



IPU - UN Women Parliamentary Meeting

7 March 2023

#CSW67

Women in Politics 2023

Women in Parliament in 2022 report



Women in parliament in 2022 The year in review



Celia Xakriaba, a climate activist, is one of 4 indigenous women to be elected to the Brazilian Parliament. © Douglas Magno/AFP

Introduction

In 2022, women's leadership in the world's parliaments continued with a slow pace of incremental growth as the world re-emerged after two years of COVID-19 pandemic lockdowns and losses. Women reached new milestones in parliamentary representation around the globe and the context for women's political leadership continued to expand. Gender issues and women's rights shaped voter behaviour and electoral outcomes in countries from Brazil to Hungary and from Australia to the United States of America.

Women's participation in parliament has never been as diverse and representative as it is in many countries today. Dramatic changes in technology and parliamentary operations that were introduced during the pandemic are becoming institutionalized, helping to make parliaments more modern, gender-sensitive and family-friendly workplaces. Women's leadership has also been illustrated in the response to the climate crisis. But barriers such as gender-based violence and unequal access to campaign finance maintained and deepened the gap between women and men in politics in many parts of the world.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The share of women in national parliaments stood at 26.5% on 1 January 2023, a year-on-year increase of 0.4 percentage points that continues over a decade of incremental progress but represents the slowest growth in six years.
- In the 47 countries that held elections in 2022, women took an average of 25.8% of seats up for election or appointment, a 2.3-percentage-point increase relative to the previous renewals in these countries.
- Legislated quotas continued to be a decisive factor in women's representation in all regions of the world. Chambers with legislated quotas (or a combination of legislated and voluntary party quotas) elected 30.9% women in 2022, versus 21.2% in chambers with no quotas. Parliamentary chambers with quotas experienced less volatility and greater growth in women's representation.
- The most notable gains in women's representation in elected chambers in 2022 came in Slovenia, Malta, Equatorial Guinea, Colombia and Australia. Nearly 40% of renewals in the year saw negative or no growth (24 chambers).
- The Senate of Australia was the only chamber to elect women to over 50% of seats in 2022 (56.6%). It became the highestranking upper house in the world in terms of women's representation and one of only five upper chambers in the world to exceed 50%. Six other countries elected women to between 40% and 50% of seats.
- The Americas remained the region with the highest representation of women, with women accounting for 30.2% of members elected to 12 chambers in 8 countries that held parliamentary renewals in 2022. Overall, as of January 2023, women accounted for 34.7% of all parliamentarians in the region, across all chambers and countries.



Women in Politics: 2023 women Women Cabinet Women in parliament Ministers Inter-Parliamentary Union Situation on 1 January 2023 77 Zestal Ali § Castal Ali Salane 18 Fulses 10 Argestine 2 Large 4 Cite Coni 66 Salane 18 Oleme 10 Large 1 Pacific Ocean Atlantic Ocea About this map Share of women Cabinet Ministers by type of portfolio^a Women in the highest positions of State World and regional averages of women in parliament Countries with women Heads of State (17/151 = 11.3%) and countries with women Heads of Government (19/193 = 9.8%) Heads of State: Barbados, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ethiopia, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, India, Nepsi, Peru, Republic of Micidova, Singapora, Giovakia, Sievenia, Trinidad and Tobago, Unitad Republic of Tarusnia. Heads of State and Government: Honduras, San Marino. Heads of Government: Bangladesh, Barbados, Boenia and Herzegovina², Donmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Gabon. Icaland, Italy, Lithuania, New Zealand, Republic of Moldove, Samos, Serbia, Togo, Tunisia. Women Speakers of Parliament³ (62/273 = 22.7%) Albania, Andorra, Angola, Antiqua and Barbuda, Argentina (2 chambers), Australia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas (2 chambers), Accords, Antorris, Angues, Angues and centrus, Angues and Cartinostes, Andures, Antores, Andures, San Maries, San Maries, San Maries, Andures, San Maries, Andures, San Maries, San Mar Americas 34.6 % 34.9 % Europe (Nordic countries included) Spain, Switzerland, Togo, Triridad and Tobago (2 chambers), Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Regublic of Tarzania, Europe (Nordic countries not included) 29.5% United States of America (2 chambers), Uruguay, Uzbokistan, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Sub-Saharan Africa 26.6 % 26.1 % Women Deputy Speakers of Parliament (153/529 = 28.9%) Agriculture, food, forestry, fishing and hunting 21.2 % 19.4 % 21.0 % Of the 206 chambers in 151 countries for which information is available, 106 have at least one woman Deputy Speaker. 19.5 % 49.4 %

Inter-Parliamentary Union For democracy. For everyone.

