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Introduction

An unusually large number of parliamentary elections were held in 2007 - 62 parliamentary chambers in 55 countries were renewed in direct elections, compared to an average of 49 chambers in 43 countries in each of the past five years. This is due primarily to elections in countries emerging from conflicts and early elections in 12 countries.

Many of the early elections, such as in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Madagascar, were held to bring the configuration of governing institutions in line with recent constitutional amendments that often involved changes in the composition of parliament. Thailand also went to the polls for the first time since a September 2006 military coup, and following major constitutional changes. Elsewhere, early elections were called as a result of political strife. For instance, Ukraine held elections for the second time in two years, following a standoff between the President and a hostile parliament controlled by the Prime Minister.

The year saw several landmark elections. In Bhutan, the first-ever nationwide elections were held for the National Council, the newly created upper chamber. Timor-Leste held its first parliamentary elections as an independent State. Elections took place in Serbia for the first time after the dissolution of the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro. Parliamentary and presidential elections in Sierra Leone marked the first peaceful transition of power since the end of the 1991-2002 civil war. Nigeria experienced its first civilian-to-civilian transfer of power since independence in 1960.

A total of 10,291 of the world's 44,714 parliamentary seats were up for re-election in 2007, and women took more than 1,500. Fifty per cent of chambers for which comparative data were available recorded increases in female membership. Women's representation in renewed chambers varied from 42 per cent (Finland) to 0 in the Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru and Oman. The number of women elected in Turkey more than doubled, to 50 of 550 members, or 9.09 per cent. In Japan, 26 women won seats in partial elections to the upper chamber, bringing their representation to a record high of 17.36 per cent.

Women assumed the position of speaker in Estonia, Gambia and Lesotho. In addition, indirectly elected or appointed chambers in the Bahamas (Senate), the Netherlands (Senate) and Saint Lucia (Senate) chose women speakers.

The worldwide average for voter turnout was 65.34 per cent, 2.52 percentage points less than in 2006. Ten countries, headed by Viet Nam with

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99.64 per cent, reported voter turnouts of more than 80 per cent. Turnout was below 50 per cent in seven countries, with Egypt recording the lowest figure (31.23 per cent), and dipped to historic lows in long-standing democracies such as France and Finland, as well as in emerging ones such as Gambia, Madagascar and Senegal. Voter apathy, low popular interest in the issues at stake, disagreement over how to conduct the elections and fear of violence seem to have discouraged many voters. It is encouraging to note, however, that turnout was very high in the Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo and Turkey.

Regrettably, election-related violence picked up after a lull in 2006. The elections in the Philippines, Nigeria, Guatemala and Kenya were among the bloodiest. In Kenya, as many as 1,500 people were reportedly killed as a result of post-election violence. This gloomy picture is tempered by the relative peace in which voting took place in countries such as Armenia, Papua New Guinea and Togo, where it had been violence-prone.

As in other years, incumbent governments were returned to office about 80 per cent of the time. Power changed hands in only a handful of countries. These included Australia, the Bahamas, Guatemala, Jamaica, Poland, Sierra Leone, Timor-Leste and Ukraine. In Australia, Prime Minister Howard became the first incumbent Australian prime minister since 1929 to lose his seat.

Elections in Belgium led to a hung parliament, and the country went for a record-breaking 196 days without a government before an interim coalition was formed in December. Serbia also saw protracted negotiations for a new government, which was formed almost four months after the January elections and only 30 minutes before new elections would have had to be called.

Emerging issues such as the environment and climate change took centre stage in many elections, as for instance in Australia and the Nordic countries of Iceland and Finland. In Greece, the government's response to the massive forest fires that broke out one week before the elections was the focus of electoral debate and seems to have been a major reason it was returned with a diminished majority. Elections were delayed in Jamaica, where the defeat of the outgoing government was attributed in part to the way it had handled the aftermath of Hurricane Dean which had battered the south of the country in August.

Foreign affairs also dominated the electoral debate. Participation in the war

Introduction

in Iraq was a key election issue in both Australia and Poland. In the Pacific island State of Marshall Islands, diplomatic recognition of Taiwan or China was the main issue. Immigration policy in Switzerland was a major platform plank of the right-wing Swiss People's Party, whose campaign poster portraying a black sheep being kicked out of Switzerland by three white sheep stoked controversy. The debate over religion versus secularism aggravated the political stalemate in Turkey that ultimately led to early elections.

In 2007, many countries introduced significant electoral reforms. In Papua New Guinea, the introduction of the limited preferential voting system (replacing the first-past-the-post system) led to the formation of the biggest coalition (14 political parties) since the country's independence. The use of a purely proportional representation system in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and the Russian Federation seems to have favoured ruling parties. In the Syrian Arab Republic, the authorities sought to improve on the electoral process by introducing transparent ballot boxes and indelible ink.

The 2007 elections also widened the horizon of political participation in a number of countries. For instance, a disabled person was elected to Parliament for the first time in Serbia. In Switzerland, a candidate of Angolan origin became the first black person to enter Parliament. In Turkey, a prison inmate ran for election and won.

The bulk of the elections held in 2007 continued to be conducted under the watchful eyes of international observers. Many elections suffered from irregularities, but the observers were re-assured to note that in many instances not to a degree likely to have influenced the overall outcome. Indeed, they frequently pointed to improvements in the electoral process.

This is the first edition of the *Chronicle* following a major review of the publication in August 2007. I would like to thank our readers for the invaluable feedback they provided during the review, whose recommendations we are working to implement. This is also the first edition available in its entirety on the IPU website (www.ipu.org).

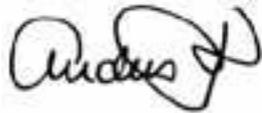
As usual, almost all the election results published in the *Chronicle* have been taken from or provided by authorized sources (electoral commissions, parliaments, relevant governmental institutions), in keeping with the

Introduction

Chronicle's aim to be an authoritative and reliable record of parliamentary elections.

I wish also to thank the parliamentary, governmental and electoral commission officials who provide support for the preparation of the *Chronicle*. This year, the majority of parliaments for which elections took place provided statistics on the age and/or profession of their members. I strongly encourage other parliaments to do the same, in order to build a complete picture of today's parliamentarians. We will, of course, continue to publish updated data on elections on the IPU PARLINE database on national parliaments (www.ipu.org/parline), from which information for the *Chronicle* is extracted.

I look forward to working with all parliaments on future editions.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anders B. Johansson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Anders B. Johansson
Secretary General

ALGERIA

National People's Assembly

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Barlaman / Parliament
Structure of Parliament	Bicameral
Chamber	Al-Majlis Al-Chaabi Al-Watani / National People's Assembly
Number of members	389 directly elected
Term of House	5 years
Date of elections	17 May 2007

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all seats in the National People's Assembly on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

48 multi-member, corresponding to country's wilayas (administrative districts) with seats allotted according to population: one seat for every 80,000 inhabitants and one supplementary seat for every fraction of 40,000; no wilaya has less than four seats.

▶ **Voting system: Proportional**

List proportional representation system using highest remainder formula. Vacancies arising between general elections are filled by the "next-in-line" candidate of the same list or through by-election, according to circumstances; no replacements in last year of Assembly's term.

Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years
- Algerian citizenship
- full possession of civil and political rights
- disqualifications: conviction for crime or offence entailing imprisonment and disfranchisement, undischarged bankruptcy, insanity, objectionable conduct during national liberation revolution

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified voters

- age: 28 years
- Algerian citizenship by birth or possessed for at least 5 years
- fulfilment of military service or excused therefrom

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- judges
- members of the armed forces
- officials of security forces
- accountants of wilaya public funds
- high-ranking wilaya officials
- membership of another people's assembly

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- nomination through party or independents' list, each list bearing as many names as seats to be filled plus three substitute candidates
- independents' list: needs backing of at least 400 registered electors of constituency concerned (for each seat to be filled)
- all lists must be submitted no later than 45 days before polling

Background and Outcome of the Elections

On 17 May 2007, over 12,000 candidates from 24 political parties and some 100 independent candidates contested the elections to the National People's Assembly, the lower chamber of parliament.

In the previous elections held in May 2002, the ruling National Liberation Front (FLN) had won 199 of the 389 seats in the National People's Assembly. The National Democratic Rally (RND) had come in second with 47 seats, and the moderate Islamic party, the Movement for a Peaceful Society (MSP), had taken 38 seats. Following the elections, the three parties had formed a parliamentary group called the Presidential Alliance. The main opposition parties, the Movement of the National Renewal (El-Islah) and the Workers' Party (PT) had taken 43 and 21 seats respectively, while the remainder had gone to small parties.

The FLN, the RND, and the MSP maintained the alliance in the 2007 elections. Prime Minister Abdelaziz Belkhadem of the FLN pledged to work towards greater social stability, raise salaries, and amend the constitution. He had proposed extending the presidential term from the current five years to seven and removing the two-term limit.

The Movement of the National Renewal (El-Islah) was reportedly weakened

by a conflict between its former president Sheikh Abdellah Djabellah and new leader Mr. Mohamed Boulahia. Sheikh Djabellah subsequently called for an election boycott, while Mr. Boulahia called for voters' support, promising to create more jobs. The PT, led by Ms. Louiza Hanoune, promised that it would introduce a minimum wage of 25,000 Algerian dinars (about US\$ 375), and provide better transport and health care.

The opposition Rally for Culture and Democracy (RCD, a secular Berber party), which boycotted the 2002 elections, participated in the 2007 vote. However, the elections were boycotted by other opposition parties – the Socialist Forces Front (FFS), the Islamist National Reform Movement (MNR), and the Social Democratic Movement (MDS). The FFS leader Mr. Hocine Ait Ahmed - a prominent opposition figure - called the elections a “sham” and argued that elections held under a state of emergency had no legitimacy. The banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) also called for an election boycott.

Many political parties used their website in the 2007 elections to appeal to three million internet users in the country. The MSP also set up a blog, appealing to young voters to fight vice and vote for the MSP.

Prior to the elections, the country was hit by a series of violent incidents for which an extremist Islamic movement claimed responsibility. On 11 April, three explosions occurred in Algiers (including one near the prime minister's office), killing 33 people. The Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb group claimed responsibility. A blast also occurred on the eve of the polling day, killing one police officer in the eastern province of Constantine.

Overall turnout, including Algerians living abroad, fell to 35.51 per cent (down from 46.17 per cent in 2002), the lowest in the country's history.

The FLN remained the largest party with 136 seats, although it lost 63. Its allies, the RND and the MSP, took 62 and 51 seats respectively. Following the elections, 14 independent members joined the FLN, giving the ruling camp a total of 263 seats. The PT became the largest opposition party, followed by the RCD with 19 seats, while the Movement of the National Renewal (El-Islah) took only three seats, losing 40. In all, 30 were women elected.

The newly elected National People's Assembly held its first session on 31 May 2007 and elected Mr. Abdelaziz Ziari (FLN) as its new Speaker.

On 4 June, President Abdelaziz Bouteflika re-appointed Mr. Belkhadem as

Prime Minister.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	18,760,400	
Voters	6,662,383	35.51 %
Blank or invalid ballot papers	961,751	
Valid votes	5,700,632	

▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

	Votes	% votes	Seats
National Liberation Front (FLN)	1,315,686	23.08	136
National Democratic Rally (RND)	591,310	10.37	61
Movement for a Peaceful Society (MSP)	552,104	9.68	52
Workers' Party (PT)	291,312	5.11	26
Rally for Culture and Democracy (RCD)	192,490	3.38	19
Algerian National Front	239,563	4.20	13
National Movement for Nature and Development (MNND)	114,767	2.01	7
Movement for Youth and Democracy (MJD)	132,268	2.32	5
Nahdha Movement	194,067	3.40	5
Movement of National Understanding	122,501	2.15	4
National Republican Alliance (ANR)	126,444	2.22	4
Party of Algerian Renewal (PRA)	103,328	1.81	4
El Infitah Movement (MEI)	143,936	2.52	3
Movement of the National Renewal (El-Islah)	144,880	2.54	3
National Front of Independents for Concord (FNIC)	112,321	1.97	3
AHD 54	129,300	2.27	2
National Hope Movement (MNE)	99,179	1.74	2
National Party for Solidarity and Development (PNSD)	119,353	2.09	2
Republican Patriotic Rally (RPR)	84,348	1.48	2
Algerian Rally (RA)	100,079	1.76	1
Democratic and social Movement (MDS)	51,219	0.90	1
National Democratic Front (FND)	78,865	1.38	1
Independents	562,986	9.88	33
Total			389

► **Distribution of seats according to sex**

Men	359	
Women	30	7.71 %
Total	389	

Distribution of seats according to profession

	Seats
Civil/public servants/administrators (including social/development workers)	131
Educators	56
Liberal professions (including artists, authors) and sports professionals	37
Retired	31
Legal professions	30
Medical professions (doctors, dentists, nurses)	20
Consultants (including real estate agents)	13
Business/trade/industry employees, including executives	12
Bankers (including invest bankers)/accountants	7
Military/police officers	3
Media-related professions (journalists/publishers)	2
Farmers/agricultural workers (including wine growers)	2
Unemployed	2
Economists	1
Scientists and researchers	1
Unknown	41
Total	389

► **Distribution of seats according to age**

21 to 30 years	1
31 to 40 years	48
41 to 50 years	147
51 to 60 years	155
61 to 70 years	31
Over 70 years	7
Total	389

ARGENTINA

Chamber of Deputies

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Congreso de la nación / National Congress
Structure of Parliament	Bicameral
Chamber	Cámara de Diputados / Chamber of Deputies
Number of members	257 directly elected
Term of House	4 years; one-half of the membership is renewed every 2 years

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held to renew one-half of the seats (130) in the Chamber of Deputies on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

24 multi-member constituencies.

▶ **Voting system: Proportional**

Party-list system, with proportional distribution of seats according to the d'Hondt method.

To be awarded a seat, a party must obtain 3 per cent of the votes cast in a constituency.

Vacancies arising between general elections are filled by substitutes elected at the same time as titular members.

Voting is compulsory, with some exceptions (old age, illness, great distance from polling stations); penalties for abstention consist of a fine equivalent to approximately US\$ 20 and prohibition to hold public office or employment for three years.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years

- Argentine citizenship (request for registration on electoral lists for naturalised citizens three years after acquiring citizenship); since 1997, Argentines living abroad can register to vote.

▶ Eligibility

- age: 25 years
- Argentine citizenship for at least 4 years
- birth in the district where running or residence there for at least 2 years immediately before elections

▶ Incompatibilities

- Government minister
- provincial governor
- judge
- lawyer (unless excepted)
- any public office

▶ Candidacy requirements

- nomination by political party or coalition of parties

Background and Outcome of the Elections

On 28 October 2007, elections were held for 130 of the 257 seats in the Chamber of Deputies and 24 of the 72 seats in the Senate, in parallel with presidential elections.

Between 1945 and 2005, the country's politics had been dominated by the Peronist Justicialist Party (PJ) and by the Radical Civic Union (UCR). However, the PJ had split before the previous elections in October 2005, when President Néstor Kirchner formed a breakaway party called the Victory Front (FV). The centre-left FV and its allies had won the 2005 elections by taking 17 of the 24 seats at stake in the Senate, and 69 in the Chamber of Deputies. The PJ faction, led by former President Eduardo Duhalde, had secured 11 seats in the Chamber of Deputies and four in the Senate. The UCR and its allies had won 19 seats in the Chamber of Deputies and three in the Senate. President Kirchner's wife, Cristina Fernández de Kirchner, had taken a senatorial seat, defeating Mr. Duhalde's wife, Hilda González de Duhalde.

In July, the FV announced that it would endorse President Kirchner's wife, Cristina Fernández de Kirchner, as its presidential candidate. In all, 14 candidates ran for the presidency. For the first time in 90 years, the UCR did not field a presidential candidate.

Ms. Fernández de Kirchner called on voters to keep supporting the FV so that it could continue its economic policy. She underscored the drop in the unemployment rate (8.5 per cent in 2007) and high economic growth (8 per

cent in 2006) achieved under her husband's administration.

Her main rivals were former congresswoman Ms. Elisa Carrió, and former economy minister Mr. Roberto Lavagna. Ms. Carrió formed the Civic Coalition Confederation, which comprised her Alternative Republic of Equals party (ARI, eight seats in the Chamber of Deputies in 2005) and some members of the Socialist Party and the UCR. Her anti-corruption platform reportedly attracted strong support in urban areas. Mr. Lavagna of the centrist An Advanced Nation party presented himself as an "alternative" to, and not an "opponent" of the Kirchners. The running mates of Mr. Lavagna and Mrs. Fernández de Kirchner were both UCR members.

The centre-right electoral alliance the Republican Proposal endorsed Mr. Ricardo López Murphy as its presidential candidate. After the collapse of coalition talks between Ms. Carrió and Mr. Murphy, both alliances ran separate campaigns for the presidential and parliamentary elections. Opponents of President Kirchner established a new party, the Union and Freedom Justicialist Front, and backed the candidature of right-wing Governor Alberto Rodríguez Saá. Most opposition parties reportedly failed to provide a clear alternative to the FV's policy.

Over 71 per cent of the country's 27 million eligible voters turned out at the presidential polls.

The FV and its allies obtained an increased majority in both chambers: 161 seats in the Chamber of Deputies, and 48 seats in the Senate. The Civic Coalition Confederation came in second with 25 seats and five seats respectively.

In the presidential elections, Ms. Fernández de Kirchner was elected with over 45 percent of the vote, ahead of Ms. Carrió, who took 23 percent. Mrs. Fernández de Kirchner succeeded her husband on 10 December, becoming the first elected female president of the country.

On the same day, the newly elected Congress held its first session. Mr. Eduardo Alfred Fellner (FV) was elected as the new Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies. The Vice-President of the country, Mr. Julio César Cobos (UCR) automatically became President of the Senate.

Election results and statistics

▶ **Voter turnout**

Number of registered electors

About 27,000,000

► Distribution of seats according to political group

	Seats	Grand total
Victory Front (FV) - PJ	62	129
Civic Coalition Confederation (ARI - GEN - UP)	15	18
Radical Civic Union (UCR)	12	24
Group of the coordination	8	10
Republican Proposal	5	9
Socialist Party (PS)	5	10
Civic Front for Santiago	4	6
Popular and Social Encounter	4	4
A.R.I. Autonomous 8+	3	9
Justice, Union & Freedom Front	3	6
Sky Blue and White Union	2	4
Civic and Social Front of Catamarca	1	2
Dialogue for Buenos Aires	1	1
Front for All	1	2
Liberal Party of Corrientes	1	1
Neuquino Popular Movement	1	3
Salta Renewal	1	2
Buenos Aires for All in Project South	0	1
Enterriana Concerted Action Party	0	1
Federalist Union (Pa.U.Fe)	0	1
For Truth	0	1
Independent Movement	0	1
Memory and Democracy	0	1
Mendoza Democratic Party	0	1
National Justicialist Party	0	1
National Syndicate	0	1
New Party against Corruption for Honesty and Transparency	0	2
Peronist Dialogue	0	1
Peronist Guard	0	1
Production and Labour Front	0	1
Recreate for Growth	0	2
Independents	1	1
Total	130	255

Note:

The "Distribution of seats" above shows the final composition of the Chamber of Deputies. The "Total" column indicates the number of members who took their seats following the 2007 elections. The "Grand total" column lists the total number of seats held by each parliamentary group. It thus includes members whose seats were not up for renewal at the 2007 general elections. There are two vacant seats.

► **Distribution of seats according to sex**

Men	153	
Women	102	40.00%
Total	255	

► **Distribution of seats according to profession**

	Seats
Legal professions	73
Medical professions (doctors, dentists, nurses)	30
Educators	28
Business/trade/industry employees, including executives	22
Engineers/PC experts	15
Clerical occupations	13
Scientists and researchers	11
Architects	9
Bankers (including invest bankers)/accountants	8
Media-related professions (journalists/publishers)	8
Economists	6
Civil/public servants/administrators (including social/development workers)	4
Farmers/agricultural workers (including wine growers)	3
Others	25
Total	255

► **Distribution of seats according to age**

Below 30 years	1
Below 40 years	20
Below 50 years	83
Below 60 years	98
Below 70 years	45
Over 70 years	8
Total	255

ARGENTINA

Senate

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Congreso de la nación / National Congress
Structure of Parliament	Bicameral
Chamber	Senado / Senate
Number of members	72 directly elected
Term of House	6 years; one-third of the membership is renewed every 2 years

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held to renew one-third (24) of the seats in the Senate on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

24 multi-member (3 seats) constituencies, corresponding to the country's 23 provinces and the Federal Capital (Buenos Aires).

▶ **Voting system: Majority**

Simple majority vote by the provincial legislative bodies except in Buenos Aires, where selection is made by a special electoral college. Vacancies arising between general elections are filled by substitutes elected at the same time as titular members.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years
- Argentine citizenship (request for registration on electoral lists for naturalised citizens three years after acquiring citizenship); since 1997, Argentines living abroad can register to vote.

▶ **Eligibility**

- age: 30 years
- Argentine citizenship
- birth in province where running or residence there for at least 2 years preceding the elections

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- Government minister
- provincial governor
- clergyman
- judge
- lawyer (unless excepted)
- any public office

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- nomination by political party or coalition of parties

Background and Outcome of the Elections

On 28 October 2007, elections were held for 130 of the 257 seats in the Chamber of Deputies and 24 of the 72 seats in the Senate, in parallel with presidential elections.

Between 1945 and 2005, the country's politics had been dominated by the Peronist Justicialist Party (PJ) and by the Radical Civic Union (UCR). However, the PJ had split before the previous elections in October 2005, when President Néstor Kirchner formed a breakaway party called the Victory Front (FV). The centre-left FV and its allies had won the 2005 elections by taking 17 of the 24 seats at stake in the Senate, and 69 in the Chamber of Deputies. The PJ faction, led by former President Eduardo Duhalde, had secured 11 seats in the Chamber of Deputies and four in the Senate. The UCR and its allies had won 19 seats in the Chamber of Deputies and three in the Senate. President Kirchner's wife, Cristina Fernández de Kirchner, had taken a senatorial seat, defeating Mr. Duhalde's wife, Hilda González de Duhalde.

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Her main rivals were former congresswoman Ms. Elisa Carrió, and former economy minister Mr. Roberto Lavagna. Ms. Carrió formed the Civic Coalition Confederation, which comprised her Alternative Republic of

Equals party (ARI, eight seats in the Chamber of Deputies in 2005) and some members of the Socialist Party and the UCR. Her anti-corruption platform reportedly attracted strong support in urban areas. Mr. Lavagna of the centrist An Advanced Nation party presented himself as an "alternative" to, and not an "opponent" of the Kirchners. The running mates of Mr. Lavagna and Mrs. Fernández de Kirchner were both UCR members.

The centre-right electoral alliance the Republican Proposal endorsed Mr. Ricardo López Murphy as its presidential candidate. After the collapse of coalition talks between Ms. Carrió and Mr. Murphy, both alliances ran separate campaigns for the presidential and parliamentary elections. Opponents of President Kirchner established a new party, the Union and Freedom Justicialist Front, and backed the candidature of right-wing Governor Alberto Rodríguez Saá. Most opposition parties reportedly failed to provide a clear alternative to the FV's policy.

Over 71 per cent of the country's 27 million eligible voters turned out at the presidential polls.

The FV and its allies obtained an increased majority in both chambers: 161 seats in the Chamber of Deputies, and 48 seats in the Senate. The Civic Coalition Confederation came in second with 25 seats and five seats respectively.

In the presidential elections, Ms. Fernández de Kirchner was elected with over 45 percent of the vote, ahead of Ms. Carrió, who took 23 percent. Mrs. Fernández de Kirchner succeeded her husband on 10 December, becoming the first elected female president of the country.

On the same day, the newly elected Congress held its first session. Mr. Eduardo Alfred Fellner (FV) was elected as the new Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies. The Vice-President of the country, Mr. Julio César Cobos (UCR) automatically became President of the Senate.

Election results and statistics

► Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	About 27,000,000
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► Distribution of seats according to political group

	Seats	Grand total
Victory Front Alliance	5	11
Affirmation for an Egalitarian Republic	2	2
Civic Front for Santiago	2	2
Justicialist Front Chaco Deserves Better Alliance	2	2
Justicialist Front for Victory Alliance	2	2
Justicialist Party - Justicialist Front for Victory Alliance	2	2
Civic Coalition Alliance	1	2
Concerted Action for Development Alliance	1	1
Federalist Union (Pa.U.Fe)	1	1
Front for Everyone Alliance	1	1
Neuquino Popular Movement	1	1
Radical Civic Union (UCR)	1	7
Viable Santiago Movement	1	1
Victory Front	1	5
Victory Front - Salta Renewal Party Alliance	1	1
Alliance Union of Cordoba	0	1
Civic and Social Front of Catamarca	0	2
Front for the Renewal of Concordia	0	2
Jujuy Front	0	1
Justicialist	0	13
Justicialist Front Alliance	0	3
Justicialist Front for Victory	0	1
New Front Alliance	0	1
New Party	0	1
Production and Labour Front Alliance	0	1
Republican Force	0	2
Socialist Party	0	1
Victory Party	0	2
Total	24	72

Note:

The "Distribution of seats" above shows the final composition of the Senate. The "Total" column indicates the number of senators who took their seats following the 2007 elections and the "Grand total" column lists the total number of seats held by each parliamentary group. It thus includes senators whose seats were not up for renewal at the 2007 general elections.

▶ **Distribution of seats according to sex**

Men	14	
Women	10	41.67 %
Total	24	

ARMENIA

National Assembly

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Azgayin Jhoghov / National Assembly
Structure of Parliament	Unicameral
Number of members	131 directly elected
Term of House	5 years
Date of elections	12 May 2007

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all the seats in the National Assembly on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

- 41 single-member constituencies
- one national constituency (90 seats)

▶ **Voting system: Mixed**

Mixed system

- 41 seats allotted by simple majority vote
- 90 seats allocated according to a party-list system and proportional representation to parties or blocs obtaining at least 5 per cent of the votes

Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years
- Armenian citizenship
- disqualifications: insanity, criminal conviction, allegiance to a foreign State

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified electors
- age: 25 years
- Armenian citizenship
- permanent residence in the country for at least five years immediately preceding the elections

▶ Incompatibilities

- membership of the government and judicial bodies
- membership of the armed forces
- employment in the Public Prosecutor's Office or in national security, internal affairs, tax or customs bodies

▶ Candidacy requirements

- individual or party candidatures allowed
- monetary deposit equivalent to one thousand times the minimum salary, reimbursable if the candidate is elected or obtains at least 5 per cent of the vote

Background and Outcome of the Elections

Elections were held in May 2007, one month after Mr. Serzh Sargsyan of the Republican Party of Armenia (HHK) became Prime Minister following the sudden death of the incumbent, Mr. Andranik Margarian.

In the last elections held in 2003, which were marred by allegations of electoral fraud, the HHK had won 33 seats, while its partners, the Orinats Yerkir (Rule of Law Party) and the Armenian Revolutionary Federation (Dashnaksutyun), had taken 19 and 11 seats respectively. The main opposition Artarutiun (Justice) Bloc had taken 14. The remainder went to small parties and independent candidates, who won 37 seats under the majority system. A coalition government had been formed with the HHK and the Orinats Yerkir.

In May 2006, the Orinats Yerkir left the coalition. Its leader, Mr. Artur Baghdasaryan, resigned as Speaker of the National Assembly over growing differences with President Robert Kocharian.

In the 2007 elections, 22 political parties and one coalition totaling 1,497 candidates were running for the 90 seats available under the proportional representation system (see note), while 119 candidates contested the 41 seats under the first-past-the-post system.

The three main pro-government parties were Prime Minister Sargsyan's HHK; the Prosperous Armenia Party (PAP) led by a wealthy businessman Mr. Gagik Tsarukian; and the Armenian Revolutionary Federation led by Mr. Hrant Markarian. The three parties pledged to ensure the supremacy of the law, poverty reduction, support for business and an increase in pensions.

The opposition remained divided after talks over the formation of an electoral coalition, led by Mr. Stepan Demirchian's People's Party of Armenia (HZhK), collapsed in February 2007. The HZhK criticized the government for failing to improve the quality of life in rural areas and pledged to reconsider the country's administrative divisions. The Heritage Party, led by former foreign minister, Mr. Raffi K. Hovannisian, insisted on the need for further European integration.

The opposition parties accused the pro-government parties of collecting voters' passport data in exchange for bribes or welfare benefits.

Approximately 60 per cent of the 2.2 million registered voters turned out at the polls. Fewer violent incidents were reported than in 2003, although several election-related complaints were filed. The opposition parties called for fresh elections, criticizing election irregularities.

Six international organizations monitored the polls. These included the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and a joint Observation Mission of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) - OSCE, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and the European Parliament. The joint mission initially stated that the elections had largely met international standards. However, its final report expressed grave concerns over irregularities related to vote counting and tabulation.

Final results gave a comfortable majority to the three pro-government parties. The HHK won a total of 65 seats, the PAP 25, and the Armenian Revolutionary Federation, 16. In all, 12 women were elected.

The newly elected National Assembly held its first session on 7 June and re-elected Mr. Tigran Torosyan (HHK) as its Speaker.

In the meantime, on 6 June, the HHK and the PAP agreed on a coalition government and on 8 June, President Kocharian signed a decree appointing Mr. Sargsyan as Prime Minister.

Note:

Following modifications to the electoral law in 2005, 90 members were elected under the proportional representation system in 2007, instead of 75 in the previous elections.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	2,319,722	
Voters	1,391,540	59.99 %
Blank or invalid ballot papers	38,002	
Valid votes	1,353,538	

▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

	Majority	PR	Seats
Republican Party of Armenia (HHK)	24	41	65
Prosperous Armenia Party	7	18	25
Armenian Revolutionary Federation (Dashnaktsutiun)	0	16	16
Orinats Yerkir (Rule of Law Party)	1	8	9
Heritage Party (HP)	0	7	7
Dashink Party	1	0	1
Independents	8	0	8
Total	40	90	131

▶ Distribution of seats according to sex

Men	119	
Women	12	9.16 %
Total	131	

▶ Distribution of seats according to profession

	Seats
Engineers/PC experts	36
Economists	32
Scientists and researchers	17
Legal professions	13
Farmers/agricultural workers (including wine growers)	12
Liberal professions (including artists, authors) and sports professionals	7
Medical professions (doctors, dentists, nurses)	6
Educators	4
Military/police officers	2
Media-related professions (journalists/publishers)	1
Business/trade/industry employees, including executives	1
Total	131

▶ **Distribution of seats according to age**

21 to 30 years	1
31 to 40 years	28
41 to 50 years	59
51 to 60 years	33
61 to 70 years	10
Total	131

AUSTRALIA

House of Representatives

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia / -
Structure of Parliament	Bicameral
Chamber	House of Representatives
Number of members	150 directly elected
Term of House	3 years
Date of elections	24 November 2007

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all the seats in the House of Representatives on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

- 148 single-member constituencies spread among the 6 states and 2 territories of Australia according to population

▶ **Voting system: Majority**

Direct preferential majority vote.

Under this system, members of the House - one for each electoral division - are elected by an absolute majority of the votes cast. Voters are required to express a preference among all the candidates contesting the same seat. A candidate is elected if he/she gains an absolute majority or 50% + 1 vote. If none of the candidates in a division obtains an absolute majority of the first preference votes, a second round of counting is held. At this point, the candidate with the least number of votes is eliminated and the votes which he/she obtained in the first round are redistributed among the remaining candidates on the basis of the electors' second choices. This procedure is repeated until such time as one of the candidates obtains an absolute majority.

Vacancies arising between general elections are filled through by-elections.

Voting is compulsory, unwarranted abstention punishable by fine.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years

- Australian citizen or British subject registered on the Commonwealth

Electoral Roll on 25 January 1984

- disqualifications: holders of temporary entry permits, prohibited immigrants, conviction for treason, insanity, persons serving a sentence of three years or more

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified voters

- age: 18 years

- Australian citizenship

- ineligibility: undischarged bankruptcy, conviction for treason, allegiance to a foreign State, conviction for an offence punishable by imprisonment of one year or more, conviction for bribery within preceding two years

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- membership of a state or territory legislature or of the other House of Parliament

- holders of an office of profit or pension payable out of public funds (except Ministers and members of the armed forces)

- officers of the Electoral Commission

- unless excepted, person with any financial interest in an agreement with the Government

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- nomination by six qualified voters of the constituency concerned or a registered political party

- payment of A\$ 350, reimbursed to any candidate obtaining at least 4% of first preference votes

Background and Outcome of the Elections

On 14 October 2007, Prime Minister John Howard called elections for 24 November. At stake were all 150 seats in the House of Representatives, and 40 of the 76 seats in the Senate.

Prime Minister Howard (Liberal Party) was seeking a fifth consecutive term in office. In the previous elections held on 9 October 2004, his party had won 74 seats in the House of Representatives, promising to maintain low interest rates for further economic prosperity. He formed a coalition government comprising the Liberal Party, the National's (12 seats) and the Country Liberal Party (one seat).

His main rival was Mr. Kevin Rudd of the centre-left Australian Labor Party (ALP). A former diplomat, Mr. Rudd was elected as party leader on 4 December 2006. The ALP, which had won 60 seats in 2004, was seeking a return to power after 11 years in the opposition.

In all, 1,421 candidates ran for the elections. 13 candidates vied for the seat in the Bennelong electorate in Sydney held by Prime Minister Howard.

The 2007 elections saw once again a duel between the Liberal Party and the ALP.

Prime Minister Howard urged voters to support his party for further economic growth. He argued that an ALP government would wreck the economy. The 68-year old leader said that if his party won the elections, he would hand over leadership mid-term to the treasurer, Mr. Peter Costello. The 50-year old Mr. Rudd, who campaigned under the slogan of "new leadership", promised to change labour laws, arguing that many workers had not benefited from economic growth.

The Liberal leader insisted that the country should maintain its 1,500 troops in Iraq and 1,000 in Afghanistan as long as needed, and maintain a close alliance with the U.S. The ALP leader argued that 550 combat troops should be withdrawn from Iraq by mid-2008, while more troops should be sent to Afghanistan. He also pledged to shut down Australia's offshore refugee processing and detention centres in Nauru and Papua New Guinea.

Prime Minister Howard continued to oppose the Kyoto Protocol on climate change and its carbon emission targets, arguing they would damage the country's economy. Mr. Rudd promised to ratify the Kyoto Protocol and pledged to cut carbon emissions by 60 per cent by 2050. In 2007, Australia suffered its worst drought in 100 years. Global warming was reportedly a major concern for many citizens.

During the election campaign, the Liberal Party was damaged by two incidents. On 7 November, the Reserve Bank raised interest rates to 6.75 per cent, the sixth increase since the 2004 elections, when Prime Minister Howard had promised to keep the interest rate low. Two days before the polling day, further controversy was caused by leaflets circulated in Sydney by volunteers and members of the Liberal Party, which linked the ALP to Muslim extremists. The Prime Minister condemned the act and emphasized he had not authorized the leaflets.

The final results gave a major victory to the ALP, which won 83 seats in the House of Representatives, while the Liberal Party took 55.

A well-known former television journalist, Ms. Maxine McKew (ALP) narrowly defeated Prime Minister Howard, who had held his Bennelong seat since 1974. He became the first incumbent prime minister to be voted out since Mr. Stanley Bruce in 1929.

In the Senate elections, the ALP won 18 seats, controlling 32 seats in all. The Liberal Party won 15 seats and also holds 32 seats in all. Newly elected Senators are due to take up their posts on 1 July 2008. Until then the Liberal Party remains the largest party and retains its one seat majority in the Senate.

On 3 December, Mr. Rudd was officially sworn in as Prime Minister, alongside Deputy Prime Minister Ms. Julia Gillard, who became the first woman to hold the post. Mr. Rudd's first act was to sign Australia's ratification of the Kyoto Protocol.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	13,646,539	
Voters	12,930,814	94.76 %

▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

	Seats	Gain/Loss
Australian Labor Party (ALP)	83	23
Liberal Party	55	-19
National Party	10	-2
Independents	2	-1
Total	150	

▶ Distribution of seats according to sex

Men	110	
Women	40	26.67 %
Total	150	

AUSTRALIA

Senate

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia / -
Structure of Parliament	Bicameral
Chamber	Senate
Number of members	76 directly elected
Term of House	6 years, continuous but rotating. One half renewed every 3 years, except for the 4 senators representing the federal territories, who are elected for a maximum of 3 years.
Date of elections	24 November 2007

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for one-half of the Senators on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

- 6 multi-member (12 seats) constituencies corresponding to the states
- 2 multi-member (2 seats) constituencies corresponding to the federal territories

▶ **Voting system: Proportional**

Direct election according to the single-transferable-vote form of proportional representation. Under this system, each elector indicates an order of preference among all the candidates of the constituency; he/she may alternatively indicate support for the registered order of preference of a party or group of candidates. Once the number of first preference votes obtained by each candidate has been recorded, an electoral quota for the state or territory is determined by dividing the total number of votes by one more than the number of seats to be filled and increasing by one the result so arrived at. Any candidate who receives the established quota of votes is declared elected. Senate candidates receiving votes in excess of the quota have their surplus votes distributed (at a discount), according to their electors' ranking of preferences. If all the positions are not filled by candidates obtaining

quotas by this means, then the next preferences of the voters for the least successful candidates are distributed, until all vacancies are filled by candidates obtaining quotas. The final result is a constituency with several candidates elected, each representing a proportion or quota of the total vote.

Vacancies are filled by selection of a person of the same political party by a joint sitting of the houses of parliament of the state or territory concerned.

Voting is compulsory. Unwarranted abstention is punishable by fine.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- At least 18 years old
- Australian citizen or British subject registered on the Commonwealth Electoral Roll on 25 January 1984

People of unsound mind, or with conviction for treason, or prisoners serving a sentence of five years or more, are ineligible to vote.

▶ **Eligibility**

- Qualified voters
- At least 18 years old
- Australian citizenship
- Qualified to be an elector in federal elections

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- A member of the House of Representatives, or a state or territory legislature
- A citizen or subject of a foreign power
- A person convicted of an offence punishable by a sentence of 12 months or more
- An undischarged bankrupt
- A holder of an office of profit or pension payable out of public funds
- A government contractor

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- nomination by 50 qualified voters or a registered officer of the party that is endorsing the candidate
- payment of A\$ 700, reimbursed to any candidate who obtains at least 4% of first preference votes or who is in a group of candidates securing this same percentage

Background and Outcome of the Elections

On 14 October 2007, Prime Minister John Howard called elections for 24 November. At stake were all 150 seats in the House of Representatives, and 40 of the 76 seats in the Senate.

Prime Minister Howard (Liberal Party) was seeking a fifth consecutive term in office. In the previous elections held on 9 October 2004, his party had won 74 seats in the House of Representatives, promising to maintain low interest rates for further economic prosperity. He formed a coalition government comprising the Liberal Party, the National's (12 seats) and the Country Liberal Party (one seat).

His main rival was Mr. Kevin Rudd of the centre-left Australian Labor Party (ALP). A former diplomat, Mr. Rudd was elected as party leader on 4 December 2006. The ALP, which had won 60 seats in 2004, was seeking a return to power after 11 years in the opposition.

In all, 1,421 candidates ran for the elections. 13 candidates vied for the seat in the Bennelong electorate in Sydney held by Prime Minister Howard.

The 2007 elections saw once again a duel between the Liberal Party and the ALP.

Prime Minister Howard urged voters to support his party for further economic growth. He argued that an ALP government would wreck the economy. The 68-year old leader said that if his party won the elections, he would hand over leadership mid-term to the treasurer, Mr. Peter Costello. The 50-year old Mr. Rudd, who campaigned under the slogan of "new leadership", promised to change labour laws, arguing that many workers had not benefited from economic growth.

The Liberal leader insisted that the country should maintain its 1,500 troops in Iraq and 1,000 in Afghanistan as long as needed, and maintain a close alliance with the U.S. The ALP leader argued that 550 combat troops should be withdrawn from Iraq by mid-2008, while more troops should be sent to Afghanistan. He also pledged to shut down Australia's offshore refugee processing and detention centres in Nauru and Papua New Guinea.

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On 3 December, Mr. Rudd was officially sworn in as Prime Minister, alongside Deputy Prime Minister Ms. Julia Gillard, who became the first woman to hold the post. Mr. Rudd's first act was to sign Australia's ratification of the Kyoto Protocol.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	13,646,539	
Voters	12,987,814	95.17 %
Blank or invalid ballot papers	331,009	
Valid votes	12,656,805	

► **Distribution of seats according to political group**

	Seats 2007	Seats Feb. 2008	Seats July 2008
Australian Labor Party (ALP)	18	28	32
Liberal Party	15	34	32
Australian Greens	3	4	5
The Nationals	2	4	4
Country Liberal Party (CLP) - The Territory Party	1	1	1
Non affiliated	1	0	1
Australian Democrats	0	4	0
Family First Party	0	1	1
Total	40	76	76

Note:

- The figures under "Seats 2007" refer to the number of members elected when the Senate was partially renewed (40 seats) in November 2007. Those members will be sworn in in July 2008.

- The figures under "Seats Feb. 2008" show the composition of the Senate in February 2008, when the Senate held its first session after the 2007 elections. They include outgoing senators elected in 2001.

- The figures under "Seats July 2008" include the members elected in November 2007.

► **Distribution of seats according to sex**

	Seats 2007		Seats 2008	
Men	26		49	
Women	14	35.00 %	27	35.53%
Total	40		76	

Note:

The "Seats 2007" column shows the breakdown for members elected when the Senate was partially renewed (40 seats) in November 2007. Those members will be sworn in in July 2008. As at February 2008, 27 of the 76 members of the Senate, including outgoing senators elected in 2001, were women. The total number of women in the Senate will remain at 27 after July 2008.

BAHAMAS

House of Assembly

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Parliament / -
Structure of Parliament	Bicameral
Chamber	House of Assembly
Number of members	41 directly elected
Term of House	5 years
Date of elections	2 May 2007

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all seats in the House of Assembly on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

- ▶ **Constituencies**
41 single-member constituencies.

- ▶ **Voting system: Majority**
Single-member plurality system ("first-past-the-post")
Vacancies arising between general elections are filled through by-elections.
Voting is not compulsory.

- ▶ **Voter requirements**
 - age: 18 years
 - Bahamas citizenship
 - 3 months minimum residence in constituency
 - disqualifications: insanity, imprisonment, sentence of death

- ▶ **Eligibility**
 - age: 21 years
 - Bahamas citizenship
 - one year minimum residence in country immediately before nomination
 - ineligibility: undischarged bankruptcy, insanity, allegiance to a foreign State, electoral fraud, criminal conviction, sentence of death or imprisonment

▶ Incompatibilities

- judges
- public officers (for more than three months)
- armed forces of the Crown
- employment on personal staff of Governor-General or in the Ministry of Tourism

▶ Candidacy requirements

- nomination by four electors
- payment of 400 B\$, reimbursed if the candidate obtains 1/6 or more of constituency votes

Background and Outcome of the Elections

The elections on 2 May 2007 turned out once again to be a duel between the two major parties: the ruling Progressive Liberal Party (PLP) and the opposition Free National Movement (FNM). At stake were the 41 seats in the House of Assembly, which included one newly-created seat.

In the last elections held in 2002, the PLP had had a sizeable victory, taking 29 of 40 seats, while the FNM had taken seven, losing 27. The remainder had gone to independent candidates.

The main issues in the 2007 elections, which were contested by 111 candidates, were the economy, foreign investment and immigration policy.

Prime Minister Perry Christie of the PLP, who was seeking a second consecutive term in office, called on voters to support his government's economic record, which he claimed had attracted 20 billion dollars of foreign investment. The FNM was led by Mr. Hubert Ingraham, who had been Prime Minister from 1992 to 2002. It argued that the government had done too much to accommodate investors, and insisted the country's land should be leased rather than sold to foreign investors.

The ruling PLP had been under severe criticism due to several scandals, including the residency application of American model Anna Nicole Smith, who lived in the Bahamas until her death in the US in February 2007. The Immigration Minister had been forced to resign, after being accused of having fast-tracked Smith's resident permit.

Against this background, both parties pledged to deal squarely with migration and to take steps to stem illegal immigration to the country.

Over 91 per cent of the country's 150,000 registered voters turned out at the polls.

The final results gave the FNM 23 seats, while the PLP took 18, losing nine. Mr. Christie became the first Bahamian Prime Minister to be ousted after only one term in office.

On 4 May, Mr. Ingraham was sworn in as Prime Minister.

On 23 May, the newly elected House of Assembly held its first session together with the Senate. The Senate comprises 16 appointed members but was convened with three vacant seats due to a row over the allocation of these three seats (see note). On the same day, Mr. Alvin Smith (FNM) was appointed Speaker of the House of Assembly. On 24 May, Ms. Lynn Holowesko was appointed Senate President.

Note:

The Prime Minister designates nine senators, while the leader of the opposition names four. The Governor-General appoints the remaining three on the advice of the Prime Minister, after consultation with the opposition leader. The PLP insisted that these three seats should be given to the PLP pursuant to Articles 39 and 40 of the Constitution, which provide that the Prime Minister must ensure that the balance in the House of Assembly is reflected in the Senate.

