



Women's Quota: Parliamentary Elections 2017

The Participation of Lebanese Women in Political Life

The Quota and other Temporary Special Measures

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The women's quota around the world



The percentage of women's representation in parliaments around the world is 23%. The quota system was introduced in a large number of countries (around 128 countries) through an amendment to the Constitution or the Electoral Law. Each country applies a different quota system in line with its political, social and economic background.

The year 2015 marks the twentieth anniversary of the Beijing Conference that set the target percentage of 30% for women in decision-making positions around the world. Results indicate that the global average for women in parliaments has doubled from 11% in 1995 to 22% in 2015. The Quota was no longer limited to the European countries; it has spread to African and Latin American countries.

There are 48 women Speakers of Parliament in the world. According to IPU data, they account for 17.2% of the world's 273 Speakers of Parliament.

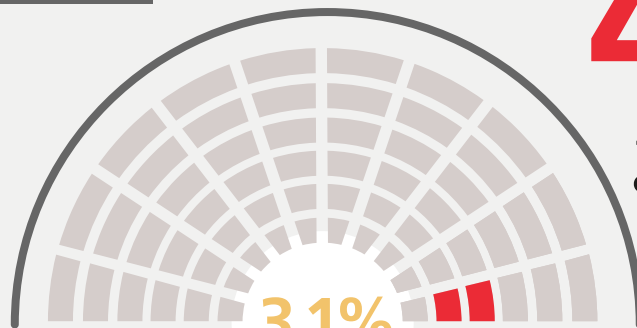
In Lebanon, women account for 3.1% of the deputies in Parliament (4 women out of 128 deputies) and 3% of the ministers in the Council of Ministers (one woman out of 30 ministers).



