

Women's representation in the Americas



PROYECTO
BASE.



Executive summary

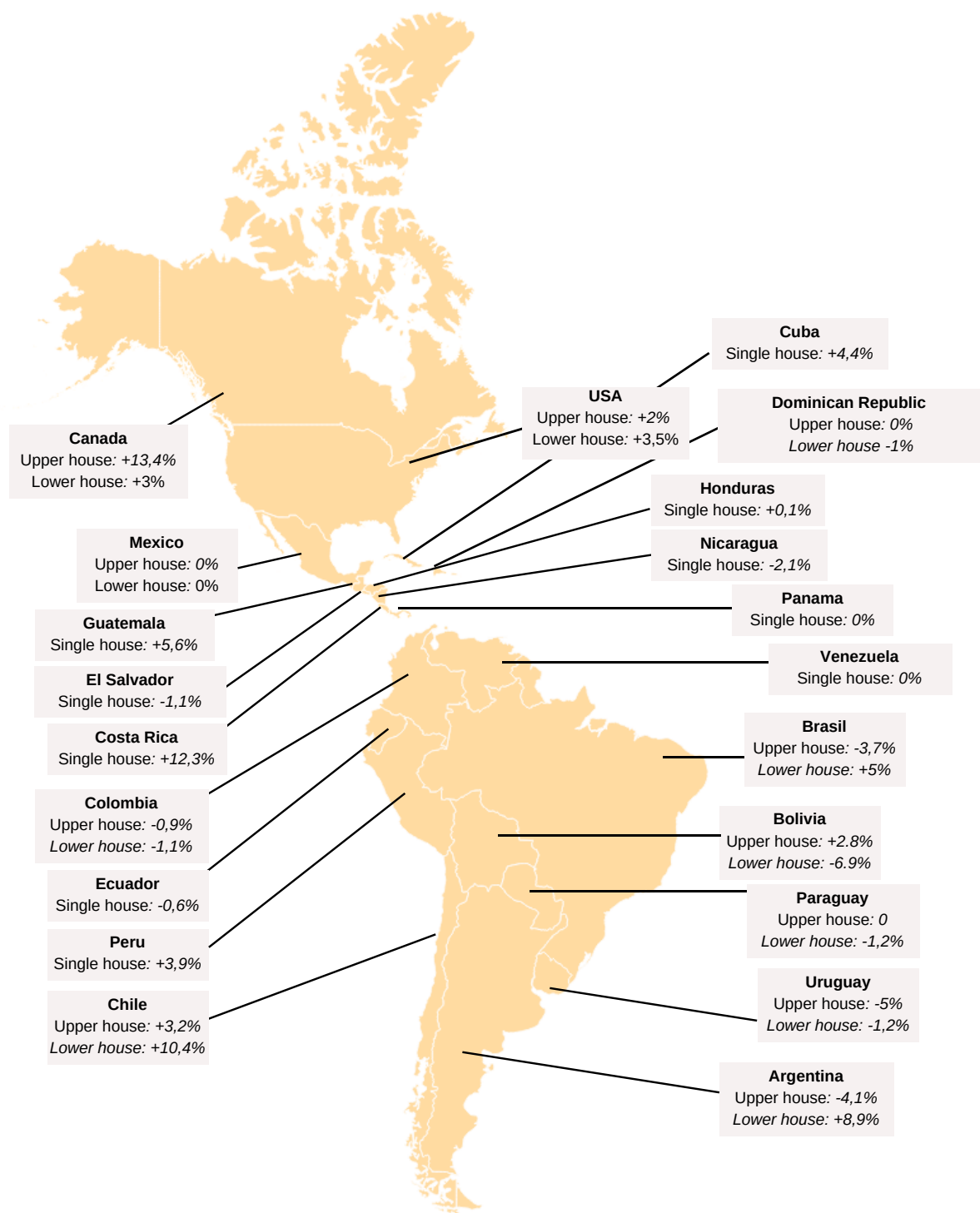
In the last 19 years, the percentage of women in political positions, both in the executive and legislative branches in different countries of the Americas, has increased from 9% to 28.6% (OAS, 2020).

The new percentages show clear progress, indicating that initiatives in the form of political activism and the creation of laws on quotas and parity have yielded positive results.

However, current figures are far from reflecting a parity between the number of seats and positions held by men and those held by women.