On 18 June, two new senators endorsed by the FNM were sworn in, despite the opposition of the PLP. One seat remained vacant as at January 2008.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	150,654	
Voters	137,667	91.38 %

▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

	Candidates	Votes	Seats
Free National Movement (FNM)	41	68,502	23
Progressive Liberal Party (PLP)	39	64,637	18
Total			41

▶ **Distribution of seats according to sex**

Men	36	
Women	5	12.20 %
Total	41	

BELGIUM

House of Representatives

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Chambres fédérales - Federale Kamers - Föderalen Kammern / Federal Chambers
Structure of Parliament	Bicameral
Chamber	Chambre des Représentants / House of Representatives
Number of members	150 directly elected
Term of House	4 years
Date of elections	10 June 2007

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all the seats in the House of Representatives on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system▶ **Constituencies**

11 multi-member constituencies.

▶ **Voting system: Proportional**

Party-list system, with proportional representation in accordance with the d'Hondt method; remainders are distributed at the level of the provinces. Vote-splitting is not provided for, but preferential voting with respect to the same list is possible.

Vacancies arising between general elections are filled by substitutes chosen at the same time as titular members.

Voting is compulsory; any unjustified abstention is punishable, penalties ranging from a possible fine to removal from the register.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years

- Belgian citizenship

- disqualifications: criminal conviction (suspension of rights: insanity, imprisonment, as long as the persons concerned remain in an incapacitated state)

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified voters

- age: 21 years
- Belgian citizenship
- full possession of civil and political rights
- residence in country

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- Ministers of Government
- any paid function undertaken pursuant to government decision
- membership of another legislative assembly (Senate, community or regional council)
- civil servant or salaried employee of the State, provincial Clerk, State-paid clergyman, public-service lawyer, Treasury official, Government commissioner for private companies, etc.

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- support of 200 to 500 electors (depending on the size of the constituency), or three outgoing members of Parliament.

Background and Outcome of the Elections

On 17 January 2007, Prime Minister Guy Verhofstadt called parliamentary elections for 10 June 2007. The House of Representatives and the Senate were officially dissolved on 2 May.

Belgium is a federal State comprising a 6 million-strong Dutch-speaking Flemish community in the north and some 4.5 million French speakers in the south. The capital, Brussels, is officially bilingual. In addition, there is a small German-speaking community, accounting for less than 1 per cent of the population.

Mr. Verhofstadt has led two coalition governments since 1999. His party at the time, the Liberal Party-Flemish (VLD), is currently called the Open VLD. Following the previous elections held in May 2003, he had formed a coalition government comprising two Flemish parties (VLD and the Flemish Socialist Party-Spirit - SPA-Spirit) and two French-speaking parties (the Movement for Reform (MR) and the Socialist Party (PS)). The coalition had controlled 97 of the 150 seats in the House of Representatives, and 45 of the 70 seats in the Senate.

This alliance was maintained for the 2007 election campaign. Mr. Verhofstadt called on voters' support for his government's economic policies, highlighting the 200,000 jobs that had been created over the past

four years. However, his party and SPA-Spirit were reportedly losing ground in the Flemish community where their main rival, the Christian Democratic and Flemish (CD&V)-New Flemish Alliance (N-VA, led by Mr. Bart De Wever), campaigned for more autonomy for the Flemish community.

The CD&V, led by the Minister-President of the Flemish Government, Mr. Yves Leterme, pledged to give more power to the regions (which are already responsible for public works, transport, agriculture and the environment), in particular in the areas of labour policy, justice and health.

Other main Flemish parties were the List Dedecker, formed by Senator Jean-Marie Dedecker in January 2007, which promised to defend the interests of the Flemish community; and the Vlaams Belang. The latter was founded in November 2004 by former leaders of the Vlaams Blok, a far-right party advocating Flemish independence. It won 18 seats in the 2003 elections but was convicted of "repeated incitement to discrimination" by the High Court and disbanded in November 2004.

In Wallonia, the PS, led by Mr. Elio Di Rupo, was reportedly losing ground to the MR. The MR leader, Mr. Didier Reynders, a strong advocate of a free market economy, said he would seek a coalition government with the CD&V and the Humanist Democratic Centre (CDH, formerly known as the Christian Social Party).

Voting being compulsory, turnout has been traditionally high in Belgium. In the 2007 elections, 91.08 per cent of the 7.7 million registered voters turned out at the polls.

As in the previous elections, no party secured a majority in either chamber of parliament. The CD&V-N-VA won 30 seats in the House of Representatives and nine of the 40 directly elected seats in the Senate to become the largest party in both chambers. The MR came in second winning 23 and six seats respectively, which made it the largest French-speaking party for the first time. The other parties in Prime Minister Verhofstadt's coalition government suffered major setbacks. The Open VLD won 18 seats (down from 25) in the House and five in the Senate. The SPA-Spirit took 14 (down from 23) and 3 respectively. Prime Minister Verhofstadt conceded defeat and submitted his resignation to King Albert II on 11 June.

On 28 June, the members of the House of Representatives were sworn in alongside the 40 directly elected senators. House of Representatives did not

elect its new speaker on 28 June. Finally, on 12 July, it chose Mr. Herman Van Rompuy (CD&V-N-VA) as its new Speaker.

On 5 July, 21 senators designated by the Community Parliaments (see note 1) took office, while 10 co-opted senators (see note 2) were sworn in on 12 July. On the same day, the Senate elected Mr. Armand De Decker (MR, who had been Senate President between 1999 and 2004) as its President.

In the meantime, on 12 June, the King appointed the leader of the MR, Mr. Didier Reynders, as the Informateur, whose role is to clarify the political landscape and inform the King of possible government coalitions. On 16 July, King Albert II appointed Mr. Yves Leterme (CD&V) as the Formateur, tasked with forming a new government. However, the coalition talks involving the CD&V-N-VA, the Open VLD, the MR, and the CDH were unsuccessful and Mr. Leterme resigned as Formateur on 23 August. On 29 September, the King re-appointed him as Formateur. On 7 November, the country marked its 149th day without a government, breaking the previous record for the longest period without a government set in 1988.

On 21 December, an emergency interim government comprising five parties (Open VLD, MR, CD&V, PS and CDH) led by Mr. Verhofstadt was finally formed. It won a vote of confidence on 23 December, ending the 196 day period without a government. It was tasked with passing the 2008 budget before 23 March 2008.

Note 1:

Ten senators each are designated by the Parliament of the French Community (Communauté française) and the Flemish Parliament (Vlaams Parlement), while the Parliament of the German-speaking Community nominates one member, bringing the total number of designated senators to 21.

Note 2:

Six Dutch-speaking members and four French-speaking members were co-opted.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	7,720,796	
Voters	7,032,077	91.08 %
Blank or invalid ballot papers	360,717	
Valid votes	6,671,360	

▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

	% votes	Seats	Gain/Loss
Christian Democratic and Flemish (CD&V) - New Flemish Alliance (N-VA)	18.51	30	8
Movement for Reform (MR)	12.52	23	-1
Socialist Party (PS)	10.86	20	-5
Open vld	11.83	18	-7
Vlaams Belang (Flemish Interest)	11.99	17	-1
Flemish Socialist Party - Spirit (SPA-Spirit)	10.26	14	-9
Humanist Democratic Centre (CDH)	6.06	10	2
Greens - Walloon (Ecolo)	5.10	8	4
Dedecker List	4.03	5	
Greens - Flamands (GROEN!)	3.98	4	4
National Front (FN)	1.97	1	0
Total		150	

▶ Distribution of seats according to sex

Men	95	
Women	55	36.67 %
Total	150	

► **Distribution of seats according to profession**

	Seats
Clerical occupations	49
Legal professions	25
Educators	21
Liberal professions (including artists, authors) and sports professionals	20
Civil/public servants/administrators (including social/development workers)	15
Medical professions (doctors, dentists, nurses)	6
Farmers/agricultural workers (including wine growers)	4
Media-related professions (journalists/publishers)	3
Unknown	7
Total	150

► **Distribution of seats according to age**

21 to 30 years	12
31 to 40 years	36
41 to 50 years	54
51 to 60 years	42
61 to 70 years	5
Over 70 years	1
Total	150

BELGIUM

Senate

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Chambres fédérales - Federale Kamers - Föderalen Kammern / Federal Chambers
Structure of Parliament	Bicameral
Chamber	Sénat - Senaat - Senat / Senate
Number of members	71 members - 40 directly elected - 21 designated by the Community Councils - 10 co-opted (in addition, certain members of the royal family are Senators by right, at present 3)
Term of House	4 years
Date of elections	10 June 2007

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all the elective seats in the Senate on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

3 multi-member (Flanders, Wallonia and Brussels) and 2 electoral colleges (French and Dutch).

▶ **Voting system: Proportional**

- party-list system, with proportional representation in accordance with the d'Hondt method for directly elected Senators. Vote-splitting is not provided for, but preferential voting with respect to the same list is possible.

Community Senators are designated by their respective Parliament from among its members. Co-opted Senators are chosen by the other two categories.

Allocation of seats to Community and co-opted Senators is based on the outcome of polling for those directly elected except for the Senator from the German-speaking community, who is chosen by majority vote by the Parliament of German-speaking community.

Vacancies arising between general elections are filled by substitutes chosen at the same time as titular members in the case of directly elected Senators. Vacant seats of Community or co-opted Senators are filled by new designations.

Voting is compulsory; any unjustified abstention is punishable, penalties ranging from a fine to removal from the electoral register.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years
- Belgian citizenship
- disqualifications: criminal conviction (suspension of rights: insanity, imprisonment, as long as the persons concerned remain in an incapacitated state)

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified voters
- age: 21 years
- Belgian citizenship
- full possession of civil and political rights
- residence in the country

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- Ministers of the Federal Government or the governments of communities or regions
- membership of the House of Representatives or of a community or regional parliament (except for Community Senators)

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- required support for directly elected Senators is at least 5000 electors or two outgoing members of Parliament ; nomination of other Senators by special procedures (see voting system, above).

Background and Outcome of the Elections

On 17 January 2007, Prime Minister Guy Verhofstadt called parliamentary elections for 10 June 2007. The House of Representatives and the Senate were officially dissolved on 2 May.

Belgium is a federal State comprising a 6 million-strong Dutch-speaking Flemish community in the north and some 4.5 million French speakers in the south. The capital, Brussels, is officially bilingual. In addition, there is a small German-speaking community, accounting for less than 1 per cent of the

population.

Mr. Verhofstadt has led two coalition governments since 1999. His party at the time, the Liberal Party-Flemish (VLD), is currently called the Open VLD. Following the previous elections held in May 2003, he had formed a coalition government comprising two Flemish parties (VLD and the Flemish Socialist Party-Spirit - SPA-Spirit) and two French-speaking parties (the Movement for Reform (MR) and the Socialist Party (PS)). The coalition had controlled 97 of the 150 seats in the House of Representatives, and 45 of the 70 seats in the Senate.

This alliance was maintained for the 2007 election campaign. Mr. Verhofstadt called on voters' support for his government's economic policies, highlighting the 200,000 jobs that had been created over the past four years. However, his party and SPA-Spirit were reportedly losing ground in the Flemish community where their main rival, the Christian Democratic and Flemish (CD&V)-New Flemish Alliance (N-VA, led by Mr. Bart De Wever), campaigned for more autonomy for the Flemish community.

The CD&V, led by the Minister-President of the Flemish Government, Mr. Yves Leterme, pledged to give more power to the regions (which are already responsible for public works, transport, agriculture and the environment), in particular in the areas of labour policy, justice and health.

Other main Flemish parties were the List Dedecker, formed by Senator Jean-Marie Dedecker in January 2007, which promised to defend the interests of the Flemish community; and the Vlaams Belang. The latter was founded in November 2004 by former leaders of the Vlaams Blok, a far-right party advocating Flemish independence. It won 18 seats in the 2003 elections but was convicted of "repeated incitement to discrimination" by the High Court and disbanded in November 2004.

In Wallonia, the PS, led by Mr. Elio Di Rupo, was reportedly losing ground to the MR. The MR leader, Mr. Didier Reyders, a strong advocate of a free market economy, said he would seek a coalition government with the CD&V and the Humanist Democratic Centre (CDH, formerly known as the Christian Social Party).

Voting being compulsory, turnout has been traditionally high in Belgium. In the 2007 elections, 91.08 per cent of the 7.7 million registered voters turned out at the polls.

As in the previous elections, no party secured a majority in either chamber of parliament. The CD&V-N-VA won 30 seats in the House of Representatives and nine of the 40 directly elected seats in the Senate to become the largest party in both chambers. The MR came in second winning 23 and six seats respectively, which made it the largest French-speaking party for the first time. The other parties in Prime Minister Verhofstadt's coalition government suffered major setbacks. The Open VLD won 18 seats (down from 25) in the House and five in the Senate. The SPA-Spirit took 14 (down from 23) and 3 respectively. Prime Minister Verhofstadt conceded defeat and submitted his resignation to King Albert II on 11 June.

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Note 1:

Ten senators each are designated by the Parliament of the French Community (Communauté française) and the Flemish Parliament (Vlaams

Parlement), while the Parliament of the German-speaking Community nominates one member, bringing the total number of designated senators to 21.

Note 2:

Six Dutch-speaking members and four French-speaking members were co-opted.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	7,720,796	
Voters	7,032,384	91.08 %
Blank or invalid ballot papers	404,257	
Valid votes	6,628,127	

▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

	% votes	Dir- ectly elected	Desig- nated	Co- opted	Total Seats	Gain/ Loss
Christian Democratic and Flemish (CD&V) - New Flemish Alliance (N-VA)	19.42	9	3	2	14	3
Movement for Reform (MR)	12.31	6	4	1	11	1
Open vld	12.40	5	2	2	9	-2
Socialist Party (PS)	10.24	4	3	1	8	-2
Vlaams Belang (Flemish Interest)	11.89	5	2	1	8	0
Flemish Socialist Party - Spirit (SPA-Spirit)	10.04	4	2	1	7	-3
Greens - Walloon (Ecolo)	5.82	2	2	1	5	1
Humanist Democratic Centre (CDH)	5.90	2	2	1	5	0
Greens - Flamands (GROEN!)	3.64	1	1	0	2	1
Dedecker List	3.38	1	0	0	1	
National Front (FN)	2.27	1	0	0	1	0
Total		40	21	10	71	

▶ **Distribution of seats according to sex**

Men	48	
Women	23	32.39 %
Total	71	

BENIN

National Assembly

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Assemblée nationale / National Assembly
Structure of Parliament	Unicameral
Number of members	83 directly elected
Term of House	4 years
Date of elections	31 March 2007

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all the seats in the National Assembly on the normal expiry of the member's term of office.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

24 multi-member constituencies corresponding to the country's departments.

▶ **Voting system: Proportional**

List system of proportional representation.

Each party list bears as many names of candidates as seats to be filled. Seats are allotted to the different lists on the basis of the so-called departmental (simple) quotient. Following this computation, remaining seats are allocated under the rule of the greatest remainder.

Vacancies arising between general elections are filled by substitutes elected at the same time as titular members.

Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years

- Beninese citizenship

- full possession of civil and political rights

- disqualifications: conviction for crime, imprisonment of at least three months for certain offences, persons in contempt of court, undischarged bankruptcy

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified voters

- age: 25 years

- Beninese citizenship by birth (or naturalized citizens if residence in the country for at least 10 years)
- residence in the country for at least one year
- ineligibility: electoral fraud, guardianship

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- non-elective public office
- military functions
- service to foreign States or international organizations
- members of the Government
- executives or representatives of businesses subsidized by public funds

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- submission of party or coalition lists at least 30 days prior to polling
- monetary deposit, reimbursed to lists in proportion to their winnings

Background and Outcome of the Elections

Parliamentary elections, which were due to take place on 25 March 2007 were postponed to 31 March as a result of numerous logistic problems including the delay in printing ballot papers and delivery of election materials to polling stations.

The 2007 elections were the first to be held under President Thomas Boni Yayi, who was elected in March 2006 with nearly 75 per cent of the votes. He succeeded Mr. Mathieu Kérékou, who had led the country for most of the period since 1972, except between 1991 and 1995 when Mr. Nicéphore Soglo was President. Mr. Yayi, former head of the West African Development Bank, pledged to fight against corruption and re-boost the country's economy. According to the World Bank, around one third of the country's 8.4 million inhabitants live under the poverty line.

In the last parliamentary elections held in 2003, the Presidential Movement, including the Union for the Benin of the Future (UBF) and the African Movement for Democracy and Progress (MADEP), which had supported the then President Kérékou, had won 52 of the 83 seats

2007 elections were contested by 26 political parties and 2,158 candidates. President Yayi supported coalition called the Cauri Forces for an Emerging Benin (FCBE) which comprised about 20 political parties. President Yayi argued he needed a majority in parliament to continue economic reforms.

Main opposition coalition called the Alliance for a Dynamic Democracy (ADD) was led by former president Soglo. It included the Socialist Party of Benin (PSB) of Mr. Bruno Amoussou, the Rebirth of Benin (RB) of former first lady Ms. Rosine Vieyra Soglo, and the African Movement for Democracy and Progress (MADEP) of the outgoing Speaker of the National Assembly, Antoine Idji Kolawolé. The ADD had supported President Yayi in the 2006 presidential run-off. The Democratic Renewal Party (PRD) of Mr. Adrien Houngbedji, who finished in second in the 2006 presidential elections, fielded candidates separately.

58.69 per cent of the nearly 4 million registered voters turned out at the polls. The elections went off in relative peace. Observers from African nations and regional groups, such as the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) praised the elections as having been well-organized.

The Constitutional Court declared the official results on 7 April. In all, 12 parties and coalitions won seats in the new National Assembly. President Yayi's FCBE came in first with 35 seats. The ADD and the PRD took 20 and 10 seats respectively. Other seats were won by smaller parties. In all, only 25 MPs in the outgoing legislature were re-elected. Local analysts saw the results as a desire by citizens for change in parliament.

Opposition parties claimed election irregularities. The Constitutional Court, while acknowledging certain irregularities in the polls, declared they would not have changed the overall election results.

The newly elected members were sworn in on 23 April. On 3 May, Mr. Mathurin Nago (FCBE) was elected as the new Speaker.

On 17 June, President Yayi formed a new 26-member government, including six women.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	About 4,000,000
Voters	58.69 %

► **Distribution of seats according to political group**

	Seats
Cauri Forces for an Emerging Benin (FCBE)	35
Alliance for Democratic Momentum (ADD)	20
Democratic Renewal Party (PRD)	10
Key Force (FC)	4
Union for Renewal (UPR)	3
Alliance for Renewal (AR)	2
Coalition for an Emerging Benin (CBE)	2
Hope Force	2
National Union for Democracy and Progress (UNDP)	2
Alliance of Progressive Forces (AFP)	1
Party for Democracy and Social Progress (PDPS)	1
Restore Hope (RE)	1
Total	83

► **Distribution of seats according to sex**

Men	76	
Women	7	8.43 %
Total	83	

BHUTAN

National Council

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Chi Tshog / Parliament
Structure of Parliament	Bicameral
Chamber	Gyelyong Tshogde / National Council
Number of members	25 members - 20 directly elected - 5 appointed by the King
Term of House	5 years
Date of elections	31 December 2007 & 29 January 2008

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all the directly elected seats in the newly-established National Council.

Electoral system

- ▶ **Constituencies**
20 single-member constituencies

- ▶ **Voting system: Majority**
Single-member plurality system ("first-past-the-post")
Vacancies arising between general elections are filled through by-elections.
Voting is not compulsory.

- ▶ **Voter requirements**
 - Bhutanese citizenship, including naturalized citizens
 - Age: at least 18 years old on the day nomination papers are filed
 - Residence in the constituency at least one year prior to election

Qualified voters who are on diplomatic assignments, working in Bhutanese Embassies, on special duty abroad, their spouses and dependants, civil servants, students and those serving in the armed forces, officials on election duty and voters specifically permitted by the Election Commission in consultation with the government can vote through postal ballots.

Disqualifications:

- Persons who are mentally unfit or specifically barred from voting under the laws of the country.
- Imprisonment

▶ **Eligibility**

- Qualified voters
- Bhutanese citizenship, including through naturalization
- Age: at least 25 years old at the time of registration
- Residence in the constituency concerned
- University degree

Ineligibilities:

- Civil servants
- Holders of office of profit
- Persons who have an existing contract with the government which has not been fully performed in full
- Persons who have been dismissed or removed from the public service
- Members of political parties
- Persons who have solicited or resorted to any form of fund-raising from private individuals or agencies for campaigning in a parliamentary or local government election
- Persons found guilty of corrupt election-related practices
- Persons who have failed to give account of election expenses within the stipulated deadline and in the manner required by law and have no good reason or justification for failure to do so.
- Persons convicted for any criminal offence and sentenced to prison.
- Persons accused of a felony in a pending case of which the competent court has been seized and against whom charges have been brought (until such time as he/she is acquitted by the court)
- Persons in arrears of taxes or other dues to government (until full payment of tax arrears or other dues to government is made)
- Persons married to non-Bhutanese nationals (unless their spouse is granted Bhutanese citizenship)

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- Members of political parties
- Head of State
- Members of the other chamber
- Ministers of State
- Holders of public office

- Civil servants
- Executives and members of the Election Commission
- Chief of electoral staff
- Members of the armed forces
- Members of the police forces
- Clergymen

*The incompatibilities cited above are valid during the term of office.

- Holders of temporary entry visas
- Undocumented immigrants
- Insanity/mental illness

► **Candidacy requirements**

- Nomination of candidates by "Zomdus" (Block Council Meetings) 30 days prior to elections.
- Nominated candidates file their nomination papers with the National Election Commission.

Background and Outcome of the Elections

The Election Commission, following a Royal Decree of 30 June 2007, declared that elections to the newly-established National Council, the Upper Chamber of the bicameral parliament, would be held in December, 2007. They were subsequently set for 31 December. The National Council is a non-partisan body comprising 25 members, of whom 20 are directly elected while the remaining five are eminent persons nominated by the King.

Bhutan became a monarchy in 1907. In 2005, the then King Jigme Singye Wangchuck unveiled a draft constitution. His son, Jigme Khesar Namgyal Wangchuck, succeeded him in December 2006. Representatives of all 20 districts reviewed the draft constitution. Under the draft, the King remains the Head of State, but the new bicameral parliament can impeach him by a two-thirds majority vote. The prime minister, currently appointed by the King, will be elected by the new National Assembly.

On 31 July 2007, the National Assembly was dissolved with a view to elections due to be held on 24 March 2008. The draft constitution will then be presented to the new National Assembly for adoption.

In the December 2007 elections to the National Council, 43 candidates contested 15 of the 20 seats.

On 31 December, 55 per cent of the 270,000 registered voters in 15 of the 20

districts turned out at the polls. Elections were postponed in five constituencies, where there was either no candidate or only one. To be eligible, candidates need to hold a university degree. However, although the literacy rate in Bhutan is estimated at 60 per cent, only 16,000 of the country's 634,000 inhabitants (see note) are university graduates. Voting went off without any major incident. The results for 15 of the elective seats were announced on 1 January 2008. Eleven of the 15 members were under 40 years old; three women were elected.

Elections for the five remaining seats were held on 29 January 2008. In three constituencies contested by only one candidate, voters cast either a "yes" or "no" ballot. Heavy snow and cold weather hit the country, apparently accounting for the relatively lower turnout of 42 per cent. On the following day, the Election Commission endorsed the five new members. One woman was elected, bringing the total number of women to four out of 20 elected members.

As of 30 January 2008, the five appointed members had not been designated by the King.

Note:

Source: National Population and Housing Census of Bhutan, 2005.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

	Round 1 (31 December)		Round 2 (29 January 2008)	
Number of registered electors	269,337		43,480	
Voters	147,789	54.87 %	18,155	41.75%
Blank or invalid ballot papers	-		-	
Valid votes	147,789		18,155	

Note on valid votes:

In Bhutan, only the valid votes are counted. The number of votes (voters) thus equals the number of valid votes.

▶ **Distribution of seats according to political group**

Not applicable - non-partisan elections.

▶ **Distribution of seats according to sex**

Men	16	
Women	4	20.00 %
Total	20	

BURKINA FASO

National Assembly

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Assemblée nationale / National Assembly
Structure of Parliament	Unicameral
Number of members	111 directly elected
Term of House	5 years
Date of elections	6 May 2007

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all the members of the National Assembly on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

- 1 multi-member (15 members) nationwide constituency.
- 13 multi-member (2 to 10 seats) constituencies corresponding to the country's regions.

▶ **Voting system: Proportional**

Party-list system with proportional representation of seats according to the simple electoral quotient and highest remainders.

Vacancies arising between general elections are filled by substitute members elected at the same time as titular Deputies unless vacancies arise in the second half of the term of the Assembly.

Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years
- Burkina Faso citizenship or residence in the country for more than 10 years (certain employed foreigners)
- fulfilment of military obligations
- disqualifications: electoral fraud, criminal conviction, contempt of court, guardianship

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified voters
- age: 21 years
- Burkina Faso citizenship (or naturalised citizens 10 years after acquiring

citizenship)

- ineligibility: legal disability

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- ministerial functions

- all other public functions

- employment in public corporations or State-connected enterprises

- persons elected from the private sector are relieved of their functions during their parliamentary term.

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- candidatures must be submitted by parties at least 45 days prior to polling day

- deposit of CFA 100,000 per list, reimbursed if the list concerned obtains at least 10% of the votes cast

Background and Outcome of the Elections

Parliamentary elections were held on 6 May 2007 under a new electoral system, which attributed more seats to the provincial constituencies (96, instead of 90) while the remainder was elected under the national list system.

Since 1987, the country has been led by Mr. Blaise Compaoré, who seized power from the then president, Mr. Thomas Sankara, in a coup. Mr. Sankara was assassinated in the process. Mr. Compaoré has been elected president three times, most recently in 2005. Under his presidency, he has implemented privatizations and programmes endorsed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Nevertheless, Burkina Faso still is third poorest country in the world according to United Nations statistics.

In the 2002 elections, the ruling Congress for Democracy and Progress (CDP) had remained the largest party, taking 57 seats in the 111-member National Assembly, but losing almost 50. The remainder had gone to opposition parties, including the Alliance for Democracy and Federation-African Democratic Rally (ADF/RDA, which took 17 seats), and the Party for Democracy and Progress (PDP/PS, which won 10 seats). Mr. Paramanga Ernest Yonli (CDP), who had been Prime Minister since January 2000, had been re-appointed prime minister.

In the 2007 elections, 3,748 candidates from 50 political parties ran for office. The CDP was led by the National Assembly Speaker and former prime

minister, Mr. Roch Marc Christian Kaboré, who had been elected as the party leader in August 2003. It argued that President Compaoré needed a parliamentary majority to continue economic reforms. The main opposition ADF/RDA led by Mr. Gilbert Noël Ouédraogo, supported President Compaoré's economic reform policies. Mr. Bénéwendé Stanislas Sankara, who had finished second in the 2005 presidential elections, led the Union for Rebirth-Sankarist Movement (UNIR-MS). The party pledged to promote the policies implemented by former president Sankara. The Union for the Republic (UPR), a small party led by Mr. Toussaint Abel Coulibaly, pledged to defend the interests of the people living in rural areas.

The elections were held in an atmosphere of relative peace. Approximately 56 per cent (down from 64 per cent in the 2002 elections) of the 4.5 million registered voters turned out at the polls. The Electoral Commission explained that the low turnout was due to the fact that fewer voters had picked up their new electoral card.

Approximately 4,000 observers from the African Union (AU), the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) monitored the polls. The observers from the AU declared the elections to be free and transparent.

The final results gave an increased majority to the CDP, which took 73 seats, 16 more than in the 2002 elections. The main opposition party (ADF/RDA) followed with 14 seats, losing three. The Union for the Republic (UPR) won 5 seats, while the UNIR-MS took four. The remainder went to nine small parties.

On 4 June, the newly elected National Assembly held its first session and re-elected Mr. Kaboré (CDP) as Speaker for a second term in office.

On 4 June, President Compaoré appointed former finance minister and Ambassador to the United States, Mr. Tertius Zongo, as the new prime minister. He replaced Mr. Paramanga Ernest Yonli. The new government was sworn in on 10 June.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	4,466,354	
Voters	2,520,488	56.43 %
Blank or invalid ballot papers	287,260	
Valid votes	2,233,228	

▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

	Seats	National list
Congress for Democracy and Progress (CDP)	73	9
Alliance for Democracy and Federation - African Democratic Rally (ADF/RDA)	14	2
Union for the Republic (UPR)	5	1
Union for Rebirth / Sankarist Movement (UNIR-MS)	4	1
Convention of the Democratic Forces of Burkina (CFD-B)	3	1
Party for Democracy and Progress (PDP/PS)	2	0
Party for Democracy and Socialisme (PDS)	2	1
Rally for the Development of Burkina (RDB)	2	0
Union of Sankarist Parties (UPS)	2	0
African Independence Party (PAI)	1	0
Citizen's Popular Rally (RPC)	1	0
Party for National Renewal (PAREN)	1	0
Union for Democracy and Social Progress (UDPS)	1	0
Total	111	15

▶ Distribution of seats according to sex

Men	98	
Women	13	11.71 %
Total	111	

CAMEROON

National Assembly

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Assemblée nationale - National Assembly / -
Structure of Parliament	Unicameral
Number of members	180 directly elected
Term of House	5 years
Date of elections	22 July & 30 September 2007

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all the seats in the National Assembly on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

58 departmental constituencies.

▶ **Voting system: Mixed**

Mixed direct voting system:

- simple majority in single-member constituencies
- absolute majority in constituencies where the list system is applicable. If no list obtains an absolute majority, the one with the highest number of votes is allocated half of the seats; the remainder is allocated to the other best-placed lists through proportional representation. Lists obtaining less than 5% of the votes cast are not eligible for proportional distribution. Seats are awarded to candidates in the order in which they appear on each party list.

Vacancies arising between general elections are filled through by-elections held within a period of 12 months. No such elections are held when vacancies arise less than one year before the end of the National Assembly's term.

Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 20 years
- Cameroonian citizenship
- permanent domicile or residence for more than 6 months in the constituency (members of the armed forces are registered where based notwithstanding the residence requirement)

- disqualifications: felony, imprisonment, persons under warrant for arrest, undischarged bankrupts, persons convicted of offences against the security of the State, insanity

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified voters
- age: 23 years
- Cameroonian citizenship
- ability to read and write French or English
- ineligibility: allegiance to a foreign State

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- members of the Government or of the Economic and Social Council
- senior officers of a public or para-statal body
- members of the armed, security and police forces during the discharge of their duties and for six months following the termination of their status

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- deposit of candidates' list at least 40 days before polling day
- deposit of Francs CFA 150,000 (US \$ 350) per candidate, reimbursable if the party list obtains at least 5% of the votes cast at the national level

Background and Outcome of the Elections

On 20 April 2007, President Paul Biya called parliamentary and municipal elections for 22 July.

In the previous elections held in 2002, the ruling Cameroon People's Democratic Movement (CPDM) of President Biya had taken 149 of the 180 seats in the National Assembly and its ally the National Union for Democracy and Progress (UNDP) had won one. The main opposition Social Democratic Front (SDF) had won 22, while another opposition party, the Cameroon Democratic Union (UDC), had taken five seats.

In 2007, 45 parties and 1,274 candidates vied for the 180 seats at stake. Being the only party to field candidates in all constituencies, the CPDM was largely expected to maintain its dominant position in the National Assembly. President Biya called on voters to support his past achievements, promising to work further towards good governance.

The SDF, led by Mr. John Fru Ndi, drew attention to corruption, after the

Harvard University Governance Perception Index classified Cameroon as one of the five worst countries in terms of good governance. The opposition also accused the CPDM of trying to change the Constitution in order to enable Mr. Biya, who has been President since 1982, to obtain another term in office.

The opposition parties focused their election campaigns in their respective strongholds. The SDF has a stronghold in English-speaking provinces in the north-west and south-west and in the French-speaking western province. The UDC leader, Mr. Adamou Ndam Njoya (a main opposition candidate in the 2004 presidential elections), has support in the western province. Another opposition party, the Progressive Movement (MP), also fielded candidates. The UNDP with strongholds in the northern provinces also contested the elections.

Approximately 62 per cent of the 5.5 million registered voters turned out at the polls.

The SDF and other opposition parties alleged election fraud and challenged the results in court. As many as 103 cases were filed with the Supreme Court, which subsequently invalidated the elections results in five constituencies. Elections were repeated in these constituencies on 30 September, when the CPDM took 15 of the seats at stake, while the SDF took two.

The final results gave 153 seats to the CPDM, and six to its ally, the UNDP. The main opposition SDF lost six seats, taking 16. The UDC and the MP won four and one seats respectively.

The newly elected members were sworn in on 21 August. On 31 August, they re-elected Mr. Djibril Cavayé Yeguie as Speaker of the National Assembly.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	5,500,000
Voters	62%

▶ **Distribution of seats according to political group**

	Seats	Election 30 Sep.
Cameroon People's Democratic Movement (CPDM)	153	13
Social Democratic Front (SDF)	16	2
National Union for Democracy and Progress (UNDP)	6	2
Cameroon Democratic Union (UDC)	4	0
Progressive Movement (MP)	1	0
Total	180	17

▶ **Distribution of seats according to sex**

Men	155	
Women	25	13.89 %
Total	180	

CONGO

National Assembly

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Parlement / Parliament
Structure of Parliament	Bicameral
Chamber	Assemblée nationale / National Assembly
Number of members	137 directly elected
Term of House	5 years
Date of elections	24 June & 5 August 2007

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all seats in the National Assembly on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

137 single-member constituencies.

▶ **Voting system: Majority**

Majority voting in two rounds. A candidate is declared elected if he or she obtains the absolute majority of votes in the first round. In the second round, the candidate receiving the largest number of votes is declared the winner.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years
- Congolese citizenship
- the voter must have all civil and political rights
- the voter must be registered on a voting roll of the administrative district of his or her domicile or residence. Congolese citizens living in other countries must be registered on the voting roll of the embassy or consulate of the country of residence

Disqualifications:

Persons sentenced to imprisonment, those tried in absentia and un-rehabilitated bankrupt persons whose bankruptcy has been declared

▶ **Eligibility**

- age: 25 years
- Congolese citizenship
- residence in the national territory when the candidate lists are presented, except for diplomatic and consular personnel, persons sent by the State to occupy a post or carry out a mission in another country and international civil servants
- the candidate must have all civil and political rights
- the candidate must not have been sentenced for crimes or offences

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- President of the Republic
- Ombudsman (Médiateur) of the Republic
- Senator
- Secretary-General, Director-General or Central Director of the public administration; Treasurer and Paymaster General
- Magistrates
- Law enforcement officers
- Mayors-administrators
- Prefects and sub-prefects
- Secretaries-General of territorial collectives
- Local government authorities
- Members of the National Election Organizing Commission
- Members of the Government
- Members of the Constitutional Court and the Economic and Social Council
- Members of the High Council on Freedom of Communication
- Members of the National Human Rights Commission
- Members of the offices of the President and of government ministers
- Diplomatic staff

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

Presentation of candidacy is done by the candidate if standing as an independent, or by the authorized representative of the party or political group to which he or she belongs, at least one month prior to the election.

Background and Outcome of the Elections

On 14 February 2007, President Denis Sassou Nguesso called elections to the 137-seat National Assembly for 24 June (first round) and 22 July (second round).

In the previous elections held in May and June 2002, President Sassou Nguesso's Congolese Workers Party (PCT) and its allies from the United Democratic Forces (UDF) had won 83 of the 129 confirmed seats. Two opposition parties, the Pan-African Union for Social Democracy (UPADS) of former President Mr. Pascal Lissouba, and the Union for Democracy and the Republic (UDR-Mwinda) led by former Speaker of the National Assembly, Mr. André Milongo, took 12 seats in all, while the other seats went to independents and small parties.

Elections for the remaining eight seats in the Pool region were not held until the end of the outgoing legislature due to long-lasting conflicts between the army and a rebel group led by Mr. Frédéric Bitsangou. In April 2003, the government and the rebel group signed an agreement and the latter transformed itself into a political party, the National Council of Republicans (CNR).

Prior to the 2007 elections, Prime Minister Isidore Mvouba (PCT) agreed to calls from opposition parties to amend the electoral law and create an independent electoral commission. In late April 2007, opposition parties boycotted the parliamentary session on the independent electoral commission, which was to be appointed by the President. A group of 40 opposition parties (including many not represented in the outgoing legislature) subsequently called for a boycott of the elections. The UPADS, the UDR-Mwinda, and the CNR were the only main opposition forces to contest the elections.

Over 1,000 candidates contested the 2007 elections, including many more independent candidates than in previous elections.

In the face of widespread poverty and unemployment, candidates from all sides pledged to provide more jobs and better housing.

The ruling PCT formed an electoral alliance with the Congolese Movement for Democracy and Integral Development (MCDDI) of Mr. Bernard Kolélas. A former opponent of President Sassou Nguesso, Mr. Kolélas supported the President after his return from exile in late 2005. Ten other small parties also supported the President.

Some two million citizens were registered for the polls. Although no official figure was announced, turnout was reportedly low.

Due to irregularities related to voter registration, elections were repeated in 19 constituencies on 8 and 15 July.

In all, 53 candidates were elected in the first round. The PCT and its allies won 50 of the 53 seats in parliament. The opposition UPADS took three seats, and criticized the organization of the elections, claiming that the poll was fraud-ridden.

In order to issue new electoral cards and to allow more time for the election campaign, the second round of elections, which had been originally scheduled for 22 July, was postponed to 5 August. It was contested by the two leading candidates in each of the remaining 84 constituencies.

African Union (AU) observers noted a low turnout as well as a series of irregularities involving multiple names on the electoral list, and delays in transporting voting equipment to some polling stations.

The final results gave a clear majority for the presidential camp, which won a total of 80 seats (including 44 seats for the PCT, and 12 for the MCDDI). In addition, most of the 34 independent candidates were reportedly close allies of the President. The UPADS took 11 seats. The UDR-Mwindanda and the CNR failed to win a seat.

The newly elected National Assembly held its first session on 21 August. On 4 September, it elected Mr. Justin Koumba (PCT) as its new Speaker.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	About 2,000,000
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► **Distribution of seats according to political group**

	Seats
Congolese Workers Party (PCT)	44
Pan-African Union for Social Democracy (UPADS)	11
Congolese Movement for Democracy and Integral Development (MCDDI)	11
Movement for Solidarity and Development (MSD)	5
Club 2002	3
Constituent Congress of the Action & Renewal Movement (MAR)	5
New Democratic Forces (FDN)	2
Patriotic Union for Democracy and Progress (UPDP)	2
Rally for Democracy and Social Progress (RDPS)	2
Union for the Republic (UR)	2
Take Action for Congo	2
Union for Progress (UP)	1
Independents	36
Others	10
Total	137

Note on the distribution of seats

The second round did not take place in certain villages in the two constituencies of Bouaniela and Liranga, owing to their inaccessibility. They were held on 19 and 20 August respectively and both seats were won by independent candidates. The statistics above include these election results.

► **Distribution of seats according to sex**

Men	127	
Women	10	7.30 %
Total	137	

► **Distribution of seats according to profession**

	Seats
Educators	30
Business/trade/industry employees, including executives	23
Engineers/PC experts	14
Legal professions	6
Medical professions (doctors, dentists, nurses)	6
Bankers (including invest bankers)/accountants	5
Media-related professions (journalists/publishers)	4
Military/police officers	1
Architects	1
Others	14
Unknown	33
Total	137

► **Distribution of seats according to age**

31 to 40 years	6
41 to 50 years	38
51 to 60 years	63
61 to 70 years	13
Over 70 years	2
Unknown	15
Total	137

CROATIA

Croatian Parliament

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Hrvatski Sabor / Croatian Parliament
Structure of Parliament	Unicameral
Number of members	153 directly elected
Term of House	4 years
Date of elections	25 November 2007

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all seats in the Croatian Parliament (Hrvatski Sabor) on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

- 10 multi-member constituencies (14 seats each) in the area of the Republic of Croatia for 140 seats
- one special constituency (an unfixed number of) for Croatian citizens residing abroad (constituency No. 11)
- one national constituency (eight seats) reserved for the autochthonous national minorities (constituency No. 12)

▶ **Voting system: Proportional**

- 140 are elected from 10 constituencies making up the territory of the Republic of Croatia, each constituency providing 14 MPs chosen from party lists or independent lists. The number of members chosen from each constituency list is established by the d'Hondt method. Any list winning less than 5% of the votes is excluded from the distribution of these seats.

- 8 are elected by members of the autochthonous national minorities in the Republic of Croatia, in a special (national) constituency

- others are chosen in a special constituency by Croatians residing abroad, by proportional representation, by means of an unfixed quota establishing the number of MPs to be elected in that constituency.

An MP elected from a constituency list is substituted by a candidate from the same list who has not been elected, nominated by the political party that proposed the list.

An MP elected from the list of Independents in a constituency is substituted by the next candidate on the same list who has not been

elected.

An MP chosen in the constituency for the election of MPs representing the autochthonous national minorities is substituted by another MP elected in the same constituency.

Vacancies arising between general elections are filled by substitutes elected at the same time as titular members.

Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- Age: 18 years
- Croatian citizenship
- Disqualifications: persons serving a sentence handed down by a court or persons declared to be legally incompetent.

▶ **Eligibility**

- Qualified voters
- Age: 18 years
- Croatian citizenship

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- Judges of the Constitutional Court
- Officials in the judiciary
- Ambassadors and Consuls General
- State and local government officials
- Active officer in the Armed Forces
- Members of the Board of companies or institutions whose majority owner is the State.

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- Nomination by a registered political party or voters, either individually or jointly
- Nomination by political parties takes place according to their statutes
- Candidatures submitted by individuals require a prescribed number of signatures by supporting voters as follows: voters can only support one non-party candidate, one state list or one special list
- Candidatures submitted for single-member districts: 400 signatures
- Candidatures submitted under state lists: 5,000 signatures
- Candidatures submitted under special lists: 500 signatures
- Candidatures submitted by ethnic minorities require a prescribed number of signatures by supporting voters as follows:
- Candidatures submitted under party or association lists: 100 signatures

Candidatures submitted under constituency lists: 500 signatures

Background and Outcome of the Elections

On 12 October 2007, the parliament voted to dissolve itself in view of elections due in November 2007. President Stjepan Mesic subsequently called elections for 25 November.

In the previous elections held in November 2003, the pro-western Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ) had won 66 seats. The main opposition party, the Social Democratic Party (SDP, former communist party) and its allies (the Libra, the Liberal Party, and the Istrian Democratic Party), had taken 43 seats. The Croatian People's Party (HNS) had won 11 seats, while the Croatian Party of the Right (HSP) and the Zagorje Democratic Party (ZDS) had taken eight seats each. The Croatian Peasant Party (HSS), the Croatian Social Liberal Party (HSL), and the Primorje Gorski Kotar Alliance (PGS) had taken nine, three, and one seat respectively. The remaining seats had gone to small parties.

A total of 3,585 candidates from 251 lists (parties and coalitions) ran in the 2007 elections. They saw once again a duel between Prime Minister Ivo Sanader's HDZ, and the SDP of Mr. Zoran Milanovic. The main issues were economic policy and the country's accession to the European Union (EU) and NATO. Both parties were favourable to accession to the EU before 2010. While the HDZ pledged to accelerate the accession process, the SDP argued that the conditions of accession were more important than speed. The SDP added that accession to NATO should be decided by a referendum. Opinion polls indicated that only around 40 per cent of Croatians were favourable to membership of NATO. The HSP, led by Mr. Anto Djapic, was the only major Eurosceptic party. It argued that Croatia needed to protect its industries, in particular, agriculture and fisheries.

Prime Minister Sanader advocated a liberal economy with less State involvement. Arguing that the government had created 129,000 jobs, the HDZ pledged to continue to support the private sector and stringent fiscal measures to achieve a balanced budget by 2010. The SDP insisted on more State control over the economy. It promised to lower taxes on businesses, while introducing a new tax on stock market gains. The HNS, led by Ms. Vesna Pusic, also promoted a liberal economy, and pledged to deal with unemployment by providing lifelong education. The Croatian Party of Pensioners (HSU) focused on health, welfare, and pensions in a bid to attract one million pensioners in the country. It said it would align itself with

whichever party won the elections.

The HSS, the HSLS, and the PGS maintained an electoral alliance under the name HSS-HSLS Coalition. The Istrian Democratic Assembly (IDS) fielded candidates independently for the first time in its history. Its leader, Ivan Jakovcic, argued that the country should not rely on the two major parties (HDZ and SDP), and vowed to promote decentralization. The Croatian Democratic Assembly of Slavonia and Baranja (HDSSB), a breakaway party from the HDZ, was led by Mr. Branimir Glavas, a former military commander. He formed the HDSSB in May 2006 but was briefly jailed in October 2006 and April 2007 for alleged war crimes in 1991-2.

The HDZ had strong support from Croats in Bosnia and Herzegovina who are eligible to vote. The SDP vowed to strip Bosnian Croats of the right to vote in Croatian elections if it was elected to office.

Over 57 per cent of the country's 4.5 million registered voters, including 400,000 voters abroad, turned out at the polls. Turnout in Croatia was recorded at 63.41 per cent. Turnout abroad was recorded at 22 per cent, although it reached 82 per cent in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) praised the elections for being transparently and professionally administered. It declared that they "represented further progress in fully meeting OSCE commitments for democratic elections".

The announcement of the final results was delayed due to irregularities in five polling stations, where the number of the votes cast exceeded the total number of the voters. Elections were repeated on 9 December in those polling stations.

