

Statistics on Political Progress and Challenges

Women Moving Forward (Slowly)

- Women accounted for one out of five parliamentarians elected in 2005 (20%)
- In 20 countries today, over 30% of parliamentarians are women
- In 28 of 39 parliaments (72%) holding elections in 2005 women's ratio increased
- Rwanda, Sweden, Norway hold the top ranks of most women in parliaments
- Andorra, Burundi, Iraq, New Zealand and the United Republic of Tanzania are new to the list of countries with over 30% or more women legislators
- In Latin America, Venezuela increased women's representation by 20% to 29.9%
- Honduras had an 18% increase to a new high of 23% women in parliament
- Four countries emerging (trying to) from conflict - Afghanistan, Burundi, Iraq and Liberia - had an increase in women representatives
- Women presiding in parliaments went from 7.2% in January 2005 to 10.7% by December 2005

Putting Things in Perspective

- Ten years ago only 11.3% of legislators were women
- In 2005, twelve countries had no women in parliament
- In over two-thirds of parliaments, women's representation was under 10% in 2005
- Today women make up 16.3% of all legislators, an increase of 50% over ten years
- Parliaments with less than 10% in 1995 have decreased from 63% to 32% today

Regional View: Women in Legislatures

- Nordic countries consistently lead with an average of 40% last year
- The Americas had the highest increase (7.4%) exceeding 20% for the first time
- Arab States remain the lowest, but Djibouti, Iraq, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia have different types of quotas now to address this
- Pacific Region has 13.9% of women in legislatures, but Australia and New Zealand skew the numbers upward
- While Sub-Saharan Africa is up about 7%, Asia is very slow with only 2.7% growth in ten years

Two steps backward

- Eight countries had a decrease in women representatives, including Kyrgyzstan, which dropped from 10% to 0, and Egypt had a marginal decrease down to 2%
- The number of parliaments with no women increased in 2005 from 2004
- Nine countries, primarily in the Pacific Island States and Arab States in the Gulf Region, have no women in their national parliaments as of December 2005
- The U.S.A. has had no substantial increase in women in government for 30 years and ranks 69th of 187 countries on this index

“Women in Parliament in 2005: the Year in Perspective”
Inter-Parliamentary Union, Geneva, Switzerland