Parliament

4/128

4 women deputies
out of 128 deputies



3.1%

Cabinet

3%

one woman minister
out of 30 ministers



22%

11%

2015

1995

Resources

<http://www.idea.int>

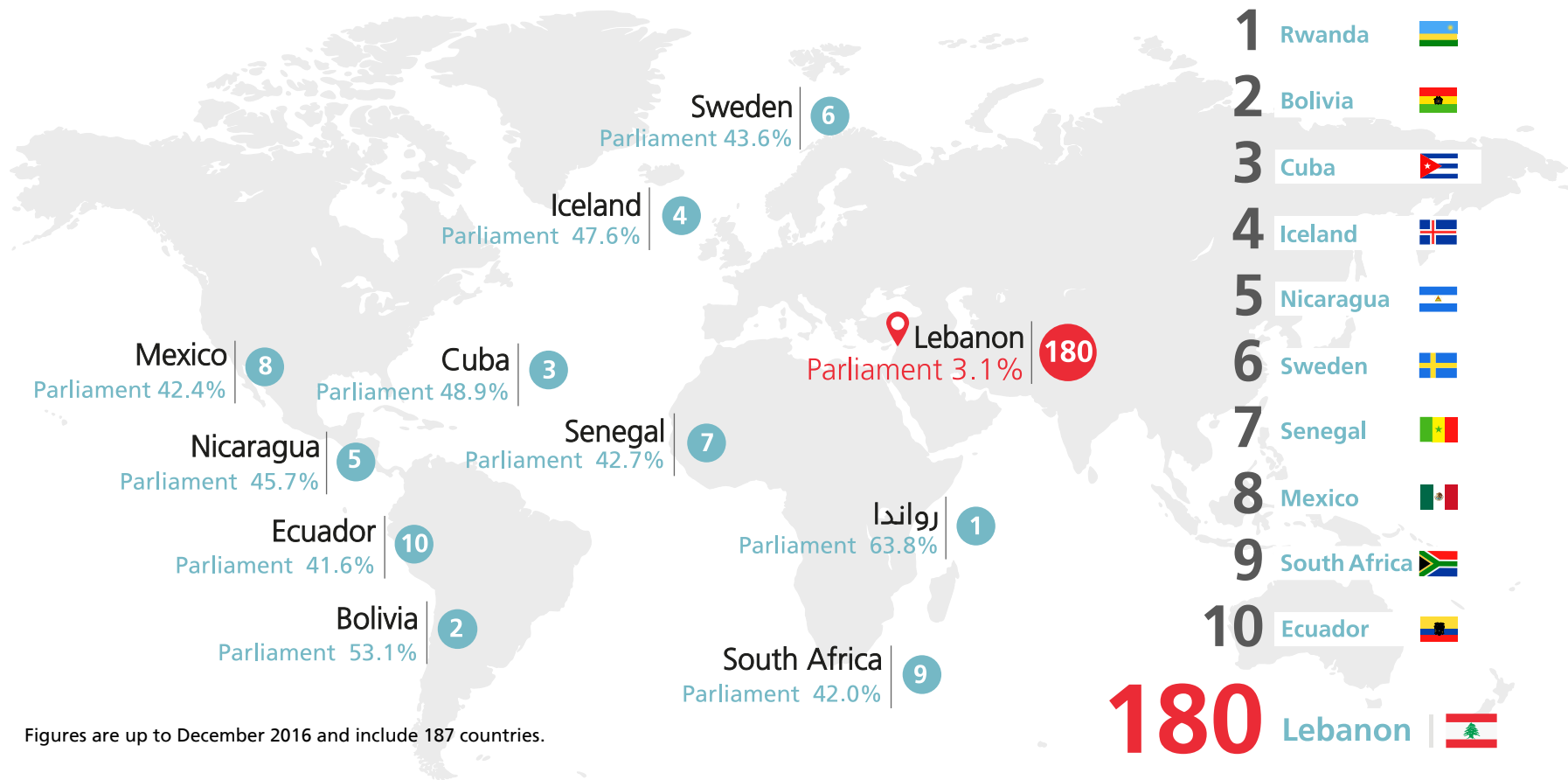
<http://iknowpolitics.org>

<http://www.quotaproject.org>

Inter-Parliamentary Union & UN Women

Women's Representation around the world

The top ten countries with the highest representation of women in Parliament. Lebanon ranks 180.



Top ranking countries: 20 years after the Quota

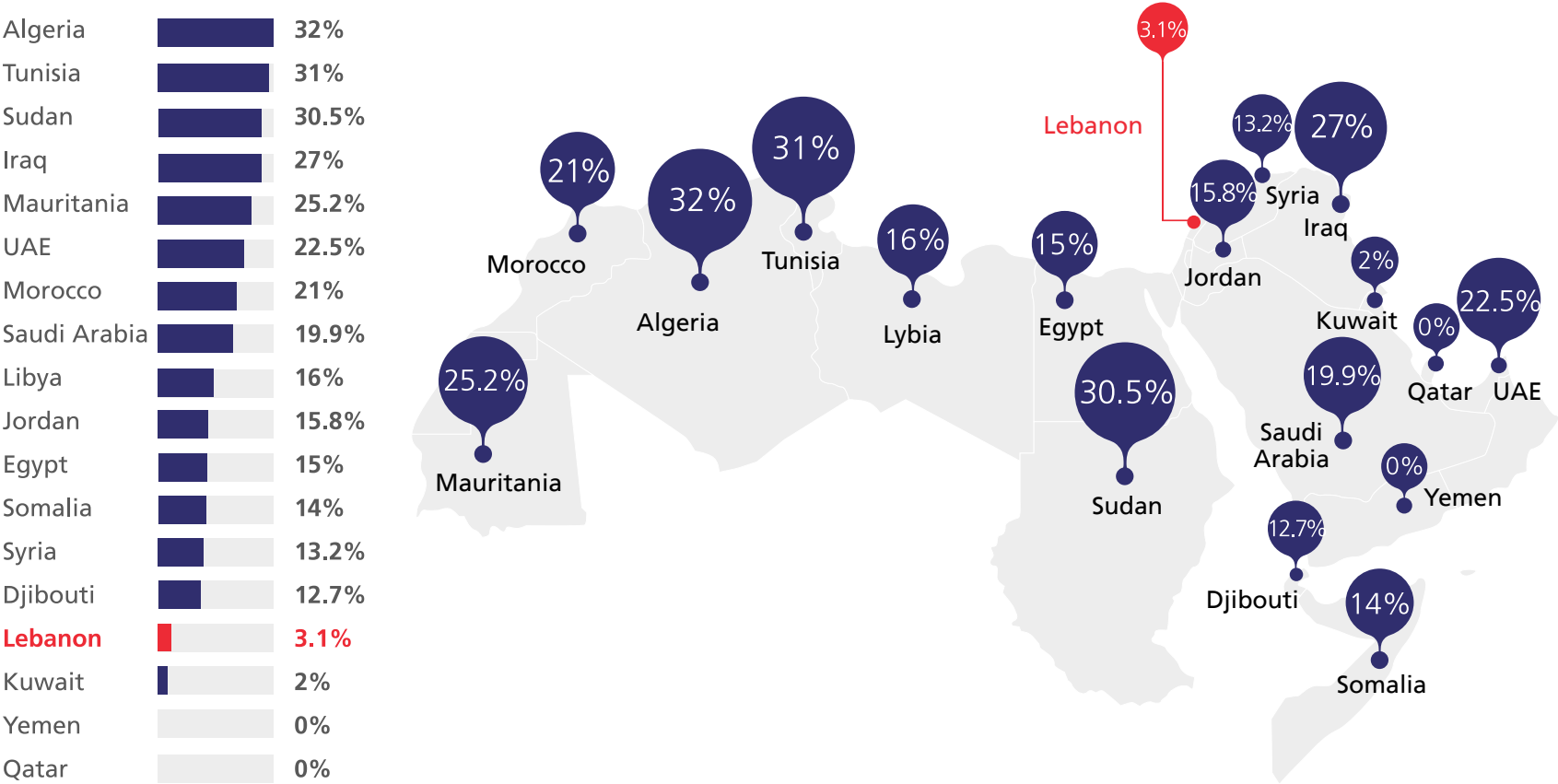
1 January 1995

Ranking	Country	Region	Women %
1	Sweden	Nordic/Europe	40.4%
2	Norway	Nordic/Europe	39.4%
3	Denmark	Nordic/Europe	33.5%
4	Finland	Nordic/Europe	33.5%
5	Netherlands	Europe	32.7%
6	Seychelles	Africa	27.3%
7	Austria	Europe	26.8%
8	Germany	Europe	26.3%
9	Iceland	Nordic/Europe	25.4%
10	Argentina	Americas	25.3%