The final results gave 66 seats to the ruling HDZ. The SDP came in second with 56 seats. The HSS-HSLS Coalition won eight seats and the HNS took seven. The IDS and the HDSSB won three seats respectively. The HSP and the HSU each won one seat. The eight remaining seats were reserved for representatives of ethnic minorities (see note).

Both the HDZ and SDP leaders claimed the right to form a government. On 15 December, President Mesic designated outgoing Prime Minister Mr. Sanader as the new Prime Minister, stating Mr. Sanader had showed his ability to form a coalition. Mr. Sanader subsequently formed a new coalition

government comprising the HDZ, the HSS-HSLS Coalition, the HSU and representatives of all ethnic minorities.

The newly elected parliament held its first session on 11 January 2008 and elected Mr. Luka Bebic (HDZ) as its new Speaker.

On 13 January, the parliament approved Mr. Sanader's new Cabinet. Mr. Slobodan Uzelac became the first ethnic Serb to hold the post of Deputy Prime Minister since Croatia declared its independence from Yugoslavia in 1991.

Note on the eight members representing ethnic minorities:

- Czech and Slovak minority: Ms. Zdenka Cuhnil (independent)

- Serbian minority (three seats):

(1) Mr. Ratko Gajica (Independent Democratic Serbian Party, SDSS)

(2) Mr. Milorad Pupovac (SDSS)

(3) Mr. Vojislav Stanimirovic (SDSS)

- Austrian, Bulgarian, German, Polish, Roma, Romanian, Ruthenian, Russian, Turkish, Ukrainian, Vallachian and Jewish national minority: Mr. Nazif Memedi (independent)

Italian minority: Mr. Furio Radin (independent)

Hungarian minority: Mr. Denes Soja (independent)

Albanian, Bosnian, Montenegro, Macedonian and Slovenian minority: Mr. Semso Tankovic (Party of Democratic Action of Croatia, SDAH)

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	4,478,580	
Voters	2,560,554	57.17 %
Blank or invalid ballot papers	37,731	
Valid votes	2,522,823	

Note:

The turnout figures above include results from the constituencies in Croatia, abroad (constituency XI) and those reserved for minorities (constituency XII).

► **Distribution of seats according to political group**

	Seats
Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ)	66
Social Democratic Party (SDP)	56
Peasant Party (HSS) - Social Liberal Party (HSL) Coalition	8
Croatian People's Party (HNS)	7
Croatian Democratic Alliance of Slavonia and Baranja (HDSSB)	3
Istrian Democratic Assembly (IDS)	3
Croatian Party of Pensioners (HSU)	1
Croatian Party of the Right (HSP)	1
Total	145

► **Distribution of seats according to sex**

Men	121	
Women	32	20.92 %
Total	153	

► **Distribution of seats according to age**

21 to 30 years	6
31 to 40 years	13
41 to 50 years	60
51 to 60 years	56
61 to 70 years	16
Over 70 years	2
Total	153

DENMARK

The Danish Parliament

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Folketinget / Parliament
Structure of Parliament	Unicameral
Number of members	179 directly elected
Term of House	4 years maximum The Prime Minister may at any time within the 4-year period call new elections.
Date of elections	13 November 2007

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all the seats in Parliament following the early dissolution of this body in October 2007. General elections had previously been held in February 2005.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

10 multi-member constituencies corresponding to counties, subdivided into 92 nomination districts.

▶ **Voting system: Proportional**

Proportional representation system according to a modified version of the St. Laguë method and Hare quota and using the method of greatest remainders. Each elector can cast either a "personal vote" for one of the candidates or a vote for one of the party lists. They can vote for any of the candidates or parties of their constituency, not being limited to those of their nomination district.

Of the 175 seats reserved for Denmark proper, 135 seats are distributed among the constituencies. In order to distribute these constituency seats among the political groups in contention, the total vote of each party in a constituency is divided by 1, 3, 5 and so on by odd numbers in order to arrive at the quotients on the basis of which seats are allocated). Utilization of this method ensures representation for smaller parties.

The 40 remaining, or compensatory, seats are then distributed among the parties which either have won at least one constituency seat; have

obtained, in two electoral regions, at least as many votes as the average number of valid votes cast in the region, per constituency seat; or have obtained at least 2% of all valid votes cast in the country as a whole. Such distribution, based on votes obtained on the national scale, is aimed at redressing the imbalance caused through the distribution of the constituency seats.

When it has been decided which parties are entitled to a share of the compensatory seats, the number of seats which each party is proportionately entitled to of the 175 seats is calculated on the basis of the total number of votes cast for these parties in all parts of the country. From the number of seats thus arrived at for each party, the number of constituency seats already obtained by the party is deducted. The resulting figure is the number of compensatory seats due to the party.

The end result of this system is a distribution of seats in the Folketing that faithfully reflects the share of the popular votes received by the parties.

Candidates who have been nominated but not elected figure on a list of substitute members drawn up by the Ministry of Interior after each general election. These substitute members fill the seats which become vacant between general elections.

Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- Age: 18 years
- Danish citizenship
- permanent residence in Denmark
- disqualifications: legally declared incompetency

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified voters
- age: 18 years
- Danish citizenship

Ineligibility: conviction for an act which in the eyes of the public makes the candidate unworthy of being a member of the Folketing.

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- Nomination by party or individuals
- candidatures must be registered at least 11 days prior to polling day

- party lists must be submitted at least 8 days before polling day
- independents need backing of the 150 to 200 electors from their district

Background and Outcome of the Elections

On 24 October 2007, Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen called early elections to the 179-member Danish Parliament (Folketing) for 13 November, ahead of the official end of the four-year term in February 2009.

Mr. Rasmussen has led the centre-right coalition government since 2001. It comprises his Liberal Party (Venstre) and the Conservative People's Party, and has the support of the Danish People's Party.

In the previous elections held in February 2005, the coalition had won a total of 70 seats of the 175 members elected from Denmark (see note) and the Danish People's Party had won 24 seats. The main opposition Social Democratic Party, led by Mr. Mogens Lykketoft, had taken 47 seats, losing five. He subsequently had resigned as party leader and had been succeeded by Ms. Helle Thorning-Schmidt in April 2005.

In the 2007 elections, Prime Minister Rasmussen was seeking a third consecutive term in office.

A total of 808 candidates, representing nine parties and including 12 independents, contested the 2007 elections.

Tax, welfare, and immigration were main issues during the election campaign. Prime Minister Rasmussen pledged to implement further tax-cutting measures, referring to his government's proposal to lower income tax, which was passed in parliament on 23 October. The Social Democrat leader Thorning-Schmidt promised to provide better welfare, including higher wages for the lowest-paid public servants.

Prime Minister Rasmussen also promised to soften asylum laws, proposing that asylum seekers with families be housed outside reception centres. The Social Democratic Party suggested that rejected asylum seekers be allowed to work in Denmark. The New Alliance, a new centrist party formed in May 2007 and led by Mr. Naser Khader, a Syrian-born Palestinian immigrant, also promised to work towards better treatment of refugees. The Danish People's Party led by Ms. Pia Kjaersgaard, opposed all initiatives to soften asylum laws.

In all, 86.59 per cent of the country's 4 million voters turned out at the polls.

The final results gave the outgoing coalition and its supporters a total of 89 seats. The Social Democratic Party took 45 seats. The New Alliance finally won 2.8 per cent of the votes, or five seats.

On 23 November, Prime Minister Rasmussen formed a new Liberal-Conservative coalition government, supported by the Danish People's Party and the New Alliance.

On 27 November, the newly elected parliament held its first session and elected former finance minister Mr. Thor Pedersen as its new Speaker.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	4,022,920	
Voters	3,483,533	86.59 %
Blank or invalid ballot papers	24,113	
Valid votes	3,459,420	

▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

	Votes	% votes	Seats
Liberal Party (Venstre)	908,472	26.26	46
Social Democratic Party	881,037	25.47	45
Danish People's Party	479,532	13.86	25
Socialist People's Party	450,975	13.04	23
Conservative People's Party	359,404	10.39	18
Radical Liberal Party	177,161	5.12	9
New Alliance	97,295	2.81	5
Unity List	74,982	2.17	4
Total			175

Note

Four other members are elected separately from Greenland and the Faroe Islands. The statistics above exclude the election results for these four members.

Election results for Greenland:

Inuit Ataqatigiits: 1 seat

Forward (Siumut): 1 seat

Election results for the Faroe Islands:

Republican Party (Tjóðveldisflokkurins): 1 seat

Union Party (Sambandspartiet): 1 seat

► **Distribution of seats according to sex**

Men	112	
Women	67	37.43 %
Total	179	

► **Distribution of seats according to profession**

	Seats
Civil/public servants/administrators (including social/development workers)	63
Educators	18
Business/trade/industry employees, including executives	12
Legal professions	11
Engineers/PC experts	9
Medical professions (doctors, dentists, nurses)	9
Media-related professions (journalists/publishers)	9
Military/police officers	7
Clerical occupations	7
Economists	7
Consultants (including real estate agents)	5
Farmers/agricultural workers (including wine growers)	4
Bankers (including invest bankers)/accountants	2
Others	16
Total	179

► **Distribution of seats according to age**

21 to 30 years	21
31 to 40 years	42
41 to 50 years	45
51 to 60 years	43
61 to 70 years	27
Over 70 years	1
Total	179

EGYPT

Shoura Assembly

Structure of Parliament	Bicameral
Chamber	Majlis Ash-Shura / Shoura Assembly
Number of members	264 members - 176 directly elected - 88 appointed by the Head of the State
Term of House	6 years; one-half of the membership is renewed every 3 years
Date of elections	11 & 18 June 2007

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for one half (88) of the Shoura Assembly on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

- ▶ **Constituencies**
57 multi-member constituencies

- ▶ **Voting system: Majority**
Majority vote in two rounds
If no candidate obtains an absolute majority in a constituency in the first round, a simple majority runoff poll is held a week later.
Vacancies between general elections are filled through by-elections or appointment, as the case may be.
Voting is compulsory for men, failure to do so resulting in a fine of £E20.

- ▶ **Voter requirements**
 - age: 18 years
 - Egyptian citizenship (or naturalized for at least five years)
 - disqualifications: unrehabilitated persons convicted of a felony, those whose property is under sequestration, imprisonment for certain crimes, civil servants or employees of the public sector dismissed for dishonourable reasons (in five years preceding election), persons placed under guardianship within five years of election
 - Disqualifications: the insane, undischarged bankrupts

- ▶ **Eligibility**
 - qualified voters
 - age: 30 years
 - Egyptian citizenship (or naturalized for at least 10 years)
 - descendant of an Egyptian father
 - proficiency in reading and writing
 - completion of/exemption from military service

- ▶ **Incompatibilities**
 - unless excepted:
 - government and public sector posts/employees
 - posts in foreign companies
 - membership of other assemblies or councils
 - mayors

- ▶ **Candidacy requirements**
 - monetary deposit of E£ 200

Background and Outcome of the Elections

On 11 May 2007, President Hosni Mubarak called mid-term elections to the 264-member Shoura Assembly for 11 June. At stake were half (88) of the 176 directly elected seats. Other seats are appointed by the President.

In the previous elections held in 2004, the ruling National Democratic Party (NDP) had won 85 of the 88 directly elected seats. It also held 40 of the 44 seats appointed in 2004.

The 2007 elections were the first to be held following the approval in March 2007 of constitutional amendments. The changes abolished the judicial supervision of elections and banned political activities based on religion, which impacted the electoral chances of the Muslim Brotherhood (MB), a banned Islamist group. MB-backed candidates had won 88 of the 444 seats in the 2005 elections to the People's Assembly.

A total of 609 candidates, including 10 women, ran in the 2007 elections. The NDP fielded 109 candidates, 11 of whom won seats unopposed. It called on voters' support for its "past performance and efforts in the people's interest", and urged massive participation in the elections. Being the only party to field candidates in all constituencies, the NDP was widely expected to win by a landslide.

The MB, which pledged to bring more freedom to the country, backed 19 independent candidates. Some 800 MB members were reportedly detained by 7 June. In the wake of police crackdowns, the MB-backed candidates kept a low profile during the election campaign. Instead of using posters and slogans, they tried to establish direct contact with voters by visiting their homes.

Two opposition parties (the New Wafd Party and the Nasserist Arab Democratic Party), which had been part of the coalition with the MB known as the National Front for Change (NFC) in the 2005 elections to the People's Assembly, boycotted the 2007 elections. They argued that the elections would not be fair under the amended constitution, and called for enhanced judicial control, demanding the presence of one judge at each polling station. Among the main opposition parties, only the Tagammu Party (also known as the National Progressive Unionist Grouping, which was part of the NFC), took part in the elections. It also opposed the constitutional amendments, but argued that a boycott would not bring about a better constitution.

In all, only 69 candidates representing opposition parties contested the elections. Other opposition parties included the Democratic Generation Party (El-Geel), the Egyptian Greens (Hizb Al-khodr), the Constitutional Party (Dostory), and the Solidarity Party (Takaful). Most of these opposition parties held appointed seats in the Shoura Assembly. The remaining candidates were former members of the People's Assembly, who ran as independents after the NDP declined to back their candidacy.

On 11 June, 31.23 per cent of the 23 million eligible voters turned out at the polls.

Clashes between supporters of rival candidates reportedly resulted in the death of one person, with several others injured. Police arrested 400 MB members. The MB accused the government of violations and irregularities, involving among others, opposition supporters being barred from entering polling stations - an allegation which the government denied.

A total of 60 candidates secured the majority vote required to be elected in the first round. The NDP took 59 of these seats, while the Tagammu Party took one. No candidate backed by the MB was elected. In the run-off elections held on 18 June, the NDP won all 17 remaining seats. It thus won a total of 87 seats, controlling 172 of the 176 elective seats. Only one woman was

elected.

On 21 June, President Mubarak appointed 44 members, including 33 NDP members (see note on the distribution of seats). Nine women were appointed.

On 25 June, newly elected members were sworn in alongside the members appointed by President Mubarak. Mr. Saftwat el Sherif, the sole candidate for the post, was unanimously re-elected as President of the Shoura Assembly.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

	Round 1 (11 June)	
Number of registered electors	23,378,962	
Voters	7,301,478	31.23 %

► **Distribution of seats according to political group**

	Seats (Round 1)	Seats (Round 2)	Total elective seats 2007	Total elective seats
National Democratic Party (NDP)	70	17	87	172
Tagammu Party	1	0	1	2
New Wafd Party	0	0	0	0
Constitutional Party (Dostory)	0	0	0	0
Democratic Front Party (Gabhah)	0	0	0	0
Democratic Generation Party (El Geel)	0	0	0	0
Egyptian Greens (Hizb Al khodr)	0	0	0	0
Solidarity Party (Takaful)	0	0	0	0
Independents	0	0	0	2
Total	71	17	88	176

	Appointed seats 2007	Total appointed	Grand total
National Democratic Party (NDP)	33	73	245
Tagammu Party	1	1	3
New Wafd Party	1	2	2
Constitutional Party (Dostory)	1	1	1
Democratic Front Party (Gabhah)	0	1	1
Democratic Generation Party (El Geel)	0	1	1
Egyptian Greens (Hizb Al khodr)	1	1	1
Solidarity Party (Takaful)	1	1	1
Independents	6	7	9
Total	44	88	264

► **Distribution of seats according to sex**

	Seats 2007		Total	
Men	122		243	
Women	10	7.58 %	21	7.98%
Total	132		264	

► **Distribution of seats according to profession**

	Seats
Clerical occupations	51
Educators	48
Farmers/agricultural workers (including wine growers)	38
Business/trade/industry employees, including executives	32
Legal professions	29
Civil/public servants/administrators (including social/development workers)	17
Medical professions (doctors, dentists, nurses)	16
Military/police officers	12
Media-related professions (journalists/publishers)	11
Engineers/PC experts	11
Economists	11
Bankers (including invest bankers)/accountants	10
Consultants (including real estate agents)	9
Architects	3
Liberal professions (including artists, authors) and sports professionals	2
Scientists and researchers	2
Others	19
Total	321

Note:

Some members have listed more than one occupations.

► **Distribution of seats according to age**

31 to 40 years	2
41 to 50 years	50
51 to 60 years	66
61 to 70 years	102
Over 70 years	43
Unknown	1
Total	264

ESTONIA

The Estonian Parliament

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Riigikogu / The Estonian Parliament
Structure of Parliament	Unicameral
Number of members	101 directly elected
Term of House	4 years
Date of elections	4 March 2007

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all the seats in Parliament on the normal expiry of the members' term of office

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

12 multi-member (6 to 13 seats, according to population) constituencies.

▶ **Voting system: Proportional**

Direct party-list voting with proportional distribution of seats in three rounds of counting according to a simple electoral quotient. The distribution of leftover "compensation mandates" (26 seats) takes place on the basis of a modified d'Hondt method.

Candidates are listed on the ballot paper on which each elector indicates his or her choice. In determining the electoral results, a simple quotient is calculated for each district by dividing the number of valid votes cast by the number of seats allocated to the district; each candidate who obtains more votes than this quotient is declared elected. Moreover, candidates presented on party lists are enumerated by order of votes obtained; each of these lists is allocated a number of seats equal to the number of times its votes obtained exceed the quotient, those candidates receiving the most votes being declared elected. Finally, mandates not assigned at the district level are distributed as national "compensation mandates" on the basis of a modified d'Hondt method among those parties and electoral coalitions whose candidates obtained at least 5% of the national vote.

Vacancies which occur between general elections are filled by candidates who are "next-in-line" on the list of the party or electoral coalition which formerly held the seat. They are also known as "substitute members".

Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years
- Estonian citizenship
- disqualifications: mental incompetence, court conviction, detention

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified voters
- age: 21 years
- Estonian citizenship

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- other public office

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- candidates may be nominated by political parties, electoral unions or individual citizens
- an amount equal to approximately US\$ 75 must be deposited with the National Election Committee in each case. The amount will be reimbursed provided the candidate in question is elected, obtains votes equal to at least 1/2 of the electoral quotient or appears on a national list entitled to "compensation mandates"
- nominations must be submitted at least 45 days prior to the elections

Background and Outcome of the Elections

On 30 November 2006, President Toomas Hendrik Ilves called elections for the Riigikogu for 4 March 2007. The country had joined the European Union (EU) and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in 2004. It has been enjoying a booming economy, with GDP growth reaching 11.5 per cent in 2006, supported by its high-tech industry.

In the last elections held in March 2003, the Res Publica and the Reform Party had won 29 seats each. In April, Mr. Juhan Parts, leader of the Res Publica, had formed a coalition government, comprising the Res Publica, the Reform Party of Mr. Andrus Ansip, and People's Union. However, Prime Minister Parts resigned in March 2005 following a vote of no confidence against the Minister of Justice, Mr. Ken-Marti Vaher, whose proposal for a controversial anti-corruption bill triggered a stalemate in the Riigikogu.

In April 2005, Mr. Ansip of the Reform Party formed a new coalition

government with the Centre Party led by Mr. Edgar Savisaar, Estonia's first prime minister following independence from the Soviet Union in 1991, and the Estonian People's Union (R), a small agrarian party. The three parties reportedly disagreed on economic policies but Prime Minister Ansip maintained the pragmatic coalition until the 2007 elections.

In the 2007 elections, 11 political parties endorsed a total of 975 candidates. Approximately 7 per cent of the 1.34 million-strong population of Estonia still hold a Russian passport and another 9 per cent (mainly people of Russian origin) have no formal nationality. Neither group is allowed to vote or stand for election.

The opposition Res Publica and the Pro Patria merged in June 2006 under the new name of Pro Patria and Res Publica Union (IRL), a conservative party committed to preserving Estonian culture, co-led by Mr. Tõnis Lukas and Mr. Taavi Veskimägi. The Reform Party pledged to maintain the country's flat tax and enhance market-friendly policies. Prime Minister Ansip called for voters' support for his party, pledging further economic growth. Stating that his party's programme was compatible with the IRL's, a possible post-election coalition could not be ruled out. The Centre Party, which has been supported by the Russian minority, pushed forward a progressive tax system and promised to provide a better welfare system. Mr. Salvisaar pledged to narrow the gap between the rich and the poor. The Moderates' Party, which changed its name to the Social Democratic Party (SDE) in February 2004, was led by Mr. Ivari Padar. It promised to provide better education. The Estonian Greens (EER), formed in November 2006, also fielded candidates. It was co-led by Peeter Jalakas, Valdur Lahtvee, Maret Merisaar and Marek Strandberg.

Internet voting was used for the first time with approximately 31,000 voters casting their ballot on the Internet. In all, 61.9 per cent of the 897,000 registered voters turned out at the polls, up from 58 per cent in the 2003 elections.

Observers from the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) praised the democratic and transparent nature of the election process. While acknowledging significant efforts made by the Estonian Government to naturalize and integrate persons without citizenship, they encouraged further steps to facilitate citizenship for such people.

The final results gave 31 seats to the Reform Party, 12 more than in the 2003

elections. The outgoing coalition secured a total of 66 seats in the 101-seat parliament. No parties representing the Russian minorities passed the threshold of five per cent to win a seat.

The newly elected Parliament held its first session on 2 April 2007 and elected Ms. Ene Ergma (IRL), who had served as Speaker of the Riigikogu between March 2003 and March 2006, as its new Speaker with 91 of 101 votes.

After the elections, Mr. Ansip announced a new coalition government comprising his own Reform Party, which won 31 seats, the Pro Patria and Res Publica Union (IRL), (which took 29) and the SDE (which won 10 seats). The new government was officially sworn in on 5 April.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	897,243	
Voters	555,463	61.91 %
Blank or invalid ballot papers	5,250	
Valid votes	550,213	

▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

	Votes	% votes	Seats	Gain/ Loss
Reform Party	153,047	27.82	31	12
Center Party	143,524	26.09	29	1
Pro Patria and Res Publica Union (IRL)	98,203	17.85	19	-16
Estonian Social Democratic Party (SDE)	58,346	10.60	10	4
Estonian Greens	39,304	7.14	6	
Estonian People's Union (R)	39,216	7.13	6	-7
Total			101	

▶ Distribution of seats according to sex

Men	77	
Women	24	23.76 %
Total	101	

► **Distribution of seats according to profession**

	Seats
Scientists and researchers	26
Engineers/PC experts	15
Legal professions	14
Economists	12
Educators	8
Civil/public servants/administrators (including social/development workers)	6
Liberal professions (including artists, authors) and sports professionals	5
Media-related professions (journalists/publishers)	5
Business/trade/industry employees, including executives	4
Farmers/agricultural workers (including wine growers)	2
Others	4
Total	101

► **Distribution of seats according to age**

21 to 30 years	15
31 to 40 years	25
41 to 50 years	22
51 to 60 years	32
61 to 70 years	7
Total	101

FINLAND

Parliament

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Eduskunta - Riksdagen / Parliament
Structure of Parliament	Unicameral
Number of members	200 directly elected
Term of House	4 years
Date of elections	18 March 2007

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all the seats in Parliament on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

- 14 multi-member (6 to 33 seats) provincial constituencies
- 1 single-member constituency (province of Åland)

▶ **Voting system: Proportional**

- 199 members are elected in 14 constituencies by proportional representation. Seats are distributed among the individual parties, or alliances of several parties, in accordance with the d'Hondt method. For the distribution of seats within each list, candidates are ranked according to the number of personal votes they have polled.

- one member is elected by simple majority vote in the province of Åland

Vacancies arising between general elections are filled by individuals who are "next in line" on the list of the party which formerly held the seat.

Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years
- Finnish citizenship

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified voters
- ineligibility: persons under guardianship, active military service

▶ Incompatibilities

- Chancellor of Justice and his/her deputy
- Ombudsman of Parliament and his/her deputy
- Prosecutor General
- Members of the Supreme Court and the Supreme Administrative Court

▶ Candidacy requirements

- nomination by registered political party or constituency association of at least 100 voters (30 in the province of Åland)

Background and Outcome of the Elections

The March 2007 elections came on the heels of the country's presidency of the European Union from July to December 2006. As a result, the election campaign started late compared to previous ones. In the last elections held in March 2003, the Centre Party (KESK) led by Ms. Anneli Jäätteenmäki had won 55 seats. She was subsequently elected as the first female prime minister of the country and formed a centre-left coalition government with the Social Democratic Party (SDP) of former prime minister Paavo Lipponen (which had taken 53 seats) and the Swedish People's Party (eight seats). The main opposition National Coalition Party (KOK), a moderate conservative party, had taken 40 seats, while the remainder of seats had been won by small parties.

In June 2003, Ms. Jäätteenmäki resigned after she was alleged to have illegally obtained confidential documents on the Iraq war, which she used in the 2003 election campaign. Mr. Matti Vanhanen (KESK) took over as Prime Minister. His government enjoyed wide popularity mainly because of high economic growth, approaching six per cent in 2006, and a 7.7 per cent unemployment rate, the lowest in 15 years.

In the 2007 elections, 1,205 men and 799 women were vying for the 200 seats in the parliament.

As in previous elections, employment and taxation were the main issues. Prime Minister Vanhanen pledged to reduce VAT on food. The SDP said the VAT reduction must apply to ordinary goods so as to help people with the most modest and average incomes. The KOK, under its new leader, Mr. Jyrki Katainen, pledged to cut the income tax of people with small and medium incomes. The SDP leader, Mr. Eero Heinäluoma, criticized the KESK for campaigning for the establishment of a KESK-KOK coalition government that would exclude the SDP.

The Swedish People's Party, representing the Swedish minority in Finland, promised to reform energy taxes in order to bring about more environment-friendly policies. The Left Alliance and the Green League hinted at a possible tax increase to provide better public services. The True Finns, known for its EU-skeptical policies, also fielded candidates.

Only 65.02 per cent of the country's 4.2 million registered voters turned out at the polls, the lowest post-war figure for general elections.

The biggest winner in the 2007 elections was the KOK, which gained ten more seats, winning 50 in all. Former KOK leader Sauli Niinistö was re-elected with over 60,000 votes or 10 per cent of the party's votes nationwide. The KESK remained the largest party in the parliament by winning 51 seats, although it lost four. The SDP lost eight seats, winning 45, reportedly suffering from the low turnout. It thus lost its position as the country's second largest party for the first time since 1962.

The 2007 elections saw a record number of women elected to office - 84, nine more than in the previous elections. The number of MPs in their sixties almost doubled (32), while that of those in their thirties dropped to two (both from the Green League), down from four in the 2003 elections.

President Tarja Halonen opened the new parliament on 28 March 2007.

On 15 April, the KESK, the KOK, the Green League and the Swedish People's Party agreed to form a new government. On 17 April, parliament re-elected Mr. Matti Vanhanen (KESK) as Prime Minister with 121 votes. His 20-member cabinet announced on 19 April included 12 women (60 per cent), a record high in the world.

On 24 April, Mr. Sauli Niinistö (KOK) was elected as the new Speaker.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	4,292,436	
Voters	2,790,752	65.02 %
Blank or invalid ballot papers	19,516	
Valid votes	2,771,236	

► **Distribution of seats according to political group**

	Votes	Gain/ Loss	% votes	Seats	Gain/ Loss	Number of women
Center Party (KESK)	640,428	-48,963	23.11	51	-4	15
National Coalition Party (KOK)	616,841	98,937	22.26	50	10	20
Social Democratic Party (SDP)	594,194	-89,029	21.44	45	-8	25
Left Alliance	244,296	-32,856	8.82	17	-2	3
Green League	234,429	10,865	8.46	15	1	10
Swedish People's Party (SFP)	126,520	-2,304	4.57	9	1	5
Christian Democrats (KD)	134,790	-14,197	4.86	7	0	4
True Finns	112,256	68,440	4.05	5	2	1
Others	12,588	-984	0.45	1	0	1
Total				200		84

Note:

"Others" refers to a female candidate elected from the Province of Åland, representing an independent voters' association called "Borgerlig Allians". She subsequently joined the Swedish People's Party.

► **Distribution of seats according to sex**

Men	116	
Women	84	42.00 %
Total	200	

► **Distribution of seats according to age**

21 to 30 years	3
31 to 40 years	55
41 to 50 years	53
51 to 60 years	66
61 to 70 years	23
Total	200

FRANCE

National Assembly

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Parlement / Parliament
Structure of Parliament	Bicameral
Chamber	Assemblée nationale / National Assembly
Number of members	577 directly elected
Term of House	5 years
Date of elections	10 & 17 June 2007

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all the seats in the National Assembly on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

577 single-member constituencies:

- 555 for metropolitan France
- 17 for overseas departments and "collectivités territoriales"
- 5 for overseas territories

▶ **Voting system: Majority**

Single-Member Majoritarian Systems in two rounds

A candidate is elected in the first round if he/she obtains an absolute majority of the total votes cast, provided this amount is equal to a quarter of the number of registered voters in the particular constituency. In order to be eligible for the second round, candidates must have obtained a number of votes equal to at least 12.5% of the total number of registered voters. However, if only one candidate fulfils this condition, the person who polls the second largest number of votes in the first ballot may also participate in the second at which, to be elected, a simple majority suffices.

Should a seat become vacant during the course of a legislature, the alternate who was elected along with the titular candidate is called on to fill the seat if the titular candidate is deceased or appointed to a government post or to sit on the Constitutional Council or if the titular candidate has been called away on a temporary mission assigned by the government and extended for a period exceeding six months; in all other cases, by-elections are held within the three months following

vacation of the seat (unless the vacancy arises in the final year of the legislature.

Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- Age: 18 years
- French citizenship
- Disqualifications: persons under guardianship, forfeiture of voting rights as a result of certain penal sentences

▶ **Eligibility**

- Qualified voters
- Age: 23 years
- French citizenship
- Persons who have fulfilled their obligations under the law on national (military) service
- ineligibility: persons under guardianship and those deprived of their eligibility as a result of certain penal sentences, serious breaches of campaign financing legislation, failure to declare assets, judicial liquidation, undischarged bankrupts, functions involving authority in home constituency (relative ineligibility)

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- Members of the Government
- Members of the Constitutional Council
- Members of the European Parliament
- Senators
- Members of the Economic and Social Council
- Judges, civil servants, career members of the armed forces
- Holders of non-elected public office
- Posts attributed and remunerated by a foreign State or an international organization
- Managers or directors of national enterprises or national public establishments
- Managers or directors of firms:
 - 1) benefiting from State or local government administration subsidies;
 - 2) working principally for or under the control of the State or other public person;
 - 3) entitled to public savings; and
 - 4) involved in real estate.

These incompatibilities are not applicable to posts held by members of

parliament in: 1) regional or local establishments provided that the deputies were appointed to serve in a local capacity; 2) public-private regional or local firms; and 3) establishments with an exclusively social purpose.

- Consultancies accepted during the term of office
- Holding more than one of the following posts: regional councillor, general councillor, municipal councillor of a commune with fewer than 3,500 inhabitants.

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- Submission of candidature four Fridays before polling day
- Simultaneous submission of name of alternate
- Designation of a representative by date of candidature registration
- If the candidate obtains at least 5 per cent of the votes cast in the constituency concerned in one of the two rounds of voting, the cost of paper, ballot printing, posters, flyers and the cost of displaying posters are reimbursed.

Background and Outcome of the Elections

The 2007 elections to the National Assembly followed the election as President of the Republic of Mr. Nicolas Sarkozy, of the Union for a Popular Movement (UMP, the ruling centre-right party, see note). In May, Mr. Sarkozy defeated Ms. Ségolène Royal of the main opposition Socialist Party (PS) in a run-off election, and pledged to take the country into a new era, both economically and socially. The UMP held 359 seats in the outgoing legislature, while the PS had 149.

The June parliamentary elections saw once again a duel between the UMP and the PS. President Sarkozy insisted that he needed a majority in the National Assembly to carry out his presidential programme. Pre-election polls predicted a major victory for the UMP.

The PS argued that the country stood to benefit from a diversity of opinion. It was therefore important for the socialist group to be well-represented in the National Assembly. The centrist Union for French Democracy (UDF), whose leader, Mr. François Bayrou had taken 18.5% of the vote in the first round of the presidential election, split in two before the parliamentary elections. Most of the incumbent UDF members had offered their support to Mr. Sarkozy in the second round of presidential elections. In late May, they launched a new party, the "New Centre" party, led by Defence Minister, Mr. Hervé Morin. UDF members loyal to Mr. Bayrou formed the Union for

French Democracy-Democratic Movement (MODEM), which refused any electoral alliances with either side of the political divide.

In all 7,639 candidates contested the 577 seats in the National Assembly.

On 10 June, 60.42 per cent of registered voters turned out at the first round of the polls, the lowest figure since 1958. 110 candidates were elected in the first round, compared to 58 in the 2002 elections. The UMP and its allies took 98 of those 110 seats, securing 39.54 per cent of the valid votes while the PS obtained 24.73 per cent of the votes. Twelve women were elected.

Fiscal issues took centre between the first and second rounds. Prime Minister François Fillon came in for scathing criticism from the PS over the government's supposed plans to introduce a "social VAT" (value-added tax).

On 17 June, the second round of elections for the remaining 467 seats involved candidates who had obtained over 12.5 per cent of the vote cast in the first round. Nearly 60 per cent of registered voters turned out at the polls.

The UMP fared less well than opinion polls had predicted. The Energy and Environment Minister and former prime minister Alain Juppé (UMP) was narrowly defeated and subsequently resigned as minister.

The final results nevertheless confirmed a clear victory for the UMP, giving it a total of 313 of the 577 seats. The PS took 186 seats. The New Centre (referred to in the official election results as "Presidential Majority") and its allies took 22 seats, whereas the MODEM took only three. In all, 107 women were elected.

On 26 June, the newly elected National Assembly held its first session and elected Mr. Bernard Accoyer (UMP) as its new Speaker.

Note:

Prior to the 2002 presidential elections, supporters of the then President Jacques Chirac founded an electoral alliance, the Union on the Move (Union en mouvement). It was renamed the Union for the Presidential Majority (UMP) for the 2002 parliamentary elections and subsequently changed its name again to the Union for a Popular Movement following the elections.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

	Round 1 (10 June)	Round 2 (17 June)
Number of registered electors	43,896,043	35,223,911
Voters	26,521,824 60.42 %	21,130,346 59.99 %
Blank or invalid ballot papers	495,358	723,561
Valid votes	26,026,466	20,406,785

▶ Distribution of seats according to political group (Round 1)

	Votes	% votes	Seats
Union for a Popular Movement (UMP)	10,289,732	39.54	98
Presidential Majority (MAJ)	616,440	2.37	8
Other parties of the right	641,842	2.47	2
Movement for France (MPF)	312,581	1.20	1
Socialist Party (PS)	6,436,521	24.73	1
Communist Party (PC)	1,115,663	4.29	0
Greens	845,977	3.25	0
Left Radical	343,565	1.32	0
Other left wing parties	513,407	1.97	0
Regionalist	133,473	0.51	0
Union for French Democracy (UDF) - Democratic Movement	1,981,107	7.61	0
Others	3,108,734	11.94	0
Total			110

► **Distribution of seats according to political group (Round 2)**

	Votes	% votes	Seats	Grand Total
Union for a Popular Movement (UMP)	9,461,087	46.36	215	313
Socialist Party (PS)	8,624,472	42.26	185	186
Communist Party (PC)	464,739	2.28	15	15
Other left wing parties	503,556	2.47	15	15
Presidential Majority (MAJ)	433,057	2.12	14	22
Left Radical	333,194	1.63	7	7
Other parties of the right	238,588	1.17	7	9
Greens	90,975	0.45	4	4
Union for French Democracy (UDF) - Democratic Movement	100,115	0.49	3	3
Regionalist	106,484	0.52	1	1
Movement for France (MPF)			0	1
Others	33,068	0.16	1	1
Total			467	577

► **Distribution of seats according to sex**

Men	470	
Women	107	18.54 %
Total	577	

► **Distribution of seats according to profession**

	Seats
Business/trade/industry employees, including executives	102
Civil/public servants/administrators (including social/development workers)	89
Educators	82
Medical professions (doctors, dentists, nurses)	72
Legal professions	45
Entrepreneurs	27
Engineers/PC experts	22
Retired	22
Liberal professions (including artists, authors) and sports professionals	17
Farmers/agricultural workers (including wine growers)	16
Bankers (including invest bankers)/accountants	3
Architects	1
Others	59
Unknown	20
Total	577

► **Distribution of seats according to age**

21 to 30 years	2
31 to 40 years	29
41 to 50 years	139
51 to 60 years	256
61 to 70 years	141
Over 70 years	10
Total	577

GAMBIA (THE)

National Assembly

Parliament name (generic / translated)	National Assembly / -
Structure of Parliament	Unicameral
Number of members	53 members - 48 directly elected - 5 appointed
Term of House	5 years
Date of elections	25 January 2007

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all the elective seats in the National Assembly on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

- ▶ **Constituencies**
Seven administrative areas carved up into 48 single-member constituencies.
- ▶ **Voting system: Majority**
Simple majority vote
Vacancies arising between general elections are filled through by-elections held within 90 days. No by-elections are held in the last nine months of the Assembly's term.
Voting is not compulsory
- ▶ **Voter requirements**
 - age: 18 years
 - Gambian citizenship
 - residence or birth in constituency where registered
 - disqualifications: allegiance to a foreign State, insanity, sentence of imprisonment, registration as voter in another country
- ▶ **Eligibility**
 - qualified voters
 - age: 21 years
 - Gambian citizenship
 - ordinary residence of at least one year in constituency where running
 - declaration of assets to Independent Electoral Commission as required

by law

- ability to speak English well enough to take part in the proceedings of the Assembly

- ineligibility: undischarged bankrupts, sentence of death or imprisonment of at least six months (in the preceding 5 years), certain government contractors, electoral offence

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- magistrates and judges

- members of the armed, police or security forces

- members of the Independent Electoral Commission

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- nomination by at least 300 voters of the same constituency

- monetary deposit of 5,000 dalasis, reimbursed if candidate is successful or obtains at least 20% of the votes cast for the elected candidate

Background and Outcome of the Elections

Parliamentary elections were held on 25 January 2007. At the previous elections, held in 2002, the ruling Alliance for Patriotic Reorientation and Consultation (APRC) had won 45 of the 48 directly elected seats in the National Assembly, including 33 unopposed seats. The main opposition United Democratic Party (UDP) had boycotted the elections on the grounds that they were seriously flawed. President Yahya Jammeh (APRC) was re-elected for a third term in September 2006.

A total of 103 candidates ran in the 2007 elections. Only the APRC fielded candidates in all 48 constituencies. The UDP, led by human rights lawyer Ousainou Darboe, fielded 29 candidates and its partner, the National Reconciliation Party (NRP), put up nine candidates. A coalition of opposition parties, the National Alliance for Democracy and Development (NADD) also participated in the elections.

The APRC pledged to maintain the Government's socio-economic development strategy, Vision 2020, which had been launched by President Jammeh in 1996. All parties promised to provide safe drinking water and better roads, education, jobs, and health care. The UDP leader accused the security services of hampering his party's election campaign, and called for the elections to be free and fair.

Approximately 38 per cent of the country's 670,000 registered voters (out of

a total population of 1.5 million) turned out at the polls. This represented a sharp drop from the 56 per cent turnout recorded in 2002.

Observers from 20 different organizations, including the African Union and the Commonwealth, monitored the polls. They said the elections were free and fair, although they noted the low turnout and other shortcomings.

The final results confirmed the ruling APRC's absolute majority in the National Assembly with 42 seats, including five that were unopposed, while the UDP took four seats. The remaining seats went to the NADD and an independent candidate.

Ms. Fatoumata Jahumpa-Ceesay (APRC) was appointed as the new Speaker of the National Assembly, and the newly elected National Assembly held its first session on 8 February 2007.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	About 670,000
Voters	38%

▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

	Seats
Alliance for Patriotic Reorientation and Construction (APRC)	42
United Democratic Party (UDP)	4
National Alliance for Democracy and Development (NADD)	1
Independents	1
Total	48

▶ Distribution of seats according to sex

Men	48	
Women	5	9.43 %
Total	53	

Note:

Two women were elected and three were appointed.

GREECE

Hellenic Parliament

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Vouli Ton Ellinon / Hellenic Parliament
Structure of Parliament	Unicameral
Number of members	300 directly elected
Term of House	4 years
Date of elections	16 September 2007

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all the seats in Parliament following the premature dissolution of this body on 17 August 2007. General elections had previously been held in March 2004.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

- 56 single- or multi-member constituencies for 288 seats
- one multi-member nationwide constituency for 12 "State Deputies"

▶ **Voting system: Proportional**

- single round of voting in accordance with the Hagenbach-Bischoff system of "reinforced" proportional representation, with voting for party lists and, within each list, preferential vote. Remaining seats after this distribution are allocated in 13 principal electoral districts according to the same system. Any further remaining seats are allocated at the national level by means of a simple electoral quotient

- majority vote, under some circumstances, to allocate further remaining seats at the national level and simple majority vote in eight single-member constituencies

Parties obtaining at least 3 per cent of the votes cast receive a minimum of six seats in parliament.

The 12 "State Deputies" are nominated by the most successful parties and elected according to a party-list proportional representation system, the whole country then being regarded as one constituency.

Vacancies arising between general elections are filled by the "next-in-line" candidate on the same party list.

Voting is compulsory until the age of 70. Failure to vote is punishable by a prison sentence of one month to one year, and a loss of the offender's post (however, no one has ever been prosecuted).

▶ **Voter requirements**

- 18 years
- Greek citizenship
- full possession of civil rights
- disqualifications: persons disfranchised pursuant to legal prohibition or criminal conviction for offenses defined in the common or military penal code, or persons who are wards of the court.

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified voters
- age: 25 years or over
- Greek citizenship

▶ **Incompatibilities**

The main categories are:

- members of the armed forces and security service
- certain public officials or holders of public office
- directors of parastatal agencies or organizations

The Constitution provides a full list of ineligibilities (Article 56) and incompatibilities (Article 57).

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- individual candidates or members of a political party
- presentation on an independent basis or under a party label, supported by at least 12 voters, or self-nominated.
- non-reimbursable deposit of 146.74 euros.

Background and Outcome of the Elections

On 17 August 2007, Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis called elections for 16 September, six months earlier than the official due date. Under his government, the country experienced economic growth (4.4 per cent in August 2007) and low unemployment. Despite a scandal involving the misuse of State pension funds, opinion polls predicted a victory for his centre-right New Democracy (ND) party, which had won 165 of the 300 seats in the previous elections held in March 2004, ending 11 years of uninterrupted power in the hands of the Pan-Hellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK).

However, a week after the elections were called, massive forest fires broke out in southern Greece, which killed more than 65 people before the flames were extinguished over a week later. There was widespread criticism of the

way in which the government responded to the emergency. The Prime Minister subsequently ordered aid for the victims, and pledged to rebuild their burned homes.

In all, 21 parties contested the 2007 elections. Both the ND and the PASOK pledged to implement social reforms. Shortly before the elections, the Government announced new social benefits, which reportedly boosted support for the ND. The Prime Minister called on voters to give his party the majority it needed to continue with the economic reforms.

Pre-election opinion polls showed increasing support for smaller political parties, such as the Communist Party (KKE), which had taken 12 seats in the 2004 elections, and component parties of the Coalition of the Left and Progress (SYN), which had won six seats in 2004. The SYN formed a new electoral coalition called the Coalition of the Radical Left (Sy.Riz.A), which included the Democratic Social Movement (DIKKI) and other leftist parties. The small far right-wing LAOS campaigned against Turkey's entry to the European Union, and promised to introduce immigrant quotas.

A total of 74.14 per cent of the 9.9 million registered voters turned out at the polls.

Prime Minister Karamanlis' ND won the elections with a diminished majority in parliament, taking 152 seats. The PASOK followed with 102 seats, losing fifteen. The KKE won 20 seats, while the Sy.Riz.A took 12 seats. The LAOS party won 12 seats, becoming the first far right-wing party to enter the parliament since the end of dictatorship in Greece in 1974. In all, 48 women were elected.

On 19 September, a new government formed by Mr. Karamanlis was sworn in.

On 26 September, the newly elected Parliament held its first session. On 27 September, Mr. Dimitrios Sioufas (ND) was elected as the new Speaker.

Note:

The Coalition of the Radical Left (Sy.Riz.A) included the following political parties:

Active Citizens

Communist Organization of Greece (KOE)

Democratic Social Movement (DIKKI)

Ecological Intervention

Internationalist Workers Left (DEA)

Kokkino

Movement for the United in Action Left (KEDA)

Popular Unions of Bipartisan Social Groups (LEYKO)

Renewing Communist Ecological Left (AKOA)

Synaspismos (SYN)

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	9,921,343	
Voters		74.14 %
Valid votes	7,159,817	

▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

	Votes	% votes	Seats	Gain/ Loss
New Democracy (ND)	2,995,321	41.84	152	-13
Panhellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK)	2,727,702	38.10	102	-15
Communist Party (KKE)	583,768	8.15	22	10
Sy.Riz.A	361,216	5.05	14	8
La.O.S	271,761	3.80	10	-
Total			300	

▶ Distribution of seats according to sex

Men	252	
Women	48	16.00 %
Total	300	

► **Distribution of seats according to profession**

	Seats
Legal professions	70
Educators	34
Medical professions (doctors, dentists, nurses)	34
Economists	32
Engineers/PC experts	25
Media-related professions (journalists/publishers)	22
Scientists and researchers	11
Business/trade/industry employees, including executives	10
Civil/public servants/administrators (including social/development workers)	9
Architects	6
Liberal professions (including artists, authors) and sports professionals	5
Farmers/agricultural workers (including wine growers)	4
Military/police officers	2
Bankers (including invest bankers)/accountants	2
Consultants (including real estate agents)	1
Others	33
Total	300

► **Distribution of seats according to age**

21 to 30 years	3
31 to 40 years	26
41 to 50 years	71
51 to 60 years	116
61 to 70 years	48
Over 70 years	5
Unknown	31
Total	300

GUATEMALA

Congress of the Republic

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Congreso de la República / Congress of the Republic
Structure of Parliament	Unicameral
Number of members	158 directly elected
Term of House	4 years
Date of elections	9 September 2007

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all the seats of the Congress of the Republic on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

- 22 multi-member constituencies corresponding to the country's departments
- 1 multi-member (31 seats) national constituency

▶ **Voting system: Mixed**

Mixed system, with closed party lists:

- majority vote for 127 departmental seats
- proportional representation (d'Hondt method) from a national list for 31 seats

Vacancies arising between general elections are filled by substitutes elected at the same time as titular members.

