

**Inter-Agency and Expert Group Meeting on the
Development of Gender Statistics
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Gender Statistics in the Inter-Parliamentary Union *

Prepared by

Julie Ballington
IPU Programme for Partnership between Men and Women

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INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

CHEMIN DU POMMIER 5, PO BOX 330
 1218 LE GRAND-SACONNEX / GENEVA (SWITZERLAND)
 TELEPHONE (41.22) 919 41 50 – FAX (41.22) 919 41 60 – E-MAIL postbox@mail.ipu.org

Inter-Agency and Expert Group Meeting on the Development of Gender Statistics Agencies

DEVELOPMENT PARTNER CONTRIBUTION: INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

Part A: Background

Name: Julie Ballington
 Title: Programme Officer, Programme for Partnership between Men and Women
 Institution: Inter-Parliamentary Union

Part B: Gender Statistics Materials and Activities

Title	Publisher	Pub. Year	Pub. City & Country	Focus	Description	Link	Link
INDICATOR 12: Seats held by women in parliaments WOMEN IN NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS: <i>World classification</i>	IPU	Current	Geneva, Switzerland	Global	Country-specific data in table format of the number of women presently holding seats in national parliaments.	ENG	FRE
WOMEN IN NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS: <i>World and Regional Averages</i>	IPU	Current	Geneva, Switzerland	Global	Data on world averages and regional averages of women in parliament. Data is presented in table format compiled by the IPU on the basis of information provided by National Parliaments.	ENG	FRE
WOMEN IN NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS: <i>Regional Parliamentary Assemblies</i>	IPU	Current	Geneva, Switzerland	Global	Data in table formats presenting information on the percentage of women in the two regional parliamentary assemblies elected by direct suffrage: the European Parliament and the Central American Parliament.	ENG	FRE

WOMEN IN NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS: <i>Archived data from 1997 to date</i>	IPU	Current	Geneva, Switzerland	Global	Data is presented in table format of statistical archives of the number of women in national parliaments. Information presented begins as of 1997.	ENG	FRE
WOMEN SPEAKERS OF NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS: <i>History and the Present</i>	IPU	Current	Geneva, Switzerland	Global	The table presents the percentage of women in each National Parliament. It is updated on a monthly basis. All countries with a Parliament are classified by descending order of the percentage of women in the lower or single House.	ENG	FRE
WOMEN IN POLITICS: <i>60 YEARS IN RETROSPECT (INFORMATION KIT)</i>	IPU	2006	Geneva, Switzerland	Global	Published on the occasion of the 50th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women which reviewed progress made in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, this information kit is composed of six data sheets on women's participation in politics over the past 60 years: 1. Historical table on the institutional and legal evolution of States and the presence of women in national parliaments; 2. Progress and Setbacks of Women in National Parliaments between 01.07.1995 and 01.02.2006; 3. Women in the two parliamentary regional assemblies elected by direct suffrage: The Central American Parliament and the European Parliament; 4. A Chronology of Women Heads of State or Government: 1945 - 02.2006; 5. An Overview of Women in Parliament: 1945-2006; The Participation of Women and Men in Decision-Making: The parliamentary dimension.	ENG	FRE
WOMEN IN PARLIAMENT IN 2005: <i>The year in Perspective</i>	IPU	2006	Geneva, Switzerland	Global	These statistics by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) track the progress and developments regarding women in the political field, provides an overview of all elections that took place in 2005 and highlights the numbers of women elected, details the number of women candidates and special measures that may have been adopted to increase women's parliamentary presence.	ENG	FRE

WOMEN IN POLITICS: 2005 (POSTER)	IPU and UNDAW	2005	Geneva, Switzerland	Global	The poster is a "snapshot" of the presence of women in the Executive and Legislative branches of Government, in January 2005. It is published by the IPU and the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women, on the occasion of the 49th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, which reviewed progress made in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action. The poster provides information on the percentage of women in ministerial ranks, women in parliaments, women in the highest decision-making bodies (women Presidents of States or Governments, women Presiding Officers of parliamentary bodies), as well as information on the ministerial portfolios held by women throughout the world.	<u>ENG</u>	<u>FRE</u>
PARLINE DATABASE	IPU	current	Geneva, Switzerland	Global	The Parliaments on-Line (PARLINE) database has been developed by the IPU and is regularly updated on the basis of official information provided by national Parliaments. For all countries where a national legislature exists, the database provides: a general information on each of the Parliament's chambers, a description of the electoral system, the results of the most recent elections, an archive of past elections results, information on the presidency of each Chamber, and information on the mandate and status of members of Parliament.	<u>ENG</u>	<u>FRE</u>

Notes on indicator 12: Seats held by women in national parliaments

The Inter-Parliamentary Union is the world organization of parliaments, consisting of more than 140 national parliaments worldwide. Its mandate concerns parliaments and parliamentary democracy. For the past 15 years, the IPU has collected data on women in national parliaments. It is therefore the main source of information for indicator 12.

Indicator 12 shows the percentage of women in national parliaments, the ratio being of total number of seats occupied by women over the total number of seats currently filled in parliament. Compared with other MDG indicators, it is straightforward and easily measured.

Data collection

- The data covers on average 181-189 countries. The number of countries covered in the database varies with suspensions or dissolutions of parliaments. As of November 2006, the database consists of 189 countries.
- The data used is official data received from national parliaments in the majority of cases. After each election a questionnaire is sent to parliaments to solicit the data. If no response is provided, IPU meetings provide a good opportunity for a direct request. As a last resort, other methods are used to obtain the information, such as from the electoral management body or Internet searches.
- The data is collated in excel sheets on a monthly bases and posted on the IPU website at (<http://www.ipu.org/wmn-e/world.htm>). The main changes in the data obviously occur with elections. However, other changes in data are due to rotation in parliament, such as resignations or deaths that lead to either by-elections or new appointments.
- It should be noted that presenting the composition of parliaments by sex is not a given, despite the fact that it is easily measured. There can be difficulties in obtaining information on by-election results and replacements due to death or resignation. These changes are *ad hoc* events which are more difficult to keep track of. By-elections, for instance, are often not announced internationally as general elections are.
- In order to ensure the validity of the data, our statistics are often circulated to our Members every six months, for corrections or amendments.

Part C: Ongoing Regional or Country Projects

While the IPU is involved in country-level activities providing assistance to parliaments, there are no specific projects that support the development of gender statistics at the national level.