1 January 2015

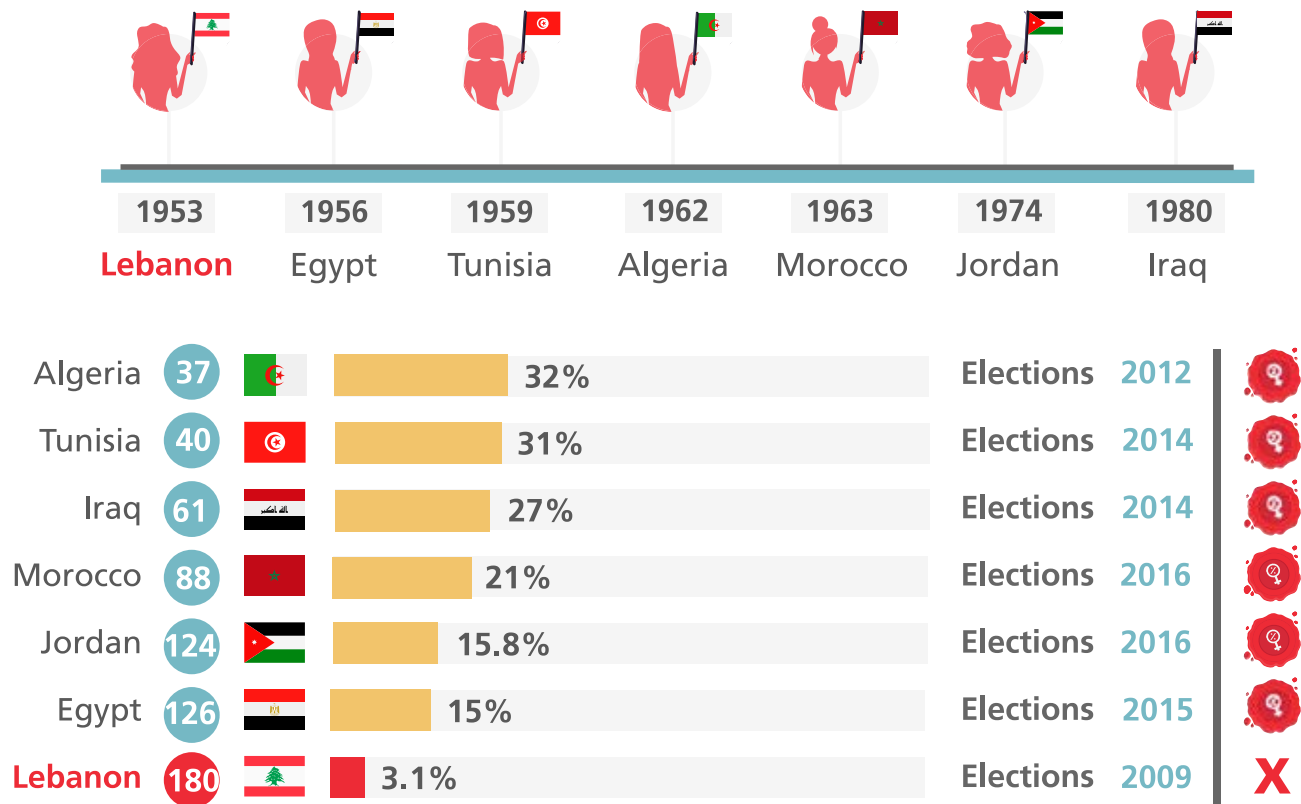
Ranking	Country	Region	Women %
1	Rwanda	Africa	63.8%
2	Bolivia	Americas	53.1%
3	Andorra	Europe	50.0%
4	Cuba	Americas	48.9%
5	Seychelles	Africa	43.8%
6	Sweden	Nordic/Europe	43.6%
7	Senegal	Africa	42.7%
8	Finland	Nordic/Europe	42.5%
9	Ecuador	Americas	41.6%
10	South Africa	Africa	41.5%

The Percentage of Women in Parliaments in the Arab Region



Figures are up to December 2016 and include 187 countries.

Women in Arab Countries: Suffrage & Representation



Figures are up to December 2016 and include 187 countries.