Voting is compulsory with certain exceptions; abstention is punishable by a fine.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years
- Guatemalan citizenship
- full possession of civil and political rights
- disqualifications: membership of the armed and police forces, imprisonment

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified voters
- literacy

- ineligibility: close relatives of the President and Vice-President of the Republic, conviction for crime

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- civil servants
- holders of certain public functions
- members of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal or Audit Office
- government contractors

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- nomination by a legally registered party; in order to secure their legal status, nominating parties must obtain at least 4% of the popular vote

Background and Outcome of the Elections

On 9 September 2007, parliamentary elections were held in parallel with presidential elections.

In the previous elections in 2003, the Guatemalan Republican Front (FRG) had become the largest party in the Congress with 42 seats of the 158 seats. The Grand National Alliance (GANA) had taken 41 seats and the centre-left National Unity of Hope (UNE) 31. The GANA's leader, Mr. Óscar Berger, had defeated Mr. Álvaro Colom (UNE) in the run-off presidential elections.

Fourteen of the 15 political parties that participated in the 2007 parliamentary elections also endorsed presidential candidates.

Mr. Colom again represented the UNE. Mr. Otto Pérez Molina - a former head of military intelligence during Guatemala's 1960-1996 Civil War - was the candidate of the right-wing conservative Patriotic Party (PP). In 2003, the PP had been part of the Grand National Alliance (GANA), which endorsed the director of Guatemala's prison system, Mr. Alejandro Giammattei, as its presidential candidate in 2007. The Guatemalan Republican Front (FRG) chose the outgoing Speaker of Congress, General Efraín Ríos Montt, as its presidential candidate. Mr. Ríos Montt later withdrew his presidential candidature but still led the FRG into the parliamentary elections.

As in 2003, poverty and crime remained main issues in the 2007 elections. Although President Berger had managed to stabilize the country's economy, the gap between the rich and the poor remained a major underlying problem. Guatemala also has the highest murder rate in Latin America.

About half of Guatemala's population are indigenous Maya Indian (Mayan) people. In the 2007 elections, the Encounter for Guatemala (EG) endorsed Nobel Peace Prize laureate and Mayan activist, Ms. Rigoberta Menchú, as its presidential candidate. In 1999, she had brought a petition to try General Rios Montt in a Spanish tribunal for crimes against humanity, accusing him of giving orders to carry out acts of genocide in 1981 and 1982.

Mr. Colom (UNE), a former deputy minister of the economy, argued that crime was caused by Guatemala's deep social problems, including poverty, marginalization, and discrimination. He pledged to introduce a comprehensive "human solidarity programme" to deal with crime and achieve security in the country. He promised to reform the security forces and the judicial system, while creating jobs and providing a social programme for the poor.

Mr. Molina (PP) promised to increase the police force by 50 per cent, to use the army to clamp down on criminals, and to re-introduce the death penalty. Mr. Giammattei (GANA) vowed to introduce tougher regulations to deal with crime.

At least 50 people were killed during the election campaign, making the poll the bloodiest since the end of the Civil War. Victims included the 14 year old daughter of a UNE parliamentary candidate, and an assistant to the UNE's vice-presidential candidate. Some of the killings were reportedly caused by drug gangs who wished to see candidates of their choice accede to political office.

Approximately 60.46 per cent of the country's 5.9 million registered voters turned out at the polls. A total of 34,000 police officers and soldiers were deployed on polling day.

The Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas declared that the elections themselves had been held in an orderly manner.

The final results gave 51 seats to the UNE. The GANA and the PP took 35 and 31 seats respectively, while the FRG took only 14, losing 28. Seven other parties won fewer than ten seats each. In all, 19 women were elected.

In the presidential elections, none of the candidates won the required 50 per cent of the votes to be elected in the first round. The run-off elections were held between Mr. Colom (UNE) and Mr. Molina (PP) on 4 November.

Mr. Colom was elected with over 58 per cent of the votes.

On 14 January 2008, Mr. Colom was officially sworn in, becoming the first leftist president since the end of the Civil War in 1996.

On the same day, the newly elected Congress held its first session and elected Mr. Arturo Eduardo Meyer Maldonado (UNE) as its new Speaker.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	5,990,029	
Voters	3,621,852	60.46 %
Blank or invalid ballot papers	341,243	
Valid votes	3,280,609	

▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

	Votes	% votes	Seats	Number of women
National Unity for Hope Party (UNE)	926,244	28.23	51	9
Great National Alliance (GANAN)	565,270	17.23	35	3
Patriotic Party (PP)	771,175	23.51	31	3
Guatemalan Republican Front (FRG)	239,208	7.29	14	1
Unionist Party (PU)	95,743	2.92	7	0
Center of Social Action (CASA)	244,448	7.45	5	1
Nationalist Change Union (UCN)	103,603	3.16	5	0
Encounter for Guatemala (EG)	101,316	3.09	4	2
National Advancement Party (PAN)	83,826	2.56	3	0
Guatemalan Revolutionary Unity (URNG)	70,080	2.14	2	0
Democratic Union (UD)			1	0
Total			158	19

▶ Distribution of seats according to sex

Men	139	
Women	19	12.03 %
Total	158	

ICELAND

Parliament

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Althingi / Parliament
Structure of Parliament	Unicameral
Number of members	63 directly elected
Term of House	4 years
Date of elections	12 May 2007

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all the seats in Parliament on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

Six or seven multi-member constituencies (10 to 11 seats each). The exact number and boundaries are determined by the Electoral Law.

▶ **Voting system: Proportional**

Party list system using closed party lists.

Fifty-four of the 63 seats are allocated on the basis of constituency results (d'Hondt). The nine remaining seats are supplementary seats attached to particular constituencies. Supplementary seats are allocated according to the d'Hondt method, in order to give each party a number of seats in proportion to its share of the national vote. A party must win 5% of the national vote to obtain a supplementary seat. Vacancies arising between general elections are filled by deputy members (substitutes) elected at the same time as titular members, in the order of their appearance on the party list in question.

Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years
- Icelandic citizenship
- legal residence in the country (citizens legally residing abroad and having resided in Iceland at some time can also vote under certain conditions)

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified voters

- age: 18 years
- Icelandic citizenship (citizens of "unblemished character")

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- Supreme Court judges
- Ombudsman
- President of the Republic

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- each party list of candidates must be supported by a given number of electors; the number needed is 30 to 40 times the number of representatives of the constituency in question

Background and Outcome of the Elections

The 12 May 2007 elections took place amid a heated debate on whether the country should prioritize economic growth or the environment, crystallized by a proposal to build new dams and aluminum smelters.

Prime Minister Geir Haarde of the Independence Party (IP) insisted that the country should give priority to economic growth by supporting the project to build dams and aluminum smelters, fuelled by Iceland's geothermal and hydroelectric power resources.

The IP has dominated Icelandic politics since the country gained independence from Denmark in 1944. Since 1995, it has led a coalition government with the Progressive Party (PP). The PP, led by Minister of Industry and Commerce Jón Sigurdsson, pledged to continue corporate tax cuts in order to maintain a favorable environment for Icelandic business.

The main opposition parties, the Social Democratic Alliance led by Ms. Ingibjörg Sólrún Gísladóttir, and the Left-Green Alliance of Mr. Steingrímur J. Sigfússon, promised to stop the smelters project until appropriate studies on their environmental impact were carried out.

A new party, the Icelandic Movement, was founded in March 2007 by Mr. Ómar Ragnarsson, a former TV reporter and outspoken environmentalist, to fight against further heavy industry projects.

Approximately 83 per cent of the 200,000 registered voters turned out at the polls.

The final results gave 25 seats to the IP. However, the PP took only seven (down from 12 seats in the 2003 elections), giving a majority of just one seat to the outgoing coalition. The Social Democratic Alliance won 18, losing two; while the Left-Green Alliance gained an extra four seats, winning nine in total. The Liberal Party kept its four seats, while the Icelandic Movement did not win any seats. In all, 20 women were elected.

On 17 May, Prime Minister Haarde and the PP leader Mr. Sigurdsson, announced that they would discontinue their coalition following the PP's poor election results. Later that same day Mr. Haarde and Mrs. Gísladóttir announced that the IP and the Social Democratic Alliance had begun coalition bargaining. The bargaining resulted in a new cabinet, officially sworn in on 24 May.

On 31 May, the newly elected Parliament held a special summer session, which is convened only when elections are held in spring, and elected Mr. Sturla Böðvarsson (IP) as its new Speaker.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	221,368	
Voters	185,071	83.60 %
Blank or invalid ballot papers	2,902	
Valid votes	182,169	

▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

	Candidates	Votes	% votes	Seats	Gain/ Loss
Independence Party (IP)	126	66,749	36.64	25	3
Social Democratic Alliance Party	126	48,742	26.76	18	-2
Left - Green Alliance	126	26,136	14.35	9	4
Progressive Party (PP)	126	21,349	11.72	7	-5
Liberal Party	126	13,233	7.26	4	0
Total				63	

▶ Distribution of seats according to sex

Men	43	
Women	20	31.75 %
Total	63	

▶ **Distribution of seats according to age**

21 to 30 years	2
31 to 40 years	11
41 to 50 years	16
51 to 60 years	24
61 to 70 years	10
Total	63

IRELAND

House of Representatives

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Oireachtas / Parliament
Structure of Parliament	Bicameral
Chamber	Dáil Éireann / House of Representatives
Number of members	166 directly elected
Term of House	5 years
Date of elections	24 May 2007

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all the seats of the House of Representatives on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

42 multi-member (3 to 5 seats) constituencies.

▶ **Voting system: Proportional**

Proportional representation under the single transferable vote system. According to this system, each voter receives a ballot paper containing the names of all the candidates in his/her constituency. He/she votes for one of these by writing the figure 1 opposite the name of his/her choice; the voter is then at liberty to indicate an order of preference for the other candidates by adding the figures 2, 3, 4, etc. against their names. At the opening of the count, the ballot papers are thoroughly mixed and sorted according to the first preferences recorded. The total number of valid papers is then computed, and from that figure the electoral quota is calculated through division by the number of seats to be filled, plus one. Candidates who obtain a number of first preferences equal to or greater than this quota on the first count are declared elected.

If no candidate has reached the quota, the candidate who received the lowest number of votes is eliminated and his/her votes are transferred to the candidate for whom a second preference is recorded. If a candidate receives more than the quota required for election, the surplus votes are transferred proportionately to the remaining candidates in accordance with the subsequent preferences expressed by the electors. When the number of remaining candidates

neither elected nor eliminated equals the number of vacancies to be filled, those candidates are declared elected, although they may not have reached the quota.

Vacancies which occur between general elections are filled through by-elections.

Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years
- Irish or British citizenship
- ordinary residence in the constituency (postal voting possible in some cases)

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified voters
- age: 21 years
- Irish citizenship
- ineligibility: insanity, undischarged bankruptcy, imprisonment for at least six months

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- full-time members of the armed or police forces
- civil servants (unless excepted)
- certain officers of the European Communities
- President of the Republic
- Comptroller and Auditor General
- judges

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- candidate may nominate himself/herself or be nominated by a registered elector for the constituency in which he/she intends standing
- nomination within nine working days of election writ issue
- deposit of 500 euros, reimbursed if the candidate is elected or secures at least one-quarter of the applicable electoral quota

Background and Outcome of the Elections

On 29 April 2007, Prime Minister Bertie Ahern asked the country's President, Mary McAleese, to dissolve the parliament, paving the way for elections to the House of Representatives on 24 May.

Since 1997, Mr. Ahern, of the Fianna Fáil party, has led a coalition

government with the Progressive Democrats. In the last elections held in May 2002, the two parties had won 81 and eight seats respectively, controlling 89 of the 166 seats. The main opposition Fine Gael and the Labour Party had taken 31 and 21 seats each.

A total of 466 candidates ran for the 2007 elections, in which Mr. Ahern sought a third term in office.

The country enjoyed strong economic growth under the coalition government. Mr. Ahern, who had played a major role in political reconciliation in Northern Ireland, helped broker another power-sharing agreement in early May 2007. He pledged tax cuts, free health screening, and higher pensions. However, he suffered a setback when news leaked that he had received money from a friend to renovate a house in Dublin, which he had subsequently bought.

Fianna Fáil's partner, the Progressive Democrats, was led by Justice Minister Michael McDowell. During the election campaign, Mr. McDowell faced a scandal involving the country's most secure prison, from which a convicted armed robber had phoned a call-in TV show using a mobile phone. Further investigation revealed the presence of illegal drugs and smuggled mobile phones within the prison, which raised public concern.

Fine Gael, led by Mr. Enda Kenny, and the Labour Party of Mr. Pat Rabbitte, formed a centre-left alliance. Both parties criticized the government for failing to improve public services. Fine Gael presented a platform entitled, promising improved health services, more resources for tackling crime, better childcare services, and fairer taxes.

The coalition government remained the largest group in the House of Representatives by winning a total of 80 seats (78 for Fianna Fáil and two for the Progressive Democrats), but failed to win an absolute majority. The opposition Fine Gael gained 20 more seats, winning 51, with the Labour Party taking 20 seats. The Greens took six seats, while Sinn Féin took four. The five remaining seats went to independent candidates.

In all, 22 women were elected. Forty-one members were elected for the first time.

On 14 June, the newly elected House of Representatives held its first session and elected Mr. John O'Donoghue (Fianna Fáil) as its new Speaker.

After three weeks of negotiations, Fianna Fáil, the Progressive Democrats and the Greens agreed to form a coalition government.

On 15 June, the House of Representatives re-elected Mr. Ahern as Prime Minister, with the support of his coalition partners and three of the five independent members.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	3,110,914	
Voters	2,085,245	67.03 %
Blank or invalid ballot papers	19,435	
Valid votes	2,065,810	

▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

	Candidates	Votes	% votes	Seats
Fianna Fail	106	858,565	41.56	78
Fine Gael	91	564,428	27.32	51
Labour Party	50	209,175	10.13	20
Green Party	44	96,936	4.69	6
Sinn Fein	41	143,410	6.94	4
Progressive Democrats	30	56,396	2.73	2
Independents	90	118,951	5.76	5
Total				166

▶ Distribution of seats according to sex

Men	144	
Women	22	13.25 %
Total	166	

JAMAICA

House of Representatives

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Parliament / -
Structure of Parliament	Bicameral
Chamber	House of Representatives
Number of members	60 directly elected
Term of House	5 years
Date of elections	3 September 2007

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all the seats in the House of Representatives following premature dissolution of this body on 25 July 2007. Elections to the House of Representatives had previously taken place on 16 October 2002.

Electoral system

- ▶ **Constituencies**
60 single-member constituencies.
- ▶ **Voting system: Majority**
Direct simple majority vote.
Vacancies are filled through by-elections.
Voting is not compulsory.
- ▶ **Voter requirements**
 - age: 18 years
 - Jamaican or British Commonwealth citizenship
 - residency in the country (during 12 months prior to the compilation of the register of electors for British Commonwealth citizens)
 - disqualifications: insanity, death sentence, imprisonment for 6 months or more, conviction of electoral fraud, persons holding certain offices connected with the elections
- ▶ **Eligibility**
 - qualified voters
 - age: 21 years
 - Jamaican or British Commonwealth citizenship
 - residency in the country during 12 months immediately preceding the nomination
 - ineligibility: allegiance to a foreign State, undischarged bankrupts

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- public officers
- judges of the highest court
- government contractors
- members of the defence force (unless exempted)

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- nomination between 23 and 16 days before elections
- support of at least 10 qualified electors
- deposit of \$Jam.100 reimbursed if the candidate polls at least 1/8 of the total votes cast

Background and Outcome of the Elections

Following a hurricane that hit the country in mid-August 2007, parliamentary elections, which had been originally scheduled for 27 August, were postponed to 3 September.

In the previous elections held in October 2002, the People's National Party (PNP) had won 34 seats, while the Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) had taken the remaining 26 seats. In March 2006, Ms. Portia Simpson-Miller succeeded Mr. P.J. Patterson to become the country's first woman prime minister. Shortly before calling the elections on 8 July, she made a series of promises, including abolishing healthcare fees for children under 18 years and helping Jamaicans to acquire their own homes.

The 2007 elections saw once again a duel between the PNP and the JLP, led by Mr. Bruce Golding. Pre-election opinion polls predicted a victory for the ruling PNP, which was seeking an unprecedented fifth consecutive term in office.

A total of 146 candidates were in the running.

As in the previous elections held in 2002, both parties pledged to foster economic growth, fight poverty and crime. JLP leader Mr. Golding promised to reorganize government bureaucracy and to boost economic growth by attracting foreign investment. The JLP's manifesto also included amending the Constitution to integrate the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and provide for the impeachment of public officials. The government insisted that the country could not afford to implement the JLP promises of free secondary education and health care. The Prime Minister came under severe criticism for her late response to the hurricane disaster.

A total of 60.4 per cent of the 1.3 million eligible voters turned out at the polls.

Although several violent incidents were reported prior to the elections, the actual voting went off in relative peace as confirmed by the Organization of American States (OAS). Some polling stations opened late due to lack of election documents.

The opposition JLP won 33 seats, preventing the PNP from securing a fifth term in office.

The PNP, which took the remaining 27 seats, at first refused to concede defeat. It accused the JLP of vote-buying and extending the campaign beyond the cut-off point authorized under the electoral law. Street protests involving supporters of both sides ensued. Some violent incidents were reported. In all, eight women, including the outgoing Prime Minister, were elected.

On 11 September, Mr. Golding took the oath of office as the country's new Prime Minister. On 25 September, he named 13 government senators (including two women), while Ms. Simpson-Miller, named the remaining eight senators (including one woman).

On 27 September, the newly elected members of the House of Representatives were sworn in alongside the newly-appointed senators. The House elected Mr. Delroy Chuck as its new Speaker, while the Senate elected Mr. Oswald Harding as its President.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	About 1,300,000
Voters	808,240 60.40 %

▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

	Candidates	Votes	Seats	Number of women
Jamaica Labour Party (JLP)	60	405,215	33	3
People's National Party (PNP)	60	402,275	27	5
Total			60	8

▶ **Distribution of seats according to sex**

Men	52	
Women	8	13.33 %
Total	60	

JAPAN

House of Councillors

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Kokkai / National Diet
Structure of Parliament	Bicameral
Chamber	Sangiin / House of Councillors
Number of members	242 directly elected
Term of House	6 years; one half of the membership is renewed every three years
Date of elections	29 July 2007

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for one-half of the seats in the House of Councillors on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

▶ Constituencies

- 47 multi-member constituencies (between two and ten seats each), formed on a metropolitan or prefectural basis for a total of 146 seats
- one national constituency for the remaining 96 seats

At each election, 121 seats are renewed based on the following constituencies:

- 29 single-seat constituencies
- 18 multi-member constituencies (between two and five seats each) for 44 seats
- one national constituency for the remaining 48 seats

▶ Voting system: Mixed

- 73 chosen by simple majority system in geographical constituencies; successful candidates are decided in the order of the number of valid votes obtained on the basis of the comparative plurality. However, they should receive votes which is equal to or more than one-sixth of the quotient divided the total of valid ballots cast by the number of seats to be filled from the constituency concerned.

- 48 elected by proportional representation system, from a single constituency covering the whole country, in accordance with the d'Hondt method.

Vacancies arising between regular elections are filled by the "next-in-line" candidate of the same party on a list of candidates under

the proportional representation (PR) system. In the case of the geographical constituency system, a vacancy occurring within three months after the election is filled by the candidates who obtained the statutory number of votes and did not become elected. A by-election is held in other cases or if a certain number of seats become vacant in the same constituency.

Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 20 years
- Japanese citizenship

Disqualifications:

- Persons recognised as a ward of the court by a family court
- Persons sentenced to imprisonment or a more severe form of punishment and who have not completed their sentences
- Persons sentenced to imprisonment or to a more severe form of punishment for an electoral offence, and who are given suspended sentences
- Persons who, during their tenure as public office holders, have been convicted of bribery. This disqualification is valid during the term of the sentence and for five years thereafter

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified voters
- age: 30 years
- Japanese citizenship

Disqualifications:

- Persons recognised as a ward of the court by a family court
- Persons sentenced to imprisonment or a more severe form of punishment and who have not completed their sentences
- Persons sentenced to imprisonment or to a more severe form of punishment for an electoral offence, and who are given suspended sentences
- Persons who, during their tenure as public office holders, have been convicted of bribery. This disqualification is valid during the term of the sentence and for ten years thereafter

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- holders of official post in the Government or in local public entities. However, Prime Minister, Ministers of State, Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretaries, Aides to the Prime Minister, Vice-Ministers, Parliamentary Secretaries can stand for the House of Councillors (and a Councillor may, during his or her term of office, be appointed as such a post).
- executive or staff member of a public corporation

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- deposit of 3,000,000 yen if running in geographical constituencies. Deposit is reimbursed if the candidate obtains at least one-eighth of the number resulting from the division of valid votes by seats in the constituency concerned
- for any political party or group, deposit of 6,000,000 yen multiplied by the number of candidates registered on its list under the proportional representation system. Deposit is reimbursed if the result obtained by doubling the number of those elected from a party or group list is at least equal to the number of candidates on this same list.

A political party has to meet one of the following conditions: (1) to have a minimum of five MPs in the Diet (i.e. both lower and upper houses), or (2) to have obtained a minimum of two per cent of votes either in the single-member-constituencies or in the proportional representation system in the most recent election.

Background and Outcome of the Elections

General elections were held on 29 July for half of the 242-member House of Councillors, the Upper Chamber of the Japanese Diet. Incumbent Prime Minister Shinzo Abe promised to build a "beautiful country" and pledged to resolve the issue of individuals believed to have been abducted by the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea in the 1970s and 1980s. He was a once popular negotiator for the abduction victims. In the runner-up to the 2007 elections, he became engulfed a series of scandals. These included missing records of some 50 million pensioners, a government minister's suicide over alleged misuse of political funds, and controversy over a statement by the then Defense Minister that the use of the atomic bomb by the US during World War II had contributed to ending World War II.

A total of 377 candidates (218 for the prefectural constituencies, and 159 under the party list) contested the 2007 elections. Former Peruvian President, Alberto Fujimori of a Japanese extraction, who was under house arrest in Chile, filed his candidature under the proportional representation list of the

People's New Party, a small opposition party formed by dissidents of the LDP prior to the 2005 elections to the House of Representatives (lower chamber).

Before the elections, the parties in the coalition government - the LDP and the New Komeito - controlled 133 of the 242 seats in the House of Councillors (with one independent member supporting the LDP), of which 76 were up for renewal in 2007.

Changes in the electoral law reduced the number of seats in the LDP rural stronghold and attributed more seats to big cities like Tokyo. Both parties targeted the 29 constituencies where only one seat was being renewed. The DPJ leader, Mr. Ichiro Ozawa said that he would resign if the ruling coalition retained its majority.

During the election campaign, a major earthquake hit the northern Japan on 16 July. All parties pledged to take sufficient measures to rescue people and restore public safety.

In all, over 58 per cent of the 104 million registered voters turned out at the polls (see note).

The ruling LDP suffered a heavy defeat, taking only 37 seats. Its total number of seats was reduced to 83 in the 242-member House of Councillors, which meant that the LDP lost control of the chamber for the first time since the party's inception in 1955. The LDP's coalition partner, the New Komeito, took nine seats. Inversely, the opposition DPJ won a record 60 seats and became the largest party in the House of Councillors. Other seats went to small parties and independent candidates. The former Peruvian President, Mr. Fujimori, was not elected.

In all, 26 women were elected, a record high in the history of the House of Councillors. The total number of women thus rose to 42, or 17.36 per cent.

Following the defeat of the ruling coalition, Mr. Hidenao Nakagawa resigned as LDP Secretary General while Prime Minister Abe announced that he would stay in office.

On 7 August, the newly elected members were sworn in. Mr. Satsuki Eda (DPJ) was elected as the new President of the House of Councillors, becoming the first opposition member to hold the post. Ms. Akiko Santo (LDP) became the first female Vice-President of the House of Councillors.

On 27 August, Prime Minister Abe announced a new 18-member cabinet comprising the LDP and the New Komei Party. However, another financial scandal forced the new Agriculture Minister, Mr. Takehiko Endo, to resign only a week after the cabinet reshuffle.

On 9 September, Prime Minister Abe said he would make every effort to extend the Japanese refuelling mission in support of the US-led operation in Afghanistan and would not remain in his post unless it is agreed to. On 12 September, he announced he would resign, saying the country needed a new leader to fight terrorism

On 23 September, the LDP chose 71-year old veteran politician Mr. Yasuo Fukuda as its new President. Prime Minister Abe formally resigned on 25 September. On the same day, Mr. Fukuda was elected as its new Prime Minister. Mr. Fukuda became the first prime minister of Japan whose father had also held the same post. He subsequently formed a new government, including most members of Mr. Abe's reshuffled cabinet.

Note on the final composition of the House of Councillors:

The DPJ leads a parliamentary group in the House of Councillors, which includes some independent members. Following the elections, the group was composed of 113 members. Two elected independent candidates joined the LDP, thus bringing the party's total number of seats to 85. Together with the un-renewed seats, the New Komeito held 20 seats, followed by the Japanese Communist Party with seven seats. The Social Democratic Party held five, followed by the People's New Party with four seats. Eight members remained independents. They include one member elected under the Shinto Nippon (New Party Japan) banner remained independent since the Standing Orders of the House of Councillors requires a minimum of two members to form a parliamentary group.

Parliamentary groups in the House of Councillors (August 2007)

The Democratic Party and the Shin-Ryokufukai (DP-SR): 113

Liberal Democratic Party and Group of Independents (LDP-GI): 85

New Komeito (NK): 20

Japanese Communist Party (JCP): 7

Social Democratic Party (SDP): 5

The People's New Party (PN): 4

Independents: 8

Total: 242

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

	Majority		PR	
Number of registered electors	103,710,035		103,710,035	
Voters	60,813,927	58.64%	60,806,582	58.63 %
Valid votes	-		58,913,700	

▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

	Majority	PR	Total seats
Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ)	40	20	60
Liberal Democratic Party (LDP)	23	14	37
New Komeito	2	7	9
Japanese Communist Party (JCP)	0	3	3
Kokumin Shinto (People's New Party)	1	1	2
Social Democratic Party (SDPJ)	0	2	2
Shinto Nippon (New Party Japan)	0	1	1
Independents	7	0	7
Total	73	48	121

	Candi- dates	PR votes	% votes PR	Majority votes	%votes Majority
Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ)	80	23,256,247	39.48	24,006,817	40.45
Liberal Democratic Party (LDP)	83	16,544,761	28.08	18,606,193	31.35
New Komeito	22	7,765,329	13.18	3,534,672	5.96
Japanese Communist Party (JCP)	63	4,407,932	7.48	5,164,572	8.70
Kokumin Shinto (People's New Party)	23	1,269,209	2.15	1,111,005	1.87
Social Democratic Party (SDPJ)	23	2,634,713	4.47	1,352,018	2.28
Shinto Nippon (New Party Japan)	3	1,770,707	3.01	0	
Independents	34	0	0.00	5,095,168	8.59

▶ **Distribution of seats according to sex**

	Seats 2007		Total seats	
Men	95		200	
Women	26	21.49 %	42	17.36%.
Total	121		242	

▶ **Distribution of seats according to age**

21 to 30 years	1
31 to 40 years	20
41 to 50 years	41
51 to 60 years	33
61 to 70 years	22
Over 70 years	4
Total	121

JORDAN

House of Representatives

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Majlis Al-Umma / National Assembly
Structure of Parliament	Bicameral
Chamber	Majlis Al-Nuwaab / House of Representatives
Number of members	110 directly elected (12 seats are reserved for Christians and Circassians and six for women)
Term of House	4 years
Date of elections	20 November 2007

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all the seats of the House of Representatives on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

- ▶ **Constituencies**

45 multi-member constituencies (104 seats).

- ▶ **Voting system: Majority**

Direct election with simple majority vote.

Each elector casts one vote.

Vacancies are normally filled through by-elections within two months.

Voting is not compulsory.

- ▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years

- Jordanian citizenship

- ordinary residence in a constituency

- disqualifications: insanity, undischarged bankruptcy, criminal conviction, allegiance to a foreign State, membership of the armed forces

- ▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified voters

- age: 30 years

- Jordanian citizenship
- ineligibility: government contractors, blood relatives of the King, imprisonment exceeding one year for a non-political offence

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- public office
- Deputies may become Ministers of Government while sitting, but a Minister who wishes to run for Parliament must first resign from his post

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- non-reimbursable deposit equivalent to US\$ 700

Background and Outcome of the Elections

On 28 March 2007, King Abdullah II issued a royal decree dissolving parliament ahead of legislative elections to the House of Representatives. The Government subsequently set the date of elections as 20 November.

In the previous elections held in June 2003, supporters of the King reportedly had won two-thirds of the 110 seats in the House of Representatives. The Islamic Action Front (IAF, the political arm of the Jordanian Muslim Brotherhood) had won 17 seats.

The IAF boycotted the July 2007 municipal elections, alleging election fraud. In subsequent contacts with leaders of the IAF's centrist faction, Prime Minister Marouf al-Bakhit reportedly gave assurances that parliamentary elections would be free and transparent, in return for a promise to remove extremists from the IAF electoral lists. However, the Prime Minister publicly rejected the IAF's demand to invite international observers, arguing that this would suggest that Jordanian electoral law was flawed.

In all, 880 candidates, including a record 199 women (up from 54 in the 2003 elections), contested the 2007 elections. The IAF fielded only 22 candidates (down from over 30 in 2003). Most female candidates ran as independents, promising to strive for women's basic rights including the freedom to work. The outgoing legislature had six women, who all were elected under reserved seats.

Most supporters of the King ran as independents. Many of them promised to improve economic conditions by fighting poverty and unemployment.

The media focused on the chances of the IAF winning more seats than in

2003. The party, which was seen to be losing ground, ran under the slogan, "Islam is the solution". It pledged to support people in Iraq and to amend the Constitution and the electoral law, without elaborating on the changes to be made. Its proposals on unemployment and poverty were reportedly similar to those of pro-monarchy candidates.

Support for Iraqi and Palestinian peoples was also a common theme among other opposition forces.

A total of 54 per cent of the 2.4 million registered voters turned out at the polls.

The final results gave a majority to parties and candidates allied to the King, while the IAF took only six seats. One woman was elected, in addition to the six seats reserved for women.

IAF leader Mr. Jamil Abu-Bakr alleged election fraud, including vote-buying, which the government denied. Following the elections, 17 people were arrested for tampering with the election process.

On 22 November, King Abdullah II named Mr. Nader Dahabi as the new Prime Minister and Minister of Defence. He subsequently formed a 28-member cabinet including four women, which was approved by a royal decree on 25 November.

On 2 December, the newly elected House of Representatives held a preliminary session to elect its Speaker. Mr. Abdulhadi Al-Majali was re-elected. In the meantime, on 29 November, King Abdullah II had appointed 55 senators, including seven women. Mr. Zaid Al-Rifai was re-appointed as Senate President by Royal Decree. King Abdullah II officially inaugurated the parliament on 3 December.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	About 2,400,000
Voters	54.00 %

▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

No official results available.

▶ **Distribution of seats according to sex**

Men	103	
Women	7	6.36 %
Total	110	

KAZAKHSTAN

House of Representatives

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Parlament / Parliament
Structure of Parliament	Bicameral
Chamber	Mazhilis / House of Representatives
Number of members	107 members - 98 members directly elected - 9 members selected with the consent of the Assembly of nations of Kazakhstan
Term of House	5 years
Date of elections	18 August 2007

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all the seats in the House of Representatives following premature dissolution of this body on 20 June 2007. Elections to the House of Representatives had previously taken place on 19 September 2004.

Electoral system

- ▶ **Constituencies**
One nationwide constituency for 98 seats

- ▶ **Voting system: Proportional**
Proportional Representation System (Party List System)
- Seats are attributed proportionally to parties that obtain over 7 per cent of the total votes (seven per cent threshold), by using the Largest Remainder System. In cases where there is a tie for the largest remainder, the seat will be attributed to the party list that was registered earlier.
Vacancies are filled by the "next-in-line" candidate of the same party. In cases where there are no candidates left on the corresponding party list, the seat remains vacant until the following elections to the House of Representatives.

- ▶ **Voter requirements**
- age: 18 years
- Kazakh citizenship
- disqualifications: imprisonment, court judgement of incompetence

▶ Eligibility

- age: 25 years
- Kazakh citizenship
- residence in the country
- ineligibility: incapacity, court conviction

▶ Incompatibilities

- paid position outside Mazhills
- member of another assembly
- entrepreneurial or other paid activity except teaching, research and creative activities
- member of a managing body or supervisory board of a commercial organization

▶ Candidacy requirements

- Submission of candidates by political parties
- Deposit of a fee equal to 15 times the minimum wage, set by the law of the Republic of Kazakhstan, for each person on the party list. However, no deposit fee is required for political parties that have received at least 7 per cent of the total votes in the previous election to the House of Representatives. Political parties that have secured between 5 and 7 per cent of the total votes in the previous elections are required to pay 50 per cent of the deposit fee. Those which have obtained between 3 and 5 per cent of the votes are required to pay 70 per cent of the deposit fee.
- The deposit is reimbursed to political parties that receive at least 7 per cent of the total votes in the elections concerned, and in the eventuality that the sole candidate on the party list dies.

Background and Outcome of the Elections

President Nazarbayev dissolved the House of Representatives on 20 June and called elections for 19 August, more than two years before the official due date, in order to implement the May 2007 constitutional amendments concerning the parliament.

These constitutional amendments increased the statutory number of members of the House of Representatives from 77 to 107, and of the Senate from 39 to 47. They introduced a pure party-list proportional representation system, which in effect prevents independent candidates from running in elections. A 7 per cent threshold was set for parties to gain representation in parliament. Furthermore, under the new electoral law, members of

parliament must resign if they switch political alliances during the legislature.

In the previous elections held in 2004, only one opposition candidate, Mr. Alikhan Baimenov, leader of the Ak Zhol (Democratic Party) was elected. He refused to participate in the legislature in protest over the election process until 2006 when he declared that he would cooperate with the ruling Republican Party Otan (Fatherland).

In July 2006, the Republican Party Otan (which won 42 seats in the 2004 elections) merged with the Asar Party (four seats), led by President Nazarbayev's daughter, Ms. Dariga Nazarbayeva, and became the Otan Party. It re-named itself the National Democratic Party "Nur Otan" in early 2007. It was led by President Nazarbayev.

On 11 June 2007, two opposition parties, Naghyz Ak Zhol and the Social Democratic Party announced their intention to merge under the name "All National Social Democratic Party" (ANSDP). However, on 18 June, parliament approved amendments barring parties from forming electoral blocs. The two parties consequently fielded their candidates separately.

In all, 377 candidates (including 56 women) from seven political parties contested the 2007 elections. Media speculation focused on whether the opposition parties would gain any seats under the new electoral system.

Nur Otan promised political and ethnic stability and further economic growth. Naghyz Ak Zhol and the Social Democratic Party appealed to the country's poor, who they argued had not benefited from recent reforms. They pledged better distribution of oil dividends and to promote the State language (Kazakh).

Over 68.41 per cent of the 5.7 million registered voters turned out at the polls which were monitored by over 500 international observers, including 400 from the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). The OSCE noted irregularities in vote counting in over 40 percent of the polling stations. It said not all OSCE requirements were met. The OSCE also expressed concern over the seven per cent threshold. An observer mission from the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) said the elections were "free and transparent".

The final results gave Nur Otan over 88 per cent of votes, while no opposition parties surpassed the seven per cent threshold. Nur Otan thus took all the 98

directly elected seats.

Naghyz Ak Zhol and the Social Democratic Party, which took respectively 3.27 and 4.62 per cent of the votes, condemned the election results, insisting they had been manipulated.

Another nine members of the House of Representatives were elected from the Assembly of nations, a body appointed by the President comprising the various ethnic groups in Kazakhstan, from 15 to 18 August.

On 2 September 2007, the 98 directly elected members and the nine indirectly elected members of the House were officially sworn in. They elected Mr. Aslan Mussin (Nur Otan) as the new Speaker.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	8,891,561	
Voters	6,082,430	68.41 %

▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

	Candidates	Votes	% votes	Seats
National Democratic Party "Nur Otan"	127	5,247,720	88.41	98
Total				98

▶ Distribution of seats according to sex

Men	90	
Women	17	15.89 %
Total	107	

KENYA

National Assembly

Parliament name (generic / translated)	National Assembly / -
Structure of Parliament	Unicameral
Number of members	224 members - 210 directly elected - 12 appointed - 2 ex officio (Attorney General and the Speaker)
Term of House	5 years
Date of elections	27 December 2007

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all the elective seats in the National Assembly on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

- ▶ **Constituencies**
210 single-member constituencies
- ▶ **Voting system: Majority**
Simple-majority vote
Vacancies arising between general elections are filled through by-elections.
Voting is not compulsory.
- ▶ **Voter requirements**
 - age: 18 years
 - Kenyan citizenship
 - residence in the country for not less than one year immediately preceding the date of elections, or for periods totalling not less than four years during the eight years before the elections
 - residence, business, ownership of land or residential buildings in the constituency for at least five of the 12 months preceding the elections
 - disqualifications: insanity, undischarged bankruptcy, lawful custody detention, election-connected offence
- ▶ **Eligibility**
 - qualified voters

- age: 21 years
- Kenyan citizenship
- ability to speak and read the Swahili and English languages well enough to take an active part in the proceedings of the National Assembly
- ineligibility: allegiance to a foreign State, sentence of death or imprisonment exceeding six months (except for failure to pay a fine), insanity undischarged bankruptcy

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- government contractors
- employment in the public service
- members of the armed forces
- local government authority
- office involving responsibility in connection with the conduct of an election to the National Assembly

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- support of seven to 18 citizens (besides the proposer and seconder) of the same constituency
- nomination by a political party
- deposit of KSh. 5000

Background and Outcome of the Elections

On 22 October 2007, President Mwai Kibaki dissolved the parliament and called parliamentary and presidential elections for 27 December.

The government had proposed in July 2007 to create 90 new seats (including 50 reserved seats for women) in the National Assembly. However, the bill was declared to have lapsed on 15 August after the National Assembly failed to vote on it. The 2007 elections were thus held for 210 directly elected seats, as in December 2002.

Prior to the 2002 elections, the then ruling party, the Kenyan African National Union (KANU), had split due to a row over its presidential candidate. A new political force, National Rainbow Coalition (NARC) emerged, and won 125 of the 210 seats in the parliamentary elections, promising constitutional reforms and an end to corruption. The KANU took 64 seats. The other seats went to small parties. In December 2002 Mr. Kibaki (NARC) became the country's third president and formed a government including different components of his coalition.

Under Mr. Kibaki's presidency, the country introduced free primary school education and experienced steady economic growth reaching 6 per cent per year, although income inequality remained a major social problem.

In November 2005, a proposed revision of the constitution was rejected by referendum. Mr. Raila Odinga the Minister for Roads who had led the "no" campaign, was removed from the government along with other members of his Liberal Democratic Party. The dismissed ministers and their allies then formed the Orange Democratic Movement (ODM), named after the oranges that had symbolized the "no" to the draft constitution.

In August 2007, former foreign minister, Mr. Kalonzo Musyoka, broke away from the ODM to form the Orange Democratic Movement-Kenya (ODM-K).

In all, 2,547 candidates from 117 political parties, including 269 women, stood for the parliamentary elections.

On 16 September 2007, President Kibaki announced that he would be the presidential candidate of a coalition called the Party of National Unity (PNU). Some candidates ran under the PNU banner while others ran as candidates of its component parties. Mr. Kibaki reportedly had wide support among the Kikuyu ethnic community (the largest ethnic group in the country, accounting for about 22 per cent of the 34 million inhabitants) as well as in the northern and eastern provinces. The PNU manifesto promised to create more jobs and new factories, and pledged to deal with poverty and insecurity.

The ODM presidential candidate, Mr. Odinga, criticized President Kibaki for not taking sufficient measures to tackle corruption and accused him of manipulating the electoral process. The ODM promised to deal with income inequalities and tackle corruption. It also pledged to draft a new constitution that would give more power to regional government. Mr. Odinga is from the Luo community (comprising about 13 per cent of the population, mainly in western Kenya) but reportedly had support across ethnic groups.

Although the Electoral Commission did not release official figures, turnout was reportedly high among the 14.2 million registered voters.

Observers from the European Union (EU) and the East African Community (EAC) said the presidential elections were flawed, citing among others, example of one area where voter turnout was recorded at 115 per cent.

In the parliamentary elections, the ODM won 99 seats, becoming the largest party in the newly elected National Assembly, and its ally, the NARC, took three. The PNU and its allies had 78 seats in all (see note). A total of 80 members (38 per cent) of the outgoing legislatures were re-elected. Subsequently, President Kibaki increased the pro-presidential presence in parliament (see note) to 92 out of the 207 seats endorsed by the Electoral Commission to date, by making an agreement with the breakaway ODM-K.

On 30 December, the Electoral Commission announced that Mr. Kibaki had been re-elected as President with 4,584,721 votes, while Mr. Odinga took 4,352,993. Mr. Kibaki was immediately sworn in and called for national reconciliation.

Mr. Odinga said the presidential elections had been rigged and demanded that fresh elections be held. Opposition supporters led street protests and violence rapidly spread across the country. More than 1,500 people were killed in post-election violence. On 13 January 2008, the police announced that the death toll due to post-election violence had reached 693. The United Nations estimated that some 250,000 people had fled their homes.

Initial efforts by the United States and the African Union to resolve the crisis failed to bear fruit. On 25 January 2008, under the mediation of former UN Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan, President Kibaki and Mr. Odinga met for the first time since the elections. On 28 February, they finally signed a peace deal whereby Mr. Odinga would assume the post of Prime Minister (which then, was not provided for in the Constitution), once the deal was approved by parliament.

At the first session of the newly elected National Assembly on 15 January, Mr. Kenneth Marende, backed by the ODM, was elected as the new Speaker in the third round of voting, ahead of the government-backed outgoing Speaker, Mr. Francis ole Kaparo.

Note:

The PNU-led Coalition at the first session of the new legislature included the following parties.

Party of National Unity (PNU): 43 seats

Orange Democratic Movement-Kenya (ODM-K): 16 seats

Kenyan African National Union (KANU): 14 seats

SAFINA: 5 seats

National Rainbow Coalition-Kenya (NARC-K): 4 seats

Forum for the Restoration of Democracy-People (FORD-P): 3 seats

SISI KWA SISI Party of Kenya (SKSPK): 2 seats

Democratic Party (DP): 2 seats

Forum for the Restoration of Democracy-ASILI (FORD-A): 1 seat

MAZINGIRA Green Party of Kenya (MGPK): 1 seat

Forum for the Restoration of Democracy-Kenya (FORD-K): 1 seat

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	14,296,180
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▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

	Seats
Orange Democratic Movement Party of Kenya (ODM)	99
Party of National Unity (PNU)	43
Orange Democratic Movement-Kenya (ODM-K)	16
Kenyan African National Union (KANU)	14
SAFINA	5
National Rainbow Coalition-Kenya (NARC-K)	4
Forum for the Restoration of Democracy-People (FORD-P)	3
National Rainbow Coalition (NARC)	3
CHAMA CHA UMA (CCU)	2
Democratic Party (DP)	2
New Forum for the Restoration of Democracy-Kenya (NFK)	2
Party of Independent Candidates of Kenya (PICK)	2
SISI KWA SISI Party of Kenya (SKSPK)	2
Forum for the Restoration of Democracy-ASILI (FORD-A)	1
Forum for the Restoration of Democracy-Kenya (FORD-K)	1
KENDA	1
Kenya African Democratic Development Union (KADDU)	1
Kenya African Democratic Union ASILI (KADU-ASILI)	1
MAZINGIRA Greens Party of Kenya (MGPK)	1
National Labour Party (NLP)	1
Peoples Democratic Party (PDP)	1
Peoples Party of Kenya (PPK)	1
United Democratic Party of Kenya (UDM)	1
Total	207

Note: As at 11 January, there were three vacant seats.

▶ **Distribution of seats according to sex**

Men	205	
Women	15	7.14 %
Total	220	

KIRIBATI

House of Assembly

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Maneaba Ni Maungatabu / House of Assembly
Structure of Parliament	Unicameral
Number of members	46 members - 44 directly elected - 1 nominated member appointed by the Banaban community, the vast majority of whom live on the island of Rabi in Fiji. - 1 ex officio (Attorney General) In case the Attorney General is an elected member, the statutory number will be 45.
Term of House	4 years
Date of elections	22 & 30 August 2007

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all the elective seats in the House of Assembly.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

23 single and multi-member electoral districts.