A global snapshot of women in parliament in 2023: The gains



26.5% of parliamentarians are women +0.4 percentage point increase from last year

No functioning parliament has zero women MPs

Increased diversity

6 countries (up from 5 in 2022) have achieved gender parity in their parliaments:

- ✓ Cuba ✓ New Zealand ✓ Rwanda
- ✓ Mexico ✓ Nicaragua ✓ United Arab Emirates

A global snapshot of women in parliament in 2023: The losses





Rate of progress has plateaued at +0.4 percentage points in 2022, slowest rate in six years

80 years for parliaments globally to achieve gender parity at this rate

Less than 1/3 of lower/single chambers have 30% or more women MPs





Americas 34.9%

- Highest regional average - great progress (+1.1 percentage points in 1 year)
- •Gender parity in Cuba, Mexico and Nicaragua
- •Colombia the greatest gains in the region
- Stagnation in Brazil and the United States despite progress in diversity

Europe 31.0%

- Stagnation (-0.1 percentage points in 1 year)
- •Slovenia and Malta largest gains quota laws
- •Slovenia and Denmark elected more than 40% women

Sub-Saharan Africa 26.5%

- •Overall same average as last year
- Equatorial
 Guinea,
 Angola,
 Lesotho biggest
 gains
- •Strongest outcome -Senegal (44.2% of seats held by women) - parity law

Pacific 22.6%

- At least 1
 woman member
 in every
 parliament
- •Highest growth rate (+1.7 percentage points)
- Women in 6.5% of seats in the region aside from New Zealand and Australia
- •Overall progress due to New Zealand and Australia

Asia 21.0%

- Stagnant
- Progress in South-East Asia (+1.2 percentage points, 21.8% on average)
- South Asia saw declines (16.9%)
- Legislated quotas only in Nepal

MENA 16.3%

- Setback overall (-0.6 percentage points)
- •UAE only
 MENA country
 with parity
- •Bahrain elected record high number of women in parliament (8)
- •Algeria one of the lowest percentages in the world (4.3% in the upper house)

Women in top parliamentary leadership in 2023





22.7% of Speakers of Parliament+0.7 percentage points from last year



Argentina, the Bahamas, Belgium, Belize, Trinidad and Tobago and the United States of America – women Speakers in both chambers



Chairs of gender equality committees (65.9%) Chairs of defence committees (12.5%)



In 2022, first women Speakers in Angola, France, Monaco, Montenegro, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Slovenia



Women in the executive

Women Heads of State and Government





11.3% Heads of State
9.8% Heads of Government

Increases over the last ten years from 5.3% and 7.3%, respectively

Europe continues to have the **highest number** of women-led countries (16)

Women Cabinet Ministers





13 countries, mostly European, have 50% or more women Cabinet Ministers



Rank	Country	% Women in Cabinet
1.	Albania	66.7
2.	Finland	64.3
3.	Spain	63.6
4.	Nicaragua	62.5
5.	Liechtenstein	60.0
6.	Chile	58.3
7.	Belgium	57.1
8.	Mozambique	55.0
9.	Andorra, Colombia, Germany, Netherlands, Norway	50.0

Portfolios held by Women Cabinet Ministers





Lead **policy areas:** gender equality, human rights and social affairs.

Portfolio	% women
Women and gender equality	84%
Family and children's affairs	68%
Social inclusion and development	49%
Social protection and social security	45%
Indigenous and minority affairs	44%

vs only 12% of Defence Ministers and 8% of Transport Ministers



Lessons learned

Quotas critical for representation





In elections in 47 countries, women were elected to 25.8% of parliamentary seats (2022)



Countries with quotas elected 30.9% women; those without quotas elected only 21.2%



Quotas ensure a level of women's representation but do not always act as a shield:



Somalia saw a severe setback to representation (-4.7 percentage points) despite a quota law

Quotas must be clear, well drafted and supported by strong enforcement mechanisms

Violence Against Women MPs



A key obstacle to equality in politics



8 out of 10 women MPs in Africa experienced psychological violence in parliament (2021 IPU + African Parliamentary Union study) – similar to 2016 (global) and 2018 (Europe) studies



Senegal: Six-month jail terms for 2 MPs who attacked a pregnant MP in the National Assembly



United States of America: Speaker Pelosi's husband attacked in their home



France: 40 parliamentary cases of inappropriate behaviour (sexual harassment and bullying) registered January 2021 to September 2022

Parliaments have work to do to become safe spaces for women.

Gender parity in politics by 2030



COVID-19 pandemic and climate change crises reveal goal of gender parity in politics is crucial

Why gender parity: Improve gender equality Open politics to diverse women Create an enabling space Reflect society Efficient, effective, legitimate institutions

National Plans of Action Gender quotas in law End discriminatory laws Electoral spending caps Legislate against gender-based violence Target parity in public life Mandate and finance gender mainstreaming

How to achieve gender parity?





Inter-Parliamentary Union

5, chemin du Pommier Le Grand-Saconnex Geneva, Switzerland

ipu.org