Women's Quota



The word “Quota” is a Latin term meaning “share” or “portion”. The term was used to indicate the allocation of a proportion or a specific number of seats in elected bodies such as Parliaments and Municipal Councils, so as to ensure women’s access to legislation and decision-making positions. The Quota is considered among the temporary interim solutions to which countries and communities resort in order to enhance the participation of women in political life.

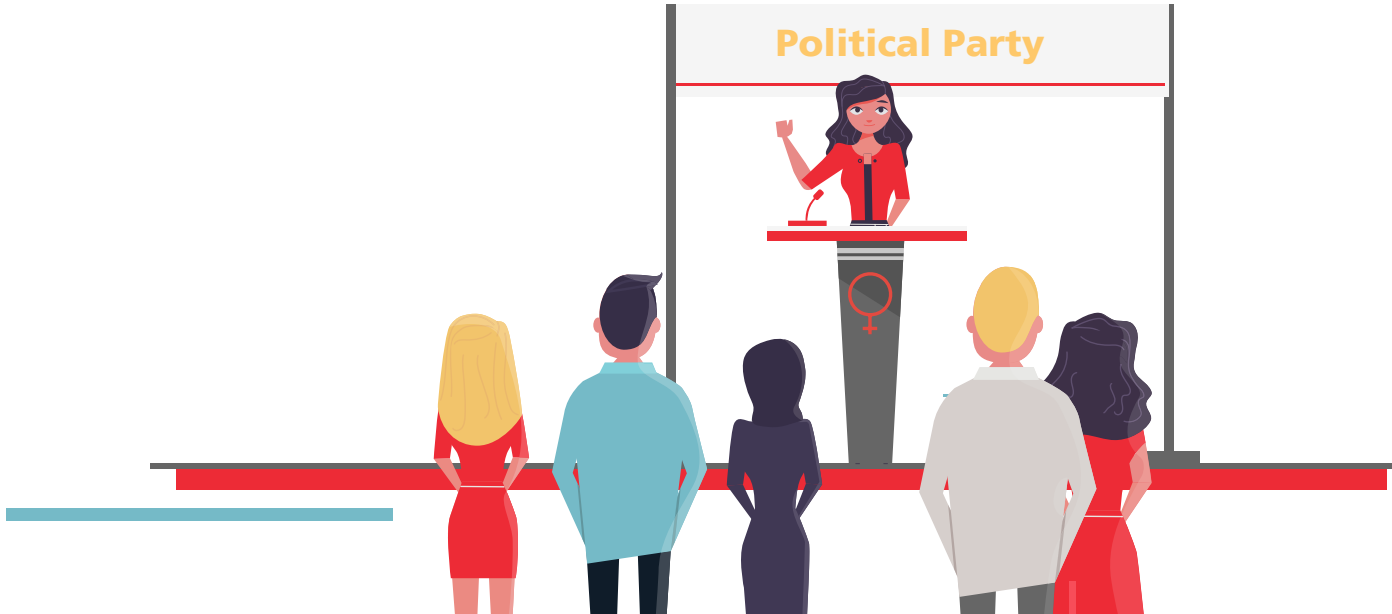
The “Quota” system was proposed during the Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing in 1995, as a measure or procedure that can be used as an interim and temporary solution to solve the problem of women’s poor participation in political life and the presence of obstacles that prevent their access to decision-making positions. Lebanon has acceded to, and ratified, most of the provisions of The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) which enshrines women’s participation in political life, whereby women are guaranteed the rights to vote, to be eligible for election, to participate in the formulation of government policy and in non-governmental organizations.

The requirement for increasing women’s representation to at least 30% in any elected body has roots in the United Nations Economic and Social Council resolution 15/1990 that calls for a minimum of 30% representation of women in political life and decision-making positions; a mobilization of efforts to raise the awareness of the community, men and women alike, of the need to change negative societal attitudes that discriminate against women and their role in decision-making, and the adoption of mechanisms and procedures to enable them to make such change. To 30% threshold is the minimum required to produce the so-called «critical mass» that women need to have a clear impact on the approach and content of political decision making.

The recommendations of the Beijing Conference in 1995 reasserted the aforementioned resolution of the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

The women's quota can be implemented in three different ways:

- 1 Seats reserved for women by virtue of a constitutional or legislative text.
- 2 Quota on the candidates' lists freely formed by political parties.
- 3 Quota on the candidates' lists formed in accordance with a constitutional or legislative text.



Examples of some of the Arab countries that have implemented the Quota System

Algeria



Council	People's National Assembly
Year of Elections	2012
Number of Seats	462
Number of Women	146
Percentage of Women	32%
Electoral System	List/Proportional Representation

Type of Quota 1

Seats reserved for women by virtue of a constitutional or legislative text

- The Law stipulates, in accordance with the provisions of Article 31 bis. of the Constitution, that the number of women in all candidate lists, whether independent or submitted by one political party or more, shall not be inferior to the following percentages:
- In the People's National Assembly's elections, 20%, when the number of seats is equivalent to 4.
- 30% when the number of seats is equivalent to or greater than 5
- And 35% when the number of seats is equivalent to or greater than 14
- And 40% when the number of seats is equivalent to or greater than 32 seats
- And 50% for the seats reserved for Algerians expatriates.