▶ **Voting system: Majority**

Direct elections. Majority vote (absolute and simple) in two rounds; second round contest among three best-placed candidates in each constituency.

In multi-member electoral districts, voters may cast votes for up to the full number of vacant seats available.

Vacancies arising between general elections are filled through by-elections within 3 months.

Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years

- Kiribati citizenship

- regular residence in electoral district (of vote)

- disqualifications: insanity, imprisonment of at least one year, electoral fraud

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified voters
- age: 21 years
- Kiribati citizenship
- ineligibility: allegiance to foreign State, death sentence

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- election-related employment
- public office
- civil service

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- support of three electors

Background and Outcome of the Elections

The August 2007 parliamentary elections were the first to be held under President Anote Tong of the Boutokaan Te Koaua (Pillars of Truth, BTK) party, who was elected in the July 2003 presidential elections, ahead of his brother, Mr. Harry Tong. The latter was supported by the Maneaban Te Mauri (Protect the Maneaba, MTM) party. Following his election, President Tong switched the country's diplomatic recognition from China to Taiwan.

In the previous parliamentary elections held in May 2003, the BTK won 17 of the 40 directly elected seats, while the MTM took 16. The remainder went to independent candidates. After the formation of a new BTK-led government, five independent members joined the BTK, giving it 22 seats in all.

In the 2007 elections, 145 candidates, including 11 women, contested the 44 directly elected seats (up from 40, see note). Most candidates pledged to provide better education and enhanced job opportunities. Prior to the elections, the BTK government was accused of covering up an alleged scandal involving university scholarships (which were reportedly unduly granted to 18 students to pursue their degree programme in Fiji in 2006). President Tong promised further investigation.

The elections went off peacefully. The turnout for the first round held on 22 August was not published. In the second round held on 30 August, 67.54 per cent of the 36,000 eligible voters cast their ballot.

In the first round, 18 candidates, including two women and President Tong, were elected upon securing the required majority. The BTK took 10 seats, while the MTM took only two. Six independent candidates elected.

In the run-off elections held for the 26 remaining seats, the BTK won an additional eight seats, making a total of 18. The MTM took five more seats, or seven in all. Thirteen more independent candidates were elected, bringing the total to 19. No woman candidate was elected in the second round. Following the second round, some independent candidates joined the BTK.

The newly elected parliament held its first session on 17 September and elected Mr. Taomati T. Luta (BTK) as its Speaker. He had previously served as Speaker from January to March 2003.

Parliament nominated four presidential candidates, including the incumbent president Aote Tong and the Finance Minister, Mr. Nabuti Mwemwenikarawa. The opposition MTM's candidate, Mr. Harry Tong, failed to be nominated, triggering street protests prior to the presidential poll of 17 October.

In all, 56.7 per cent of the 43,000 registered voters turned out for the presidential elections. President Tong was re-elected, winning more than 15,000 votes, or 64 per cent of the valid votes, largely surpassing Mr. Mwemwenikarawa, who won approximately 8,000 votes.

On 23 October, President Tong named a new 11-member cabinet, including seven ministers from his first government, but not Mr. Mwemwenikarawa.

Note:

On 7 June 2007, parliament approved the Electoral Commission's recommendation to increase the number of directly elected members from 40 to 44. The new quota attributes one seat for constituencies with fewer than 1,500 inhabitants, two seats for those with between 1,500 and 5,000 inhabitants, and three seats for constituencies with over 5,000 inhabitants. The number of seats has been increased in the four islands of Fanning, Kiritimati, Makin, and North Tarawa, given their growing population.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

	Round 1 (22 August)	Round 2 (30 August)	
Number of registered electors	43,184	36,022	
Voters		24,330	67.54 %

▶ Distribution of seats according to political group (Round 1)

	Seats
Boutokaan Te Koaua (Pillars of Truth)	10
Maneaban Te Mauri (Protect the Maneaba)	2
Independents	6
Total	18

▶ Distribution of seats according to political group (Round 2)

	Seats	Total seats
Boutokaan Te Koaua (Pillars of Truth)	8	18
Maneaban Te Mauri (Protect the Maneaba)	5	7
Independents	13	19
Total	26	44

▶ Distribution of seats according to sex

Men	44	
Women	2	4.35 %
Total	46	

Note:

The statistics include one appointed member and one ex officio member (the Attorney General). Both are men. Of the 46 members, two are women.

KYRGYZSTAN

Supreme Council

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Jogorku Kenesh / Supreme Council
Structure of Parliament	Unicameral
Number of members	90 directly elected
Term of House	5 years
Date of elections	16 December 2007

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all the seats in the Supreme Council following premature dissolution of this body on 22 October 2007. Elections to the Supreme Council had previously taken place on 27 February 2005.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

One nationwide constituency for 90 seats

▶ **Voting system: Proportional**

Proportional representation system (party list system)

The threshold to win parliamentary representation is 5 per cent of the total votes.

Vacancies arising between general elections are filled through "next-in-line" candidates of the same party.

Overseas citizens can vote without restriction.

Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- Kyrgyz citizenship including naturalized citizens

- Age: 18 years old at the time of registration

Disqualification from voting:

- Conviction for treason, crime, bribery, or electoral offence.

Disqualification for any of the reasons cited above remains valid for the term of the sentence.

- Insanity/mental illness, undocumented immigrants.

▶ **Eligibility**

- Kyrgyz citizenship including naturalized citizens

- Age: 25 years old at the time of registration
- Permanent residence in the country for at least 5 years

Ineligibilities:

- Imprisonment for any reason
- Conviction for treason, crimes, bribery or electoral offence.

Ineligibility for any of the reasons cited above remains valid for the term of the sentence.

- Insanity/mental illness, guardianship/ward, holders of temporary entry permits, undocumented immigrants, executives and members of the Electoral Commission.

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- Head of State
- Ministers of State
- Holders of public posts
- Holders of judicial offices (judges)
- Civil servants
- Government advisers
- Executives of the Electoral Commission
- Staff member of a public (State) corporation
- Members of the armed forces
- Members of the police forces
- Clergymen

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- Nomination by at least 5% of the voters in of the constituency concerned
- Submission of candidature at least 40 days prior to polling day
- Candidature can be submitted by political parties without restriction
- The name of substitute member must be submitted simultaneously
- Deposit for political parties: 500,000 soms (approx. US\$ 15,000)
- Deposit is reimbursed for parties obtaining at least 5% of the total votes

Background and Outcome of the Elections

The December 2007 elections followed a referendum held on 21 October, which approved constitutional reforms and a new electoral code. The reforms provided for an enlarged 90-member parliament (up from 75) entirely elected under the proportional representation system. To gain representation, parties need to win a minimum of 5 per cent of votes nationwide and 0.5 per cent of votes in each of the seven regions. On 23

October 2007, President Kurmanbek Bakiyev promulgated the revised constitution and called early elections for 16 December, on the grounds that the country needed a new parliament to reflect the new constitutional arrangements.

The 2007 elections were the first national elections to be held under President Bakiyev. Following the previous parliamentary elections held in February 2005, opposition members and their supporters had led street protests calling for the elections to be invalidated. They also demanded the resignation of the then President, Mr. Askar Akayev. On 24 March, he subsequently fled to Moscow while the then Prime Minister, Nikolai Tanayev, submitted his resignation to parliament. Mr. Bakiyev was appointed as acting Prime Minister before being elected as the country's new president in July.

However, the country soon experienced a new standoff, this time between the President and parliament. In November 2006, following mounting pressure, President Bakiyev signed constitutional amendments curtailing presidential power in favour of parliament and increasing the statutory number of members of parliament from 75 to 90. (This reform was later nullified by the Supreme Court). Opposition members demanded early parliamentary elections, a call rejected by President Bakiyev and the then Prime Minister Felix Kulov. In December, Mr. Kulov resigned as Prime Minister in a bid to defuse the standoff. President Bakiyev twice failed to secure the parliament's approval for Mr. Kulov as Prime Minister. He subsequently named the then Agriculture Minister, Mr. Azim Isabekov, as the new Prime Minister.

Prime Minister Isabekov tried - in vain - to resolve the differences between the executive and the legislative branches. His attempts to reshuffle the cabinet in late March 2007 were opposed by President Bakiyev, who subsequently dismissed him. The President then announced that he would cooperate with United Kyrgyzstan, a newly-formed "opposition" group that included former prosecutor-general Azimbek Beknazarov, former foreign minister Roza Otunbaeva, and Social Democratic party leader Almazbek Atanbaev. Mr. Atanbaev was named as the new prime minister.

However, following the adoption of the new set of constitutional amendments in October 2007, the relationship between President Bakiyev and Prime Minister Atanbaev reportedly worsened. Under the revised Constitution, the President cannot be a member of any political party. Nevertheless, shortly before calling the constitutional referendum,

Mr. Bakiyev had helped establish a new party called Ak Zhol People's Party (Ak Zhol, meaning "Bright Path"). It absorbed the Ata-Jurt party and some small parties. Opposition parties accused the President of breaching the Constitution and trying to control both the executive and legislative branches. Mr. Atambayev criticized Ak Zhol and government officials for interfering with the election process. On 28 November, Mr. Atambayev resigned as prime minister. The First Deputy Prime Minister, Iskenderbek Aidaraliyev, became acting prime minister.

The main opposition parties, Ata-Merken and Ak-Shumkar, formed an electoral coalition under the banner Ata-Merken (meaning "Fatherland"). Its leader, former speaker of parliament and prominent opposition figure Mr. Omurbek Tekebayev, pledged to unite opposition forces in the new parliament. Other opposition parties included Ar-Namys, led by former prime minister Kulov; the Asaba party of Mr. Azimbek Beknazarov; and the Kayran El party of Mr. Dooronbek Sadybayev. The Social Democratic Party as well as the Communist Party also contested the elections.

Approximately 71.93 per cent of the 2.3 million registered voters turned out at the elections.

About 600 international observers, including from the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), monitored the polls. The OSCE declared that the elections "failed to meet a number of OSCE standards", criticizing the vote tabulation which it considered "prone to violation".

The Ak Zhol People's Party came in first, winning almost 47 per cent of the votes. Although the main opposition Ata-Merken came in second with 8.7 per cent of the votes nationwide, it was excluded from seat distribution since it had failed to pass the 0.5 per cent regional threshold in the southern town of Osh. On 18 December, the Supreme Court nullified this threshold requirement. However, the electoral commission maintained its previous decision and announced the final results on 20 December, giving the Ak Zhol People's Party 71 seats, the Social Democratic Party 11 seats and the Communist Party, eight. In all, 23 women were elected.

After the announcement, the Ata-Merken, Ar-Namys, and Asaba parties claimed vote rigging, and argued they had cleared the thresholds to win parliamentary representation. Supporters of Ata-Merken launched a hunger strike protesting the election results. Some 20 people were arrested.

The newly elected parliament held its first session on 21 December. On 24 December, it elected former Secretary of State, Mr. Adakhan Madumarov (Ak Zhol People's Party), as its new Speaker. On the same day, it also elected former energy and industry minister, Mr. Igor Chudinov (Ak Zhol People's Party), who does not speak the Kyrgyz language, as the new Prime Minister.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	About 2,300,000	
Voters	1,650,698	71.93 %

▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

	Votes	% votes	Seats
Ak Zhol People's Party	1,228,319	46.99	71
Social Democratic Party	55,651	5.05	11
Communist Party	141,034	5.12	8
Total			90

▶ Distribution of seats according to sex

Men	67	
Women	23	25.56 %
Total	90	

LESOTHO

National Assembly

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Parliament / -
Structure of Parliament	Bicameral
Chamber	National Assembly
Number of members	120 directly elected
Term of House	5 years
Date of elections	17 February 2007

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all members of the National Assembly following the premature dissolution of this body on 30 November 2006. General elections had previously been held on 25 May 2002.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

- 80 single-member constituencies (first-past-the-post, FPTP)
- one nationwide constituency for the remaining 40 seats (proportional representation, PR).

▶ **Voting system: Mixed**

Mixed Member Proportional Representation (MMP):

Eighty deputies are directly elected by absolute majority in the single-member constituencies. The remaining 40 seats are allocated so as to reflect the proportion of votes each party obtained nationwide.

Each voter casts two ballots, one for a candidate from his/her constituency, the other for his/her preferred party. The ballot cast for the party is used to determine the number of seats each party would have received if the system was fully proportional and thus how many of the 40 compensatory seats it will fill. The total number of valid votes that each party obtains is divided by the total number of seats at stake (i.e. 120) to obtain the "quota" each party needs to win a seat. The number of votes each party receives on the party ballot is divided by the quota to determine how many seats it should fill. Parties which have won more than their fair share under the FPTP system are not entitled to seats under the PR system.

Vacancies arising between general elections are filled through by-elections.

Voting is not compulsory.

- ▶ **Voter requirements**
 - age: 18 years
 - Lesotho citizenship
 - residence requirements
 - ineligibility: allegiance to a foreign State, death sentence, insanity

- ▶ **Eligibility**
 - qualified voters
 - age: 21 years
 - Lesotho citizenship
 - ability to speak and, unless incapacitated by blindness or other physical disability, to read and write the Sesotho or English language well enough to take an active part in the proceedings of the National Assembly
 - ineligibility: undischarged bankrupts, government contractors (unless excepted), election-connected offices, electoral offences

- ▶ **Incompatibilities**
 - membership of the defence or police force, national security or prison service
 - status of Principal Chief

- ▶ **Candidacy requirements**
 - endorsed by two electors
 - deposit equivalent to US\$ 63, reimbursed if the candidate obtains 10 per cent or more of the votes garnered by all candidates

Background and Outcome of the Elections

On 17 November 2006, Prime Minister Pakalitha Mosisili asked King Letsie III to dissolve the Parliament and call early elections. They were subsequently set for February 2007. A new party, the All Basotho Convention (ABC), had been formed in October 2006 when the former Minister of Communications, Mr. Thomas Thabane, split from the ruling Lesotho Congress for Democracy (LCD). Seventeen other LCD members joined the ABC, reducing the LCD's presence in the 120-member National Assembly to 59 seats and raising the possibility of a vote of no-confidence in the LCD-led government.

In the last elections, which were held in May 2002, the LCD won a total of 77 seats. The opposition Basotho National Party (BNP), which had led the country from 1965 until the 1986 military coup, won 21, while the National Independent Party (NIP) took five. The remaining seats went to small parties.

In all, 14 political parties participated in the 2007 elections. The LCD defended its record in government (according to the Prime Minister, it had created 30,000 new jobs in five years). It also pledged to provide a better pension system and enhance the public school system. The NIP formed an alliance with the LCD in the run-up to the 2007 elections.

The ABC, in alliance with the Lesotho Workers Party, pledged to "change" the country. Its electoral campaign also focused on better education and poverty reduction, and reportedly attracted support from young voters. Another new party, the Basotho Democratic National Party (BDNP), founded by former BNP member Thabang Nyeoe in November 2006, promised to improve the quality of life.

The Government was severely criticized for failing to deal with problems related to unemployment and HIV/AIDS. Lesotho is one of the poorest countries in Africa, with one half of the population reportedly living on less than two dollars per day. It is estimated that one third of adults are HIV-positive.

Approximately 49 per cent of the country's 920,000 registered voters turned out at the polls on 17 February 2007. In one constituency (Makhaleng) where a candidate had died prior to the general elections, polling was held on 30 June. Observers from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) noted some logistical problems but declared the election process to be free, fair and transparent.

The final results gave 62 constituency seats to the LCD. Under the proportional representation (PR) system, 21 seats went to its ally, the NIP. The ABC came in third with 17 seats, while its ally, the Lesotho Workers Party, took 10. The BNP won only three seats, 18 fewer than at the 2002 elections. The newly formed BDNP took one seat. The opposition parties organized street protests and a general strike to challenge the allocation of PR seats by the Independent Electoral Commission.

On 23 February, Mr. Pakalitha Mosisili was sworn in as Prime Minister for the third time. On the same day, the National Assembly re-elected Ms. Ntlhoi Motsamai as its Speaker for a third consecutive term. The Senate, which was renewed on 9 March, elected Mr. Morena Letapata Makhaola as its President for the first time.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	916,230
Voters	49.00 %

▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

	Constitu- encies	PR system	Seats
Lesotho Congress for Democracy (LCD)	62	0	62
National Independence Party (NIP)	0	21	21
All Basotho Convention (ABC)	17	0	17
Lesotho Workers Party (LWP)	0	10	10
Basotho National Party (BNP)	0	3	3
Alliance of Congress Parties (ACP)	1	1	2
Basotho Batho Democratic Party (BBDP)	0	1	1
Basotho Congress Party (BCP)	0	1	1
Basotho Democratic National Party (BDNP)	0	1	1
Marematlou Freedom Party (MFP)	0	1	1
Patriotic Front For Democracy (PFD)	0	1	1
Total	80	40	120

▶ Distribution of seats according to sex

Men	91	
Women	29	24.17 %
Total	120	

MADAGASCAR

National Assembly

Structure of Parliament	Bicameral
Chamber	Antenimieram-Pirenena - Assemblée nationale / National Assembly
Number of members	127 directly elected
Term of House	5 years
Date of elections	23 September 2007

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all seats in the National Assembly following the premature dissolution of this body on 26 July 2007. General elections had previously taken place on 15 December 2002.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

- 115 single-member constituencies
- 6 multi-member constituencies (two seats each)

▶ **Voting system: Majority**

- Single-member plurality system ("first-past-the-post") for the single-member constituencies
- Single non-transferable vote (SNTV) for the multi-member constituencies.

Vacancies arising between general elections are filled by the "next-in-line" candidate of the same party list or, failing this, the designated substitute on the list.

Voting is regarded as a civic duty but is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- Age: 18 years on election day
- Malagasy citizenship
- Residence in the country on election day
- Full possession of civil rights
- Disqualifications: imprisonment, insanity

▶ **Eligibility**

- Qualified voters
- Age: 21 years on election day

- Malagasy citizenship
- Good standing with respect to obligations concerning national service and taxation
- Ineligibility: citizens naturalized within the preceding 10 years, imprisonment, insanity

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- President of the Republic
- Members of the other chamber
- Ministers
- Holders of public office

The incompatibilities cited above are valid during the term of the office.

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- Candidatures may be submitted by any political party
- Ballot printing costs are reimbursed to candidates who obtain at least 10 per cent of the valid votes

Background and Outcome of the Elections

The 2007 parliamentary elections were the first to be held following the approval of constitutional amendments by referendum in April, which empowered the President to pass laws during a state of emergency without parliament's approval. The statutory number of members of the National Assembly was reduced from 160 to 127. The country's six autonomous provinces are due to be replaced by 22 non-autonomous regions by October 2009.

In the previous elections held in December 2002, President Marc Ravalomanana's Tiako I Madagasikara (TIM, meaning "I Love Madagascar") party had won 102 of the 160 seats and its ally, Firaisankinam-Pirenena (FP - National Union), had taken 23. President Ravalomanana was re-elected in December 2006, pledging to reduce poverty by 50 per cent by 2012. His "Madagascar Action Plan (MAP)" also seeks to increase economic growth by 8 to 10 per cent annually. Nearly 70 per cent of the country's 17 million inhabitants are reported to live in poverty.

Prior to the 2007 elections, the TIM was hit by a series of internal rows between supporters and opponents of President Ravalomanana. A "reformist" wing (known as the "TIM Re-energization Committee"), led by former minister of education, Mr. Théodore Ranjivason, called for electoral

reforms, including the creation of an independent electoral commission. Reformist members were reportedly preparing President Ravalomanana's impeachment. The President subsequently called early elections to the National Assembly for 23 September, five months earlier than the official date of expiry of the members' term. He argued that the parliament no longer reflected the real composition of the nation following the constitutional amendments.

In all, 637 candidates vied for the 127 seats at stake. 80 per cent of outgoing TIM members were not re-nominated by the party. TIM candidates held rallies throughout the country, dominating the election campaign. The party was widely expected to win a landslide victory.

Mr. Ranjivason formed the Solidarity of Malagasy Citizens (SCM), which fielded 50 candidates on a platform called the "Tambatra-Monima-Manaovasoa (TMM) trio". It included the AVI (Asa Vita no Ifampitsarana, meaning, "You are judged by your actions"), also a former ally of the TIM. The AVI's leader, Norbert Lala Ratsirahonan, had run against Mr. Ravalomanana in the 2006 presidential elections. The party had also opposed the 2007 constitutional amendments. It pledged to work towards electoral reforms, including the revision of the voters' list, which it deemed to be rigged.

The opposition Arema party, which had taken three seats in the 2002 elections, accused the government of obstructing the emergence of an opposition alliance. The party fielded candidates despite a call for an election boycott from the exiled party founder and former president, Mr. Didier Ratsiraka. The Arema party secretary, Mr. Pierre Houlder, argued that the boycott would simply allow the TIM to continue to dominate the National Assembly. However, Arema struggled to bring its programme, which shared similarities with the President's MAP, to the public's attention. Former Arema member, Mr. Jonah Parfait Prezaly, ran under the banner of the Economic Liberalization and Democratic Action for National Reconstruction (LEADER FANILO) party. He pledged to work for the economic development of the country.

Although official figures were not announced, it is estimated that approximately 30 per cent of the 7.5 million registered voters turned out at the polls. No violence was reported on polling day.

The African Union (AU) and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern

Africa (COMESA) monitored the poll. They reported that the elections were well organized.

On 13 October, the High Constitutional Court (HCC) announced the final results for 125 of the 127 seats. It invalidated the election results for the two remaining seats and ordered fresh elections.

The TIM won 105 of the 125 seats. Nineteen seats went to small parties and independent candidates supporting the TIM. The remaining seat went to Mr. Prezaly of the LEADER FANILO, who then became the sole opposition member in the new National Assembly.

The newly elected National Assembly held a special session on 24 October and elected Mr. Jacques Sylla (TIM) as its new Speaker.

Following the elections, certain independent members joined the TIM while others and members of small parties formed a parliamentary group, known as the Independent Parliamentary Group (GPI). It was led by Mr. Bary Jacobson Ratsimbazafy. The sole opposition member, Mr. Prezaly, joined the GPI.

On 27 October, President Ravalomanana named a new 19-member cabinet. Paramilitary Police Major-General Charles Rabemananjara was maintained as Prime Minister (in addition to the home affairs portfolio). Ms. Cecile Manorohanta was appointed as Defence Minister, becoming the first civilian woman to assume the post.

Elections were repeated for the two seats in the Bealanana and Mananara Avaratra constituencies on 14 November. One went to the TIM while the other went to an independent candidate.

Election results and statistics

► Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	7,500,000
Voters	About 30%

► **Distribution of seats according to political group**

	Seats	Elections 14 Nov.
Tiako I Madagasikara (TIM)	106	1
FANJAVA VELOGNO	2	0
ANAWI	1	0
BRUNLY	1	0
FAMPANDROSOANA MIRINDRA	1	0
ISANDRA MIVOATRA	1	0
LEADER FANILO	1	0
LIARAIKE	1	0
Mayors' Association	1	0
VOHIBATO TAPA-KEVITSA	1	0
Independents	11	1
Total	127	2

► **Distribution of seats according to sex**

Men	115	
Women	12	9.45 %
Total	127	

MALI

National Assembly

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Assemblée Nationale / National Assembly
Structure of Parliament	Unicameral
Number of members	147 directly elected
Term of House	5 years
Date of elections	1 & 22 July 2007

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all seats in the National Assembly on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

125 constituencies (1 member for every 60,000 inhabitants and an additional 1 for each fraction of this total over 40,000). Constituencies with less than 60,000 inhabitants are nevertheless each entitled to 1 seat.

▶ **Voting system: Majority**

Majority party-list system in two rounds of voting (absolute majority in first round, simple in second) in single or multi-member constituencies. Only the two best-placed candidates or lists can participate in the latter round.

Vacancies arising between general elections are filled through by-elections.

Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- Age: 18 years

- Malian citizenship also citizens of other African countries who have their residence in Mali and are registered as electors, if they satisfy general requirements pertaining to the electorate

- Full possession of civil and political rights

- Disqualifications: conviction of certain crimes, imprisonment for at least 3 months for other offences, undischarged bankrupts, guardianship

- ▶ **Eligibility**
 - Qualified voters
 - Domicile in Mali for at least one year
 - Age: 21 years
 - Malian citizenship
 - Ineligibility: persons who have been naturalised within the preceding 10 years

- ▶ **Incompatibilities**
 - Certain public offices
 - Membership of the armed or police forces

- ▶ **Candidacy requirements**
 - Candidature can be submitted by individuals, political parties or coalition of political parties
 - Deposit of 50 000 F CFA (Communaute Financiere Africaine franc) per candidate

Background and Outcome of the Elections

The parliamentary elections in July 2007 followed the re-election of President Amadou Toumani Touré in May. A total of 1,408 candidates, including 227 women, contested the 147 seats in the National Assembly.

In 2006, the government had proposed a 30 per cent quota for women among party-list candidates. However, after a heated debate in parliament, the electoral law was adopted without this provision. As a result, the number of female candidates remained low.

Though President Touré is not a member of a political party, he backed the Alliance for Democracy and Progress (ADP) which comprises 30 political parties and many associations. The ADP was formed on the initiative of the Alliance for Democracy in Mali-African Party for Solidarity and Justice (ADEMA-PASJ, 45 seats in the 2002 elections), led by Mr. Dioncounda Traoré, and the Republic and Democracy Union (URD) of Mr. Soumaila Cissé. Mr. Cissé had defected from the ADEMA-PASJ and formed the URD after being defeated by Mr. Touré in the 2002 presidential elections. President Touré called for voters' support for the ADP and urged massive participation in the elections.

The main opposition figure was former prime minister and outgoing Speaker of the National Assembly, Mr. Ibrahim Boubacar Kéita. He had left the

ADEMA-PASJ in 2000 and formed the Rally for Mali (RPM), which had won 46 seats in the 2002 elections. He finished second in the 2007 presidential elections. The RPM pledged to promote democracy, establish good governance and share the benefits of development. It was part of the Democracy and Republic Front (FDR), which also comprised the National Renaissance Party (PARENA), led by Mr. Tiébilé Dramé, another unsuccessful presidential candidate. He campaigned under the slogan "A different Mali is possible".

The African Solidarity for Democracy and Independence (SADI) did not align itself with any coalition. It was led by Mr. Oumar Mariko, who came in fourth in the 2007 presidential elections. He opposed the privatization of State-owned companies.

In all, 33 per cent of the 6.2 million registered voters turned out for the first round, held on 1 July, while turnout was even lower in the second round held on 22 July (reportedly between 10 and 12 per cent).

Some 900 observers, including 200 international observers, monitored the polls. No major irregularities were recorded. The observers from the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA) declared the elections to be well organized, but regretted the low turnout.

In the first round of the parliamentary elections, 13 ADP candidates were elected.

In the second round on 22 July, the ADP took 101 more seats, winning 114 seats in all. Outgoing Speaker Kéita's RPM picked up 11 seats in all. Together with the PARENA, the FDR took 15 seats. The SADI took four seats while the other seats went to independent candidates. Only 27 members of the outgoing legislature were re-elected. Fifteen women were elected.

The newly elected National Assembly was convened on 3 September and elected Mr. Dioncounda Traoré (ADEMA-PASJ) as its new Speaker.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	6,267,363
Voters	32.19 %

► **Distribution of seats according to political group**

	Seats
Alliance for Democracy and Progress (ADP)	114
Alliance for Democracy in Mali-African Party for Solidarity and Justice (ADEMA-PASJ)	51
Republic and Democracy Union (URD)	35
Patriotic Movement for Renewal (MPR)	9
Democratic Initiative National Congress of Mali (CNID)	7
Democracy and Development Union (UDD)	3
Bloc of Changeover for Renaissance, Integration and African Cooperation (BARICA)	2
Movement for Independence, Renaissance and African Integration (MIRIA)	2
Democracy and African Integration Bloc (BDIA)	1
Solidarity and Progress Party (PSP)	1
Citizens for Renewal Party (PCR)	1
African Democratic Rally (RDA)	1
National Democratic Rally (RND)	1
Democracy and Republic Front (FDR)	15
Rally for Mali (RPM)	11
National Renaissance Party (PARENA)	4
African Solidarity for Democracy and Independence (SADI)	4
Independents	14
Total	147

► **Distribution of seats according to sex**

Men	132	
Women	15	10.20 %
Total	147	

► **Distribution of seats according to profession**

	Seats
Liberal professions (including artists, authors) and sports professionals	35
Educators	31
Civil/public servants/administrators (including social/development workers)	25
Business/trade/industry employees, including executives	11
Economists	9
Legal professions	5
Farmers/agricultural workers (including wine growers)	5
Bankers (including invest bankers)/accountants	4
Engineers/PC experts	2
Medical professions (doctors, dentists, nurses)	2
Clerical occupations	2
Architects	1
Consultants (including real estate agents)	1
Media-related professions (journalists/publishers)	1
Scientists and researchers	1
Others	9
Unknown	3
Total	147

► **Distribution of seats according to age**

31 to 40 years	12
41 to 50 years	50
51 to 60 years	62
61 to 70 years	20
Unknown	3
Total	147

MARSHALL ISLANDS

Parliament

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Nitijela / Parliament
Structure of Parliament	Unicameral
Number of members	33 directly elected
Term of House	4 years
Date of elections	19 November 2007

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all the seats of the Parliament on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

24 constituencies (districts) in all:

- 19 single-member
- 5 multi-member (2 to 5 seats)

▶ **Voting system: Majority**

Simple majority system.

Each elector has votes equivalent to the number of seats to be filled in the constituency in which he/she resides or has land rights.

Vacancies arising between general elections are filled through by-elections.

Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years
- Marshall Islands citizenship
- residence or land rights in the constituency where voting
- disqualifications: insanity, sentence (or parole) pursuant to conviction for felony

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified voters
- age: 21 years
- Marshall Islands citizenship

- ▶ **Incompatibilities**
 - public servants

Background and Outcome of the Elections

On 19 November 2007, parliamentary elections were held in parallel with local elections. The United Democratic Party (UDP) of President Kessai Note, and the opposition Aelon Kein Ad (AKA, meaning Our Island) Party, led by former president Mr. Imata Kabua. Mr. Note was re-elected as President by parliament in January 2005.

In September 2007, President Note backed Taiwan's request for membership of the United Nations. The Marshall Islands recognized Taiwan in 1998 under Mr. Kabua's presidency. Since then, Taiwan has been the country's second largest donor after the United States.

On 10 November, Speaker Litokwa Tomeing (UDP) defected to the AKA, shortly after a trip to China. He criticized the eight years of UDP rule as "a dismal failure" and called for a change in government. He pledged to adopt a One China policy after the elections. Speculation about the country's diplomatic shift had been mounting after prominent AKA members traveled to China in October. The AKA said it would endorse Mr. Tomeing as the country's next president.

Local media was uncertain of the impact of the Speaker's defection, in a country where family ties have historically played a stronger role than political platforms.

In the 2007 elections, the country used a new electoral system under which voters can cast ballots for up to four candidates. It also allowed voters to cast their ballot at any polling station regardless of which atoll they are from.

Approximately 50 per cent of the 36,000 registered voters turned out at the polls. Some polling stations opened late and ran out of ballot papers, while some voters were reportedly uninformed about the new electoral system and took more time to vote. As a result, there were lengthy waits in front of polling stations.

The Pacific Islands Forum (PIF), which observed the poll, concluded that in spite of logistical problems "the voting and counting had been conducted in a democratic manner".

Preliminary results showed that the AKA secured at least 17 seats. President Note was re-elected thanks to overseas votes. The only woman in the outgoing legislature, Ms. Abacca Anjain-Maddison, failed to win a seat.

The final results announced by the Electoral Administration in late December confirmed the victory of the AKA, which took 18 seats. The UDP won the remaining seats.

The newly elected parliament held its first session on 7 January 2008 and elected Mr. Tomeing (now representing the AKA) as the country's new President. It elected Mr. Jurelang Zedkaia (AKA) as its new Speaker.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	36,134	
Voters	18,093	50.07 %

▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

	Seats
Aelon Kein Ad (AKA)	17
United Democratic Party (UDP)	13
Independents	3
Total	33

Note:

The official election results do not indicate candidate's political affiliation.

▶ Distribution of seats according to sex

Men	32	
Women	1	3.03 %
Total	33	

MICRONESIA (FEDERATED STATES OF)

Congress

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Congress /
Structure of Parliament	Unicameral
Number of members	14 directly elected
Term of House	2 years (except 4 "at large" Senators - one for each of the four States of Micronesia - elected for 4 years)
Date of elections	6 March 2007

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all the seats in the Congress on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

- 10 single-member constituencies
- 4 states (Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei, Kosrae) for "at-large" Senators

▶ **Voting system: Mixed**

Mixed system:

- simple majority in single-member constituencies
- proportional representation for the four "at-large" Senators

The federal President and Vice-President are elected by the Congress from among the four Senators-at-large; the offices rotate among the four states.

Vacancies arising between general elections are normally filled through by-elections, except in the case of an unexpired term of less than one year, when appointment takes place.

Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years old
- Micronesian citizenship
- minimum period of local residence
- disqualifications: criminal conviction, insanity

▶ **Eligibility**

- age: 30 years old
- Micronesian citizenship for a minimum of 15 years
- residence in state from which elected for at least five years
- ineligibility: conviction for felony by a state or national government court

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- any other public office or employment
- any activity which conflicts with proper discharge of legislative duties

Background and Outcome of the Elections

At stake in the March 2007 elections were the 14 seats in Congress, contested by 35 candidates. Since there are no political parties in Micronesia, all candidates ran as independents. As was the case in previous elections, no women stood for the elections.

Candidates and their families participated in local events where they would reportedly make a speech asking for votes, in exchange for gifts. On polling day, voters' taxi rides to and from the polling station were paid for by the candidate advertised on the taxi.

Candidates included a long-serving parliamentarian representing the state of Yap, Mr. Isaac V. Figir, and the outgoing Speaker Mr. Peter Christian, who sought an "at large" seat as part of his campaign for the country's presidency. President Joseph J. Urusemal, who stood unopposed in one of the Yap constituencies, also expressed interest in serving another term.

52.58 per cent of the 92,000 registered voters turned out at the polls.

According to the final results announced on 16 March, Mr. Emmanuel (Manny) Mori defeated the then Vice President, Mr. Redley Killion in Chuuk. Both the Speaker and Deputy Speaker also lost their seats. The newly elected Congress held its first session on 11 May and elected Mr. Figir as its new Speaker.

On the same day, the Congress elected Mr. Mori as the country's new President, and Mr. Alik L. Alik as Vice-President. President Mori promised to establish more efficient government by cutting down on red tape in a bid to help improve the environment for commerce and industry.

By-elections to fill the seats vacated by the newly elected President and Vice-President were held on 3 July.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	92,573	
Voters	48,673	52.58 %
Blank or invalid ballot papers	-	
Valid votes	48,673	

Note on valid votes:

In Micronesia, only the valid votes are counted. The number of voters is therefore identical to the number of valid votes.

▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

Not applicable. There are no political parties.

▶ Distribution of seats according to sex

Men	14	
Women	0	0.00 %
Total	14	

▶ Distribution of seats according to age

41 to 50 years	1
51 to 60 years	10
61 to 70 years	3
Total	14

MOROCCO

House of Representatives

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Barlaman / Parliament
Structure of Parliament	Bicameral
Chamber	Majliss-annouwab / House of Representatives
Number of members	325 directly elected
Term of House	5 years
Date of elections	7 September 2007

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all the seats in the House of Representatives on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

95 multi-member constituencies (for 295 seats)

1 nationwide constituency for 30 seats, reserved for women.

▶ **Voting system: Proportional**

Voting is by proportional representation applying the rule of the highest average without vote-splitting or preferential votes.

- 295 members are elected to represent electoral districts

- 30 members are elected on a countrywide basis.

Seats that fall vacant during the legislative term are filled via by-elections held during the following six months. By-elections to elect a single member are characterised by universal suffrage, a relative majority and a single round of voting.

Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years

- Moroccan citizenship

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified voters

- age: 23 years

- Moroccan citizenship

- ineligibility: naturalised citizens, persons restricted by court order

▶ Incompatibilities

- magistrates
- members of public authorities
- members of the armed and security forces
- heads of regional divisions of the Department of National Security and police commissioners
- all non-elective public posts (except governmental ones) at the national or local level
- work for public undertakings

▶ Candidacy requirements

- candidatures must be submitted at least 14 days prior to polling day
- compulsory monetary deposit reimbursed if the candidate, or list of candidates, obtains at least 5% of the votes cast in the constituency concerned

Background and Outcome of the Elections

The parliamentary elections that took place on 7 September 2007 were the second to be held under King Mohammed VI's reign.

In the previous elections held in September 2002, the centre-left Socialist Union of Popular Forces (USFP) came in first with 50 seats, as was the case in the 1997 elections. The Istiqlal Party (PI) took 48 seats, while the opposition Justice and Development Party (PJD) took 42. King Mohammed VI named Mr. Driss Jetto as Prime Minister, who then formed a government comprising the same parties as the outgoing government: the USFP, the PI, the National Rally of Independents (RNI), the Popular Movement (MP), the Democratic Forces Front (FFD), the Progress and Socialism Party (PPS), and the Democratic Socialist Party (PSD). In all, the coalition government controlled 186 seats in the 325-member House of Representatives.

In 2007, candidates from 33 political parties and 13 groups of independent candidates stood for the elections. Most candidates promised to deal with social problems, such as unemployment, housing, education, and infrastructure. Many party programmes set numerical goals to be achieved before the end of the new legislature in 2012. The USFP promised to create two million jobs. The PI pledged to reduce the unemployment rate to less than 7 per cent. The MP said it would improve the education system, and adapt it to the needs of the job market. The PJD promised to create 300,000 jobs every year, and reduce poverty by half. Pre-election opinion polls indicated strong support for the PJD, which was expected to double its

number of seats.

Only 37 per cent of the 15 million registered voters turned out at the polls, marking the lowest turnout in the kingdom's history.

Some 50 international observers monitored the polls. They praised the spirit of transparency and professionalism observed throughout the entire election campaign. The PJD accused the parties in the outgoing government of buying votes, which it firmly denied.

The PI came in first with 52 seats, followed by the PJD with 46. The MP and the RNI took 41 and 39 seats respectively. The USFP, which had been the largest party in the previous parliament, arrived only in fifth position with 38 seats. In all, 34 women were elected (including 30 under the national lists reserved for women).

The newly elected House of Representatives held its first session on 12 October. On 16 October, it elected Mr. Mustapha Mansouri (RNI) as its new Speaker.

In the meantime, on 19 September, King Mohammed VI named Mr. Abbas El-Fassi of the PI as Prime Minister. On 15 October, the King officially named the new 33-member cabinet, which included seven women. It comprised the PI, the USFP, the RNI and the PPS. The MP reportedly refused to join the new government. The PJD remained outside the government.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	15,510,505
Voters	37.00 %

► **Distribution of seats according to political group**

	District seats	Women seats	Total seats	Gain/ Loss
Istiqlal Party (PI)	46	6	52	4
Justice and Development Party (PJD)	40	6	46	4
Popular Movement (MP)	36	5	41	14
National Rally of Independents (RNI)	34	5	39	-2
Socialist Union of Popular Forces (USFP)	33	5	38	-12
Constitutional Union (UC)	27	0	27	11
Progress and Socialism Party (PPS)	14	3	17	6
Union PND-AI Ahd and its allies	14	0	14	-
Union PND-ALAHAD	9	0	9	-
ALAHAD Party	3	0	3	-
Democratic National Party (PND)	2	0	2	-
Democratic and social Movement (MDS)	9	0	9	2
Democratic Forces Front (FFD)	9	0	9	-3
Union PADS-CNI-PSU and its allies	6	0	6	-
Union PADS-CNI-PSU	5	0	5	-
Ittihadi National Congress (CNI):	1	0	1	-
Environment and Development Party (PED)	5	0	5	3
Workers' Party (PT)	5	0	5	-
Renewal and Equality Party (PRE)	4	0	4	-
Moroccan Union for Democracy (UMD)	2	0	2	-
Socialist Party (PS)	2	0	2	-
Alliance of Liberties (ADL)	1	0	1	-
Citizenship Forces Party (PFC)	1	0	1	-1
Development and Citizenship Initiative (ICD)	1	0	1	-
Party of Renaissance and Virtue (PRV)	1	0	1	-
Independents	5	0	5	-
Total	295	30	325	

Note :

The official results included the "SAP", which stands for 'sans appartenance politique' in French, in other words, independents.

► **Distribution of seats according to sex**

Men	291	
Women	34	10.46 %
Total	325	

▶ **Distribution of seats according to age**

21 to 30 years	2
31 to 40 years	28
41 to 50 years	100
51 to 60 years	134
61 to 70 years	49
Over 70 years	12
Total	325

NAURU

Parliament

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Parliament /
Structure of Parliament	Unicameral
Number of members	18 directly elected
Term of House	3 years
Date of elections	25 August 2007

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all the seats in Parliament two months before the normal expiry of the members' term of office. General elections had previously been held in October 2004.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

8 multi-member constituencies.

▶ **Voting system: Majority**

Direct vote on majority and preferential basis.

In each constituency, the candidate who has received the largest number of first-preference votes is declared elected, if that number constitutes an absolute majority of those cast.

Vacancies arising between general elections are filled through by-elections.

Voting is compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 20 years
- Nauru citizenship
- residence in the country

▶ **Eligibility**

- age: 20 years
- Nauru citizenship
- residence in the country
- ineligibility: insanity, undischarged bankruptcy, sentence of death or imprisonment for at least one year

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- office of profit in the service of Nauru or of a statutory corporation

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- written nomination must be submitted at least 14 days prior to polling day, signed by the candidate and two or more electors of his/her district

Background and Outcome of the Elections

On 1 August 2007, President Ludwig Scotty dissolved the 18-member Parliament and called a snap election for 25 August, two months ahead of the official due date. The 2007 parliamentary elections followed a heated debate on proposals to amend the constitution.

President Scotty was re-elected in October 2004 on a pledge to reform the government's financial practices. He established an independent constitutional review committee that drew up several proposals for reform, including the creation of an independent audit office, direct election of the President (instead of nomination by parliament) and appointment of the Speaker from outside the parliament to ensure that the person holding that office would not have ties to the government or opposition.

President Scotty supported the proposals, saying they would allow more rigorous financial control and reduce political instability (Nauru has had 17 governments over the past 14 years). However, some persons argued that the proposed changes were too radical, while others considered them insufficient.

President Scotty subsequently called elections, arguing that he needed public support to continue his reforms. Opponents of the reforms criticized the snap polls, considering that the President was trying to draw attention away from the public backlash over the reform.

Although there are no official political parties in Nauru, the government camp reportedly controlled 16 of the 18 seats when parliament was dissolved in August. Only two were held by "opposition" members: the former president, Mr. René Harris, who had led four governments between 1999 and 2004, and Mr. Terangi Adam.

A total of 74 candidates, including six women, were vying for the 18 seats at stake. Approximately 7,000 citizens registered to vote.

The Pacific Islands Forum election observers concluded that the elections were "credible", although they noted some cases of vote-buying. It recommended that the country pass laws on transparency in election campaign funding.

Fifteen members were re-elected, of whom 14 were supporters of President Scotty's Government.

The newly elected parliament held its first session on 28 August. It re-elected Mr. Valdón Dowiyogo as its Speaker. It also re-elected Mr. Scotty as the country's President. He subsequently named an unchanged six-member cabinet.

In October, a leaked confidential report revealed allegations of corruption against the Finance and Foreign Minister, Mr. David Adeang. On 5 November, three senior ministers resigned, accusing President Scotty of not taking sufficient action over the scandal. In late November, the Chairman of the constitutional review committee, Mr. Batsua, defected from the government camp along with seven other parliamentarians.

On 19 December, Mr. Scotty was ousted in a no-confidence vote in parliament. Mr. Marcus Stephen, a former professional weightlifter, was sworn in as new President on the same day, and subsequently formed a new six-member cabinet. Speaker Dowiyogo resigned and was succeeded by Mr. Riddel Akua.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	About 7,000
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▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

Not applicable. There are no political parties in Nauru.

▶ Distribution of seats according to sex

Men	18	
Women	0	0.00 %
Total	18	

NIGERIA

House of Representatives

Parliament name (generic / translated)	National Assembly / -
Structure of Parliament	Bicameral
Chamber	House of Representatives
Number of members	360 directly elected
Term of House	4 years
Date of elections	21 April 2007

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all the seats in the House of Representatives on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

- ▶ **Constituencies**
 - 360 single-member constituencies

- ▶ **Voting system: Majority**
 - Single-member plurality system ("first past the post")
 - Vacancies arising between general elections are filled through by-elections.
 - Voting is not compulsory.

- ▶ **Voter requirements**
 - 18 years old
 - Nigerian citizenship

- ▶ **Eligibility**
 - Qualified voters
 - 30 years old
 - Nigerian citizenship
 - School-leaving certificate
 - Membership of a political party

Ineligibilities:

- Employees in the public service
- Persons who have acquired citizenship of another country
- Persons who have been convicted of and sentenced for a criminal offence

- Persons declared bankrupt
- Members of secret societies (secret cults)
- Holders of temporary entry permits
- Undocumented immigrants
- Persons indicted for fraud by an administrative or a judicial commission of inquiry
- Persons adjudged of unsound mind

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- Head of State
- Members of the other Chamber
- Ministers of State
- Holders of public posts
- Holders of judicial offices (judges)
- Civil servants
- Executives and members of the Electoral Commission
- Members of the armed forces
- Members of the security forces

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- Deposit of 20,000 naira (US\$ 170) per candidate
- Candidature must be submitted by a political party

Background and Outcome of the Elections

Parliamentary elections were held in parallel with the presidential polls on 21 April 2007. Elections in six senatorial districts were postponed to 26 April following allegations of malpractices.

