973 E	8.3	10.3	15.1 <sup>m</sup>	—
141	Swaziland	1968	1968	1972 E+A	13.3	3.6	10.8	30.0
142	Nepal	1951	1951	1952 A	7.4	6.1	17.3 <sup>n</sup>	—
143	Madagascar	1959	1959	1965 E	5.9	6.5	6.9	11.1
144	Cameroon	1946	1946	1960 E	11.1	14.4	8.9	—
145	Papua New Guinea	1964	1963	1977 E	..	0.0	0.9	—
146	Haiti	1957	1957	1961 E	25.0	..	4.1	13.3
147	Sudan	1964	1964	1964 E	2.6	..	17.8	4.0
148	Kenya	1919, 1963	1919, 1963	1969 E+A	10.3	1.1	7.3	—
149	Djibouti	1946	1986	2003 E	5.3	0.0	10.8	—
150	Timor-Leste	..	..	..	22.2	..	25.3 <sup>o</sup>	—
151	Zimbabwe	1919, 1957	1919, 1978	1980 E+A	14.7	11.0	16.7	34.8
152	Togo	1945	1945	1961 E	20.0	5.2	8.6	—
153	Yemen	1967, 1970	1967, 1970	1990 E <sup>e</sup>	2.9	4.1	0.3	1.8
154	Uganda	1962	1962	1962 A	23.4	12.2	29.8	—
155	Gambia	1960	1960	1982 E	20.0	7.8	9.4	—
<b>LOW HUMAN DEVELOPMENT</b>								
156	Senegal	1945	1945	1963 E	20.6	12.5	19.2	—
157	Eritrea	1955 <sup>p</sup>	1955 <sup>p</sup>	1994 E	17.6	..	22.0	—
158	Nigeria	1958	1958	..	10.0	..	6.4 <sup>q</sup>	7.3
159	Tanzania (United Republic of)	1959	1959	..	15.4	..	30.4	—

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	To vote	To stand for election			Lower or single house		Upper house or senate	
					1990	2007		2007
160	Guinea	1958	1958	1963 E	15.4	..	19.3	—
161	Rwanda	1961	1961	1981 E	35.7	17.1	48.8	34.6
162	Angola	1975	1975	1980 E	5.7	14.5	15.0	—
163	Benin	1956	1956	1979 E	19.0	2.9	8.4	—
164	Malawi	1961	1961	1964 E	14.3	9.8	13.6	—
165	Zambia	1962	1962	1964 E+A	25.0	6.6	14.6	—
166	Côte d'Ivoire	1952	1952	1965 E	17.1	5.7	8.5	—
167	Burundi	1961	1961	1982 E	10.7	..	30.5	34.7
168	Congo (Democratic Republic of the)	1967	1970	1970 E	12.5	5.4	8.4	4.6
169	Ethiopia	1955	1955	1957 E	5.9	..	21.9	18.8
170	Chad	1958	1958	1962 E	11.5	..	6.5	—
171	Central African Republic	1986	1986	1987 E	10.0	3.8	10.5	—
172	Mozambique	1975	1975	1977 E	13.0	15.7	34.8	—
173	Mali	1956	1956	1959 E	18.5	..	10.2	—
174	Niger	1948	1948	1989 E	23.1	5.4	12.4	—
175	Guinea-Bissau	1977	1977	1972 A	37.5	20.0	14.0	—
176	Burkina Faso	1958	1958	1978 E	14.8	..	11.7	—
177	Sierra Leone	1961	1961	..	13.0	..	14.5	—
<b>OTHERS</b>								
	Afghanistan	1963	1963	1965 E	10.0	3.7	27.3	22.5
	Andorra	1970	1973	1993 E	33.3	..	28.6	—
	Iraq	1980	1980	1980 E	18.8	10.8	25.5	—
	Kiribati	1967	1967	1990 E	0.0	0.0	7.1	—
	Korea (Democratic People's Rep)	1946	1946	1948 E	..	21.1	20.1	—
	Liberia	1946	1946	..	13.6	..	12.5	16.7
	Liechtenstein	1984	1984	1986 E	20.0	4.0	24.0	—
	Marshall Islands	1979	1979	1991 E	0.0	..	3.0	—
	Micronesia (Federated States of)	1979	1979	..	..	..	0.0	—
	Monaco	1962	1962	1963 E	0.0	11.1	20.8	—
	Montenegro	1946 <sup>r</sup>	1946 <sup>r</sup>	..	..	..	8.6	—
	Nauru	1968	1968	1986 E	0.0	5.6	0.0	—
	Palau	1979	1979	..	12.5	..	0.0	0.0
	San Marino	1959	1973	1974 E	12.5	11.7	11.7	—
	Serbia	1946 <sup>r</sup>	1946 <sup>r</sup>	..	..	..	20.4	—
	Somalia	1956	1956	1979 E	..	4.0	8.2	—
	Tuvalu	1967	1967	1989 E	0.0	7.7	0.0	—

**NOTES**

**a.** Data refer to the year in which the right to vote or stand for national election on a universal and equal basis was recognized. Where two years are shown, the first refers to the first partial recognition of the right to vote or stand for election. In some countries, women were granted the right to vote or stand at local elections before obtaining these rights for national elections. Data on local election rights are not included in this table.

**b.** Data are as of 1 January 2005. The total includes deputy prime ministers and ministers. Prime ministers who hold ministerial portfolios and vice-presidents and heads of ministerial level departments or agencies who exercise a ministerial function in the government structure are also included.

**c.** Data are as of 31 May 2007 unless otherwise specified. The percentage was calculated using as a reference the number of total seats filled in parliament at that time.

**d.** No information is available on the year all women received the right to stand for election. However, the constitution does not mention gender with regard to this right.

**e.** Refers to the year women were elected to the current parliamentary system.

**f.** Brunei Darussalam does not currently have a parliament.

**g.** No woman candidate was elected in the 2006 elections. One woman was appointed to the 16-member cabinet sworn in July 2006. A new cabinet sworn in March 2007 included two women. As cabinet ministers also sit in parliament, there are two women out of a total of 65 members.

**h.** According to the new constitution approved in 2003, women are granted suffrage. To date no legislative elections have been held.

**i.** No woman was elected in the 2006 elections. However one woman was appointed Speaker of the House and therefore became a member of the House.

**j.** Parliament has been dissolved or suspended for an indefinite period.

**k.** The figures on the distribution of seats do not include the 36 special rotating delegates appointed on an ad hoc basis, and all percentages given are therefore calculated on the basis of the 54 permanent seats.

**l.** The parliament elected in 1990 has never been convened nor authorized to sit, and many of its members were detained or forced into exile.

**m.** In 2004, the number of seats in parliament was raised from 300 to 345, with the addition of 45 reserved seats for women. These reserved seats were filled in September and October 2005, being allocated to political parties in proportion to their share of the national vote received in the 2001 election.

**n.** A transitional legislative parliament was established in January 2007. Elections for the Constituent Assembly will be held in 2007.

**o.** The purpose of the elections held on 30 August 2001 was to elect the members of the Constituent

Assembly of Timor-Leste. This body became the National Parliament on 20 May 2002, the date on which the country became independent, without any new elections.

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

**q.** Data are as of 31 May 2006.

**r.** Serbia and Montenegro separated into two independent states in June 2006. Women received the right to vote and to stand for elections in 1946, when Serbia and Montenegro were part of the former Yugoslavia.

**SOURCES**

Columns 1-3: IPU 2007b.  
 Column 4: IPU 2007a.  
 Column 5: UN 2007c, based on data from IPU.  
 Columns 6 and 7: IPU 2007c.