Growth in the percentage of female representation

change in the number of seats held by women between 2013-2019 and 2020



Female representation in 2020

Number of seats held by women in both upper and lower houses



Representation of women in the previous parliamentary term

The number of seats held by women in both upper and lower houses between 2013 and 2019



Female representation in the penultimate parliamentary term

The number of seats held by women in both upper and lower houses between 2005 and 2017

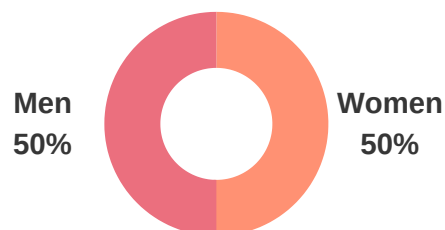


Parity measures in the Americas

Argentina

At an electoral level, Law 27,412 establishes that **political parties must present lists that ensure parity between men and women**, securing at least a 50% representation.

This 2017 law, is a reform of the Law 24.012 of 1991, which was a prime example of parity at a worldwide level and established, for the first time, a mandatory quota of 30% of women in the electoral lists.



Type of measure:
complete parity



Bolivia

The 2010 Electoral Law requires that lists of both main and alternate candidates in multi-member constituencies for elections to the Chamber of Deputies and the Chamber of Senators must **include an equal number of men and women alternately**. If a list is composed of an odd number of candidates, preference will be given to women. In single-member constituencies, at least 50% of the candidates (principal and alternate) nominated in the total number of constituencies must be women.

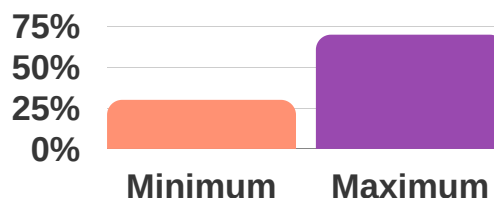


Type of measure:
complete parity

Parity measures in the Americas

Brasil

The Article 10.3 of Law 9.504, which regulates elections, establishes that elections to the Chamber of Deputies are held through a system of proportional representation. **Each list shall contain a minimum of 30% and a maximum of 70% of the candidates of each sex.**



Type of measure:
mandatory representation
quotas



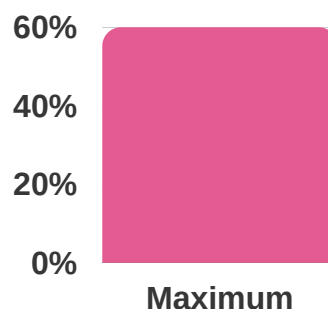
Type of measure:
voluntary representation
quotas

Canada

There are no legislatures that impose a quota of female representation, however, **parties such as the New Democratic Party and the Liberal Party of Canada set voluntary quotas internally with 50% and 25% mandatory representation respectively.**

Chile

In 2015, Congress passed Law No 20.840, which included a gender quota. **Neither male candidates nor female candidates may exceed 60% of the respective total, this percentage shall be mandatory and calculated independently of the way the candidates apply.** In addition, some parties have voluntary representation quotas in their statutes.



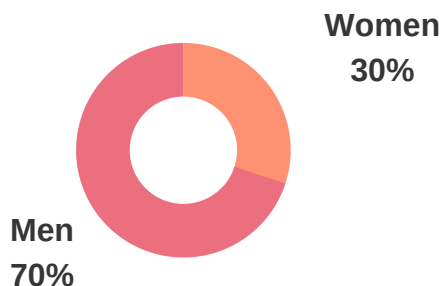
Type of measure:
voluntary and
mandatory quotas

Parity measures in the Americas

Colombia



For lists submitted for the election of 5 or more seats, there must be at least 30% of each gender (Law 1475 of 2011, article 28.1).



Type of measure:
mandatory representation
quotas



Costa Rica



Type of measure:
complete parity

In accordance with articles 2 and 148.1 of Law 8765 of 2009, all candidates for elections must meet the rules of parity and alternation. In other words, **50% of the candidates must be of each sex and two persons of the same sex cannot subsequently be included in the list of candidates.** In addition, parties such as the National Liberation Party, the Social Christian Unity Party, the Citizen Action Parties and the Libertarian Movement Party have voluntary representation quotas in their statutes.

Cuba



Does not have representation legislation, but it is one of the countries with the highest rates of female representation in Parliament.