Iraq



Council	Parliament
Year of Elections	2014
Number of Seats	328
Number of Women	83
Percentage of Women	25%
Electoral System	List/Proportional Representation

Type of Quota 1

Seats reserved for women by virtue of a constitutional or legislative text

- The percentage of women candidates shall not be inferior to 25% on the list and 25% in the Council.
- Submitted lists should keep a ranking order of one woman after every 3 candidates.

Tunisia



Council	National Constituent Assembly
Year of Elections	2014
Number of Seats	217
Number of Women	68
Percentage of Women	31%
Electoral System	List/Proportional Representation



Type of Quota 3

Quota on the candidate lists formed by virtue of a constitutional or legislative text.

Article 46 of the Constitution guarantees:

“The state guarantees the equality of opportunities between women and men to have access to all levels of responsibility in all domains. The state works to attain parity between women and men in elected Assemblies.”

Candidate applications are submitted based on the principle of equality between women and men, and the rule of alternation between their names on the lists. Lists that fail to comply with this principle shall be rejected, unless the number of seats in the given district is uneven.

Jordan



Council	Parliament
Year of Elections	2016
Number of Seats	130
Number of Women	20 (5 of which were elected outside the quota system)
Percentage of Women	15.4%
Electoral System	Open List/Proportional Representation



Type of Quota 1

Seats reserved for women by virtue of a constitutional or legislative text

The number of seats reserved for women within the quota is 15 seats at the rate of one seat per province, provided that it does not negate their right to obtain a seat won outside the quota.

According to section 2 of Article 9 (d) of the draft law:

“Women candidates running for a seat reserved for women shall apply within candidate lists. Therefore, a woman candidate shall not be counted within the maximum number of candidates on the list”.

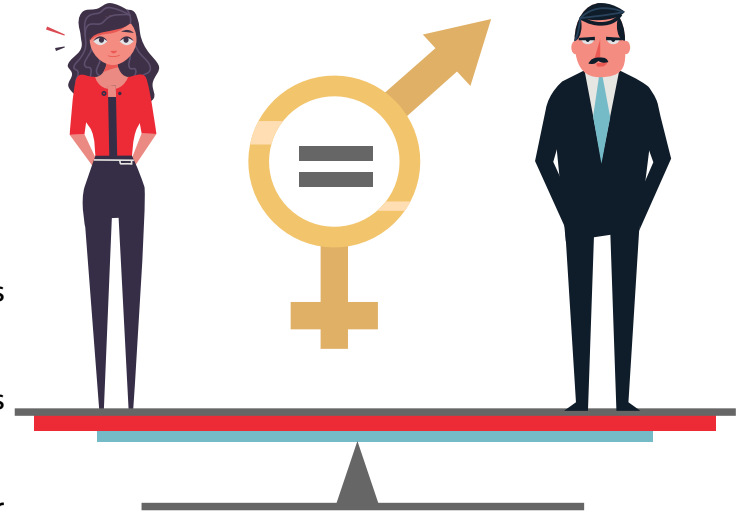
Arguments in favor of the Quota System

- ✓ Women have the right as citizens to equal representation
- ✓ Elections allow the representation of all segments of the social fabric. It is therefore illogical to marginalize women who account for half the population and have considerable capacities and expertise to draw on
- ✓ Quotas for women do not discriminate. Rather, they compensate for existing barriers that hinder women from receiving their fair share of political representation
- ✓ It is scientifically proven that women are just as mentally qualified as men, but their qualifications are downgraded and minimized in a male-dominated political system
- ✓ Political parties often control candidate applications and names in the first place. They have not succeeded in including women on their lists; hence the need to implement the quota as an inevitable step to the election of women
- ✓ Quotas do not violate the rights of eligible voters but correct a mistake in their representation, caused by the marginalization of women
- ✓ The Quota is a temporary measure; not a permanent one
- ✓ The Quota contributes to the process of democratization by making the candidate application procedure accessible to all groups