The presidential elections, which were contested by 25 candidates, marked the first transfer of power between civilian presidents since the country gained independence in 1960. Eighteen opposition parties, which had initially threatened to boycott the elections in a move to invalidate the results of the local elections held on 14 April, eventually participated in the elections. Outgoing President, Mr. Olusegun Obasanjo, whose People's Democratic Party (PDP) had won a landslide victory in the 2003 general elections, admitted that there had been flaws in the 2007 local elections and urged election officials to prevent rigging in the general elections.

The elections were held against a background of political turmoil following the Senate's rejection, in May 2006, of proposed constitutional amendments that would have allowed Mr. Obasanjo to run for a third term. The

amendments had been opposed by Mr. Obasanjo's Vice President, Mr. Atiku Abubakar. Relations between the two worsened when the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission accused Mr. Abubakar of embezzling public funds. In September 2006, he defected from the ruling PDP and formed a new coalition called the Action Congress (AC), which comprised small parties that had not contested the previous elections. President Obasanjo subsequently dismissed him from his vice presidential post. This decision was overturned by the Supreme Court.

In all, 25 political parties participated in the 2007 parliamentary elections. Both the ruling PDP and the main opposition All Nigeria People's Party (ANPP) pledged to fight corruption. The leading contenders in the presidential polls were Mr. Umaru Yar'Adua, the PDP nominee and the ANPP's Muhammadu Buhari, a former military ruler who had come second in the previous elections in 2003. The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) initially barred Mr. Abubakar's candidature based on the pending allegations of corruption. However, the Supreme Court nullified the INEC's decision on 16 April and allowed Mr. Abubakar's presidential bid. In the meantime, the ANPP and the AC formed an electoral coalition called the "Granite Alliance", which aimed to defeat the ruling PDP. However, neither presidential candidate of the two parties was willing to step aside in favour of the other. Some 200 people reportedly died in election-related violence during the campaigning period.

Many of the 120,000 polling stations opened late as a result of logistical problems and a number of ballot papers were reportedly stolen.

The INEC did not publish the official turnout figure for the parliamentary elections. However, it did reveal that over 35 million of the country's 60 million registered voters turned out at the presidential polls.

The Commonwealth Observer Group, while welcoming the competitive nature of the elections, recommended improving voter registration and voting secrecy. The US-based National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI), presided over by former US Secretary of State, Mrs. Madeleine Albright, described the elections as a "failed process", criticizing delays and polling stations that either closed early or failed to open at all.

The final results gave a higher majority to the PDP compared to the 2003 elections. It won 260 seats (up from 223) in the House of Representatives,

and 85 (up from 76) in the Senate. The ANPP lost seats in both chambers, taking 62 seats in the House (down from 96 seats) and 16 (losing nine) in the Senate. The AC took 32 and six seats respectively. Only 80 members of the House of Representatives and 25 senators were re-elected. The number of women elected to both chambers increased from four to nine in the Senate, and 22 to 25 in the House.

In the presidential elections, Mr. Yar'Adua (PDP) was declared the winner with 70 per cent of the votes, ahead of his rivals Mr. Buhari (ANPP) and Mr. Abubakar (AC). The ANPP and the AC challenged the election results, which were also questioned by many international observers, including the European Union.

On 5 June, the newly elected National Assembly held its first session. Ms. Patricia Olubunmi Etteh (PDP) was elected Speaker of the House of Representative, becoming the first woman to assume the post. The Senate elected Mr. David Mark (PDP) as its new President.

In the meantime, on 29 May, Mr. Yar'Adua was officially sworn in as President, and pledged to form a government of national unity, urging the ANPP, the AC, and the Progressive People's Alliance (PPA, a small party which won three seats in the House, and one in the Senate) to join the new government. The President's proposal reportedly divided opinion among ANPP and AC members. On 27 June, the ANPP and the PPA agreed to join the PDP-led government following an agreement to review the electoral process and the Constitution. On 6 July, the AC turned down President Yar'Adua's proposal, arguing that the government had stolen its mandate. On 26 July, the new government was sworn in by President Yar'Adua.

House Speaker Olubunmi Etteh subsequently resigned on 30 October 2007 over accusations that she had spent US\$ five million on home renovations and buying 12 cars. She was replaced by Mr. Dimeji Saburi Bankole (PDP) on 1 November.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	About 60,000,000
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▶ **Distribution of seats according to political group**

	Seats
Peoples Democratic Party (PDP)	262
All Nigeria People's Party (ANPP)	62
Action Congress	32
Progressive People's Alliance (PPA)	3
Labour Party (LP)	1
Total	360

▶ **Distribution of seats according to sex**

Men	333	
Women	25	6.94 %
Total	358	

▶ **Distribution of seats according to profession**

	Seats
Business/trade/industry employees, including executives	49
Legal professions	43
Educators	39
Civil/public servants/administrators (including social/development workers)	31
Bankers (including invest bankers)/accountants	25
Scientists and researchers	23
Engineers/PC experts	13
Economists	10
Media-related professions (journalists/publishers)	10
Medical professions (doctors, dentists, nurses)	7
Consultants (including real estate agents)	3
Farmers/agricultural workers (including wine growers)	2
Architects	2
Others	24
Unknown	79
Total	360

NIGERIA

Senate

Parliament name (generic / translated)	National Assembly / -
Structure of Parliament	Bicameral
Chamber	Senate
Number of members	109 directly elected
Term of House	4 years
Date of elections	21 & 26 April 2007

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all the seats in the Senate on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

- 36 multi-member (3 seats) constituencies corresponding to the country's states
- 1 single-member (the Federal Capital Territory)

▶ **Voting system: Majority**

Multi-Member Plurality Systems

Vacancies arising between general elections are filled through by-elections.

Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- 18 years old
- Nigerian citizenship

▶ **Eligibility**

- Qualified voters
- 35 years old
- Nigerian citizenship
- School certificate
- Membership to a political party

Ineligibilities:

- Employees in the public service
- Persons acquired citizenship of another country

- Persons convicted and sentenced for a criminal offence
- Persons declared bankrupt
- Members of Secret Societies (secret cults)
- Persons indicted for fraud by an administrative or a judicial commission of inquiry
- Persons adjudged of unsound mind

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- Head of State
- Members of the other chamber
- Ministers of State
- Holders of public posts
- Holders of judicial offices (judges)
- Civil servants
- Executives and members of the Electoral Commission

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- Deposit of 30,000 naira (US\$ 250) per candidate
- Candidature must be submitted by political parties

Background and Outcome of the Elections

Parliamentary elections were held in parallel with the presidential polls on 21 April 2007. Elections in six senatorial districts were postponed to 26 April following allegations of malpractices.

The presidential elections, which were contested by 25 candidates, marked the first transfer of power between civilian presidents since the country gained independence in 1960. Eighteen opposition parties, which had initially threatened to boycott the elections in a move to invalidate the results of the local elections held on 14 April, eventually participated in the elections. Outgoing President, Mr. Olusegun Obasanjo, whose People's Democratic Party (PDP) had won a landslide victory in the 2003 general elections, admitted that there had been flaws in the 2007 local elections and urged election officials to prevent rigging in the general elections.

The elections were held against a background of political turmoil following the Senate's rejection, in May 2006, of proposed constitutional amendments that would have allowed Mr. Obasanjo to run for a third term. The amendments had been opposed by Mr. Obasanjo's Vice President, Mr. Atiku Abubakar. Relations between the two worsened when the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission accused Mr. Abubakar of

embezzling public funds. In September 2006, he defected from the ruling PDP and formed a new coalition called the Action Congress (AC), which comprised small parties that had not contested the previous elections. President Obasanjo subsequently dismissed him from his vice presidential post. This decision was overturned by the Supreme Court.

In all, 25 political parties participated in the 2007 parliamentary elections. Both the ruling PDP and the main opposition All Nigeria People's Party (ANPP) pledged to fight corruption. The leading contenders in the presidential polls were Mr. Umaru Yar'Adua, the PDP nominee and the ANPP's Muhammadu Buhari, a former military ruler who had come second in the previous elections in 2003. The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) initially barred Mr. Abubakar's candidature based on the pending allegations of corruption. However, the Supreme Court nullified the INEC's decision on 16 April and allowed Mr. Abubakar's presidential bid. In the meantime, the ANPP and the AC formed an electoral coalition called the "Granite Alliance", which aimed to defeat the ruling PDP. However, neither presidential candidate of the two parties was willing to step aside in favour of the other. Some 200 people reportedly died in election-related violence during the campaigning period.

Many of the 120,000 polling stations opened late as a result of logistical problems and a number of ballot papers were reportedly stolen.

The INEC did not publish the official turnout figure for the parliamentary elections. However, it did reveal that over 35 million of the country's 60 million registered voters turned out at the presidential polls.

The Commonwealth Observer Group, while welcoming the competitive nature of the elections, recommended improving voter registration and voting secrecy. The US-based National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI), presided over by former US Secretary of State, Mrs. Madeleine Albright, described the elections as a "failed process", criticizing delays and polling stations that either closed early or failed to open at all.

The final results gave a higher majority to the PDP compared to the 2003 elections. It won 260 seats (up from 223) in the House of Representatives, and 85 (up from 76) in the Senate. The ANPP lost seats in both chambers, taking 62 seats in the House (down from 96 seats) and 16 (losing nine) in the Senate. The AC took 32 and six seats respectively. Only 80 members of the

House of Representatives and 25 senators were re-elected. The number of women elected to both chambers increased from four to nine in the Senate, and 22 to 25 in the House.

In the presidential elections, Mr. Yar'Adua (PDP) was declared the winner with 70 per cent of the votes, ahead of his rivals Mr. Buhari (ANPP) and Mr. Abubakar (AC). The ANPP and the AC challenged the election results, which were also questioned by many international observers, including the European Union.

On 5 June, the newly elected National Assembly held its first session. Ms. Patricia Olubunmi Etteh (PDP) was elected Speaker of the House of Representative, becoming the first woman to assume the post. The Senate elected Mr. David Mark (PDP) as its new President.

In the meantime, on 29 May, Mr. Yar'Adua was officially sworn in as President, and pledged to form a government of national unity, urging the ANPP, the AC, and the Progressive People's Alliance (PPA, a small party which won three seats in the House, and one in the Senate) to join the new government. The President's proposal reportedly divided opinion among ANPP and AC members. On 27 June, the ANPP and the PPA agreed to join the PDP-led government following an agreement to review the electoral process and the Constitution. On 6 July, the AC turned down President Yar'Adua's proposal, arguing that the government had stolen its mandate. On 26 July, the new government was sworn in by President Yar'Adua.

House Speaker Olubunmi Etteh subsequently resigned on 30 October 2007 over accusations that she had spent US\$ five million on home renovations and buying 12 cars. She was replaced by Mr. Dimeji Saburi Bankole (PDP) on 1 November.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	About 60,000,000
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► **Distribution of seats according to political group**

	Seats
Peoples Democratic Party (PDP)	85
All Nigeria People's Party (ANPP)	16
Action for Change (AC)	6
Accord	1
Progressive People's Alliance (PPA)	1
Total	109

► **Distribution of seats according to sex**

Men	100	
Women	9	8.26 %
Total	109	

OMAN

Consultative Council

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Majlis / -
Structure of Parliament	Bicameral
Chamber	Majlis A'Shura / Consultative Council
Number of members	84 directly elected
Term of House	4 years
Date of elections	27 October 2007

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all the seats in the Consultative Council on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

Constituencies ("Wilayats") with 30,000 citizens or more have two representatives each; constituencies with less than 30,000 citizens have one representative each.

In the 2007 elections, there were 61 constituencies in all:

- 23 multi-member constituencies (2 seats each)
- 38 single-member constituencies.

▶ **Voting system: Proportional**

All candidates ran as independents (there is no party list).

Vacancies arising between general elections are filled by the candidate that obtained the second highest vote.

Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- Omani nationality (including naturalized Omanis)
- Age: 21 years and over
- No restrictions based on gender, race, education, or social status
- Registration in the national electoral register

Disqualifications:

- Membership of military bodies or security apparatus, unless one year has passed since retirement or resignation at the time of registration.

▶ Eligibility

- Omani nationality (including naturalized Omanis)
- Age: 30 years and over
- Resident of the district (constituency) being run for
- Good reputation and conduct in the district (constituency)
- Reasonable level of education and culture
- Reasonable working experience

Disqualifications:

- Conviction of any offence or crime of dishonesty or honour
- Insanity

▶ Incompatibilities

- Membership of the State Council (Majlis al Dawla)
- Holders of public post or office
- Membership of military bodies or security apparatus, unless two years have passed since retirement or resignation at the time of registration

▶ Candidacy requirements

- Deposit at the candidacy registration committee of the constituency of a resume, passport or national ID copies and candidacy letter or form
- Possible interview to validate information provided or determine satisfaction of conditions

Background and Outcome of the Elections

The elections to the Consultative Council in October 2007 were the second to be open to all citizens aged over 21 years old. Prior to 2002, only one in four citizens (selected by community and tribal leaders) were able to vote. The number of citizens who registered to elect the 84 members (up from 83) of the Consultative Council was almost three times higher in 2007 than the previous elections in 2003.

The Consultative Council was established in 1991 to advise the government on economic and social matters. Three years later, Oman became the first Gulf State to give women the right to vote and run for public office. Sultan Qaboos bin Said, who acceded to power on 23 July 1970, is the de facto prime minister, and also controls foreign affairs and defence.

The 2007 elections were contested by 632 candidates, including 21 women (up from 15 in the 2003 elections). Public campaigning was allowed for the

first time, and candidates' pictures and programmes could be found on billboards around the country. Since political parties are banned in Oman, all candidates ran as independents. Each candidate focused on local issues and called on voters' support based on their background and experience.

In all, 62.7 per cent of the 388,683 registered electors turned out for the polls.

Thirty-eight candidates retained their seats while 46 were elected for the first time. Interior Minister Sayyid Saud bin Ibrahim Al Busaidi announced that most winners had strong tribal connections or were well-known businessmen. For the first time in 13 years no women were elected.

On 4 November, Sultan Qaboos bin Said appointed 70 members (up from 59) to the State Council, the upper chamber of parliament. They included 14 women (up from nine), including one who had not been re-elected to the Consultative Council.

On 6 November, the Sultan inaugurated the newly elected Consultative Council and the State Council. On the following day, the Consultative Council held its first session, which was chaired by Speaker Sheikh Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Isa'ee. He had been appointed by the Sultan six weeks before the elections.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	338,683	
Voters		62.70 %

▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

Not applicable. There are no political parties in Oman.

▶ Distribution of seats according to sex

Men	84	
Women	0	0.00 %
Total	84	

▶ **Distribution of seats according to age**

31 to 40 years	26
41 to 50 years	36
51 to 60 years	15
61 to 70 years	3
Unknown	4
Total	84

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

National Parliament

Parliament name (generic / translated)	National Parliament /
Structure of Parliament	Unicameral
Number of members	109 directly elected
Term of House	5 years
Date of elections	30 June - 10 July 2007

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all the seats in Parliament on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

109 single-member constituencies (20 provincial and 89 local).

▶ **Voting system: Majority**

Limited preferential voting system (only the first three preferences marked by a voter are counted).

Each voter makes a choice of three candidates by indicating his/her preferences referred to as 1, 2 and 3 on the ballot paper ("1" being the voter's most preferred candidate). The vote is first attributed to the candidate with the number "1", so that should that candidate win an absolute majority (50 per cent of the valid votes plus one of the vote remaining), he or she is declared elected.

If no candidate wins an absolute majority, the vote distribution continues after eliminating the candidate with the lowest tally. The second-choice or third-choice candidates are then distributed as marked to remaining candidates. This process continues until one candidate receives 50 per cent plus one of the votes remaining, and is declared elected.

Vacancies arising between general elections are filled through by-elections.

Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years
- Papua New Guinean citizenship
- residence within constituency for more than six months

- disqualifications: allegiance to a foreign State, insanity

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified voters
- age: 25 years
- Papua New Guinean citizenship
- birth or residence (for the immediately preceding two years or for a period of five years at any time) in the constituency
- ineligibility: death sentence, imprisonment for a period exceeding nine months, conviction of electoral offence in the preceding three years, dismissal from office under the Leadership Code in the preceding three years

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- Governor-General

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- deposit of 1,000 kina, reimbursed if the candidate polls at least 1/3 of the votes obtained by the winning candidate of the constituency concerned

Background and Outcome of the Elections

The 2007 elections were the first to be held under the limited preferential voting system introduced by amendments to the electoral law in December 2006. The first-past-the-post system had been used for previous elections. The amendments also reduced the campaign period from eight to four weeks.

In the previous elections held in June 2002, results for six seats were invalidated due to violence and electoral fraud. At least 25 people were killed. The final results gave Prime Minister Michael Somare's National Alliance (NA) 19 seats, defeating the then ruling People's Democratic Movement (PDM), which took only 12. Mr. Somare subsequently formed a coalition government with seven other parties.

Mr. Somare was Papua New Guinea's first Prime Minister following independence in 1975 from Australia under a UN trusteeship, and had served four terms. He was seeking a second consecutive five-year term in the 2007 elections.

Under his fourth government, the country managed to come out of the economic slump experienced in previous years. The GDP growth rate had

been expected to reach 5.5 per cent in 2007. Nevertheless, around 40 per cent of the population still lives on less than one dollar a day.

Prior to the 2007 elections, Prime Minister Somare came in for criticism over his alleged role in helping the Solomon Islands Attorney General Julian Moti avoid extradition to Australia. Mr. Moti had been accused of having sex with minors in Australia, and had reportedly escaped to the Solomon Islands aboard a Papua New Guinea defence force plane. The Australian Government urged the Papua New Guinea Government to release a report on Mr. Moti's escape and subsequently banned Papua New Guinean ministers from entering Australia. Mr. Somare accused Australia of trying to influence the election results and pledged to maintain his country's sovereignty.

The main opposition parties were the PNG Party, led by former prime minister Mr. Mekere Morauta, and the New Generation Party (NGP) of Mr. Bart Philemon, a former finance minister sacked by Prime Minister Somare in 2006 following a leadership challenge. Both parties accused Mr. Somare's government of being corrupt and inefficient. They also pledged to maintain close ties with Australia, which demands that the country implement economic reforms in cooperation with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The two parties announced that they would back former prime minister Julius Chan of the People's Progress Party (PPP) for the post of prime minister.

In the 2007 elections, over 2,700 candidates (including 101 women) from 34 political parties vied for the 109 seats at stake. Despite the financial incentives to field women candidates provided for in the Organic Law on the Integrity of Political Parties and Candidates, very few female candidates were endorsed by political parties. Instead, 65 women stood as independents. The NA's coalition partner, the People's Action Party (PAP), endorsed four female candidates, the highest number of women backed by any political party contesting the 2007 elections. Its leader Mr. Gabriel Kapris, called on female voters' support, arguing that women in the country should be given a chance to make a difference.

Following criticism over numerous "ghost voters" (deceased individuals) in the 2002 electoral roll, the Electoral Commissioner revised the electoral roll prior to the 2007 elections. The number of registered voters fell from 5.3 million to 3.9 million. Some voters claimed their names were missing from the list.

The military was deployed to ensure security. During the election campaign, however, violent incidents between supporters of rival parties were reported in Mount Hagen, injuring several people. The 2007 elections nevertheless recorded fewer incidents than in 2002.

Due to the new electoral system, which requires voters to make three choices in order of preference, many candidates tried to negotiate with other candidates to obtain their supporters' preferential votes in second and third place. Such pre-election negotiations reportedly contributed to a peaceful election campaign.

The Commonwealth-Pacific Islands Forum election assistance mission concluded that the elections were successfully conducted in all Provinces in an overwhelming atmosphere of peace and security and that the isolated incidents of violence were handled in a professional manner.

The NA remained the largest party with 27 seats. Its coalition partner, the PAP, and the opposition PNG followed with seven seats each. Former prime minister Julius Chan (PPP) returned to parliament alongside his son Byron. Prime Minister Somare and his son Arthur were also elected. The sole female member in the outgoing legislature, Ms. Carol Kidu, was once again the only woman elected to the new parliament.

On 13 August, the newly elected National Parliament held its first session and re-elected Mr. Jeffrey Nape as its Speaker. Mr. Michael Somare was re-elected as Prime Minister over Mr. Chan (PPP). Former prime minister Morauta became the opposition leader, while Mr. Philemon (NGP) became his deputy.

Mr. Somare subsequently formed a coalition government comprising 14 political parties, the biggest coalition since the country's independence.

Note

The system requires voters to make three choices in order of preference from among the nominated candidates. Preferential voting requires candidates to seek support (in the form of preferences) outside their own clans and communities, while ensuring that elected members of parliament hold a majority mandate from their electorates. Due to an increasing number of candidates at each election, most members were elected with less than 15 per cent of the valid votes.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	About 3,900,000
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▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

	Seats
National Alliance (NA)	27
People's Alliance Party (PAP)	7
PNG Party	7
Pangu Part)	5
People's Democratic Movement (PDM)	5
United Resources Party (URP)	5
New Generation Party (NGP)	4
People's National Congress Party (PNCP)	4
People's Progress Party (PPP)	4
Rural Development Party (RDP)	4
People's Labour Party (PLP)	3
PNG National Party (PNGNP)	3
Melanesian Liberal Party (MLP)	2
People's Party	2
PNG Country Party	2
United Party (UP)	2
Melanesian Alliance Party (MAP)	1
People's First Party (PFP)	1
Independents	21
Total	109

▶ Distribution of seats according to sex

Men	108	
Women	1	0.92 %
Total	109	

PHILIPPINES

House of Representatives

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Kongreso / Congress
Structure of Parliament	Bicameral
Chamber	Kapulungan Mga Kinatawan / House of Representatives
Number of members	240 directly elected
Term of House	3 years
Date of elections	14 May 2007

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all the seats in the House of Representatives on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

- 219 single-member constituencies for majority vote
- one nationwide constituency for proportional representation vote

▶ **Voting system: Mixed**

- 219 seats filled by simple majority vote
 - 21 seats filled by party-lists nominees proposed by indigenous, but non-religious, minority groups. Parties must pass a 2% vote threshold to gain parliamentary representation. A maximum of three seats is awarded to each party.
 - Each elector casts two votes: one for the district representative and the other for the party of his choice.
 - Vacancies arising between general elections are filled through by-elections.
- Voting is compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years
- Philippine citizenship
- residence in the country for at least one year and in home constituency for at least six months immediately preceding election day
- disqualifications: insanity, adjudged incompetence, conviction for crime involving disloyalty to government or against national security

- ▶ **Eligibility**
 - qualified voters
 - age: 25 years
 - Philippine citizenship by birth
 - literacy
 - residence in district for at least one year immediately preceding the poll
 - ineligibility: bribery of voters or election officials, terrorist action, exceeding campaign expenses ceiling, prohibited financial dealings

- ▶ **Incompatibilities**
 - any other office or employment in the Government, or any subdivision, agency, or instrumentality thereof, including government-owned or controlled corporations or their subsidiaries
 - legal counsel (in courts, electoral tribunals or quasi-judicial and other administrative bodies)
 - government contractor

- ▶ **Candidacy requirements**
 - candidatures by parties or independents, must be submitted at least 45 days before polling to the provincial election supervisor concerned
 - under the party-list system, each party must submit a list of at least five nominees

Background and Outcome of the Elections

The 2007 elections followed attempts by opposition members to impeach President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo in July 2005 and in June 2006. Both attempts, concerning allegations of fraud and vote rigging in the 2004 presidential elections, were subsequently dismissed.

President Arroyo was sworn in in January 2001, replacing former president Joseph Estrada, who had been ousted by street protests over corruption. She implemented economic policies in cooperation with the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, cutting public spending and increasing the value-added tax (VAT). Under her presidency, the country achieved economic growth reaching seven per cent in 2007. However, price increases and unemployment reportedly frustrated the country's poor.

In December 2006, the country was divided over constitutional amendments that proposed to abolish the current US-style presidential system and introduce a parliamentary system. A draft constitution which provided for a

unicameral parliament was severely criticized by the Senate. The House of Representatives subsequently agreed to "temporarily withdraw" the proposed constitutional amendments in order to "put an end to the historic divide" between the two chambers.

In the 2007 parliamentary elections, supporters of President Arroyo formed a coalition called TEAM Unity (Together Everyone Achieves More) that included the Speaker of the House of Representatives Mr. José de Venecia Jr. It criticized the impeachment moves of the past years, arguing they had destabilized the country and hampered the reforms started by President Arroyo.

The main opposition parties formed an electoral coalition called the "Genuine Opposition (GO)", which included three current or former Senate Presidents. The GO pledged to fight corruption and to alleviate poverty.

In the elections to the House of Representatives, turnout was estimated at 70 percent of the 45 million registered voters. Of 8 million citizens working abroad, only 504,122 registered to vote. In the elections to renew half the seats in the Senate, approximately 68 per cent of the 43 million registered voters cast their ballot.

The elections were marred by violence. According to the National Police, a total of 121 people were killed during the election period (from 14 January to 13 June), including 37 politicians. Due to irregularities, elections were repeated for one senatorial seat in Mindanao.

The pro-presidential TEAM Unity coalition reportedly secured nearly 170 seats in the House of Representatives while the opposition GO won just over 40 seats. The remaining seats were distributed through a proportional representation system to party-list nominees proposed by indigenous groups. Most nominees subsequently joined TEAM Unity, giving it around 190 seats in the 240-member House of Representatives. Only four pro-presidential candidates were elected to the Senate, where the GO coalition took an overall majority.

The newly elected House of Representatives and the Senate were convened on 23 July. The House re-elected Mr. Venecia of the majority coalition as its Speaker for a fifth consecutive term, making him the longest-serving Speaker in the country's post-war history. The Senate re-elected Mr. Manny Villar (Nationalist Party) as its President.

On 5 February 2008, Mr. de Venecia lost his position as Speaker in a vote of 174 against 35, with 16 abstentions. Mr. Prospero Nograles Jr. of Davao City was elected to replace him.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	45,000,000	
Voters		70.00 %

▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

	Seats
TEAM Unity	168
Lankas-CMD and its allies	89
Kampi and its allies	46
NPC and its allies	28
LDP	3
PSDP	2
Party nominees (most of them subsequently joined the TEAM Unity)	25
Genuine Opposition (GO)	44
LP and its allies	23
NP and its allies	9
UNO and its allies	5
PMP and its allies	4
PDP - LABAN	3
Others	3
Total	240

Note:

The distribution of seats above shows the final composition of the House of representatives.

▶ Distribution of seats according to sex

Men	191	
Women	49	20.42 %
Total	240	

PHILIPPINES

Senate

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Kongreso / Congress
Structure of Parliament	Bicameral
Chamber	Senado / Senate
Number of members	24 directly elected
Term of House	6 years; one-half of the membership is renewed every 3 years
Date of elections	14 May 2007

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for one-half of the Senate seats on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

One national constituency; all Senators being elected at-large from the country as a whole.

▶ **Voting system: Majority**

Direct simple majority vote:

No Senator may serve for more than two consecutive (six-year) terms.

Vacancies arising between general elections are filled through by-elections.

Voting is compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years

- Philippine citizenship

- residence in the country for at least one year and in home constituency for at least six months immediately preceding election day

- disqualifications: insanity, adjudged incompetence, conviction for crime involving disloyalty to government or against national security

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified voters

- age: 35 years

- Philippine citizenship by birth

- literacy
 - residence in the country for at least two years immediately preceding the poll
 - ineligibility: bribery of voters or election officials, terrorist action, exceeding campaign expenses ceiling, prohibited financial dealings
- ▶ **Incompatibilities**
- any other office or employment in the Government, or any subdivision, agency, or instrumentality thereof, including government-owned or controlled corporations or their subsidiaries
 - appointment to office created during Senator's term
- ▶ **Candidacy requirements**
- candidatures by parties or independents, must be submitted to Commission on Elections at least 90 days before polling

Background and Outcome of the Elections

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In December 2006, the country was divided over constitutional amendments that proposed to abolish the current US-style presidential system and introduce a parliamentary system. A draft constitution which provided for a unicameral parliament was severely criticized by the Senate. The House of Representatives subsequently agreed to "temporarily withdraw" the proposed constitutional amendments in order to "put an end to the historic divide" between the two chambers.

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On 5 February 2008, Mr. de Venecia lost his position as Speaker in a vote of 174 against 35, with 16 abstentions. Mr. Prospero Nograles Jr. of Davao City was elected to replace him.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	43,104,362	
Voters	29,498,660	68.44 %

▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

	Seats 2007	Total seats
National People's Coalition (NPC)	2	2
Nationalist Party (NP)	2	2
United Opposition	2	2
Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (KAMPI)	1	1
Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP)	1	1
Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats (Lakas-CMD)	1	3
Liberal Party (LP)	1	4
PDP Laban	0	2
People's Reform Party	0	1
Pwersa ng Masang Pilipino (PMP)	0	2
Independents	2	3
Total	12	23

Note:

All parties in the two major coalitions fielded their candidates under their own banner. One independent candidate joined the Liberal Party after the elections.

Following the election in May 2007 of Senator Lim (whose seat was not up for renewal at the 2007 general elections) as Mayor of the City of Manila, there is currently one vacant seat in the Senate. It will be filled at the next general elections, scheduled for 2010.

▶ Distribution of seats according to sex

	Seats 2007		Total Seats	
Men	11		19	
Women	1	8.33 %	4	17.39%
Total	12		23	

► **Distribution of seats according to profession**

	Seats
Legal professions	10
Business/trade/industry employees, including executives	4
Military/police officers	4
Liberal professions (including artists, authors) and sports professionals	3
Media-related professions (journalists/publishers)	1
Bankers (including invest bankers)/accountants	1
Total	23

► **Distribution of seats according to age**

31 to 40 years	4
41 to 50 years	7
51 to 60 years	5
61 to 70 years	2
Over 70 years	5
Total	23

POLAND

Sejm

Structure of Parliament	Bicameral
Chamber	Sejm / Sejm
Number of members	460 directly elected
Term of House	4 years
Date of elections	21 October 2007

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all the seats of the Sejm following premature dissolution of that body on 8 September 2007. Elections to the Sejm had previously taken place on 25 September 2005.

Electoral system

▶ Constituencies

41 multi-member (7-19 seats) constituencies, a total of 460 seats.

▶ Voting system: Proportional

- All 460 members are elected by proportional representation, distribution of seats being effected on the basis of the modified Saint-Lague method; parties win seats according to the aggregate vote for their candidates in a constituency, and then allocate them to those with highest totals.

-There are thresholds for participation in allocation of seats: 5% of the total votes cast for party list; 8% for a coalition list. National minorities' lists are exempt from thresholds requirements.

Vacancies arising between general elections are filled by the individual who is "next-in-line" on the list of the party which formerly held the seat.

Voting is not compulsory.

▶ Voter requirements

- age: 18 years

- Polish citizenship

- disqualifications: mental deficiency, deprivation of civil or electoral rights by court ruling

▶ Eligibility

- qualified voters

- age: 21 years

- Polish citizenship
- permanent residence in the country for not less than five years

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- President of the National Bank of Poland, of the Supreme Chamber of Control, the Commissioner for Citizens' Rights, the Commissioner for Children's Rights or their assistants
- members of the Council for Monetary Policy, of the National Council of Radio Broadcasting and Television
- ambassadors
- employment in the chancelleries of the Diet, Senate or President of the Republic
- employment in government administration (except members of the Council of Ministers and Secretaries of State); employment in local government administration
- judges, public prosecutors
- civil servants
- soldiers on active duty, police or State protection forces
- elected members of local government

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- endorsed by electors and political parties, which may set up national or local electoral committees for this purpose
- lists of district constituency candidates must be submitted no later than 40 days prior to the polling date and be supported by at least 5,000 electors resident in the constituency concerned

Background and Outcome of the Elections

Parliamentary elections were held on 21 October 2007, two years earlier than the official due date.

In the previous elections held in September 2005 in parallel with presidential elections, the conservative Law and Justice (PiS) party, led by Mr. Jaroslaw Kaczynski, had won 155 of the 460 seats in the Sejm (lower chamber), while the Civic Platform (PO) led by a well-known free market advocate, Mr. Donald Tusk, had taken 133. The latter's presidential election rival and the PiS leader's twin brother, Mr. Lech Kaczynski, was elected as the country's new President.

The PiS and the PO, which won 49 and 34 seats respectively in the 100-member Senate, were unable to agree on the formation of a coalition

government. Consequently, prime minister-elect, Mr. Kazimierz Marcinkiewicz (PiS), formed a one-party minority government on 31 October 2005. His government won a vote of confidence in the Sejm on 10 November, with the support of the PiS, the Self-Defence Party (which won 56 seats in the Sejm, and three in the Senate), the League of Polish Families (LPR, 34 and seven seats respectively), the Polish Peasant Party (PSL, 25 and two seats), as well as some independent parliamentarians.

However, Prime Minister Marcinkiewicz, known for his moderate economic and foreign policy, was reportedly in conflict with the country's President, Mr. Kaczynski. In July 2006, Mr. Marcinkiewicz resigned as Prime Minister, and was succeeded by the President's twin brother, Jaroslaw Kaczynski (PiS). The latter then formed a coalition with the Self-Defence Party, led by Mr. Andrzej Lepper and the LPR of Mr. Roman Giertych.

A series of scandals over alleged corruption involving the government led to the collapse of Mr. Kaczynski's government in August 2007.

On 7 September, the Sejm voted to dissolve itself, paving the way for early elections - the eighth since the fall of communism in 1989.

In all, 6,187 candidates, including 1,428 women, ran for the Sejm, while 385 candidates, including 46 women, vied for seats in the Senate.

The 2007 elections again saw a duel between the PiS, led by Mr. Jaroslaw Kaczynski, and the PO of Mr. Tusk. The PiS promised to continue its policies, focusing on the domestic economy and promising tax cuts. It appealed to voters to support it in the interest of steady economic growth. The PO pledged to introduce a flat income tax of 15 per cent and to continue the privatization of State companies that stagnated under the PiS-led government. It promised to forge better ties with neighbouring countries, and pledged to introduce the European single currency - the Euro - as soon as possible, to further economic development. Mr. Tusk also promised to work towards the withdrawal of Polish troops from Iraq.

The Left Democratic Alliance (SLD), which had won 55 seats in the Sejm in the 2005 elections, formed an election coalition - LiD - with the Social Democracy of Poland (SDPL), the Democratic Party (PD), and the Labour Union (UP) in September 2006. The coalition was led by former president Aleksander Kwasniewski. He criticized the PiS-led government, arguing that the country could not afford radical tax cuts.

A total of 53.88 per cent of the country's 30 million registered voters turned out at the polls, representing the highest turnout in the post-communist era. Due to the higher than expected turnout, some polling stations ran out of ballot papers, and others stayed open longer than scheduled, thus delaying the release of first results from exit polls by nearly three hours.

The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) observed the polls. Although it declared the elections to be democratic, it noted "sporadic partial interventions by State organs" in the election campaign.

The final results gave the PO 209 seats in the Sejm and 60 seats in the Senate. The PiS took 166 and 39 seats respectively. The LiD and the Polish Peasant Party (PSL) took 53 and 31 seats in the Sejm, while the remaining one seat went to the German minority. One independent candidate was elected to the Senate. Outgoing Prime Minister, Mr. Jaroslaw Kaczynski, conceded defeat.

The newly elected parliament held its first session on 5 November. The Sejm elected Mr. Bronislaw Komorowski (PO) as its new Speaker, while Mr. Bogdan Borusewicz (independent) was re-elected as the Senate President.

On 9 November, President Kaczynski designated Mr. Tusk as Prime Minister. His new cabinet was sworn in on 16 November. It won a vote of confidence in the Sejm on 23 November.

Election results and statistics

► Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	30,615,471	
Voters	16,495,045	53.88 %
Blank or invalid ballot papers	352,843	
Valid votes	16,142,202	

► **Distribution of seats according to political group**

	Votes	% votes	Seats
Civic Platform (PO)	6,701,010	41.51	209
Law and Justice (PiS)	5,183,477	32.11	166
Left and Democrats (LiD)	2,122,981	13.15	53
Polish Peasant Party (PSL)	1,437,638	8.91	31
German Minority	32,462	0.20	1
Total			460

Note:

German Minority member is considered as non-affiliate since a minimum of three members is needed to form a parliamentary group in the Sejm. After the election, seven members left the Law and Justice (PiS) and became non-affiliated members.

As of February 2008, there are eight non-affiliated members as follows:

- German Minority: 1
- Former members of the PiS: 7

► **Distribution of seats according to sex**

Men	366	
Women	94	20.43 %
Total	460	

► **Distribution of seats according to profession**

	Seats
Civil/public servants/administrators (including social/development workers)	70
Educators	65
Legal professions	57
Engineers/PC experts	50
Economists	45
Scientists and researchers	44
Business/trade/industry employees, including executives	40
Farmers/agricultural workers (including woodsmen)	24
Medical professions (doctors, dentists, nurses)	23
Liberal professions (including artists, authors) and sports professionals	13
Media-related professions (journalists/publishers)	10
Consultants (including real estate agents)	6
Mine workers	5
Bankers (including invest bankers)/accountants	4
Students	3
Architects	1
Total	460

► **Distribution of seats according to age**

21 to 30 years	19
31 to 40 years	80
41 to 50 years	157
51 to 60 years	161
61 to 70 years	41
Over 70 years	2
Total	460

POLAND

Senate

Structure of Parliament	Bicameral
Chamber	Senat / Senate
Number of members	100 directly elected
Term of House	4 years
Date of elections	21 October 2007

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all the seats of the Senate following premature dissolution of the body on 8 September 2007. Elections to the Senate had previously taken place on 25 September 2005.

Electoral system

- ▶ **Constituencies**
40 multi-member constituencies: 2-4 senators each, a total of 100 seats.
- ▶ **Voting system: Majority**
Simple majority vote.
Vacancies arising between general elections are filled through by-elections (except in the last six months of the legislature's term).
Voting is not compulsory.
- ▶ **Voter requirements**
 - age: 18 years
 - Polish citizenship
 - disqualifications: mental deficiency, deprivation of civil or electoral rights by court ruling
- ▶ **Eligibility**
 - qualified voters
 - age: 30 years
 - Polish citizenship
 - permanent residence in the country for not less than five years
- ▶ **Incompatibilities**
 - President of the National Bank of Poland, of the Supreme Chamber of Control, the Commissioner for Citizens' Rights, the Commissioner for Children's Rights or their assistants

- members of the Council for Monetary Policy, of the National Council of Radio Broadcasting and Television
- ambassadors
- employment in the chancelleries of the Diet, Senate or President of the Republic
- employment in government administration (except members of the Council of Ministers and Secretaries of State)
- judges, public prosecutors
- civil servants
- soldiers on active duty, police or State protection forces

► **Candidacy requirements**

- candidatures must be submitted at least 40 days prior to polling day
- right to nominate candidates is vested in the electors and political parties which may set up national or local electoral committees for this purpose
- support by at least 3,000 electors residing in the constituency concerned

Background and Outcome of the Elections

Parliamentary elections were held on 21 October 2007, two years earlier than the official due date.

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The PiS and the PO, which won 49 and 34 seats respectively in the 100-member Senate, were unable to agree on the formation of a coalition government. Consequently, prime minister-elect, Mr. Kazimierz Marcinkiewicz (PiS), formed a one-party minority government on 31 October 2005. His government won a vote of confidence in the Sejm on 10 November, with the support of the PiS, the Self-Defence Party (which won 56 seats in the Sejm, and three in the Senate), the League of Polish Families (LPR, 34 and seven seats respectively), the Polish Peasant Party (PSL, 25 and two seats), as well as some independent parliamentarians.

However, Prime Minister Marcinkiewicz, known for his moderate economic and foreign policy, was reportedly in conflict with the country's President, Mr. Kaczynski. In July 2006, Mr. Marcinkiewicz resigned as Prime Minister, and was succeeded by the President's twin brother, Jaroslaw Kaczynski (PiS). The latter then formed a coalition with the Self-Defence Party, led by Mr. Andrzej Lepper and the LPR of Mr. Roman Giertych.

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The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) observed

the polls. Although it declared the elections to be democratic, it noted "sporadic partial interventions by State organs" in the election campaign.

The final results gave the PO 209 seats in the Sejm and 60 seats in the Senate. The PiS took 166 and 39 seats respectively. The LiD and the Polish Peasant Party (PSL) took 53 and 31 seats in the Sejm, while the remaining one seat went to the German minority. One independent candidate was elected to the Senate. Outgoing Prime Minister, Mr. Jaroslaw Kaczynski, conceded defeat.

The newly elected parliament held its first session on 5 November. The Sejm elected Mr. Bronislaw Komorowski (PO) as its new Speaker, while Mr. Bogdan Borusewicz (independent) was re-elected as the Senate President.

On 9 November, President Kaczynski designated Mr. Tusk as Prime Minister. His new cabinet was sworn in on 16 November. It won a vote of confidence in the Sejm on 23 November.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	30,615,471	
Voters	16,494,503	53.88 %
Blank or invalid ballot papers	303,699	
Valid votes	16,190,804	

▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

	Candidates	Seats
Civic Platform (PO)	85	60
Law and Justice (PiS)	87	39
Independents	1	1
Total		100

▶ Distribution of seats according to sex

Men	92	
Women	8	8.00 %
Total	100	

► **Distribution of seats according to profession**

	Seats
Civil/public servants/administrators (including social/development workers)	25
Educators	22
Clerical occupations	11
Business/trade/industry employees, including executives	11
Farmers/agricultural workers (including wine growers)	8
Medical professions (doctors, dentists, nurses)	7
Legal professions	5
Media-related professions (journalists/publishers)	5
Scientists and researchers	2
Engineers/PC experts	2
Bankers (including invest bankers)/accountants	1
Liberal professions (including artists, authors) and sports professionals	1
Total	100

► **Distribution of seats according to age**

31 to 40 years	14
41 to 50 years	24
51 to 60 years	44
61 to 70 years	16
Over 70 years	2
Total	100

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

State Duma

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Federalnoye Sobraniye / Federal Assembly
Structure of Parliament	Bicameral
Chamber	Gossoudarstvennaya Duma / State Duma
Number of members	450 directly elected
Term of House	4 years
Date of elections	2 December 2007

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all the seats of the State Duma on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

- One nationwide constituency for 450 seats

▶ **Voting system: Proportional**

Proportional representation system

- 450 Deputies selected on the basis of party-list proportional representation from the country as a whole, considered as one nationwide constituency, using the Hare method (the simple quotient and greatest remainders) for distribution of remaining seats.

The threshold to win seats is 7% of the total vote, provided that at least two parties win seats and the combined vote of these parties is more than 60% of the total vote. If the total vote for parties passing the 7% threshold is 60% or less, then parties with less than 7% of the total vote are also taken into account in the allocation process, in descending order according to their votes, until the total vote for parties winning seats surpasses 60%. If one party wins more than 60% of the vote and the other parties obtain less than 7%, then the party with the second highest number of votes is also taken into account in the seat allocation process.

Vacancies arising between general elections are filled by "next-in-line" candidates of the same party list.

Voting is not compulsory.

- ▶ **Voter requirements**
 - Russian citizenship
 - Age: 18 years
 - Disqualifications: legal incompetency, imprisonment following criminal conviction

- ▶ **Eligibility**
 - Qualified voters
 - Russian citizenship
 - Age: 21 yearsIneligibilities: holding office or engaging in activity deemed incompatible with parliamentary status

- ▶ **Candidacy requirements**
 - Candidacy must be submitted no later than 45 days before the polling day by registered political parties (up to 50% of each list can be made up by candidates who are not members of the party concerned);
 - Parties represented in the outgoing legislature can field their candidates without collecting signatures or paying deposit;
 - Parties which were not represented in the outgoing legislature should either collect 200,000 signatures (of which no more than 10,000 can come from any one oblast) or pay a deposit of 60 million rubles (approx. US\$2.3 million). The deposit is reimbursed if the party wins at least 4 % of the total vote.

Background and Outcome of the Elections

On 2 December 2007, elections to the State Duma, the Lower Chamber of the Russian Parliament, were held ahead of the country's presidential elections scheduled for March 2008.

The 2007 elections were the first to be held under the proportional representation system, which had replaced the previous mixed system. Under the new system, among other requirements, a party must obtain at least 7 per cent of the votes (up from five per cent) to win representation in the State Duma. The new electoral law also sets stricter criteria for party registration. Although 35 political parties applied to contest the 2007 elections, the Central Electoral Commission (CEC) registered only 11. Opposition parties argued that the measures prevented small parties from entering the parliament. President Vladimir Putin insisted that the tougher standard stopped extremist parties from running for elections.

In the previous elections held in December 2003, President Putin's United Russia had won 223 seats. It was largely expected to win a comfortable majority in the 2007 elections.

