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| INDICATOR\_NUM | METADATA\_CATEGORY | METADATA\_CATEGORY\_DESC | METADATA\_DESCRIPTION |
| IV.2 | 1 | Contact point in international agency | Julie Ballington  Political Participation Advisor  UN Women  [julie.ballington@unwomen.org](mailto:julie.ballington@unwomen.org)  [[www.unwomen.org](www.unwomen.org)](http://www.unwomen.org)  Ionica Berevoescu  Policy specialist and statistician  UN Women  [ionica.berevoescu@unwomen.org](mailto:ionica.berevoescu@unwomen.org)  [[www.unwomen.org](www.unwomen.org)](http://www.unwomen.org) |
| IV.2 | 2 | International agreed definition | \*\*Definition\*\*  The proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments, as of 1 January of reporting year, is currently measured as the number of seats held by women members in single or lower chambers of national parliaments, expressed as a percentage of all occupied seats.  National parliaments can be bicameral or unicameral. This indicator covers the single chamber in unicameral parliaments and the lower chamber in bicameral parliaments. It does not cover the upper chamber of bicameral parliaments. Seats are usually won by members in general parliamentary elections. Seats may also be filled by nomination, appointment, indirect election, rotation of members and by-election.  Seats refer to the number of parliamentary mandates, or the number of members of parliament.  \*\*Concepts\*\*  Seats refer to the number of parliamentary mandates, also known as the number of members of parliament. Seats are usually won by members in general parliamentary elections. Seats may also be filled by nomination, appointment, indirect election, rotation of members and by-election. |
| IV.2 | 3 | Method of computation | The proportion of seats held by women in national parliament is derived by dividing the total number of seats occupied by women by the total number of seats in parliament. There is no weighting or normalising of statistics. |
| IV.2 | 4 | Importance of the indicator in addressing gender issues and its limitation | \*\*Rationale\*\*  The indicator measures the degree to which women have equal access to parliamentary decision making. Women’s participation in parliaments is a key aspect of women’s opportunities in political and public life, and is therefore linked to women’s empowerment. Equal numbers of women and men in lower chambers would give an indicator value of 50 per cent.  A stronger presence of women in parliament allows new concerns to be highlighted on political agendas, and new priorities to be put into practice through the adoption and implementation of policies and laws. The inclusion of the perspectives and interests of women is a prerequisite for democracy and gender equality, and contributes to good governance. A representative parliament also allows the different experiences of men and women to affect the social, political and economic future of societies.  Changes in the indicator have been tracked over time. Although the international community has supported and promoted women’s participation in political decision-making structures for several decades, improvement in women’s access to parliament has been slow. This has led to the introduction of special policy and legal measures to increase women’s shares of parliamentary seats in several countries. Those countries that have adopted special measures generally have greater representation of women in parliament than countries without special measures.  \*\*Comments and limitations\*\*  The number of countries covered varies with suspensions or dissolutions of parliaments. As of 1 February 2016, 193 countries are included.  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.  The data excludes the numbers and percentages of women in upper chambers of parliament. The information in available on the IPU website at [[https://data.ipu.org/women-ranking](https://data.ipu.org/women-ranking)](https://data.ipu.org/women-ranking%5d().  Parliaments vary considerably in their internal workings and procedures, however, generally legislate, oversee government and represent the electorate. In terms of measuring women’s contribution to political decision making, this indicator may not be sufficient because some women may face obstacles in fully and efficiently carrying out their parliamentary mandate. |
| IV.2 | 5 | Sources of discrepancies between global and national figures |  |
| IV.2 | 6 | Process of obtaining data | The data used are official statistics received from parliaments.  The data are provided by national parliaments and updated after an election or parliamentary renewal. National parliaments also transmit their data to the IPU at least once a year and when the numbers change significantly. IPU member parliaments provide information on changes and updates to the IPU secretariat. After each general election or renewal a questionnaire is dispatched to parliaments to solicit the latest available data. If no response is provided, other methods are used to obtain the information, such as from the electoral management body, parliamentary web sites or Internet searches. Additional information gathered from other sources is regularly crosschecked with parliament. |
| IV.2 | 7 | Treatment of missing values |  |
| IV.2 | 8 | Data availability and assessment of countries’ capacity |  |
| IV.2 | 9 | Expected time of release |  |
| IV.2 | 10 | Data source | Data and metadata were extracted from Global SDG Indicators Database on 15 June 2021.  For more information, please go to the following:   * [[https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/](https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/)](https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/%5d() * [https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/files/Metadata-05-05-01a.pdf](https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/files/Metadata-05-05-01a.pdf) |