

# [***Worried about threats to global democracy? Elect more women in 2024, a senior UN official says***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6BKP-VFG1-DYMD-60G3-00000-00&context=1516831)

The Associated Press

March 20, 2024 Wednesday 4:06 PM GMT

Copyright 2024 Associated Press All Rights Reserved

**Section:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS

**Length:** 358 words

**Byline:** DEREK GATOPOULOS, Associated Press

**Dateline:** ATHENS, Greece

**Body**

ATHENS, Greece — Voters around the world who worry about growing threats to democratic freedoms should consider electing more women in [*countries' national elections*](https://apnews.com/25-elections-in-2024-that-could-change-the-world) this year, the United Nations deputy secretary-general said Wednesday.

Amina Mohammed also said the increasing frequency of online threats made against female candidates is offsetting other gains.

“Advancing women’s participation is critical not only because women are significantly underrepresented in decision-making, but also because the future of democracy and achievement of peaceful societies depends on it,” she said.

She spoke by video link to a conference in Greece on women’s participation in ***politics***.

More than [*50 countries*](https://apnews.com/article/global-elections-2024-preview-cb77b0940964c5c95a9affc8ebb6f0b7?utm_source=copy&utm_medium=share) — home to half the planet’s population — are holding national elections in 2024, including India, Mexico and the United States, along with the European Union.

The global proportion of female lawmakers stood at 26.9% in 2023, a fractional increase from the previous year, according to [*data published*](https://www.ipu.org/news/press-releases/2024-03/women-mps-some-progress-prominent-figures-quitting) this month by the Switzerland-based Inter-Parliamentary Union.

The world average for women’s representation in legislatures stood at 11.3% in 1995, but candidate quotas have helped to raise the rate in many countries over the last three decades, the IPU said.

Mohammed said the U.N. is currently advising more than 20 countries on how to help increase women’s participation in parliament.

More representative parliaments would help bolster democratic institutions, Ethiopia's president, Sahle-Work Zewde, told the Athens conference. She is one of a tiny number of women in leading government positions in Africa.

“The current narrative is that we are in an era of democratic backsliding,” she said.

“When democracy is under threat, it will have a negative impact on women,” she said. “In any given country, women constitute the majority of the electorate. This is a fact. (But) only a few men make it to the top position \u2026 So things have to change.”

The two-day event, organized by a global network of women politicians called Women Political Leaders, ends Thursday.

\_\_\_

Follow the AP’s coverage of global elections at: [*https://apnews.com/hub/global-elections/*](https://apnews.com/hub/global-elections/)

**Load-Date:** March 20, 2024

**End of Document**