Other Temporary Special Measures

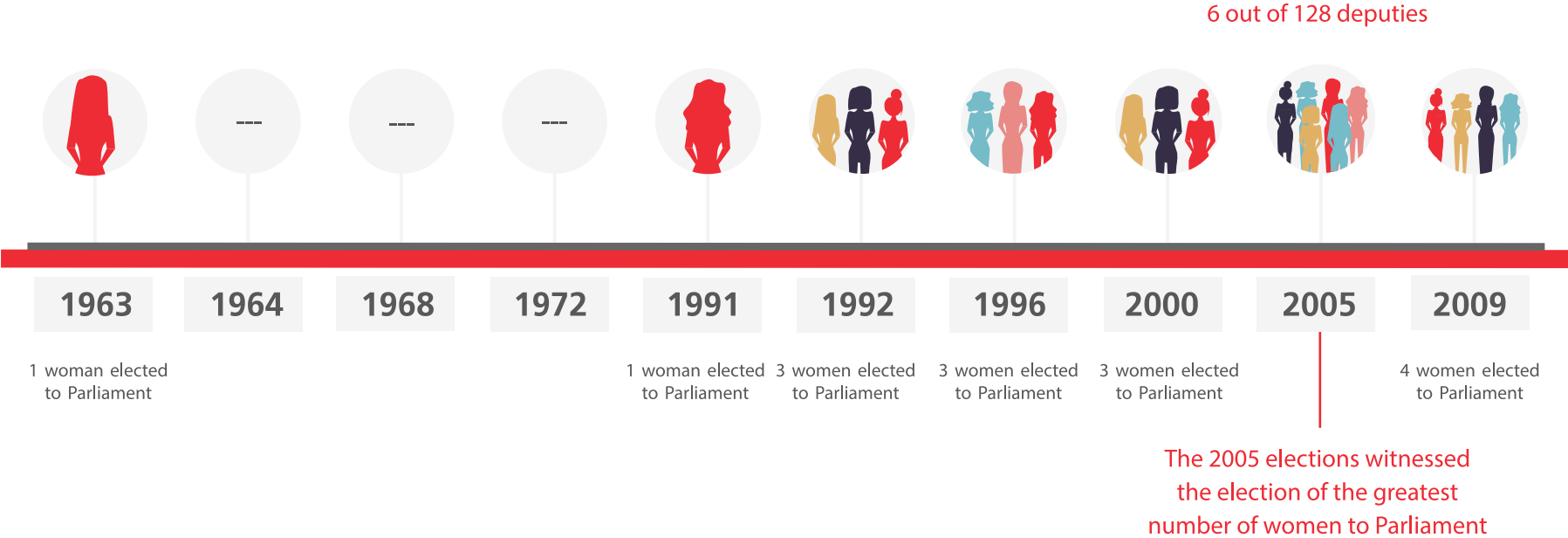
- ✓ Reducing the candidate application fees
- ✓ Introducing reforms to the Parliament that allow for the representation of women through legislations
- ✓ Reducing the costs of electoral campaigning for women candidates
- ✓ Building the campaign management capacities of women candidates
- ✓ Increasing the media space allocated to women
- ✓ Removing the obstacles to women's participation in the elections management (Heads of polling stations, poll workers, etc...)
- ✓ Building women's capacities (for women candidates, voters, observers and elections management officials)
- ✓ Providing political parties with incentives to nominate or vote for a larger number of women



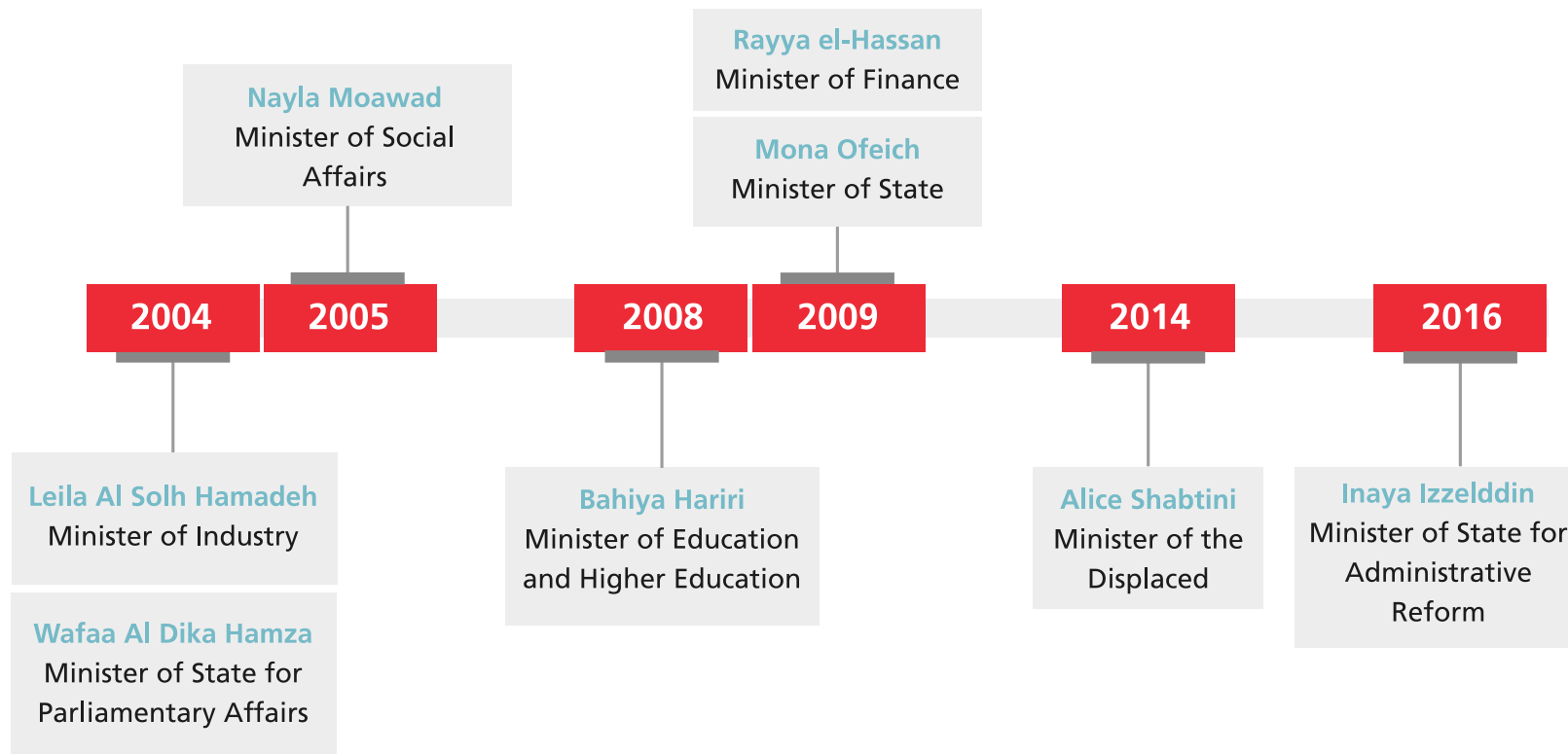
Milestones of Women's Political Participation in Lebanon

