## FSD2183 NAISTEN EDUSTUS KANSALLISISSA PARLAMENTEISSA 1970-2010 FSD2183 Women's Representation in National Parliaments 1970-2010

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## Women's Representation in National Parliaments, 1970-2010 Tatu Vanhanen

Women are still under-representated (less than 50 percent of the seats) in nearly all national parliaments, but their representation varies greatly from country to country. The purpose of this dataset is to make global data on women's representation available for researchers. Nearly all data are from Inter-Parliamentary Union's *Chronicles of Parliamentary Elections* from the years 1969-2009 and from IPU PARLINE 2010.

The dataset covers 186 contemporary independent countries whose population in 2000 was at least 40,000 inhabitants, but data on women's representation are not available from all of them or from all years of the period 1970-2010. Countries which were not independent in 1970 are included from the year of independence. Serbia covers data on Yugoslavia over the period 1970-2002. German Democratic Republic, People's Republic of Yemen, and Republic of Vietnam, which do not exist any longer as independent states, are excluded. Republic of China on Taiwan is excluded for the reason that it is regarded to be a province of China.

Data on women's representation concern women's percentage share of the total number of representatives in parliament. In the case of bicameral parliaments, only the lower house is taken into account. Data are based on the results of parliamentary elections. After an election, the percentage of women's representation remains the same until the next election, or as long as the parliament functioned. Some countries have been without any elected national legislature throughout the period 1970-2010, or during some years of this period. From many countries, data on women's representation have not been available from all elections. Consequently, this dataset on women's representation in parliaments is not complete. Data are lacking especially from the 1970s and 1980s. However, since 2002 data cover all countries and almost all years of the period 2002-10.