Pre-election polls indicated only a few parties would surpass the 7 per cent threshold. In addition to the presidential United Russia party, they included the ultra-nationalist Liberal Democratic Party of Russia (LDPR), led by Duma Deputy Speaker, Mr. Vladimir Zhirinovskiy; and "A Just Russia", led by Mr. Sergey M. Mironov, Chairman of the Council of the Federation (Upper Chamber). Among the opposition forces, only the Communist Party (KPRF) of Mr. Gennady Zyuganov was expected to fare well. Other opposition parties included the Russian United Democratic Party 'YABLOKO' of economist Mr. Grigory Yavlinsky, and the pro-Western Union of Right-Wing Forces (SPS), led by Mr. Nikita Belykh and former deputy prime minister Boris Nemtsov.

President Putin announced that he would head the United Russia list. Limited by the constitution to two presidential terms, Mr. Putin planned to become prime minister when he left office. Opposition parties feared that Mr. Putin and his allies would transfer some presidential powers to the prime minister so that Mr. Putin could maintain his influence. In mid-November, the SPS unsuccessfully appealed to the Supreme Court to cancel President Putin's candidature to the State Duma.

United Russia promised to promote the "Putin Plan", that advocated a stronger role for the State in economic development and further stabilization of the economy. Russia's economy has benefited in recent years from high oil prices and rich natural gas and oil reserves. The LDPR argued that the country should implement an "aggressive" foreign policy to rebuild the "Russian Empire". "A Just Russia" called for stronger national defence, and led an anti-NATO campaign.

The KPRF promised to nationalize key industries and use the profits to provide free health care, education and affordable municipal housing as in the Soviet era. The YABLOKO called for "Freedom and Justice". The SPS promised economic and administrative reform, emphasizing the importance of building "a free, democratic, strong and humane State" that would be respected and "not feared".

On 24 November, a YABLOKO candidate died after being shot by an unidentified gunman three days earlier. On the same day, a prominent critic of the government and former chess champion, Mr. Garry Kasparov, was

arrested for participating in an unauthorized protest against the decision to bar the opposition "The Other Russia" electoral coalition from contesting the elections.

A total of 63.78 per cent of the country's 109 million registered voters turned out at the polls. Some 450,000 police officers were deployed to ensure security. Russian citizens in 140 countries were also able to vote. The KPRF alleged election irregularities and vowed to take the matter to court.

The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) cancelled its plan to monitor the poll, accusing the Russian Government of making tardy visa arrangements for its observers. However, the Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe monitored the polls, and concluded that the elections failed to meet the standards of democratic elections. They criticized in particular biased media coverage, which they deemed favoured the ruling party. The Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Inter-Parliamentary Assembly praised the elections as having been "held openly".

According to the official results announced by the Central Electoral Commission, President Putin's United Russia party won 64.3 per cent of the votes, taking 315 seats in the new State Duma. The LDPR and "A Just Russia" won 40 and 38 seats respectively. The KPRF took the remainder. No other parties surpassed the 7 per cent threshold to win a seat.

On 24 December, the newly elected State Duma held its first session and re-elected Mr. Boris V. Gryzlov of United Russia as its Speaker.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	109,145,517	
Voters	69,537,065	63.78 %
Blank or invalid ballot papers	759,929	
Valid votes	68,777,136	

► **Distribution of seats according to political group**

	Votes	% votes	Seats
United Russia	44,714,241	64.30	315
Communist Party (KPRF)	8,046,886	11.57	57
Liberal Democratic Party of Russia (LDPR)	5,660,823	8.14	40
A Just Russia	5,383,639	7.74	38
Total			450

► **Distribution of seats according to sex**

Men	387	
Women	63	14.00 %
Total	450	

SENEGAL

National Assembly

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Parlement / Parliament
Structure of Parliament	Bicameral
Chamber	Assemblée nationale / National Assembly
Number of members	150 directly elected
Term of House	5 years
Date of elections	3 June 2007

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for an enlarged 150-member National Assembly. They were originally due to be held in 2006 but were postponed twice. Elections to the National Assembly had previously taken place on 29 April 2001.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

35 departmental single or multi-member (up to 5 seats, depending on population) constituencies.

▶ **Voting system: Mixed**

- party-list simple-majority vote for 90 Deputies at the departmental level
 - proportional representation and the simple quotient system for 60 Deputies chosen from lists of candidates presented by parties, coalitions of parties and independent persons at the national level. Seats remaining to be distributed after the first computation are allotted in conformity with the rule of highest remainder.

Vacancies which arise between general elections are normally filled by the "next-in-line" candidate on the list of the same party, coalition of parties or independent persons which held the seats in question. By-elections are resorted to within three months should there remain no more names of potential Deputies on the list concerned. No by-election is held within the last 12 months of the legislature.

Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years
- Senegalese citizenship
- full possession of civil and political rights

- disqualifications: conviction for crime, imprisonment of specified length for certain offences, contempt of court, undischarged bankruptcy

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified voters
- age: 25 years
- Senegalese citizenship
- fulfillment of all requirements regarding active military service
- naturalized foreigners and women having acquired Senegalese nationality by marriage : after a period of 10 years from the date of their naturalization
- ineligibility: guardianship, conviction preventing registration on electoral list, Governors and their deputies, judges and other senior officials of national services and public institutions

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- holders of non-elective public functions
- membership of the Economic and Social Council
- employment for foreign States or international organizations
- executive in a State enterprise, State-assisted company, savings and credit organization or company holding a government contract
- Ministers of the Government
- members of the armed or police forces on active duty

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- lists must be submitted by political parties, coalitions of parties or independent persons no later than 50 days prior to the election date
- monetary deposit, reimbursed if the list concerned obtains at least one seat in the National Assembly

Background and Outcome of the Elections

On 7 March 2007, Interior Minister Ousmane Ngom announced that the twice-delayed parliamentary polls would be held on 3 June. The elections were the first to be held since the decision to enlarge the National Assembly to 150 members.

The elections were originally due to be held in 2006, but were postponed by President Abdoulaye Wade. He argued that the country should save money to support the victims of the floods which had hit the suburbs of Dakar in August 2005. In December 2005, members' terms were extended until the

joint parliamentary and presidential elections, subsequently set for February 2007. Opposition parties criticized the postponement, pointing out that President Wade's Senegalese Democratic Party (PDS) was trying to gain more time to prepare for parliamentary elections.

The parliamentary elections set for February 2007 were again postponed when the Constitutional Court upheld an appeal by two opposition parties against a presidential decree that provided for allocation of seats per constituency. The Party for Independence and Labour (PIT) and the Socialist Party (PS) argued that the decree disproportionately allocated seats to several constituencies in favour of the ruling party and its allies. On 7 February, the National Assembly extended its term for a second time to 3 June. Consequently, presidential elections were held separately in February. The 81-year old incumbent President Wade was re-elected, amid allegations of fraud from opposition parties.

In April, 15 opposition parties announced they would be boycotting the parliamentary elections, arguing the electoral roll was outdated. They demanded a new electoral roll and the creation of a "truly independent" electoral commission. On 24 April, opposition parties under the umbrella of the "Siggil Front" launched a campaign to boycott the parliamentary elections. They considered that participation in the parliamentary elections would mean accepting the 2007 presidential election results. In the end, some opposition parties and coalitions participated in the elections, such as the And Defar Senegal (Build Senegal Together) coalition that promised to provide better infrastructure in rural areas.

President Wade led the "Sopi 2007" (meaning "change" in Wolof) coalition, which comprises the PDS and 13 small parties. Due to the boycott by the main opposition parties, the Sopi 2007 coalition was widely expected to win by a landslide. Prime Minister Macky Sall (PDS) promised to provide better education for the youth so as to facilitate their involvement in agriculture, fishery, and tourism. He also announced the construction of new roads and tramways.

Due to the boycott, turnout dropped from 68 per cent in the 2001 parliamentary elections to 34 per cent in 2007.

On 14 June, the Constitutional Court confirmed the victory of the Sopi 2007 coalition which took a total of 131 of the 150 seats. The And Defar Senegal coalition won three seats. The remainder went to small parties. In all, 27

women were elected, up from 24 in the outgoing legislature.

On June 19, former deputy budget minister, Mr. Hadjibou Soumaré (who is not a member of the PDS), was sworn in as the new Prime Minister together with his cabinet.

On 21 June, the National Assembly held its first session. The outgoing prime minister, Mr. Sall, was elected unopposed as its new Speaker.

On 19 August, indirect elections were held for 35 seats of the 100-member Senate, which had been re-established in January 2007. Seven parties were in contention.

The PDS took 34 of the 35 seats at stake. The remaining seat was won by the African Party for Democracy and Socialism (AJ-PADS). In all, four women were elected.

On 23 September, President Wade appointed the remaining 65 senators (including 36 women), bringing the number of his allies in the Senate to 99.

On 26 September, the new senators were sworn in. On 3 October, former National Assembly Speaker, Mr. Pop Diop (PDS), was elected as the new Senate President.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	5,004,096	
Voters	1,738,675	34.75 %
Blank or invalid ballot papers	18,349	
Valid votes	1,720,326	

► **Distribution of seats according to political group**

	Votes	% votes	Major- ity	Propor- tional	Total seats
Sopi 2007 coalition	1,190,609	69.21	90	41	131
And defar Senegal coalition	84,998	4.94	0	3	3
Takku Defarat Senegal	86,621	5.04	0	3	3
Waar Wi coalition	74,979	4.36	0	3	3
People's Rally (RP)	73,183	4.25	0	2	2
Authentic Socialist Party	26,320	1.53	0	1	1
Convergence for Renewal and Citizenship (CRC)	30,658	1.78	0	1	1
Front for Socialism and Democracy- Benno Jubel (FSD-BJ)	37,427	2.18	0	1	1
Jef Jel Alliance	33,297	1.94	0	1	1
National Patriotic Union (UNP)	22,271	1.29	0	1	1
Rally of Senegalese Ecologists - Greens (RES)	17,277	1.00	0	1	1
Social Democrat Party - Jant bi (PSD - Jant bi)	15,968	0.93	0	1	1
Social Development Reform Movement (MRDS)	20,041	1.16	0	1	1
Total			90	60	150

► **Distribution of seats according to sex**

Men	123	
Women	27	18.00 %
Total	150	

SERBIA

National Assembly

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Narodna skupstina / National Assembly
Structure of Parliament	Unicameral
Number of members	250 directly elected
Term of House	4 years
Date of elections	21 January 2007

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all seats in the National Assembly following the adoption of a new Constitution in October 2006.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

One nationwide constituency

▶ **Voting system: Proportional**

Members are elected by a single nationwide constituency using a list proportional representation system. The minimum threshold to win a seat is 5 per cent of the total number of votes. However, there is no minimum threshold for political parties or coalitions representing ethnic minorities. Parliamentary seats are allocated in proportion to the number of votes won by each list, using the highest quotient system (d'Hondt method). For allocation of the final seat, if the quotient calculated for two or more electoral lists is the same, the seat shall be allocated to the list having received the largest number of votes overall.

Vacancies arising between general elections are filled by a candidate of the same party list.

Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- Nationality of the Republic of Serbia (including naturalized citizens)
- Age: at least 18 years old on election day
- Citizens overseas can vote under certain conditions:

Citizens of the Republic of Serbia who have permanent residence in Serbia and who are temporarily residing abroad may vote in diplomatic missions of the Republic of Serbia. They must be registered in the electoral roll of their last place of residence (or in that of one of their

parents) in the Republic of Serbia.

Disqualifications:

- Insanity/mental illness
- Holders of temporary entry permits
- Undocumented immigrants,

▶ **Eligibility**

- Qualified voters
- Nationality of the Republic of Serbia (including naturalized citizens)
- Age: at least 18 years old on election day
- Residence in the Republic of Serbia
- Legal capacity
- Citizens who have a permanent residence in the Republic of Serbia overseas can run for elections.

Ineligibilities:

- Insanity/mental illness
- Holders of temporary entry permits
- Undocumented immigrants

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- Holders of judicial offices (judges)
- Civil servants (national and international)
- Government advisors
- Executives of the Electoral Commission
- Officers of the Electoral Commission

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

Submission of the candidacy:

- Candidature must be submitted at least 15 days prior to elections
- Lists of candidates may be submitted by political parties, coalitions, other political organizations, or citizen groups supported by at least 10,000 voters.

Background and Outcome of the Elections

The 21 January 2007 elections were the first parliamentary elections since the dissolution of the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro. President Boris Tadic had called early elections on 10 November 2006, shortly after the new Constitution was approved by referendum on 28 October.

In the last elections, which took place on 28 December 2003, when the

Republic of Serbia was still part of the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro, the Serbian Radical Party (SRS) became the largest party in Parliament by securing 82 of the 250 seats. The centre-right Democratic Party of Serbia (DSS), which had won 53 seats, formed a coalition government in March 2004 with the pro-European G17 Plus (34 seats) and the Serbian Renewal Movement (SPO) - New Serbia (NS) alliance (22 seats). Mr. Boris Tadic, of the centre-left Democrat Party (DS, 37 seats), known for its pro-European Union (EU) stance, was elected as the country's President in June 2004.

A total of 3,799 candidates from 20 political parties and coalitions contested the 2007 elections.

The main campaign issues were the economy, the fight against corruption, accession to the EU and the future status of Kosovo. The new Constitution stipulates that the UN-administered province of Kosovo is "an integral part of the territory of Serbia", although a large proportion of Kosovo's predominantly ethnic Albanian inhabitants were clamouring for independence. Prime Minister Vojislav Kostunica, who led the DSS-NS electoral coalition, reaffirmed that the status of Kosovo should be decided by consensus by the newly elected National Assembly.

The DS pledged to further liberalize the economy and promote cooperation with the international community, including the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY). Serbia's accession talks with the EU had been suspended in May 2006 due to its failure to arrest and hand over to the ICTY the Bosnian Serb General Ratko Mladic, who had been indicted for war crimes.

The SRS was led by Mr. Tomislav Nikolic, an outspoken critic of Kosovo's independence, the EU and the ICTY. It pledged to provide citizens who had lost their jobs following the independence of Montenegro with a "permanent job", a concept reminiscent of the communist era. Nearly 1 million of Serbia's 9.3 million inhabitants are unemployed.

Small parties representing ethnic minorities (Hungarian, Muslim, Roma and Albanian) also fielded candidates, while Kosovo Albanians were absent from the electoral rolls. They have boycotted elections since the early 1990s.

Overall turnout was 60.57 per cent, with 31.5 per cent of the 31,334 Serbian voters registered abroad voting.

Some 500 international observers monitored the polls. The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE/ODIHR) concluded that the elections had been generally "free and fair" and were in line with OSCE commitments and Council of Europe standards.

The national election commission annulled the results from six polling stations where the number of ballots cast exceeded the number of registered voters. Elections were repeated in these polling stations on 7 and 8 February.

As in 2003, no party secured an absolute majority. The SRS remained the largest party in Parliament, winning 81 seats. The DS came in second with 64 seats. The DSS-NS coalition won 47 seats. The G17 Plus took 19 seats while the Socialist Party of Serbia won 16. For the first time, a disabled person was elected to Parliament.

The newly elected National Assembly held its first session on 14 February 2007.

Despite lengthy negotiations, the SRS was not able to form a government. On 7 May, Mr. Tomislav Nikolic (SRS), known for his radical positions on Kosovo, was elected as Speaker by 142 of the 244 members present.

On 11 May, only four days before the deadline to form a new government, the DS and the DSS reached a new coalition deal, which included Mr. Nikolic's removal. They subsequently submitted a motion to dismiss the Speaker. Mr. Nikolic resigned on 13 May. On 15 May, the new government, also comprising the NS and the G17, was approved by the National Assembly by 133 votes to 106 with five abstentions, only 30 minutes before the midnight deadline.

On 23 May, Mr. Oliver Dulic (DS) was elected as Speaker.

Note:

LDP-GSS-SDU-LSV coalition stands for Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) - Civic Alliance of Serbia (GSS) - Social Democratic Union (SDU) - League of Social Democrats of Vojvodina (LSV) coalition.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	6,652,105	
Voters	4,029,286	60.57 %

▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

	Votes	% votes	Seats
Serbian Radical Party (SRS)	1,152,105	28.59	81
Democratic Party (DS)	915,014	22.71	64
Democratic Party of Serbia (DSS) - New Serbia (NS) coalition	666,889	16.55	47
G17 Plus	274,874	6.82	19
Socialist Party of Serbia (SPS)	227,304	5.64	16
LDP-GSS-SDU-LSV Coalition	214,028	5.31	15
Alliance of Vojvodina's Hungarians (SVM)	52,458	1.30	3
Coalition list for Sandzak Coalition (LZS)	33,819	0.84	2
Albanian Coalition of Presevo Valley	16,972	0.42	1
Roma Party (RP)	14,568	0.36	1
Roma Union of Serbia (URS)	16,995	0.42	1
Total			250

▶ Distribution of seats according to sex

Men	199	
Women	51	20.40 %
Total	250	

► **Distribution of seats according to profession**

	Seats
Legal professions	51
Engineers/PC experts	34
Educators	30
Economists	27
Medical professions (doctors, dentists, nurses)	25
Scientists and researchers	19
Business/Trade/Industry	12
Media-related professions (journalists/publishers)	11
Civil/public servants/administrators (including social/development workers)	6
Liberal professions (including artists, authors) and sports professionals	6
Others	29
Total	250

► **Distribution of seats according to age**

21 to 30 years	12
31 to 40 years	64
41 to 50 years	94
51 to 60 years	65
61 to 70 years	13
Over 70 years	2
Total	250

SEYCHELLES

National Assembly

Parliament name (generic / translated)	National Assembly / -
Structure of Parliament	Unicameral
Number of members	34 directly elected
Term of House	5 years
Date of elections	10 May - 12 May 2007

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all members of the National Assembly following the premature dissolution of this body on 20 March 2007. Elections had previously been held in December 2002.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

25 single-member constituencies.

▶ **Voting system: Mixed**

Mixed system:

- 25 members directly elected by simple majority vote
- Remaining members (whose number must equal at least 27 per cent of the number of members elected under the majority system; currently fixed at nine) are nominated by political parties that obtain at least 10% of the total votes cast under the majority system. These parties are entitled to nominate one member for every 10 per cent of the votes polled.

By-elections are held within 30 days to fill seats which fall vacant between general elections, unless these occur within three months of a scheduled polling period.

Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- Age: 18 years
- Seychelles citizenship
- Residence in the country

Disqualifications: insanity, conviction for a crime, imprisonment exceeding six months.

▶ Eligibility

- Qualified voters
- Age: 18 years
- Seychelles citizenship

Ineligibilities:

- Any person involved in the conduct of the National Assembly elections
- Any person involved in the registration process of the National Assembly elections

▶ Incompatibilities

- President of the Republic
- Minister of the government

▶ Candidacy requirements

- Membership of a political party
- Support of at least 50 voters
- Reimbursable deposit equivalent to US\$ 300

Background and Outcome of the Elections

Parliamentary elections were held from 10 to 12 May 2007, following the early dissolution of the National Assembly.

President James Michel of the Seychelles People's Progressive Front (SPPF) dissolved the National Assembly on 20 March 2007 following a protest led by the opposition Seychelles National Party (SNP), as a result of a controversial decision by the National Assembly to prohibit political parties and religious group from obtaining radio broadcasting licences.

In the 2007 elections, the SNP and the Democratic Party fielded joint candidates for the first time under the SNP banner. The elections were thus a de facto duel between the SPPF, in power since a coup, and the SNP.

President Michel's SPPF extolled his government's economic achievements, with annual growth exceeding five per cent. It argued that the SNP would hamper economic development. SNP leader Mr. Ramkalawan argued that the 2007 elections should be a referendum on the SPPF's 30 years of government. He called on voters to support a real multi-party system.

A total of 85.9 per cent of the 65,000 eligible voters turned out at the polls.

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) found the elections

to be transparent.

The 2007 elections returned exactly the same party configuration as the outgoing parliament: 23 seats to the SPPF and 11 to the SNP. In all, eight women were elected, two fewer than in the 2002 elections.

The newly elected National Assembly held its first session on 29 May, and elected Mr. Patrick Herminie (SPPF) as its new Speaker.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	64,993	
Voters	55,827	85.90 %
Blank or invalid ballot papers	1,393	
Valid votes	54,434	

▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

	Votes	% votes	Majority	Proportional	Seats
Seychelles People's Progressive Front (SPPF)	30,571	56.20	18	5	23
Seychelles National Party (SNP)	23,869	43.80	7	4	11
Total			25	9	34

▶ Distribution of seats according to sex

Men	26	
Women	8	23.53 %
Total	34	

▶ Distribution of seats according to age

21 to 30 years	1
31 to 40 years	7
41 to 50 years	19
51 to 60 years	6
61 to 70 years	1
Total	34

SIERRA LEONE

Parliament

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Parliament / -
Structure of Parliament	Unicameral
Number of members	124 members - 112 directly elected - 12 Paramount Chiefs indirectly elected to represent the 12 provincial districts
Term of House	5 years
Date of elections	11 August 2007

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all seats in Parliament upon the normal expiry of the members' term. General elections had previously held on 14 May 2002.

Electoral system

- ▶ **Constituencies**
 - 112 single-seat constituencies (40 constituencies in Northern Province, 27 in Eastern Province, 25 in Southern Province and 20 in Western Area)
- ▶ **Voting system: Majority**

Single-member plurality system ("first past the post")

Candidates who are elected under a party list but switch to another political party after the election must resign as members of parliament.

By-elections are held within six months to fill vacancies which arise between general elections.

Voting is not compulsory.
- ▶ **Voter requirements**
 - age: 18 years at the time of registration
 - Sierra Leonean citizenship, including naturalized citizens
 - disqualifications: insanity, imprisonment, electoral offences
- ▶ **Eligibility**
 - qualified electors
 - age: 21 years at the time of registration
 - Sierra Leonean citizenship (naturalized citizens must have resided in

Sierra Leone for 25 consecutive years after naturalization, or have served in the Civil or Regular Armed Services of Sierra Leone for a continuous period of 25 years)

- proficiency in written and spoken English
- membership of a political party

Ineligibilities:

- allegiance to a foreign State
- persons under sentence of death
- persons sentenced to imprisonment exceeding 12 months
- persons convicted and sentenced for an offence which involves fraud or dishonesty
- members of the Armed Forces
- Paramount Chiefs
- civil servants
- persons disqualified from practicing their profession in Sierra Leone
- persons involved in the conduct of any election to Parliament
- persons convicted of any offence connected with the election of MPs
- persons of unsound mind

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- the President and Vice-president
- ministers and deputy ministers
- members of any commission established under Constitution
- members of the armed forces

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

Candidates must have the support of at least three registered voters in the constituency in which they are running.

- deposit of 100,000 leones (equivalent to US\$ 34)

The deposit is reimbursable if a) the candidate dies before election day; b) the election does not take place; or c) the candidate obtains at least one tenth of the total number of votes cast.

Background and Outcome of the Elections

Parliamentary elections, which were originally scheduled for 28 July 2007, were postponed to 11 August due to logistical problems. They were held in parallel with presidential elections and were the first since the United Nations peacekeeping mission (UNAMSIL) completed its mission in December 2005. They were deemed as a test of the country's recovery from a civil war that lasted from 1991 to 2002, in which some 120,000 people were reportedly killed. Sierra Leone is ranked the second poorest country in the world,

despite its vast reserves of minerals, including diamonds.

In the last elections held in May 2002, five months after the official end of the civil war, the proportional representation system was applied as a temporary measure. The massive population displacement resulting from the civil war had made a constituency-based electoral system impractical. The ruling Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP) of President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah had taken 83 of the 112 directly elected seats, while the main opposition party All People's Congress (APC) had won 27. The remainder had gone to a small party, the Peace and Liberation Party (PLP). The former rebel group, the Revolutionary United Front Party (RUF), had failed to win a seat.

Under the SLPP-led government, the country had made significant progress in consolidating peace and rebuilding basic government institutions. However, it came under severe criticism from donors such as Britain, over widespread corruption and economic mismanagement.

In the 2007 elections, the first-past-the-post system was re-established. By the official deadline of 18 March 2007 for voters' registration, over 2.6 million citizens had registered, representing 91 per cent of the estimated eligible population of 2,873,000.

In all, 566 candidates from seven political parties contested the 2007 elections. However, only three of the parties were deemed to have any reasonable chance of entering parliament: the ruling SLPP, the main opposition APC, and the People's Movement for Democratic Change (PMDC). The PMDC, a breakaway party from the SLPP, was formed in January 2006. Outgoing President Tejan Kabbah was constitutionally barred from running in the presidential elections, having served the maximum two terms as president.

The SLPP, which has its stronghold in the south and east of the country, endorsed outgoing Vice President Mr. Solomon Berewa as its presidential candidate. The APC, which has support in the north of the country, was led by Mr. Ernest Bai Koroma, who was considered to be Mr. Berewa's main rival in the presidential race. The PMDC was led by Mr. Charles Margai, a former SLPP member and son of former prime minister Albert Margai.

The contending parties pledged to improve the situation of children in Sierra Leone by establishing a better education system and promoting child protection. The SLPP also promised women economic empowerment, while

the APC platform supported women's involvement in policy making. Both parties also emphasized the need for better occupational training and youth employment. The SLPP pledged to step up efforts to fight corruption, including by investing the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) with greater powers. The APC also promised to give the ACC the power to prosecute.

Turnout was recorded at 75.8 per cent. Some polling stations opened late and many people had to wait in long lines in the rain to cast their ballots. Armed police were deployed in parts of the capital, Freetown, after youths tried to disrupt vote counting.

In all, over 350 international observers monitored the poll. The observers from the European Union, the Commonwealth and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) said the voting was generally free and transparent and that the poll had met international standards.

The main opposition APC won 59 of the 112 seats. The ruling SLPP took only 43 seats, down from 83. The PMDC won the remaining 10 seats. In all, 16 women were elected.

In the presidential elections, no candidate won the required 55 per cent of votes in the first round. On 8 September, a run-off was held between Mr. Koroma (APC), who had received 44 per cent of the votes, and outgoing Vice President Berewa (SLPP), who had obtained 38 per cent. The PMDC supported Mr. Koroma in the run-off. On 17 September, Mr. Koroma (APC) was declared elected, winning 54 per cent of the valid votes.

On 25 September, the newly elected members of parliament were sworn in together with 12 Paramount Chiefs (influential regional rulers, whose seats in Parliament are provided for by the Electoral Law). They elected an Appellate Court Judge, Mr. Abel Nathaniel Stronge, as Speaker.

The official opening of parliament coincided with President Koroma's swearing in on 5 October. On 13 October, he named a new 20-member cabinet, including three women, that made up of technocrats, representatives of the APC and four members of the PMDC.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	About 2,600,000	
Voters	1,984,106	75.80 %
Blank or invalid ballot papers	144,898	
Valid votes	1,839,208	

▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

	Seats
All People's Congress (APC)	59
Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP)	43
People's Movement for Democratic Change (PMDC)	10
Total	112

▶ Distribution of seats according to sex

Men	108	
Women	16	12.90 %
Total	124	

SWITZERLAND

National Council

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Bundesversammlung - Assemblée fédérale - Assemblée federale / Federal Assembly
Structure of Parliament	Bicameral
Chamber	Nationalrat - Conseil national - Consiglio nazionale / National Council
Number of members	200 directly elected
Term of House	4 years
Date of elections	21 October 2007

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all the seats in the National Council on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

26 multi- or single-member constituencies corresponding to the country's 20 cantons and 6 half-cantons. The number of seats per constituency varies according to population.

▶ **Voting system: Mixed**

Mixed system:

- proportional representation using the Hagenbach-Bischoff method, with remaining seats being distributed according to the rule of highest average, in multi-member constituencies. Each elector can vote for a list as it stands or modify it by crossing out or repeating names appearing on it; he can moreover split his vote between different lists ("panachage") or select names from different lists in forming his own on a blank ballot paper

- single majority system for 5 single-member constituencies (two cantons, three half-cantons)

Vacancies arising between general elections are filled by the "next-in-line" candidates on the same party list or through by-elections in single-member constituencies.

Voting is compulsory in a small number of cantons, where those abstaining without a justifiable reason are subject to a small fine.

- ▶ **Voter requirements**
 - Age: 18 years
 - Swiss citizenship
 - Disqualifications: insanity

- ▶ **Eligibility**
 - Every citizen having the right to vote

- ▶ **Incompatibilities**
 - Members of the Federal Council
 - Federal judges
 - Federal civil servants
 - High-ranking army officials

- ▶ **Candidacy requirements**
 - Nomination by political parties
 - Support of 100 electors for each party list in cantons electing 2 to 10 seats, 200 in cantons electing 11 to 20 seats and of 400 in cantons electing more than 20 seats.

Background and Outcome of the Elections

On 21 October 2007, elections were held for all 200 seats in the National Council and 41 of the 46 seats in the Council of States (see note).

In the previous elections held in 2003, the right-wing Swiss People's Party (SVP/UDC), personified by the charismatic billionaire Mr. Christoph Blocher, had come in first with 55 seats in the National Council, followed by the Socialist Party (SP/PS) with 52 seats. The Radical-Democratic Party (FDP/PRD), the Christian-Democratic People's Party (CVP/PDC), and the Green Party (GPS/PES) had won 36, 28, and 13 seats respectively. The remainder had gone to small parties. These main parties, except for the GPS/PES, also gained seats in the Council of States. The CVP/PDC had come in first with 15 seats, followed by the FDP/PRD with 14 seats. The SP/PS and the SVP/UDC had taken nine and eight seats respectively.

In 2007, 3,089 candidates, including 1,088 women (up from 993 in the last elections in 2003), contested the elections to the National Council, while 130 candidates, including 32 women (up from 26), ran for the Council of States.

The SVP/UDC has campaigned on its traditional platform of cutting taxes, keeping Switzerland out of the European Union and addressing the issue of

exploitation of the country's social and asylum policies. One of its posters showed a black sheep being kicked out of Switzerland by three white sheep.

Other parties also put forward their traditional election platforms, with the Socialists (SP/PS) calling for social security and solidarity, the Radical Democrats (FDP/PRD) urging further economic growth based on creativity and efficiency and the Christian Democrats (CVP/PDC) pledging to boost job opportunities. The Greens (GPS/PES) campaigned for combating climate change, calling for a ban on air shows in the country and the introduction of a jet fuel surcharge. Due to a series of national disasters that have hit the country in recent years, environmental issues reportedly attracted the attention of many citizens.

In all, 48.28 per cent of the country's 4.9 million eligible voters turned out at the polls, marking the highest turnout figure since 1983.

In the elections to the National Council, the SVP/UDC and the GPS/PES made the biggest gains (seven seats each), bringing their total number of seats to 62 and 20 respectively. The SVP/UDC obtained the largest share of seats in this chamber since the country's proportional voting system was introduced in 1919. The CVP/PDC also added three seats to its tally, winning 31 in all. For its part, the SP/PS, which took 43 seats, suffered a major defeat, losing nine. The FDP/PRD also lost five, winning 31 seats. The remaining seats went to small parties. In all, 59 women were elected to the National Council. A 45-year-old lawyer, Mr. Ricardo Lumengo, of Angolan origin (Socialist Party), was elected to the National Council, becoming the first black person to win representation in the Swiss Parliament.

In the first round of the elections to the Council of States, 29 members (including six women) were elected. The CVP/PDC came in first ever with eight seats, followed by the FDP/PRD and the SVP/UDC with seven seats each. The SP/PS took six seats. The GPS/PES won its first seat in this chamber.

The final results gave the CVP/PDC 12 seats, followed by the FDP/PRD with 10. The SP/PS and the SVP/UDC took nine and seven seats respectively. The GPS/PES and another Green party, the Zurich Liberal Green Party (GLP/PEL), took two and one seat each.

The newly elected parliament held its first session on 3 December. The National Council elected Mr. André Bugnon (SVP/UDC) as its new Speaker, while the Council of States elected Mr. Christoffel Brändli (SVP/UDC) as its

new President.

On 12 December, the parliament elected the seven members of the Federal Council (government) for a four-year term. Since 1959, the Federal Council has comprised representatives of the four major parties: the SVP/UDC, the PS/SP, the FDP/PRD and the CVP/PDC. In a surprise move, the most influential SVP/UDC member, Mr. Christoph Blocher, was not re-elected, the Parliament having chosen a woman SVP/UDC member over him. Following that decision, the SVP/UDC declared itself on the opposition and expelled its two representatives in the government from the SVP/UDC parliamentary group. The two members, however, still sit on the Federal Council as SVP/UDC members.

Note:

The following half-cantons had elected their representatives prior to the general elections.

Zoug: Two male representatives (one each from the CVP/PDC and the FDP/PRD) elected on 29 October 2006.

Appenzell Rhodes-Int: one male representative (CVP/PDC) elected on 29 April 2007 through "Landsgemeinde" (cantonal assembly of citizens).

Nidwald: one male representative (CVP/PDC) elected tacitly on 4 September 2007.

Obwald: one male representative (FDP/PRD) elected tacitly on 24 September 2007.

The representatives from Zoug and Appenzell Rhodes-Int had been sworn in before the 2007 general elections.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	4,915,563	
Voters	2,373,071	48.28 %
Blank or invalid ballot papers	42,688	
Valid votes	2,330,383	

► **Distribution of seats according to political group**

	Votes	% votes	Seats	Number of women
Swiss People's Party (SVP/UDC)	666,318	28.59	62	8
Socialist Party (SP/PS)	450,116	19.32	43	18
Christian-Democratic People's Party (CVP/PDC)	332,920	14.29	31	12
Radical-Democratic Party (FDP/PRD)	361,103	15.50	31	6
Green Party (GPS/PES)	220,785	9.47	20	10
Liberal Party (LPS/PLS)	42,356	1.82	4	2
Zurich Liberal Green Party (GLP/PEL)	49,314	2.12	3	2
Evangelical People's Party (EVP/PEP)	56,361	2.42	2	0
Christian Social Party (PCS/CSP)	9,985	0.43	1	0
Federal Democratic Union (EDU/UDF)	29,548	1.27	1	0
Labour Party (PdA/PST)	16,649	0.71	1	1
Ticino League (Lega)	13,031	0.56	1	0
Total			200	59

► **Distribution of seats according to sex**

Men	141	
Women	59	29.50 %
Total	200	

► **Distribution of seats according to profession**

	Seats
Entrepreneurs	33
Legal professions	30
Professions related to political activities	24
Farmers/agricultural workers (including wine growers)	24
Civil/public servants/administrators (including social/development workers)	19
Educators	16
Business/trade/industry employees, including executives	11
Consultants (including real estate agents)	7
Medical professions (doctors, dentists, nurses)	6
Engineers/PC experts	5
Military/police officers	3
Scientists and researchers	3
Media-related professions (journalists/publishers)	2
Liberal professions (including artists, authors) and sports professionals	2
Others	3
Unknown	12
Total	200

► **Distribution of seats according to age**

21 to 30 years	6
31 to 40 years	17
41 to 50 years	54
51 to 60 years	90
61 to 70 years	31
Over 70 years	2
Total	200

SWITZERLAND

Council of States

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Bundesversammlung - Assemblée fédérale - Assemblea federale / Federal Assembly
Structure of Parliament	Bicameral
Chamber	Ständerat - Conseil des Etats - Consiglio degli Stati / Council of States
Number of members	46 directly elected
Term of House	4 years
Date of elections	21 October - 25 November 2007

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all the seats in the Council of States on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

- ▶ **Constituencies**
 - 20 multi-member (2 seats) constituencies representing the cantons
 - 6 single-member constituencies representing half-cantons

- ▶ **Voting system: Majority**

Cantonal law governs election to the Council of States. Members are generally chosen by simple majority vote.

By-elections are generally held to fill vacancies arising between general elections.

Voting is compulsory in a small number of cantons, where those abstaining without a justifiable reason are subject to a small fine.

- ▶ **Voter requirements**

(governed by cantonal law)

- ▶ **Eligibility**

(governed by cantonal law)

- ▶ **Incompatibilities**
 - Members of the Federal Council
 - Federal judges

- Federal civil servants
- High-ranking army officials

- ▶ **Candidacy requirements**
(governed by cantonal law)

Background and Outcome of the Elections

On 21 October 2007, elections were held for all 200 seats in the National Council and 41 of the 46 seats in the Council of States (see note).

In the previous elections held in 2003, the right-wing Swiss People's Party (SVP/UDC), personified by the charismatic billionaire Mr. Christoph Blocher, had come in first with 55 seats in the National Council, followed by the Socialist Party (SP/PS) with 52 seats. The Radical-Democratic Party (FDP/PRD), the Christian-Democratic People's Party (CVP/PDC), and the Green Party (GPS/PES) had won 36, 28, and 13 seats respectively. The remainder had gone to small parties. These main parties, except for the GPS/PES, also gained seats in the Council of States. The CVP/PDC had come in first with 15 seats, followed by the FDP/PRD with 14 seats. The SP/PS and the SVP/UDC had taken nine and eight seats respectively.

In 2007, 3,089 candidates, including 1,088 women (up from 993 in the last elections in 2003), contested the elections to the National Council, while 130 candidates, including 32 women (up from 26), ran for the Council of States.

The SVP/UDC has campaigned on its traditional platform of cutting taxes, keeping Switzerland out of the European Union and addressing the issue of exploitation of the country's social and asylum policies. One of its posters showed a black sheep being kicked out of Switzerland by three white sheep.

Other parties also put forward their traditional election platforms, with the Socialists (SP/PS) calling for social security and solidarity, the Radical Democrats (FDP/PRD) urging further economic growth based on creativity and efficiency and the Christian Democrats (CVP/PDC) pledging to boost job opportunities. The Greens (GPS/PES) campaigned for combating climate change, calling for a ban on air shows in the country and the introduction of a jet fuel surcharge. Due to a series of national disasters that have hit the country in recent years, environmental issues reportedly attracted the attention of many citizens.

In all, 48.28 per cent of the country's 4.9 million eligible voters turned out at

the polls, marking the highest turnout figure since 1983.

In the elections to the National Council, the SVP/UDC and the GPS/PES made the biggest gains (seven seats each), bringing their total number of seats to 62 and 20 respectively. The SVP/UDC obtained the largest share of seats in this chamber since the country's proportional voting system was introduced in 1919. The CVP/PDC also added three seats to its tally, winning 31 in all. For its part, the SP/PS, which took 43 seats, suffered a major defeat, losing nine. The FDP/PRD also lost five, winning 31 seats. The remaining seats went to small parties. In all, 59 women were elected to the National Council. A 45-year-old lawyer, Mr. Ricardo Lumengo, of Angolan origin (Socialist Party), was elected to the National Council, becoming the first black person to win representation in the Swiss Parliament.

In the first round of the elections to the Council of States, 29 members (including six women) were elected. The CVP/PDC came in first ever with eight seats, followed by the FDP/PRD and the SVP/UDC with seven seats each. The SP/PS took six seats. The GPS/PES won its first seat in this chamber.

The final results gave the CVP/PDC 12 seats, followed by the FDP/PRD with 10. The SP/PS and the SVP/UDC took nine and seven seats respectively. The GPS/PES and another Green party, the Zurich Liberal Green Party (GLP/PEL), took two and one seat each.

The newly elected parliament held its first session on 3 December. The National Council elected Mr. André Bugnon (SVP/UDC) as its new Speaker, while the Council of States elected Mr. Christoffel Brändli (SVP/UDC) as its new President.

On 12 December, the parliament elected the seven members of the Federal Council (government) for a four-year term. Since 1959, the Federal Council has comprised representatives of the four major parties: the SVP/UDC, the PS/SP, the FDP/PRD and the CVP/PDC. In a surprise move, the most influential SVP/UDC member, Mr. Christoph Blocher, was not re-elected, the Parliament having chosen a woman SVP/UDC member over him. Following that decision, the SVP/UDC declared itself on the opposition and expelled its two representatives in the government from the SVP/UDC parliamentary group. The two members, however, still sit on the Federal Council as SVP/UDC members.

Note:

The following half-cantons had elected their representatives prior to the general elections.

Zoug: Two male representatives (one each from the CVP/PDC and the FDP/PRD) elected on 29 October 2006.

Appenzell Rhodes-Int: one male representative (CVP/PDC) elected on 29 April 2007 through "Landsgemeinde" (cantonal assembly of citizens).

Nidwald: one male representative (CVP/PDC) elected tacitly on 4 September 2007.

Obwald: one male representative (FDP/PRD) elected tacitly on 24 September 2007.

The representatives from Zoug and Appenzell Rhodes-Int had been sworn in before the 2007 general elections.

Election results and statistics

► Distribution of seats according to political group (Round 1)

	Seats
Christian-Democratic People's Party (CVP/PDC)	9
Radical-Democratic Party (FDP/PRD)	7
Socialist Party (SP/PS)	7
Swiss People's Party (SVP/UDC)	7
Green Party (GPS/PES)	1
Zurich Liberal Green Party (GLP/PEL)	0
Total	31

► **Distribution of seats according to political group (Round 2)**

	Seats	Total 1st & 2nd	Others	Grand total	Number of women
Christian-Democratic People's Party (CVP/PDC)	3	12	3	15	1
Radical-Democratic Party (FDP/PRD)	3	10	2	12	3
Socialist Party (SP/PS)	2	9	0	9	5
Green Party (GPS/PES)	1	2	0	2	0
Zurich Liberal Green Party (GLP/PEL)	1	1	0	1	1
Swiss People's Party (SVP/UDC)	0	7	0	7	0
Total	10	41	5	46	10

Note on the "Distribution of Seats (Council of States)"

"Others" refer to the five seats in the Council of States which were decided prior to the general election date:

Election results for the second rounds

Neuchâtel (two seats): SP/PS 1, FDP/PRD 1

Tessin (two seats): FDP/PRD 1, CVP/PDC 1

Vaud (two seats): SP/PS 1, GPS/PES 1

Lucerne (one seat): CVP/PDC 1

Saint-Gall (two Seats): CVP/PDC 1, FDP/PRD 1

Zurich (one seat): GLP/PEL 1

► **Distribution of seats according to sex**

Men	36	
Women	10	21.74 %
Total	46	

► **Distribution of seats according to profession**

	Seats
Legal professions	15
Professions related to political activities	7
Entrepreneurs	4
Consultants (including real estate agents)	4
Educators	3
Civil/public servants/administrators (including social/development workers)	2
Media-related professions (journalists/publishers)	2
Farmers/agricultural workers (including wine growers)	1
Medical professions (doctors, dentists, nurses)	1
Business/trade/industry employees, including executives	1
Bankers (including invest bankers)/accountants	1
Unknown	5
Total	46

► **Distribution of seats according to age**

31 to 40 years	2
41 to 50 years	6
51 to 60 years	24
61 to 70 years	14
Total	46

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

People's Assembly

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Majlis Al-Chaab / People's Assembly
Structure of Parliament	Unicameral
Number of members	250 directly elected
Term of House	4 years
Date of elections	22 April 2007

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all the seats in the People's Assembly on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

15 multi-member constituencies corresponding to administrative districts.

▶ **Voting system: Majority**

Direct election, simple majority vote with preferential system.

Voters select one list from among a series of lists of parliamentary candidates. Two-thirds of the candidates on each list are from the NPF, which itself is guaranteed 131 seats.

51% of the Deputies must be workers and farmers. The other 80 seats are allocated to independent candidates.

Vacancies arising between general elections are filled through by-elections held within 90 days after the vacancy arises (except for vacancies arising less than six months before the expiration of the mandate).

Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years

- Syrian citizenship

- disqualifications: insanity, allegiance to a foreign State, conviction of specific crimes, members of the armed and police forces

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified voters

- age: 25 years
- Syrian citizenship
- literacy

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- members of the armed forces
- civil servants
- government commissioners and police officers can be elected in another constituency than the one where working (after obtaining an authorization)

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- candidates may run independently or with the support of a political party

Background and Outcome of the Elections

The 22 April 2007 elections were the second to be held since President Bashar Assad assumed power in July 2000 following his father's death a month earlier. President Assad pledged to modernize the country's economy. The Baath Party, which he heads, has ruled Syria under a state of emergency since it seized power in 1963.

Of the 250 seats, a little over two-thirds (170 seats) are reserved for the ruling National Progressive Front (NPF) coalition, led by the Baath Party.

Opposition parties are officially banned, although some of them remain active. Six banned parties operating under the umbrella National Democratic Rally (NDR) called for a boycott of the elections, saying that it was pointless to take part in an election whose results were known in advance. Candidates therefore ran under the banner of the ruling NPF or as independents.

Some 9,770 candidates, including 1,004 women, contested the 2007 elections. Many candidates pledged to provide economic prosperity. According to official statistics, the country enjoyed a growth rate of 5.1 per cent in 2006 and reduced its external debt from US\$ 24 billion in 2005 to under five billion in 2006.

Several anti-fraud measures were implemented for the first time. They included transparent ballot boxes and indelible ink to prevent multiple voting.

According to the official results, approximately 56 per cent of the 7.8 million registered voters turned out at the polls. A total of 11,967,611 citizens were eligible to vote. However, many overseas Syrians did not obtain voter cards, bringing the number of the registered voters down to 7,805,994. Opposition figures and human right activists insisted that turnout was as low as 10 per cent, in view of many deserted polling stations.

After the polls, street protests condemning vote rigging turned into violent incidents in northern Syria. Following the army's intervention, five people were reportedly seriously injured.

The final results gave the ruling NPF 172 seats. The remainder went to independent candidates.

On 7 May, the newly elected People's Assembly held its inaugural session and re-elected unopposed Mr. Mahmud Abrash as its Speaker with 243 votes.