- | | | | |
|-------------|---|-------------|--|
| 1952 | Establishment of the Lebanese Council for Women
Issuance of a decree granting suffrage to literate women | 1996 | Three women elected to parliament (Nayla Moawad, Bahia Hariri and Nouhad Souaid) |
| 1953 | Issuance of a law granting literate women the right to vote and run as candidates in parliamentary elections
First woman candidate in parliamentary elections (Emilie Ibrahim) | 1997 | Lebanon signs and ratifies the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) |
| 1957 | Issuance of a law establishing the right of all men and women to be registered as eligible voters | 2000 | Three women elected to parliament (Nayla Moawad, Bahia Hariri and Ghinwa Jalloul) |
| 1963 | First woman elected to parliament (Mirna Boustani)
Issuance of a law granting women an equal right to vote and run as candidates in municipal elections | 2004 | First-time appointment of women ministers (Leila Al Solh Hamadeh and Wafaa Al Dika Hamza) |
| 1991 | One woman elected to parliament (Nayla Moawad) | 2005 | Six women elected to parliament (Bahia Hariri, Nayla Moawad, Ghinwa Jalloul, Gilberte Zouein, Strida Geagea and Solange Gemayel) |
| 1992 | Three women elected to parliament (Nayla Moawad, Bahia Hariri and Maha Khoury Asaad) | 2006 | Draft electoral law proposed by the National Commission for an Electoral Law (the Boutros Commission) and provides for a women's quota |
| 1995 | Lebanon participates in the Fourth World Conference on Women and signs the Beijing Declaration | 2009 | Four women elected to parliament (Bahia Hariri, Gilberte Zouein, Strida Geagea and Nayla Tueni) |