Type of measure: no
information

Parity measures in the Americas

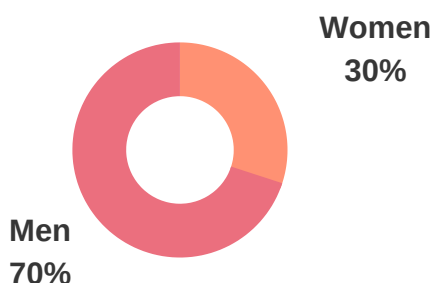
Ecuador

In accordance with article 99, paragraph 1, and article 160 of the 2009 Electoral Law, **the lists of candidates for elections through the system of proportional representation shall alternate the names of men and women.** This also applies to the National Assembly, the Andean and Latin American Parliament, regional councils, as well as district, municipal and rural councils.



Type of measure:
complete parity

El Salvador



Type of measure:
voluntary and
mandatory
representation quotas

The Article 37 of the Political Parties Act 2013 (No. 307), states that political parties must include in their lists of candidates for elections to the Legislative Assembly **at least 30% of women candidates.** Likewise, there are voluntary representation quotas, for example, the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional [FMLN] party implements a 35% representation quota.

United States

There are no legislative measures for the representation of women.



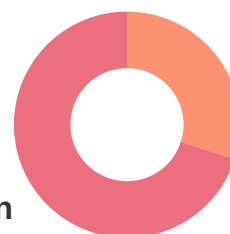
Type of measure:
no information

Parity measures in the Americas

Guatemala



Does not have an inclusive legislation, but there are parties that include representation quotas in their statutes such as the Partido Unidad Nacional de Esperanza [UNE] (40% representation) and the Partido Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca [URNG] (30% representation).



Type of measure:
voluntary representation quotas



Type of measure:
relative parity



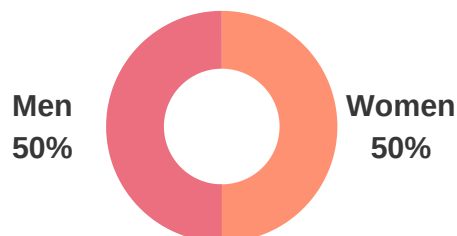
Honduras

According to the Law 003-2016, the lists of candidates of political parties **for the elections to the National Congress must include at least 40% of women candidates.** The lists of candidates in single-member constituencies must include a principal and an alternate candidate, or vice versa.

Mexico



Constitutional articles 2, 4, 35, 41, 52, 53, 56, 94 and 115 were amended in 2019. In doing so, the Constitution requires that, **in all decision-making positions in the country, women occupy half of the seats on an equal basis and without discrimination in relation to men.**



Type of measure:
complete parity

Parity measures in the Americas

Nicaragua

In accordance with article 82, paragraph 4, of the Electoral Act 2000 (No. 331, as amended by Act No.790/2012) political parties or the coalition of political parties participating in the National Assembly elections **must include 50% men and 50% women on their electoral lists**. In addition, the Sandinista National Liberation Front [FSLN], the Constitutionalist Liberal Party [PLC] and the Sandinista Renovation Movement Alliance [MRS] have 40% voluntary representation quotas.



Type of measure:
voluntary and
mandatory
representation quotas

Panama



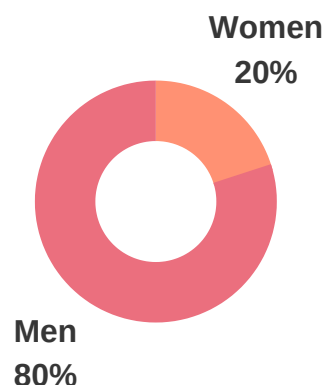
Type of measure:
mandatory
representation quotas

According to the Article 239 of the Electoral Code of Panama (amended by Law 54 of 2012, article 6), the **lists of candidates of political parties presented for primary and internal elections must include 50% of women**. These lists must be certified by a representative of the women's secretariats in the political parties. If the level of participation of women is lower than the norm established in this article, and this is attested by the women's secretariat, the party may fill the vacant candidacies with male candidates.