On 11 May, the People's Assembly unanimously nominated Mr. Bashar Assad as the president of the country for a new seven-year term starting on 17 July 2007. The public referendum of 27 May approved this nomination by over 97 per cent of the votes.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	7,805,994
Voters	56.00 %

▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

	Seats
National Progressive Front (NPF)	172
Independents	78
Total	250

▶ Distribution of seats according to sex

Men	219	
Women	31	12.40 %
Total	250	

▶ **Distribution of seats according to profession**

	Seats
Legal professions	48
Civil/public servants/administrators (including social/development workers)	45
Educators	36
Engineers/PC experts	28
Farmers/agricultural workers (including wine growers)	27
Economists	20
Medical professions (doctors, dentists, nurses)	19
Architects	6
Military/police officers	5
Media-related professions (journalists/publishers)	5
Bankers (including invest bankers)/accountants	2
Liberal professions (including artists, authors) and sports professionals	1
Others	8
Total	250

▶ **Distribution of seats according to age**

21 to 30 years	29
31 to 40 years	83
41 to 50 years	81
51 to 60 years	46
61 to 70 years	11
Total	250

THAILAND

House of Representatives

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Rathasapha / National Assembly
Structure of Parliament	Bicameral
Chamber	Saphaphuthan Ratsadon / House of Representatives
Number of members	480 directly elected
Term of House	4 years
Date of elections	23 December 2007

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all the seats in the House of Representatives.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

Majority system (400 seats):

- 153 multi-member constituencies (from two to three seats each)
- 4 single member constituencies

*The number of representatives per changwat (province) is calculated on the basis of the ratio of the changwat's population to the national population (1 member for every 157,071 inhabitants in the 2007 elections).

Proportional representation system (80 seats):

- 8 constituencies (10 seats each) using clusters of provinces

▶ **Voting system: Mixed**

Mixed system:

Majority system for the constituency-based voting (for 400 seats)

Each voter casts as many votes as there are members to be elected from each constituency. The candidate/s with the most votes is/are elected.

Representatives elected from a constituency and appointed to ministerial posts must vacate their seats within 30 days of their appointment. They or the party they represent are in charge of the by election in that constituency.

Proportional representation (closed party-list system for 80 seats)

Voters are allowed to vote for only one party list. The party lists are submitted to the Election Commission before the deadline for

submission of candidacies to the constituency based elections. The total valid votes won are divided by 10 to determine the number of votes needed for each candidate to be elected (quotient). The number of party list representatives that each party may appoint is calculated by dividing the total valid votes that each party obtained by the quotient. If fewer than 10 representatives are elected by this method, the parties having the most remaining votes share the remaining seats.

Party-list representatives who are appointed to ministerial posts must vacate their seats within 30 days of their appointment, and the next name on the relevant party list is appointed as a representative without a by election.

Voting is compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: at least 18 years old on 1 January of the year of the election
- Thai nationality, including naturalized citizens, on condition that they had acquired the nationality at least five years before 1 January of the year of the election
- Residence in the changwat at least 90 days prior to election day
- disqualifications: insanity, mental infirmity, Buddhist priests, monks or clergy, detention under a court issued warrant or legal order, deprivation of the right to vote by court decision

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified voters
- age: at least 25 years old on election day
- Thai nationality by birth
- members of any and only one political party for a consecutive period of not less than ninety days prior to the submission of candidacy (thirty days of membership suffice if the general election is called on account of early dissolution of the House of Representatives)
- persons satisfying one of the following conditions:
 - (a) residence in the changwat for at least five consecutive years prior to the candidacy application
 - (b) persons born in the changwat where they are standing for election
 - (c) persons having studied in an educational institution situated in the changwat where they are standing for election for a consecutive period of not less than five academic years
 - (d) persons having served in the official service of the changwat where they are standing for election for at least five consecutive years prior to

the submission of their candidacy

Ineligibilities:

- government officials holding a permanent position or receiving a salary, except political officials
- members of a local assembly or a local administrator
- senators and former senators who have been out of office for less than two years
- officials or employees of a government agency, State agency or State enterprise or other State officials
- judges of the Constitutional Court, Election Commissioners, Ombudsmen, members of the State Audit Commission or members of the National Human Rights Commission
- undischarged bankrupts, persons addicted to harmful drugs, detained persons under sentence or order of imprisonment, imprisonment of two years or more (except for an offence committed through negligence) discharged less than five years before the election day concerned, deaf and dumb persons

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- national or local government officials (excluding political officials) holding a permanent salaried position
- officials in the employ of a State agency or enterprise
- membership of a local assembly
- persons receiving a concession or benefit from a government agency
- government contractors

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- nomination by a political party
- payment of a deposit of 10,000 baht per candidate

Background and Outcome of the Elections

The December 2007 elections were the first to be held following a military takeover in September 2006 which ousted the then Prime Minister, Shinawatra Thaksin. His Thai Love Thai (Thai Rak Thai, TRT) party had won 377 seats in the 500-member House of Representatives in the February 2005 elections. However, his second term as prime minister lasted only one year.

Following accusations of corruption and abuse of power against Mr. Thaksin, he dissolved the House of Representatives on 24 February 2006 and called early elections for 2 April. The elections were boycotted by the major

opposition parties and invalidated by the Constitutional Tribunal on 8 May. New elections were subsequently scheduled for October 2006. As a result of the September takeover, these elections could not take place and the King appointed an interim legislative body, the National Legislative Assembly on 12 October 2006.

The adoption of a new Constitution on 19 August 2007 opened the way for a return to democracy. At stake in the 2007 elections were the 480 seats in the new House of Representatives.

The TRT had been dissolved by the Constitutional Tribunal in May 2006, and exiled former prime minister Thaksin was barred from running in the 2007 elections, along with 111 former TRT executives. Mr. Thaksin's supporters formed the People's Power Party (PPP) prior to the elections. Its candidates included children of barred former TRT members. The PPP leader Mr. Samak Sundaravej pledged to allow Mr. Thaksin's return to the country so he could "prove his innocence". The PPP promised to give priority to economic recovery.

The Democratic Party (DP, which had taken 96 seats in the 2005 elections), was led by Mr. Abhisit Vejjajiva. It pledged to fight corruption and improve the country's economic situation within 99 days. Its leader said his party would not join a PPP-led government. Other contenders included the Chartthai Party (meaning "Thai Nation" - CPT), led by Mr. Banharn Silpa-Archa and the Puea Pandin Party (meaning "For the Motherland" - PP) of Mr. Suwit Khunkitti. Former members of the TRT also contested the elections in other small parties.

Most political parties promised to tackle corruption, provide better health care, education and infrastructure, and at the same time improve the economy. Local analysts predicted none of the main parties would win an outright majority, and that the PPP would become the largest party.

On 23 December, 74.45 per cent of the 44 million registered voters turned out at the poll.

The PPP fared well in rural areas in the northern part of the country where the TRT had its stronghold, while the DP led in the capital Bangkok and in southern Thailand.

Preliminary results gave the PPP 233 seats and the DP 165 seats, although the

results for several seats were invalidated following allegations of vote-buying.

Following the elections 5 parties, namely - the Ruam Jai Thai Chart Pattana Party, the Matchimathipataya Party and the Pracharaj Party, the CTP and the PP - agreed to participate in a PPP-led government. On 19 January 2008, the PPP leader, Mr. Sundaravej, officially announced a six-party coalition controlling 315 of the 480 seats, leaving the Democrat Party as the sole opposition party in the new House of Representatives.

The House of Representatives held its first session on 21 January. On the following day, it elected the PPP deputy leader, Mr. Yongyuth Tiyapairat, as its new Speaker.

On 28 January, the House of Representatives elected the PPP leader, Samak Sundaravej, as the new Prime Minister.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	44,002,593	
Voters	32,759,009	74.45 %

▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

	Constituencies	PR	Seats
People Power Party (PPP)	199	34	233
Democratic Party (DP)	131	33	164
Chartthai Party (CTP)	30	4	34
Puea Pandin Party (PP)	17	7	24
Matchimathipataya Party (MCM)	11	0	11
Ruam Jai Thai Chart Pattana Party (RC)	8	1	9
Pracharaj Party (PRP)	4	1	5
Total	400	80	480

▶ Distribution of seats according to sex

Men	424	
Women	56	11.74 %
Total	480	

► **Distribution of seats according to profession**

	Seats
Politicians	190
Business/trade/industry employees, including executives	126
Civil/public servants/administrators (including social/development workers)	50
Legal professions	24
Farmers/agricultural workers (including wine growers)	15
Salaried employees	14
Medical professions (doctors, dentists, nurses)	10
Educators	7
Self-employed	6
Consultants (including real estate agents)	5
Others	14
Unknown	19
Total	480

► **Distribution of seats according to age**

21 to 30 years	16
31 to 40 years	63
41 to 50 years	185
51 to 60 years	140
61 to 70 years	59
Over 70 years	17
Total	480

TIMOR-LESTE

National Parliament

Parliament name (generic / translated)	National Parliament /
Structure of Parliament	Unicameral
Number of members	65 directly elected
Term of House	5 years
Date of elections	30 June 2007

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all the seats in the National Parliament.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

- one nation-wide constituency

▶ **Voting system: Proportional**

Proportional representation system (party list systems)

Each voter selects one list from among the plurinomial lists presented by political parties or party coalitions. Each list must contain the names of 65 candidates and no fewer than 25 alternate candidates. To qualify, it must include at least one woman for every group of four candidates.

Seats are allocated according to the highest average system, using the d'Hondt method. Parties and coalitions obtaining less than 3 per cent of the total votes are not entitled to a seat. Members of parliament who are elected to the National Parliament on one list and who switch to another party/coalition after their election forfeit their seats.

Vacancies arising between general elections are filled by the "next-in-line" candidate of the same party/coalition. Seats vacated by women must be filled by the next woman candidate on the respective list. The seat remains vacant if there are no more unelected candidates or alternate candidates on the list to which the holder of the vacant seat belonged.

Voting is not compulsory, but voter registration is.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- citizenship of Timor-Leste
- age: at least 17 years old

Disqualifications:

- persons disenfranchised by sentence handed down by a court of law;

- persons clearly and publicly known to be mentally ill even if they have not been disenfranchised by a court of law.

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified voters
- citizenship of Timor-Leste
- age: at least 17 years old

Ineligibilities:

- the President of the Republic
- magistrates or public prosecutors in service
- serving career diplomats
- civil servants in service
- members of the Timor-Leste defence force in service
- members of the police in service
- ministers of any religion or cult
- members of the national electoral commission

▶ **Incompatibilities**

The offices of President of the Republic, Speaker of the National Parliament, President of the Supreme Court of Justice, President of the High Administrative, Tax and Audit Court, Prosecutor-General and member of Government may not be held by the same person/persons.

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- Candidacies must be presented by duly registered political parties on party or coalition lists (the coalition must also be duly registered). The lists may include citizens not belonging to the respective parties or coalitions.
- No political party or party coalition may present more than one list of candidates.
- No one can be a candidate on more than one list.

Background and Outcome of the Elections

The first parliamentary elections to be held since Timor-Leste became an independent State in 2002 took place on 30 June 2007.

The parliamentary elections were preceded by presidential elections in May 2007, in which Mr. José Ramos-Horta defeated the FRETILIN candidate, Mr. Francisco Guterres "Lu Olo", outgoing Speaker of the National Parliament. Mr. Ramos-Horta succeeded Mr. Xanana Gusmão, the charismatic leader who had led the independence movement under the

National Council of Timorese Resistance.

Both elections took place against a backdrop of the unrest that had rocked the country in 2006, following the government's dismissal of 600 soldiers from the army. The ensuing rioting had left 37 people dead and had led to the resignation of Prime Minister Mari Alkatiri. He was succeeded by Mr. Ramos-Horta.

A total of 14 parties contested the parliamentary elections. The principal actors were the FRETILIN and the National Congress for the Reconstruction of Timor-Leste (CNRT), which was founded in March 2007 by the then President Gusmão. The FRETILIN pledged to provide better infrastructure and to deal with youth unemployment. Meanwhile, the CNRT criticized FRETILIN's incompetence and corruption. It claimed that it wanted to liberate the people following the liberation of the country.

Other major parties contesting the elections included the Democratic Party, led by Mr. Fernando Lasama de Araújo, who had come in third in the first round of the 2007 presidential elections, and the Coalition of the Timorese Social-Democratic Association of Timor - Social Democratic Party (ASDT-PSD). Most parties said that they would not join a FRETILIN-led coalition, though the newly elected President Ramos-Horta said all parties should join the new government to ensure its sustainability.

A total of 80.54 per cent of the 0.5 million registered voters turned out at the polls.

Approximately 500 international observers monitored the polls alongside 2,250 national observers. The European Union observer mission praised the election as being generally free and fair.

No party won an absolute majority. FRETILIN retained its position as the largest parliamentary party with 21 seats, followed by the CNRT with 18. In all, 18 women were elected.

The newly elected National Parliament held its first session on 30 July, and elected Mr. Fernando Lasama de Araújo of the Democratic Party as its new Speaker.

Following a political stalemate to form a new government, President Ramos-Horta invoked his constitutional right to appoint the Prime

Minister and appointed Mr. Gusmão as Prime Minister. He was officially sworn in on 8 August. His new government comprises the CNRT, the ASDT-PSD and the Democratic Party, controlling a total of 37 seats in the 65-member National Parliament. The new government was officially sworn in on 9 August.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	529,198	
Voters	426,210	80.54 %
Blank or invalid ballot papers	10,606	
Valid votes	415,604	

▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

	Votes	% votes	Seats	Number of women
Revolutionary Front for an independent East Timor (FRETILIN)	120,592	29.02	21	5
National Congress for the Reconstruction of Timor-Leste (CNRT)	100,175	24.10	18	6
Coalition of Social-democratic association of Timor and Social Democrat Party (ASDT- PSD)	65,358	15.73	11	4
Democratic Party (PD)	46,946	11.30	8	2
National Unity Party (PUN)	18,896	4.55	3	1
Democratic Alliance of Association of Timorese Heroes and Popular Party of Timor (AD KOTA - PPT)	13,294	3.20	2	0
National Democratic Unity of Timorese Resistance (UNDERTIM)	13,247	3.19	2	0
Total			65	18

▶ Distribution of seats according to sex

Men	47	
Women	18	27.69 %
Total	65	

TOGO

National Assembly

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Assemblée nationale / National Assembly
Structure of Parliament	Unicameral
Number of members	81 directly elected
Term of House	5 years
Date of elections	14 October 2007

Timing and scope of renewal

General elections were held for all the seats in the National Assembly following the premature dissolution of this body on 30 August 2007. Elections had previously taken place on 27 October 2002.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

- 1 constituency for each of the country's 30 prefectures
- 5 constituencies for the capital, Lome

▶ **Voting system: Proportional**

Closed party-list system

Each political party submits a list comprising twice as many candidates as there are seats to be filled in the constituency concerned. Seats are allocated according to the quotient obtained by the Highest Average System. There is no threshold to win a seat.

Substitutes elected at the same time as titular members fill any vacancies which arise between general elections.

Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years
- Togolese citizenship
- full possession of civil and political rights
- disqualifications: criminal conviction, imprisonment of more than six months for certain offences, refusal to appear in court despite having been ordered to do so, persons under guardianship, undischarged bankruptcy

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified voters
- age: 25 years
- Togolese citizenship
- ability to read and write French
- residence in the country for at least six months prior to the elections
- ineligibility: members of the military, certain civil servants with a special status

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- all other public functions (except that of staff of higher education institutions)
- service under a foreign State or international organization
- head of a private or public corporation

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- candidatures must be submitted to the Ministry in charge of Territorial Administration at the latest 30 days prior to the date of the first round of voting
- deposit of CFA 100,000 (US\$ 240), reimbursed if candidate wins at least 5 per cent of the votes cast in the constituency

Background and Outcome of the Elections

The 2007 parliamentary elections were the first to be held under President Faure Essozimna Gnassingbé, whose father, Gnassingbé Eyadema, had ruled the country from 1967 until his death in February 2005. Upon the latter's death, the military had declared his son as the new President, but international pressure forced the country to organize presidential elections in April 2005, in which Mr. Gnassingbe was officially elected as the new Head of State. Supporters of the main opposition candidate, Mr. Emmanuel Bob Akitani (of the Union of Forces for Change - UFC), took to the streets in protest, which turned into riots. The post-election violence led thousands of citizens to flee the country.

In August 2006, a power-sharing deal was reached that set up a transitional national unity government and an independent electoral commission. In September, Mr. Yaovi Agboyibo, leader of the opposition Action Committee for Renewal (CAR), became Prime Minister. The UFC did not join the government.

The 2007 elections, which were originally scheduled for 24 June, were

delayed twice due to disputes over the issuing of voters' cards, and were finally held on 14 October. Organizing free and fair elections was seen as an important step in re-establishing Togo's relationship with donors, including the European Union (EU), which had suspended its aid in 1993 due to governance concerns.

In all 2,122 candidates and 395 parties contested the 2007 elections. For the first time in nearly two decades, no opposition party boycotted the elections.

The main parties were the ruling Togolese People's Rally (RPT), which had taken 72 of the 81 seats in the previous elections held in October 2002 and the UFC, which had not participated in the 2002 elections.

The RPT pledged to rebuild the country through reconciliation policies implemented under President Gnassingbé. The UFC, led by Mr. Gilchrist Olympio, promised to end dictatorship and to alleviate poverty, which affects 80 per cent of the country's population. Prime Minister Agboyibo's CAR presented 10 priority projects aimed at modernizing the country. The party called for voters' support to make 2007 the year of Togo's accession to democracy.

A total of 84.92 per cent of the nearly 3 million registered voters turned out at the polls. No violent incident was reported on polling day.

Over 3,500 observers, including those from the EU and African Union (AU), monitored the polls. The international observers said they were satisfied with the well-organized and transparent elections with the EU observers praising the massive turnout.

The announcement of the final results was delayed due to a recount in the capital, Lomé, which gave the UFC four more seats. The UFC won a total of 27 seats, and the ruling RPT remained the largest party in the National Assembly with 50 seats, losing 22. The remaining 4 seats went to the CAR. In all, seven women were elected.

The newly elected National Assembly held its first session on 13 November. On 25 November it re-elected Mr. El Hadj Abass Bonfoh (RPT) as its Speaker.

Election results and statistics**▶ Voter turnout**

Number of registered electors	2,974,718	
Voters	2,526,049	84.92 %
Blank or invalid ballot papers	181,941	
Valid votes	2,344,108	

▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

	Seats
Togolese People's Rally (RPT)	50
Union of Forces for Change (UFC)	27
Action Committee for Renewal (CAR)	4
Total	81

▶ Distribution of seats according to sex

Men	74	
Women	7	8.64 %
Total	81	

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

House of Representatives

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Parliament / -
Structure of Parliament	Bicameral
Chamber	House of Representatives
Number of members	41 directly elected
Term of House	5 years
Date of elections	5 November 2007

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all the seats in the House of Representatives on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

- ▶ **Constituencies**
 - 36 single-member constituencies

- ▶ **Voting system: Majority**
 - Single-member plurality systems ("first past the post")
 - Vacancies arising within the first four years of Parliament's term are filled through by-elections held within 90 days.
 - Voting is not compulsory.

- ▶ **Voter requirements**
 - age: 18 years
 - Trinidad and Tobago citizens
 - residence in country for at least one year and in home district and for at least two months prior to poll
 - disqualifications: insanity, electoral offence, sentence of death or imprisonment exceeding 12 months

- ▶ **Eligibility**
 - age: 18 years
 - Trinidad and Tobago citizenship
 - residence in country for at least two years immediately before nomination or on election date
 - ineligibility: allegiance to a foreign State, undischarged bankruptcy, insanity, sentence of death or imprisonment exceeding 12 months, conviction for election-connected offence

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- certain public offices and posts connected with administration of elections
- the Speaker or Deputy Speaker of the House may not be a Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- nomination by six or more registered electors of the constituency (district)
- deposit of TT\$ 5000.00, which is reimbursed if the candidate polls at least one-eighth of the vote in his district

Background and Outcome of the Elections

On 28 September 2007, Prime Minister Patrick Manning called elections to the House of Representatives for 5 November. The House was dissolved on the same day, along with the Senate (see note).

The 2007 elections followed a heated debate on constitutional reforms proposed by the Prime Minister's People's National Movement (PNM). The opposition United National Congress-Alliance (UNC) argued that the proposals would give too much power to the prime minister.

Prime Minister Manning was seeking a second consecutive term in office. He pledged to lead the twin-island nation to a "developed status" by 2020. The country is known for its rich natural gas and other energy resources, which contributed to a 12% economic growth rate in 2006.

In the previous elections held in October 2002, the PNM had won 20 seats of the 36 seats at stake, while the UNC had taken the remainder. As a result of boundary changes the statutory number of members of the House was increased from 36 to 41 starting from the 2007 elections.

Voting in the country has largely taken place along ethnic lines. Support for the PNM is high among Trinidadians of African descent, who account for over 37 per cent of the population. The PNM has governed the country for all but 11 years since the party's inception in 1956. Mr. Manning called on voters to give him another mandate to continue his economic and social policies. He promised to "bring government closer to the people".

The UNC has strong backing among the 40 per cent of the population of Indian origin. In the 2007 elections, it was co-led by former prime minister,

Mr. Basdeo Panday, and Mr. Jack Warner, Vice-President of the International Football Federation (FIFA). 74-year old Mr. Panday had lost his seat in the outgoing legislature after failing to declare a bank account that he and his wife held in London. He hinted at his retirement after the 2007 elections, and urged his supporters to give him a "last hurrah" in his "long war" in politics over the past 40 years.

In addition to the PNM and the UNC, the Congress of the People (COP), a breakaway party from the UNC, contested the elections. Formed in August 2006, it was led by former Central Bank governor Mr. Winston Dookeran. He pledged to bring about "new politics", independent of ethnic considerations. The COP called for a change in the electoral system from the current first-past-the-post system to proportional representation, arguing that such a move would ensure better representation in parliament. Mr. Dookeran rejected Mr. Panday's call to form an electoral alliance between the COP and the UNC.

Over 130 candidates, including 33 women, contested the 2007 elections. Both the PNM and the COP fielded candidates in all 41 constituencies, while the UNC endorsed 39 candidates.

In October, some pre-election violence was reported. One UNC activist was shot dead and one COP candidate was hospitalized after being severely beaten. Prime Minister Manning condemned the violence.

A record 993,052 people registered to vote, up from 875,260 in the 2002 elections. Around 66 per cent turned out at the polls.

The voting went off in relative peace. The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) was the only organization to send foreign observers. It declared that the elections were "free and fair".

The PNM won 26 of the 41 seats at stake, just short of the two-thirds majority required to revise the constitution. The UNC took the remainder of the seats. Its co-leader Mr. Panday regained his seat. The COP failed to win a seat, although it took over 22 per cent of the vote.

On 7 November, Mr. Manning took the oath of office and formed a new government that included 11 women, making it the second ever government made up mostly of women. On the following day, ministers were sworn in alongside new senators.

On 13 November, Prime Minister Manning appointed Mr. Danny Montano as Senate President.

On 17 December 2007, the newly elected members of the House of Representatives were sworn in. The House re-elected Mr. Barendra Sinanan as its Speaker.

Note

16 senators are nominated by the largest party in the House of Representatives while six others are nominated by the opposition party. The President may nominate nine independent senators.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	993,052
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▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

	Candi- dates	Votes	% votes	Seats	Number of women
People's National Movement (PNM)	41	299,813	45.85	26	9
United National Congress (UNC)	39	194,425	29.73	15	2
Total				41	11

▶ Distribution of seats according to sex

Men	30
Women	11 26.83 %
Total	41

TURKEY

Grand National Assembly of Turkey

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Türkiye Büyük Millet Meclisi (T.B.M.M) / Grand National Assembly of Turkey
Structure of Parliament	Unicameral
Number of members	550 directly elected
Term of House	5 years
Date of elections	22 July 2007

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all the seats in the Grand National Assembly of Turkey. They were held four months before they would have been due. General elections had previously been taken place in November 2002.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

79 multi-member constituencies corresponding to the country's provinces.

▶ **Voting system: Proportional**

Party-list proportional representation system using the d'Hondt method, with restricted options and a double barrier (at the local and national level). Accordingly, a candidate from a political party can only be elected if the party (a) is fully organized in at least half of the provinces and one- third of the districts within these provinces; (b) has nominated two candidates for each parliamentary seat in at least half of the provinces; (c) has obtained at least 10% of the valid votes cast nationwide; and (d) has received, in the constituency in question, valid votes at least equal to the applicable simple electoral quotient.

Subject to certain conditions and exceptions, vacancies arising between general elections are filled through by-elections.

Voting is compulsory, abstention being punishable by a fine.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years

- Turkish citizenship

- disqualifications: criminal conviction, insanity, allegiance to a foreign State

▶ Eligibility

- qualified voters
- age: 30 years
- Turkish citizenship
- completion of compulsory military service (for men)
- ineligibility: bankruptcy, conviction of certain crimes listed in the Constitution, imprisonment for at least one year

▶ Incompatibilities

- judges
- prosecutors
- members of high courts
- university professors
- members of the Higher Educational Council
- certain public officials
- civil servants or public employees
- members of the armed forces

▶ Candidacy requirements

- nomination by parties or independent candidatures
- support of a given number of electors (which varies according to the population of the constituency)
- non-reimbursable monetary deposit equivalent to US\$ 30,000

Background and Outcome of the Elections

The July 2007 elections were triggered when the Justice and Development Party (AKP) of Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan nominated Foreign Minister Mr. Abdullah Gül for the presidency of the country. The AKP, formed by members of a banned islamist party in 2001, had won a landslide victory in the previous elections held in November 2002, taking 361 of the 550 seats in parliament. The secular Republican People's Party (CHP, which took 179 seats in 2002), led by former foreign minister Mr. Deniz Baykal, vehemently rejected Mr. Gül's candidature. It subsequently boycotted parliament to prevent it from meeting the two-thirds quorum. Following a stalemate, both sides agreed to call early elections for 22 July, four months earlier than the constitutional due date.

A total of 14 parties and 7,395 candidates ran in the 2007 elections.

Prime Minister Erdogan's AKP pledged to work for national unity and respect the country's secular constitution. He called on voters' support for pursuing

the economic growth and the lower inflation rate achieved under his government and promised to continue efforts to accede to the European Union (EU).

The CHP accused the AKP of undermining the country's secular system. It presented a manifesto including anti-terrorist measures and education reform, although these issues were pushed into the background during the electoral campaign. The centre-left Democratic Left Party (DSP), led by Mr. Zeki Sezer, formed an electoral coalition with the CHP whereby DSP candidates ran under the CHP banner.

The right-wing Nationalist Action Party (MHP), led by Mr. Devlet Bahçeli, criticized the AKP's bid to join the EU. It accused the government of not being tough enough on Kurdish separatist groups and called for a military incursion into northern Iraq to fight these Kurdish groups reportedly based there. Prior to the 2002 elections, the MHP had been part of a DSP-led coalition government, but had failed to win any seats in 2002.

The pro-Kurdish Democratic Society Party (DTP), led by Mr. Ahmet Türk, backed a number of independent candidates. They included a lawyer who used to represent Mr. Abdullah Öcalan, the jailed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) leader; and a female inmate who campaigned from prison while awaiting trial on charges of separatism.

A total of 84.16 per cent of the country's 42.5 million registered voters turned out at the polls.

Prime Minister Erdoğan's AKP remained the largest party in parliament with 341 seats, but failed to secure the two-thirds majority needed to elect its presidential nominee. The CHP came in second with 112 seats, losing 67. The MHP returned to parliament with 71 seats. The 26 remaining seats went to independent candidates. In all, a record 50 women were elected, up from 24 in the previous elections held in 2002.

Following the elections, 13 members of the DSP decided to split from the CHP, thus reducing the number of CHP seats to 99. Twenty of the 26 independent candidates elected were sworn in as Democratic Society Party (DTP) members. The DTP returned to parliament for the first time since 1991, when its members were ousted after insisting on taking their parliamentary oath in Kurdish. The jailed candidate was released after her election, by virtue of the immunity granted to parliamentarians. Another independent

member formed the Freedom and Solidarity Party (ODP), while five others remained independent.

The newly elected members were sworn in on 4 August. On 9 August, Mr. Köksal Toptan (AKP) was elected as the new Speaker. On the following day, Ms. Güldal Mumcu (CHP) and Ms. Meral Aksener (MHP) were elected as Deputy Speakers, becoming the first women to hold these posts.

In the meantime, on 6 August, outgoing President Ahmet Necdet Sezer asked Mr. Erdogan to form a new government.

The AKP endorsed Mr. Abdullah Gül as its presidential candidate. In the first and second rounds of voting in the presidential elections, no candidate won the necessary two thirds of votes. In the third round, which requires only a simple majority of 276 votes, Mr. Gül was finally elected as the country's new President, winning 339 votes. He was officially sworn in on the next day and subsequently approved the new AKP government led by Prime Minister Erdogan.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	42,571,284	
Voters	35,828,274	84.16 %
Blank or invalid ballot papers	1,005,367	
Valid votes	34,822,907	

▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

	Votes	% votes	Seats
Justice and Development Party (AKP)	16,198,597	46.52	341
Republican People's Party (CHP)	7,277,553	20.90	112
Nationalist Action Party (MHP)	4,968,452	14.27	71
Independents	1,835,486	5.27	26
Total			550

Note:

The number of seats won by the Nationalist Action Party (MHP) includes one held by Dr. Mehmet Cihat Ozonder, who was killed in a traffic accident in Ankara on 26 July. The vacant seat will not be filled until the next general elections.

**Final composition of the Grand National Assembly
(as at 4 August 2007)**

Justice and Development Party (AKP): 341

Republican People's Party (CHP): 99

Nationalist Movement Party (MHP): 70

Democratic Society Party (DTP): 20*

Democratic Left Party (DSP): 13*

Freedom and Solidarity Party (ODP): 1*

Independent: 5

Vacant: 1

* Parties formed after the elections.

► **Distribution of seats according to sex**

Men	500	
Women	50	9.09 %
Total	550	

► **Distribution of seats according to profession**

	Seats
Educators	121
Engineers/PC experts	101
Legal professions	92
Medical professions (doctors, dentists, nurses)	40
Economists	39
Bankers (including invest bankers)/accountants	22
Civil/public servants/administrators (including social/development workers)	18
Farmers/agricultural workers (including wine growers)	17
Media-related professions (journalists/publishers)	11
Architects	10
Liberal professions (including artists, authors) and sports professionals	9
Scientists and researchers	6
Military/police officers	5
Consultants (including real estate agents)	2
Others	57
Total	550

▶ **Distribution of seats according to age**

31 to 40 years	54
41 to 50 years	177
51 to 60 years	234
61 to 70 years	78
Over 70 years	5
Unknown	2
Total	550

UKRAINE

Parliament

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Verkhovna Rada / Parliament
Structure of Parliament	Unicameral
Number of members	450 directly elected
Term of House	5 years
Date of elections	30 September 2007

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all seats in the Parliament. They were not due until March 2011. Elections to the Parliament had previously taken place on 26 March 2006.

Electoral system

- ▶ **Constituencies**
 - one nationwide constituency

- ▶ **Voting system: Proportional**
 - 450 seats allotted to party lists by the system of proportional representation
 - parties must obtain 3 per cent of the vote to gain parliamentary representation
 - Voting is not compulsory.

- ▶ **Voter requirements**
 - age: at least 18 years old on election day
 - Ukrainian citizenship
 - there is no residence requirement
 - Ukrainians living and working overseas who are registered on the electoral list established by the Ukrainian diplomatic mission in their country of residence are entitled to vote.
 - disqualifications: insanity/mental illness, undocumented immigrants

- ▶ **Eligibility**
 - qualified voters
 - age: at least 21 years old on election day
 - Ukrainian citizenship
 - residence in Ukraine for at least five years prior to election
 - ineligibilities: persons with a criminal record; military and civil defence

personnel and staff of the executive or judicial branches of government are subject to special requirements

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- persons holding a post in the executive branch
- executives and staff in business (except for teaching and research activities)
- executives of the Electoral Commission

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- nomination by a registered political party or bloc with a minimum of 200 members in the constituency
- supporting signatures of at least 200,000 citizens
- deposit of the equivalent of two thousand minimum salaries (approximately US\$14,000), reimbursed if the party reaches the 3 per cent threshold

Background and Outcome of the Elections

The elections held in September 2007 followed a period of political turmoil since the previous elections in March 2006, when no party had secured an absolute majority.

In March 2006, the Party of Regions of Mr. Viktor Yanukovich, President Victor Yushchenko's rival in the 2004 presidential elections, had come in first with 186 seats. The Yuliya Tymoshenko Bloc (YTB) had followed with 129 seats. President Yushchenko's Our Ukraine took 81 seats, followed by the Socialist Party led by Mr. Oleksandr Moroz with 33, while the remaining 21 seats had gone to the Communist Party. On 6 July, Mr. Moroz was elected Speaker of Parliament with the support of the Party of Regions and the Communist Party. After long negotiations, a National Unity government was formed on 1 August by the Party of Regions and Our Ukraine, which was subsequently joined by the Socialist Party and the Communist Party, while the YTB remained outside the new coalition. On 4 August, Mr. Yanukovich was elected as the new Prime Minister.

However, Our Ukraine withdrew from the governmental coalition in October 2006. This triggered a standoff between the President and the Parliament, where the ruling coalition then held 240 of the 450 seats. Members of Our Ukraine joined the YTB in boycotting parliamentary sessions depriving the Parliament of the quorum of more than 300 members required for it to be a full-fledged legislative organ.

In April 2007, President Yushchenko dissolved the Parliament and called early elections for 27 May 2007. They were subsequently postponed to 24 June. The ruling coalition rejected the presidential decrees, insisting that the dissolution was unconstitutional. The President claimed the ruling coalition was illegally trying to change the 2006 parliamentary election results by urging members of Our Ukraine and the YTB to switch political affiliation in order for the parliament to meet the quorum requirement.

On 18 April, in support of the President's decision to dissolve parliament, approximately 150 members of the YTB and Our Ukraine parties tendered their resignation. Constitutionally, their resignation needed to be approved by a majority vote of 226 of the 450-member parliament.

After an almost two-month standoff, in late May, President Yushchenko, Prime Minister Yanukovych and Speaker Moroz reached an agreement to call elections for 30 September. At least 150 supporters and opponents of dissolution subsequently resigned to meet the constitutional requirement for dissolution.

However, Speaker Moroz continued to convene parliamentary sessions, which were attended by some 270 members, arguing that the parliament needed to address the lifting of parliamentary immunity and other privileges before the new elections. President Yushchenko affirmed that any decision taken by the Parliament would be null and void. Despite the President's statement, issued on 4 September, the Parliament endorsed a bill on the lifting of parliamentary immunity from prosecution.

In the meantime, the election campaign officially started on 2 August. In all, 20 political parties and coalitions were in the race. The ruling Party of Regions of Prime Minister Yanukovych called on voters' support for further economic development, referring to the strong economic performance under his government. He argued that President Yushchenko had created a political crisis instead of new jobs.

Nine pro-presidential parties (see note) formed an electoral bloc known as "Our Ukraine-People's Self-Defence". Its leader, former interior minister Mr. Yuriy Lutsenko, promised to create a constitutional State accountable to citizens. He pledged to unify the nation and at the same time implement a new economic strategy.

The electoral bloc was in alliance with its former Orange Revolution coalition

partner, the YTB. The latter promised to work towards the country's further cooperation with Europe and immediate affiliation to the World Trade Organization. The re-established coalition pledged to abolish parliamentary immunity after the 2007 elections.

The centrist "Block of Lytvyn", led by former speaker of parliament, Volodymyr Lytvyn, was considered to be a potential kingmaker in a new parliament. The Communist Party, led by Mr. Petro Symonenko, did not join any electoral coalition.

A total of 62.02 per cent of the 23 million registered voters turned out at the polls. 2.73 per cent of voters chose to vote "against all parties".

In all, 880 international observers, including from the European Union, monitored the polls. They said the elections had been generally democratic and had met international standards, in spite of a certain number of irregularities.

Five political parties and coalitions surpassed the 3-per-cent threshold to win a seat in parliament. Although Prime Minister Yanukovych's Party of Regions came in first with 175 seats, the former Orange Revolution coalition (YTB and Our Ukraine - People's Self-Defence) - won a total of 228 seats, securing a slim majority in the 450-member parliament. The "Block of Lytvyn" entered the parliament, while the Socialist Party failed to win a seat.

Publication of the official election results was delayed due to an appeal lodged by four parties that had failed to win a seat in parliament and the Communist Party. On 25 October, the Constitutional Court rejected the appeal, leaving the election results unchanged. On 27 October, the Electoral Commission published the final official results, thus paving the way for the election winners to form a new government.

In the meantime, on 16 October, Ms. Tymoshenko and President Yushchenko signed a coalition agreement, which would allow the YTB to name a new prime minister, and the "Our Ukraine - People's Self-Defence" Bloc to choose the speaker of parliament.

On 4 December, ex-Foreign Minister Mr. Arseniy Petrovych Yatsenyuk of the "Our Ukraine - People's Self-Defence" Bloc was elected as the new Speaker with 227 votes. The Party of Regions, the Communist Party and the Bloc of Lytvyn did not take part in the voting.

On 18 December, Ms. Tymoshenko was elected as Prime Minister with 226 votes.

Note:

The nine parties are Our Ukraine, Forward Ukraine!, People's Movement of Ukraine, Sobor, the Ukrainian People's Party, the Christian-Democratic Union, Pora, Defenders of the Fatherland, and the European Party of Ukraine).

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	37,588,040	
Voters	23,315,257	62.02 %
Blank or invalid ballot papers	1,016,888	
Valid votes	22,298,369	

▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

	Votes	% votes	Seats	Number of women
Party of Regions	8,013,895	35.94	175	12
Yuliya Tymoshenko Bloc	7,162,193	32.12	156	12
Block "Our Ukraine - Peoples' Self-Defense"	3,301,282	14.81	72	7
Communist Party of Ukraine (KPU)	1,257,291	5.64	27	5
Bloc of Lytvyn	924,538	4.15	20	2
Total			450	38

▶ Distribution of seats according to sex

Men	412	
Women	38	8.44 %
Total	450	

VIET NAM

National Assembly

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Quoc-Hoi / National Assembly
Structure of Parliament	Unicameral
Number of members	493 directly elected
Term of House	5 years
Date of elections	20 May 2007

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all the seats in the National Assembly on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

182 multi-member constituencies (from six to 26 seats each) divided into electoral units.

▶ **Voting system: Majority**

Majority vote in two rounds

Members to the National Assembly are elected in individual electoral units. Provinces and cities directly under the central Government may constitute separate electoral units or be divided into several units. The number of electoral units and number of members to be elected by each is based on population.

Each unit may elect no more than three members, and each province and city directly under the central Government is allotted at least three seats; Hanoi, the capital, is allocated 23 Deputies.

Within each electoral unit, candidates exceed the number of seats to be filled. Those obtaining the most votes and more than one-half of the votes cast in the unit are declared elected. If, within a unit, all seats are not filled or if the number of voters is less than half of those registered, a simple majority second round vote takes place among the original candidates.

Vacancies arising between general elections are filled through by-elections, unless the remaining parliamentary term is less than two years.

Voting is not compulsory.

- ▶ **Voter requirements**
 - age: 18 years
 - Vietnamese citizenship
 - disqualifications: insanity

- ▶ **Eligibility**
 - qualified voters
 - age: 21 years
 - Vietnamese citizenship

- ▶ **Candidacy requirements**
 - all citizens have the right to stand for election
 - candidates' lists are presented by the Viet Nam Fatherland Front

Background and Outcome of the Elections

The 20 May 2007 elections were the first to be held under the country's new leadership elected by the National Assembly in June 2006.

Prior to the elections, a Catholic priest and three political activists who had called for a multi-party system were jailed for disseminating information considered harmful to the State. Former prime minister Vo Van Kiet, however, urged Communist Party leaders to talk to the dissidents, emphasizing that Viet Nam does not belong to one party.

As in previous elections, fighting corruption and improving the education system were the main issues in 2007. Many candidates also called for greater integration within the global economy. Viet Nam joined the World Trade Organization only in January 2007.

A total of 876 candidates contested the elections, of whom the vast majority were members of the Communist Party or non-party members endorsed by the party. In addition, 31 self-nominated candidates were allowed to stand for election.

In 2007, 99.64 per cent of the 56.5 million voters turned out at the polls. While voting is not compulsory, turnout is traditionally high in Viet Nam.

On 29 May, the Standing Committee of the National Assembly announced that 493 candidates had obtained the majority vote required to be elected. These included 127 women and 87 candidates from ethnic minorities. 450 seats were won by members of the Communist Party, and another 42 by

non-party members. Only one self-nominated candidate was elected. Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung was returned to office with the highest proportion of votes nationwide, 99.07 per cent.

The newly elected National Assembly held its first session on 19 July. On 23 July, it re-elected Mr. Nguyen Phu Trong of the Communist Party as its Speaker.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

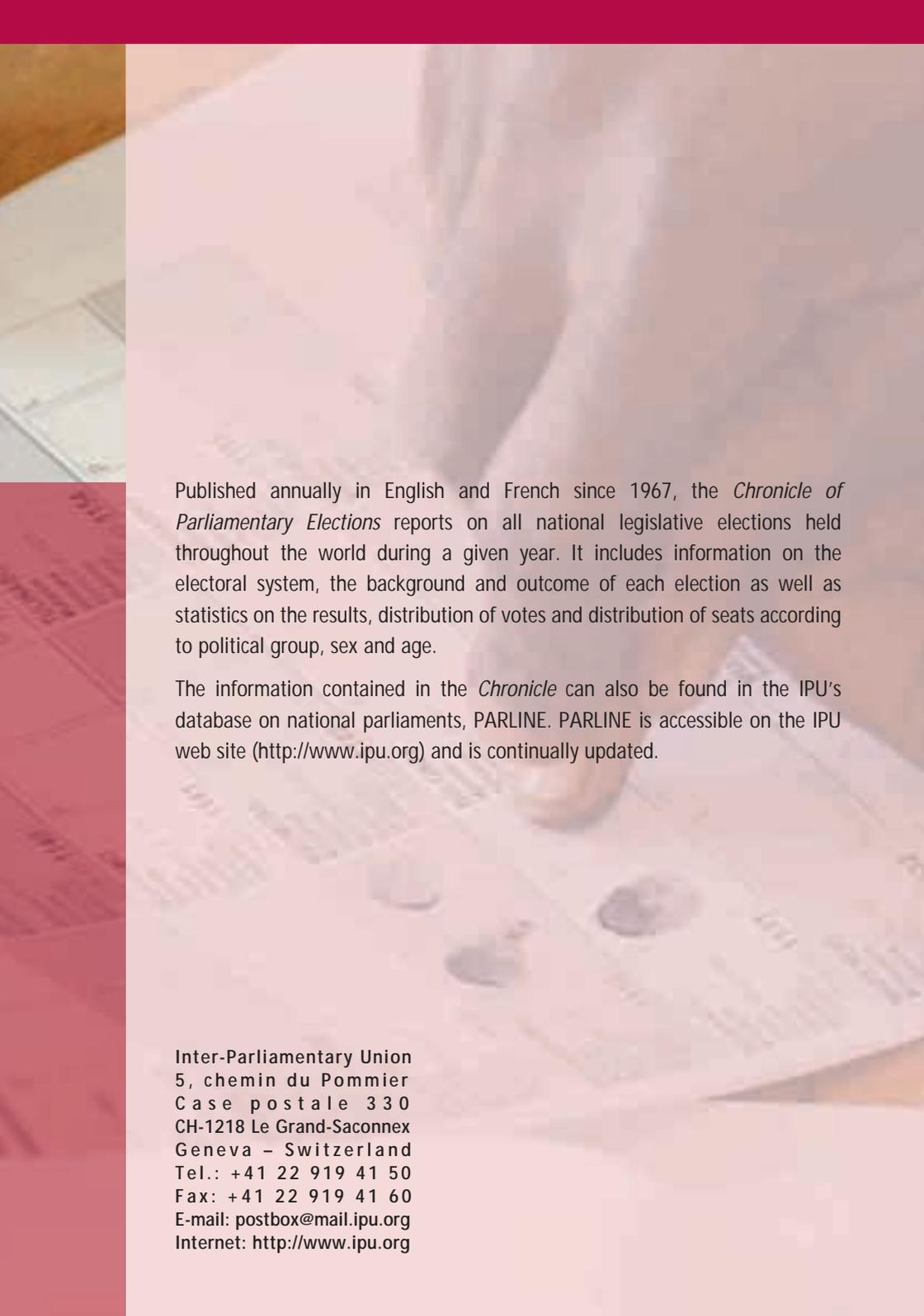
Number of registered electors	About 56,500,000
Voters	99.64 %

▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

	Seats
Communist Party	450
Non-party members	42
Self-nominated (independents)	1
Total	493

▶ Distribution of seats according to sex

Men	366	
Women	127	25.76 %
Total	493	

A background image showing a person's hands holding a newspaper. The newspaper is open, and the person is looking at the content. The image is slightly blurred, focusing on the hands and the paper. The background is a mix of light and dark tones, with a red vertical bar on the left side.

Published annually in English and French since 1967, the *Chronicle of Parliamentary Elections* reports on all national legislative elections held throughout the world during a given year. It includes information on the electoral system, the background and outcome of each election as well as statistics on the results, distribution of votes and distribution of seats according to political group, sex and age.

The information contained in the *Chronicle* can also be found in the IPU's database on national parliaments, PARLINE. PARLINE is accessible on the IPU web site (<http://www.ipu.org>) and is continually updated.

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