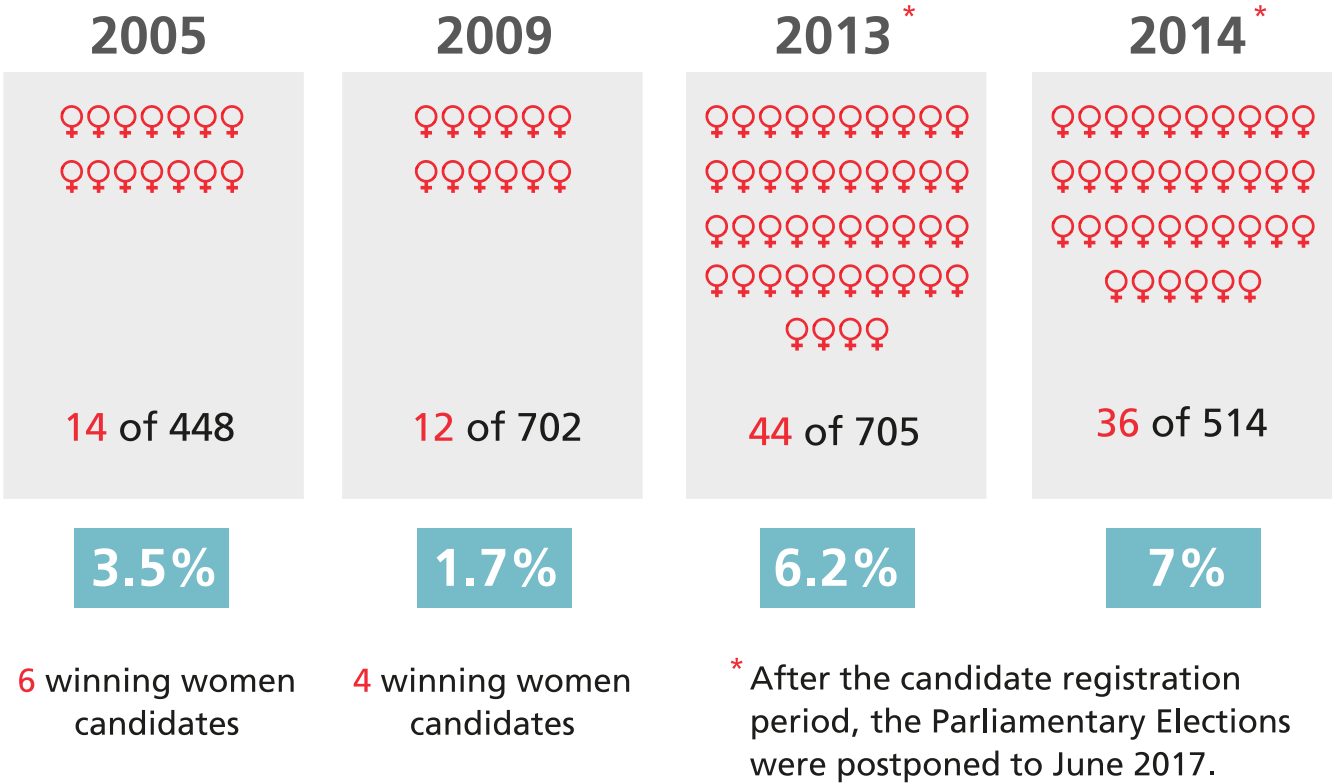
Women in the Lebanese Parliament



Since 1943: 6 out of 74 governments in Lebanon included women



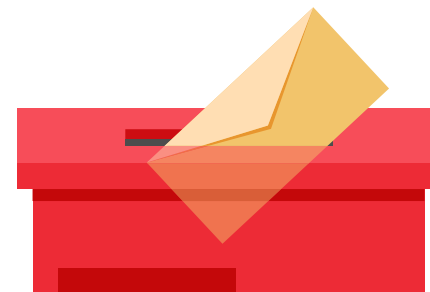
Women Candidates in the Parliamentary Elections in Lebanon



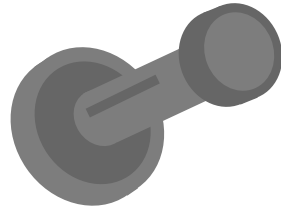
Source: Ministry of Interior and Municipalities

Eligible and actual women voters in Lebanon

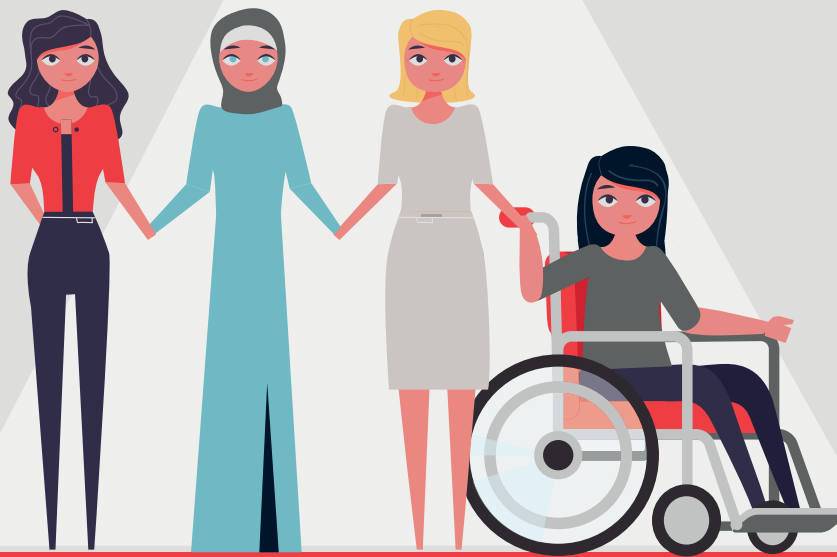
Year	Number of eligible women voters	Total number of eligible voters	Percentage of eligible women voters
2009	1,668,527	3,259,198	51.2%
2014	1,791,672	3,514,588	51.2%
2015	1,817,648	3,567,486	51%
2016	1,841,089	3,624,885	50.8%
Year	Number of actual women voters	Number of eligible women voters	Percentage of actual women voters
2009	875,102	1,668,627	52.4%







Act and Enact...
Approve the
women's quota



www.lebanon-elections.org



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The UNDP Lebanese Assistance Elections Project (LEAP) aims to strengthen the capacity of stakeholders for the conduct of transparent and inclusive elections in Lebanon. Through a multi-component approach, the project's intended outcomes is to provide a strengthened capacity for: (1) the management and administration of Elections (2) the supervision of election campaigns and accreditation of observers (3) the provision of voter education initiatives (4) the resolution of electoral disputes, and (5) initiatives to improve election opportunities for women. LEAP is funded by the European Union.

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