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IPU – UN Women Parliamentary Meeting

7 March 2023

#CSW67

Women in Politics 2023

Women in Parliament in 2022 report



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Women in parliament in 2022 The year in review



Celia Xakriaba, a climate activist, is one of 4 indigenous women to be elected to the Brazilian Parliament.
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Introduction

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

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

HIGHLIGHTS

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



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



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

No functioning parliament has zero women MPs

Increased diversity

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

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



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



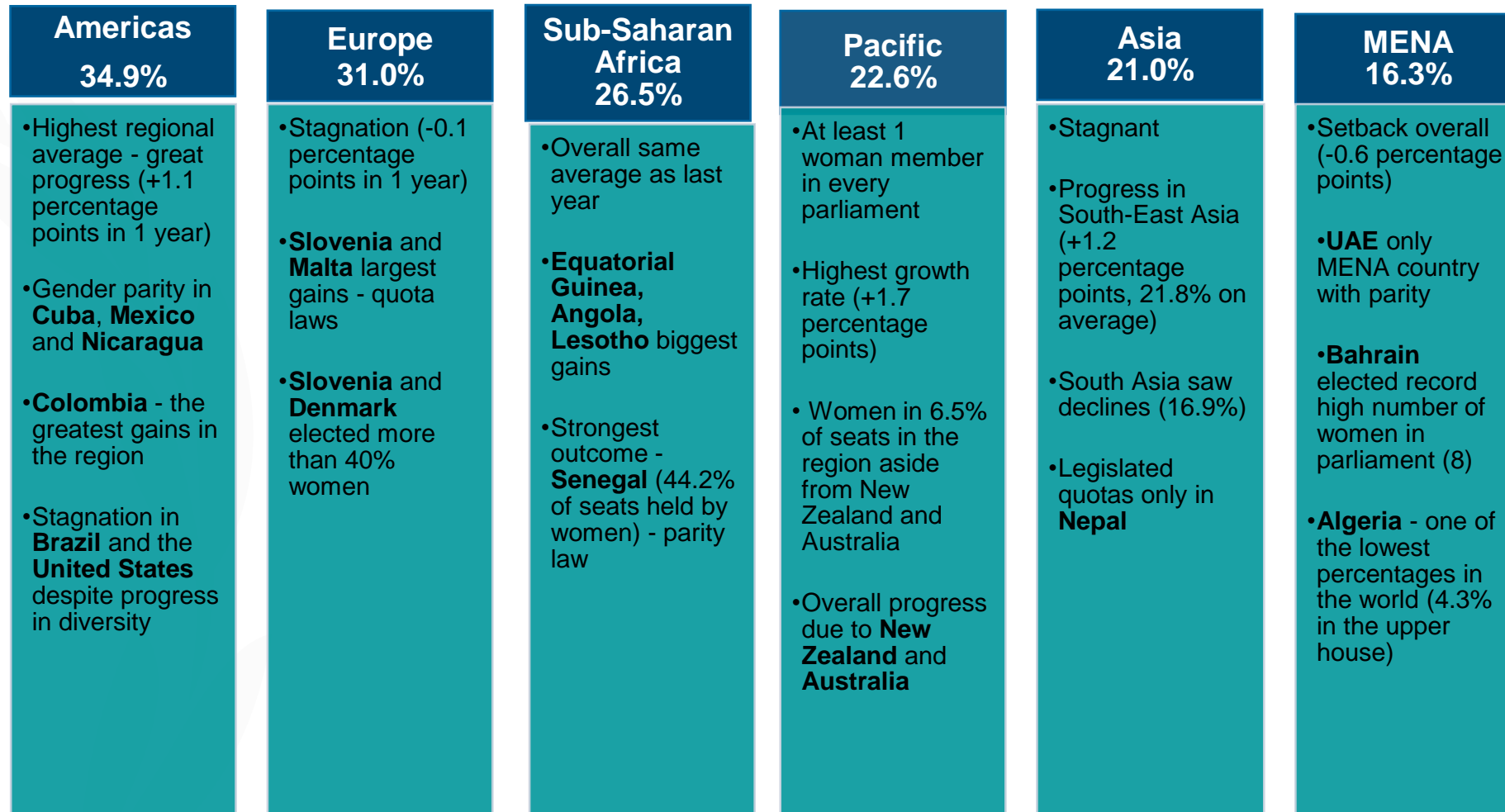
Rate of progress has plateaued at **+0.4 percentage points in 2022**, slowest rate in six years

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

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



Regional trends following 2022 parliamentary elections





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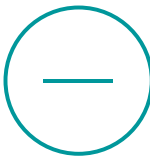
Women in top parliamentary leadership in 2023



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



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



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



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



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2023

Women in the executive



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Women Heads of State and Government



11.3% Heads of State
9.8% Heads of Government

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

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



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Women Cabinet Ministers

22.8% of Cabinet Ministers are women

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



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



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Portfolios held by Women Cabinet Ministers

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



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

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



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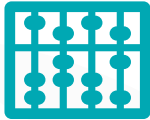


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2023
**Lessons
learned**



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Quotas critical for representation



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



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



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

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



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



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Violence Against Women MPs

A key obstacle to equality in politics



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



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



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



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

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



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Gender parity in politics by 2030

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

Why gender parity:

Improve gender equality

Open politics to diverse women

Create an enabling space

Reflect society

Efficient, effective, legitimate institutions

How to achieve gender parity?

National Plans of Action

Gender quotas in law

End discriminatory laws

Electoral spending caps

Legislate against gender-based violence

Target parity in public life

Mandate and finance gender mainstreaming

Thank you!



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