Parity measures in the Americas

Paraguay

According to article 32 of the Electoral Code, **1 in 5 candidates for the primary elections of political parties and movements must be women (20%)**. There is no established order favouring women on the lists. The parties Asociación Nacional Republicana/Partido Colorado [ANR], Partido Liberal Radical Auténtico [PLRA], Partido Unión Nacional de Ciudadanos Éticos [UNACE] and Partido País Solidario [PPS] have 30% voluntary representation quotas.



Type of measure:
voluntary and mandatory representation quotas

Peru



Type of measure:
relative parity

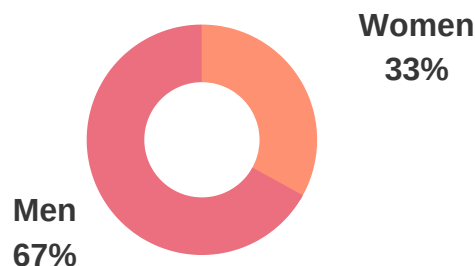
In 2020 the Organic Law of Elections was amended. Accordingly, **the formulas for the Presidency and the two vice-presidencies must include at least one woman in their composition, placing them alternately**. In addition, the lists for internal or primary elections will be composed of 50% women or men, located alternately, although the vote will be cast for each candidate individually. The winning list of the internal elections will be ordered according to the result of the vote, but respecting 50% of women or men.

Parity measures in the Americas

Dominican Republic



In accordance to the article 68, paragraph 3, of the Electoral Law (Law No. 275-97, as amended by Law 12-2000), **political parties must include in their lists of candidates for elections to the Chamber of Deputies at least 33% of women.**



Type of measure:
mandatory
representation quotas



Type of measure: no
information



Uruguay

Article 2, paragraphs 2 to 3, of Law No. 18.476 provides, for the elections to be held in 2014, that candidates of both sexes must be represented in every three places on the electoral lists, either throughout the list or in the top 15. **However, this quota was temporarily applied and has not recently been resumed.**

Venezuela



The list of candidates and alternates in both systems (majority and proportional representation) must meet a **50% quota with a zebra system** (alternation between men and women). In cases where a party cannot guarantee parity, the proportion may not be less than 40% or more than 60% (article 3, National Electoral Council).



Type of measure:
mandatory
representation quotas

Global disparity: female representation in the world*

Political empowerment scores are low even considering that they have increased in recent decades, therefore there's a need for public policy makers to focus on this area, as well as promoting social and cultural changes that help to narrow the political representation gap.

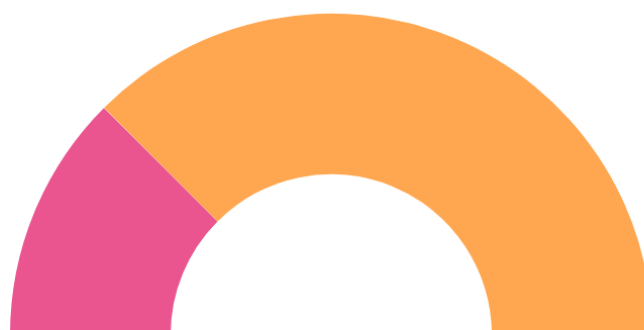
95,4
Years to obtain parity in politics

85
Countries have **never** had a woman as head of state

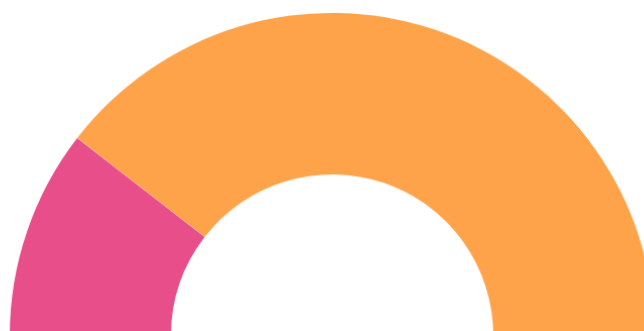
24,7%
of the Global Political Empowerment Gap was closed in 2020

Years to obtain parity in each region

- 54** Eastern Europe
- 59** Latin America
- 71.5** South Asia
- 95** Sub-Saharan Africa
- 107** Werstern Europe and Central Asia
- 104** Middle East and North Africa
- 151** North America
- 163** Eastern Asia and the Pacific



Only 25% of seats in the **Upper House** worldwide are held by women



Only 21% of **Ministries** are led by women

*SOURCE: WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM. (2020). GLOBAL GENDER GAP REPORT

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